

Webster's
New
Collegiate
Dictionary

A Merriam-Webster



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New Collegiate Dictionary

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jén *n* [F, fr. L. *asparagus*] : a white $H_2N_2O_2$ that is an amide of aspartic acid
as *n* [NL, genus name, fr. L. *asparagus* akin to Gk *spargan* to swell — more at *asparagus*] of Old World perennial plants much-branched stems, minute scalelike bracts; esp. : one (*A. officinalis*) widely used shoots

as *n* : a salt or ester of aspartic acid
as *n* [ISV, irreg. fr. L. *asparagus*] : a H_2NO_2 found esp. in plants
as *n* [L. *asparagum*, -nāz] : a lily family that catalyzes the phosphorylation of

fr. L. *asparagus*, fr. *asparagus*, pp. of *asparagare* cere to look — more at *asparagus* 1 : the *as* with respect to one another held by man affairs; also : the apparent position in the solar system with respect to the *as* of a particular direction : EXPOSURE *c* ion of a plane to a fluid through which it 2 (1) : appearance to the eye or appearance of countenance : MIEN *c* a man's status or phase in which something is studied every ~ of the question 3 : GAZE 4 : the nature of the action, duration, completion, or repetition and situation in time : a set of inflected verb *syn* see PHASE — **as-pac-tu-al** \ə-ˈspek-

f one dimension to another : as : the *d* of an airfoil *b* : the ratio of the width picture image to its height

ME asp, fr. OE *aspe*, akin to OHG *aspa* of several poplars (esp. *Populus tremula* L. and *P. grandidentata* of No. America) the lightest wood because of their flattened

n [L. thou wilt sprinkle, fr. *aspergere*] altar, clergy, and people with holy water *jil* \-səz/ *n*, *pl* \-səz/ \-səz/ : infected (as in poultry) by molds (genus

as, *n*, *pl* \-lə/ \-lə/ or *luma* [NL, fr. L. ill perforated container with a handle holy water in a liturgical service *pl* \-lil/ \-lil/ [NL, genus name, fr. *as* (*Aspergillus*) of ascomycetous fungi ophores including many common molds *n*, *pl* \-ties/ [ME *asprete*, fr. OF *asprete*, 1 : RIGOR, SEVERITY 2 : roughness 3 : roughness of sound 3 : roughness (ARSHNESS *syn* see ACRIMONY *ant* amen-

as-per-sed, *as-per-sing* [L. *asperare*, *as-per-are* to scatter — more at *SPARK*] 1 *le* with holy water 2 : to attack with inous charges *syn* see MALIGN *-shon* *n* 1 : a sprinkling with water 2 : the act of calumniating : DEF- use expression <he cast ~s on her

as-phal-tum \ə-ˈfɒl-təm/ *n* [ME *asphalt*, fr. *asph* 1 : a brown to black bituminous natural beds and is also obtained as a tar refining and that consists chiefly of taltic composition used for pavements *t* — **as-phal-tic** \ə-ˈfɒl-tik/ *adj* : a native asphalt occurring in vein of the ground

ity or a specified part of a big city *as-phal-tic* \ə-ˈfɒl-tik/ *adj* 1 : spherical form <~ optical surface> *rration* <an ~ lens>

as-phodelus, fr. Gk *asphodelos* : any perennial herbs (esp. genera *Asphodelus* ly family with flowers in long erect

n [NL, fr. Gk, stopping of the pulse, : a lack of oxygen or excess of carbon su. caused by interruption of breathing

as-pho-dia \ə-ˈfɒ-dia/ *vi* : to cause asphyxia in; conscious through want of adequate agents, or other obstruction to normal me asphyxiated — **as-pho-dia-tion** *hyx-i-a-tion* \-ˈfɒk-sē-ˈtā-tion/ *n* *er* of *aspe*, fr. L. *aspi* *obs* : *aspi* ory jelly (as of fish or meat stock) used 1 or to make a mold of meat, fish, or

n [NL, irreg. fr. Gk *aspid*, *aspid* (*aspidistra lurida*) of the lily family that often grown as a foliage plant *spi-rant* *n* : one who aspires <pre-

tain a desired position or status

as-pi-rat-ed, *as-pi-rat-ing* [L. *aspiratus*, pp. of *aspi-rare* to breathe, *aspi-rare* to breathe (as a vowel, a consonant, or a word) with 2 : to draw by suction *b* : to

tion 1 : an independent sound \h/ or a presenting it 2 : a consonant having

aspiration as its final component <in English the *p* of *pit* represents an ~ 3 : material removed by aspiration

