

RANDOM HOUSE UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

Second Edition

*Dedicated to the memory of
Jess Stein*

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All inquiries should be addressed to Reference Department, Random House, Inc., 201 E. 50th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.
Published in the United States by Random House, Inc., and simultaneously in Canada by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto

The Random House Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition, is a revised and updated edition of *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition, Unabridged*.

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Random House unabridged dictionary.

(Random House dictionaries)

1. English language--Dictionaries. I. Flexner,
Stuart Berg. II. Series.

PE1625.R3 1987 423 93-84591

ISBN 0-679-42917-4; 0-679-42441-5 (with CD-ROM)

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Manufactured in the United States of America

d.s./sn

New York Toronto London Sydney Auckland

Chiefly Scot. to blame for; declare guilty of. Also, **wyte**. [bef. 900; (n) ME OE *wite* penalty; c. OHG *witi*, ON *vit*; (v) ME *witen*, OE *witan* to blame]

wit (wit), v. a pres. pl. of **wit**.

wit-na-ga-mot (wit'nə gə mōt), n. *Early Eng. Hist.* the assembly of the witan; the national council attended by the king, aldermen, bishops, and nobles. [1585-95; mod. E < OE, equiv. to *witena*, gen. pl. of *wita* counselor (see **WITAN**) + *gemōt* moot]

wit (with, wīth), prep. 1. accompanied by; accompanying: *I will go with you. He fought with his brother against the enemy.* 2. in some particular relation to (esp. implying interaction, company, association, conjunction, or connection): *I dealt with the problem. She agreed with me.* 3. characterized by or having: *a person with initiative.* 4. (of means or instrument) by the use of; using: *to line a coat with silk; to cut with a knife.* 5. (of manner) using or showing: *to work with diligence.* 6. in correspondence, comparison, or proportion to: *Their power increased with their number. How does their plan compare with ours?* 7. in regard to; to be pleased with a gift. 8. (of cause) owing to; to die with pneumonia; to pale with fear. 9. in the region, sphere, or view of: *It is day with us while it is night with the Chinese.* 10. (of separation) from; to part with a thing. 11. against, as in opposition or competition: *He fought with his brother over the inheritance.* 12. in the keeping or service of; to leave something with a friend. 13. in affecting the judgment, estimation, or consideration of: *Her argument carried a lot of weight with the trustees.* 14. at the same time as or immediately after; upon: *And with that last remark, she turned and left.* 15. of the same opinion or conviction as: *Are you with me or against me?* 16. in proximity to or in the same household as: *He lives with his parents.* 17. used as a function word to specify an additional circumstance or condition: *We climbed the hill with Jeff following behind.* 18. in with. See **in** (def. 22). 19. with child, pregnant. 20. with it. Slang. a. knowledgeable about, sympathetic to, or partaking of the most up-to-date trends, fashions, art, etc. b. representing or characterized by the most up-to-date trends, fashions, art, etc. 21. with that. See **that** (def. 10). [bef. 900; ME OE opposite, against (c. ON *við*), appar. short var. of OE *withan* against; c. OS *withar*, OHG *widar*, ON *viðr*, Goth *withra*]

—Syn. 4. See **by**.

with, a combining form of **with**, having a separative or opposing force: *withstand; withdraw*. [ME, OE. See **WIT**]

withal (with dōl, with-), adv. 1. with it all; as well; besides. 2. in spite of all; nevertheless. 3. *Archaic*, with that; therewith. —prep. 4. with (used after its object). [1150-1200; ME phrase with al(le); r. OE *mid ealle*, *mid eallum*. See **WIT**, **ALL**]

with-draw (with drōv, with-), v. **-draw**, **-drawn**, **-drawing**. —*vt.* 1. to draw back, away, or aside; take back; remove: *She withdrew her hand from his.* 2. to withdraw his savings from the bank. 3. to retract (a person) to withdraw an untrue charge. 4. to cause (a person) to undergo withdrawal from addiction to a substance. —*vi.* 4. to go or move back, away, or aside; retire; retreat: *He withdrew from the room.* 5. to remove oneself from some activity, competition, etc.: *He withdrew before I could nominate him.* 6. to cease using or consuming an addictive narcotic (fol. by *from*): *to withdraw from heroin.* 7. *Parl. Proc.* to remove an amendment, motion, etc., from consideration. [1175-1225; ME *withdrawen*. See **WIT**, **PRAY** —**with-draw**/able, **adj.** —**with-draw**/er, n. —**with-draw**/ing-less, n. —Syn. 2. revoke, rescind, disavow. 4. See **depart**.

