



RANDOM HOUSE
WEBSTER'S
unabridged
dictionary

SECOND EDITION

RANDOM HOUSE
REFERENCE

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DEVELOPMENT OF MAJUSCULE						
NORTH SEMITIC	GREEK	ETR	LATIN	MODERN		
				GOthic	ITALIC	ROMAN
𐤀	Α	E	E	E	E	E

E

DEVELOPMENT OF MINUSCULE					
ROMAN CURSIVE	ROMAN UNCIAL	CAROL MIN	MODERN		
			GOthic	ITALIC	ROMAN
e	e	e	e	e	e

The fifth letter of the English alphabet developed from North Semitic *he*. Originally a consonant with an *h*-sound, it was transformed into a vowel in Greek, although in Classical Greek and in certain local alphabets North Semitic *heth* (see **H**) was used to represent *eta* (long *e*). The minuscule [e] was derived from the capital [E] through the uncial form.

E, e (ē), *n.*, *pl.* **E's** or **Ea's** or **es**. 1. the fifth letter of the English alphabet, a vowel. 2. any spoken sound represented by the letter *E* or *e*, as in *met*, *meet*, *mere*, etc. 3. something having the shape of an *E*. 4. a written or printed representation of the letter *E* or *e*. 5. a device, as a printer's type, for reproducing the letter *E* or *e*.

E, 1. east. 2. eastern. 3. English. 4. excellent. 5. Expressway.

E, *Symbol*. 1. the fifth in order or in a series. 2. (sometimes *Lc.*) (in some grading systems) a grade or mark, as in school or college, indicating the quality of a student's work is in need of improvement in order to be passing. 3. *Music*. *a.* the third tone in the scale of *C* major or the fifth tone in the relative minor scale, *A* minor. *b.* a string, key, or pipe tuned to this tone. *c.* a written or printed note representing this tone. *d.* (in the fixed system of solmization) the third tone of the scale of *C* major, called *mi*. *e.* the tonality having *E* as the tonic note. 4. (sometimes *Lc.*) the medieval Roman numeral for 250. Cf. *Roman numerals*. 5. *Physics*. *Elect.* *a.* electric field. *b.* electric field strength. 6. *Physics*. energy. 7. *Biochem.* See *glutamic acid*. 8. *Logic*. See *universal negative*. 9. a proportional shoe width size narrower than *EE* and wider than *D*.

e, 1. electron. 2. *Physics*. elementary charge.

e, *Symbol*. 1. *Math.* a transcendental constant equal to 2.7182818... used as the base of natural logarithms; the limit of the expression $(1 + 1/n)^n$ as *n* approaches infinity. 2. *Logic*. See *universal negative*.

ē, var. of **ex**-, occurring in words of Latin origin before consonants other than *c*, *f*, *p*, *q*, *s*, and *t*: *emit*.

E, 1. Earl. 2. Earth. 3. east. 4. Easter. 5. eastern. 6. engineer. 7. engineering. 8. English.

e, 1. eldest. 2. Football. end. 3. engineer. 4. engineering. 5. entrance. 6. Baseball. error; errors.

E-a (ā/ā), *n.* the Akkadian god of wisdom, the son of Apsu and father of Marduk; the counterpart of Enki.

-ea, a suffix occurring in loanwords from Latin: *cornea*. [*< L -ēa, -aea, -a, fem. sing. and neut. pl. of -ēus, -aeus, -eus; see -EAN*]

ea, each.

E.A.A., Engineer in Aeronautics and Astronautics.

each (ēch), *adj.* 1. every one of two or more considered individually or one by one; *each stone in a building; a hallway with a door at each end*. —*pron.* 2. every one individually; *each one: Each had a different solution to the problem*. —*adv.* 3. to, from, or for each; *apiece: They cost a dollar each*. [bef. 900; ME *eche*, OE *elc*, equiv. to *ā* ever (see *AY*) + (*gē*)*lic* ALIKE; c. OHG *ēogilich*, OFris *elik*, D. *LG* *elik*]

—*Syn.* 1. **EACH**, **EVERY** are alike in having a distributive meaning. Of two or more members composing an aggregate, **EACH** directs attention to the separate members in turn: *Each child* (of those considered and enumerated) *received a large apple*. **EVERY** emphasizes inclusiveness or universality: *Every child* (of all in existence) *likes to play*.