as-pi-ra-tion \ə-ˈpi-rā-shən/ *n* 1 : the pronunciation or addition of an aspirate; also : the aspirate or its symbol 2 : a drawing of something in, out, up, or through by or as if by suction; as : the act of breathing and esp. of breathing in *b* : the withdrawal of fluid from the body *c* : the taking of foreign matter into the lungs with the respiratory current 3 : a strong desire to achieve something high or great *b* : an object of such desire *syn* see AMBITION

as-pi-ra-tor \ə-ˈpi-rā-tōr/ *n* : an apparatus for producing suction or moving or collecting materials by suction; esp. : a hollow tubular instrument connected with a partial vacuum and used to remove fluid or tissue or foreign bodies from the body

as-pi-re \ə-ˈpi-rē/ *vi* **as-pi-red**, *as-pi-ling* [ME *aspi-ren*, fr. MF or L; MF *aspi-re*, fr. L *aspi-rare*, lit., to breathe upon, fr. *ad-* + *aspi-rare* to breathe — more at *SPIRIT*] 1 : to seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal <aspired to a career in medicine> 2 : ASCEND. SOAR — **as-pi-ror** *n*

as-pi-rin \ə-ˈpi-rin/ *n*, *pl* *aspirin* or *aspirins* [ISV, fr. *acetyl* + *spiraeic acid* (former name of salicylic acid), fr. NL *Spiraea*, genus of shrubs — more at *SPIREA*] 1 : a white crystalline derivative $C_9H_8O_4$ of salicylic acid used for relief of pain and fever 2 : a tablet of aspirin

ASR *abbr* 1 airport surveillance radar 2 air-sea rescue

as-regards or **as-respects** *prep* : in regard to ; with respect to

ass \əs/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *assa*, perh. fr. Olf *asan*, fr. L *asinus*] : any of several hardy gregarious mammals (genus *Equus*) that are smaller than the horse, have long ears, and include the donkey 2 : a stupid, obstinate, or perverse person

ass \əs/ or **arse** \əs/ *n* [ME *ars*, *ers*, fr. OE *ars*, *ers*, akin to OHG & ON *ars* but-tocks, Gk *arros*, Arm *or*, Hitt *arraz* Olf *or* tail] 1 : a : BUT-TOCKS — often considered vul-gar *b* : ANUS — often considered vulgar 2 : sexual intercourse — usu. considered vulgar

as-sa-fet-i-da or **as-sa-fœ-ti-da** *var* of ASAFETIDA

as-sa-fet-i-da *adv* [It, fr. (assumed) VL *ad* *satis* enough — more at *ASSET*] : VERY — used with tempo direction in music <allegro ~> **as-sail** \ə-ˈsā-əl/ *vi* [ME *assailen*, fr. OF *assailir*, fr. (assumed) VL *assaire*, alter. of L *assilire* to leap upon, fr. *ad-* + *salire* to leap — more at *SALLY*] : to attack violently with blows or words *syn* see ATTACK — **as-sail-able** \ə-ˈsā-ə-bəl/ *adj* — **as-sail-ant** \ə-ˈsā-lənt/

Assam \ə-ˈsɑːm/ *n*, *pl* *Assamese* 1 : a native or inhabitant of Assam, India 2 : the Indic language of Assam

as-sas-in \ə-ˈsɑːs-ən/ *n* [ML *assassinus*, fr. Ar *hashshashin*, pl. of *hashshash* one addicted to hashish] 1 *cap* : one of a secret order of Muslims that at the time of the Crusades terrorized Christians and other enemies by secret murder committed under the influence of hashish 2 : MURDERER : esp. : one that murders a politically important person either for hire or from fanatical motives

as-sas-i-nate \ə-ˈsɑːs-ən-āt/ *vi* **as-sas-i-nat-ed**, *as-sas-i-nat-ing* 1 : to murder by sudden or secret attack usu. for impersonal reasons <~ senator> 2 : to arrange to have his estranged wife assassinated 2 : to injure or destroy unexpectedly and treacherously *syn* see KILL

as-sas-i-na-tion \ə-ˈsɑːs-ən-ā-shən/ *n* — **as-sas-i-na-tor** \ə-ˈsɑːs-ən-ā-tōr/ *n*

assassin bug *n* : any of a family (Reduviidae) of bugs that are usu. predatory on insects though some suck the blood of mammals : CONENOSE

as-sault \ə-ˈsɔːlt/ *n* [ME *assaut*, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *assaultus*, fr. *assaultus*, pp. of *assallere*] 1 : a violent physical or verbal attack 2 : an apparently violent attempt or a willful offer with force or violence to do hurt to another without the actual doing of the hurt threatened (as by lifting the fist in a threatening manner) — compare BATTERY *b* : RAPE

