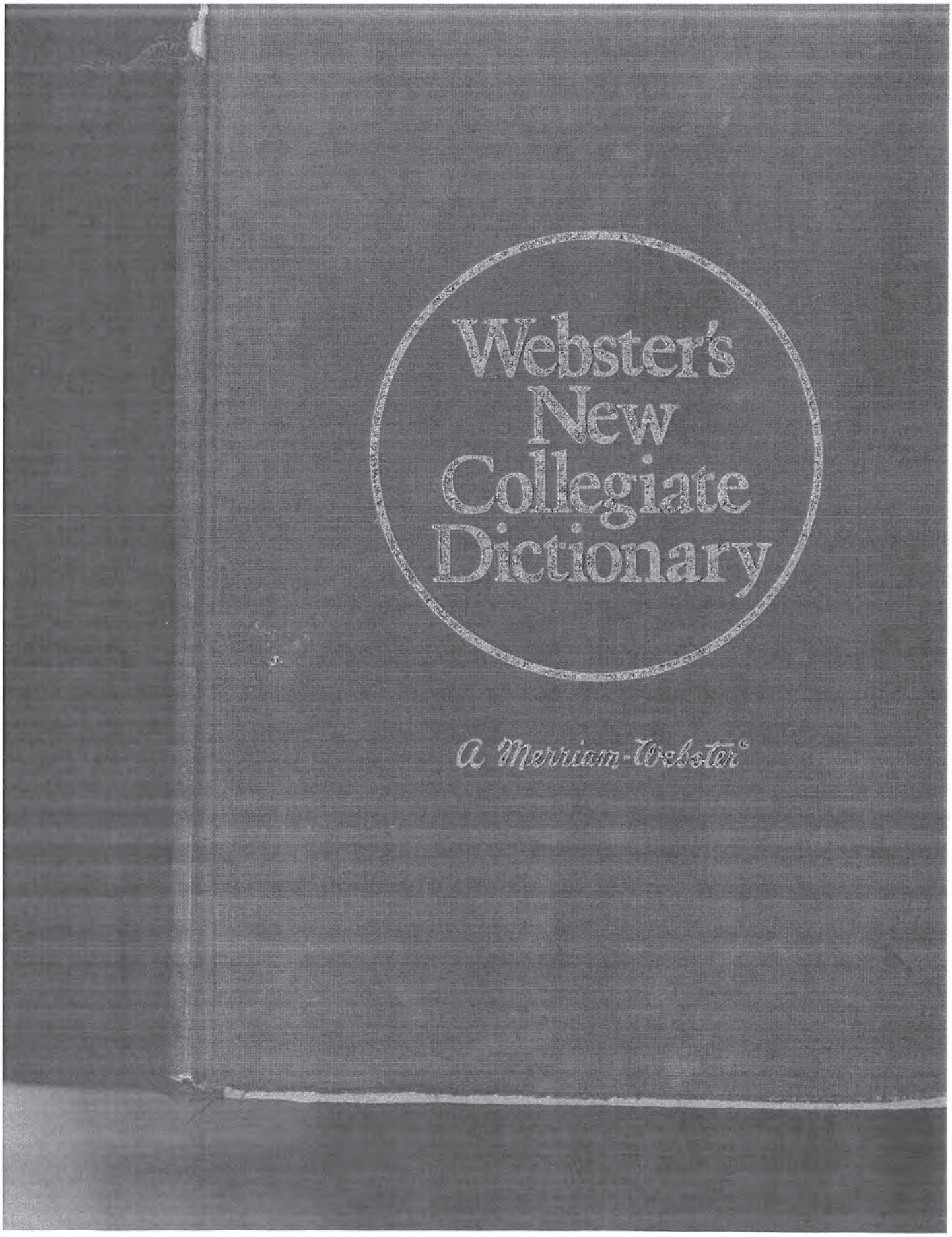
Webster's
New
Collegiate
Dictionary
A Merriam-Webster

