

# The Merriam- Webster Dictionary



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## PREFACE

This new edition of *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* is the seventh in a line of Merriam-Webster paperback dictionaries which began in 1947. It is based on and preserves the best aspects of preceding editions, but it now includes the most important recent vocabulary that was added to *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition* over the past decade. Throughout the dictionary, over 8,000 usage examples, including 1,000 that are newly added for this edition, illustrate meanings and help to clarify definitions. All the new material has been based on examples of actual use found in the Merriam-Webster citation files and in edited texts online.

The nearly 65,000 entries and more than 75,000 definitions in this dictionary give coverage to the most frequently used words in the language. The heart of the dictionary is the A-Z vocabulary section, where readers will find information about meaning, spelling, pronunciation, etymology, and synonyms. This section is followed by others that users have long found useful: the section Foreign Words and Phrases covers words and phrases from other languages that often occur in English texts but have not become part of the English vocabulary; the section Biographical Names identifies individuals from history and contemporary culture, as well as biblical, legendary, and mythological characters; the section Geographical Names identifies places of importance in the United States and the world, along with current population figures.

*The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* has been created by a company that has been publishing dictionaries for more than 150 years and continues to maintain an in-house staff of experienced lexicographers. For this edition, the primary editing of the main A-Z vocabulary section and the Foreign Words and Phrases was done by Senior Editor James G. Lowe. Daniel J. Hopkins edited the Geographical Names, and Michael G. Belanger edited the Biographical Names. Specialist editors included Adrienne M. Scholz for cross-reference, Joshua S. Guenter for pronunciation, James L. Rader for etymology, and Joan I. Narmontas for life science. Data entry and data-file processing were handled by Daniel B. Brandon. Susan L. Brady acted as production editor, guiding the book through its typesetting stages, assisted by Emily A. Vezina. Proofreaders included Tasha Martino Bigelow, Serenity H. Carr, Ilya A. Davidovich, Allison M. DeJordy, Joanne M. Despres, Benjamin T. Korzec, Maria A.

without loss or gain of heat — **adi-a-bat-**  
**i-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē/ *adv*  
**adieu** \ə-ˈdū-, -ˈdyū/ *n, pl adieus or*  
**adieux** \ə-ˈdūz, -ˈdyūz/ : FAREWELL —  
 often used interjectionally  
**ad-in-fi-ni-tum** \ad-ˈin-fə-ˈni-təm/ *adv or*  
*adj* : without end or limit  
**ad-in-ter-im** \ad-ˈin-tə-rəm, -ˈrīm/ *adv*  
 for the intervening time — **ad interim**  
*adj*  
**adi-os** \ə-dē-ˈōs, -ˈā-/ *interj* [Sp *adiós*, lit.,  
 to God] — used to express farewell  
**ad-i-pose** \ə-də-ˈpōs/ *adj* : of or relating  
 to animal fat : FATTY  
**adj** *abbr* 1 adjective 2 adjutant  
**ad-ja-cent** \ə-ˈjā-sə-nt/ *adj* : situated near  
 or next ♦ **Synonyms** ADJOINING, CON-  
 TIGUOUS, ABUTTING, JUXTAPOSED, CON-  
 TERMINOUS — **ad-ja-cent-ly** *adv*  
**ad-jec-tive** \ə-jik-tiv/ *n* : a word that  
 typically serves as a modifier of a noun  
 — **ad-jec-ti-val** \ə-jik-ti-vəl/ *adj* — **ad-**  
**jec-ti-val-ly** *adv*  
**ad-join** \ə-ˈjōin/ *vb* : to be situated next to  
**ad-join-ing** *adj* : touching or bounding at  
 a point or line (rooms)  
**ad-journ** \ə-ˈjōrn/ *vb* 1 : to suspend in-  
 definitely or until a stated time 2 : to  
 transfer to another place — **ad-journ-**  
**ment** *n*  
**ad-judge** \ə-ˈjʃə/ *vb* **ad-judged**; **ad-judg-**  
**ing** 1 : JUDGE, ADJUDICATE 2 : to hold  
 or pronounce to be : DEEM 3 : to award  
 by judicial decision  
**ad-ju-di-cate** \ə-ˈjū-di-kāt/ *vb* -**cat-ed**;  
**-cat-ing** : to settle judicially — **ad-ju-di-**  
**ca-tion** \ə-ˈjū-di-ˈkā-shən/ *n*  
**ad-junct** \ə-ˈjʊŋkt/ *n* : something joined  
 or added to another but not essentially a  
 part of it ♦ **Synonyms** APPENDAGE, AP-  
 PURTENANCE, ACCESSORY, APPENDIX —  
**adjunct** *adj*  
**ad-jure** \ə-ˈjʊr/ *vb* **ad-jured**; **ad-jur-ing**  
 : to command solemnly : urge earnestly  
