

Webster's
New
Collegiate
Dictionary

A Merriam-Webster®



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New Collegiate Dictionary

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may stress either weight of sound argument and evidence or lucidity of presentation <a soul-searching melancholia through which he was to create a cogent universality of form and meaning—J. A. Dennis> <his argument is cogent and the conclusion he reaches sound> CONVINCE suggests a power to overcome doubt, opposition, or reluctance to accept <the very lack of planning... is convincing proof that there was no conspiracy—Sylvan Fox> TELLING stresses an immediate and crucial effect striking at the heart of a matter and need not impute thereto soundness or validity <a telling attack, made with skill and shrewd insight—V. L. Parrington> **ant** invalid, fallacious, sophistic

val-i-date \val-ə-dāt\ *v* **-dat-ed; -dat-ing** 1 **a**: to make legally valid **b**: to grant official sanction to by marking **c**: to confirm the validity of (an election); **also**: to declare (a person) elected **2**: to support or corroborate on a sound or authoritative basis <experiments designed to ~ his hypothesis> **syn** see CONFIRM **ant** invalidate

val-i-da-tion \val-ə-dā-shən\ *n*: an act, process, or instance of validating; **specif**: the determination of the degree of validity of a measuring device

va-line \val-ēn, -vā-jēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. *valeric* (acid)]: a crystalline essential amino acid C₆H₁₁NO₂ that occurs esp. in various proteins

va-lise \və-lēs\ *n* [F, fr. It *valigia*]: TRAVELING BAG

Val-ky-rie \val-kī-ē also val-kī-rē & val-kā-rē\ *n* [G & ON; G *walkyrie*, fr. ON *walkyria*, lit., chooser of the slain; akin to OE *walcyrige* witch; both fr. a prehistoric WGmc-NGmc compound whose second constituent is represented by ON *valr* the slain and whose second constituent is akin to OE *céosan* to choose—more at CHOOSE]: one of the maidens of Odin who choose the heroes to be slain in battle and conduct them to Valhalla

val-late \val-āt\ *adj* [L. *vallatus*, pp. of *vallare* to surround with a wall, fr. *vallum* wall, rampart—more at WALL]: having a raised edge surrounding a depression

val-lec-u-lar \və-lēk-yə-lə, -və-\ *n*, *pl* -u-lae \-yə-lē, -jē\ [NL, fr. LL, little valley, dim. of L. *valles* valley—more at VALE]: an anatomical groove, channel, or depression; **esp**: one between the base of the tongue and the epiglottis — **val-lec-u-lar** \-lār\ *adj*

val-ley \val-ē\ *n*, *pl* **val-leys** [ME *valey*, fr. OF *vallee*, fr. *val* valley—more at VALE] 1 **a**: an elongate depression of the earth's surface usu. between ranges of hills or mountains **b**: an area drained by a river and its tributaries **2 a**: HOLLOW, DEPRESSION **b**: the place of meeting of two slopes of a roof that form on the plan a reentrant angle

valley fever *n* [fr. its prevalence in the San Joaquin valley of California]: COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS

Val-lois \val-wā, -val-\ *adj* [Philippe de Valois (Philip VI of France)]: of or relating to the French royal house that ruled from 1328 to 1589

va-lo-nia \və-lō-nē-ə, -nyə\ *n* [It *vallonia*, fr. MGk *balanidia*, pl. of *balanidium*, dim. of Gk *balanos* acorn—more at GLAND]: dried acorn cups esp. from a Eurasian evergreen oak (*Quercus aegilops*) used in tanning or dressing leather

val-or \val-ər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *valour*, fr. ML *valor* value, valor, fr. L *valere* to be strong]: strength of mind or spirit that enables a man to encounter danger with firmness: personal bravery **syn** see HEROISM

val-or-ize \val-ə-rīz\ *v* **-rized; -riz-ing** [Pg *valorizare*, fr. *valor* value, price, fr. ML]: to enhance or try to enhance the price, value, or status of by organized and usu. governmental action <using subsidies to ~ coffee> — **val-or-iza-tion** \val-ə-rī-zā-shən\ *n*

val-or-ous \val-ə-rəs\ *adj*: VALIANT — **val-or-ous-ly** *adv*

Val-sal-və \val-səl-və\ *n* [Antonio Maria *Valsalva* 1723-1810 anatomist]: the process of making a forceful attempt at expiration while holding the nostrils closed and keeping the mouth shut for the purpose of testing the patency of the eustachian tubes or of adjusting middle ear pressure — called also *Valsalva*