assault *w* 1 : to make an assault on 2 : RAPE ~ *w* : to make an assault *syn* see ATTACK — **as-sault-er** *n* — **as-sault-ive** \ə-ˈsɔːlt-iv/ *adj* — **as-sault-ive-ly** *adv* — **as-sault-ive-ness** *n*

assault boat *n* : a small portable boat used in an amphibious military attack or in land warfare for crossing rivers or lakes

as-say \ə-ˈsā-ə/ *n* [ME, fr. OF *essai*, *assai* test, effort — more at *ESSAY*] 1 *archaic* : TRIAL, ATTEMPT 2 : examination and determination as to characteristics (as weight, measure, or quality) 3 : analysis (as of an ore) to determine the presence, absence, or quantity of one or more components 4 : a substance to be assayed; also : the tabulated result of assaying

as-say \ə-ˈsā-ə/ *vi* 1 : TRY, ATTEMPT 2 : to analyze (as an ore) for one or more valuable components *b* : to judge the worth of : ESTIMATE ~ *vi* : to prove up in an assay — **as-say-er** *n*

as-se-gai or **as-sa-gai** \ə-ˈsē-ɡā-ē/ *n* [deriv. of Ar *as-zaghāya* the assegai, fr. *al-* the + *zaghāya* assegai] : a slender hardwood spear or light javelin usu. tipped with iron and used in southern Africa

as-sem-bly \ə-ˈsem-blē/ *n*, *pl* *assemblies* 1 : a collection of persons or things : GATHERING 2 : the act of assembling : the state of being assembled 3 : an artistic composition made from scraps, junk, and odds and ends (as of paper, cloth, wood, stone, or metal) *b* : the art of making assemblages

as-sem-bly-ist \ə-ˈsem-blē-ist/ *n* : an artist who specializes in assemblages

as-sem-ble \ə-ˈsem-blē/ *vb* **as-sem-ble-d**, **as-sem-bling** \-b(ə)-lɪŋ/ [ME *assembler*, fr. OF *assembler*, fr. (assumed) VL *assimulare*, fr. L *ad-* + *simul* together — more at *SAME*] *w* 1 : to bring together (as in a particular place or for a particular purpose) 2 : to fit together the parts of ~ *vi* : to meet together : CONVENE *syn* see GATHER

as-sem-bler \-b(ə)-lār/ *n* 1 : one that assembles 2 : a computer program that automatically converts instructions written in a symbolic code into the equivalent machine code

as-sem-bly \ə-ˈsem-blē/ *n*, *pl* *assemblies* [ME *assemblee*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *assemble*] 1 : a company of persons gathered for deliberation and legislation, worship, or entertainment 2 *cap* : a legislative body; specif. : the lower house of a legislature 3 : ASSEMBLAGE 1, 2, 4 : a signal given by drum, bugle, trumpet, or all field music for troops to assemble or fall in 5 : a : the fitting together of manufactured parts into a complete machine, structure, or unit of a machine *b* : a collection of parts so assembled 6 : the translation of symbolic code to machine code by an assembler

assembly language *n* : a symbolic language for programming a computer that is a close approximation of machine language

assembly line *n* 1 : an arrangement of machines, equipment, and workers in which work passes from operation to operation in direct line until the product is assembled 2 : a process for turning out a finished product in a mechanically efficient manner <academic assembly lines>

as-sem-bly-man \ə-ˈsem-blē-mən/ *n* : a member of an assembly

Assembly of God : a congregation belonging to a Pentecostal body founded in the U.S. in 1914

as-sem-bly-wom-an \-wūm-ən/ *n* : a female member of an assembly

as-sent \ə-ˈsent/ *vi* [ME *assenten*, fr. OF *assentir*, fr. L *assentari*, fr. *assentire*, fr. *ad-* + *sentire* to feel — more at *SENSE*] 1 : to agree to something esp. after thoughtful consideration : CONCUR — **as-sent-er** or **as-sent-er** \-sent-ər/ *n*

syn ASSENT, CONSENT, ACCEDE, ACQUIESCE, AGREE, SUBSCRIBE *shared meaning element* : to concur with what has been proposed *ant* dissent

as-sent *n* : an act of assenting : ACQUIESCENCE, AGREEMENT

as-sen-ta-tion \ə-ˈsen-tā-shən, as-en-ən/ *n* : ready assent esp. when insincere or obsequious

as-sert \ə-ˈsɔːrt/ *vi* [L *assertus*, pp. of *asserere*, fr. *ad-* + *serere* to join — more at *SERIES*] 1 : to state or declare positively and often forcefully or aggressively 2 : a : to demonstrate the existence of <~ his manhood — James Joyce> *b* : POSIT, POSTULATE

syn 1 ASSERT, DECLARE, AFFIRM, PROTEST, AVOW *shared meaning element* : to state or put forward positively usu. in anticipation of or in the face of denial or objection *ant* deny, controvert 2 see MAINTAIN