R'S

New Collegiate Dictionary

A Merriam-Webster®

G. & C. MERRIAM COMPANY
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

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4

: a repetitive liturgical melody in which
ssigned to each tone as required **b** : a
terance or song <the ~ of an auctioneer>
anting
1 : one that chants: **a** : CHORISTER **b**
singer in a chantry **3** : the reed pipe
holes on which the melody is played —
n
el, ˌshänt-\ *n* [F] : an edible mushroom
f rich yellow color and pleasant aroma
z, shan-ˈtüz\ *n, pl* **chan·teuses**
[F, fem. of *chanteur* singer, fr. *chanter*]
ghtclub singer
ˈshant-ē, ˈchant -\ *n, pl* **chanteys** *or*
anter] : a song sung by sailors in rhythm

li(ə)r, ˌshant-\ *n* [ME *Chantecleer*, rooster
)F *Chantecler*, rooster in the *Roman de*

l-ē-\ *n* [trans. of F *dentelle de Chantilly*,
a delicate silk, linen, or synthetic lace
ground and a floral or scrolled design —

pl **chantries** [ME *chanterie*, fr. MF,
an endowment for the chanting of masses
er **2** : a chapel endowed by a chantry
hän-\ *var of* HANUKKAH
: Gk — more at GUM] **1** *obs* : CHASM,
tate of things in which chance is supreme;
ganized state of primordial matter before
orms — compare COSMOS **b** : a state of
wide blackout caused ~> **c** : a confused
glomeration <a ~ of television antennas>
adj — **cha·ot·i·cal·ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
for *chapman*] **1** : FELLOW **2** *South &*

)·ping [ME *chappen;* akin to MD *cappen*
: to open in slits or cracks <*chapped* lips>
chinks : CRACK <the hands and lips often

a sore roughening of the skin caused by
l
chap] **1 a** : the fleshy covering of a jaw;
in pl. <the wolf's ~*s* were smeared with
: of the face — usu. used in pl.

re·jos \shap-ə-ˈrä-(ˌ)ōs, -əs\ *n pl* [MexSp

-ˈrel\ *n* [Sp. fr. *chaparro* dwarf evergreen
1 : a thicket of dwarf evergreen oaks;
:trable thicket of shrubs or dwarf trees **2**
ty occurring widely in southern California
y plants esp. adapted to dry summers and

)RUNNER — called also *chaparral cock*
a thorny California leguminous shrub
rming dense thickets
n [*chapman* + *book*] : a small book
or tracts
ME, scabbard, fr. MF, cape, fr. LL *cappa*]
trimming of a scabbard or sheath
n, pl **cha·peaus** \-ˈpōz\ *or* **cha·peaux**
apel — more at CHAPLET] : HAT
., fr. OF *chapele*, fr. ML *cappella*, fr. dim.
e cloak of St. Martin of Tours preserved
chapel built for that purpose] **1** : a
ace of worship: as **a** : a place of worship
itution **b** : a small house of worship usu.
a **c** : a room or recess in a church for
r small religious services **2** : a choir of
apel (as of a prince) **3** : a chapel service
l or college **4** : an association of the
office **5** : a place of worship used by a
n an established church <a nonconformist
ME **b** : a room for funeral services in a

l or dependent church built to accommo-
a
one \ˈshap-ə-ˌrōn\ *n* [F *chaperon*, lit.,
ing, fr. *chape*] **1** : a person (as a matron)
mpanies one or more young unmarried
ixed company **2** : an older person who
de at a social gathering to ensure proper
delegated to ensure proper behavior
·ne *vb* **·oned; ·on·ing** *vt* **1** : ESCORT **2**
or for ~ *vi* : to act as a chaperon —
\ *n*
n, ˈchāp-\ *adj* **1** : having the lower jaw
t down in spirit : DEPRESSED
n [ME *chapitre*, fr. MF, alter. of OF
lit., little head] : the capital of a column
ME *chapelain*, fr. OF, fr. ML *cappellanus*,
rgyman in charge of a chapel **2** : a
ched to a branch of the military, to an
or court **3** : a person chosen to conduct
a meeting of a club or society) **4** : a
ssist a bishop (as at a liturgical function)
— **chap·lain·ship** \-ˌship\ *n*
IE *chapelet*, fr. MF, fr. OF, dim. of *chapel*
ppellus head covering, fr. LL *cappa*] **1**
)n the head **2 a** : a string of beads **b**
prising five decades **3** : a small molding
ative forms — **chap·let·ed** \-lət-əd\ *adj*

