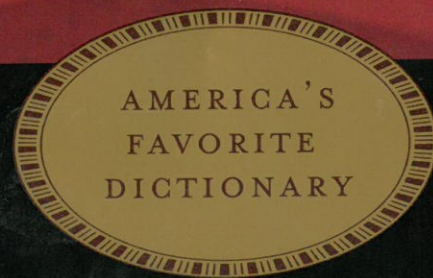


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latency period *n.* 1. The fourth stage of psychosexual development in psychoanalytic theory, from about five years to puberty, during which a child apparently represses sexual urges and prefers to associate with members of the same sex. It is preceded by the phallic stage and followed by the genital stage. 2. A latent period.

La Tène (lā tēn') *adj.* Of or relating to a late Iron Age Celtic civilization dating from the fifth to the first century B.C., influenced by early contact with Greek and Etruscan civilizations and flourishing throughout most of northern Europe until the Roman conquests. [After La Tène, a district at the eastern end of the Lake of Neuchâtel in Switzerland.]

late-night also **late night** (lāt'nīt') *adj.* 1. Occurring late at night: a late-night television show. 2. Open late at night: a late-night diner.

latent (lāt'nt) *adj.* 1. Present or potential but not evident or active: latent talent. 2. Pathology In a dormant or hidden stage: a latent infection. 3. Biology Undeveloped but capable of normal growth under the proper conditions: a latent bud. 4. Psychology Present and accessible in the unconscious mind but not consciously expressed. ♦ *n.* A fingerprint that is not apparent to the eye but can be made sufficiently visible, as by dusting or fuming, for use in identification. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *latēns*, *latent-*, present participle of *latēre*, to lie hidden.] —**lat'ent-ly** *adv.*

Synonyms *latent, dormant, quiescent* These adjectives mean present or in existence but not active or manifest. What is *latent* is present but not evident; *latent ability*. *Dormant* evokes the idea of sleep: a dormant volcano. *Quiescent* sometimes—but not always—suggests temporary inactivity: "For a time, he [the whale] lay quiescent" (Herman Melville).

latent heat *n.* The quantity of heat absorbed or released by a substance undergoing a change of state, such as ice changing to water or water to steam, at constant temperature and pressure. Also called *heat of transformation*.

latent period *n.* 1. The interval between exposure to an infectious organism or a carcinogen and the clinical appearance of disease. 2. The interval between stimulus and response.

later (lāt'ər) *adj.* Comparative of **late** ♦ *adv.* Comparative of **late**. Subsequently; afterward. Often used with *on*: She arrived on the ferry, and he came later. He later felt that he was wrong. Later on, we watched a movie. ♦ *interj.* Informal Used to express goodbye.

lat'eral (lāt'ər-əl) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or situated at or on the side. 2. Of or constituting a change within an organization or hierarchy to a position at a similar level to the one being left: made a lateral move within the company. 3. Linguistics Of, relating to, or being a sound produced by breath passing along one or both sides of the tongue. ♦ *n.* 1. A lateral part, projection, passage, or appendage. 2. Football A lateral pass. 3. Linguistics A lateral sound, such as (l). ♦ *v.* -aled, -aling, -als also -alled, -al-ling, -als Football —*intr.* To execute a lateral pass. —*tr.* To pass (the ball) sideways or backward. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *lateralis*, from *latus*, *later-*, side.] —**lat'eral-ly** *adv.*

lateral bud *n.* A bud on the side of the stem, usually in a leaf axil.

lat'eral-ity (lāt'ər-āl'i-tē) *n.* Preference in using one side of the body over the other.

lat'eral-iza'tion (lāt'ər-ə-lī-zā'shən) *n.* Localization of a function, such as speech, to the right or left side of the brain. —**lat'eral-ize'** *v.*

lateral line *n.* A series of sensory pores along the head and sides of fish and some amphibians by which water currents, vibrations, and pressure changes are detected.

lateral meristem *n.* A meristem in vascular plants, such as the cambium, in which secondary growth occurs.

lateral pass *n.* Football A usually underhand pass that is thrown sideways or somewhat backward with respect to downfield.

Lateran Council (lāt'ər-ən) *n.* Any of a series of councils held in the Lateran Palace, a former papal residence, in Rome between the seventh and the 18th century, five of which (in 1123, 1139, 1179, 1215, and 1512–1517) were ecumenical. The fourth, often considered the most important, produced the doctrine of transubstantiation.

lat'eri-ite (lāt'ər-īt') *n.* A red residual soil formed by the leaching of silica and by the enrichment with aluminum and iron oxides, especially in humid climates. [Latin *later*, brick + *-ite*.] —**lat'eri-itic** (-īt'ik) *adj.*

lat'eri-ization (lāt'ər-ē-zā'shən) *n.* The process by which a later-

lathe (lāth) *n.* A machine for shaping a piece of material, such as wood or metal, by rotating it rapidly along its axis while pressing a fixed cutting or abrading tool against it. ♦ *tr.v.* **lathed, lath-ing, lathes** To cut or shape on a lathe. [Middle English, a device used by coopers, perhaps a turning lathe, probably of Scandinavian origin.]

