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WEBSTER'S
*college
dictionary*
with CD-ROM

RANDOM HOUSE
REFERENCE

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Random House Webster's College Dictionary
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- rela'tional da'tabase**, *n.* an electronic database comprising multiple files of related information, usu. stored in tables of rows (records) and columns (fields), and allowing a link to be established between separate files that have a matching field, as a column of invoice numbers, so that the two files can be queried simultaneously by the user.
- re-la-tion-ship** (rē lā'shən ship'), *n.* 1. a connection, association, or involvement. 2. connection between persons by blood or marriage; kinship. 3. an emotional or other connection between people. 4. a romantic or sexual involvement. [1735-45]
- rel-a-tive** (rel'ə tiv), *n.* 1. a person who is connected with another by blood or marriage. 2. something having, or standing in, some relation to something else. 3. something dependent upon external conditions for its specific nature, size, etc. (opposed to *absolute*). 4. a relative pronoun, adjective, or adverb. —*adj.* 5. considered in relation to something else; comparative: *the relative merits of gas and electric heating*. 6. existing or having its specific nature only by relation to something else; not absolute or independent: *Happiness is relative*. 7. having relation or connection. 8. having reference; relevant; pertinent (usu. fol. by *to*): *the facts relative to the case*. 9. correspondent; proportionate. 10. depending for significance upon something else: "*Better*" is a relative term. 11. *a.* of or designating a word that introduces a subordinate clause and refers to an expressed or implied element of the principal clause: *the relative pronoun who in "That was the woman who called"; the relative adverb where in "This is the house where I was born."* 12. (of a musical key) having the same key signature as another key: *a relative minor*. [1350-1400; ME *relatif* (*n.*) (< MF) < LL *relativus* (*adj.*); see *RELATE*, -IVE] —*rel/a-tive-ly*, *adv.*
- rel'ative clause**, *n.* a subordinate clause that is introduced by a relative pronoun, adjective, or adverb, either expressed or deleted, and modifies an antecedent, as *who saw you in That's the woman who saw you* or (*that*) *I wrote in Here's the letter (that) I wrote*.
- rel'ative humid'ity**, *n.* the amount of water vapor in the air, expressed as a percentage of the maximum amount that the air could hold at the given temperature. [1810-20]
- rel-a-tiv-ism** (rel'ə tē viz'əm), *n.* any theory of knowledge, truth, morality, etc., holding that criteria of judgment may vary with individuals and their environments. [1860-65] —*rel/a-tiv-ist*, *n.*
- rel-a-tiv-is-tic** (rel'ə tē viz'tik), *adj.* 1. pertaining to relativity or relativism. 2. *Physics.* *a.* subject to the special or the general theory of relativity. *b.* having a velocity that is close to the speed of light: *radiation from relativistic electrons*. [1885-90] —*rel/a-tiv-is-ti-cal-ly*, *adv.*
- rel-a-tiv-i-ty** (rel'ə tiv'i tē), *n.* 1. the state or fact of being relative. 2. *a.* Also called **special relativity**. the first part of Einstein's two-part theory, based on the axioms that physical laws have the same form throughout the universe and that the velocity of light in a vacuum is a universal constant, from which is derived the mass-energy equation, $E = mc^2$. *b.* Also called **general relativity**. the second part, a theory of gravitation based on the axiom that the local effects of a gravitational field and of the acceleration of an inertial system are identical. 3. dependence of a mental state upon the nature of the human mind.
- re-lax** (rē laks'), *v.t.* 1. to make less tense, rigid, or firm; make lax: *to relax the muscles*. 2. to diminish the force or intensity of, as effort or concentration; slacken or abate. 3. to make less strict or severe, as rules or discipline. 4. to release or bring relief from the effects of tension, anxiety, etc. —*v.i.* 5. to become less tense, rigid, or firm. 6. to become less strict or severe. 7. to reduce or stop work, effort, or application for the sake of rest or recreation. [1350-1400; ME < L *relaxāre* loosen, *relax* = *re-* + *laxāre* to widen, undo, free, der. of *laxus* slack, LAX] —*re-lax/a-tive*, *adj.* —*re-lax'er*, *n.*