val-se \vals\ *n* [F, fr. G *waltzer*]: WALTZ; **specif**: a concert waltz

val-u-able \val-yə-(wə)-bal\ *adj* 1 **a**: having monetary value **b**: worth a good price **2 a**: having desirable or esteemed characteristics or qualities <~ friendships> **b**: of great use or service <~ advice> **syn** see COSTLY — **valu-able-ness** *n* — **valu-ably** \-blē\ *adv*

valuable *n*: a usu. personal possession (as jewelry) of relatively great monetary value — usu. used in pl.

valuable consideration *n*: an equivalent or compensation having value that is given for something acquired or promised (as money or marriage) and that may consist either in a benefit accruing to one party or a loss falling upon the other

val-u-ate \val-yə-wāt\ *v* **-at-ed; -at-ing**: to place a value on: APPRAISE

val-u-a-tion \val-yə-wā-shən\ *n* 1: the act or process of valuing; **specif**: appraisal of property **2**: the estimated or determined market value of a thing **3**: judgment or appreciation of worth or character — **val-u-a-tion-al** \-shən-əl, -shən-ē\ *adj* — **val-u-a-tion-al-ly** \-lē\ *adv*

val-u-a-tor \val-yə-wāt-ər\ *n*: one that values; **specif**: one that appraises

val-ue \val-(ū)-yū, -yū-(w)\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL *valuta*, fr. fem. of *valutus*, pp. of L *valere* to be worth, be strong] 1: a fair return or equivalent in goods, services, or money for something exchanged **2**: the monetary worth of something: marketable price **3**: relative worth, utility, or importance: degree of excellence <had nothing of ~ to say> **4 a**: a numerical quantity assigned or computed **b**: the amount or extent of a specified measurement of space, time, or quantity **c**: precise signification <~ of a word> **5**: the relative duration of a musical note **6 a**: relative lightness or darkness of a color: LUMINOSITY **b**: the relation of one part in a picture to another with respect to lightness and darkness **7**: something (as a principle or quality) intrinsically valuable or desirable <sought material ~ instead of human ~s—W. H. Jones> **B**: DENOMINATION 4

value *v* **val-ued; valu-ing** 1 **a**: to estimate or assign the monetary worth of: APPRAISE <~ a necklace> **b**: to rate or scale in usefulness, importance, or general worth: EVALUATE **2 ship>** **syn** see ESTIMATE, APPRECIATE — **valu-er** \-yā-wər\ *n*

val-ue-added \val-yə-wad-əd-\ *n*: an incremental excise that is levied on the value added at each stage of the processing of a raw material or the production and distribution of a commodity and that typically has the impact of a sales tax on the ultimate consumer

val-ued \val-(ū)-yūd, -yūd\ *adj*: having a value or values esp. of a specified kind or number — usu. used in combination <real-valued>

value judgment *n*: a judgment attributing a value (as good, evil, beautiful, or desirable) to a certain thing, action, or entity

val-ue-less \val-yū-ləs, -yā-\ *adj*: of no value: WORTHLESS — **val-ue-less-ness** *n*

va-lu-ta \və-lūt-ə, -jūt-(ū)-tā\ *n* [It, value, fr. (assumed) VL *valuta*] 1: the agreed or exchange value of a currency **2**: FOREIGN EXCHANGE 2

val-vate \val-vāt\ *adj*: having valves or parts resembling a valve: **a**: meeting at the edges without overlapping in the bud <~ leaves> **b**: opening as if by doors or valves <~ capsules> <~ anthers>

valve \valv\ *n* [L. *valva*: akin to L. *volvere* to roll—more at VOLUBLE] 1 *archaic*: a leaf of a folding or double door **2** [NL. *valva*, fr. L]: a structure esp. in a vein or lymphatic that closes temporarily a passage or orifice or permits movement of fluid in one direction only **3 a**: any of numerous mechanical devices by which the flow of liquid, gas, or loose material in bulk may be started, stopped, or regulated by a movable part that opens, shuts, or partially obstructs one or more ports or passageways; **also**: the movable part of such a device **b**: a device in a brass instrument for quickly varying the tube length in order to change the fundamental tone by some definite interval **c** chiefly Brit.: ELECTRON TUBE 4 [NL. *valva*, fr. L]: one of the distinct and usu. movably articulated pieces of which the shell of some shell-bearing animals (as lamellibranch mollusks, brachiopods, and barnacles) consists **5** [NL. *valva*, fr. L] **a**: one of the segments or pieces into which a dehiscing capsule or legume separates **b**: the portion of various anthers (as of the barberry) resembling a lid **c**: one of the two encasing membranes of a diatom — **valved** \valvd\ *adj* — **valve-less** \valv-ləs\ *adj*