 ♦ **Synonyms** BEG, BESEECH, IMPLORE  
 — **ad-ju-ra-tion** \ə-ˈjə-ˈrā-shən/ *n*  
**ad-just** \ə-ˈjʌst/ *vb* 1 : to bring to agree-  
 ment : SETTLE 2 : to cause to conform  
 : ADAPT, FIT 3 : REGULATE (a watch)  
 — **ad-just-able** *adj* — **ad-just-er** *also*  
**ad-just-ment** \ə-ˈjʌst-mənt/ *n*  
**ad-ju-tant** \ə-ˈjə-tənt/ *n* : one who assists;  
*esp* : an officer who assists a commanding  
 officer by handling correspondence and  
 keeping records  
**ad-ju-vant** \ə-ˈjə-vənt/ *n* : one that helps  
 or facilitates; *esp* : something that en-  
 hances the effectiveness of medical treat-  
 ment — **adjuvant** *adj*  
**ad-lib** \ad-ˈlib/ *vb* **ad-libbed**; **ad-lib-**  
**bing** : IMPROVISE — **ad-lib** *n*  
**ad-lib** *adj* : spoken, composed, or per-  
 formed without preparation  
**ad lib** \ad-ˈlib/ *adv* [NL *ad libitum*] 1 : at  
 one's pleasure 2 : without limit  
**adm** *abbr* administration; administrative  
**ADM** *abbr* admiral  
**ad-man** \ad-ˈman/ *n* : one who writes,  
 solicits, or places advertisements  
**admin** *abbr* administration; administra-  
 tive

**ad-min-is-ter** \ad-ˈmi-nə-stər/ *vb* 1  
 : MANAGE, SUPERINTEND 2 : to mete out  
 : DISPENSE (punishment) 3 : to give  
 ritually or remedially (quinine for  
 malaria) 4 : to perform the office of ad-  
 ministrator — **ad-min-is-tra-ble** \-strə-  
 bəl/ *adj* — **ad-min-is-trant** \-strənt/ *n*  
**ad-min-is-tra-tion** \ad-ˈmi-nə-ˈstrā-shən/  
*n* 1 : the act or process of administering  
 2 : MANAGEMENT 3 : the officials direct-  
 ing the government of a country 4 : the  
 term of office of an administrative officer  
 or body — **ad-min-is-tra-tive** \ad-ˈmi-  
 nə-ˈstrā-tiv/ *adj* — **ad-min-is-tra-tive-ly**  
*adv*  
**ad-min-is-tra-tor** \ad-ˈmi-nə-ˈstrā-tər/ *n*  
 : one that administers; *esp* : one who set-  
 tles an intestate estate  
**ad-mi-ra-ble** \ad-ˈm(ə)-rə-bəl/ *adj* : wor-  
 thy of admiration : EXCELLENT — **ad-mi-**  
**ra-bil-i-ty** \ad-ˈm(ə)-rə-ˈbi-lə-tē/ *n* — **ad-**  
**mi-ra-ble-ness** *n* — **ad-mi-ra-bly** \-blē/  
*adv*  
**ad-mi-ral** \ad-ˈm(ə)-rəl/ *n* [ME, ultim. fr.  
 Ar *amir-al-bahr* commander of the sea] : a  
 commissioned officer in the navy ranking  
 next below a fleet admiral  
**ad-mi-ral-ty** \ad-ˈm(ə)-rəl-tē/ *n* 1 *cap* : a  
 British government department formerly  
 having authority over naval affairs 2  
 : the court having jurisdiction over ques-  
 tions of maritime law  
**ad-mire** \ad-ˈmī-(ə)r/ *vb* **ad-mired**; **ad-**  
**mir-ing** [MF *admirer*, fr. L *admirari*, fr.  
 ad- to + *mirari* to wonder] : to regard  
 with high esteem — **ad-mi-ra-tion** \ad-  
 mə-ˈrā-shən/ *n* — **ad-mir-er** *n* — **ad-mir-**  
**ing-ly** \-mī-rīŋ-lē/ *adv*  
**ad-mis-si-ble** \ad-ˈmi-sə-bəl/ *adj* : that  
 can be or is worthy to be admitted or al-  
 lowed : ALLOWABLE (evidence) —  
**ad-mis-si-bil-i-ty** \-mi-sə-ˈbi-lə-tē/ *n*  
**ad-mis-sion** \ad-ˈmi-shən/ *n* 1 : the act  
 of admitting 2 : the privilege of being  
 admitted 3 : a fee paid for admission 4  
 : the granting of an argument 5 : the ac-  
 knowledge of a fact  
**ad-mit** \ad-ˈmit/ *vb* **ad-mit-ted**; **ad-mit-**  
**ting** 1 : PERMIT, ALLOW 2 : to recognize  
 as genuine or valid 3 : to allow to enter  
 (admitted to the club) 4 : to accept into  
 a hospital as an inpatient  
**ad-mit-tance** \ad-ˈmi-təns/ *n* : the act or  
 process of admitting; permission to enter  
**ad-mit-ted-ly** \ad-ˈmi-təd-lē/ *adv* 1 : as  
 has been or must be admitted 2 : it must  
 be admitted  
**ad-mix** \ad-ˈmiks/ *vb* : to mix in  
**ad-mix-ture** \ad-ˈmiks-ʃər/ *n* 1 : some-  
 thing added in mixing 2 : MIXTURE  
**ad-mon-ish** \ad-ˈmā-nish/ *vb* : to warn  
 gently : reprove with a warning ♦ **Syn-**  
**onyms** CHIDE, REPROACH, REBUKE,  
 REPRIMAND, REPROVE — **ad-mon-ish-er**  
*n* — **ad-mon-ish-ing-ly** *adv* — **ad-mon-**  
**ish-ment** *n* — **ad-mon-i-tion** \ad-mə-  
 ˈni-shən/ *n* — **ad-mon-i-to-ry** \ad-mə-  
 nə-ˈtōr-ē/ *adj*  
**ad nau-se-am** \ad-ˈnə-zē-əm/ *adv* [L] : to  
 a sickening or excessive degree

**ado** \ə-ˈdū/ *n* 1 : heightened fuss or con-  
 cern 2 : TROUBLE  
**ado-be** \ə-ˈdō-bē/ *n* 1 : sun-dried brick;  
*also* : clay for making such bricks 2 : a  
 structure made of adobe bricks  
**ad-o-les-cence** \ə-də-ˈle-səns/ *n* : the  
 process or period of growth between  
 childhood and maturity — **ad-o-les-cent**  
 \-sənt/ *adj or n*  