lat'her (lāth'ər) *n.* 1. A foam formed by soap or detergent agitated in water, as in washing or shaving. 2. Froth formed by profuse sweating, as on a horse. 3. Informal A condition of anxious or heated discomposure; agitation: The students were in a lat'her over the proposed restriction. ♦ *v.* -ered, -er-ing, -ers —*tr.* 1. To spread with or as if with lat'her. 2. Informal To give a beating to; whip. —*intr.* 1. To produce lat'her; foam. 2. To become coated with lat'her. [Probably from Middle English *lat'her*, to wash or soak clothes, from Old English *læthan*, to cover with lat'her. See *leu(a)* in Appendix I.] —**lat'her-er** *n.* —**lat'her-y** *adj.*

lath-ing (lāth'ing, lāth'-) *n.* 1. The act or process of building with laths. 2. Work made of laths. 3. A quantity of laths.

lat'h-y-rism (lāth'ə-rīz'əm) *n.* A disease of humans and animals caused by eating legumes of the genus *Lathyrus* and characterized by spastic paralysis, hyperesthesia, and paresthesia. [From New Latin *Lathyrus*, genus name, from Greek *lathuros*, a type of pea, from Akkadian *ladiru*, type of plant.]

lat'ti (lāt'tē') *n.* Plural of **lats**.

lat'tices (lāt'tī-sēz', lāt'tī-) *n.* A plural of **latex**.

lat'tic-i-fer (lā-tīs'ə-fər) *n.* A plant duct containing latex. [Latin *latex*, *latic-*, fluid; see *LATEX* + *-FER*.]

lat'i-cif-er-ous (lāt'tī-sīf'ər-əs) *adj.* Producing or containing latex.

lat'i-fun-di-o (lāt'tā-fōon'dē-ō') *n., pl. -os* A large landed estate in Spain or Latin America. [Spanish, from Latin *latifundium*, *latifund-*, um. See *LATIFUNDIUM*.]

lat'i-fun-dis-ta (lāt'tā-fōon-dēs'tā) *n.* The owner of a *latifundio*. [Spanish, from *latifundio*, *latifundio*. See *LATIFUNDIO*.]

lat'i-fun-di-um (lāt'tā-fūn'dē-əm) *n., pl. -dia* (-dē-ə) A large landed estate, especially of the ancient Romans. [Latin *latifundum*, *latūs*, broad + *fundus*, estate, base.]

♦ **lat'il-la** (lā-tē'ya) *n.* Southwestern U.S. A usually peeled limb or stick used as a ceiling material, as between beams or vigas. [American Spanish diminutive of Spanish *lata*, small stick, from Vulgar Latin **latta*, of Germanic origin.]

Lat'i-omer (lāt'ə-mər), **Hugh** 1485?–1555. English prelate who refused to recant his Protestantism after the accession of Mary I, a Catholic, and was executed for heresy.

Latin (lāt'n) *n.* 1a. The Indo-European language of the ancient Latins and Romans and the most important cultural language of western Europe until the end of the 17th century. b. The Latin language and literature from the end of the third century B.C. to the end of the second century A.D. 2a. A member of a Latin people, especially a native or inhabitant of Latin America. b. A Latino or Latina. 3. A native or resident of ancient Latium. ♦ *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or composed in Latin. 2. Latin scholar; Latin verse. 2a. Of or relating to ancient Rome, its people, or its culture. b. Of or relating to Latium, its people, or its culture. 3. Of or relating to the languages that developed from Latin, such as Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese, or to the peoples that speak them. 4. Of or relating to the peoples, countries, or cultures of Latin America. 5. Of or relating to Latinos or their culture. 5. Of or relating to the Roman Catholic Church. [Middle English, from Old French and from Old English *læden*, both from Latin *Latinus*, from *Latium*, an ancient country in west-central Italy.]

Lat'i-na (lā-tē'nā, lā-, lā-) *n.* A Latino woman or girl. [Spanish diminutive of *Latino*, *Latino*. See *LATINO*.] —**La-ti'na** *adj.*

Usage Note The use of the feminine nouns *Latina* and *Chicana* is not perfectly proper in American English, and failure to do so (as in *She is a Latina*) may sometimes be resented. The use of these forms as modifiers, however, poses unfamiliar problems in English. Is it wrong to use a masculine form such as *Chicano* to modify *woman*? Can one say *She is a novelist*, or is *Latina novelist* required? There is no one answer to these questions, though a few guidelines can be proposed. First, since English nouns do not have gender, the Spanish rules governing adjective agreement cannot reasonably determine English usage; thus the dispute between *She is the city's first Latino* or *Latina mayor* does not depend on the gender of the Spanish word for mayor. Second, the use of the general masculine form as a modifier in referring to women is

A person of Latin-American descent. —**Lat'in-A-mer'i-can** (lāt'n-ə-mēr'i-kən) *adj.*

Lat'in-ate (lāt'n-āt') *adj.* Of, derived from, or suggestive of Latin: a *Latinate word*; a *formal, Latinate prose style*.

