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TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
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2 **arabesque** *n* (1786) **1**: an ornament or style that employs flower, foliage, or fruit and sometimes animal and figural outlines to produce an intricate pattern of interlaced lines **2**: a posture in ballet in which the body is bent forward from the hip on one leg with one arm extended forward and the other arm and leg backward **3**: an elaborate or intricate pattern (richly pierced by an ~ of wormholes—John Chase) (as lawyers . . . perform their procedural ~s—Daniel Okrent)

1 **Arabi-an** \ə-ˈrā-bē-ən\ *n* (14c) **1**: a native or inhabitant of Arabia **2**: ARABIAN HORSE

2 **Arabian** *adj* (14c): ARABIC **1**

3 **Arabian horse** *n* (1737): a breed of swift compact horses developed in Arabia and usu. having gray or chestnut silky hair

1 **Ar-a-bic** \ə-ˈrā-bik\ *n* (14c): a Semitic language orig. of the Arabs of the Hejaz and Nejd that is now the prevailing speech of a wide region of southwestern Asia and northern Africa

2 **Arabic** *adj* (14c) **1**: of, relating to, or characteristic of Arabia or the Arabs **2**: of, relating to, or constituting Arabic **3**: expressed in or utilizing Arabic numerals

arabi-ca \ə-ˈrā-bə-kə\ *n*, *often attrib* [NL, specific epithet of *Coffea arabica*, fr. L. fem. *Arabica* (Arabian)] (1922) **1**: an evergreen shrub or tree (*Coffea arabica*) yielding seeds that produce a high-quality coffee and form a large portion of the coffee of commerce **2**: the seeds of arabica

Arabic alphabet *n* (1841): an alphabet of 28 letters derived from the Aramaic alphabet which is used for writing Arabic and also with adaptations for other languages of the Islamic world

arabi-cize \ə-ˈrā-bə-sīz\ *vt* -cized; -ciz-ing *often cap* (1872) **1**: to adapt (a language, or elements of a language) to the phonetic or structural pattern of Arabic **2**: ARABIZE **1** — **arabi-ci-za-tion** \ə-ˈrā-bə-sə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*

Arabic numeral *n* (c. 1847): any of the number symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 — *see* NUMBER table

arabi-nose \ə-ˈrā-bə-nōs-, -nōz\ *n* [ISV *arabin* (the solid principle in gum arabic, fr. *gum arabic* + *-in*) + *-nose*] (c. 1884): a white crystalline aldose sugar, C₆H₁₂O₆; occurring esp. in vegetable gums

ara-bi-no-side \ə-ˈrā-bi-nō-sīd-, ə-ˈrā-bə-nō-sīd\ *n* (1927): a glycoside that yields arabinose on hydrolysis

Ar-a-bicize *Brit var of* ARABIZE

Ar-ab-ism \ə-ˈrā-bi-zəm\ *n* (1614) **1**: a characteristic feature of Arabic occurring in another language **2**: devotion to Arab interests, culture, aspirations, or ideals

Ar-ab-ist \ə-ˈrā-bist\ *n* (1753) **1**: a specialist in the Arabic language or in Arabic culture **2**: a person who favors Arab interests and positions in international affairs

Ar-a-bize \ə-ˈrā-bīz\ *vt* -ized; -iz-ing (1883) **1** *a*: to cause to acquire Arabic customs, manners, speech, or outlook **b**: to modify (a population) by intermarriage with Arabs **2**: ARABICIZE **1** — **Ar-a-bi-za-tion** \ə-ˈrā-bə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*

