

Webster's II Dictionary

THIRD EDITION



Houghton Mifflin Company
Boston • New York

Based on the hardcover edition of
Webster's II New College Dictionary, Third Edition

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 © 2005 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.

Visit our website: www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com

ISBN-13: 978-0-618-55205-4
ISBN-10: 0-618-55205-7

Manufactured in the United States of America

Text design by Joyce C. Weston

QWB 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Con

Abbreviations Used in T
Key to Pronunciation

DICTIONARY

Abbreviations
Biographical Names
Geographical Names

Tables

Bible
Currency
Measurement

with a third used as a crossbar. The Romans regarded subjugation as the worst possible humiliation.

sub-junc-tive (süb-jüŋk'tiv) *adj.* Of or being a verb form or set of forms used to express uncertainty, desire, contingency, or unlikelihood. —**sub-junc-tive** *n.*

sub-let (süb-lét') *v.* 1. To rent (property held by lease) to another. 2. To subcontract (work). —**sub-let'** *n.*

sub-li-mate (süb-'la-mät') *v.* **-mat-ed, -mat-ing.** 1. *Chem.* To pass or cause to pass from a solid to a gas or from a gas to a solid without becoming a liquid. 2. To modify the expression of (e.g., an impulse) so as to be socially acceptable. —**sub-li-ma'tion** *n.*

sub-lime (sü-blim') *adj.* 1. Noble; lofty. 2. Inspiring awe; awesome. —**ü.** **-limed, -lim-ing.** *Chem.* To sublimate. —**sub-lim'i-ty** (sü-blím'i-tē) *n.*

sub-lim-i-nal (süb-lím'a-näl) *adj.* Not within the area of conscious perception or awareness. —**sub-lim'i-nal-ly** *adv.*

sub-lu-na-ry (süb-'loo'na-rē) *adj.* Located beneath the moon.

sub-ma-chine gun (süb'ma-shēn') *n.* An automatic or semiautomatic gun fired from the hip or shoulder.

sub-mar-gin-al (süb'mär'jā-näl) *adj.* Being below a required minimum <submarginal living conditions>

sub-mar-ine (süb'ma-rēn', süb'ma-rēn') *adj.* Being or growing beneath the surface of the sea; undersea. —**ü.** 1. A ship capable of operating submerged. 2. A large sandwich on a long split roll filled with layers of meat, cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, and condiments.

sub-mar-in-er (süb'ma-rē'nēr, -mār'a-) *n.* A crew member of a submarine.

sub-merge (süb-mürj') *v.* **-merged, -merg-ing.** 1. To place or plunge under the surface of a liquid, esp. water. 2. To cover with water. —**sub-merg'i-ble** *adj.* —**sub-mer-gence** *n.*

sub-mer-se (süb-mürs') *v.* **-mersed, -mers-ing.** To submerge. —**sub-mer-si-ble** *adj.* —**sub-mer-sion** *n.*

sub-mi-cro-scop-ic (süb'mi'kra-sköp'ik) *adj.* Too small to be seen with an optical microscope.

sub-min-i-a-ture (süb'mín'ē-ä-choör', -chär) *adj.* Extremely small.

sub-mit (süb-mit') *v.* **-mit-ted, -mit-ting.** 1. To surrender to the authority, discretion, or will of another. 2. To commit to the decision, consideration, or judgment of another. 3. To offer as a suggestion or opinion. 4. To acquiesce. —**sub-mis-sion** *n.* —**sub-mis-sive** *adj.* —**sub-mit'tal** *n.*

sub-nor-mal (süb-nör'mäl) *adj.* Being less than normal. —**sub-nor-mal'i-ty** *n.*

sub-or-bit-al (süb-ör'bi-täl) *adj.* Of, being, or involving less than one orbit.

sub-or-di-nate (sü-bör'dn-ät) *adj.* 1. Of lower rank or class; inferior. 2. Subject to the control or authority of another. 3. Dependent on other elements in a sentence <a subordi-

nate clause> —**n.** One that is subordinate. * *syns:* INFERIOR, JUNIOR, SUBALTERN, UNDERLING —**ü.** (-nät') **-nat-ed, -nat-ing.** 1. To put in a lower rank or class. 2. To make sub-servient. —**sub-ör-di-na'tion** *n.* —**sub-ör-di-na'tive** *adj.*

sub-orn (sü-börn') *v.* To induce to commit an unlawful act, esp. perjury. —**sub-ör-na'tion** *n.* —**sub-örn'er** *n.*

sub-plot (süb'plöt') *n.* A secondary plot in drama or fiction.