**adopt** \ə-ˈdäpt/ *vb* 1 : to take (a child of  
 other parents) as one's own child 2 : to  
 take up and practice as one's own 3 : to  
 accept formally and put into effect —  
**adopt-able** \-ˈdäp-tə-bəl/ *adj* — **adopt-**  
**er** *n* — **adop-tion** \-ˈdäp-shən/ *n*  
**adop-tive** \-ˈdäp-tiv/ *adj* : made or ac-  
 quired by adoption (the father) —  
**adop-tive-ly** *adv*  
**ador-able** \ə-ˈdör-ə-bəl/ *adj* 1 : worthy of  
 adoration 2 : extremely charming (an  
 child) — **ador-able-ness** *n* — **ador-**  
**ably** \-blē/ *adv*  
**adore** \ə-ˈdör/ *vb* **adored**; **ador-ing** [ME  
*adourer*, fr. AF *aurer*, *adourer*, fr. L  
*adorare*, fr. ad- to + *orare* to speak, pray]  
 1 : WORSHIP 2 : to regard with loving  
 admiration (his wife) 3 : to be ex-  
 tremely fond of (a pecan pie) — **ad-o-**  
**ra-tion** \ə-də-ˈrā-shən/ *n*  
**adorn** \ə-ˈdörn/ *vb* : to enhance the ap-  
 pearance of esp. with ornaments (blouses  
 with sequins) — **adorn-ment** *n*  
**ad-re-nal** \ə-ˈdrē-nəl/ *adj* : of, relating to,  
 or being a pair of endocrine organs (ad-  
 renal glands) that are located near the  
 kidneys and produce several hormones  
 and esp. epinephrine  
**adren-a-line** \ə-ˈdre-nə-lən/ *n* : EPINEPH-  
 RINE  
**adrift** \ə-ˈdrift/ *adv or adj* 1 : afloat with-  
 out motive power or moorings 2 : with-  
 out guidance or purpose  
**adro-it** \ə-ˈdrōit/ *adj* [F, fr. OF, fr. a- to +  
 droit right] 1 : dexterous with one's  
 hands 2 : SHREWD, RESOURCEFUL  
 ♦ **Synonyms** CANNY, CLEVER, CUN-  
 NING, INGENIOUS — **adro-it-ly** *adv* —  
**adro-it-ness** *n*  
**ad-sorb** \ad-ˈsərb, -ˈzərb/ *vb* : to take up  
 (as molecules of gases) and hold on the  
 surface of a solid or liquid — **ad-sorp-**  
**tion** \-ˈsərb-shən, -ˈzərb- / *n*  
**ad-u-la-tion** \ə-ˈjə-ˈlā-shən/ *n* : excessive  
 admiration or flattery — **ad-u-late** \ə-ˈjə-  
 lāt/ *vb* — **ad-u-la-tor** \-lā-tər/ *n* — **ad-**  
**u-la-to-ry** \-lā-tōr-ē/ *adj*  
**adult** \ə-ˈdält, -ˈä-/ *adj* [L *adultus*, pp. of  
*adolescere* to grow up, fr. ad- to + *ales-*  
*cere* to grow] : fully developed and ma-  
 ture — **adult-hood** *n*  
**adult** *n* : one that is adult; *esp* : a human  
 being after an age (as 18) specified by law  
**adult-er-ant** \ə-ˈdäl-tə-rənt/ *n* : something  
 used to adulterate another  
**adult-er-ate** \ə-ˈdäl-tə-rāt/ *vb* -**at-ed**; -**at-**  
**ing** [L *adulterare*, fr. ad- to + *alter* other]  
 : to make impure by mixing in a foreign  
 or inferior substance — **adult-er-a-tion**  
 \-ˈdäl-tə-ˈrā-shən/ *n*  
**adult-ery** \ə-ˈdäl-t(ə)-rē/ *n, pl -ter-ies*  
 : sexual unfaithfulness of a married per-  
 son — **adult-er-er** \-tər-ər/ *n* — **adul-**

**ter-ess** \-t(ə)-rəs/ *also* **adul-tress** \-trəs/  
*n* — **adul-ter-ous** \-t(ə)-rəs/ *adj*  
**ad-um-brate** \ə-dəm-ˈbrāt/ *vb* -**brat-ed**;  
**-brat-ing** 1 : to foreshadow vaguely : IN-  
 TIMATE 2 : to suggest or disclose par-  
 tially 3 : SHADE, OBSCURE — **ad-um-**  
**bra-tion** \ə-dəm-ˈbrā-shən/ *n*  
**adv** *abbr* 1 adverb 2 advertisement  
**ad-val-er-em** \ad-və-ˈlör-əm/ *adj* [L, ac-  
 cording to the value] : imposed at a per-  
 centage of the value (an *ad valorem* tax)  
**ad-vance** \ad-ˈvans/ *vb* **ad-vanced**; **ad-**  
**vinc-ing** 1 : to assist the progress of (a  
 cause) 2 : to bring or move forward  
 (a pawn) 3 : to promote in rank 4  
 : to make earlier in time 5 : PROPOSE 6  
 : LEND 7 : to raise in rate : INCREASE —  
**ad-vance-ment** *n*  
**advance** *n* 1 : a forward movement 2  
 : IMPROVEMENT 3 : a rise esp. in price or  
 value 4 : OFFER — **in advance** : BE-  
 FOREHAND  
**advance** *adj* : made, sent, or furnished  
 ahead of time (payment)  
**ad-van-tage** \ad-ˈvan-tij/ *n* 1 : superiori-  
 ty of position 2 : BENEFIT, GAIN 3 : the  
 1st point won in tennis after deuce — **ad-**  
**van-ta-geous** \ad-van-ˈtā-jəs/ *adj* — **ad-**  
**van-ta-geous-ly** *adv*  
**ad-vent** \ad-ˈvent/ *n* 1 *cap* : a penitential  
 period beginning four Sundays before  
 Christmas 2 *cap* : the coming of Christ 3  
 : a coming into being or use  
**ad-ven-ti-tious** \ad-vən-ˈti-shəs/ *adj* 1  
 : ACCIDENTAL, INCIDENTAL 2 : arising or  
 occurring sporadically or in other than  
 the usual location (buds) — **ad-ven-**  
**ti-tious-ly** *adv*  
**ad-ven-ture** \ad-ˈven-ʃər/ *n* 1 : a risky  
 undertaking 2 : a remarkable and excit-  
 ing experience — **ad-ven-tur-ous**  
 \-ch(ə)-rəs/ *adj*  