1 **ara-ble** \ə-ˈrā-bəl\ *adj* [MF or L; MF, fr. L *arabilis*, fr. *arare* to plow; akin to OE *erian* to plow, Gk *aroun*] (15c) **1**: fit for or used for the growing of crops **2** *Brit*: engaged in, produced by, or being the cultivation of arable land — **ara-bil-ity** \ə-ˈrā-bi-lə-tē\ *n*

arable *n* (1576) *chiefly Brit*: land fit or used for the growing of crops; also: a plot of such land (the village ~ of Anglo-Saxon times)

ara-a-chi-don-ic acid \ə-ˈrā-kə-ˈdā-nik-\ *n* [NL *Arachid-, Arachis* + E *-onic* (as in *gluconic acid*)] (1913): a liquid unsaturated fatty acid, C₂₀H₃₂O₂; that occurs in most animal fats, is a precursor of prostaglandins, and is considered essential in animal nutrition

ara-a-chis oil \ə-ˈrā-kas-\ *n* [NL *Arachis*, genus that includes the peanut, fr. Gk *arakis*, dim. of *arakos*, a legume] (c. 1889): PEANUT OIL

arach-nid \ə-ˈrāk-nəd-, -nīd\ *n* [NL *Arachnida*, fr. Gk *arachnē* spider] (1869) **1**: any of a class (Arachnida) of arthropods comprising chiefly terrestrial invertebrates, including the spiders, scorpions, mites, and ticks, and having a segmented body divided into two regions of which the anterior bears four pairs of legs but no antennae — **arachnid** *adj*

1 **arach-noid** \ə-ˈrāk-, -nōid\ *adj* (1789) **1**: of or relating to a thin membrane of the brain and spinal cord that lies between the dura mater and the pia mater **2**: covered with or composed of soft loose hairs or fibers

2 **arachnoid** *n* [NL *arachnoides*, fr. Gk *arachnoeidēs*, like a cobweb, fr. *arachnē* spider, spider's web] (c. 1847): an arachnoid membrane

3 **arachnoid** *adj* [NL *Arachnida* + E *-oid*] (1852): resembling or related to the arachnids

ara-go-nite \ə-ˈrā-gə-nīt-, ˈar-ə-gə-\ *n* [G *Aragunit*, fr. *Aragon*, Spain] (1803): a mineral similar to calcite in consisting of calcium carbonate but differing from calcite in its orthorhombic crystallization, greater density, and less distinct cleavage — **ara-go-nit-ic** \ə-ˈrā-gə-ni-tik-, ˈar-ə-gə-\ *adj*

ar-ak *var of* ARACK

Ar-a-mae-an \ə-ˈrā-mē-ən\ *n* [L *Aramaicus*, fr. Gk *Aramaïos*, fr. Heb *ʾĀrām* Aram, ancient name for Syria] (1839) **1**: ARAMAIC **2**: a member of a Semitic people of the second millennium B.C. in Syria and Upper Mesopotamia — **Aramaean** *adj*

Ar-a-ma-ic \ə-ˈrā-mā-ik\ *n* (1882): a Semitic language known since the ninth century B.C. as the speech of the Aramaeans and later used extensively in southwest Asia as a commercial and governmental language and adopted as their customary speech by various non-Aramaean peoples including the Jews after the Babylonian exile

Aramaic alphabet *n* (1925) **1**: an extinct North Semitic alphabet dating from the ninth century B.C. which was for several centuries the commercial alphabet of southwest Asia and the parent of other alphabets (as Syriac and Arabic) **2**: the square Hebrew alphabet as distinguished from the early Hebrew alphabet

ara-mid \ə-ˈrā-məd-, -mīd\ *n* [aromatic polyamide] (1972): any of a group of lightweight but very strong heat-resistant synthetic aromatic polyamide materials that are fashioned into fibers, filaments, or sheets and used esp. in textiles and plastics

Arap-a-ho or Arap-a-hoe \ə-ˈrā-pə-, -hō\ *n*, *pl* -ho or -hos or -hoe or -hoes (1812) **1**: a member of an American Indian people of the plains region ranging from Saskatchewan and Manitoba to New Mexico and Texas **2**: the Algonquian language of the Arapaho people