Latin Church *n.* The Roman Catholic Church.

Latin cross *n.* A cross with a shorter horizontal bar intersecting a longer vertical bar above the midpoint.

Lat'in-ism (lāt'n-iz'əm) *n.* An idiom, a structure, or a word derived from or suggestive of Latin.

Lat'in-ist (lāt'n-ist) *n.* A specialist in Latin.

Lat'in-ity (lā-tin'i-tē) *n.* 1. The manner in which Latin is used in speaking or writing. 2. Latin quality or character: Her speech was marked by florid Latinity. 3. A Latinism. 4. Latin literature: This concept is not found in all of Latinity.

Lat'in-ize (lāt'n-iz') *v.* -ized, -iz-ing, -izes —*tr.* 1a. To translate into Latin. b. To transliterate into the characters of the Latin alphabet; Romanize. c. To make (a word, for example) similar in appearance to Latin: *Latinize an English name*. 2. To cause to adopt or acquire Latin characteristics or customs. 3. To cause to follow or resemble the Roman Catholic Church in dogma or practices. 4. To make Latino or Latin American, as in culture. —*intr.* To use Latinisms. —**Lat'in-iza'tion** (-ī-zā'shən) *n.* —**Lat'in-iz'er** *n.*

Lat'i-no (lā-tē'nō, lā-, lā-) *n., pl. -nos* 1. A Latin American. 2. A person of Hispanic, especially Latin American, descent, often one living in the United States. See *Usage Note at Hispanic*. [Short for Spanish *latinoamericano*, Latin-American, from *latino*, Latin, from Latin *Latinus*. See *LATIN*.] —**La-ti'no** *adj.*

Latin Quarter A section of Paris on the southern bank of the Seine River. Centered around the Sorbonne, it has attracted students for many centuries.

lat'ish (lāt'ish) *adv. & adj.* Fairly late.

lat'is-si-mus dor-si (lā-tis'ə-mas dōr'sī) *n., pl. lat'is-si-mi dor-si* (-mī') Either of two broad, flat, triangular muscles running from the vertebral column to the humerus. [New Latin *latissimus dorsi*: Latin *latissimus*, superlative of *latus*, wide + Latin *dorsī*, genitive of *dorsum*, back.]

lat'i-tude (lāt'i-tōd', -tyōd') *n.* 1a. The angular distance north or south of the earth's equator, measured in degrees along a meridian, as on a map or globe. b. A region of the earth considered in relation to its distance from the equator: *temperate latitudes*. 2. Astronomy The angular distance of a celestial body north or south of the ecliptic. 3. Freedom from normal restraints, limitations, or regulations. See *synonyms at room*. 4. A range of values or conditions, especially the range of exposures over which a photographic film yields usable images. 5. Extent; breadth. [Middle English, geographical latitude, from Old French, width, from Latin *latitudo*, width, geographical latitude, from *latus*, wide.] —**lat'i-tu-din-al** (-tōd'n-əl, -tyōd'-) *adj.* —**lat'i-tu-di-nal-ly** *adv.*

lat'i-tu-di-nar-i-an (lāt'i-tōd'n-ār'ē-ən, -tyōd'-) *adj.* Holding or expressing broad or tolerant views, especially in religious matters. ♦ **Latitudinarian** A member of a group of Anglican Christians active from the 17th through the 19th century who were opposed to dogmatic positions of the Church of England and allowed reason to inform theological interpretation and judgment. [Latin *latitudo*, *latitudin-*, latitude; see *LATITUDE* + *-ARIAN*.] —**lat'i-tu-di-nar-i-an** *n.* —**lat'i-tu-di-nar-i-an-ism** *n.*

Lat'i-um (lā'tshē-əm, -shəm) An ancient country of west-central Italy bordering on the Tyrrhenian Sea. It was dominated by Rome after the third century B.C.

lat'ke (lāt'ka) *n.* A pancake, especially one made of grated potato. [Yiddish, from Ukrainian *oladka*, from Old Russian, diminutive of *olad'ya*, from Greek *eladia*, pl. of *eladion*, little oily thing, diminutive of *elaiion*, olive oil, from *elaiā*, olive.]

lat'o-sol (lāt'ə-sōl', -sōl') *n.* Soil that is rich in iron, alumina, or silica and formed in tropical woodlands under very humid climate with relatively high temperature. [LAT(ERITE) + *-sol*, soil (from Latin *solum*).]

La Tour (lā tōor', lā tōor'), **Georges de** 1593–1652. French painter of religious subjects and genre scenes. Many of his works, including *The Newborn* (c. 1630), are dramatically lit nocturnal scenes.

lat'r-ine (lā-trēn') *n.* A communal toilet of a type often used in a camp or barracks. [From French *latrines*, privies, from Old French, from Latin

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