

REVISED
AND
UPDATED

Webster's II *New College* Dictionary

More than 200,000 clear, concise definitions

The newest words in science, technology, and more

Hundreds of synonyms, usage notes, and word histories

The right choice for home, school, or office

Webster's II

New College Dictionary



Houghton Mifflin Company

Boston • New York

Words are included in this Dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. The inclusion of any word in this Dictionary is not, however, an expression of the Publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this Dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

Copyright © 2001, 1999, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to Reference Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Illustrations **azimuthal equidistant projection** and **sinusoidal projection**
© 1986 by The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping.

ISBN 0-395-96214-5

ISBN 0-618-16903-2 (paper-over-boards binding)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Webster's II new college dictionary.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-395-70869-9 (alk. paper)

1. English language – Dictionaries. I. Webster's II new Riverside University dictionary

PE1628.W55164 1995

423–dc20

95-5833

CIP

For information about this and other Houghton Mifflin trade and reference books and multimedia products, visit the Houghton Mifflin website on the World Wide Web at <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com>.

Printed in the United States

cham-pi-on (chăm'pē-ōn) *n.* [ME *champioun* < OFr. *champion* < Med. Lat. *campio*.] 1. The holder of first place or the winner of first prize in a contest, esp. in sports. 2. A defender, advocate, or supporter of a cause or another person. 3. One who fights: **WARRIOR**. — **vt.** **-oned, -on-ing, -ons.** 1. To fight as champion of; **DEFEND** <"championed the government and defended the system of taxation" — Samuel Chew> 2. Obs. To defy or challenge. — **adj.** 1. Holding first place or prize. 2. Exceeding all others; **ARCH** <"the champion playboy of the Western World" — John Millington Synge>

cham-pi-on-ship (chăm'pē-ōn-shīp') *n.* 1. The position or title of a champion. 2. Defense or support: **ADVOCACY**. 3. A competition or series of competitions held to determine a winner.

chance (chāns) *n.* [ME, unexpected event < OFr. < VLat. **cadentia* < Lat. *cadere*, to happen.] 1. a. The abstract nature or quality shared by unexpected, random, or unpredictable events: **CONTINGENCY**. b. This quality considered as causing or determining the outcome of such events: **LUCK**. 2. The likelihood of occurrence of an event: **PROBABILITY**. 3. a. An unexpected, random, or unpredictable event. b. A fortuitous event. 4. a. An opportunity <a chance to better oneself> b. A risk or hazard: **GAMBLE**. c. A raffle or lottery ticket. 5. Baseball. An opportunity to make a putout or an assist that counts as an error if unsuccessful. — **adj.** 1. Taking place unexpectedly <a chance encounter> 2. Determined or marked by whim or caprice: **ARBITRARY**. — **v.** **chanced, chanc-ing, chanc-es.** — **vi.** To happen by chance. — **vt.** To take the risk or hazard of. — **chance on (or upon).** To discover or come upon accidentally.

chance-ful (chāns'fəl) *adj.* 1. Full of chance: **EVENTFUL**. 2. *Archaic.* Dependent on chance. 3. Obs. Risky.

chan-cel (chān'səl) *n.* [ME *chauncel* < OFr. *chancel*.] The space around the altar of a church for the clergy and choir, often enclosed by a lattice.

chan-cel-ler-y (chān'sə-lə-rē, -slə-rē, chān'-) *n., pl. -ies.* [ME *chancelrie* < OFr. *chancelerie* < *chancelier*, chancellor.] 1. The position, rank, office, or department of a chancellor. 2. The building in which the office of a chancellor is located. 3. The official place of business of an embassy or consulate.

chan-cel-lor (chān'sə-lər, -slər) *n.* [ME *chaunceler* < OFr. *chancelier* < LLat. *cancellarius*, doorkeeper < Lat. *cancelli*, lattice. — see **CANCEL**.] 1. A high-ranking official, esp.: a. A king's or nobleman's secretary. b. Chiefly Brit. The chief secretary of an embassy. c. The chief minister of state in some European countries. 2. a. Chiefly Brit. The honorary or titular head of a university. b. The president of some U.S. universities. 3. The presiding judge of a court of chancery or equity in some U.S. states. — **chan'-cel-lor-ship** *n.*

Chancellor of the Exchequer *n.* A cabinet member and the highest financial minister in the British government.