- re-lax-ant** (rē lak'sənt), *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, or causing relaxation. —*n.* 2. a drug that relaxes, esp. one that lessens strain in muscle.
- re-lax-a-tion** (rē lak sā'shən), *n.* 1. abatement or relief from work, effort, etc. 2. an activity or recreation that provides such relief; diversion; entertainment. 3. a loosening or slackening. 4. diminution or remission of strictness or severity.
- re-laxed** (rē lakst'), *adj.* 1. being free of or relieved from tension or anxiety. 2. not strict; easy; informal. [1630-40] —*re-lax-ed-ly*, *adv.*
- re-lax-in** (rē lak'sin), *n.* a polypeptide hormone, produced by the corpus luteum during pregnancy, that causes the pelvic ligaments and cervix to relax during pregnancy and delivery. [1925-30]
- re-lay** or **re-lay** (rē lā'), *v.t.*, -laid, -lay-ing. to lay again. [1580-90]
- re-lay** (rē lā'; *v. also* rē lā'), *n.* 1. a series of persons relieving one another or taking turns; shift. 2. a fresh set of dogs or horses posted in readiness for use in a hunt, on a journey, etc. 3. *a.* RELAY RACE. *b.* a length or leg in a relay race. 4. *a.* an electrical device that responds to a change of current or voltage in one circuit by making or breaking a connection in another. *b.* SERVOMECHANISM. 5. an act or instance of conveying or transmitting by relay. —*v.t.* 6. to carry or convey by or as if by relays: *to relay a message*. 7. to provide with or replace by fresh relays. 8. to retransmit (a signal, message, etc.) by or as if by means of an electrical relay. [1375-1425; (v.) late ME *relaien* to unleash fresh hounds in a hunt < MF *relaier*, OF: to leave behind, RE-LEASE = *re-* + *laier* to leave, dial. var. of *laisser* < L *laxāre* (see RELAX)]
- re/lay race**, *n.* a race between teams of contestants, each contestant being relieved by a teammate after running part of the distance.
- re-lease** (rē lēs'), *v.t.*, -leased, -leas-ing. to lease again.
- re-release** (ri lēs'), *v.*, -leased, -leas-ing, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to free from confinement, bondage, obligation, pain, etc.; let go. 2. to free from anything that restrains or fastens; loose. 3. to allow to be known, issued, done, or exhibited: *to release an article for publication*. 4. to relinquish or surrender (a legal right, claim, etc.). —*n.* 5. a freeing or releasing from confinement, obligation, pain, emotional strain, etc. 6. liberation from anything that restrains or fastens. 7. a device or agency that effects such liberation. 8. a grant of permission, as to publish, use, or sell something. 9. the releasing of something for publication, performance, use, exhibition, or sale. 10. a film, book, record, etc., that is released. 11. *a.* the surrender of a legal right or the like to another. *b.* a document embodying such a surrender. 12. *a.* a control mechanism for starting or stopping a machine, esp. by removing some restrictive apparatus. [1250-1300; (v.) ME *reles(s)en* < OF *relesser*, *relaissier* < L *relaxāre* to loosen (see RELAX); (n.) ME *reles(e)* < OF *reles*, *relais*, der. of the v.] —*re-leas/a-ble*, *adj.* —*re-leas/a-bil-ity*, *n.* —*Syn.* RELEASE, FREE, DISMISS, DISCHARGE, LIBERATE all mean to let loose or let go. RELEASE and FREE both suggest a helpful action; they may be used of delivering a person from confinement or obligation: *to release prisoners; to free a student from certain course requirements*. DISMISS usu. means to force to go unwillingly; however, it may also refer to giving permission to go: *to dismiss an employee; to dismiss a class*. DISCHARGE usu. means to relieve of an obligation, office, etc.; it may also mean to permit to go: *The soldier was discharged*. The hospital discharged the patient. LIBERATE suggests particularly the deliverance from unjust punishment, oppression, or the like, and often means to set free through forcible or military action: *to liberate occupied territories*.
- release/ print**, *n.* PRINT (def. 25). [1935-40]