valve-in-head engine *n*: an internal-combustion engine in which both inlet and exhaust valves are located in the cylinder head

val-vu-lar \val-vyū-lər\ *n*, *pl* -lar \-lē, -lār\ [NL]: a small valve or fold

val-vu-lar \val-vyū-lər\ *adj* 1: resembling or functioning as a valve; **also**: opening by valves **2**: of or relating to a valve esp. of the heart <~ disorders>

val-vu-li-tis \val-vyū-līt-əs\ *n* [NL]: inflammation of a valve esp. of the heart

va-moose \və-mūs, -və-\ *v* **va-moosed; va-moos-ing** [Sp *vamos* let us go, suppletive 1st pl. imper. (fr. L *vadere* to go) of *ir* to go, fr. L *ire* — more at WADE, ISSUE] *slang*: to depart quickly: DECAMP

vamp \vamp\ *n* [ME *vampe* sock, fr. OF *avantpié*, fr. *avant* fore- + *pié* foot, fr. L *pes* — more at VANGUARD, FOOT] 1: the part of a shoe upper or boot upper covering esp. the forepart of the foot and sometimes also extending forward over the toe or backward to the back seam of the upper **2** [*vamp*]: an introductory musical passage of two or four measures often repeated several times (as in vaudeville) before a solo or between verses

vamp *v* 1 **a**: to provide (a solo) with a new vamp **b**: to piece (something old) with a new part: PATCH <~ up old sermons> **2**: INVENT, FABRICATE <~ up an excuse> ~ *v*: to play a musical vamp — **vamp-er** *n*

vamp *n* [short for *vampire*]: a woman who uses her charm or wiles to seduce and exploit men — **vamp-ish** \vamp-ish\ *adj*

vamp *v*: to practice seductive wiles on

vam-pire \vam-pī-(ə)r\ *n* [F, fr. G *vampir*, of Slav origin; akin to Serb *vampir* vampire] 1: the body of a dead person believed to come from the grave at night and suck the blood of persons asleep **2 a**: one who lives at night and preys on others **b**: a woman who exploits and ruins her lover **3**: any of various So. American bats (genera *Desmodus* and *Diphylla* of the family *Desmodontidae*) structurally adapted for subsisting on blood and dangerous to man and domestic animals esp. as vectors of equine trypanosomiasis and of rabies; **also**: any of several other bats that do not feed on blood but are sometimes reputed to do so

vam-pir-ism \-pī-(ə)r-iz-əm\ *n* 1: belief in vampires **2**: the actions of a vampire

van \van\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *vannus* — more at WINNOW] 1 *dial Eng*: a winnowing device (as a fan) **2**: WING 1a

van *n* [by shortening]: VANGUARD

van *n* [short for *caravan*] 1 **a**: a usu. enclosed wagon or motortruck used for transportation of goods or animals; **also**: CARAVAN 2a **b**: a detachable passenger cabin transportable by aircraft or truck **2** chiefly Brit.: an enclosed railroad freight or baggage car

van-a-date \van-ə-dāt\ *n*: a salt or ester of a vanadic acid

va-na-dic \və-nād-ik, -nād-\ *adj*: of, relating to, or containing vanadium esp. with a higher valence than in vanadous compounds

vanadic acid *n* 1: any of various acids that are hydrates of vanadium pentoxide or are known esp. in the form of salts and esters **2**: VANADIUM PENTOXIDE

va-na-di-nite \və-nād-nīt, -van-ə-dēn-\ *n* [G *vanadin*, fr. *vanadin* vanadium, fr. NL *vanadium*]: a mineral consisting of a lead vanadate and chloride and occurring in yellowish, brownish, or ruby-red hexagonal crystals

va-na-di-um \və-nād-ē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. ON *Vanadis* Freya]: a grayish malleable ductile polyvalent metallic element found combined in minerals and used esp. to form alloys (as vanadium steel) — see ELEMENT table