with-drawal (with drōvəl, -drōl, with-), n. 1. Also, **with-drawment**, the act or condition of withdrawing. 2. *Pharm.* the act or process of ceasing to use an addictive drug. 3. *colitis interruptus*. [1740-50; **WITHDRAW** + **-AL**]

with-drawal syn/drome, *Pharm.* a spectrum of physical and behavioral symptoms following cessation from the continuous use of an addictive drug, the character and severity of the symptoms depending upon the particular drug and the daily dose.

with-drawal room, *Archaic*, a room to withdraw or retire to; drawing room. [1585-95]

with-drawn (with drōvən, with-), v. 1. pp. of **with-draw**. —*adj.* 2. removed from circulation, contact, competition, etc. 3. shy; reticent; reticent. —**with-drawn**/ness, n. —Syn. 3. quiet, reserved, aloof, detached.

with-draw (with drōv, with-), v. pt. of **withdraw**.

withe (with, wīth), n., v., **withed**, **withing**. —n. 1. a willow twig or osier. 2. any tough, flexible twig or stem suitable for binding things together. 3. an elastic handle for a tool, to lessen shock occurring in use. 4. a partition dividing flues of a chimney. —*vt.* 5. to bind with withes. [bef. 1000; ME OE *withthe*; akin to ON *viðr* witr, Goth *hunauida* chain, *Li viere* to weave together]

with-er (with/or), v. 1. to shrivel; fade; decay: *The grapes had withered on the vine.* 2. to lose the freshness of youth, as from age (often fol. by *away*). —*vt.* 3. to make flaccid, shrunken, or dry, as from loss of moisture; to cause to lose freshness, bloom, vigor, etc.: *The drought withered the buds.* 4. to affect harmfully: *Reputations were withered by the scandal.* 5. to abash, as by a scathing glance: *a look that withered him*. [1250-1300; ME, part. var. of *WITHER* (v.) —**with-er**/ed-ness, n. —**with-er**/er, n. —**with-er**/ing-ly, adv. —Syn. 1. wrinkle, shrink, dry, decline, languish, droop, waste. **WITHER**, **SHRIVEL** imply a shrinking, withering, and wrinkling. **WITHER** (of plants and flowers) is to dry up, shrink, with, fade, whether as a natural process or as the result of exposure to excessive heat or drought. Plants withered in the hot sun. **SHRIVEL**, used of thin, flat objects and substances, such as leaves, the skin, etc., means to curl, roll up, become wrinkled: *The leaves shriveled in cold weather. Paper shriveled in fire.* 5. humiliate, shame.

With-er (with/or), n. **George**, 1588-1667, English poet and pamphleteer. Also, **With-ers** (with/orz).

with-er-ite (with/or itē), n. a white to grayish mineral, barium carbonate, BaCO₃, occurring in crystals and masses; a minor ore of barium. [1765-95; named after W. Withering (1741-99), who first described it; see **-ITE**]

with-er rod, either of two North American viburnums, *Viburnum cassinoides* or *V. nudum*, having tough, osierlike shoots. [1840-50, Amer.]

with-ers (with/orz), n. (used with a plural v.) 1. the highest part of the back at the base of the neck of a horse, cow, sheep, etc. See **diag.** under **dog**, **horse**. 2. *wring one's withers*, to cause one anxiety or trouble: *The long involved lawsuit is wringing his withers.* [1535-45; orig. uncert.]

