

Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



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



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 © 2005 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — Eleventh ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-807-1	(Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-807-9	(Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-808-8	(Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-808-7	(Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-809-5	(Jacketed hardcover with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-809-5	(Jacketed hardcover with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-810-1	(Leatherlook with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-810-9	(Leatherlook with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-813-2	(Canadian)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-813-3	(Canadian)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-814-9	(International)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-814-1	(International)

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Title: Collegiate dictionary. II. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 2003

423—dc21

2003003674

CIP

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, principal copyright 2003

COLLEGIATE is a registered trademark of Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

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

567TT:QWV0504

ing flow to or reuniting an interrupted channel of a bodily tube (as a blood vessel or vas deferens) — **re-can-a-lize** \rē-ka-'nā-līz, -'ka-nā-'līz\ *vt*

re-cant \ri-'kant\ *vb* [L *recantare*, fr. *re-* + *cantare* to sing — more at *chant*] *vt* (1535) 1: to withdraw or repudiate (a statement or belief) formally and publicly 2: **REVOKE** ~ *vi*: to make an open confession of error *syn* see **ABJURE** — **re-can-ta-tion** \rē-'kan-'tā-shən\ *n*

re-cap \rē-'kap\ *n* [by shortening] (ca. 1926): **RECAPITULATION**

re-cap \rē-'kap, ri-'\ *vb* **re-capped**; **re-cap-ping** (1945): **RECAPITULATE**

re-cap \rē-'kap\ *n* [*recap*] (1940): **RETREAD** 1

re-cap \rē-'kap\ *vt* **re-capped**; **re-cap-ping** [*re-* + *cap*] (1941): **RETREAD** — **re-cap-pa-ble** \rē-'ka-pā-bəl\ *adj*

re-cap-i-tal-i-za-tion \rē-'ka-pā-tā-lō-'zā-shən, -'kap-tā-\ *n* (1920): a revision of the capital structure of a corporation

re-cap-i-tal-ize \rē-'ka-pā-tā-līz, -'kap-tā-\ *vt* (1904): to change the capital structure of

re-ca-pit-u-late \rē-'kō-'pi-cha-'lāt\ *vb* **-lat-ed**; **-lat-ing** [LL *recapitulatus*, pp. of *recapitulare* to restate by heads, sum up, fr. L *re-* + *capitulum* division of a book — more at *chapter*] *vt* (1556) 1 a: to restate briefly; **SUMMARIZE** b: to give new form or expression to 2: to repeat the principal stages or phases of (the view that ontogeny ~s phylogeny) ~ *vi*: **SUM UP**

re-ca-pit-u-la-tion \rē-'kō-'pi-cha-'lā-shən\ *n* (14c) 1: a concise summary 2: the hypothetical occurrence in an individual organism's development of successive stages resembling the series of ancestral types from which it has descended so that the ontogeny of the individual retraces the phylogeny of its group 3: the third section of a sonata form

re-cap-ture \rē-'kap-cha-'\ *n* (1752) 1 a: the act of retaking b: an instance of being retaken 2: the retaking of a prize or goods under international law 3: a government seizure under law of earnings or profits beyond a fixed amount

recapture \rē-'kaptʃə-\ *vt* (1799) 1 a: to capture again b: to experience again (by no effort of the imagination could she ~ the ecstasy — Ellen Glasgow) 2: to take (as a portion of earnings or profits above a fixed amount) by law or through negotiations under law

re-cast \rē-'kast\ *vt* **-cast**; **-cast-ing** (1603): to cast again (~ a gun) (~ a play); also: **REMODEL**, **REFASHION** (~s his political image ~ the times) — **re-cast** \rē-'kast, (rē-'\ *n*

rec-ce \rē-'kē\ *n*, often attrib [by shortening & alter.] (1941): **RECESSION**

rec'd *abbr* received

re-cede \ri-'sēd\ *vi* **re-ced-ed**; **re-ced-ing** [ME, fr. L *recedere* to go back, fr. *re-* + *cedere* to go] (15c) 1 a: to move back or away: **WITHDRAW** (a receding hairline) b: to slant backward 2: to grow less or smaller: **DIMINISH**, **DECREASE** (a receding deficit)