**adventure** *vb* -**ven-tured**; -**ven-tur-ing**  
 \-ven-ʃə-ˈrīŋ/ 1 : RISK, HAZARD (their  
 capital in foreign trade) 2 : to en-  
 gage in adventure  
**ad-ven-tur-er** \ad-ˈven-ʃə-ˈrər/ *n* 1 : a  
 person who engages in new and risky  
 undertakings 2 : a person who follows a  
 military career for adventure or profit 3  
 : a person who tries to gain wealth by  
 questionable means  
**ad-ven-ture-some** \ad-ˈven-ʃər-səm/  
*adj* : inclined to take risks  
**ad-ven-tur-ess** \ad-ˈven-ʃə-ˈrəs/ *n* : a  
 female adventurer  
**ad-verb** \ad-ˈvərb/ *n* : a word that typi-  
 cally serves as a modifier of a verb, an  
 adjective, or another adverb — **ad-ver-**  
**bi-al** \ad-ˈvərb-ē-əl/ *adj* — **ad-ver-bi-al-**  
**ly** *adv*  
**ad-ver-sary** \ad-ˈvər-ˌser-ē/ *n, pl -sar-ies*  
 : Foe  
**adversary** *adj* : involving antagonistic  
 parties or interests  
**ad-verse** \ad-ˈvərs, -ˈvərs/ *adj* 1 : act-  
 ing against or in a contrary direction (winds)  
 2 : UNFAVORABLE (criticism)  
 — **ad-verse-ly** *adv*  
**ad-ver-si-ty** \ad-ˈvər-sə-tē/ *n, pl -ties* : se-  
 rious difficulty : MISFORTUNE

- cause to grow rapidly esp. in number, value, esteem, or importance
- boom** *n* 1: a booming sound or cry 2: a rapid expansion or increase esp. of economic activity
- boom** *n* [D, tree, beam] 1: a long spar used to extend the bottom of a sail 2: a line of floating timbers used to obstruct passage or catch floating objects 3: a beam projecting from the upright pole of a derrick to support or guide the object lifted 4: a long usu. horizontal supporting arm (as for a microphone)
- boom box** *n*: a large portable radio and often tape or CD player
- boo-mer-ang** *\bū-mə-ran\ n* [Dharuk (an Australian aboriginal language) *bu-marin*]: a bent or angular club that can be so thrown as to return near the starting point
- boom-ing** *\bū-miŋ\ adj* 1: making a loud deep sound (< a ~ voice> 2: powerfully executed (< hit a ~ serve>)
- boon** *\būn\ n* [ME *bone* prayer, request, the favor requested, fr. ON *bōn* request]: BENEFIT, BLESSING ♦ **Synonyms** FAVOR, GIFT, LARGESS, PRESENT
- boon** *adj* [ME *bon*, fr. AF, good]: CONVIVIAL (< a ~ companion>)
- boon-docks** *\būn-dāks\ n pl* [Tagalog (language of the Philippines) *bundok* mountain] 1: rough country filled with dense brush 2: a rural area
- boon-dog-gle** *\būn-dā-gəl, -dō-\ n*: a useless or wasteful project or activity
- boor** *\būr\ n* 1: YOKEL 2: a rude or insensitive person ♦ **Synonyms** CHURL, LOU, CLOWN, CLODHOPPER — **boor-ish** *adj*
- boost** *\būst\ vb* 1: to push up from below 2: INCREASE, RAISE (< ~ prices> 3: AID, PROMOTE (< voted a bonus to ~ morale>) — **boost** *n* — **boost-er** *n*
- boot** *\būt\ n*, chiefly dial: something to equalize a trade — **to boot**: BESIDES
- boot** *vb*, archaic: AVAIL, PROFIT
- boot** *n* 1: a covering for the foot and leg 2: a protective sheath (as of a flower) 3 *Brit*: an automobile trunk 4: KICK; also: a discharge from employment 5: a navy or marine corps trainee
- boot** *vb* 1: KICK 2: to eject or discharge summarily 3: to load or become loaded into a computer from a disk 4: to start or become ready for use esp. by booting a program (< ~ up the computer>)
- boot-black** *\būt-blak\ n*: a person who shines shoes
- boot camp** *n* 1: a navy or marine corps training camp 2: a facility with a rigorous disciplinary program for young offenders
- boo-tee** or **boo-tie** *\bū-tē\ n*: an infant's knitted or crocheted sock
- booth** *\būth\ n, pl booths* *\būthz, 'būths\* 1: a small enclosed stall (as at a fair) 2: a small enclosure giving privacy for a person (< voting ~> (< telephone ~> 3: a restaurant accommodation having a table between backed benches
- boot-leg** *\būt-leg\ vb*: to make, trans-
- port, or sell (as liquor) illegally — **boot-leg** *adj* or *n* — **boot-leg-ger** *n*
- boot-less** *\būt-ləs\ adj*: USELESS (< their efforts were ~>) ♦ **Synonyms** FUTILE, VAIN, ABORTIVE, FRUITLESS — **boot-less-ly** *adv* — **boot-less-ness** *n*
- boot-ty** *\bū-tē\ n, pl booties*: PLUNDER, SPOIL
- booty** also **boo-tie** *\bū-tē\ n, pl booties* *slang*: BUTTOCKS
- booze** *\būz\ vb* boozed; booz-ing: to drink liquor to excess — **booz-er** *n*
- booze** *n*: intoxicating liquor — **boozy** *adj*
- bop** *\bāp\ vb* bopped; bop-ping: HIT, SOCK — **bop** *n*
- BOQ** *abbr* bachelor officers' quarters
- bor** *abbr* borough
- bo-rate** *\bōr-āt\ n*: a salt or ester of boric acid
