

Webster's New World Dictionary®

Third College Edition

*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor
and friend*

This edition is a major revision of Webster's New World Dictionary®, Second College Edition, copyright © 1986, 1984, 1982, 1980, 1979, 1978, 1976, 1974, 1972, 1970 by Simon & Schuster, Inc., a Paramount Communications Company.



Prentice Hall General Reference
15 Columbus Circle
New York, NY 10023

Copyright © 1994, 1991, 1988 by
Simon & Schuster, Inc.

All rights reserved
including the right of reproduction
in whole or in part in any form

A Webster's New World™ Book

PRENTICE HALL is a registered trademark of Prentice-Hall, Inc.
WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY is a registered trademark
of Simon & Schuster, Inc.
Colophon is a trademark of Prentice-Hall, Inc.

*Dictionary Editorial Offices: New World
Dictionaries, 850 Euclid Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio 44114*

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Webster's New World dictionary of American English / Victoria
Neufeldt, editor in chief; David B. Guralnik, editor in chief emeritus.
—3rd college ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-671-88243-0 (thumb-indexed).—ISBN 0-671-88289-9 (plain-
edged).—ISBN 0-671-88572-3 (leatherkraft).

1. English language—Dictionaries. 2. Americanisms—Dictionaries.

I. Neufeldt, Victoria. II. Guralnik, David Bernard, 1920—

PE1628.W5633

1993

93-2961

423—dc20

CIP

Database service and principal typesetting by Lexi-Comp, Inc., Hudson, Ohio.
The typefaces used are Century Schoolbook and Helvetica.
Manufactured in the United States of America

2 3 4 5

93 94 95 96

any of certain bacteria: cf. HETEROTROPHIC —au'to'troph' (-träf') *n.* —au'to'troph'i-cally *adv.*

autoxi-da-tion (ô taks'ô dâ'shën) *n.* [AUT(O)- + OXIDATION] *Chem.* the oxidation of a substance by its exposure to air —autoxi'da'tive (-tiv) *adj.*

autumn (ôt'ëm) *n.* [ME *autumpne* < OFr *autompne* < L *autumnus, autumnus*; prob. of Etr orig.] 1 the season that comes between summer and winter; fall: in the astronomical year, that period between the autumnal equinox and the winter solstice 2 any period of maturity or of beginning decline —*adj.* of, in, for, or characteristic of fall —autum'nal (ô tum'näl) *adj.* —autum'nally *adv.*

autumn crocus COLCHICUM (sense 1)

autumn olive a spiny shrub (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) of the oleaster family, having leaves covered with silvery or brown scales: see RUSSIAN OLIVE

autun-ite (ôt'tän it') *n.* [after *Autun*, town in France + -ITE'] a light-yellow, hydrated uranium-calcium phosphate: it is radioactive and occurs in the form of tetragonal crystals or scales

Auvergne (ô vurn'; Fr ô ver'ny) 1 historical region of SC France 2 metropolitan region in SC France: 10,044 sq. mi. (26,013 sq. km); pop. 1,335,000; chief city, Clermont-Ferrand 3 mountain range running north to south through this region: highest peak, 6,188 ft. (1,886 m): in full **Auvergne Mountains**

aux (ô; before vowel sounds ôz) *prep.* [Fr, contr. of *à les* < *à*, to + *les*, pl. def. art., the] equivalent of *of* and *LA*: used with pl. nouns

aux or Aux auxiliary

aux-eis (ôks ê'sis) *n.* [ModL < Gr *auxēsis*, growth < *auxein*, to increase: see *WAX*'] *Biol.* the process of cell growth caused by the increase of cell volume prior to cell division —aux-et'ic (-et'ik) *adj.*

aux-ilia-ry (ôg zil'yä rë; -zil'ë ä rë, -ë er'ë; often, -zil'ä rë) *adj.* [L *auxiliaris*, helpful < *auxilium*, aid < pp. of *augere*, to increase: see *WAX*'] 1 giving help or aid; assisting or supporting 2 acting in a subsidiary, or subordinate, capacity 3 additional; supplementary; reserve 4 having an engine that can be used for supplementary power, as a sailing vessel 5 designating or of any of the noncombat ships, as tankers or tenders, that form the service fleet of a navy —*n., pl. -ries* 1 an auxiliary person or thing 2 [pl.] foreign or allied armed forces aiding those of a country at war 3 an assisting or supplementary group or organization [this club has a women's auxiliary] 4 an auxiliary vessel or ship 5 *Gram.* AUXILIARY VERB

auxiliary verb *Gram.* a verb used to help form the tenses, aspects, voices, or moods of other verbs, as *will, have, do, be, should, must*

aux-in (ôk'sin) *n.* [L < Gr *auxein*, to increase (see *WAX*?) + -IN'] a plant hormone, esp. indoleacetic acid, produced in the fruits, seeds, leaves, or stem tips, to promote longitudinal growth and to control bud growth, root formation, leaf abscission, etc.: also produced synthetically —aux-in'ic (ôks in'ik) *adj.*

aux-i-o-chrome (ôk'sä krôm') *n.* [L < Gr *auxanein*, to increase (< *auxein*: see prec.) + CHROME] a radical or atom group, as NH₂ or OH, needed to bond organic dyos to fabric fibers

aux-i-o-trophic (ôk'sä träf'ik) *adj.* [L < Gr *auxein*, to increase + -TROPIC] designating or of a mutant organism requiring more nutritional substances than its prototrophic parent because it has lost the ability to make a certain enzyme —aux-i-o'troph' (-träf') *n.*

