

The Chambers Dictionary

13th Edition

This thirteenth edition published in 2014 by Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd.

First published as *Chambers's Twentieth Century Dictionary* in 1901; published as *Chambers English Dictionary* in 1988; first published as *The Chambers Dictionary* in 1993.

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data: a catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library.

ISBN 9781473602250

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

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Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd
338 Euston Road
London NW1 3BH
www.chambers.co.uk

Designed by Chambers Harrap Publishers Ltd

Letter openers and Miscellany designed by Sharon McTeir

Typeset in Optima and Arial by Cenveo



Additional typesetting by Mac Bride

Printed in India

swamp /sʰwɒmp/ *n* a tract of wet, spongy (in the USA often tree-clad) land; low waterlogged ground. ♦ *vt* to cause to sink or become stuck in a swamp (also *fig*); to cause (eg a boat) to fill with water; to overwhelm, inundate. ♦ *vi* to become swamped. ♦ *adj* of, or of the nature of, swamp; living or growing in swamps. [Perh from LGer; prob related to OE *swamm* mushroom, Ger *Schwamm* sponge, fungus]

■ **swamp'er** *n* (US) a person who lives or works in the swamps.

swamp'iness *n*, **swamp'y** *adj*.

□ **swamp boat** *n* a flat-bottomed boat with a raised aeroplane engine for travelling over swamps. **swamp cypress** *n* a deciduous conifer, *Taxodium*, of swamps in the southern USA. **swamp fever** *n* leptospirosis; a viral disease of horses (also called **equine infectious anaemia**); malaria (US). **swamp gas** *n* marsh gas. **swamp'land** *n*. **swamp oak** *n* any of the various trees of the genus *Casuarina*.

swan /sʰvɒn/ *n* any species of *Cygnus*, a genus of large, graceful, stately, long-necked aquatic birds; one of these birds. ♦ *vi* (*inf*) to swim, move, glide, etc like a swan; to swan about (see below). [OE *swan*; Ger *Schwan*, Du *zwaan*]

■ **swan'like** *adj*. **swann'ery** *n* a place where swans are kept or bred.

swann'ing *n* (*inf*). **swann'y** *adj* swanlike.

□ **swan dive** *n* (N Am) a swallow-dive. **swan'-goose** *n* the Chinese goose (qv); the coscoroba swan (*Coscoroba coscoroba*) of S America.

swan'herd *n* someone who tends swans. **swan'-hopping** *n* (non-standard) swan-umping. **swan'-maiden** *n* (in Germanic folklore) a maiden who can become a swan by putting on her feather-garment.

swan'-mark *n* the notch made on the swan's upper mandible, as a mark of ownership. **swan'-mussel** *n* a large freshwater mussel. **swan neck** *n* an S-shaped bend or piece. **swans'-down** or **swans'down** *n* the under-plumage of a swan; a soft woollen or mixed cloth; a thick cotton with a soft nap on one side. **swan'-shot** *n* a shot of large size, like buckshot. **swan'skin** or **swan'-skin** *n* the unplucked skin of a swan; a soft, nappy, fine-twilled fabric. **swan'song** or **swan song** *n* the fabled song of a swan just before its death; a writer's or musician's last work; one's last work or final appearance. **swan'-upping** *n* an annual expedition up the Thames for the marking of young swans belonging to the Dyers' and Vintners' Companies (those belonging to the crown being unmarked) (see **up vt**).

■ **swan about** or **around** (*inf*) to move about aimlessly, or gracefully. **swan in** or **up** (*inf*) to arrive, either aimlessly or gracefully. **swan off** (*inf*) to wander off, or depart, in a nonchalant, relaxed or oblivious manner.