Chap·lin·esque \ˌchap-lə-ˈnesk\ *adj* : resembling or suggesting the largely pantomime comedy of the motion-picture comedian Charles Chaplin
chap·man \ˈchap-mən\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *cēapman*, fr. *cēap* trade + *man*] **1** *archaic* : MERCHANT, TRADER **2** *Brit* : an itinerant dealer : PEDDLER
chaps \ˈshaps\ *n pl* [modif. of MexSp *chaparreras*] : leather leggings joined together by a belt or lacing, often having flared outer flaps, and worn over the trousers esp. by western ranch hands
chap·ter \ˈchap-tər\ *n* [ME *chapitre* division of a book, meeting of canons, fr. OF, fr. LL *capitulum* division of a book & ML, meeting place of canons, fr. L, dim. of *capit-, caput* head — more at HEAD] **1 a** : a main division of a book **b** : something resembling a chapter in being a significant specified unit <with his death a ~ was closed in the history of the industry> **2 a** : a regular meeting of the canons of a cathedral or collegiate church or of the members of a religious house **b** : the body of canons of a cathedral or collegiate church **3** : a local branch of a society or fraternity
chapter house *n* **1** : the building or rooms where a chapter meets **2** : the residence of a local chapter of a fraternity or sorority
¹char \ˈchär\ *n, pl* **char** *or* **chars** [origin unknown] : any of a genus (*Salvelinus*) of small-scaled trouts
²char *vb* **charred; char·ring** [back-formation fr. *charcoal*] *vt* **1** : to convert to charcoal or carbon usu. by heat : BURN **2** : to burn slightly or partly : SCORCH <the fire *charred* the beams> ~ *vi* : to become charred : BURN
³char *n* : a charred substance : CHARCOAL; *specif* : a combustible residue remaining after the destructive distillation of coal
⁴char *vi* **charred; char·ring** [back-formation fr. *charwoman*] : to work as a cleaning woman
⁵char *n* [short for *charwoman*] *Brit* : CHARWOMAN
char-a-banc \ˈshar-ə-ˌbaŋ\ *n* [F *char à bancs*, lit., wagon with benches] *Brit* : a sightseeing motor coach
char·a·cin \ˈkar-ə-sən\ *n* [deriv. of Gk *charak-, charax* pointed stake, a fish] : any of a family (Characidae) of usu. small brightly colored tropical fishes — **characin** *adj*
¹char·ac·ter \ˈkar-ik-tər\ *n* [ME *caracter*, fr. MF *caractère*, fr. L *character* mark, distinctive quality, fr. Gk *charaktēr, fr. charassein* to scratch, engrave; akin to Lith *žerti* to scratch] **1 a** : a conventionalized graphic device placed on an object as an indication of ownership, origin, or relationship **b** : a graphic symbol (as a hieroglyph or alphabet letter) used in writing or printing **c** : a magical or astrological emblem **d** : ALPHABET **e** (1) : WRITING, PRINTING (2) : style of writing or printing (3) : CIPHER **f** : a symbol (as a letter or number) that represents information; *also* : a representation of such a character that may be accepted by a computer **2 a** : one of the attributes or features that make up and distinguish the individual **b** (1) : a feature used to separate distinguishable things into categories; *also* : a group or kind so separated <people of this ~> <advertising of a very primitive ~> (2) : the detectable expression of the action of a gene or group of genes (3) : the aggregate of distinctive qualities characteristic of a breed, strain, or type <a wine of great ~> **c** : the complex of mental and ethical traits marking and often individualizing a person, group, or nation <assess a person's ~ by studying his handwriting> **d** : main or essential nature esp. as strongly marked and serving to distinguish <excess sewage gradually changed the ~ of the lake> **3** : POSITION, CAPACITY <his ~ as a town official> **4** : a short literary sketch of the qualities of a social type **5** : REFERENCE 4b **6 a** : a person marked by notable or conspicuous traits : PERSONAGE <a notorious campus ~> **b** : one of the persons of a drama or novel **c** : the personality or part which an actor recreates **d** : characterization esp. in drama or fiction **e** : PERSON, INDIVIDUAL <some ~ just stole her purse> **7** : REPUTATION **8** : moral excellence and firmness <a man of sound ~> *syn* see DISPOSITION, TYPE — **char·ac·ter·less** \-ləs\ *adj* — **in character** : in accord with a person's usual qualities or traits — **out of character** : not in accord with a person's usual qualities or traits
²character *vt* **1** *archaic* : ENGRAVE, INSCRIBE **2 a** *archaic* : REPRESENT, PORTRAY **b** : CHARACTERIZE
³character *adj* **1** : capable of portraying an unusual or eccentric personality often markedly different (as in age) from the player <a ~ actor> **2** : requiring the qualities of a character actor <a ~ role>
character assassination *n* : the slandering of a person (as a public figure) with the intention of destroying public confidence in him
char·ac·ter·ful \ˈkar-ik-tər-fəl\ *adj* **1** : markedly expressive of character <a ~ face> **2** : marked by character <a ~ decision>
¹char·ac·ter·is·tic \ˌkar-ik-tə-ˈris-tik\ *adj* : serving to reveal and distinguish the individual character — **char·ac·ter·is·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
syn CHARACTERISTIC, INDIVIDUAL, PECULIAR, DISTINCTIVE *shared meaning element* : revealing a special quality or identity
²characteristic *n* **1** : a distinguishing trait, quality, or property **2** : the integral part of a common logarithm **3** : the smallest positive integer *n* which for an operation in a ring or field yields 0 when any element is used *n* times with the operation
characteristic equation *n* : an equation in which the characteristic polynomial of a matrix is set equal to 0
characteristic polynomial *n* : the determinant of a square matrix in which an arbitrary variable (as *x*) is subtracted from each of the elements along the principal diagonal
characteristic root *n* : a scalar such that for a linear transformation of a vector space there is some nonzero vector that when multiplied by the scalar is equal to the vector obtained by letting the transformation operate on the vector; *esp* : a root of the characteristic equation of a matrix — called also *characteristic value, eigenvalue*
characteristic vector *n* : a nonzero vector that is mapped by a linear transformation of a vector space onto a vector that is the product of a scalar multiplied by the original vector — called also *eigenvector*

