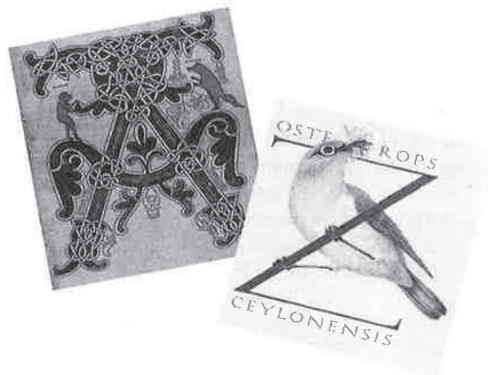


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*of the English Language*

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# Ee

𐤅  
Phoenician

Ε ε  
Greek

E e  
Roman

Italian initial letter depicting grape harvesting and winemaking, from a 1476 edition of Pliny the Elder's *Historia Naturalis*.



**eagle ray**  
spotted eagle ray  
*Aetobatus narinari*



**Eames chair**



**ear<sup>1</sup>**  
A. auricle  
B. semicircular canals  
C. cochlea  
D. cochlear nerve  
E. Eustachian tube  
F. eardrum  
G. ear canal

**e<sup>1</sup> or E (ē)** *n.*, *pl.* **e's** or **E's** also **es** or **Es** **1.** The fifth letter of the modern English alphabet. **2.** Any of the speech sounds represented by the letter *e*. **3.** The fifth in a series. **4.** Something shaped like the letter *E*. **5.** **E** A grade that indicates failing status. **6.** *Music* **a.** The third tone in the scale of *C* major or the fifth tone in the relative minor scale. **b.** A key or scale in which *E* is the tonic. **c.** A written or printed note representing this tone. **d.** A string, key, or pipe tuned to the pitch of this tone. **7.** **e** *Mathematics* The base of the natural system of logarithms, having a numerical value of approximately 2.71828. **8.** **E** The hypothesized traditional source of those narrative portions of the Pentateuch in which God is referred to as Elohim rather than with the Tetragrammaton. [Sense 8, from ELOHIM.]

**e<sup>2</sup>** *abbr.* electron

**E** *abbr.* **1a.** east **b.** eastern **2.** Baseball error **3.** excellent

**E.** *abbr.* **1.** earl **2.** English

**E-** also **E-** *pref.* Computer or computer network: *e-cash*; *e-zine*. See Usage Note at **virtual**. [From E-MAIL.]

**Ea** (ā'a) *n.* *Mythology* The Babylonian god of primordial waters. [Akkadian. See **hyw** in Appendix II.]

**each** (ēch) *adj.* Being one of two or more considered individually; every: *Each person cast a vote. My technique improved with each lesson.* *pron.* Every one of a group considered individually; each one. *adv.* For or to each one; apiece: *ten cents each*. [Middle English *ech*, from Old English *ælc*. See **lik-** in Appendix I.]

**Usage Note** The traditional rule holds that the subject of a sentence beginning with *each* is grammatically singular, and the verb and following pronouns must be singular accordingly: *Each of the apartments has (not have) its (not their) own private entrance (not entrances)*. When *each* follows a plural subject, however, the verb and subsequent pronouns remain in the plural: *The apartments each have their own private entrances (not has its own private entrance)*. But when *each* follows the verb with *we* as its subject, the rule has an exception. One may say either *We boys have each our own room* or *We boys have each his own room*, though the latter form may strike readers as stilted. • The expression *each and every* is likewise followed by a singular verb and, at least in formal style, by a singular pronoun: *Each and every driver knows (not know) what his or her (not their) job is to be*. See Usage Notes at **every**, **they**.

**each other** *pron.* Each the other. Used to indicate that a relationship or an action is reciprocal among the members of the set referred to by the antecedent: *The boys like each other*.

**Usage Note** It is often maintained that *each other* should be used to denote a reciprocal relation between two entities, with *one another* reserved for more than two: thus *The twins dislike each other* but *The triplets dislike one another*. Sixty-four percent of Usage Panelists say that they follow this rule in their own writing. But it should be pointed out that many reputable writers from Samuel Johnson onward have ignored the rule and that the use of *each other* for more than two, or of *one another* for two, cannot be considered incorrect. In particular, there are contexts in which *each other* and *one another* are subtly different in meaning. When speaking of an ordered series of events or stages, *one another* is the preferred form. Thus the sentence *The waiters followed one another into the room* was preferred by 73 percent of the Usage Panel to the sentence *The waiters followed each other into the room*. • *Each other* should not be used as the subject of a clause in writing. Instead of *We always know what each other is thinking*, one should write *Each of us knows what the other is thinking*. • The possessive forms of *each other* and *one another* are written *each other's* and *one another's*: *The boys wore each other's (not each others') coats. They had forgotten one another's (not one anothers') names*.

