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World English Corpus

The definitions in the Macmillan English Dictionary have been based on information derived from the 200,000,000 words of English which make up the World English Corpus. This consists of the Bloomsbury Corpus of World English® with additional material exclusively developed for this Dictionary, including ELT materials and a corpus of common errors made by learners of English.

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see why the many should suffer because of the few idiots who cause trouble. **b.** as many... (as) a number equal to a particular number of people, things etc: +as Jason has a lot of friends, but I think I have as many as him. ♦ as many sth as They try to interview as many candidates as possible. ♦ half/twice/three times etc as many This year we had twice as many visitors as in previous years. **c.** as many as used before a number for showing how large and surprising it is: As many as 500,000 people may have become infected with the virus. **d.** how many used for asking or talking about the number of people, things etc that there are: How many students are taking the test? ♦ It's surprising how many different varieties of pasta there are. ♦ of How many of you can remember the first Alfred Hitchcock film you saw?

in as many days/weeks/games etc in the same number of days, weeks, games etc: Last season Carlos scored twelve goals in as many games.

many's the time/day etc (that) used for saying that something has happened often in the past: Many's the night I've walked back late from town.

→ ONE, WORD¹

Many, a lot, and lots can be used for referring to a large number of things or people. In ordinary spoken English **many** is mainly used in negative sentences and in questions. It is also used in positive sentences after 'too', 'so', or 'as': We didn't sell many tickets. ♦ Were there many children in the audience? ♦ You're trying to do too many things at once.

In positive statements **a lot of** is usually used instead of **many**: A lot of people don't like the new law.

In written English and in formal spoken English **many** is used in sentences of all types. It is more formal than **a lot of**: Many disabled people regularly use public transport.

In informal English, **lots** is often used instead of **a lot of**: Lots of people get divorced these days.

many-sided /meni 'saɪdɪd/ adj having many different parts, aspects, or qualities

Maoism /maʊ'ɪz(ə)m/ noun [U] a form of Communism established in China and based on the political ideas of Mao Zedong

Maoist /maʊ'ɪst/ noun [C] someone who supports Maoism — **Maoist** adj

Maori¹ /maʊ'ri/ noun **1** [C] someone who belongs to the race of people who were living in New Zealand before Europeans arrived **2** [U] the language spoken by the Maori people

Maori² /maʊ'ri/ adj **1** someone who is Maori belongs to the race of people who were living in New Zealand before Europeans arrived **2** relating to the language or culture of the Maori people

map¹ /mæp/ noun [C] ★★★ a drawing of an area that shows the positions of things such as countries, rivers, cities, and streets: +of a map of northern Europe/the London Underground/New York City ♦ read a map (=understand what a map shows) They never taught us how to read a map at school. ♦ study a map (=look carefully at a map) Juliet was studying the map to decide which route to take. **a.** used about other types of drawing that show the positions of things: a map of the human brain do I have to draw you a map? spoken used for telling the person you are talking to that you think they are very slow to understand what you have just said: I'm just not interested. Do I have to draw you a map? off the map informal far away from towns and cities put sb/sth on the map informal to make someone or something famous: It was a role that really put her on the map as a serious actor.

map² /mæp/ verb [T] ★

1 to make a map of an area

2 to find the position of something, or find the positions of the parts of something: Scientists have succeeded in mapping the human genome.

map onto phrasal vb [T] [map sth onto sth] to connect one thing to another thing, for example as a way of understanding its meaning or structure: Can babies map these experiences onto their memories?

map out phrasal vb [T] to plan in detail how something will happen: Her own future had been mapped out for her by her parents.

maple /'meɪpl/ noun [C] a tree that grows mainly in northern countries and has wide leaves that turn red and yellow in the autumn **a.** [U] the wood of a maple — picture → c9

maple syrup noun [U] a thick sweet liquid taken from maple trees and used as a sauce

mar /mɑː/ verb [T] to spoil something

Mar. abbrev March

marabou or marabout /'mæɹəbuː/ noun [C] a large African STORK (=a type of bird) with long legs and a long beak **a.** [U] the feathers of a marabou, used for decorating hats

maracas /mə'rækəz/ noun [plural] a pair of musical instruments each shaped like a ball with a handle and filled with BEADS or beans. You play them by shaking them.

maraschino /'mæɹə'skiːnəʊ/ noun **1** [U] a sweet alcoholic drink made from black CHERRIES **2** [C] a MARASCHINO CHERRY

maraschino cherry noun [C] a bright red CHERRY stored in maraschino and used as a decoration for drinks or cakes

marathon /'mæɹəθ(ə)n/ noun [C] ★

1 a race that is run over a distance of 42 kilometres or about 26 miles

2 an activity that takes a long time to complete and needs a lot of energy and determination: The meeting turned out to be a bit of a marathon. ♦ marathon talks/negotiations

marauding /mə'rɔːdɪŋ/ adj going from place to place in order to find people to attack or things to steal or destroy — **marauder** noun [C]

marble /'mɑːbl/ noun ★

1 [U] a hard smooth stone used for building and making STATUES. Marble is usually white with dark lines that are not regular in shape: a marble floor

2 [C] a small coloured glass ball **2a.** marbles [U] a game played by children in which they roll marbles on the ground

lose your marbles informal to become crazy

marbled /'mɑːbld/ adj **1** made of marble: the marbled steps of the library **2** containing lines of another colour that are not regular in shape: beef marbled with fat

march¹ /mɑːtʃ/ verb ★★

1 [I/T] if soldiers march, they walk in a group with each person matching the speed and movements of the others: They made us march for hours. ♦ He told the sergeant to march us for another five miles. **1a.** [I] to walk along a road as part of a group of people protesting about something: Health workers are today marching through the centre of London in protest at government cuts. ♦ march on sth (=towards it) The day before, 50,000 demonstrators had marched on the Pentagon.

2 [I] [+into/out of/up to etc] to walk somewhere quickly and in a determined, confident, or angry way: She marched into the room without knocking.

3 [T] [+out of/off to etc] to force someone to walk somewhere with you, for example by holding their arm: Both men were marched out of the restaurant.

4 [I] [+on/onwards] mainly literary to continue to happen, develop, or make progress and be impossible to stop: Time marches on.

march² /mɑːtʃ/ noun [C] ★★

1 a walk by a group of soldiers in which each person matches the speed and movements of the others **1a.** the distance to a place measured as the time it takes soldiers to march there: The camp was two days' march away.

2 a walk by a group of people to a place in order to protest about something: a peace/protest march ♦ go on a march We're all going on the march against racism this Saturday.

3 a piece of music with a strong beat that matches the steps taken by marching soldiers

be on the march **1** to be marching to a new position **2** if something such as an idea or opinion is on the march, it is steadily becoming more popular **3** to be making steady progress