char·ac·ter·iza·tion \ˌkar-ik-t(ə-)rə-ˈzā-shən\ *n* : the act of characterizing; *esp* : the artistic representation (as in fiction or drama) of human character or motives
char·ac·ter·ize \ˈkar-ik-tə-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** **1** : to describe the character or quality of : DELINEATE <*characterized* him as soft-spoken yet ambitious> **2** : to be a characteristic of : DISTINGUISH <a cool light fragrance ~*s* the cologne>
char·ac·ter·olog·i·cal \ˌkar-ik-t(ə-)rə-ˈläj-i-kəl\ *adj* [*characterology* (study of character)] : of, relating to, or based on character or the study of character including its development and its differences in different individuals — **char·ac·ter·olog·i·cal·ly** \-ˈläj-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
character sketch *n* : a sketch dealing with a character usu. of marked individuality
character witness *n* : one that gives evidence concerning the reputation, conduct, and moral nature of a party to a legal action
char·ac·tery \ˈkar-ik-t(ə-)rē, kə-ˈrak-\ *n, pl* **-ter·ies** : a system of written letters or symbols used in the expression of thought
cha·rade \shə-ˈrād\ *n* [F] **1** : a word represented in riddling verse or by picture, tableau, or dramatic action **2** *pl* : a game in which each syllable of a word or phrase is acted out by some of the persons playing the game while the others try to guess the word or phrase **3** : an almost transparent pretense
cha·ras \ˈchär-əs\ *n* [Hindi *caras*] : HASHISH
char·coal \ˈchär-ˌkōl\ *n* [ME *charcole*] **1** : a dark or black porous carbon prepared from vegetable or animal substances (as from wood by charring in a kiln from which air is excluded) **2 a** : a piece or pencil of fine charcoal used in drawing **b** : a charcoal drawing
chard \ˈchärd\ *n* [F *carde*, fr. OProv *cardo* edible cardoon, fr. L *carduus* thistle, artichoke; akin to MLG *harst* rake, L *carrere* to card] : a beet (*Beta vulgaris cicla*) whose large leaves and succulent stalks are often cooked as a vegetable — called also *Swiss chard*
chare \ˈcha(ə)r, ˈche(ə)r\ *or* **char** \ˈchär\ *n* [ME *char* turn, piece of work, fr. OE *cierr;* akin to OE *cierran* to turn] : CHORE <the peasant who does the humblest ~*s* — Thomas De Quincey>
¹charge \ˈchärj\ *vb* **charged; charg·ing** [ME *chargen*, fr. OF *chargier*, fr. LL *carricare*, fr. L *carrus* wheeled vehicle — more at CAR] *vt* **1 a** *archaic* : to lay or put a load on or in : LOAD **b** (1) : to place a charge (as of powder) in (2) : to load or fill to capacity **c** (1) : to restore the active materials in (a storage battery) by the passage of a direct current through in the opposite direction to that of discharge (2) : to give an electric charge to **d** (1) : to assume as a heraldic bearing (2) : to place a heraldic bearing on **e** : to fill or furnish fully <a mind *charged* with fancies> <the music is *charged* with excitement> **2 a** : to impose a task or responsibility on <~ him with the job of finding a new meeting place> **b** : to command, instruct, or exhort with right or authority <I ~ you not to accept the