

Webster's
New
Collegiate
Dictionary

A Merriam-Webster



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New Collegiate Dictionary

A Merriam-Webster®

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open-eyed \əp-ə-'nɪd/ *adj* 1: having the eyes open 2: WATCHFUL, DISCERNING
open-handed \əp-ən-'hænd/ *adj*: generous in giving
open-hand-ed-ly *adv* — **open-hand-ed-ness** *n*
open-heart *adj*: of, relating to, or performed on a heart temporarily relieved of circulatory function and surgically opened for inspection and treatment <~ surgery>
open-heart-ed \əp-ən-'hɑrt-əd/ *adj*: candidly straightforward
open-heart-ed-ly *adv* — **open-heart-ed-ness** *n*
open-hearth *adj*: of, relating to, involving, or produced by an open hearth <~ steel>
open-hearth process *n*: a process of making steel from pig iron in a furnace of the regenerative reverberatory type
open house *n*: ready and usu. informal hospitality or entertainment for all comers
open-ing \əp-(ə)-'nɪŋ/ *n* 1 *a*: an act or instance of making or becoming open *b*: an act or instance of beginning: COMMENCEMENT: *esp*: a formal and usu. public event by which something new is put officially into operation 2: something that is open: as *a* (1): BREACH, APERTURE (2): an open width: SPAN *b*: an area without trees or with scattered usu. mature trees that occurs as a break in a forest *c*: two pages that face one another in a book 3: something that constitutes a beginning: as *a*: a planned series of moves made at the beginning of a game of chess or checkers — compare END GAME, MIDDLE GAME *b*: a first performance 4 *a*: OCCASION, CHANCE *b*: an opportunity for employment
open letter *n*: a letter of protest or appeal usu. addressed to an individual but intended for the general public and printed in a newspaper or periodical
open loop *n*: a control system for an operation or process in which there is no self-correcting action as there is in a closed loop
open-mind-ed \əp-ən-'mɪnd-əd/ *adj*: receptive to arguments or ideas: UNPREJUDICED — **open-mind-ed-ly** *adv* — **open-mind-ed-ness** *n*
open-mouthed \əp-ən-'maʊθɪd, -'maʊθt/ *adj* 1: having the mouth widely open 2: struck with amazement or wonder 3: CLAMOROUS, VOCIFEROUS — **open-mouth-ed-ly** \-maʊ-'θɒd-ɪd-ə/ *adv* — **open-mouth-ed-ness** \-maʊ-'θɒd-ɪd-ə/ *n*
open order *n*: a military formation in which the units are separated by considerable intervals
open-pol-li-nat-ed \əp-ən-'pɒl-ə-'næt-əd/ *adj*: pollinated by natural agencies without human intervention
open season *n*: a period during which it is legal to kill or catch game or fish protected at other times by law
open secret *n*: an ostensibly secret but generally known matter
open sentence *n*: a statement (as in mathematics) that contains at least one blank or unknown and that becomes true or false when the blank is filled or a quantity is substituted for the unknown
open ses-a-me \-'ses-ə-'meɪ/ *n* [fr. *open sesame*, the magical command used by Ali Baba to open the door of the robbers' den in *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*]: something that unfailingly brings about a desired end
open shop *n*: an establishment in which eligibility for employment and retention on the payroll are not determined by membership or nonmembership in a labor union though there may be an agreement by which a union is recognized as sole bargaining agent
open sight *n*: a firearm rear sight having an open notch instead of a peephole or a telescope
open stance *n*: a preparatory position (as in baseball batting or golf) in which the forward foot (as the left foot of a right-handed person) is farther from the line of play than the back foot — compare CLOSED STANCE
open syllable *n*: a syllable ended by a vowel or diphthong
open up *v* 1: to commence firing 2: to become communicative <open up and tell these guys what they want to know — *Sat. Eve. Post*> 3: to spread out or come into view <the road opens up ahead> 4: to turn toward an audience or a camera ~ *w* 1: to open by cutting into 2: to make plain or visible: DISCLOSE 3: to make available
open-work \əp-ən-'wɜrk/ *n*: work constructed so as to show openings through its substance: work that is perforated or pierced <wrought-iron ~> — **open-work-ed** \-wɜrkt/ *adj*
opera *pl* of *OPUS*
op-er-a \əp-(ə)-'rɑ/ *n* [It. work, opera, fr. L. work, pains; akin to L. *oper-, opus*] 1: a drama set to music and made up of vocal pieces with orchestral accompaniment and orchestral overtures and interludes; *specif*: GRAND OPERA 2: the score of a musical drama 3: the performance of an opera; *also*: a house where operas are performed — **op-er-a-tic** \əp-ə-'rɑt-ɪk/ *adj* — **op-er-a-ti-cal-ly** \-ɪ-k(ə)-li/ *adv*
op-er-a-ble \əp-(ə)-'rɑ-b(ə)l/ *adj* 1: fit, possible, or desirable to use: PRACTICABLE 2: suitable for surgical treatment <can ~ cancer> — **op-er-a-bil-i-ty** \əp-(ə)-'rɑ-b(ə)l-ɪ-ti/ *n* — **op-er-a-bly** \əp-ə-'rɑ-b(ə)l-ɪ/ *adv*
op-er-a bouffe \əp-(ə)-'rɑ-'bʊf/ *n* [F, fr. It. *opera buffa*]: satirical comic opera
op-er-a buf-fa \əp-(ə)-'rɑ-'bʊ-fə/ *n* [It. lit., comic opera]: an 18th century farcical comic opera with dialogue in recitative
op-er-a co-mique \əp-(ə)-'rɑ-'kɑm-'ek, -'kɑ-'mek/ *n* [F]: COMIC OPERA
opera glass *n*: a small binocular optical instrument that is similar to the field glass and suitable for use at the opera or theater — often used in pl.
op-er-a-go-er \əp-(ə)-'rɑ-'g(ə)-r/ *n*: a person who frequently goes to operas
opera hat *n*: a man's collapsible top hat consisting usu. of a dull silky fabric stretched over a steel frame
opera house *n*: a theater devoted principally to the performance of operas; *broadly*: THEATER
op-er-and \əp-ə-'rænd/ *n* [L. *operandum*, neut. of gerundive of *operari*]: something (as a quantity or data) that is operated on (as in a mathematical operation); *also*: the address in a computer instruction of data to be operated on