syn **RECEDE**, **RETREAT**, **RETRACT**, **BACK** mean to move backward. **RECEDE** implies a gradual withdrawing from a forward or high fixed point in time or space (the flood waters gradually receded). **RETREAT** implies withdrawal from a point or position reached (retreating soldiers). **RETRACT** implies drawing back from an extended position (a cat retracting its claws). **BACK** is used with *up*, *down*, *out*, or *off* to refer to any retrograde motion (backed off on the throttle).

re-cede \rē-'sēd\ *vt* [*re-* + *cede*] (1771): to cede back to a former possessor

re-ceipt \ri-'sēt\ *n* [ME *receite*, fr. AF, fr. ML *recepta*, prob. fr. L, neut. pl. of *receptus*, pp. of *recipere* to receive] (14c) 1: **RECIPE** 2 a *obs*: **RECEPTACLE** b *archaic*: a revenue office 3: the act or process of receiving 4: something received — *usu.* used in pl. 5: a writing acknowledging the receiving of goods or money

receipt \ri-'sēt\ *vt* (1787) 1: to give a receipt for or acknowledge the receipt of 2: to mark as paid

re-ceive-able \ri-'sē-va-bəl\ *adj* (14c) 1: capable of being received 2: subject to call for payment (notes ~)

re-ceive-ables \ri-'sē-va-bəl\ *n* pl (1863): amounts of money receivable

re-ceive \ri-'sēv\ *vb* **re-ceived**; **re-ceiving** [ME, fr. AF *receivre*, fr. L *recipere*, fr. *re-* + *capere* to take — more at *HEAVE*] *vt* (14c) 1: to come into possession of: **ACQUIRE** (~ a gift) 2 a: to act as a receptacle or container for (the cistern ~s water from the roof) b: to assimilate through the mind or senses (~ new ideas) 3 a: to permit to enter: **ADMIT** b: **WELCOME**, **GREET** c: to react to in a specified manner 4: to accept as authoritative, true, or accurate: **BELIEVE** 5 a: to support the weight or pressure of: **BEAR** b: to take (a mark or impression) from the weight of something (some clay ~s clear impressions) c: **ACQUIRE**, **EXPERIENCE** (received his early schooling at home) d: to suffer the hurt or injury of (received a broken nose) ~ *vi* 1: to be a recipient 2: to be at home to visitors (~s on Tuesdays) 3: to convert incoming radio waves into perceptible signals 4: to prepare to take possession of the ball from a kick in football

received *adj* (15c): generally accepted: **COMMON** (a healthy skepticism about ~ explanations — B. K. Lewalski)

Received Pronunciation *n* (1869): the pronunciation of Received Standard

Received Standard *n* (1913): a traditionally prestigious form of English spoken at the English public schools, at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and by many educated British people elsewhere

re-ceive-r \ri-'sē-va-\ *n* (14c): one that receives: as a: **TREASURER** b (1): a person appointed to hold in trust and administer property under litigation (2): a person appointed to settle the affairs of a business involving a public interest or to manage a corporation during reorganization c: one that receives stolen goods: **FENCE** d: a device for converting signals (as electromagnetic waves) into audio or visual form: as (1): a device in a telephone for converting electric impulses or varying current into sound (2): a radio receiver with a tuner and amplifier on one chassis e (1): **CATCHER** 2: a member of the offensive team in football eligible to catch a forward pass

receiver general *n*, *pl* **receivers general** (15c): a public officer in charge of the treasury (as of Massachusetts)

re-ceive-r-ship \ri-'sē-va-'ship\ *n* (15c) 1: the office or function of a receiver 2: the state of being in the hands of a receiver

receiving blanket *n* (1926): a small lightweight blanket used to wrap an infant (as after bathing)