gift> **c** : to give a charge to (a jury) — used of a judge **3 a** : BLAME <~*s* him as the instigator> **b** : to make an assertion against esp. by ascribing guilt for an offense : ACCUSE <~*s* him with armed robbery> <~*s* them with hypocrisy> **c** : to place the guilt or blame for <~ her failure to negligence> **d** : to assert as an accusation <~*s* that he distorted the data> **4 a** : to bring (a weapon) into position for attack : LEVEL <~ a lance> **b** : to rush against or bear down upon : ATTACK; *also* : to rush into (an opponent) usu. illegally in various games or sports **5 a** (1) : to impose a pecuniary burden on <~ his estate with debts incurred> (2) : to impose or record as pecuniary obligation <~ debts to an estate> **b** (1) : to fix or ask as fee or payment <~*s* $10 for an office visit> (2) : to ask payment of (a person) <~ a client for expenses> **c** : to record (an item) as an expense, debt, obligation, or liability <~ a purchase to a customer> <~ a library book to a borrower> ~ *vi* **1** : to rush forward in or as if in assault : ATTACK; *also* : to charge an opponent in sports **2** : to ask or set a price **3** : to charge an item to an account <~ now, pay later> *syn* see COMMAND
²charge *n* **1 a** *obs* : a material load or weight **b** : a figure borne on a heraldic field **2 a** : the quantity that an apparatus is intended to receive and fitted to hold **b** : a store or accumulation of impelling force <the deeply emotional ~ of the drama> **c** : a definite quantity of electricity; *esp* : an excess or deficiency of electrons in a body **d** : THRILL, KICK <got a ~ out of the game> **3 a** : OBLIGATION, REQUIREMENT **b** : MANAGEMENT, SUPERVISION <has ~ of the home office> **c** : the ecclesiastical jurisdiction (as a parish) committed to a clergyman **d** : a person or thing committed to the care of another **4 a** : INSTRUCTION, COMMAND **b** : instruction in points of law given by a court to a jury **5 a** : EXPENSE, COST <gave the banquet at his own ~> **b** : the price demanded for something <no admission ~> **c** : a debit to an account <the purchase was a ~> **d** : the record of a loan (as of a book from a library) **6 a** : ACCUSATION, INDICTMENT <a ~ of assault with intent to kill> **b** : a statement of complaint or hostile criticism <denied the ~*s* of nepotism that were leveled against him> **7** : a violent rush forward (as to attack) — **in charge** : having control or custody of something <he is *in charge* of the training program>
charge·able \ˈchär-jə-bəl\ *adj* **1** *archaic* : financially burdensome : EXPENSIVE **2 a** : liable to be accused or held responsible **b** : suitable to be charged to a particular account **c** : qualified to be made a charge on the county or parish — **charge·able·ness** *n*
charge account *n* : a customer's account with a creditor (as a merchant) to which the purchase of goods is charged
charge–a–plate \ˈchär-jə-ˌplāt\ *or* **charge plate** *n* [fr. *Charga-plate*, a trademark] : an embossed address plate used by a customer when buying on credit

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