Av (äv) *n.* [Heb] the eleventh month of the Jewish year: see JEWISH CALENDAR

av 1 ad valorem: also *a/v* or *A/V* 2 average 3 avoidupois

AV 1 audiovisual 2 Authorized Version (of the Bible)

Av 1 Avenue 2 avoidupois

av-a-da-vat (av'ä dâ vat') *n.* a small waxbill (*Estrilda amandava*) of SE Asia, kept as a caged bird for its singing ability

avail (ä val') *vi., vt.* [ME *availen* < OFr *a* (L *ad*), to + *valoir*, to be worth < L *valere*, to be strong: see *VALUE*] to be of use, help, worth, or advantage (to), as in accomplishing an end [will force alone avail us?] —*n.* 1 effective use or help; advantage [he tried, but to no avail] 2 [pl.] [Obs.] net proceeds; profits —avail oneself of to take advantage of (an opportunity, etc.); utilize

avail-a-bil-ity (ä val'ä bil'ä tē) *n.* 1 the quality or condition of being available 2 *pl.* -ties an available person or thing

avail-a-ble (ä val'ä bal) *adj.* 1 that one can avail oneself of; that can be used; usable 2 that can be gotten, had, or reached; handy; accessible 3 [Obs.] that can avail ★4 *Politics* a) having qualifications that would make one a strong candidate for an elective office b) willing and able to run for office —avail'ably *adv.*

av-a-lanche (av'ä lanch') *n.* [Fr (altered after *avalier*, to descend) < *lavanche* < Prov *lavanca* < **lavanca*, prob. a pre-Roman word in a non-IE language of N Italy] 1 a mass of loosened snow, earth, rocks, etc. suddenly and swiftly sliding down a mountain, often growing as it descends 2 any large, overwhelming quantity that comes suddenly [an avalanche of mail, of blows, etc.] —*vi., vt.* -lanch'd, -lanch'ing to come down (on) like an avalanche

★**avalanche lily** a wildflower (*Erythronium montanum*) of the lily family, native to the mountain meadows of Washington and Oregon and blooming in June among the melting snowbanks

Av-a-lon or Av-al-lon (av'ä län') [Fr < ML *Avallonis* (insula) < Welsh (ynys yr) *Afallon*, (island of) apples: cf. *APPLE*] *Celt. Legend* the isle of the dead, an island paradise in the west where King Arthur and other heroes are taken after death

Avalon Peninsula peninsula forming the SE corner of Newfoundland, Canada

avant-garde (ä vânt'gärd', ä-, ä-; Fr ä vän'gärd') *n.* [Fr, lit., advance guard] the leaders in new or unconventional movements, esp. in the arts; vanguard —*adj.* of such movements, ideas, etc.

avant-gard'ism *n.* —avant-gard'ist *n.*

avant la let-tre (ä vän lä le'tr') [Fr] before the (specified) concept, word, person, etc. existed [a mid-Victorian matron who was a feminist *avant la lettre*]

av-a-ri-ce (av'ä ris) *n.* [ME & OFr < L *avaritia* < *avarus*, greedy < *avere*, to desire] too great a desire to have wealth; cupidity

av-a-ri-cious (av'ä rish'ës) *adj.* full of avarice; greedy for riches —*SYN.* GREEDY —av'a-ri'ci-ously *adv.* —av'a-ri'ci-ous-ness *n.*

av-ast (ä vast') *interj.* [L < Du *hou'vast*, *houd vast*, hold fast] *Naut.* stop! cease! halt!

av-a-tar (av'ä tär') *n.* [Sans *avatāra* < *ava-*, down + base of *tarati*, (he) crosses over: see *TERM*] 1 *Hinduism* a god's coming down in bodily form to the earth; incarnation of a god 2 any incarnation or embodiment, as of a quality or concept in a person

av-aunt (ä vönt', -vânt') *interj.* [ME < OFr *avant*, forward < LL *abante* < L *ab*, from + *ante*, before] [Archaic] begone! go away!

avdp avoidupois

ave (ä'vä, ä've) *interj.* [L, prob. of Punic orig., lit., live!] 1 hail! 2 farewell! —*n.* 1 the salutation *ave* 2 [A-] the prayer *Ave MARIA*