Swanee whistle /sʰvɒn'i (h)wɪs'i/ (also without *cap*) *n* a musical instrument, a kind of whistle in which sliding notes are produced by moving a plunger in and out. [Swanee, variant of *Suwannee*, a river in SE USA]

swang /sʰvɒŋ/ (Wordsworth) a rare *pat* of **swing**.

swanherd see under **swan**.

swank /sʰvɒŋk/ *n* (*inf*) ostentation; pretentiousness; a person who swanks. ♦ *vi* (*inf*) to show off; to swot (*archaic*). ♦ *adj* smart, swanky (*inf*); slender, pliant (Scot); agile (Scot). [Cf OE *swancor* pliant, MHGer *swanken* to sway]

■ **swank'er** *n*. **swankey**, **swankie** *n* see **swanky** below. **swank'ing** *adj* strapping, vigorous and strong; showing off (*inf*); showy (*inf*). **swank'y** *adj* (*inf*) ostentatiously smart. ♦ *n* (also (Scot) **swank'ey**, **swank'le**) an active, smart, vigorous person; poor thin beer or any sloppy drink, even sweetened water and vinegar.

□ **swank'pot** *n* (*inf*) a swanker.

swap or **swop** /sʰwɒp/ *vt* (**swapp'ing** or **swopp'ing**; **swapped** or **swopped**, also (formerly) **swapt** or **swopt**) to barter; to give in exchange; to exchange; to strike (as a bargain); to strike, hit (*obs*); to slam, plump, slap down (*dialect*); to reap (corn, etc) close to the ground (*dialect*). ♦ *vi* to barter; to exchange one for another, carry out a mutual exchange; to smile (*obs*); to flop (*rare*). ♦ *n* an exchange; something which is exchanged or offered in exchange; an exchange (of a sum of money) at different rates (*finance*); a blow, stroke (*obs*). ♦ *adv* (*dialect*) suddenly. [ME *swappen*; perh limit; or connected with **sweep** or **swoop**]

■ **swapp'er** or **swopp'er** *n* a person who swaps; a very big thing, a whopper (*old sl*). **swapp'ing** or **swopp'ing** *n* and *adj*.

□ **swap file** *n* (*comput*) an area of the hard disk of a computer into which any information not immediately required may be moved, thus maximizing the available memory. **swap line** *n* (*econ*) a lending arrangement between central banks. **swap meet** *n* a gathering at which collectors, dealers, etc trade or barter. **swap option** *n* (*finance*) a right to exchange a sum of money at different rates on or before a certain date. **swap'-shop** *n* a shop, meeting, etc where goods are exchanged for other goods or services rather than for money.

SWAPO /sʰwɒ'pɔ/ abbrev: South-West Africa People's Organization.

swaption /sʰwɒp'shən/ (*finance*) *n* a swap option (see under **swap**).

swaraj /sʰwə-rāj/ (Ind hist) *n* self-government, independence, Home Rule. [Sans *svarājya*, from *sva* own, and *rājya* rule]

■ **swaraj'ism** *n* formerly, the policy of Indian political independence. **swaraj'ist** *n* an advocate of this.

sward /sʰwɔ:rd/ (*usu poetic*) *n* (also **swarth**) the grassy surface of land; green turf. ♦ *vt* (*usu in passive*) to cover with sward. [OE *seward* skin, rind; Du *zwoord*, Ger *Schwarte*]

■ **sward'ed** or **sward'y** *adj* covered with sward.

sware /sʰwɔ:ə/ *archaic pat* of **swear**.

swarf¹ /sʰwɔ:rf/ *n* grit from an axle, etc; stone or metal grindings, filings, turnings, etc. [ON *swarf* file-dust]

swarf² /sʰwɔ:rf/ or **swerf** /sʰwɔ:rf/ (Scot) *n* a swoon. ♦ *vi* (also **swarve** /sʰwɔ:rv/ or **swerve** /sʰwɔ:rv/) to faint.

Swarga or **Svarga**, also (*Southey*) **Swerger** /sʰwɔ:rgə or sʰwɔ:rgə/ *n* heaven; Indra's paradise. [Sans *Svarga*]

swarm¹ /sʰwɔ:rm/ *n* a body of bees going off to found a new community; a throng of insects or other small animals; a throng (of people, or of inanimate objects), esp one on the move, eg a mass of meteorites travelling through space; a colony, offshoot. ♦ *vi* to go off in a swarm; to occur or come in swarms; to abound, teem. ♦ *vt* to cause to swarm; to throng (chiefly US except in *passive*). [OE *swearm*; Ger *Schwarm*]

■ **swarm'er** *n*. **swarm'ing** *n* and *adj*.

