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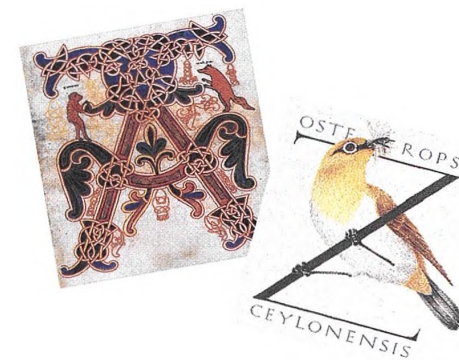
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WASHINGTON, DC

The
**American
Heritage[®] Dictionary**
of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
Boston New York

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enchilada
plate of enchiladas

en·chain (ĕn-čăn'f) *tr.v.* **-chained, -chain·ing, -chains** 1. To bind with or as if with chains. —**en·chain·ment** *n.*

en·chant (ĕn-čăn't) *tr.v.* **-chanted, -chant·ing, -chants** 1. To cast a spell over; bewitch. 2. To attract and delight; entrance. See synonyms at **charm**. [Middle English *enchanter*, from Old French *enchanter*, from Latin *incantāre*, to utter an incantation, cast a spell : *in-*, against; see **EN-1** + *cantāre*, to sing, frequentative of *canere*; see **kan-** in Appendix I.]

en·chanter (ĕn-čăn'tər) *n.* 1. One that delights or fascinates. 2. A sorcerer or magician.

en·chant·ing (ĕn-čăn'ting) *adj.* Having the power to enchant; charming; enchanting music. —**en·chant·ing·ly** *adv.*

en·chant·ment (ĕn-čăn'tmənt) *n.* 1a. The act of enchanting. **b.** The state of being enchanted. 2. Something that enchants.

en·chant·ress (ĕn-čăn'trĭs) *n.* 1. A woman of great charm or fascination. 2. A woman who practices magic; a sorceress.

en·chase (ĕn-čăs'f) *tr.v.* **-chased, -chas·ing, -chases** 1. To set (a gem, for example). 2. To set with or as if with gems: *enchase a brooch*. 3. To decorate or ornament by inlaying or engraving. [Middle English, to engrave, from Old French *enchasser*, to set gems : *en-*, in; see **EN-1** + *chasse*, case (from Latin *capsa*, box).]

en·chi·la·da (ĕn-'čho-lă'dă) *n.* A tortilla rolled and stuffed usually with a mixture containing meat or cheese and served with a sauce spiced with chili. [American Spanish : *en-*, in (from Latin *in-*; see **EN-1**) + *chile*, chili pepper; see **CHILI** + *-ada*, feminine adj. suff.]

en·chi·rid·i·on (ĕn-'čĭ-rĭd'ĭ-ən) *n.*, pl. **-i·ons** or **-i·a** (ĕ-ă) A handbook; a manual. [Late Latin *enchi·ridion*, from Greek *enchi·ridion* : *en-*, in; see **EN-2** + *kheir*, hand; see **ghes-** in Appendix I + *-idion*, diminutive suff.]

—enchyma *suff.* Cellular tissue: *chlorenchyma*. [from **ARENCHYMA**.]

en·ci·na (ĕn-'seĭ-nă) *n.* See **live oak**. [Spanish, holm oak, from Late Latin *ilicĭna*, from Latin *illex*, *ilic-*.]

en·ci·pher (ĕn-'sĭ-fər) *tr.v.* **-phered, -pher·ing, -phers** To put (a message, for example) into cipher. —**en·ci·pher·er** *n.* —**en·ci·pher·ment** *n.*

en·cir·cle (ĕn-'sĭr-kəl) *tr.v.* **-cled, -clĭng, -cles** 1. To form a circle around; surround. See synonyms at **surround**. 2. To move or go around completely; make a circuit of. —**en·cir·cle·ment** *n.*

encl. *abbr.* 1. enclosed 2. enclosure

en·clasp (ĕn-'klăsp'f) *tr.v.* **-clasped, -clasp·ing, -clasps** To hold in a clasp; embrace.

en·clave (ĕn-'klăv', ōn'f-) *n.* 1. A country or part of a country lying wholly within the boundaries of another. 2. A distinctly bounded area enclosed within a larger unit: *ethnic enclaves in a large city*. [French, from Old French *enclaver*, to enclose, from Vulgar Latin **includāre* : Latin *in-*, in; see **EN-1** + Latin *clāvĭs*, key.]