Ave Avenue

ave at-que vale (ä'vä ät'kwä vä'lä) [L] hail and farewell

Av-el-la-ne-da (ä ve'yä ne'thä; locally, also ä ve'zhä-) city in E Argentina, on the Río de la Plata: suburb of Buenos Aires: pop. 330,000

Ave Ma-ria (ä'vä mä rë'ä, -vë) [ME < L (Luke 1:28)] 1 'Hail, Mary,' the first words of the Latin version of a prayer to the Virgin Mary used in the Roman Catholic Church 2 this prayer 3 a musical setting of this prayer

av-enge (ä venj') *vt., vi.* **avenged', aveng'ing** [ME *avengen* < OFr *avengier* < a- (L *ad*), to + *vengier* < L *vindicare*, to claim: see *VINDICATE*] 1 to get revenge for (an injury, wrong, etc.) 2 to take vengeance on behalf of, as for a wrong —aveng'er *n.*

SYN. —*av-enge* implies the infliction of deserved or just punishment for wrongs or oppressions; *revenge* implies the infliction of punishment as an act of retaliation, usually for an injury against oneself, and connotes personal malice, bitter resentment, etc. as the moving force

av-ens (av'enz) *n.* [ME & OFr *avence*] any of a genus (*Geum*) of herbaceous plants of the rose family, with compound leaves and variously colored, usually yellow, flowers

Av-en-tine (av'en tin', -tën') see SEVEN HILLS OF ROME

av-en-tu-rine (ä ven'cha rin') *n.* [Fr < It (vetro) *avventurino*, aventurine (glass): so named from resembling the mineral *avventurina* (< *avventura*, chance), so named from its rarity: see *ADVENTURE*] 1 a kind of glass flecked with spangles, as from copper filings or bits of chromic oxide 2 a translucent quartz shot through with sparkling bits of mica, etc.

av-enue (av'ä nü, -nyü) *n.* [Fr < *avenir*, to happen, come < L *advenire*: see *ADVENT*] 1 a) a roadway, pathway, or drive, often bordered with trees b) [Brit.] such a roadway, etc. leading from the main road to the house on an estate 2 a way of approach to something [books are avenues to knowledge] ★3 a street, esp. a wide, principal one; often, one running at right angles to others called "streets"

av-er (ä var') *vt.* **averred', aver'ring** [ME *averren* < OFr *averer*, to confirm < L *ad-*, to + *verus*, true: see *VERY*] 1 to declare to be true; state positively; affirm 2 *Law* to state or declare formally; assert; allege —*SYN.* ASSERT —aver'ment *n.*

av-er-age (av'ä ij, av'rīj) *n.* [altered (by assoc. with ME *average*, money rent paid in place of service by the tenant with his horses < *aver*, draft horse) < OFr *avarie*, damage to ship or goods, mooring charges < OIt *avarica* < Ar *šawār*, damaged goods; order of main sense development (in *n.*), 6a, 6c, 1, 2, etc.] 1 the numerical result obtained by dividing the sum of two or more quantities by the number of quantities; an arithmetic mean 2 an approximation of this [an average of C in school work] 3 usual or normal kind, amount, quality, rate, etc. [an intelligence above the average] 4 a number or value of a set of values carefully defined to typify the set, as a median or mode ★5 *BATTING AVERAGE* 6 *Maritime Law* a) a loss incurred by damage to a ship at sea or to its cargo b) an incurring of such loss c) the equitable division of such loss among the interested parties d) a charge arising from such loss e) any of various small charges paid by the master of a ship, as for pilotage or towage —*adj.* 1 constituting an average [the average speed is high] 2 intermediate in value, rate, etc.; hence, normal or ordinary [an average student] —*vi.* -aged, -aging 1 to be or amount to on an average [the children average six years of age] 2 to buy or sell additional fixed amounts, as of shares of stock, at lower or higher prices over time so as to get a better average price: usually with *down* or *up* 3 to invest, as in shares of stock, fixed amounts of money at regular intervals so as to buy more at lower prices and less at higher prices: usually in phrase *dollar (cost) averaging* —*vt.* 1 to calculate the average or mean of 2 to do, take, etc. on an average [to average six hours of sleep a night] 3 to divide proportionately among more than two [they averaged the loss among themselves] —*average out* to arrive at an average eventually —*on (the) average* as an average quantity, rate, etc.