sub-poe-na (sü-pē'na) *n.* A legal writ requiring the person named in it to appear in court. —**ü.** To serve with a subpoena.

sub-ro-sa (süb-rō'sa) *adv.* In secret; covertly <negotiations held sub rosa>

sub-rou-tine (süb'rō-tēn') *n.* *Computer Sci.* A set of instructions that performs a specific task for a main routine.

sub-scribe (süb-scrib') *v.* **-scribed, -scrib-ing.** 1. To sign (one's name) to a document. 2. To give testimony, attestation, or consent by signing one's name. 3a. To pledge to contribute. b. To contribute. 4. To be in agreement <don't subscribe to your opinion> 5. To contract to pay for and receive a periodical at regular intervals. —**sub-scrib'er** *n.*

sub-script (süb'skript') *n.* A symbol or letter written next to and slightly below another character.

sub-scrip-tion (süb-skrip'shän) *n.* 1. The act of signing one's name; signature. 2. A purchase by signed order, as for issues of a periodical.

sub-se-quent (süb'si-kwänt) *adj.* Following in order or time; succeeding. —**sub'se-quent-ly** *adv.* —**sub'se-quent-ness** *n.*

sub-ser-vi-ent (süb-sür've-änt) *adj.* 1. Subordinate, as in condition or function. 2. Servile; submissive. —**sub-ser'vi-ence** *n.* —**sub-ser'vi-ent-ly** *adv.*

sub-set (süb'set') *n.* A mathematical set each of whose members is included within another set.

sub-side (süb-sid') *v.* **-sid-ed, -sid-ing.** 1. To move to a lower level; descend. 2. To sink to the bottom of a liquid; settle. 3. To become less agitated or intense; abate. —**sub-sid'ence** *n.*

sub-sid-i-ary (süb-sid'ē-är'ē) *adj.* 1. Providing support or assistance. 2. Secondary, as in importance; subordinate. 3. Of or relating to a subsidiary. —**n.**, *pl.* **-ies.** One that is subsidiary, esp. a company owned and controlled by another.

sub-si-dize (süb'si-diz') *v.* **-dized, -diz-ing.** To provide or aid with a subsidy.

sub-si-dy (süb'si-dē) *n.*, *pl.* **-dies.** A financial grant, as that given by a government to a private undertaking or to another country.

sub-sist (süb-sist') *v.* 1. To exist or continue in existence. 2. To have or receive what is necessary to maintain life.

sub-sis-tence (süb-sis'tens) *n.* 1. The means necessary to maintain life. 2. Existence. —**sub-sis'tent** *adj.*

sub-soil (süb'soil') *n.* The layer of earth just beneath the surface soil.

sub-son-ic (süb'sön'ik) *adj.* 1. Of or having less than audible frequency. 2. Of, relating to, or being a speed less than that of sound in a designated medium.

sub-stance (süb'stans) *n.* 1a. Matter that occupies space and has mass. b. Matter of a particular constitution or kind. 2a. Essential character; essence. b. The most basic or important quality or part; gist <the substance of the sermon> 3. Actuality; reality <an idea without substance> 4. Material belongings; property.

substance abuse *n.* Excessive use of addictive substances, esp. alcohol or narcotics.

sub-stand-ard (süb'stän'därd) *adj.* Being below a standard or norm.

sub-stan-tial (süb'stän'shəl) *adj.* 1. Having substance; material. 2. Not imaginary; real. 3. Solid and firm; strong. 4. Providing sustenance; nourishing <a substantial breakfast> 5. Considerable <a substantial snowfall> 6. Moderately wealthy; well-to-do. —**sub-stan'tial-ly** *adv.*

sub-stan-ti-ate (süb'stän'shē-ät') *v.* **-at-ed, -at-ing.** To support with proof; verify. —**sub-stan'ti-a'tion** *n.*

sub-stan-tive (süb'stän-tiv) *adj.* 1. Substantial; real. 2. Of, relating to, or being the essence of something; essential. —**n.** 1. A noun. 2. A group of words functioning as a noun. —**sub-stan-tive-ly** *adv.*

sub-sta-tion (süb'stä'shän) *n.* A subsidiary station, as of a post office.

sub-sti-tute (süb'sti-tüt', -tyüt') *n.* One that takes the place of another. * *syns:* ALTERNATE, PINCH HITTER, REPLACEMENT, STAND-IN, SUB, SURROGATE —**ü.** **-tut-ed, -tut-ing.** 1. To use or put in the place of another. 2. To act as a substitute. —**sub'sti-tu'tion** *n.*

sub-strate (süb'strät') *n.* 1. The substance on which an enzyme acts. 2. A substratum.

