# Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

## ELEVENTH EDITION

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**²latent** *n* (1923) : a fingerprint (as at the scene of a crime) that is scarcely visible but can be developed for study — called also *latent fingerprint, latent print*
**latent heat** *n* (ca. 1757) : heat given off or absorbed in a process (as fusion or vaporization) other than a change of temperature
**latent period** *n* (1837) **1** : the incubation period of a disease **2** : the interval between stimulation and response
**latent root** *n* (1883) : an eigenvalue of a matrix
**later** *adv* (13c) : at some time subsequent to a given time : SUBSEQUENTLY, AFTERWARD ⟨one week ~⟩ ⟨they ~ regretted the decision⟩ — often used with *on* ⟨experience that will be useful ~ *on*⟩
**-later** *n comb form* [F *-latre*, fr. LL *-latres*, fr. Gk *-latrēs;* akin to Gk *latron* pay] : worshiper ⟨biblio*later*⟩
**lat·er·ad** \ˈla-tə-ˌrad\ *adv* [L *later-, latus*] (1814) : toward the side
**¹lat·er·al** \ˈla-tə-rəl *also* ˈla-trəl\ *adj* [ME *laterale*, fr. L *lateralis*, fr. *later-, latus* side] (15c) **1** : of or relating to the side **2** : situated on, directed toward, or coming from the side **3** : extending from side to side ⟨the ~ axis of an airplane⟩ **4** : produced with passage of breath around the side of a constriction formed with the tongue ⟨\l\ is ~⟩ — **lat·er·al·ly** *adv*
**²lateral** *n* (1851) **1** : a branch from the main part (as in an irrigation or electrical system) **2** : a pass in football thrown parallel to the line of scrimmage or in a direction away from the opponent's goal **3** : a lateral speech sound
**³lateral** *vi* (1944) : to throw a lateral
**lateral bud** *n* (1875) : a bud that develops in the axil between a petiole and a stem
**lat·er·al·i·za·tion** \ˌla-tə-rə-lə-ˈzā-shən, ˌla-trə-\ *n* (ca. 1899) : localization of function or activity on one side of the body in preference to the other — **lat·er·al·ize** \ˈla-tə-rə-ˌlīz, ˈla-trə-\ *vt*
**lateral line** *n* (1752) : a canal along the side of a fish containing pores that open into tubes supplied with sense organs sensitive to low vibrations; *also* : one of these tubes or sense organs
**lat·er·ite** \ˈla-tə-ˌrīt\ *n* [L *later* brick] (1807) : a residual product of rock decay that is red in color and has a high content in the oxides of iron and hydroxide of aluminum — **lat·er·it·ic** \ˌla-tə-ˈri-tik\ *adj*
**lat·er·i·za·tion** \ˌla-tə-rə-ˈzā-shən\ *n* (ca. 1882) : the process of conversion of rock to laterite
**¹latest** *adj* (1588) **1** *archaic* : LAST **2** : most recent
**²latest** *n* (1801) **1** : the latest acceptable time — usu. used in the phrase *at the latest* **2** : something that is the most recent or currently fashionable ⟨the ~ in diving techniques⟩
**late·wood** \ˈlāt-ˌwu̇d\ *n* (1929) : SUMMERWOOD
**la·tex** \ˈlā-ˌteks\ *n, pl* **la·ti·ces** \ˈlā-tə-ˌsēz, ˈla-\ *or* **la·tex·es** [NL *latic-, latex*, fr. L, fluid] (1835) **1** : a milky usu. white fluid that is produced by cells of various seed plants (as of the milkweed, spurge, and poppy families) and is the source of rubber, gutta-percha, chicle, and balata **2** : a water emulsion of a synthetic rubber or plastic obtained by polymerization and used esp. in coatings (as paint) and adhesives
**lath** \ˈlath *also* ˈlaᵗh\ *n, pl* **laths** *or* **lath** [ME, fr. OE **læthth-;* akin to OHG *latta* lath, W *llath* yard] (13c) **1** : a thin narrow strip of wood nailed to rafters, joists, or studding as a groundwork for slates, tiles, or plaster **2** : a building material in sheets used as a base for plaster **3** : a quantity of laths — **lath** *vt*
**¹lathe** \ˈlāth\ *n* [prob. fr. ME *lath* supporting stand] (1611) : a machine in which work is rotated about a horizontal axis and shaped by a fixed tool
**²lathe** *vt* **lathed; lath·ing** (ca. 1903) : to cut or shape with a lathe
**¹lath·er** \ˈla-thər\ *n* [ME **lather*, fr. OE *lēathor;* akin to L *lavere* to wash — more at LYE] (bef. 12c) **1 a** : a foam or froth formed when a detergent (as soap) is agitated in water **b** : foam or froth from profuse sweating (as on a horse) **2** : an agitated or overwrought state : DITHER ⟨worked himself into a ~⟩ — **lath·ery** \-th(ə-)rē\ *adj*
**²lather** *vb* **lath·ered; lath·er·ing** \-th(ə-)riŋ\ *vt* (bef. 12c) **1** : to spread lather over **2** : to beat severely : FLOG ~ *vi* : to form a lather or a froth like lather — **lath·er·er** \-thər-ər\ *n*
**lath·y·rism** \ˈla-thə-ˌri-zəm\ *n* [NL *Lathyrus*, fr. Gk *lathyros*, a type of pea] (ca. 1888) : a diseased condition of humans, domestic animals, and esp. horses that results from poisoning by an amino acid found in some legumes (genus *Lathyrus* and esp. *L. sativus*) and is characterized esp. by spastic paralysis of the hind or lower limbs — **lath·y·rit·ic** \ˌla-thə-ˈri-tik\ *adj*
**lati** *pl of* LATS
**latices** *pl of* LATEX
**la·tic·i·fer** \lā-ˈti-sə-fər\ *n* [ISV *latici-* (fr. NL *latic-, latex*) + *-fer*] (ca. 1928) : a plant cell or vessel that contains latex
**la·ti·fun·dio** \ˌlä-tə-ˈfün-dē-ˌō\ *n, pl* **-di·os** [Sp, fr. L *latifundium*] (ca. 1924) : a latifundium in Spain or Latin America
**lat·i·fun·di·um** \ˌla-tə-ˈfən-dē-əm\ *n, pl* **-dia** \-dē-ə\ [L, fr. *latus* wide + *fundus* piece of landed property, foundation, bottom — more at BOTTOM] (1869) : a great landed estate with primitive agriculture and labor often in a state of partial servitude
**lat·i·go** \ˈla-ti-ˌgō\ *n, pl* **-gos** *also* **-goes** [Sp *látigo*] (1873) *chiefly West* : a long strap on a saddletree of a western saddle to adjust the cinch
**¹Latin** \ˈla-tᵊn\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE, fr. L *Latinus*, fr. *Latium*, ancient country of Italy] (bef. 12c) **1 a** : of, relating to, or composed in Latin **b** : ROMANCE **2** : of or relating to Latium or the Latins **3** : of or relating to the part of the Catholic Church that until recently used a Latin rite and forms the patriarchate of the pope **4** : of or relating to the peoples or countries using Romance languages; *specif* : of or relating to the peoples or countries of Latin America
**²Latin** *n* (bef. 12c) **1** : the Italic language of ancient Latium and of Rome and until modern times the dominant language of school, church, and state in western Europe — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table **2** : a member of the people of ancient Latium **3** : a Catholic of the Latin rite **4** : a member of one of the Latin peoples; *specif* : a native or inhabitant of Latin America **5** : LATIN ALPHABET
**La·tina** \lə-ˈtē-nə\ *n* [AmerSp, fem. of *latino* Latino] (1983) **1** : a woman or girl who is a native or inhabitant of Latin America **2** : a woman or girl of Latin-American origin living in the U.S. — **Latina** *adj*
**Latin alphabet** *n* (1823) : an alphabet that was used for writing Latin and that has been modified for writing many modern languages
**Latin Americanist** *n* (1972) : a specialist in Latin American civilization
**Lat·in·ate** \ˈla-tə-ˌnāt\ *adj* (1904) : of, relating to, resembling, or derived from Latin
**Latin cross** *n* (1797) : a figure of a cross having a long upright shaft and a shorter crossbar traversing it above the middle — see CROSS illustration
**Lat·in·ism** \ˈla-tə-ˌni-zəm\ *n* (ca. 1570) **1 a** : a characteristic feature of Latin occurring in another language **b** : a word or phrase derived from Latin **2** : Latin quality or character
**Lat·in·ist** \ˈla-tə-nist, ˈlat-nist\ *n* (15c) : a specialist in the Latin language or Roman culture
**la·tin·i·ty** \la-ˈti-nə-tē, lə-\ *n, often cap* (1540) **1** : a manner of speaking or writing Latin **2** : LATINISM 2
**lat·in·ize** \ˈla-tə-ˌnīz\ *vb* **-ized; -iz·ing** *often cap, vt* (1589) **1 a** *obs* : to translate into Latin **b** : to give a Latin form to **c** : to introduce Latinisms into **d** : ROMANIZE 2 **2** : to make Latin or Italian in doctrine, ideas, or traits; *specif* : to cause to resemble the Roman Catholic Church ~ *vi* **1** : to use Latinisms **2** : to exhibit the influence of the Romans or of the Roman Catholic Church — **lat·in·i·za·tion** \ˌla-tə-nə-ˈzā-shən, ˌlat-nə-\ *n, often cap*
**La·ti·no** \lə-ˈtē-(ˌ)nō\ *n, pl* **-nos** [AmerSp, prob. short for *latinoamericano* Latin American] (1946) **1** : a native or inhabitant of Latin America **2** : a person of Latin-American origin living in the U.S. — **Latino** *adj*
**Latin square** *n* (1890) : a square array which contains *n* different elements with each element occurring *n* times but with no element occurring twice in the same column or row and which is used esp. in the statistical design of experiments (as in agriculture)
**lat·ish** \ˈlā-tish\ *adj* (1611) : somewhat late
**la·tis·si·mus dor·si** \lə-ˈti-sə-məs-ˈdȯr-sī\ *n, pl* **la·tis·si·mi dorsi** \-ˌmī-\ [NL, lit., broadest (muscle) of the back] (1684) : a broad flat superficial muscle chiefly of the middle and lower back that extends, adducts, and rotates the arm medially and draws the shoulder downward and backward
**lat·i·tude** \ˈla-tə-ˌtüd, -ˌtyüd\ *n* [ME, fr. L *latitudin-, latitudo*, fr. *latus* wide; akin to OCS *postilati* to spread] (14c) **1** *archaic* : extent or distance from side to side : WIDTH **2** : angular distance from some specified circle or plane of reference: as **a** : angular distance north or south from the earth's equator measured through 90 degrees **b** : angular distance of a celestial body from the ecliptic **c** : a region or locality as marked by its latitude **3 a** : SCOPE, RANGE **b** : the range of exposures within which a film or plate will produce a negative or positive of satisfactory quality **4** : freedom of action or choice ⟨students are allowed considerable ~ in choosing courses⟩ — **lat·i·tu·di·nal** \ˌla-tə-ˈtüd-nəl, -ˈtyüd-; -ˈtü-də-nəl, -ˈtyü-\ *adj* — **lat·i·tu·di·nal·ly** *adv*