SYN. —*average* refers to the result obtained by dividing a sum by the number of quantities added [the average of 7, 9, 17 is 33 ÷ 3, or 11] and in extended use is applied to the usual or ordinary kind, instance, etc.; *mean* commonly designates a figure intermediate between two extremes [the mean temperature for a day with a high of 56° and a low of 34° is 45°] and figuratively implies moderation [the golden mean]; the *median* is the middle number or point in a series arranged in order of size [the median grade in the group 50, 55, 85, 88, 92 is 85; the average is 74]; *norm* implies a standard of average performance for a given group [a child below the norm for his age in reading comprehension]

Aver-nus **Optronic Sciences** 11 On EXJ 2015 an extinct volcano near Naples, Italy, at the entrance to the cavern to Hades was

anciently said to be. It. name *Averno* (ä ver'no) 2 Hades; hell

esp. in contrast to that which is changing and transitory; **persist** implies continued existence beyond the expected or normal time —**ANT.** stop, cease

continued fraction a fraction whose denominator consists of a whole number plus a fraction whose denominator consists of a whole number plus a fraction, and so forth

continued proportion GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION

continuity (kän'tə nōō'ə tē, -nyōō'-; känd'n ōō', -yōō'-) *n.*, *pl.* -ties [OFr *continuū* < L *continuitas*] 1 the state or quality of being continuous; connectedness; coherence 2 a continuous flow, series, or succession; unbroken, coherent whole 3 continuous duration ★4 the detailed script or scenario for a film, radio or TV program, etc. as it actually appears in final form: cf. SHOOTING SCRIPT 5 a series of comments or announcements connecting the parts of a radio or TV program 6 the script or story of a comic strip 7 Film smooth and matching transitions from one shot or sequence to the next

continuo (kän tin'yōō ō') *n.* [It. orig., continuous < L *continuus*: see CONTINUE] a continuous bass accompaniment, indicated by a shorthand method in notation, and played as on a harpsichord or organ, esp. in baroque music

continuously (kän tin'yōō əs) *adj.* [L *continuus*: see CONTINUE] 1 going on or extending without interruption or break; unbroken; connected 2 Math. designating a function whose value at each point is closely approached by its values at neighboring points —**SYN.** CONTINUAL —**con-tin'u-ous-ly** *adv.*

continuum (kän tin'yōō əm) *n.*, *pl.* -ua (-yōō ə) or -u-ums [L, neut. of *continuus*] 1 a continuous whole, quantity, or series; thing whose parts cannot be separated or separately discerned 2 Math. the set of all real numbers. See also SPACE-TIME (n. 1)

conto (kän'tō) *n.*, *pl.* -tos [Port, lit., account, count < L *computus*: see COUNT¹] a money of account of Portugal and Cape Verde, equal to 1,000 escudos

contort (kän tōrt') *vt.*, *vi.* [< L *contortus*, pp. of *contorquere*, to whirl, twist < *com-*, together + *torque*, to twist: see TORT] to twist or wrench out of its usual form into one that is grotesque; distort violently [a face contorted with pain] —**SYN.** DEFORM

contortion (kän tōr'shən) *n.* [ME *contorsion*] 1 a contorting or being contorted, esp. of the face or body 2 a contorted condition or position —**con-tor-tive** *adj.*

contortionist (-ist) *n.* a person, as a circus acrobat, who can contort his or her body into unnatural positions

contour (kän'tōor) *n.* [Fr < It *contorno* < LL *contornare*, to go around < L *com-*, intens. + *turnare*, to turn in a lathe: see TURN] 1 the outline of a figure, mass, land, etc. 2 the representation of such an outline —*vt.* 1 to make a contour or outline of 2 to mark contour lines on 3 to shape or mold to conform to the contour of something [a chair contoured to fit the body] 4 to construct (a road, etc.) in accordance with natural contours —*adj.* 1 made so as to conform to the shape or outline of something [contour sheets for a bed] 2 characterized by the making of furrows along the natural contour lines so as to avoid erosion, as on a hillside [contour farming] —**SYN.** OUTLINE

contour feathers feathers that form the surface plumage of a bird and determine the outer contour, including the wing and tail feathers

contour interval the difference in value between adjacent contour lines on a map or chart

contour line a line on a map or chart connecting all points of the same elevation (or depth) in a particular area

contour map a map showing contour lines

contr 1 contract 2 contraction 3 contralto 4 contrary 5 control 6 controller

contra (kän'trə, kōn'-) *n.* [AmSp, short for *contrarrevolucionario*, a counterrevolutionary] a member of any of the groups seeking to overthrow the government that took power in Nicaragua in 1979

contra- (kän'trə) [< L *contra*, against < OL **com-tro-* (< *com-*, *COM-* + **tero-*, compar. suffix); designating assoc. of two (opposites)] *prefix* 1 against, opposite, opposed to, contrary [contradict, *contraceptive*] 2 lower in musical pitch or register [contrabassoon]

contra-band (kän'trə bənd') *n.* [Sp *contrabanda*, a smuggling < It *contrabando* < *contra-*, against + *bando* < ML *bannum* < Frank **ban*, a command; akin to OE *ban*: see BAN¹] 1 unlawful or prohibited trade 2 goods forbidden by law to be imported or exported; smuggled merchandise 3 CONTRABAND OF WAR ★4 during the Civil War, a black slave who fled to, or was smuggled or found behind, the Union lines —*adj.* forbidden by law to be imported or exported

contra-band-ist (-ist) *n.* a person who trades in contraband goods; smuggler

contraband of war materiel, as ammunition or weapons, which, by international law, may rightfully be intercepted and seized by either belligerent when shipped to the other one by a neutral country

contra-bass (kän'trə bās') *adj.* [see CONTRA- & BASS¹] pitched an octave lower than the normal bass —*n.* DOUBLE BASS —**con'tra-bass'ist** *n.*

contra-bassoon (kän'trə bə sōon') *n.* the double bassoon, larger than the bassoon and an octave lower in pitch

contra-ception (kän'trə səp'shən) *n.* [CONTRA- + (CON)CEPTION] the intentional prevention of fertilization of an ovum, as by special devices, drugs, etc.