- re-leas-er** (rē lēs'ər), *n.* 1. a person or thing that releases. 2. a sign or stimulus, as a patch of color or a sound, that initiates a stereotyped behavioral response in an animal.
- releas-ing fac'tor**, *n.* a substance usu. of hypothalamic origin that triggers the release of a hormone from an endocrine gland.
- re-le-gate** (rē lē gāt'), *v.t.*, -gat-ed, -gat-ing. 1. to send or consign to an inferior position, place, or condition. 2. to consign or commit (a matter, task, etc.), as to a person. 3. to assign or refer (something) to a particular class or kind. 4. to send into exile; banish. [1375-1425; late ME < L *relēgātus*, ptp. of *relēgare* to send away, dispatch. See RE-, LEGATE] —*re-lē-ga-ble* (-gə bəl), *adj.* —*re-lē-ga'tion*, *n.*
- re-lent** (rē lent'), *v.i.* 1. to soften in feeling, temper, or determination; become more mild, compassionate, or forgiving. 2. to become less severe; slacken. —*v.t.* 3. Obs. to cause to soften or slacken. [1350-1400; ME < AF *releuter* = L *re-* + *lentāre* to bend, der. of *lentus* flexible, viscous, slow] —*re-lent-ing-ly*, *adv.*
- re-lent-less** (rē lent'lis), *adj.* unyieldingly severe, strict, or harsh; unrelenting. [1585-95] —*re-lent/less-ly*, *adv.* —*re-lent/less-ness*, *n.*
- re-le-vant** (rē lə vānt), *adj.* 1. bearing upon the matter at hand; pertinent. 2. having practical value or applicability. [1550-60; < ML *relevāns*, s. of *relevāns*, prp. of *relevāre* to rebuild, L: to raise, lift up. See RELIEVE, -ANT] —*re-lē-vance*, *re-lē-van-cy*, *n.* —*re-lē-vant-ly*, *adv.* —*Syn.* See APT. —*Pronunciation.* See IRRELEVANT.
- re-li-a-ble** (rē lī'ə bəl), *adj.* capable of being relied on; consistently dependable in character, judgment, performance, or result. [1560-70] —*re-li/a-bil-i-ty*, *re-li/a-ble-ness*, *n.* —*re-li/a-bly*, *adv.*
- re-li-ance** (rē lī'əns), *n.* 1. confident or trustful dependence. 2. confidence. 3. something or someone relied on. [1600-10]
- re-li-ant** (rē lī'ənt), *adj.* 1. having or showing dependence. 2. confident; trustful. [1855-60] —*re-li/ant-ly*, *adv.*
- re-lit** (rē līk), *n.* 1. a surviving memorial of something past. 2. an object having interest by reason of its age or its association with the past. 3. a surviving trace of something: *a custom that is a relic of paganism*. 4. *relics*, *a.* remaining parts or fragments. *b.* the remains of a deceased person. 5. something kept in remembrance; souvenir; memento. 6. a body, body part, or personal object associated with a saint or martyr and preserved as worthy of veneration. 7. a once widespread linguistic form that survives in a limited area but is otherwise obsolete. [1175-1225; ME < OF *relique* < L *reliquiae* (pl.) remains (> OE *reliquias*) = *reliqu(us)* remaining + *-iae* pl. n. suffix]
- re-lict** (rē līkt), *n.* 1. a species or community living in an environment that has changed from that which is typical for it. 2. a remnant or survivor. 3. a widow. [1525-35; < ML *relicta* widow, n. use of fem. of L *relictus*, ptp. of *relinquere* to RELINQUISH]
- re-lief** (rē lēf'), *n.* 1. alleviation of or deliverance from pain, distress, anxiety, oppression, etc. 2. a feeling of comfort or ease caused by such alleviation or deliverance. 3. money, food, or other help given to those in poverty or need. 4. something affording a pleasing change, as from monotony. 5. release from a post of duty, as by the arrival of a replacement. 6. the person or persons acting as replacement. 7. the rescue of a besieged town, fort, etc., from an attacking force. 8. the freeing of a closed space, as a tank or boiler, from more than a desirable amount of pressure or vacuum. 9. a sum of money paid by the heir of a feudal tenant to the lord for the privilege of succeeding to

re/in-sti-tu'tion, *n.*
 re/in-sti-tu'tion-al-i-za'tion, *n.*
 re/in-struct', *v.t.*
 re/in-struct-ion, *n.*
 re/in-ter', *v.t.*, -tered,

-ter-ing.
 re/in-ter-est, *n.*, *v.t.*
 re/in-ter-ment, *n.*
 re/in-ter-pret, *v.*
 re/in-ter/pre-ta'tion, *n.*

re/in-ter/ro-gate', *v.*, -gat-ed,
 -gat-ing.
 re/in-ter/ro-ga'tion, *n.*
 re/in-ter-view', *n.*, *v.t.*
 re/in-tro-duce', *v.t.*, -duced,

-duc-ing.
 re/in-tro-duc'tion, *n.*
 re/in-vade', *v.t.*, -vad-ed,
 -vad-ing.
 re/in-vest', *v.t.*