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Merriam
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TENTH EDITION



Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — 10th ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-87779-708-0 (unindexed). — ISBN 0-87779-709-9 (indexed).

— ISBN 0-87779-710-2 (deluxe). — ISBN 0-87779-707-2 (laminated cover).

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 1995

423—dc20

94-30967
CIP

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one person **b** *cap*: a member of a denomination that stresses individual freedom of belief, the free use of reason in religion, a united world community, and liberal social action 2: an advocate of unity or a unitary system — **unitarian** *adj.* often *cap* — **unitar-i-an-ism** \-ē-zā-ni-zəm/ *n.* often *cap*

unitary \yü-nä-ter-ē/ *adj.* (1861) 1 **a**: of or relating to a unit **b**: based on or characterized by unity or units 2: having the character of a unit: UNDIVIDED, WHOLE — **unitar-i-ly** \yü-nä-ter-ē-lē/ *adv.*

unit cell *n* (1915): the simplest polyhedron that embodies all the structural characteristics of and by indefinite repetition makes up the lattice of a crystal

unit character *n* (1902): a natural character inherited on an all-or-none basis; *esp*: one dependent on the presence or absence of a single gene

unit circle *n* (1955): a circle having a radius of 1

unite \yü-nit/ *vb* **united**; **uniting** [ME, fr. L *unire*, fr. *unus* one — more at ONE] *vt* (15c) 1 **a**: to put together to form a single unit **b**: to cause to adhere **c**: to link by a legal or moral bond 2: to possess (as qualities) in combination ~ *vi* 1 **a**: to become one or as if one **b**: to become combined by or as if by adhesion or mixture 2: to act in concert [syn] see JOIN — **unit-er** *n*

unite \yü-nit/ *n* [jobs: unite united, fr. ME *unit*, fr. LL *unitus*, pp.] (1604): an old British gold 20-shilling piece issued first by James I in 1604 for the newly united England and Scotland — called also *Jacobus*

united \yü-nit-əd/ *adj.* (1552) 1: made one: COMBINED 2: relating to or produced by joint action 3: being in agreement: HARMONIOUS — **unit-ed-ly** *adv.*

United Nations Day *n* (1947): October 24 observed in commemoration of the founding of the United Nations

United States \yü-nit-əd-, *esp* Southern \yü-n pl but sing or pl in constr (1617): a federation of states esp. when forming a nation in a usu. specified territory (advocating a *United States* of Europe)

unitive \yü-nit-iv/ *adj.* (1526): characterized by or tending to produce union

unitize \yü-nä-tiz/ *vt* — **unit-ized**; **-izing** (1860) 1: to form or convert into a unit 2: to divide into units (the added cost of unitizing bulk products) — **unit-i-za-tion** \yü-nä-tä-zä-shən/ *n*

unit membrane *n* [fr. its being the basic structural unit of the cell] (1959) 1: a 3-layered membrane that consists of an inner lipid layer surrounded by a protein layer on each side

unit rule *n* (1884): a rule under which a delegation to a national political convention casts its entire vote as a unit as determined by a majority vote

unit-trust \yü-ni-trəst/ *n* (1970): a trust from which the beneficiary receives annually a fixed percentage of the fair market value of its assets

units place *n* (1937): the place just to the left of the decimal point in a number expressed in the Arabic system of writing numbers

unit train *n* (1964): a railway train that transports a single commodity directly from producer to consumer

unit trust *n* (1936) 1 *Brit*: MUTUAL FUND 2: an investment company whose portfolio consists of long-term bonds that are held to maturity

unity \yü-nä-tē/ *n.* **pl** — **ties** [ME *unité*, fr. MF *unité*, fr. L *unitas*, fr. *unus* one — more at ONE] (14c) 1 **a**: the quality or state of not being multiple: ONENESS **b** (1): a definite amount taken as one or for which 1 is made to stand in calculation (in a table of natural sines the radius of the circle is regarded as ~) (2): IDENTITY ELEMENT 2 **a**: a condition of harmony: ACCORD **b**: continuity without deviation or change (as in purpose or action) 3 **a**: the quality or state of being made one: UNIFICATION **b**: a combination or ordering of parts in a literary or artistic production that constitutes a whole or promotes an undivided total effect; *also*: the resulting singleness of effect or symmetry and consistency of style and character 4: a totality of related parts: an entity that is a complex or systematic whole 5: any of three principles of dramatic structure derived by French classicists from Aristotle's *Poetics* and requiring a play to have a single action represented as occurring in one place and within one day 6 *cap*: a 20th century American religious movement that emphasizes spiritual sources of health and prosperity