contra-ceptive (kän'trə səp'tiv) *adj.* of or used for contraception —*n.* any contraceptive device or agent

contract (kän'trakt' for *n.* & BOE Technology Group Co., Ltd. v.

v. generally) *n.* [OFr < L *contractus*, pp. of *contrahere*, to draw together, make a bargain < *com-*, together + *trahere*, to DRAW] 1 an agreement between two or more people to do something, esp. one formally set forth in writing and enforceable by law; compact; covenant 2 a formal agreement of marriage or betrothal 3 a document containing the terms of a contract 4 the branch of law having to do with contracts ★5 [Colloq.] an assignment to murder someone for pay 6 Bridge a) the highest bid in an auction b) the number of tricks, and the suit or no-trump preference, stated in such a bid c) CONTRACT BRIDGE —*vt.* 1 a) to enter upon, or undertake, by contract b) to hire (a person, business, etc.) to perform under contract [we contracted him to fix the roof] 2 to get, acquire, or incur [to contract a disease, a debt, etc.] 3 a) to reduce in size; draw together; narrow; shrink; shorten [cold contracts metals] b) to draw (the brow or brows) together; knit 4 to narrow in scope; restrict 5 [Rare] to betroth 6 Gram. to shorten (a word or phrase) by the omission of a letter or sound, as in *I'm, e'er, can't* —*vi.* 1 to make a contract; agree formally [to contract for a new car] 2 to become reduced in size or bulk; draw together; shrink; narrow; shorten —**contract out** 1 to assign (a job) by contract; specif., to subcontract 2 [Chiefly Brit.] to withdraw from a contract or agreement —**con-trac'ti-bil'ity** *n.* —**con-trac'ti-ble** *adj.*

SYN. —**contract** implies a drawing together of surface or parts and a resultant decrease in size, bulk, or extent; to **shrink** is to contract so as to be short of the normal or required length, amount, extent, etc. [those shirts have shrunk]; **condense** suggests reduction of something into a more compact or more dense form without loss of essential content [condensed milk]; to **compress** is to press or squeeze into a more compact, orderly form [a lifetime's work compressed into one volume]; **deflate** implies a reduction in size or bulk by the removal of air, gas, or in extended use, anything insubstantial [to deflate a balloon, one's ego, etc.] —**ANT.** expand, inflate

contract bridge (kän'trakt') a form of bridge, developed from auction bridge, in which only the number of tricks named in the contract may be counted toward a game, additional tricks being counted as a bonus score

contract-ile (kän trak'til) *adj.* 1 having the power of contracting 2 producing contraction —**con-trac-ti-lity** (kän'trakt til'ə tē) *n.*

contraction (kän trak'shən) *n.* [ME *contraccioun* < OFr *contraction* < L *contractio*] 1 a contracting or being contracted 2 the shortening and thickening of a muscle fiber or a muscle in action, esp. of the uterus during labor 3 Gram. a) the shortening of a word or phrase by the omission of one or more sounds or letters b) a word form resulting from this (Ex.: *she's* for *she is*, *aren't* for *are not*) 4 Econ. a period of decrease in business activity —**con-trac-tional** *adj.*

contractive (kän trak'tiv) *adj.* [ML *contractivus*] 1 having the power of contracting 2 producing or tending to produce contraction 3 of contraction

contractor (kän trak'tər; also, and for 3 usually, kən trak'tər) *n.* 1 one of the parties to a contract 2 a person who contracts to supply certain materials or do certain work for a stipulated sum, esp. one who does so in any of the building trades 3 a thing that contracts, narrows, or shortens; esp., a muscle that contracts

contractual (kän trak'chō əl) *adj.* of, or having the nature of, a contract —**con-trac'tu-ally** *adv.*

contracture (kän trak'chər) *n.* a condition of abnormal shortening or shrinkage of a muscle, tendon, etc., often with persistent flexion or distortion at a joint

contra-dance (kän'trə dāns') *n.* CONTREDANSE

contra-dict (kän'trə dikt') *vt.* [< L *contradictus*, pp. of *contradicere* < *contra-*, CONTRA- + *dicere*, to speak: see DICTION¹] 1 a) to assert the opposite of (what someone else has said) b) to deny the statement of (a person) 2 to declare (a statement, report, etc.) to be false or incorrect 3 to be contrary or opposed to; go against [the facts contradict his theory] —*vi.* to speak in denial; oppose verbally —**SYN.** DENY —**con-tra-dic'ti-ble** *adj.* —**con-tra-dic'tor** or **con-tra-dic'ter** *n.*