with-er-shins (with/or shinz/), adv. *Chiefly Scot.* in a direction contrary to the natural one, esp. contrary to the apparent course of the sun or counterclockwise: considered as unlucky or causing disaster. Also, **with-er-shins**. Cf. **deasil**. [1505-15; MLG *wider-sin* (n) < MHG *wider-sinnes*, equiv. to *wider* (OHG *widar*) opposite (see **WITH**) + *sinnes*, gen. of *sin* way, course (c. OE *stih*); see **SEN**, **-S**]

with-er-spoon (with/or spōn/), n. **John**, 1723-94, U.S. theologian and statesman, born in Scotland.

with-hold (with hold/, with-), v., **-held**, **-holding**. —*vt.* 1. to hold back; withhold or check. 2. to refrain from giving or granting; to withhold payment. 3. to collect (taxes) at the source of income. 4. to deduct (withholding tax) from an employee's salary or wages. —*vi.* 5. to hold back; refrain. 6. to deduct withholding tax. [1150-1200; ME *witholden*. See **WIT**, **WOLD** —**with-hold**/er, n. —Syn. 1, 2. suppress, repress. See **keep**. —Ant. 1, 2. advance.

withhold/ing tax, that part of an employee's tax liability withheld by the employer from wages or salary and paid directly to the government. Also called **withhold/ing**. [1940-45]

with-in (with in/, with-), adv. 1. in or into the interior or inner part; inside. 2. in or into a house, building, etc.; indoors: *The fire was burning on the hearth within.* 3. on, or as regards, the inside; internally. 4. inside an enclosed place, area, room, etc.: *He was startled by a cry from within.* 5. in the mind, heart, or soul; inwardly. —prep. 6. in or into the interior of or the parts or space enclosed by: *within city walls.* 7. inside of; in. 8. in the compass or limits of; not beyond: *within view; to live within one's income.* 9. at or to some point not beyond, as in length or distance; not further than: *within a radius of a mile.* 10. at or to some amount or degree not exceeding: *within two degrees of freezing.* 11. in the course or period of, as in time: *within one's memory; within three minutes.* 12. inside of the limits fixed or required by; not transgressing: *within the law.* 13. in the field, sphere, or scope of: *within the family; within one's power.* —n. 14. the inside of a place, space, or building. [bef. 1000; ME *withinne* (prep. and adv.), OE *withinnan* (adv.), equiv. to *with* **WIT** + *innan* from *within*, equiv. to *in* + *an* suffix of motion from]

with-in doors (with in dōrz, -dōrz, with-), adv. into or inside the house. [1575-85; **WIT** + *door* + *-s*]

with-in named (with in nāmd/, with-), adj. that is named herein. [1560-70]

with-out (with out/, with-), prep. 1. with the absence, omission, or avoidance of; not with; with no or none of lacking: *without help; without shoes; without her helping me; without hunger.* 2. free from; excluding: *a world without hunger.* 3. not accompanied by: *Don't go without me.* 4. at, on, or to the outside of; outside of: *both within and without the house or the city.* 5. beyond the compass, limits, range, or scope of (now used chiefly in opposition to *within*): *whether within or without the law.* —adv. 6. in or into an exterior or outer place; outside. 7. outside a house, building, etc.: *The carriage awaits without.* 8. lacking something implied or understood: *We must take this or go without.* 9. as regards the outside; externally. —n. 10. the outside of a place, region, area, room, etc. —conj. 11. *Midland and Southern U.S.* unless. [bef. 900; ME *withoute*, OE *withutan* (adv. and prep.), equiv. to *with* **WIT** + *-utan* from *without*, equiv. to *ūt* out + *-an* suffix of motion from]

with-out doors (with out dōrz/, -dōrz, with-), adv. out of doors. [1610-20; **WITHOUT** + **door** + *-s*]

with-stand (with stand/, with-), v., **-stood**, **-standing**. —*vt.* 1. to stand or hold out against; resist or oppose, esp. successfully: *to withstand rust; to withstand the invaders; to withstand temptation.* —*vi.* 2. to stand in opposition; resist. [bef. 900; ME *withstanden*, OE *withstandan* (see **WIT**, **STAND**); c. ON *withstanda*; akin to G *widstehen*] —**with-stand**/er, n. —**with-stand**/ing-ness, n. —Syn. 1. confront, face. See **oppose**.

