

CLEAR AND EASY TO USE

The Merriam- Webster Dictionary

- **Helpful guidance on word usage**
- **Comprehensive coverage**
- **Over 65,000 definitions**



A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

Merriam-Webster™ is the name you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 1998 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Philippines Copyright 1998 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

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

The Merriam-Webster dictionary.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-87779-606-8 (alk. paper)

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

PE1628.M353 1998

423—dc21

97-39927
CIP

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary, principal copyright 1995

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

2425RRD0302

or brownish birds that often impale their usu. insect prey upon thorns before devouring it
shrill *\ˈʃrɪl* *vb* : to make a high-pitched piercing sound
shrill *adj* : high-pitched : **PIERCING** (∼ whistle) —

shrilly *adv*
shrimp *\ˈʃrɪmp* *n, pl shrimps or shrimp* **1** : any of various small marine crustaceans related to the lobsters **2** : a small or puny person
shrine *\ˈʃrɪn* *n* [ME, receptacle for the relics of a saint, fr. OE *scrīn*, fr. L *scrinium* case, chest] **1** : the tomb of a saint; *also* : a place where devotion is paid to a saint or deity **2** : a place or object hallowed by its associations

shrink *\ˈʃrɪŋk* *vb* **shrank** *\ˈʃrɪŋk* *also shrunk* *\ˈʃrɪŋk*
shrink *or shrunk-en* *\ˈʃrɪŋk-kən*
shrinking **1** : to draw back or away **2** : to become smaller or more compact **3** : to lessen in value *syn* contract, constrict, compress, condense — **shrink-able** *adj*

shrink *n* : a clinical psychiatrist or psychologist
shrink-age *\ˈʃrɪŋk-ki* *n* **1** : the act of shrinking **2** : the amount lost by shrinkage

shrive *\ˈʃrɪv* *vb* **shrived** *or shrove* *\ˈʃrɒv*; **shriven** *\ˈʃrɪ-vən* *or shrived* [ME, fr. OE *scrīfan* to prescribe, allot, shrive, fr. L *scribere* to write] : to administer the sacrament of penance to

shrivel *\ˈʃrɪ-vəl* *vb* **-eled** *or -elled*; **-eling** *or -eling* : to shrink and draw into wrinkles : **DWINDLE**
shroud *\ˈʃraʊd* *n* **1** : something that covers or screens **2** : a cloth placed over a dead body **3** : any of the ropes leading from the masthead of a ship to the side to support the mast

shroud *vb* : to veil or screen from view
shrub *\ˈʃrʌb* *n* : a low usu. several-stemmed woody plant — **shrub-by** *adj*

shrub-bery *\ˈʃrə-bə-rē* *n, pl -beries* : a planting or growth of shrubs

shrug *\ˈʃrʌg* *vb* **shrugged**; **shrug-ging** : to hunch (the shoulders) up to express aloofness, indifference, or uncertainty — **shrug** *n*

shrug off *vb* **1** : to brush aside : **MINIMIZE** **2** : to shake off **3** : to remove (a garment) by wriggling out

shuck *\ˈʃʊk* *n* : **SHELL**, **HUSK**

shuck *vb* : to strip of shucks

shudder *\ˈʃʌ-dər* *vb* : **TREMBLE**, **QUAKE** — **shudder** *n*

shuffle *\ˈʃʌ-fəl* *vb* **shuffled**; **shuf-ling** **1** : to mix in a disorderly mass **2** : to rearrange the order of (cards in a pack) by mixing two parts of the pack together **3** : to shift from place to place **4** : to move with a sliding or dragging gait **5** : to dance in a slow lagging manner — **shuffle** *n*

shuffle-board *\ˈʃʌ-fəl-ˌbɔrd* *n* : a game in which players use long-handled cues to shove disks into scoring areas marked on a smooth surface

shun *\ˈʃʌn* *vb* **shunned**; **shun-ning** : to avoid deliberately or habitually *syn* evade, elude, escape, duck

shunt *\ˈʃʌnt* *vb* [ME, to flinch] : to turn off to one side; *esp* : to switch (a train) from one track to another

shunt *n* **1** : a method or device for turning or thrusting aside **2** : a conductor joining two points in an electrical circuit forming an alternate path through which a portion of the current may pass

shut *\ʃʊt* *vb* **shut**; **shut-ting** **1** : **CLOSE** **2** : to forbid entrance into **3** : to lock up **4** : to fold together (∼ a penknife) **5** : to cease or suspend activity (∼ down an assembly line)

shut-down *\-ˌdaʊn* *n* : a temporary cessation of activity (as in a factory)