— **as-sert** *oneself* : to compel recognition esp. of one's rights

as-sert-ion \ə-ˈsɔːr-shən/ *n* : the act of asserting; also : DECLARATION, AFFIRMATION

as-ser-tive \ə-ˈsɔːr-tiv/ *adj* : disposed to or characterized by bold or confident assertion *syn* see AGGRESSIVE *ant* retiring, acquiescent

— **as-ser-tive-ly** *adv* — **as-ser-tive-ness** *n*

asses *pl* of AS or of ASS

as-sess \ə-ˈses/ *vi* [ME *assessen*, prob. fr. ML *assessus*, pp. of *assidere*, fr. L *ad-* to sit beside, assist in the office of a judge — more at *ASSIZE*] 1 : to determine the rate or amount of (as a tax) 2 : to impose (as a tax) according to an established rate *b* : to subject to a tax, charge, or levy 3 : to make an official valuation of (property) for the purposes of taxation 4 : to determine the importance, size, or value of *syn* see ESTIMATE — **as-sess-able** \-ˈses-ə-bəl/ *adj*

as-sess-ment \ə-ˈses-mənt/ *n* 1 : the act or an instance of assessing : APPRAISAL 2 : the amount assessed

as-ses-sor \ə-ˈses-ər/ *n* 1 : an official who assists a judge or magistrate 2 : an official who assesses property for taxation

as-set \ə-ˈset/ *n* [back-formation fr. *assets*, sing., sufficient property to pay debts and legacies, fr. AF *asets*, fr. OF *assez* enough, fr. (assumed) VL *ad satis*, fr. L *ad* to + *satis* enough — more at *AT*, *SATIS*] 1 *pl* : the property of a deceased person subject by law to the payment of his debts and legacies *b* : the entire property of all sorts of a person, association, corporation, or estate applicable or subject to the payment of his or its debts 2 : ADVANTAGE, RESOURCE <his wit is his chief ~> 3 *pl* : the items on a balance sheet showing the book value of property owned

as-sev-er-ate \ə-ˈsev-ə-rāt/ *vi* **as-sev-er-at-ed**, *as-sev-er-at-ing* [L *asseveratus*, pp. of *asseverare*, fr. *ad-* + *severare* severe] : to affirm or aver positively or earnestly — **as-sev-er-a-tion** \-ˈsev-ə-rā-shən/ *n* — **as-sev-er-a-tive** \-ˈsev-ə-rāt-iv/ *adj*

as-si-du-ity \ə-ˈsɪ-d(y)-ū-ē-ē/ *n*, *pl* *ities* 1 : the quality or state of being assiduous : DILIGENCE 2 : solicitous or obsequious attention to a person

as-sid-u-ous \ə-ˈsɪ-d(y)-ū-əs/ *adj* [L *assiduus*, fr. *assidere*] : marked by careful unremitting attention or persistent application <~ patrons of the opera> *syn* see BUSY *ant* desultory — **as-sid-u-ous-ly** *adv* — **as-sid-u-ous-ness** *n*

as-sign \ə-ˈsɪn/ *vi* [ME *assignen*, fr. OF *assigner*, fr. L *assignare*, fr. *ad-* + *signare* to mark, fr. *signum* mark, sign] 1 : to transfer (property) to another esp. in trust or for the benefit of creditors 2 : to appoint to a post or duty *b* : PRESCRIBE <~ the lesson> 3 : to fix authoritatively : SPECIFY <~ a limit> 4 : to ascribe with assurance esp. as motive or reason *syn* see ALLOT, ASCRIBE — **as-sign-a-bil-i-ty** \-sɪ-nə-ˈbɪl-ə-ē-ē/ *n* — **as-sign-able** \-ˈsɪ-nə-bəl/ *adj* — **as-sign-er** \-ˈsɪ-nər/ or **as-sign-or** \-ˈsɪ-n(ə)r/ or *as-si-g-er* \-ˈsɪ-ē-ē/ *n*

assign *n* : ASSIGNEE

as-signat \ə-ˈsɪn-āt/ *n*, *pl* *asignats* [F, fr. L *assignatus*, pp. of *assignare*] : a bill issued as currency by the French Revolutionary government (1790-95) on the security of expropriated lands

as-sig-na-tion \ə-ˈsɪn-ā-shən/ *n* 1 : the act of assigning or the assignment made; esp. : ALLOTMENT 2 : TRYST <returned from an

as-sig-na-tion>

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