chance-med-ley (chāns'mēd'lē) *n.* [ME *chaunce medley* < Norman Fr. *chance medlee*, mixed chance.] 1. Law. A sudden quarrel resulting in an unpremeditated homicide. 2. A random action.

chan-cer-y (chān'sə-rē) *n., pl. -ies.* [ME *chauncerie* < OFr. *chancelerie*, chancellery < *chancelier*, chancellor.] 1. a. A court with jurisdiction in equity. b. The proceedings and practice of a court of chancery: **EQUITY**. 2. An office of archives. 3. One of the five divisions of the High Court of Justice of Great Britain, presided over by the Lord High Chancellor. 4. **CHANCELLERY**. 3. — **in chancery.** 1. Law. In litigation or pending in a court of chancery. 2. Informal. In a hopeless predicament.

chan-cre (shāng'kər) *n.* [Fr. < Lat. *cancer*, ulcer.] 1. A dull-red, hard, insensitive lesion that is the first manifestation of syphilis. 2. An ulcer located at the initial point of entry of a pathogen. — **chan'-crous** (-krəs) *adj.*

chan-croid (shāng'kroid') *n.* [Fr. *chancroïde*: *chancre*, chancre + *-oïde, -oid*.] A soft, nonsyphilitic, usu. venereal lesion of the genital region. — **chan'-croid'al** (-kroid'l) *adj.*

chanc-y (chān'sē, chān'-) *adj.* **-i-er, -i-est.** 1. Uncertain: risky <a chancy proposition> 2. Scot. Lucky: propitious.

chan-de-li-er (shān'də-līr') *n.* [Fr. < OFr., prob < VLat. **candelarum* < Lat. *candelabrum*, candelabrum. — see **CANDELABRUM**.] A branched light fixture holding a number of bulbs or candles and usu. suspended from a ceiling.

chan-delle (shān-dēl') *n.* [Fr. < *chandelle*, candle < OFr. — see **CHANDLER**.] A sudden, steep climbing turn of an aircraft, executed to change flight direction and gain altitude simultaneously.

chan-dler (chānd'lər) *n.* [ME *chaundeler* < OFr. *chandelier* < *chandelle*, candle < Lat. *candela*. — see **CANDLE**.] 1. A maker or seller of candles. 2. A dealer in specified equipment or goods <a ship chandler>

Chan-dler Wobble (chānd'lər) or **Chan-dler's Wobble** (chānd'lərz) *n.* [After Seth C. Chandler (1846–1913).] An oscillation in the earth's rotational axis having a period of approx. 14 months.

chan-dler-y (chānd'lə-rē) *n., pl. -ies.* 1. The stock or business of a chandler. 2. A place for storing candles.

change (chānj) *v.* **changed, chang-ing, chang-es. [ME *chaungen* < Norman Fr. *chaunger* < OFr. *changier* < LLat. *cambiare*, prob. of Celtic orig.] — **vt.** 1. a. To make different: **ALTER**. b. To give a totally different form or appearance to: **TRANSFORM** <irrigation that changed the arid land to fertile soil> 2. To give and receive reciprocally: **INTERCHANGE** <Let's change places> 3. To exchange for or re-**

place by another, usu. of the same kind or class <change one's name> 4. To lay aside, abandon, or leave for another: **SWITCH** <change planes> <change procedures> 5. To give or receive the equivalent of (money) in lower denominations or in foreign currency. 6. To put fresh clothes or coverings on <change a baby's diapers> <changed the bed> — **vi.** 1. To become different <changed as they matured> 2. To go from one phase to another, as the moon. 3. To make an exchange. 4. To transfer from one vehicle to another. 5. To put on other clothing <change for dinner> 6. To become deeper in tone. — **Used of the voice.** — **change off.** 1. To alternate with another person in performing a task. 2. To alternate between two different tasks or between a task and a period of rest. — **n.** 1. a. The act, process, or result of changing. b. Substitution of one thing for another <went to France for a change of scene> 2. Transition from one state or phase to another <the change of seasons> 3. Something different: **VARIETY** <came home early for a change> 4. A different or fresh set of clothing. 5. a. Money of smaller denomination given or received in exchange for money of higher denomination. b. The balance of money returned when an amount given is more than what is due. c. Coins. 6. **MUS.** A pattern or order in which bells are rung. 7. A market or exchange where business is transacted. — **change hands.** To pass from one owner to another. — **change (one's) mind.** To reverse an opinion or a decision. — **change/less** *adj.* — **chang'er** *n.*