latitude 2a: hemisphere marked with parallels of latitude

**lat·i·tu·di·nar·i·an** \ˌla-tə-ˌtü-də-ˈner-ē-ən, -ˌtyü-\ *adj* (1697) : not insisting on strict conformity to a particular doctrine or standard : TOLERANT; *specif* : tolerant of variations in religious opinion or doctrine — **latitudinarian** *n* — **lat·i·tu·di·nar·i·an·ism** \-ē-ə-ˌni-zəm\ *n*
**lat·ke** \ˈlät-kə\ *n* [Yiddish, pancake, fr. Ukrainian *oladka*] (1927) : POTATO PANCAKE
**lat·o·sol** \ˈla-tə-ˌsōl\ *n* [irreg. fr. L *later* brick + E *-sol* (as in *podsol*, var. of *podzol*)] (1949) : a leached red and yellow tropical soil — **lat·o·sol·ic** \ˌla-tə-ˈsō-lik\ *adj*
**la·trine** \lə-ˈtrēn\ *n* [F, fr. L *latrina*, contr. of *lavatrina*, fr. *lavare* to wash — more at LYE] (1642) **1** : a receptacle (as a pit in the earth) for use as a toilet **2** : TOILET 3
**-latry** *n comb form* [F *-latrie*, fr. LL *-latria*, fr. Gk, fr. *latreia;* akin to Gk *latron* pay] : worship ⟨helio*latry*⟩
**lats** \ˈläts\ *n, pl* **la·ti** \ˈlä-tē\ *or* **la·tu** \ˈlä-tü\ [Latvian (nom. pl. *lati*, gen. pl. *latu*), fr. *Latvija* Latvia] (1923) — see MONEY table
**lat·te** \ˈlä-(ˌ)tā\ *n* (1991) : CAFFE LATTE
**lat·ten** \ˈla-tᵊn\ *n* [ME *laton*, fr. AF] (14c) : a yellow alloy identical to or resembling brass typically hammered into thin sheets and formerly much used for church utensils
**lat·ter** \ˈla-tər\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *lætra*, compar. of *læt* late] (bef. 12c) **1 a** : belonging to a subsequent time or period : more recent ⟨the ~ stages of growth⟩ **b** : of or relating to the end ⟨in their ~ days⟩ **c** : RECENT, PRESENT ⟨affected by ~ calamities⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or being the second of two groups or things or the last of several groups or things referred to ⟨of ham and beef the ~ meat is cheaper today⟩ ⟨of ham and beef the ~ is cheaper today⟩
**lat·ter–day** \ˈla-tər-ˌdā\ *adj* (1832) **1** : of present or recent times ⟨~ prophets⟩ **2** : of a later or subsequent time
**Latter–day Saint** *n, often cap D* (1834) : a member of any of several religious bodies tracing their origin to Joseph Smith in 1830 and accepting the Book of Mormon as divine revelation : MORMON
**lat·ter·ly** \ˈla-tər-lē\ *adv* (1678) **1** : LATER **2** : of late : RECENTLY
**lat·tice** \ˈla-təs\ *n* [ME *latis*, fr. AF *latiz*] (14c) **1 a** : a framework or structure of crossed wood or metal strips **b** : a window, door, or gate having a lattice **c** : a network or design resembling a lattice **2** : a regular geometrical arrangement of points or objects over an area or in space; *specif* : the arrangement of atoms in a crystal **3** : a mathematical set that has some elements ordered and that is such that for any two elements there exists a greatest element in the subset of all elements less than or equal to both and a least element in the subset of all elements greater than or equal to both — **lattice** *vt* — **lat·ticed** \-tist\ *adj*
**lattice girder** *n* (1852) : a girder with top and bottom flanges connected by a latticework web
**lat·tice·work** \ˈla-təs-ˌwərk\ *n* (15c) : a lattice or work made of lattice



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