receiving end *n* (1937): the position of being a recipient or esp. a victim — *usu.* used in the phrase *on the receiving end*

receiving line *n* (1933): a group of people who stand in a line and individually welcome guests (as at a wedding reception)

re-cen-cy \rē-'sēn(t)-sē\ *n* (1612): the quality or state of being recent

re-cen-sion \ri-'sen(t)-shən\ *n* [L *recensio*, *recensio* enumeration, fr. *recensere* to review, fr. *re-* + *censere* to assess, tax — more at *censor*] (ca. 1828) 1: a critical revision of a text 2: a text established by critical revision

re-cent \rē-'sēnt\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *recent*, *recens*; perh. akin to Gk *καταίνω* (new)] (15c) 1 a: having lately come into existence: **NEW**, **FRESH** b: of or relating to a time not long past 2 *cap*: **HOLOGENE** — **re-cent-ness** *n*

re-cent-ly *adv* (1533): during a recent period of time: **LATELY**

re-cep-ta-cle \ri-'sep-ti-kəl\ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *receptaculum*, fr. *re-* + *capere* to receive, freq. of *recipere* to receive] (15c) 1: one that receives and contains something: **CONTAINER** 2 [NL *receptaculum*, fr. L] a: the end of the flower stalk upon which the floral organs are borne b: a structure or tissue (as of a fungus or fern) bearing spores or sporangia 3: a mounted female electrical fitting that contains the live parts of the circuit

re-cep-tion \ri-'sep-shən\ *n* [ME *reception*, fr. AF or L; AF *reception*, fr. L *reception*, *receptio*, fr. *recipere*] (15c) 1: the act or action or an instance of receiving: as a: **RECEIPT** (the ~ and distribution of funds) b: **ADMISSION** (~ into the church) c: **RESPONSE**, **REACTION** (the play met with a mixed ~) d: the receiving of a radio or television broadcast e: the catching of a forward pass by a receiver 2: a social gathering often for the purpose of extending a formal welcome

re-cep-tion-ist \ri-'sep-shən-ist\ *n* (1901): a person employed to greet telephone callers, visitors, patients, or clients

re-cep-tive \ri-'sep-tiv\ *adj* (15c) 1: able or inclined to receive; esp.: open and responsive to ideas, impressions, or suggestions 2 a: of a sensory end organ: fit to receive and transmit stimuli b: **SENSITIVE** of a female animal: willing to copulate with a male (~ mare) — **re-cep-tive-ly** *adv* — **re-cep-tive-ness** *n* — **re-cep-tiv-ity** \ri-'sep-tiv-ə-tē, ri-'\ *n*

re-cep-tor \ri-'sep-tər\ *n* (1898): **RECEIVER**: as a: a cell or group of cells that receives stimuli: **SENSE ORGAN** b: a chemical group or molecule (as a protein) on the cell surface or in the cell interior that has an affinity for a specific chemical group, molecule, or virus

re-cess \ri-'ses, ri-'\ *n* [L *recessus*, fr. *recedere* to recede] (1531) 1: the action of receding: **RECESSION** 2: a hidden, secret, or secluded place or part 3 a: **INDENTATION**, **CLEFT** (a deep ~ in the hill) b: **ALCOVE** (a ~ lined with books) 4: a suspension of business or procedure often for rest or relaxation (children playing at ~)

re-cess \ri-'ses\ *vt* (1809) 1: to put into a recess (~ed lighting) 2: to make a recess in 3: to interrupt for a recess ~ *vi*: to take a recess

re-ces-sion \ri-'se-shən\ *n* (ca. 1652) 1: the act or action of receding: **WITHDRAWAL** 2: a departing procession (as of clergy and choir at the end of a church service) 3: a period of reduced economic activity — **re-ces-sion-ary** \ri-'se-shən-er-ē\ *adj*

re-ces-sion \ri-'se-shən\ *n* [*re-* + *cession*] (1828): the act of coming back to a former possessor