uni-val-ent \yü-ni-vä-lənt/ *adj.* (1898) 1: MONOVALENT 1 2: being a chromosomal univalent

univalent *n* (1912): a chromosome that lacks a synaptic mate

uni-valve \yü-ni-väl/ *n* (1668) 1: a mollusk with a shell consisting of one valve; *esp*: GASTROPOD 2: the shell of a univalve — **univalve** *adj.*

uni-var-i-ate \yü-ni-ver-ē-ot, -var-ē/ *adj.* (1928): characterized by or depending on only one random variable (a ~ linear model)

uni-ver-sal \yü-nä-var-səl/ *adj.* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *universalis*, fr. *universum* universe] (14c) 1: including or covering all or a whole collectively or distributively without limit or exception 2 **a**: present or occurring everywhere **b**: existent or operative everywhere or under all conditions (~ cultural patterns) 3 **a**: embracing a major part or the greatest portion (as of mankind) (a ~ genius) (~ practices) **b**: comprehensively broad and versatile (a ~ term) 4 **a**: affirming or denying something of all members of a class or of all values of a variable **b**: denoting every member of a class (a ~ term) 5: adapted or adjustable to meet varied requirements (as of use, shape, or size) (a ~ gear cutter) — **uni-ver-sal-ly** \-sə-lē/ *adv.* — **uni-ver-sal-ness** \-səl-nəs/ *n*

universal *n* (1553) 1: one that is universal: as **a**: a universal proposition in logic **b**: a predicable of traditional logic **c**: a general concept or term or something in reality to which it corresponds: ESSENCE 2 **a**: a behavior pattern or institution (as the family) existing in all cultures **b**: a culture trait characteristic of all normal adult members of a particular society

universal donor *n* (1922): a person who belongs to ABO blood group O and can donate blood to any recipient

universal grammar *n* (1751): the study of general principles believed to underlie the grammatical phenomena of all languages; *also*: such principles viewed as part of an innate human capacity for learning a language

uni-ver-sal-ism \yü-nä-var-sä-li-zəm/ *n* (1805) 1 *often cap*: **a**: a theological doctrine that all human beings will eventually be saved **b**: the principles and practices of a liberal Christian denomination founded in the 18th century orig. to uphold belief in universal salvation

and now united with Unitarianism 2: something that is universal in scope 3: the state of being universal: UNIVERSALITY — **uni-ver-sal-ist** \-sə-list/ *n* or *adj.* often *cap*

uni-ver-sal-is-tic \-sə-lis-tik/ *adj.* (1872): of or relating to the whole: universal in scope or nature

uni-ver-sal-i-ty \-sə-lä-tē/ *n* (14c) 1: the quality or state of being universal 2: universal comprehensiveness in range

uni-ver-sal-ize \-sə-lä-zē/ *vt* — **-ized**; **-izing** (1642): to make universal: GENERALIZE — **uni-ver-sal-i-za-tion** \-sə-lä-zä-shən/ *n*

universal joint *n* (1676): a shaft coupling capable of transmitting rotation from one shaft to another not collinear with it — called also *universal coupling*

universal motor *n* (1925): an electric motor that can be used on either an alternating or a direct current supply

Universal Product Code *n* (1974): a combination of a bar code and numbers by which a scanner can identify a product and usu. assign a price

universal recipient *n* (1922): a person who belongs to ABO blood group AB and can receive blood from any donor

Universal time *n* (1882): GREENWICH MEAN TIME

uni-verse \yü-nä-vərs/ *n* [L *universum*, fr. neut. of *universus* entire, whole, fr. *uni-* + *versus* turned toward, fr. pp. of *vertere* to turn — more at WORTH] (1589) 1: the whole body of things and phenomena observed or postulated: COSMOS **a**: a systematic whole held to arise by and persist through the direct intervention of divine power **b**: the world of human experience **c** (1): the entire celestial cosmos (2): MILKY WAY GALAXY (3): an aggregate of stars comparable to the Milky Way galaxy 2: a distinct field or province of thought or reality that forms a closed system or self-inclusive and independent organization 3: POPULATION 4: a set that contains all elements relevant to a particular discussion or problem 5: a great number or quantity (a large enough ~ of stocks, ~ to choose from — G. B. Clairmont)