sub-stratum (süb'strät'äm, -strät'am) *n.* 1. A layer that lies beneath. 2. Subsoil.

sub-struc-ture (süb'strük'chär) *n.* An underlying support; foundation.

sub-sume (süb-süm') *v.* **-sumed, -sum-ing.** To place in a larger or more comprehensive category.

sub-ten-ant (süb-tēn'änt) *n.* One that rents property, as a house, from a tenant.

sub-tend (süb-tēnd') *v.* *Math.* To be opposite to and delimit <The hypotenuse sub-tends a right angle>

sub-ter-fuge (süb'tar-fyööj') *n.* A trick or tactic used to escape, evade, or conceal.

sub-ter-ra-ne-an (süb'ta-rä-nē-an) *adj.* 1. Located, being, or operating underground. 2. Hidden; secret <subterranean plots>

sub-text (süb'tēkst') *n.* The implicit meaning or theme of a literary text.

sub-ti-tle (süb'ti'tl') *n.* 1. A subordinate and often explanatory title, as of a book. 2. A printed translation of foreign-language dialogue projected at the bottom of a movie screen.

sub-tle (sür'tl) *adj.* **-tler, -tlest.** 1. Difficult to detect or analyze; barely perceptible. 2. Marked by or having sharp discernment; keen. 3a. Expert; skillful. b. Sly; crafty. —**sub-tle-ty** *n.* —**sub'tly** *adv.*

sub-to-tal (süb'töt'l) *n.* The total of part of a series of numbers. —**sub'to'tal** *v.*

sub-tract (süb-träkt') *v.* To take away (e.g., one number from another) by deducting. —**sub-trac'tion** *n.*

sub-tra-hend (süb'tra-hēnd') *n.* A quantity to be subtracted from another.

sub-trop-i-cal (süb-tröp'ik-äl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or being geographic areas adjacent to the tropics.

sub-urb (süb'ürb') *n.* 1. A small, usu. residential community near a city. 2. Suburbs. A residential area in the vicinity of a city. —**sub-ur'ban** (sü-bür'ban) *adj.*

sub-ur-ban-ite (sü-bür'ba-nit') *n.* Someone who lives in a suburb.

sub-ur-bi-a (sü-bür'bē-ä) *n.* 1. Suburbs. 2. Suburbanites as a cultural class.

sub-ven-tion (süb-vēn'shän) *n.* A subsidy; endowment.

sub-vert (süb-vürt') *v.* 1. To overthrow. 2. To corrupt the character or morals of. —**sub-ver'sion** *n.* —**sub-ver'sive** *adj.*

sub-way (süb'wä') *n.* 1. An underground passage. 2. An underground railroad, esp. one powered by electricity.

suc-ceed (sük-sēd') *v.* 1a. To come next in order or time; follow. b. To replace another in an office or position. 2. To accomplish or achieve something desired, intended, or attempted.

suc-cess (sük-sēs') *n.* 1. The achievement of something desired, intended, or attempted. 2. The gaining of fame or prosperity. 3. One that succeeds. —**suc-cess'ful** *adj.* —**suc-cess'ful-ly** *adv.*

suc-ces-sion (sük-sēs'hän) *n.* 1. The process or act of following in order. 2. A group of persons or things that follow in order; sequence. 3. The sequence, right, or act of succeeding to a title, throne, or estate.

suc-ces-sive (sük-sēs'iv) *adj.* Following in uninterrupted order; consecutive. —**suc-ces'sive-ly** *adv.* —**suc-ces'sive-ness** *n.*

suc-ces-sor (sük-sēs'är) *n.* One that succeeds another, as to a throne.

suc-cinct (sük-singkt') *adj.* Marked by brevity; concise. —**suc-cinct'ly** *adv.*

suc-cor (sük'är) *n.* Assistance; aid. —**suc-cor** *v.*

suc-co-tash (sük'a-täsh') *n.* A mixture of cooked corn and lima or shell beans.

suc-cour (sük'är) *n.* *esp. Brit. var. of succor.*

suc-cu-bus (sük'yä-büs) *n.*, *pl.* **-bus-es or -bi** (-bi', -bē') An evil spirit supposed to have sexual intercourse with a sleeping man.

suc-cu-lent (sük'yä-länt) *adj.* 1. Full of sap or juice; juicy. 2. Having fleshy stems or leaves that conserve moisture. —**n.** A succulent plant, as a cactus. —**suc'cu-lence** *n.* —**suc'cu-lent-ly** *adv.*