Arau-ca-ni-an \ə-ˈrau-kā-nē-ən-, ˈar-ə-ˈkā-\ *also* **Arau-can** \ə-ˈrau-kən\ *n* [Sp *araucano*, fr. *Arauco*, former province in Chile] (1809) **1**: a member of a group of Indian peoples of south central Chile and adjacent

cent regions of Argentina 2: the language of the Araucanian people that constitutes an independent language family — **Araucanian** *adj*
ar-ar-*cau*-ia \ar-ə-ˈkär-ə-ən/ *n* [NL, fr. *Arauco*] (1809): any of a genus (*Araucaria* of the family Araucariaceae, the araucaria family) of So. American or Australian coniferous trees that resemble pines and are often grown as ornamentals — **ar-ar-*cau*-ian** \ə-ən/ *adj*
Ar-a-wak \ar-ə-wäk, -ˈwäk/ *n*, *pl* **Arawak** or **Arawaks** (1769) 1: a member of an Indian people of the Arawakan group now living chiefly along the coast of Guyana 2: the language of the Arawak people
Ar-a-wak-an \ar-ə-ˈwä-kən, -ˈwä-ˌ/ *n*, *pl* **Arawakan** or **Arawakans** (1901) 1: a member of a group of Indian peoples of South America and the West Indies 2: the language family of the Arawakan peoples
arb \ˈərb/ *n* (1979): ARBITRAGEUR
ar-ba-lest or **ar-ba-list** \är-bä-ˈlɪst/ *n* [ME *arblast*, fr. OE, fr. OF *arba-leste*, fr. LL *araballista*, fr. L *arcus* bow + *ballista* — more at AR-ROW] (bef. 12c): a crossbow esp. of medieval times
ar-bit-er \är-bə-ˈtər/ *n* [ME *arbitre*, fr. MF, fr. L *arbitr-*, *arbitr*] (14c) 1: a person with power to decide a dispute: JUDGE 2: a person or agency having the power of deciding
arbit-er e-le-gan-ti-a-rum \,e-ˌgän-shē-ˈär-əm, -ˈer-/ *n* [L, lit., arbiter of refinements] (1818): a person who prescribes, rules on, or is a recognized authority on matters of social behavior and taste
ar-bi-trable \är-bä-ˈtrə-bəl, är-ˈbi-/ *adj* (1531): subject to decision by arbitration
är-bi-trage \är-bä-ˈträzh/ *n* [F, fr. MF, arbitration, fr. OF, fr. *arbitrer* to render judgment, fr. L *arbitrari*, fr. *arbitr-*, *arbitr*] (1875) 1: the nearly simultaneous purchase and sale of securities or foreign exchange in different markets in order to profit from price discrepancies 2: the purchase of the stock of a takeover target esp. with a view to selling it profitably to the raider
ärbitrage *vi* -traged; -trag-ing (1900): to engage in arbitrage
ar-bi-trageur \är-bä-(ˈträ-ˈzhər) or **ar-bi-trager** \är-bä-ˈträ-zhər/ *n* [F *arbitrageur*, fr. *arbitrage*] (1870): one that practices arbitrage
ar-bi-tral \är-bä-ˈtrəl/ *adj* (1609): of or relating to arbiters or arbitration
ar-bit-ram-ent \är-ˈbi-trə-mənt/ *n* [ME, fr. MF *arbitrement*, fr. *arbitr-*] (15c) 1 *archaic*: the right or power of deciding 2: the settling of a dispute by an arbiter 3: the judgment given by an arbitrator
ar-bi-trary \är-bä-ˈtrɪr-ē/ *adj* (15c) 1: depending on individual discretion (as of a judge) and not fixed by law (the manner of punishment is ~) 2 *a*: not restrained or limited in the exercise of power: ruling by absolute authority (an ~ government) *b*: marked by or resulting from the unrestrained and often tyrannical exercise of power (protection from ~ arrest and detention) 3 *a*: based on or determined by individual preference or convenience rather than by necessity or the intrinsic nature of something (an ~ standard) (take any ~ positive number) (the ~ division of historical studies into watertight compartments)—A. J. Toynbee *b*: existing or coming about seemingly at random or by chance or as a capricious and unreasonable act of will (when a task is not seen in a meaningful context it is experienced as being ~ Nehemiah Jordan) — **ar-bi-trar-i-ly** \är-bä-ˈtrɪr-ə-lē/ *adv*