■ **swarm'-spore** or **-cell** *n* a free-swimming, generally ciliated, asexual reproductive body (*bot*); an active germ produced by sporulation in Protozoa (*zool*).

swarm² /sʰwɔ:rm/ *vt* and *vi* to climb (eg a pole or tree) by clasping with arms and legs. [Origin unknown]

swart /sʰwɔ:rt/ or **swarth** /sʰwɔ:rt/ *adj* (*archaic* or *dialect*) black; dusky; blackening, hence, malignant, baleful. [OE *sewart*; ON *svart*, Ger *schwarz* black]

■ **swart'ness** *n*. **swart'y** *adj* (*obs*).

■ **swart'-back** *n* (ON *svartbakr*) the great black-backed gull. **swart star** *n* (Milton) appar the Dogstar, in reference to its appearance in the summer, when the sun darkens the skin.

swarth /sʰwɔ:rt/ same as **sward**, **swart** or (*Shakesp*) **swath**¹.

swarthy /sʰwɔ:rd'hi/ *adj* dark-complexioned; blackish. [swart]

■ **swar'thly** *adv*. **swar'thiness** *n*.

swarty see under **swart**.

swarve see **swarf**².

swash¹ /sʰwɒʃ/ *n* slush; pig-wash; a wash of liquid, eg of water over a beach; the action or sound of splashing liquid; a dash; a heavy blow; a clashing or dashing sound; a swashbuckler (*archaic*); swagging (*archaic*). ♦ *adv* with a splash, heavy blow, or with a clashing or dashing sound. ♦ *vt* and *vi* to dash; to splash; to clash. [limit]

■ **swash'er** *n* (*Shakesp*) a blusterer. **swash'ing** *n* and *adj* slashing, crushing; blustering. **swash'y** *adj* slushy.

□ **swash'buckler** *n* a person who clashes a sword on a buckler; hence, a bully, a blusterer; a swaggering dare-devil; a film, novel, etc featuring the exploits of a swaggering hero. **swash'buckling** *adj* of or resembling a swashbuckler; adventurous, exciting.

swash² /sʰwɒʃ/ *n* (*obs*) a piece of turner's work with mouldings oblique to the axis; a flourish on a letter. ♦ *adj* (*printing*) (of letters) ornamental italic, with decorative strokes that end in a flourish, used only at the beginning or end of a word. [Origin unknown]

□ **swash plate** *n* (*engineering*) a disc set obliquely on a revolving axis. **swash'work** *n* turner's work cut obliquely.

swastika /sʰwɒs'ti-kə/, also **svastika** /sʰvɒs'ti-kə/ *n* an ancient and worldwide symbol, a Greek cross with arms bent at a right angle, esp clockwise (see also **fylfot**), emblematic of the sun, good luck, anti-semitism or Nazism (see also **gammadion**). [Sans *svastika*, from *svasti* wellbeing, from *su* good, and *asti* he is]

SWAT /sʰwɒt/ abbrev: Special Weapons and Tactics, a US police unit used against highly armed criminals, employing military-style weapons and tactics.

swat¹ /sʰwɒt/ *vt* to hit smartly or heavily. ♦ *n* a sharp or heavy blow; a swatter. [squatt]

■ **swat'ter** *n* an instrument consisting of a flexible shaft with a wide, flat, flaplike head, with which to swat flies.

swat² see **swot**.

swat³ /sʰwɒt or sʰwɔ:t/ (Scot and Spenser) *pat* of **sweat**.

swatch /sʰwɒtʃ/ *n* a sample, esp of cloth, or of carpet, wallpaper, etc. [Origin unknown]

□ **swatch'book** *n* a collection of swatches bound together into book form.

swath¹ /sʰwɔ:θ or sʰwɔ:th/ or **swathe** /sʰwɒ:ð/ *n* a band of mown ground or of grass or corn cut by the scythe or mowing machine, or ready for these; a broad band; the sweep of a scythe or mowing-machine.