*** syns:** CHANGE, ALTER, MODIFY, MUTATE, TURN, VARY *v.* core meaning: to make or become different <an event that changed the world> <a face that had changed with age> <change a liquid into a gaseous or solid form>

change-a-ble (chān'jə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Apt to change: **CAPRICIOUS** <changeable moods> 2. Able to undergo alteration <changeable habits> 3. Changing color or appearance when seen from different angles <changeable taffeta> — **change'a-bil'i-ty, change'a-ble-ness** *n.* — **change'a-bly** *adv.*

change-ful (chān'fəl) *adj.* Tending or able to change: **VARIABLE**. — **change/ful-ly** *adv.* — **change/ful-ness** *n.*

change-ling (chān'liŋ) *n.* 1. A child secretly exchanged for another. 2. *Archaic.* A fickle person. 3. *Archaic.* An idiot.

change of heart *n., pl. changes of heart.* A reversal of one's opinion, attitude, or feelings.

change of life *n.* Menopause.

change-o-ver (chānj'ō'vər) *n.* Conversion to a different purpose or from one system to another, esp. in production techniques or type of equipment.

change ringing *n.* The ringing of a set of bells with all possible unrepeatable variations.

chan-nel¹ (chān'əl) *n.* [ME *chanel* < OFr. < Lat. *canalis*.] 1. A stream or riverbed. 2. The deeper part of a river or harbor, esp. a deep navigable passage. 3. A broad strait. 4. A tubular passage for liquids. 5. A course through which something may be directed or moved <a channel of thought> 6. **CHANNELS.** Official communication routes. 7. **Electron.** A specified frequency band for transmitting and receiving electromagnetic signals, as for television. 8. A trench, furrow, or groove. 9. A rolled metal bar with a bracket-shaped section. — **vt.** **-neled, -nel-ing, -nels** also **-nelled, -nel-ling, -nels.** 1. To make or cut channels in. 2. To form a channel or flute in. 3. To direct or guide along a desired course <channel one's efforts into worthwhile projects>

chan-nel² (chān'əl) *n.* [Alteration of obs. *chainwale*: **CHAIN** + **WALE**.] **Naut.** A wood or steel ledge projecting from a sailing ship's sides to spread the shrouds and keep them clear of the gunwales.

channel bass *n.* The red drum.

channel black *n.* [**< CHANNEL**].] A finely divided carbon black formed on iron plate by direct exposure to a natural gas flame and used in inks, paints, typewriter ribbons, crayons, and polishes.

chan-nel-ing (chān'ə-liŋ) *n.* Purported communication by a disembodied entity through a living person.

chan-nel-lag deposit (chān'əl-lāg') *n.* Residue deposited in a channel as a stream runs its natural course.

channel surfing *n.* The act of skimming through various television programs and channels using a remote control. — **channel surfer** *n.*

chan-son (shān-sōn') *n., pl. -sons* (-sōn', -sōnz') [Fr. < OFr. < Lat. *cantio* < *cantare*, to sing, freq. of *canere*.] A song, esp. a French cabaret song.

chan-son de geste (shān-sōn' də žhēst') *n., pl. chan-sons de geste* (-sōn', -sōnz') [Fr.: *chanson*, song + *de, of* + *geste*, heroic exploit.] An Old French epic poem genre of the 11th to the 13th cent.

chant (chānt) *n.* [Prob. < Fr., song < OFr. < Lat. *cantus* < *canere*, to sing.] 1. a. A short, simple melody in which a number of syllables or words are sung on the same note. b. A psalm or canticle sung in this manner. 2. A song or melody. 3. A monotonous rhythmic call or shout <the chant of demonstrators at a rally> — **v.** **chant-ed, chant-ing, chants.** — **vt.** 1. To sing or intone to a chant. 2. To celebrate in song. 3. To say in the manner of a chant. — **vi.** 1. To sing, esp. in the manner of a chant. 2. To speak monotonously. — **chant'ing-ly** *adv.*

ā pat ā pay ār care ā father ē pet ē be hw which i pit
i tie ir pier ō pot ō toe ō paw, for oi noise oo took