- bo-rax** *\bōr-aks\ n*: a crystalline borate of sodium that occurs as a mineral and is used as a flux and cleanser
- bor-del-lo** *\bōr-de-lō\ n, pl -los* [It]: BROTHEL
- bor-der** *\bōr-dər\ n* 1: EDGE, MARGIN 2: BOUNDARY, FRONTIER ♦ **Synonyms** RIM, BRIM, BRINK, FRINGE, PERIMETER
- border** *vb* bor-dered; bor-der-ing: 1: to put a border on 2: ADJOIN 3: VERGE
- border collie** *n*, often *cap B*: any of a British breed of medium-sized long-haired sheepdogs
- bor-der-land** *\bōr-dər-land\ n* 1: territory at or near a border 2: an outlying or intermediate region often not clearly defined
- bor-der-line** *\līn\ adj*: being in an intermediate position or state; esp: not quite up to what is standard or expected (< ~ intelligence>)
- bore** *\bōr\ vb* bored; bor-ing: 1: to make a hole in with or as if with a drill 2: to make (as a well) by boring or digging away material ♦ **Synonyms** PERFORATE, DRILL, PRICK, PUNCTURE — **bor-er** *n*
- bore** *n* 1: a hole made by or as if by boring 2: a cylindrical cavity 3: the diameter of a hole or tube; esp: the interior diameter of a gun barrel or engine cylinder
- bore** *past* of BEAR
- bore** *n*: a tidal flood with a high abrupt front
- bore** *n*: one that causes boredom
- bore** *vb* bored; bor-ing: to weary with tedious dullness
- bo-re-al** *\bōr-ē-əl\ adj*: of, relating to, or located in northern regions
- bore-dom** *\bōr-dəm\ n*: the condition of being bored
- bo-ric acid** *\bōr-ik-\ n*: a white crystalline weak acid that contains boron and is used esp. as an antiseptic
- born** *\bōrn\ adj* 1: brought into life by birth 2: NATIVE (< American-born> 3: having special natural abilities or character from birth (< a ~ leader>)
- born-again** *adj*: having experienced a revival of a personal faith or conviction (< a ~ believer> (< a ~ liberal>)

## borne past part of BEAR

- bo-ron** *\bōr-ān\ n*: a chemical element that occurs in nature only in combination (as in borax)
- bor-ough** *\bār-ō\ n* [ME *burgh*, fr. OE *burg* fortified town] 1: a British town that sends one or more members to Parliament; also: an incorporated British urban area 2: an incorporated town or village in some U.S. states; also: any of the five political divisions of New York City 3: a civil division of the state of Alaska corresponding to a county in most other states
- bor-row** *\bār-ō\ vb* 1: to take or receive (something) temporarily and with intent to return (< ~ed my car> 2: to take into possession or use from another source: DERIVE, APPROPRIATE (< ~ a metaphor>)
- borscht** *\bōrsh\ or borsch* *\bōrsh\ n* [Yiddish *borsh* and Ukrainian & Russ *borsheh*]: a soup made mainly from beets
- bosh** *\bāsh\ n* [Turk *boş* empty]: foolish talk or action: NONSENSE
- bosky** *\bās-kē\ adj*: covered with trees or shrubs
- bos-om** *\bū-zəm, 'bū-\ n* 1: the front of the human chest; esp: the female breasts 2: the seat of secret thoughts and feelings 3: the part of a garment covering the breast — **bos-omed** *\zəmd\ adj*
- bosom** *adj*: CLOSE, INTIMATE
- boss** *\bās, 'bōs\ n*: a knoblike ornament: STUD
- boss** *vb*: to ornament with bosses
- boss** *\bōs\ n* 1: one (as a foreman or manager) exercising control or supervision 2: a politician who controls votes or dictates policies — **bossy** *adj*
- boss** *\bōs\ vb*: to act as or in the manner of a boss
- bosun** *var* of BOATSWAIN
- bot** *abbr* 1 botanical; botanist; botany 2 robot
- bot-a-ny** *\bā-tə-nē, 'bāt-nē\ n, pl -nies* 1: a branch of biology dealing with plants and plant life 2: plant life (as of a given region); also: the biology of a plant or plant group — **bot-an-i-cal** *\bā-tā-ni-kəl\ adj* or *n* — **bot-an-i-cal-ly** *\bā-tā-ni-kəl\ adv* — **bot-a-nist** *n* — **bot-a-nize** *\bāt-ə-nīz\ vb*
- botch** *\bäch\ vb*: to foul up hopelessly: BUNGLE — **botch** *n*
- both** *\bōth\ pron*: both ones: the one as well as the other
- both** *conj* — used as a function word to indicate and stress the inclusion of each of two or more things specified by coordinated words, phrases, or clauses (< New York and London>)
- both** *adj*: being the two: including the one and the other (< went to ~ museums>)
- both-er** *\bā-ihər\ vb* 1: PESTER, TROUBLE (< was ~ed by bees> 2: to concern oneself: make an effort (< didn't ~ asking>) ♦ **Synonyms** VEX, ANNOY, IRK, PROVOKE — **bother** *n* — **both-er-some** *\səm\ adj*
- bot-tle** *\bā-tl\ n* 1: a container (as of glass) with a narrow neck and usu. no handles 2: the quantity held by a bottle 3: intoxicating liquor