re-ces-sion-al \ri-'se-shən-əl, -'se-shən-əl\ *adj* (1867): of or relating to a withdrawal

re-cessional *n* (1867) 1: a hymn or musical piece at the conclusion of a service or program 2: **RECESSION** 2

re-ces-sive \ri-'se-siv\ *adj* (ca. 1673) 1 a: tending to recede: **WITHDRAWN** 2 a: producing little or no phenotypic effect when occurring in heterozygous condition with a contrasting allele (~ genes) b: expressed only when the determining gene is in the homozygous condition (~ traits) (a ~ disease) — **re-ces-sive-ly** *adv* — **re-ces-sive-ness** *n*

re-cessive *n* (1900) 1: an organism possessing one or more recessive characters 2: a recessive character or gene

re-charge \ri-'chāj\ *vt* (1598) 1: to make a new attack 2: to regain energy or spirit ~ *vi* 1: to charge again; esp.: to restore energy the active materials in (a storage battery) 2: to inspire or invigorate afresh: **RENEW** — **re-charge** \ri-'chāj\ *n* — **re-charge-able** \ri-'chāj-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **re-charge-er** \ri-'chāj-er\ *n*

re-chauf-fé \ri-'shō-'fā, -'shō-\ *n* [F, fr. *réchauffé* warmed-over, fr. *ré-* + *chauffer* to warm over, fr. *re-* + *chauffer* to warm, fr. *chauffer* — more at *CHAFE*] (1805) 1: **REHASH** 2: a warmed-over dish of food

re-cheat \ri-'chēt\ *n* [ME *rechate*, fr. *rechaten* to blow the recheat, fr. AF *rechater*, fr. VL **rechaptare* to gather, assemble, fr. L *re-* + *capere* to catch, at, chase — more at *CATCH*] (15c): a hunting call sounded over a horn to assemble the hounds

re-cher-ché \ri-'sher-'shā, -'sher-\ *adj* [F, fr. pp. of *rechercher* to search out, alter, of *rechercher*, fr. MF — more at *RESEARCH*] (1722) 1 a: **QUISTE**, **CHOICE** b: **EXOTIC**, **RARE** 2: excessively refined: **ARTISAN** ED 3: **PRETENTIOUS**, **OVERBLOWN**

re-cid-i-vism \ri-'si-də-'vi-zəm\ *n* (1886): a tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior; esp.: relapse into criminal behavior

re-cid-i-vist \ri-'si-də-'vist\ *n* [F *récidiviste*, fr. *récidiver* to relapse, fr. MF; ML *recidivare*, fr. L *recidivus* recurring, fr. *recidere* to fall back, fr. *re-* + *cadere* to fall — more at *CHANCE*] (1880): one who relapses; esp.: one who relapses into criminal behavior

re-cid-i-vist-ic \ri-'si-də-'vis-tik\ *adj* — **re-cid-i-vist-ic-ly** *adv*

re-ci-pe \ri-'sē-(p)ē\ *n* [L, take, imper. of *recipere* to take, receive] (1584) 1: **PRESCRIPTION** 4a 2: a set of instructions for making something from various ingredients 3: a formula or procedure for doing or attaining something (~a ~ for success)

re-ci-pi-ent \ri-'si-pē-ənt\ *n* [L *recipient*, *recipiens*, pp. of *recipere*] (1558): one that receives: **RECEIVER** — **re-cip-i-ent-ly** *adv*

re-cip-ro-cal \ri-'si-prə-kəl\ *adj* [L *reciprocus* returning, fr. *re-* + *capere* to take, reciprocate] (1570) 1 a: inversely related (the kind that the parent of the male parent of the first cross produces the female parent of the second cross and vice versa) 2: shared, felt, or shown by both sides: serving to reciprocate: consisting of or functioning as a reciprocal kind (the ~ devastation of nuclear war) 4 a: mutually advantageous (agreed to extend ~ privileges to each other's citizens)