with-y (with/ē, with/ā), n., pl. **with-ies**, **adj.**, **with-ior**, **with-i-est**. *Chiefly Brit.* —n. 1. a willow. 2. a pliable branch or twig, esp. a withie. 3. a band, loop, halter, or rope of slender twigs; widdy. —*adj.* 4. made of pliable branches or twigs, esp. of withies. 5. flexible; pliable. [bef. 1000; ME OE *withy*; akin to *WIT*, ON *viðr*, OHG *wida*, Gk *tiēa* willow, *Li vitia* vine]

with-y wind (with/ē wīnd/, with-/), n. traveler's-joy. [1670-80; **WIT** + *WIND*; r. *withwind*, ME OE *withwīnde* (see **WIT**)]

with-go (wit/ī gō), n. windigo.

with-less (wit/īlās, adj. lacking wit or intelligence; stupid; foolish. [bef. 1000; ME OE *witless*. See **WIT**, **-LESS**]

with-less-ly, adv. —**with-less-ness**, n.

with-ling (wit/ī ling), n. a person who affects witlessness. [1685-95; **WIT** + *-LING*]

wit-loof (wit/īlōf), n. endive (def. 2). [1880-85; < D, equiv. to *wit* white + *loof* foliage. See **WHITE**, **LEAF**]

wit-ness (wit/nīs), u. 1. to see, hear, or know by personal presence and perception: *to witness an accident.* 2. to be present at (an occurrence) as a formal witness, spectator, bystander, etc.: *She witnessed our wedding.* 3. to bear witness to; testify to; give or afford evidence of. 4. to attest by one's signature: *He witnessed her will.* —*vi.* 5. to bear witness; testify; give or afford evidence. —n. 6. an individual who, being present, personally sees or perceives a thing; a beholder, spectator, or eyewitness. 7. a person or thing that affords evidence. 8. a person who gives testimony, as in a court of law. 9. a person who signs a document attesting the genuineness of its execution. 10. testimony or evidence: *to bear witness to her suffering.* 11. (esp.) a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses. [bef. 950; (n) ME OE *witnes* orig., knowledge, understanding; see **WIT**, **-NESS** (v) ME *der. of the n.*] —**wit-ness**-able, **adj.** —**wit-ness**-er, n. —Syn. 1. perceive, watch, mark, notice, note. See **observe**. 10. proof, confirmation, substantiation.

wit-ness-box (wit/nīs boks/), n. *Chiefly Brit.* See **wit-ness stand**. [1800-10]

wit-ness cor/ner, *Survey*, a point, marked by a monument, situated at a known distance from and bearing relative to a corner that is used as a reference point but on which it is impossible to place a monument. Cf. **corner** (def. 10a). [1915-20, Amer.]

wit-ness stand, the place occupied by a person giving testimony in a court. Also called, esp. *Brit.*, **wit-ness-box**. [1880-85, Amer.]

Witt (wit), n. a male given name.

Wit-to (vit/ō, Russ. vyētyō), n. **Sergei Yulievich** (sūr gā/ yōō/yo vich/ Russ. syr gya/ yōō/ly vich/), 1849-1915, Russian statesman.

wit-ted (wit/īd), **adj.** having wit or wits (usually used in combination): *quick-witted; slow-witted; dull-witted*. [1350-1400; ME see **WIT**, **-ED**] —**wit-ted**-ness, n.

Wit-to-kind (vit/ō kīnt/), n. died A.D. 807?, Westphalian chief leader of the Saxons against Charlemagne. Also, **Widukind**.