**ea•ger<sup>1</sup>** (ē'gər) *adj.* -ger•er, -ger•est **1.** Having or showing keen

interest, intense desire, or impatient expectancy. See Usage Note at **anxious**. **2.** *Obsolete* Tart; sharp; cutting. [Middle English *eger*, sour, sharp, impetuous, from Anglo-Norman *egre*, from Latin *acer*. See **ak-** in Appendix I.] —**ea•ger•ly** *adv.* —**ea•ger•ness** *n.*

**ea•ger<sup>2</sup>** (ē'gər, ā'gər) *n.* Variant of **eagre**.

**eager beaver** *n.* *Informal* One that is exceptionally, often excessively industrious or zealous: *"The eager beavers of industry seldom reach their potential, much less rise to the top"* (Newsweek). —**ea•ger•bea•ver** (ē'gər-bē'vər) *adj.*

**ea•gle** (ē'gəl) *n.* **1.** Any of various large diurnal birds of prey of the family Accipitridae, including members of the genera *Aquila* and *Haliaeetus*, characterized by a powerful hooked bill, keen vision, long broad wings, and strong soaring flight. **2.** A representation of an eagle used as an emblem or insignia. **3.** A gold coin formerly used in the United States, stamped with an eagle on the reverse side and having a face value of ten dollars. **4.** *Sports* A golf score of two strokes under par on a hole. *♦ v.* -gled, -gling, -gles *Sports* —*tr.* To shoot (a hole in golf) in two strokes under par. —*intr.* To score an eagle in golf. [Middle English *egle*, from Anglo-Norman, from Old Provençal *aigla*, from Latin *aquila*.]

**eagle eye** *n.* **1.** Keen eyesight. **2.** The ability or tendency to observe closely or pay attention to detail: *monitors expenses with an eagle eye*. **3.** One that observes with close attention. —**ea•gle•eyed** (ē'gəl-id') *adj.*

**eagle owl** *n.* A large Eurasian owl (*Bubo bubo*) having brownish plumage and prominent ear tufts.

**eagle ray** *n.* Any of numerous rays of the family Myliobatidae, found in tropical and subtropical shallow seas and noted for their massive jaws and large winglike pectoral fins, which they flap for propulsion.

**Ea•gle Scout** (ē'gəl) *n.* One who has achieved the highest rank in the Boy Scouts.

**ea•glet** (ē'glīt) *n.* A young eagle.

**ea•gre** also **ea•ger** (ē'gər, ā'gər) *n.* See **bore<sup>3</sup>**. [Origin unknown.]

**Ea•kins** (ā'kīnz), **Thomas** 1844–1916. American painter known for highly realistic works, such as *Max Schmitt in a Single Scull* (1871).

**eal•dor•man** (ōl'dor-mən) *n.* The chief magistrate of a district in Anglo-Saxon England. [Old English. See **ALDERMAN**.]

**Eames** (ēmz), **Charles** 1907–1978. American designer noted for an innovative series of chairs made of aluminum tubing and molded plywood.

**Eames chair** A trademark used for a functional chair, originally of molded plywood, with seat and back pieces shaped to the contours of the human body.

**ear<sup>1</sup>** (īr) *n.* **1.** *Anatomy* **a.** The vertebrate organ of hearing, responsible for maintaining equilibrium as well as sensing sound and divided in mammals into the external ear, the middle ear, and the inner ear. **b.** The part of this organ that is externally visible. **2.** An invertebrate organ analogous to the mammalian ear. **3.** The sense of hearing: *a sound that grates on the ear*. **4.** Sensitivity or receptiveness to sound, especially: **a.** Sharpness or refinement of hearing: *a singer with a good ear for harmony*. **b.** The ability to play a passage of music solely from hearing it: *plays the piano by ear*. **c.** Responsiveness to the sounds or forms of spoken language: *a writer with a good ear for dialogue; has an ear for foreign languages*. **5.** Sympathetic or favorable attention: *"[The President] wavers between the two positions, depending on who last had his ear"* (Joseph C. Harsch). **6.** Something resembling the external ear in position or shape, especially: **a.** A flexible tuft of feathers located above the eyes of certain birds, such as owls, that functions in visual communication but not in hearing. Also called *ear tuft*. **b. A projecting handle, as on a vase or pitcher. **7. A small box in the upper corner of the page in a newspaper or periodical that contains a printed notice, such as promotional material or weather information. **8.** *ears* *Informal* Headphones. —**idioms:** all **ears** Acutely attentive: *Tell your story—we're all ears!* **coming out of (one's) ears** In more than adequate amounts; overabundant. **give (or******