—*Usage*. The adjective **EACH** is always followed by a singular noun: *each person; each book*. When the adjective follows a plural subject, the verb agrees with the subject: *They each dress in different styles*. The houses each have central heating. When the pronoun **EACH** comes immediately before the verb, it always takes a singular verb: *Each comes* (not *come*) *from a different country*. When the pronoun is followed by an *of* phrase containing a plural noun or pronoun, there is a tendency for the verb to be plural: *Each of the candidates has* (or

have) *spoken on the issue*. Some usage guides maintain that only the singular verb is correct, but plural verbs occur frequently even in edited writing.

It is also sometimes said that the pronoun **EACH** must always be referred to by a singular pronoun, but again actual usage does not regularly observe this stricture: *Each member of our garden club had their own special interests*. In the most formal speech and writing, singular verbs and pronouns occur more frequently than plural: *Each member... had his own special interests*. The use of plural forms, especially plural pronouns, has been increasing in the United States, partially because of the desire to avoid using *he* or *his* to refer to a female.

ANYONE, ANYBODY, EVERYONE, EVERYBODY, NO ONE, SOMEONE, and SOMEBODY follow the same general patterns of pronoun agreement as **EACH**. See also **they**.

each/oth'er, each the other; one another (used as a compound reciprocal pronoun): *to strike at each other; to hold each other's hands; to love each other*. [bef. 1000; ME; OE. See **EACH**, **OTHER**]

—*Usage*. Although some insist that **EACH OTHER** be used only in reference to two (*The two candidates respected each other*) and **ONE ANOTHER** in reference to three or more (*The three nations threaten one another*), in standard practice they are interchangeable. **EACH OTHER** is not restricted to two, nor is **ONE ANOTHER** restricted to three or more.

The possessive of **EACH OTHER** is *each other's*; the possessive of **ONE ANOTHER** is *one another's*.

ead, (in prescriptions) the same. [*< L eādēm*]

Ead-mund I (ēd'mənd, ā'dəd mōnd'). See **Edmund I**.

Eadmund II. See **Edmund II**.

Eads (ēdz), *n.* James Buchanan, 1820–87, U.S. engineer and inventor.

Ead-wine (ēd'win, ā'dəd win'), *n.* Edwin (def. 1).

-eae, plural of **-ea**: *tracheae*.

Ea-gan (ē'gan), *n.* a town in SE Minnesota. 20,532.

ea-ger¹ (ē'gar), *adj.* 1. keen or ardent in desire or feeling; impatiently longing: *I am eager for news about them*. *He is eager to sing*. 2. characterized by or revealing great eagerness; *an eager look*. 3. Obs. keen; sharp; biting. [1250–1300; ME *egre* < AF, OF *egre*, *aigre* < VL **acerus* for *L acer* sharp] —**ea-gerly**, *adv.* —**ea-ger-ness**, *n.*

—*Syn.* 1. enthusiastic, desirous. See **avid**. 2. fervent, zealous, fervid, intent, intense, earnest. —*Ant.* 1. 2. indifferent, uninterested. 2. heedless.

ea-ger² (ē'gar, ā'gar), *n.* Chiefly Brit. *eagre*.

ea-ger bea-ver (ē'gar), a person who is excessively diligent or overly zealous. [1940–45, Amer.]