Wit-ton-borg (wit/n bōrg/; Ger. vit'n bōrk/), n. a city in E central Germany, on the Elbe; Luther taught in the university here; beginnings of the Reformation 1517. [14-190]

Witt-gen-stein (vit/ gən shīn/, -stīn/), n. **Ludwig** (Jo-seph Jo-hann) (lōō/ vit' gən syō' shēf yō' lōō/), 1809-1961, Austrian philosopher. —**Witt-gen-stein**/ian, **adj.**, n.

wit-ti-cism (wit/ē siz/əm), n. a witty remark or sentence. [1645-65; deriv. of **WIT**, modeled on *criticism*] —Syn. joke, jest, quip, rally, wisecrack.

wit-ting (wit/īng), **adj.** 1. knowing; aware; conscious. —n. 2. *North Eng.* knowledge. [1250-1300; ME *witting*. See **WIT**, **-ING**, **-ING**] —**wit-ting**-ly, **adv.**

wit-tol (wit/ōl), n. *Archaic*, a man who knows of and tolerates his wife's infidelity. [1400-50; late ME *wetwold*, equiv. to *wete* **WIT** + (*co*)*wold* cuckold]

wit-ty (wit/ē), **adj.**, **-tler**, **-tliest**, 1. possessing wit in speech or writing; amusingly clever in perception and expression: *a witty writer.* 2. characterized by wit: *a witty remark.* 3. *Brit. Dial.* intelligent; clever. [bef. 900; ME OE *wittig* orig., wise. See **WIT**, **-Y**] —**wit-ti**-ly, **adv.** —**wit-ti**-ness, n. —Syn. 1, 2. droll, funny, original, sparkling, brilliant. See **humorous**. —Ant. 1, 2. dull, stupid.

Wit-waters-rand (wit/wō'tarz rand/, -wōt/orz-), n. a rocky ridge in S Africa, in the Republic of South Africa, near Johannesburg. Also called **The Rand**.

wive (wiv), v., **wived**, **with-ing**. —*vi.* 1. to take a wife; marry. —*vt.* 2. to take as wife; marry. 3. to provide with a wife. [bef. 900; ME *wiven*, OE *wifian*, deriv. of *wif*; see **WIFE**]

wiv-ern (wiv/vern), n. *Heraldry*, wyvern.

wives (wivz), n. pl. of **wife**.

wiz (wiz), n. **wizard** (def. 3). [1900-05; by shortening]

wiz-ard (wiz/ard), n. 1. a person who practices magic; magician or sorcerer. 2. a conjurer or juggler. 3. Also, **witiz**, a person of amazing skill or accomplishment: *a wizard at chemistry.* —*adj.* 4. of or pertaining to a wizard. 5. magic. 6. *Brit. Slang.* superb; excellent; wonderful: *That's wizard!* [1400-50; late ME *wizard*. See **WIS**, **-ARD**] —**wiz-ard**-like, **adj.** —Syn. 1. enchanter, necromancer, diviner.

wiz-ard-ly (wiz/ard lē), **adj.** of, like, or befitting a wizard. [1580-90; **WIZARD** + *-ly*]

wiz-ard-ry (wiz/ard rē), n. the art, skill, or accomplishments of a wizard. [1575-85; **WIZARD** + *-ry*]

wiz-en (wiz/en; wē/en), *Brit. Dial.* —*vi.* u. 1. to wither; shrivel; dry up. —*adj.* 2. wizened. [bef. 900; (v) ME *wisenen*, OE *wisnian*; c. ON *visna* to wither; *adj.* shortened form of *WIZENED*]

wiz-ened (wiz/ēnd; wē/sēnd), **adj.** withered; shriveled: *a wizened old man; wizened features*. [1505-15; **WIZEN** + *-ED*]

wk., 1. week. 2. work.

wkly., weekly.

wl., 1. also, w.l. water line. 2. wavelength.

Wladimir (vlad/ō mēir/; Russ. vlu dya/ myia/), n. Vladimir.

WLB, War Labor Board.

w. long., west longitude.

WM, white male.

Wm., William.

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: *act*, *āp*, *dare*, *pīrt*; *not equal*; *if*, *ice*; *ox*, *over*, *order*, *oil*, *bōsh*, *bōst*, *out*; *up*, *urge*, *child*; *sing*, *show*, *thin*; *that*; *zh* as in *treasure*, *o* as in *alone*, *e* as in *system*, *i* as in *easy*, *o* as in *gallon*, *u* as in *circus*; *es* as in *fire* (*fīr*), *hour* (*ōr*), *i* and *n* can serve as syllabic consonants (*cradle* (*krād*), and *button* (*būt*)). See the full key inside the front cover.