- bottle** *vb* bot-tled; bot-tling: 1: to confine as if in a bottle: RESTRAIN (< bottled up his anger> 2: to put into a bottle
- bot-tle-neck** *\bā-tl-nek\ n* 1: a narrow passage or point of congestion 2: something that obstructs or impedes
- bot-tom** *\bā-təm\ n* 1: an under or supporting surface; also: BUTTOCKS 2: the surface on which a body of water lies 3: the lowest part or place; also: an inferior position (< start at the ~> 4: BOT-TOMLAND 5: BASIS, SOURCE (< get to the ~ of this mystery> 6: a quark with a charge of  $-\frac{1}{3}$  and a measured energy of approximately 5 billion electron volts — **bottom** *adj* — **bot-tom-less** *adj*
- bottom** *vb* 1: to furnish with a bottom 2: to reach the bottom 3: to reach a point where a decline is halted or reversed — **usu.** used with *out*
- bot-tom-land** *\bā-təm-land\ n*: low land along a river
- bottom line** *n* 1: the essential point: CRUX 2: the final result: OUTCOME
- bot-u-lism** *\bā-chā-li-zəm\ n*: an acute paralytic disease caused by a bacterial toxin (< bot-u-li-nom toxin > *\bā-chā-li-nōm-\*) esp. in tainted food
- bou-doir** *\bū-dwār, 'bū-, 'bū-\ n* [F, fr. *bouder* to pout]: a woman's dressing room or bedroom
- bouf-fant** *\bū-fānt, 'bū-fānt\ adj* [F]: puffed out (< ~ hairdos>)
- bough** *\bau\ n*: a usu. large or main branch of a tree
- bought** *past* and *past part* of BUY
- bouil-la-baisse** *\bū-yā-'bās\ n* [F]: a highly seasoned fish stew made with at least two kinds of fish
- bouil-lon** *\bū-yān, 'būl-yān, -yən\ n*: a clear soup made usu. from beef
- boul-der** also **bowl-der** *\bōl-dər\ n*: a large detached rounded or worn mass of rock — **boul-dered** *\dər-d\ adj*
- bou-le-vard** *\bū-lā-vārd, 'bū-\ n* [F, modif. of MD *bolwerk* bulwark]: a broad often landscaped thoroughfare
- bounce** *\bauns\ vb* bounced; bounc-ing: 1: to cause to rebound (< a ball> 2: to rebound after striking 3: to issue (a check) from an account with insufficient funds — **bounce** *n* — **bouncy** *\baun-sē\ adj*
- bounc-er** *\baun-sər\ n*: a person employed in a public place to remove disorderly persons
- bound** *\baund\ adj*: intending to go (< homeward>)
- bound** *n*: LIMIT, BOUNDARY — **bound-less** *adj* — **bound-less-ness** *n*
- bound** *vb* 1: to set limits to 2: to form the boundary of 3: to name the boundaries of
- bound** *past* and *past part* of BIND
- bound** *adj* 1: constrained by or as if by bonds: CONFINED, OBLIGED (< was duty ~ to help> 2: enclosed in a binding or cover 3: RESOLVED, DETERMINED; also: SURE

**admission** to the clerical state by the clipping or shaving of the head 2: the shaven crown or patch worn by clerics (as monks) — **tonsure** *vb*  
**tony** *also* **ton-ey** \tō-nē/ *adj* **ton-ier-**  
**-est**: marked by an aristocratic manner or style  
**too** \tū/ *adv* 1: in addition: **ALSO** 2: **EXCESSIVELY** (the music is ~ loud) 3: to such a degree as to be regrettable 4: **VERY** (didn't seem ~ interested)  
**took** *past of TAKE*  
**tool** \tūl/ *n* 1: a hand instrument that aids in accomplishing a task 2: the cutting or shaping part in a machine; *also*: a machine for shaping metal in any way 3: something used in doing a job (a scholar's books are his ~s); *also*: a means to an end 4: a person used by another: **DUPE** 5 *pl*: natural ability  
**tool** *vb* 1: to shape, form, or finish with a tool; *esp*: to letter or decorate (as a book cover) by means of hand tools 2: to equip a plant or industry with machines and tools for production 3: **DRIVE, RIDE** (~ing along at 60 miles per hour)  
**tool bar** *n*: a strip of icons on a computer display providing quick access to the pictured functions  
**toot** \tūt/ *vb* 1: to sound or cause to sound in short blasts 2: to blow an instrument (as a horn) — **tooter** *n*  
**toot** *n*: a short blast (as on a horn)  
**tooth** \tūth/ *n, pl teeth* \tēth/ 1: one of the hard bony structures borne *esp.* on the jaws of vertebrates and used for seizing and chewing food and as weapons; *also*: a hard sharp structure *esp.