ar-bi-trar-i-ness \är-bä-ˈtrɪr-ē-nəs/ *n*
ar-bi-trate \är-bä-ˈträt/ *vb* -trat-ed; -trating *vt* (1592) 1 *archaic*: DECIDE, DETERMINE 2: to act as arbiter upon 3: to submit or refer for decision to an arbiter (agreed to ~ their differences) ~ *vi*: to act as arbitrator — **ar-bi-trat-i-ve** \,trät-iv/ *adj*
ar-bi-tration \är-bä-ˈträ-shən/ *n* (15c): the action of arbitrating; *esp*: the hearing and determination of a case in controversy by an arbiter — **ar-bi-tration-al** \-sh(ə)-nəl/ *adj*
ar-bi-trator \är-bä-ˈträ-tər/ *n* (15c): one that arbitrates: ARBITER
är-bör \är-ˈbör/ *n* [ME *erber* plot of grass, arbor, fr. MF *herbier* plot of grass, fr. *herbe* herb, grass] (14c): a shelter of vines or branches or of latticework covered with climbing shrubs or vines
ärbör *n* [L, tree, shaft] (1659) 1: a spindle or axle of a wheel 2: a main shaft or beam 3: a shaft on which a revolving cutting tool is mounted 4: a spindle on a cutting machine that holds the work to be cut
arbor or **arbori** -comb *form* [L *arbor*]: tree (*arboriculture*)
Arbor Day *n* [L *arbor* tree] (1872): a day designated for planting trees
ar-bo-re-al \är-ˈbör-ē-əl, -bör-/ *adj* [L *arboræus* of a tree, fr. *arbor*] (ca. 1667) 1: of, relating to, or resembling a tree 2: inhabiting or frequenting trees (monkeys) — **ar-bo-re-al-ly** \-ə-lē/ *adv*
ar-bo-re-ous \ə-ˈsə-/ *adj* (1646): ARBOREAL (an ~ palm)
ar-bo-res-cent \är-bä-ˈrɛ-sənt/ *adj* (1675): resembling a tree in properties, growth, structure, or appearance — **ar-bo-res-cence** \-sənt(t)əs/ *n*
ar-bo-re-tum \är-bä-ˈrɛ-təm/ *n*, *pl* -retums or -re-ta \-ˈrɛ-tə/ [NL, fr. L, plantation of trees, fr. *arbor*] (1838): a place where trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes
ar-bor-i-cul-ture \är-bör-ə-ˈkəl-chor, är-ˈbör-ə-/ *n* [*arbori-* + *-culture* (as in *agriculture*)] (1828): the cultivation of trees and shrubs esp. for ornamental purposes — **ar-bor-i-cul-tur-al** \är-bör-ə-ˈkəl-chor-əl, är-ˈbör-ə-/ *adj*
ar-bor-ist \är-bä-ˈrɪst/ *n* (1578): a specialist in the care and maintenance of trees
ar-bor-i-za-tion \är-bä-ˈrɪ-zä-shən/ *n* (1794): formation of or into an arborescent figure or arrangement; *also*: such a figure or arrangement (as a dendritic process of a nerve cell)
ar-bor-ize \är-bä-ˈrɪz/ *vi* -ized; -iz-ing (1847): to branch freely and repeatedly
ar-bor-vi-tae \är-bör-ˈvi-tē/ *n* [NL *arbor vitae*, lit., tree of life] (1646): any of various evergreen trees and shrubs (esp. genus *Thuja*) of the cypress family that usu. have closely overlapping or compressed scale leaves and are often grown for ornament and in hedges
ar-bour chiefly Brit *var* of ARBOR

\ə\ abut \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar
 \aʊ\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \ī\ ice \j\ job
 \ŋ\ sing \ō\ go \ò\ law \ói\ boy \th\ thin \t̥h\ the \ü\ loot \ù\ foot
 \y\ yet \zh\ vision \à, k, ⁿ, æ, œ, ʊe, ʊe, ^y\ see Guide to Pronunciation