en·clit·ic (ĕn-'klĭt'ĭk) *n.* 1. A clitic that is attached to the end of another word. In *Give 'em the works*, the pronoun *'em* is an enclitic. 2. A clitic. **✧ adj.** Of or relating to an enclitic or enclitics; forming an accentual unit with the preceding word. [Late Latin *encliticus*, from Greek *enklitikos*, from *enklīnein*, to lean on : *en-*, on, in; see **EN-2** + *klinein*, to lean; see **klei-** in Appendix I.] —**en·clit·ic·ize**' (ĕ-'slĭz') *v.* —**en·clit·ic·iza·tion** (ĕ-'slĭ-ză'shən), **en·clis·is**' (ĕ-'klĭs'is) *n.*

en·close (ĕn-'klōz) also **en·close** (ĭn-) *tr.v.* **-closed, -closing, -closes** 1. To surround on all sides; close in. 2. To fence in so as to prevent common use: *enclosed the pasture*. 3. To contain, especially so as to envelop or shelter: "Every one of those darkly clustered houses encloses its own secret" (Charles Dickens). 4. To insert into the same envelope or package: *enclose a check with the order*. [Middle English *enclosen*, from Old French *encloer*, past participle of *enclore*, from Latin *includere*, to enclose. See **INCLUDE**.]

Synonyms *enclose, cage, coop, fence, hem, pen, wall* These verbs mean to surround and confine within a limited area: *cattle enclosed in feedlots; was caged in the office all afternoon; was cooped up in a studio apartment; a garden fenced in by shrubbery; a battalion hemmed in by enemy troops; ships penned up in the harbor; prisoners who were walled in.*

en·clo·sure (ĕn-'klō-zhər) *n.* 1a. The act of enclosing. **b.** The state of being enclosed. 2. Something enclosed: *a business letter with a supplemental enclosure*. 3. Something that encloses.

en·code (ĕn-'kōd'f) *tr.v.* **-cod·ed, -cod·ing, -codes** 1. To put (a message, for example) into code. 2. **Computer Science** To format (electronic data) according to a standard format. 3. **Genetics** To specify the genetic code for (a protein molecule, for example). —**en·cod·er** *n.*

en·co·mi·ast (ĕn-'kō-mē-'ăst', -ăst) *n.* A person who delivers or writes an encomium; a eulogist. [Greek *enkōmiastēs*, from *enkōmiāzin*, to praise, from *enkōmion*, encomium. See **ENCOMIUM.] —**en·co·mi·as·tic** (ĕ-'ăst'ĭk), **en·co·mi·as·tĭcal** (ĭ-'kăl) *adj.***

en·co·mi·um (ĕn-'kō-mē-əm) *n.*, pl. **-mi·ums** or **-mi·a** (mē-ă) 1. Warm, glowing praise. 2. A formal expression of praise; a tribute. [Latin *encomĭum*, from Greek *enkōmĭon* (*epos*), (speech) praising a virtue; neuter of *enkōmios*, of the victory procession : *en-*, in; see **EN-2** + *kōmos*, celebration.]

en·com·pass (ĕn-'kŭm-păs) *tr.v.* **-passed, -pass·ing, -passes** 1. To form a circle or ring around; surround. See synonyms at **surround**. 2. To enclose; envelop. 3. To constitute or include: *a survey that encompassed a wide range of participants*. 4. To accomplish; achieve. —**en·com·pass·ment** *n.*

en·core (ĕn-'kôr', -kôr') *n.* 1. A demand by an audience for an additional performance, usually expressed by applause. 2. An additional performance in response to the demand of an audience. **✧ tr.v.** **-cored,**

took this phrase to be a single Greek word, *enkuklopaedia*, with the same meaning, and this spurious Greek word became the New Latin word *encyclopædia*, coming into English with the sense "general course of instruction," first recorded in 1531. In New Latin the word was chosen as the title of a reference work covering all knowledge. The first such use in English is recorded in 1644.

ency·clo·pe·dic (èn-sī'klə-pē'dik) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or characteristic of an encyclopedia. 2. Embracing many subjects; comprehensive: *an ignorance almost as encyclopedic as his erudition* (William James). —**ency·clo·pe·dic·al·ly** *adv.*

ency·clo·pe·dism (èn-sī'klə-pē'diz'əm) *n.* Encyclopedic learning.

ency·clo·pe·dist (èn-sī'klə-pē'dist) *n.* 1. A person who writes for or compiles an encyclopedia. 2. **Encyclopedist** One of the writers of the French *Encyclopédie* (1751–1772), including its editors, Diderot and d'Alembert.