* around the mouth of an invertebrate 2: something resembling an animal's tooth 3: any of the projections on the edge of a wheel that fits into corresponding projections on another wheel 4 *pl*: effective means of enforcement — **toothed** \tūtht/ *adj* — **tooth-less** *adj*  
**tooth-ache** \tūth-āk/ *n*: pain in or about a tooth  
**tooth-brush** \-brəsh/ *n*: a brush for cleaning the teeth  
**tooth-paste** \-pāst/ *n*: a paste for cleaning the teeth  
**tooth-pick** \-pik/ *n*: a pointed instrument for removing food particles caught between the teeth  
**tooth powder** *n*: a powder for cleaning the teeth  
**tooth-some** \tūth-səm/ *adj* 1: **AGREEABLE, ATTRACTIVE** 2: pleasing to the taste: **DELICIOUS** ♦ **Synonyms** **PALATABLE, APPETIZING, SAVORY, TASTY**  
**toothy** \tū-thē/ *adj* **tooth-ier-****-est**: having or showing prominent teeth  
**top** \tāp/ *n* 1: the highest part, point, or level of something 2: the part of a plant with edible roots lying above the ground (beet ~s) 3: the upper end, edge, or surface (the ~ of a page) 4: an upper piece, lid, or covering 5: the highest degree, pitch, or rank 6: a quark with a charge of + $\frac{2}{3}$  and a measured energy of approximately 175 billion electron volts  
**top** *vb* **topped**; **top-ping** 1: to remove or trim the top of: **PRUNE** (~ a tree) 2: to cover with a top or on the top: **CROWN, CAP** 3: to be superior to: **EXCEL, SURPASS** 4: to go over the top of 5: to strike (a ball) above the center 6: to make an end or conclusion (~ off a meal with coffee)  
**top** *adj* 1: of, relating to, or being at the top: **HIGHEST** (is ~ in her class) 2: **CHIEF**  
**top** *n*: a toy that has a tapering point on which it is made to spin  
**topaz** \tō-paz/ *n*: a hard silicate of aluminum; *esp*: a yellow transparent topaz used as a gem  
**top-coat** \tāp-kōt/ *n* 1: a lightweight overcoat 2: a protective coating (as of paint)  
**top dollar** *n*: the highest amount being paid for a commodity or service  
**top-dress** \-dres/ *vb*: to apply material (as land) without working it in; *esp*: to scatter fertilizer over  
**top-dress-ing** \-dre-sin/ *n*: a material used to top-dress soil  
**top-end** \tāp-ēnd/ *adj*: **TOPFLIGHT**  
**top-flight** \tāp-flīt/ *adj*: of, relating to, or being the highest level of excellence or rank (a ~ staff) — **top flight** *n*  
**top hat** *n*: a tall-crowned hat usu. of beaver or silk  
**top-heavy** \tāp-he-vē/ *adj*: having the top part too heavy for the lower part  
**top-i-ary** \tō-pē-er-ē/ *n, pl -aries*: the art of training and trimming trees or shrubs with decorative shapes — **topiary** *adj*  
**top-ic** \tā-pik/ *n* 1: a heading in an outlined argument 2: the subject of a discourse or a section of it: **THEME**  
**top-i-cal** \-pi-kəl/ *adj* 1: of, relating to, or arranged by topics (a ~ outline) 2: relating to current or local events 3: designed to be applied to or to work on a part (as of the body) — **top-i-cal-ly** \-k(ə)-lē/ *adv*  
**top-knot** \tāp-nāt/ *n*: an ornament (as a knot of ribbons) forming a headdress 2: a crest of feathers or tuft of hair on the top of the head  
**top-less** \-ləs/ *adj* 1: wearing no clothing on the upper body 2: featuring topless waitresses or entertainers  
**top-mast** \tāp-mast, -māst/ *n*: the 2d mast above a ship's deck  
**top-most** \tāp-mōst/ *adj*: highest of all: **UPPERMOST**  
**top-notch** \-näch/ *adj*: of the highest quality: **FIRST-RATE**  
**top-of-the-line** *adj*: being or belonging to the highest or most expensive class  
**top-pog-ra-phy** \tā-pā-grā-fē/ *n* 1: the art of showing in detail on a map or chart the physical features of a place or region 2: the outline of the form of a place showing its relief and the position of features (as rivers, roads, or cities) — **top-pog-ra-pher** \-fər/ *n* — **top-o-graph-ic** \tā-pā-grā-fik/ *or* **top-o-graph-i-cal** \-fi-kəl/ *adj*

**topping** *n*: a food served on top of another to make it look or taste better  
**top-ple** \tā-pəl/ *vb* **top-pled**; **top-pling** 1: to fall from or as if from being top-heavy 2: to push over: **OVERTURN**; *also*: **OVERTHROW** (toppled the dictator)  
**tops** \tāps/ *adj*: topmost in quality or importance (~ in his field)  
**tops** *adv*: at the very most  
**top-sail** \tāp-sāl, -səl/ *also* **top-s'l** \-səl/ *n*: the sail next above the lowest sail on a mast in a square-rigged ship  
**top secret** *adj*: demanding complete secrecy among those concerned  
**top-side** \tāp-sid/ *adv* *or* *adj* 1: to or on the top or surface 2: on deck  
**top-sides** \-sidz/ *n pl*: the top portion of the outer surface of a ship on each side above the waterline  
**top-soil** \tāp-sōi(-ə)l/ *n*: surface soil usu. including the organic layer in which plants have most of their roots  
**top-sy-tur-vy** \tāp-sē-tor-vē/ *adv* 1: in utter confusion 2: **UPSIDE