contra-dic-tion (kän'trə dik'shən) *n.* [ME *contradicioun* < OFr *contradiction* < L *contradictio*] 1 a contradicting or being contradicted 2 a statement in opposition to another; denial 3 a condition in which things tend to be contrary to each other; inconsistency; discrepancy 4 a person, thing, or statement having contradictory elements or qualities

contra-dic-tious (-dik'shəs) *adj.* 1 inclined to contradict; contentious 2 [Archaic] CONTRADICTIONARY (sense 1)

contra-dic-tory (kän'trə dik'tə rē) *adj.* [ME *contradictorie* < LL *contradictorius*] 1 involving a contradiction; inconsistent; also **con'tra-dic'tive** 2 inclined to contradict or deny —*n.*, *pl.* -ries 1 something that contradicts; an opposite 2 Logic either of two propositions so related that only one can be true and, likewise, only one can be false: see CONTRARY (n. 2) —**con'tra-dic'to-ri-ly** (-rē lē) *adv.* —**con'tra-dic'to-ri-ness** (-rē nis) *n.*

contra-dis-tinc-tion (kän'trə dis tɪŋk'shən) *n.* distinction by contrast [tolerance in contradiction to love] —**con'tra-dis-tinc'tive** (-tiv) *adj.* —**con'tra-dis-tinc'tively** *adv.*

contra-dis-tin-guish (-dis tɪŋ'gwish') *vt.* to distinguish (one thing from another) by contrasting

★**con-trail** (kän'trāl') *n.* [CON(DENSATION) + TRAIL] a white trail of condensed water vapor that sometimes forms in the wake of an aircraft; vapor trail

contra-indi-cate (kän'trə in'di kāt') *vt.* -cat'ed, -cat'ing Med. to make (the indicated, or expected, treatment or drug) inadvisable —**con'tra-in-di-ca'tion** *n.* —**con'tra-in-di-ca'tive** (-in dik'ə tiv) *adj.*

con-tral-to (kän'trə'tō) *n.* [It: see CONTRA- & ALTO] 1 the range of a low female voice between mezzo-soprano and contralto 2 Soprano

rated way; wildly 6 [Obs. or Old Poet.] close; near [fast by the river] —*n.* something that fastens or is used in fastening, as a rope for mooring [a stern fast] —★*a fast one* [Slang] a tricky or deceptive act [to pull a fast one on someone] —*play fast and loose* to behave with reckless duplicity or insincerity

fast —*fast* and *rapid* are generally interchangeable in expressing the idea of a relatively high rate of movement or action, but *fast* more often refers to a person or thing that moves or acts, and *rapid* to the action [a fast typist, rapid transcription]; *swift* implies great rapidity, but in addition often connotes smooth, easy movement; *fleet* suggests a nimbleness or lightness in that which moves swiftly; *quick* implies promptness of action, or occurrence in a brief space of time, rather than velocity [a quick reply]; *speedy* recovery, a *speedy* flight; *hasty* suggests hurried action and may connote carelessness, rashness, or impatience —*ANT.* slow

fast (fast, fäst) *vi.* [ME *fasten* < OE *fæstan*, akin to Ger *fasten*, Goth *fastan*, lit., hold fast < base of prec.] 1 to abstain from all or certain foods, as in observing a holy day 2 to eat very little or nothing —*n.* 1 the act of fasting 2 a day or period of fasting —*break one's fast* to eat food for the first time after fasting, or for the first time in the day

★*fast-back* (-bak) *n.* an automobile body which slopes from the roof to the rear bumper

★*fast-ball* (-bäl) *n.* Baseball a pitch thrown with great velocity in a relatively straight line

★*fast break* a play, as in basketball, in which a team quickly moves down the playing area in an attempt to score before an adequate defense can be set up

fast day a religious holy day, etc. observed by fasting

fast-en (fas'en, fäs'-) *vt.* [ME *fastnen* < OE *fæstnian* < base of *fæst*; see *FAST*] 1 to join (one thing to another); attach; connect 2 to make fast or secure, as by locking, shutting, buttoning, etc.; fix firmly in place 3 to hold, fix, or direct (the attention, gaze, etc.) steadily on something 4 to cause to be connected or attributed; impute [to fasten a crime on someone] 5 to force (oneself) on or upon another in an annoying way —*vi.* 1 to become attached or joined 2 to take a firm hold (on or upon); seize; cling 3 to concentrate (on or upon) —*SYN.* TIE

fast-en-er (-er) *n.* 1 a person who fastens 2 any of various devices for fastening things together; fastening

fast-en-ing (-in) *n.* 1 the act or way of making something fast, or secure 2 anything used to fasten; bolt, clasp, hook, lock, button, etc.