shut-in *\ˈʃʊt-ɪn* *n* : an invalid confined to home, a room, or bed

shut-out *\ˈʃʊt-aʊt* *n* : a game or contest in which one side fails to score

shut out *vb* **1** : **EXCLUDE** **2** : to prevent (an opponent) from scoring in a game or contest

shut-ter *\ˈʃʊt-tər* *n* **1** : a movable cover for a door or window : **BLIND** **2** : the part of a camera that opens and closes to expose the film

shut-ter-bug *\ˈʃʊt-tər-ˌbʌg* *n* : a photography enthusiast

shuttle *\ˈʃʊt-əl* *n* **1** : an instrument used in weaving for passing the horizontal threads between the vertical threads **2** : a vehicle traveling back and forth over a short route (a ∼ bus) **3** : **SPACE SHUTTLE**

shuttle *vb* **shut-tled**; **shut-ting** : to move back and forth frequently

shuttle-cock *\ˈʃʊt-əl-ˌkɔk* *n* : a light conical object (as of cork or plastic) used in badminton

shut up *vb* : to cease or cause to cease talking

shy *\ˈʃi* *adj* **shier** *or shy-er* *\ˈʃi-ər*; **shiest** *or shy-est* *\ˈʃi-əst* **1** : easily frightened : **TIMID** **2** : **WARY** **3** : **BASHFUL** **4** : **DEFICIENT**, **LACKING** — **shy-ly** *adv* — **shyness** *n*

shy *vb* **shied**; **shying** **1** : to show a dislike : **RECOIL** **2** : to start suddenly aside through fright (the horse *shied*)

shyster *\ˈʃɪs-tər* *n* : an unscrupulous lawyer or politician

Si *symbol* silicon

Siamese *\ˌsi-ə-ˈmēz, -ˈmēs* *n, pl Siamese* : **THAI** — **Siamese** *adj*

Siamese twin *n* [fr. Chang †1874 and Eng †1874 twins born in Siam with bodies united] : one of a pair of twins with bodies joined together at birth

sib-*i*-lant *\ˌsi-bə-lənt* *adj* : having, containing, or producing the sound of or a sound resembling that of the *s* or the *sh* in *sash* — **sib-*i*-lant-ly** *adv*

sibilant *n* : a sibilant speech sound (as English *\s*, *\z*, *\ʃ*, *\zh*, *\ch* (= *tsh*), or *\j* (= *dzh*))

sib-ling *\ˌsi-blɪŋ* *n* : a brother or sister considered irrespective of sex; *also* : one of two or more offspring having one common parent

sib-yl *\ˌsi-bəl* *n, often cap* : **PROPHETESS** — **sib-yl-line** *\-bə-ˌlɪn, -ˌlən* *adj*

sic *\ˈsɪk, ˈsɛk* *adv* : intentionally so written — used after a printed word or passage to indicate that it exactly reproduces an original (said he seed [∼] it all)

sick *\ˈsɪk* *adj* **1** : not in good health : **ILL**; *also* : of, relating to, or intended for use in sickness (∼ pay) **2** : **NAUSEATED** **3** : **DISGUSTED** **4** : **PINING** **5** : **MACABRE**, **SADISTIC** (∼ jokes) — **sick-ly** *adj*

sick-bed *\ˈsɪk-ˌbed* *n* : a bed on which one lies sick

sick-en *\ˈsɪ-kən* *vb* : to make or become sick — **sick-en-ing-ly** *adv*

sickle *\ˈsɪ-kəl* *n* : a cutting tool consisting of a curved metal blade with a short handle

sickle-cell anemia *n* : an inherited anemia in which red blood cells tend to become crescent-shaped and cannot carry oxygen properly and which occurs esp. in individuals of African, Mediterranean, or southwest Asian ancestry

sick-ness *\ˈsɪk-nəs* *n* **1** : ill health; *also* : a specific disease **2** : **NAUSEA**

side *\saɪd* *n* **1** : the right or left part of the trunk of a body **2** : a place away from a central point or line **3** : a border of an object; *esp* : one of the longer borders as contrasted with an end **4** : an outer surface of an object **5** : a position regarded as opposite to another **6** : a body of contestants — **side** *adj*

side-arm *\-ˌɑrm* *adj* : made with a sideways sweep of the arm — **sidearm** *adv*

side arm *n* : a weapon worn at the side or in the belt

side-bar *\saɪd-ˌbār* *n* : a short news story accompanying a major story and presenting related information

side-board *\-ˌbɔrd* *n* : a piece of dining-room furniture for holding articles of table service

side-burns *\-ˌbɜrnz* *n pl* : whiskers on the side of the face in front of the ears

side by side *adv* **1** : beside one another **2** : in the same