op-er-ant \əp-ə-'rənt/ *adj* 1: functioning or tending to produce effects: EFFECTIVE <an ~ conscience> 2: of or relating to the observable or measurable 3: of, relating to, or being an operant <~ conditioning> <~ behavior> — **op-er-ant-ly** *adv*
operant *n*: behavior or responses (as bar pressing by a rat to obtain food) that operate on the environment to produce rewarding and reinforcing effects
op-er-a-se-ria \əp-ə-'rɑ-'ser-ə-'sɪr-/ *n* [It. lit., serious opera]: an 18th century opera with a heroic or legendary subject
op-er-ate \əp-(ə)-'rɑt-ɪd, -'rɑt-ɪd-ɪŋ/ *v* [L. *operatus*, pp. of *operari* to work, fr. *oper-, opus* work; akin to OE *efnan* to perform. Skt *apas* work] *vi* 1: to perform a function: exert power or influence <factors operating against our success> 2: to produce an appropriate effect <the drug operated quickly> 3 *a*: to perform an operation or a series of operations *b*: to perform surgery *c*: to carry on a military or naval action or mission 4: to follow a course of conduct that is often irregular <crooked gamblers operating in the club> ~ *v* 1: to bring about: EFFECT 2 *a*: to cause to function: WORK *b*: to put or keep in operation 3: to perform an operation on; *esp*: to perform surgery on
op-er-at-ing \əp-(ə)-'rɑt-ɪŋ/ *adj*: of, relating to, or used for or in operations <~ expenses> <a hospital ~ room>
operating system *n*: software that supports or complements the hardware of a computer system (as by keeping track of the different programs in multiprogramming)
op-er-a-tion \əp-ə-'rɑ-shən/ *n* 1: performance of a practical work or of something involving the practical application of principles or processes 2 *a*: an exertion of power or influence <the ~ of a drug> *b*: the quality or state of being functional or operative <the plant is now in ~> *c*: a method or manner of functioning <a machine of very simple ~> 3: EFFICACY, POTENCY — archaic except in legal usage 4: a procedure carried out on a living body usu. with instruments *adj*: for the repair of damage or the restoration of health 5: any of various mathematical or logical processes (as addition) of deriving one expression from others according to a rule 6 *a*: a usu. military action, mission, or maneuver including its planning and execution *b pl*: the office on the flight line of an airfield where pilots file clearance for flights and where flying from the field is controlled *c pl*: the agency of an organization charged with carrying on the principal planning and operating functions of a headquarters and its subordinate units 7: a business transaction *esp*. when speculative 8: a single step performed by a computer in the execution of a program
op-er-a-tion-al \-ʃənəl, -ʃən-ɪ-/ *adj* 1: of or relating to operation or to an operation <the ~ gap between planning and production> 2: of, relating to, or based on operations <~ definitions> 3 *a*: of, engaged in, or connected with execution of military or naval operations in campaign or battle *b*: ready for or in condition to undertake a destined function — **op-er-a-tion-al-ly** \-lɪ/ *adv*