★*fast-food* (fast'fööd') *adj.* designating a business that offers food, as hamburgers, prepared and served quickly

fast-i-di-ous (fas tid'ē as, fä stid'-) *adj.* [ME < L *fastidiosus* < *fastidium*, a loathing, disgust < *fastus*, disdain, contempt, pride (< ? IE base **bhars-*, projection, point, BRISTLE) + *taedium*; see TEDIUM] 1 not easy to please; very critical or discriminating 2 refined in a too dainty or oversensitive way, so as to be easily disgusted —*SYN.* DAINTY —*fast-i-di'-ously adv.* —*fast-i-di'-ous-ness n.*

fast-i-gi-ate (fas tij'ē it, -ät') *adj.* [L *fastigiatu*, for *L fastigatus* < *fastigium*, a slope, roof < IE **bharsti-* < base **bhars-*; see prec.] having a narrow, spirelike shape, as various trees Also *fast-i-gi'-at-ed* (-ät'id)

fast-i-gi-um (fas tij'ē am) *n.* [ModL < L, an extremity, orig., the top of a gable; see prec.] 1 the most severe point in the course of an illness 2 the highest point in the roof of the fourth ventricle of the brain

fast lane 1 a lane on an expressway for moving at higher speeds or passing other vehicles 2 a way of living variously regarded as fast-paced, success-oriented, very sophisticated, expensive, etc.

fast-ness (fast'nis, fäst'-) *n.* [ME *fastnesse* < OE *fastnes*; see *FAST* & *NESS*] 1 the quality or condition of being fast 2 a secure place; stronghold

fast reactor a type of nuclear reactor which makes little or no use of a moderator to slow down the high-energy neutrons

★*fast-talk* (-tök') *vt.* [Colloq.] to persuade with fast, smooth, but often deceitful talk

★*fast time* [Colloq.] DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

fast track 1 FAST LANE (sense 2) 2 a career path offering rapid advancement 3 a building method in which construction begins even before plans and designs are completed

fas-tu-ous (fas'työ as) *adj.* [L *fastuosus* < *fastus*; see FASTIDIOUS] 1 haughty; lofty 2 ostentatious; pretentious

fat (fat) *adj.* *fat'ter*, *fat'test* [ME < OE *fætt*, pp. of *fætan*, to fatten, akin to Ger *fett*, plump < OHG *feizzen*, to make fat < IE **poid-* < base **pi-*, to be fat, distended > Gr *pmelle*, lard, Sans *pnid-*, fat] 1 a) containing or full of fat; oily; greasy b) having much fat in relation to lean (said of meat) c) containing volatile oil [fat coal] d) containing much resin [fat wood] 2 a) fleshy; plump b) too plump; corpulent; obese 3 thick; broad [the fat part of the bat] 4 containing something valuable in great quantity; fertile; productive [fat land] 5 profitable; lucrative [a fat job] 6 prosperous 7 supplied plentifully; ample 8 stupid; dull 9 [Slang] desirable because large or important [a fat role for an actor] —*n.* 1 any of various mixtures of solid or semisolid triglycerides found in adipose animal tissue or in the seeds of plants: they are insoluble in water but soluble in organic solvents, and their oiliness causes translucent markings on paper 2 any such substance used in cooking 3 fleshiness; plumpness; corpulence 4 the richest or finest part of anything 5 anything unnecessary or superfluous that can be trimmed away 6 Chem. a class of neutral lipids consisting of the various triglycerides: they are called oils if in the liquid state —*vt.* *fat'ted*, *fat'ting* [ME *fatten* < OE *fættian*] to make fat —*fat'ten* —★*a fat chance* [Slang] very little or no chance —*a fat lot*

[Slang] very little or nothing —*chew the fat* [Slang] to talk together; chat —*the fat is in the fire* the unfortunate thing has happened and cannot be undone —*the fat of the land* [after LL(Ec) *medulla terrae*, Gen. 45:18] the best things obtainable; great luxury —*fat'ly adv.* —*fat'ness n.*

fa-tal (fat'l) *adj.* [ME < OFr & < L *fatalis* < *fatum*, FATE] 1 orig., fated; destined; inevitable 2 important in its outcome; fateful; decisive [the fatal day arrived] 3 resulting in death 4 very destructive; most unfortunate; disastrous 5 concerned with or determining fate —*fa'tal-ness n.*

SYN. —*fatal* implies the inevitability or actual occurrence of death or disaster [a fatal disease, a fatal mistake]; *deadly* is applied to a thing that can and probably (but not inevitably) will cause death [a deadly poison]; *mortal* implies that death has occurred and is applied to the immediate cause of death [he has received a mortal blow]; *lethal* is applied to that which in its nature or purpose is a cause of death [a lethal weapon]

fa-tal-ism (-iz'am) *n.* 1 the belief that all events are determined by fate and are hence inevitable 2 acceptance of every event as inevitable —*fa'tal-ist n.* —*fa'tal-is'tic adj.* —*fa'tal-is'ti-cally adv.*

fa-tal-ity (fa tal'ä tē, fä-) *n.*, *pl.* *-ties* [Fr *fatalité* < LL *fatalitas* < L *fatalis*, FATAL] 1 fate or necessity; subjection to fate 2 something caused by fate 3 a strong likelihood of ending in disaster 4 a fatal quality; deadly effect; deadline [the fatality of any specified disease] 5 a death caused by a disaster, as in an accident, war, etc.