en·cyst (èn-sist') *v.* **-cyst·ed, -cyst·ing, -cysts** —*tr.* To enclose in or as if in a cyst. —*intr.* To take the form of or become enclosed in a cyst. —**en·cyst·ment, en·cys·ta·tion** *n.*

end (ënd) *n.* 1. Either extremity of something that has length: *the end of the pier*. 2. The outside or extreme edge or physical limit; a boundary: *the end of town*. 3. The point in time when an action, an event, or a phenomenon ceases or is completed; the conclusion: *the end of the day*. 4. A result; an outcome. 5. Something toward which one strives; a goal. See synonyms at **intention**. 6. The termination of life or existence; death: *"A man awaits his end/Dreading and hoping all"* (William Butler Yeats). 7. The ultimate extent; the very limit: *the end of one's patience*. 8. *Slang* The very best; the ultimate: *This pizza's the end*. 9. A remainder; a remnant. 10a. A share of a responsibility or obligation: *your end of the bargain*. 10b. A particular area of responsibility: *in charge of the business end of the campaign*. 11. *Football* a. Either of the players in the outermost position on the line of scrimmage. b. The position played by such a player. ♣ **v. end·ed, end·ing, ends** —*tr.* 1. To bring to a conclusion. 2. To form the last or concluding part of: *the song that ended the performance*. 3. To destroy: *ended our hopes*. —*intr.* 1. To come to a finish; cease. See synonyms at **complete**. 2. To arrive at a place, situation, or condition as a result of a course of action. Often used with **up**: *He ended up as an advisor to the president. The painting ended up being sold for a million dollars*. 3. To die. —**idioms: in the end** Eventually; ultimately: *All will turn out well in the end. no end a great deal: She had no end of stories to tell. on end* 1. Having one end down; upright: *books placed on end on the shelf*. 2. Without stopping: *drove for hours on end*. [Middle English *ende*, from Old English. See **ant-** in Appendix I.]

end- *pref.* Variant of **endo-**.

en·da·moe·ba (èn-dā-mē'bə) *n.* Variant of **entamoeba**.

en·da·ger (èn-dā'jər) *tr.* **-gered, -gering, -gers** 1. To expose to harm or danger; imperil. 2. To threaten with extinction. —**en·da·ger·ment** *n.*

Synonyms endanger, hazard, imperil, jeopardize, risk These verbs mean to subject to danger, loss, or destruction: *driving that endangers lives; hazarded his health by smoking; a forest imperiled by acid rain; strikes that jeopardized company profits; wouldn't risk her financial security.*

en·dan·gered species (èn-dān'jərd) *n.* A species present in such small numbers that it is at risk of extinction.

en·darch (èn-dārk') *adj.* Of or relating to a xylem whose early development is toward the center. [END(O)- + Greek *arkhē*, pl. (from *arkhein*, to begin, rule).]

en·dar·te·rec·to·my (èn-dār-tā-rēk'tō-mē) *n.* **pl. -mies** Surgical excision of the inner lining of an artery that is clogged with atherosclerotic buildup. [New Latin *endarterium*, inner lining of an artery (ENDO- + Latin *arteria*, artery; see **ARTERY**) + -ECTOMY.]

en·dar·te·ri·tis (èn-dār-tā-rī'tis) *n.* Inflammation of the inner lining of an artery. [New Latin *endarterium*, inner lining of an artery; see **ENDARTERECTOMY** + -ITIS.]

en·dash or en dash (èn'dāsh') *n.* A symbol (—) used in writing or printing to connect continuing or inclusive numbers or to connect elements of a compound adjective when either of the elements is an open compound, as 1880–1945 or *Princeton–New York* trains. [From its being the width of an *n* in printing.]

en·dbrain (ënd'brān') *n.* See **telencephalon**.

en·dear (èn-dīr') *tr.v.* **-deared, -dearing, -dears** To make beloved or very sympathetic: *a couple whose kindness endeared them to friends*.

en·dearing (èn-dīr'ing) *adj.* Inspiring affection or warm sympathy; the endearing charm of a little child. —**en·dear·ing·ly** *adv.*

en·dear·ment (èn-dīr'mənt) *n.* 1. The act of endearing. 2. An expression of affection, such as a caress.

en·deav·or (èn-dēv'ər) *n.* 1. A conscientious or concerted effort toward an end; an earnest attempt. 2. Purposeful or industrious activity; enterprise. ♣ *v.* **-ored, -oring, -ors** —*tr.* To attempt (fulfillment of a responsibility or an obligation, for example) by employment or expenditure of effort: *endeavored to improve the quality of life in the inner city*. —*intr.* To work with a set or specified goal or purpose. [Middle English *endeavour*, from *endeveren*, to make an effort, from (*putten*) in *dever*, (to put oneself) in duty, make it one's duty; *in*, *in*; see **IN** + *dever*, duty (from Old French *devoir*, *devoir*, duty; see **DEVOIR**).] —**en·deav·or·er** *n.*

en·deav·our (èn-dēv'ər) *n.* & *v.* Chiefly British Variant of **endeavor**.

En·de·cott also **En·dic·cote** (èn'dī-kot, -kōt'), John 1588?–1665. English-born American colonial administrator who was a founder of the

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ō paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: ' (primary);
' (secondary), as in
dictionary (dik/shə-nə'rē)