DOWN** — **topsy-turvy** *adj*  
**toque** \tōk/ *n*: a woman's small hat without a brim  
**tor** \tōr/ *n*: a high craggy hill  
**To-rah** \tōr-ə/ *n* 1: a scroll of the first five books of the Old Testament used in a synagogue; *also*: these five books 2: the body of divine knowledge and law found in the Jewish scriptures and tradition  
**torch** \tōrch/ *n* 1: a flaming light made of something that burns brightly and usu. carried in the hand 2: something that resembles a torch in giving light, heat, or guidance 3: a portable burner for producing a hot flame 4 *chiefly Brit*: **FLASHLIGHT**  
**torch** *vb*: to set fire to  
**torch-bear-er** \tōrch-ber-ər/ *n* 1: a person who carries a torch 2: one in the forefront (as of a political campaign)  
**torch-light** \-lit/ *n*: light given by torches  
**torch song** *n*: a popular sentimental song of unrequited love  
**tore** *past of TEAR*  
**to-re-ad-or** \tōr-ē-ə-dōr/ *n*: **BULLFIGHTER**  
**to-re-ro** \tā-rer-ō/ *n, pl -ros* [Sp]: **BULLFIGHTER**  
**tor-ment** \tōr-ment/ *n* 1: extreme pain or anguish of body or mind 2: a source of vexation or pain  
**tor-ment** \tōr-ment/ *vb* 1: to cause severe suffering of body or mind to 2: **DISTORT, TWIST** ♦ **Synonyms** **RACK, AFFLICT, TRY, TORTURE** — **tor-men-tor** \-men-tər/ *n*  
**tor-n** *past part of TEAR*  
**tor-na-do** \tōr-nā-dō/ *n, pl -does or -dos* [modif of Sp *tronada* thunderstorm, fr. *tronar* to thunder, fr. L *tonare*]: a violent destructive whirling wind accompanied by a funnel-shaped cloud that moves over a narrow path  
**tor-pe-do** \tōr-pē-dō/ *n, pl -does*: a thin cylindrical self-propelled underwater weapon  
**torpedo** *vb* **tor-pe-does**; **tor-pe-do-ing**: to hit or destroy with or as if with a torpedo  
**torpedo boat** *n*: a small very fast boat for firing torpedoes  
**tor-pid** \tōr-pəd/ *adj* 1: having lost motion or the power of exertion: **DORMANT** 2: **SLUGGISH** 3: lacking vigor — **tor-pid-ity** \tōr-pi-dā-tē/ *n*  
**tor-por** \tōr-pər/ *n* 1: **DULLNESS, APATHY** 2: extreme sluggishness: **STAGNATION** ♦ **Synonyms** **STUPOR, LETHARGY, LANGUOR, LASSITUDE**  
**torque** \tōrk/ *n*: a force that produces or tends to produce rotation or torsion  
**torque** *vb* **torqued**; **torqu-ing**: to impart torque to: cause to twist (as about an axis)  
**tor-rent** \tōr-ənt/ *n* [F, fr. L *torrent*, *torrens*, fr. *torrent*, *torrens* burning, seething, rushing, fr. prp. of *torrere* to parch, burn] 1: a tumultuous outburst 2: a rushing stream (as of water)  
**tor-rential** \tō-ren-chəl/ *adj*: relating to or resembling a torrent (~ rains)  
**tor-rid** \tōr-əd/ *adj* 1: parched with heat *esp.* of the sun: **HOT** 2: **ARDENT**  
**torrid zone** *n*: the region of the earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn  
**tor-sion** \tōr-shən/ *n* 1: a wrenching by which one part of a body is under pressure to turn about a longitudinal axis while the other part is held fast or is under pressure to turn in the opposite direction 2: a twisting of a bodily organ or part on its own axis — **tor-sion-al** \tōr-shə-nəl/ *adj* — **tor-sion-al-ly** *adv*  
**tor-so** \tōr-sō/ *n, pl torsos* *or* **tor-si** \tōr-sē/ [lit, lit., stalk]: the trunk of the human body  
**tor-t** \tōrt/ *n*: a wrongful act which does not involve a breach of contract and for which the injured party can recover damages in a civil action  
**tor-tilla** \tōr-tē-ə/ *n*: a round thin cake of unleavened cornmeal or wheat flour bread  
**tor-toise** \tōr-tās/ *n*: **TURTLE**; *esp*: any of a family of land turtles  
**tor-toise-shell** \-shel/ *n*: the mottled horny substance of the shell of some turtles used in inlaying and in making various ornamental articles — **tortoise-shell** *adj*  
**tor-to-ni** \tōr-tō-nē/ *n*: rich ice cream often made with minced almonds and chopped cherries and flavored with rum  
**tor-tu-ous** \tōr-tū-wəs/ *adj* 1: marked by twists or turns: **WINDING** (a ~ path) 2: **DEVIUS, TRICKY**  
**tor-ture** \tōr-čər/ *n* 1: anguish of body or mind 2: the infliction of severe pain *esp.* to punish or coerce — **tor-tur-ous** \tōrch-rəs, -tōr-čə-/ *adj*  
**torture** *vb* **tor-tured**; **tor-tur-ing** 1: to cause intense suffering to: **TORMENT** 2: to punish or coerce by inflicting severe pain 3: **TWIST, DISTORT** ♦ **Synonyms** **RACK, HARROW, AFFLICT, TRY** — **tor-tur-er** *n*  
**Tor-y** \tōr-ē/ *n, pl Tories* 1: a member of a chiefly 18th century British party up-