fa-tally (fat'l ē) *adv.* 1 as determined by fate; inevitably 2 so as to cause death or disaster; mortally

fa-ta-mor-ga-na (fät'a mör gän'ä) [It, lit., MORGAN LE FAY] a mirage, esp. one sometimes seen off the coast of Sicily near the Strait of Messina: so called because formerly supposed to be the work of Morgan le Fay

★*fat-back* (fat'bak) *n.* 1 fat from the back of a hog, usually dried and salted in strips 2 MENHADEN

★*fat cat* [Slang] a wealthy, influential person, esp. one who is a heavy contributor to a political party or campaign

★*fat city* [also F- C-] [Slang] a place or condition of prosperity, comfort, success, etc.

fate (fät) *n.* [ME < L *fatum*, prophetic declaration, oracle < neut. pp. of *fari*, to speak; see FAME] 1 the power or agency supposed to determine the outcome of events before they occur; destiny 2 a) something inevitable, supposedly determined by this power b) what happens or has happened to a person or entity; lot; fortune 3 final outcome 4 death; destruction; doom 5 [F-] any of the three FATES —*vt.* *fat'ed*, *fat'ing* to destiny: now usually in the passive *SYN.* —*fate* refers to the inevitability of a course of events as supposedly predetermined by a god or other agency beyond human control; *destiny* also refers to an inevitable succession of events as determined supernaturally or by necessity, but often implies a favorable outcome [it was her destiny to become famous]; *portion* and *lot* refer to what is supposedly distributed in the determining of fate, but *portion* implies an equitable apportionment and *lot* implies a random assignment; *doom* always connotes an unfavorable or disastrous fate

fat'ed (fat'id) *adj.* 1 ordained or determined by fate; destined 2 destined to destruction; doomed

fat-e-ful (-fəl) *adj.* 1 revealing what is to come; prophetic 2 having important consequences; significant; decisive 3 controlled as if by fate 4 bringing death or destruction —*SYN.* OMINOUS —*fat'e-ful-ly adv.* —*fat'e-ful-ness n.*

Fates (fäts) *Gr. & Rom. Myth.* the three goddesses who control human destiny and life: see CLOTHO, LACHESIS, ATROPOS

★*fat farm* [Colloq.] a resort or spa where well-to-do people go to lose weight through a regimen of diet and exercise

fat fathom(s)

fat-head (fat'hed') *n.* [Slang] a stupid person; blockhead —*fat'-head'ed adj.*

fa-ther (fä'thär) *n.* [ME *fader* < OE *fæder*, akin to ON *fathir*, OHG *fater*, Goth *fadar* < IE **pätēr* > L *pater*, Gr *patēr*, Sans *pitā-*; ult. origin prob. echoic of baby talk, as in PAPA, Hindi *bābā*] 1 a man who has begotten a child; esp., a man as he is related to his child or children 2 a) a stepfather b) an adoptive father c) a father-in-law 3 the male parent of a plant or animal 4 a person regarded as a male parent; protector 5 a forefather; ancestor: *usually used in the pl.* 6 an originator, founder, or inventor 7 any man deserving of respect or reverence because of age, position, etc. 8 a senator of ancient Rome 9 any of the leaders of a city, assembly, etc.: *usually used in the pl.* 10 [often F-] any of the early Christian religious writers considered reliable authorities on the doctrines and teachings of the Church 11 [often F-] a Christian priest: used esp. as a title —*vt.* 1 to be the father of; beget 2 to look after or care for as a father does 3 to bring into being; found, originate, or invent 4 to take the responsibility for 5 to impose improperly as a responsibility; foist [the mistake was fathered on him] —[F-] God, or God as the first person in the Trinity

father confessor 1 a priest who hears confessions, as in the Roman Catholic Church 2 a person whom one consults, esp. regularly, as about personal difficulties

father-hood (-hood') *n.* [ME *faderhod*; see -HOOD] 1 the state of being a father; paternity 2 the qualities or character of a father 3 fathers collectively

father image (or *figure*) a person substituted in one's mind for one's father and often the object of emotions felt toward the father

at, äte, cär, ten, ève, is, ice; gò, hòrn, look, tóol; oil, out; up, far, a for unstressed vowels, as in ago, u in focus; ' as in Latin (fat'n); chin; she; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title*; *ph* as in *ship*; *ps* as in *psychic*; *qu* as in *quick*; *z* as in *zero*; *ge* as in *gender*; *ch* as in *church*; *sh* as in *ship*; *ss* as in *miss*; *ti* as in *title</*