universe of discourse (1881): an inclusive class of entities that is tacitly implied or explicitly delineated as the subject of a statement, discourse, or theory

uni-ver-si-ty \yü-nä-vər-sä-tē, -vər-stē/ *n.* **pl** — **-ties** [ME *universite*, fr. MF *université*, fr. ML *universitas*, fr. L *universus*] (14c) 1: an institution of higher learning providing facilities for teaching and research and authorized to grant academic degrees; *specif*: one made up of an undergraduate division which confers bachelor's degrees and a graduate division which comprises a graduate school and professional schools each of which may confer master's degrees and doctorates 2: the physical plant of a university

univ-er-sal \yü-ni-vä-kəl/ *adj.* [LL *univocus*, fr. L *uni-* + *voc*, *vox* voice — more at VOICE] (1599): having one meaning only — **univ-er-sal-ly** \-kə-lē/ *adv.*

un-joined \ən-joind/ *adj.* (1538): not joined

un-just \ən-just/ *adj.* (14c) 1: characterized by injustice: UNFAIR 2 *archaic*: DISHONEST, FAITHLESS — **un-just-ly** *adv.* — **un-just-ness** \-jəs(t)-nəs/ *n*

un-kempt \-kem(p)t/ *adj.* [*un-* + *kempt* combed, neat] (1579) 1: deficient in order or neatness (~ individuals) (~ hotel rooms); *also*: ROUGH, UNPOLISHED (~ prose) 2: not combed (~ hair)

un-kenned \-kend/ *adj.* (14c) chiefly *dial*: UNKNOWN, STRANGE

un-ken-nel \-ke-nē/ *vt* (1575) 1 **a**: to drive (as a fox) from a hiding place or den **b**: to free (dogs) from a kennel 2: to bring out into the open: UNCOVER

un-kind \-kind/ *adj.* (13c) 1: not pleasing or mild: INCLEMENT (an ~ climate) 2: lacking in kindness or sympathy: HARSH, CRUEL — **un-kind-ness** \-kind(-nəs)/ *n*

un-kind-ly \-kind(-lē)/ *adj.* (13c): not kindly — **un-kind-li-ness** *n*

unkindly *adv.* (14c): in an unkind manner (dwells ~ long on his final decline — A. H. Johnston)

un-kink \ən-kink/ *vt* (1891): to free from kinks: STRAIGHTEN ~ *vi*: to become lax or loose: RELAX

un-knit \-nit/ *vb* — **-knit** or **-knit-ted**; **-knit-ting** (bef. 12c): UNDO, UNRAVEL

un-know-able \ən-nō-ə-bəl/ *adj.* (14c): not knowable; *esp*: lying beyond the limits of human experience or understanding — **un-know-abil-i-ty** \-nō-ə-bi-lä-tē/ *n*

un-know-ing \-nō-ij/ *adj.* (14c): not knowing — **un-know-ing-ly** \-ij-lē/ *adv.*

unknowing *n* (14c): IGNORANCE

un-known \-hñ/ *adj.* (14c): not known or not well-known; *also*: having an unknown value (an ~ quantity)

unknown *n* (1597) 1: one that is not known or not well-known; *esp*: a person who is little known (as to the public) 2: something that requires discovery, identification, or clarification: as **a**: a symbol (as *x*, *y*, or *z*) in a mathematical equation representing an unknown quantity **b**: a specimen (as of bacteria or mixed chemicals) required to be identified as an exercise in appropriate laboratory techniques

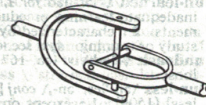
Unknown Soldier *n* (1923): an unidentified soldier whose body is selected to receive national honors as a representative of all of the same nation who died in a war and *esp*. in one of the world wars

un-lace \ən-las/ *vt* (14c) 1: to loose by undoing a lacing 2 *obs*: UNDO, DISGRACE

un-lade \-lad/ *vb* — **-laded**; **-laded** or **-lad-en** \-lä-dēn/ — **-lad-ing** *vt* (14c) 1: to take the load or cargo from 2: DISCHARGE, UNLOAD ~ *vi*: to discharge cargo

un-lash \-lash/ *vt* (1748): to untie the lashing of

un-latch \-lach/ *vt* (1642): to open or loose by lifting the latch ~ *vi*: to become loosed or opened



universal joint

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