ea-gle (ē'gal), *n.*, *v.*, **-gled**, **-gling**. —*n.* 1. any of several large, soaring birds of prey belonging to the hawk family Accipitridae, noted for their size, strength, and powers of flight and vision; formerly widespread in North America, eagles are mostly confined to Alaska and a few isolated populations. Cf. **bald eagle**, **golden eagle**. 2. a figure or representation of an eagle, much used as an emblem: *the Roman eagle*. 3. a standard, seal, or the like bearing such a figure. 4. one of a pair of silver insignia in the shape of eagles with outstretched wings worn by a colonel in the U.S. Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps and by a captain in the U.S. Navy. 5. (cap.) a gold coin of the U.S., traded for investment, available in denominations of 5, 10, 25, and 50 dollars containing 1/10 to 1 troy ounce of gold, having on its reverse a picture of an eagle; first issued in 1886. 6. a former gold coin of the U.S., issued until 1933, equal to 10 dollars, showing an eagle on its reverse. 7. *Golf*. a score of two below par for any single hole. 8. (cap.) *Astron.* the constellation Aquila. 9. *Cards*. *a.* a representation in green of an eagle, used on playing cards to designate a suit in the pack additional to the four standard suits. *b.* a card of a suit so designated. *c.* *eagles*, the suit itself. —*v.t.* 10. *Golf*. to make an eagle on (a hole). [1350–1400; ME *egle* < AF, OF *egle*, *aigle* < L *aquila*, *n.* use of fem. of *aquila* dark-colored]

ea-gle eye¹, 1. unusually sharp visual powers; keen ability to watch or observe. 2. a person who has sharp vision or who maintains a keen watchfulness. 3. alert watchfulness. [1595–1605]

ea-gle-eyed (ē'gol id'), *adj.* having keen vision. [1595–1605]

ea-gle owl, any of several large owls of the genus *Bubo*, having prominent tufts of feathers on each side of the head, esp. *B. bubo* of Europe and Asia. [1670–80]

Ea-gle Pass, a city in S Texas, on the Rio Grande. 21,407.

ea-gle ray, any of several rays of the family Myliobatidae, found in tropical seas and noted for the soaring movements by which they propel themselves through the water. [1855–60]

ea-gle scout, a boy scout who has achieved the highest rank in U.S. scouting. [1910–15, Amer.]

ea-gle-stone (ē'gol stōn'), *n.* a concretionary lump of ironstone about the size of a walnut, formerly believed to be carried by eagles to their nests as a magical aid in laying eggs. [1595–1605; **EAGLE** + **STONE**]

ea-glet (ē'glit), *n.* a young eagle. [1565–75; < MF *aglette* (in heraldry). See **EAGLE**, **-ET**]

ea-gle-wood (ē'gol wōd'), *n.* *agaloch*. [1510–20; trans. of Pg *páo d'aguila* wood of agalloch, by confusion of Pg *aguila* eagle with *aguila* < Malayalam *agil* agalloch]

ea-gre (ē'gar, ā'gar), *n.* Chiefly Brit. a tidal bore or flood. Also, **eager**. [1640–50; appar. repr. earlier *agar*, *ager*, obscurely akin to *hyger*, *higre*; (cf. AL (12th century) *higra* the tidal bore of the Severn); compared with OE *egor*, *egor* flood, high tide, though preservation of *g* in modern forms is problematic]

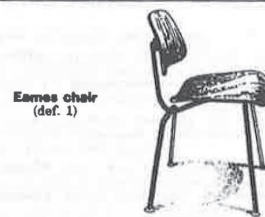
Ea-kins (ē'kinz), *n.* Thomas, 1844–1916, U.S. painter.

ea-l-dor-man (ēl'dər mən), *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. Obs. alderman. Also, **ea/der-man**.

Ea-ling (ē'ling), *n.* a borough of Greater London, England. 297,600.

EAM, National Liberation Front, a Greek underground resistance movement of World War II and political coalition of various leftist groups. [*< ModGk E(θnikή) A(πελευθερωτική) M(έτωπο)*]

Eames (ēms), *n.* Charles, 1907–78, U.S. furniture designer and architect.



Eames chair (def. 1)

Eames' chair¹, 1. Also called **LCM chair**. a side chair designed by Charles Eames in 1946, having a slender tubular steel frame with a seat and back of molded plywood panels. 2. Also called **Eames' lounge chair**, an armchair with matching ottoman designed by Charles Eames in 1956, having separate headrest, backrest, and seat sections of molded plywood fitted with leather cushions and mounted on a metal base that can swivel or tilt. [1945–50, Amer.]

-ean, an element used to form adjectives from nouns ending in **-ea**: *crustacean*. [*< L -ē(us)* (Gk *-eios*), *-ae(us)* (Gk *-aios*), *-e(us)* + *-AN*]

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; whence; b., blend of, blended; c., cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; * , unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.