op-er-a-tion-al-ism \-ɪz-əm/ *n*: a view that the concepts or terms used in nonanalytic scientific statements must be definable in terms of identifiable and repeatable operations — **op-er-a-tion-al-ist** \-ɪst/ *n* — **op-er-a-tion-al-ist-ic** \-ɪk/ *adj*
op-er-a-tion-ism \əp-ə-'rɑ-shən-ɪz-əm/ *n*: OPERATIONALISM
op-er-a-tion-ist \-ʃən-ɪst/ *n*
operations research *n*: the application of scientific and *esp*. mathematical methods to the study and analysis of complex overall problems
op-er-a-tive \əp-(ə)-'rɑt-ɪv, 'rɑt-ɪv-/ *adj* 1: producing an appropriate effect: EFFICACIOUS 2: exerting force or influence: OPERATING 3 *a*: having to do with physical operations (as of machines) *b*: WORKING <an ~ craftsman> 4: based upon or consisting of an operation <~ dentistry> — **op-er-a-tive-ly** *adv* — **op-er-a-tive-ness** *n*
operative *n*: OPERATOR *as* *a*: ARTISAN, MECHANIC *b*: a secret agent *c*: PRIVATE DETECTIVE
op-er-a-tor \əp-(ə)-'rɑt-ɪr-/ *n* 1: one that operates: *as* *a*: one that operates a machine or device *b*: one that operates a business *c*: one that performs surgical operations *d*: one that deals in stocks or commodities 2 *a*: MOUNTAIN, FRAUD *b*: a shrewd and skillful person who knows how to circumvent restrictions or difficulties 3 *a*: a mathematical or logical symbol denoting an operation to be performed *b*: a mathematical function 4: a chromosomal region that triggers formation of messenger RNA by one or more nearby structural genes and is itself subject to inhibition by a genetic repressor — called also *operator gene*; compare OPERON
op-er-cu-lar \əp-ə-'kʏə-lər/ *adj*: of, relating to, or constituting an operculum
opercular *n*: an opercular part (as a bone or scale)
op-er-cu-late \əp-ə-'kʏə-lət/ *adj* *also* **op-er-cu-lat-ed** \-læt-əd/ *adj*: having an operculum
op-er-cu-lum \əp-ə-'kʏə-ləm/ *n*, *pl* -lā \-lɑ/ *also* -lums [NL, fr. L. cover, fr. *aperire* to shut, cover — more at WEIR] 1: a lid or covering flat (as of a moss capsule or a pyxidium in a seed plant) 2: a body process or part that suggests a lid: *as* *a*: a horny or shelly plate on the posterior dorsal surface of the foot in many gastropod mollusks that closes the shell when the animal is retracted *b*: the covering of the gills of a fish — see FISH illustration
op-er-et-ta \əp-ə-'ret-ə/ *n* [It. dim. of *opera*]: a usu. romantic comic opera that includes songs and dancing — **op-er-et-tist** \-ret-əst/ *n*
op-er-on \əp-ə-'ræn/ *n* [operator + -on]: the closely linked combination of an operator and the structural genes it regulates
op-er-ose \əp-ə-'rɒs/ *adj* [L. *operosus*, fr. *oper-, opus* work — more at OPERATE]: TEDIOUS, WEARISOME — **op-er-ose-ly** *adv* — **op-er-ose-ness** *n*
Ophe-lia \ə-'fel-ɪ-ə/ *n*: the daughter of Polonius in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
ophid-i-an \ə-'fɪd-ɪ-ən/ *adj* [deriv. of Gk *ophis*]: of, relating to, or resembling snakes — **ophidian** *n*