

UPDATED ANNUALLY

100
YEARS
DICTIONARY
OF CHOICE

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

THE WORDS YOU NEED TODAY

- Clear and precise
- Best guidance on word choice
- Most definitions—over 215,000



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 © 1998 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Philippines Copyright 1998 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — 10th ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-87779-708-0 (unindexed : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-709-9 (indexed : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-710-2 (deluxe indexed : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-707-2 (laminated cover, unindexed).

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 1998

423—dc21

97-41846
CIP

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, Tenth Edition principal copyright 1993

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

21222324RMCN98

and by a cream or fawn body with dark brown points; also : a Siamese cat with such coloring
seal ring *n* (1608) : a finger ring engraved with a seal : **SIGNET RING**
seal-skin *\s(e)l-,sk(n)\ n* (14c) 1 : the fur or pelt of a fur seal 2 : a garment (as a jacket, coat, or cape) of sealskin — **sealskin** *adj*
sealyham terrier *\s(e)-l(e)-ham-, esp Brit -l(e)-am-\ n* [*Sealyham*, Pembrokeshire, Wales] (1907) : any of a breed of short-legged long-headed strong-jawed heavy-boned chiefly white terriers developed in Wales
seam *\sem\ n* [ME *seam*, fr. OE *sēam*; akin to OE *siwian* to sew — more at *sew*] (bef. 12c) 1 a : the joining of two pieces (as of cloth or leather) by sewing usu. near the edge b : the stitching used in such a joining 2 : the space between adjacent planks or strakes of a ship 3 a : a line, groove, or ridge formed by the abutment of edges b : a thin layer or stratum (as of rock) between distinctive layers; also : a bed of valuable mineral and esp. coal irrespective of thickness c : a line left by a cut or wound; also : WRINKLE 4 : a weak or vulnerable area or gap (found a ~ in the zone defense) — **seam-like** *\-,lik\ adj* — **at the seams** : ENTIRELY, COMPLETELY (falling apart at the seams)
seam n (1882) 1 a : to join by sewing b : to join as if by sewing (as by welding, riveting, or heat-sealing) 2 : to mark with lines suggesting seams ~ *vi* : to become fissured or ridgy — **seam-er *n*
seam-er *\s(e)-m(e)-, or sea-maid-en \-,m(e)-d(e)n\ n* (1590) : MERMAID; also : a goddess or nymph of the sea
seaman *\s(e)-man\ n* (bef. 12c) 1 : SAILOR, MARINER 2 a : any of the three ranks below petty officer in the navy or coast guard b : an enlisted man in the navy or coast guard ranking above a seaman apprentice and below a petty officer
seaman apprentice *n* (1947) : an enlisted man in the navy or coast guard ranking above a seaman recruit and below a seaman
seaman-like *\s(e)-man-,lik\ adj* (1796) : characteristic of or befitting a competent seaman
seaman-ly *\s(e)-m(e)-li\ adj* (1798) : SEAMANLIKE
seaman recruit *n* (1947) : an enlisted man of the lowest rank in the navy or coast guard
seaman-ship *\s(e)-m(e)-sh(p)-\ n* (1766) : the art or skill of handling, working, and navigating a ship
seamark *\s(e)-m(e)-m(e)-rk\ n* (15c) 1 : a line on a coast marking the tidal limit 2 : an elevated object serving as a beacon to mariners
sea mew *n* (15c) : SEAGULL; esp : a common gull (*Larus canus*) chiefly of Europe and northwestern N. America
sea mile *n* (1796) : NAUTICAL MILE
seam-less *\s(e)-l(e)-s\ adj* (15c) 1 : having no seams 2 : having no awkward transitions or indications of disparity : perfectly smooth (a ~ fusion of beauty and intelligence — Jack Kroll *et al.*) — **seam-less-ly** *adv* — **seam-less-ness** *\-nəs\ n*
seamount *\s(e)-m(e)-m(e)-nt\ n* (1941) : a submarine mountain rising above the deep-sea floor
sea mouse *n* (ca. 1520) : any of various large broad marine polychaete worms (esp. genus *Aphrodite*) covered with hairlike setae
seamstress *\s(e)-m(e)-s(t)ris\ n* (1644) : a woman whose occupation is sewing
seamy *\s(e)-m(e)-\ adj* **seamy-er**, **-est** (1604) 1 *archaic* : having the rough side of the seam showing 2 a : UNPLEASANT b : DEGRADED, UGLY — **seamy-ness** *n*
seance *\s(e)-ans\ (s-, -äns, sä-\ n* [F, fr. *seoir* to sit, fr. L *sedere* — more at *sit*] (1803) 1 : SESSON, SITTING 2 : a spiritualist meeting to receive spirit communications
sea nettle *n* (1601) : a stinging jellyfish; esp : one (*Chrysaora quinquecirrha*) occurring esp. in Atlantic estuaries from Cape Cod to the West Indies
sea oats *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* (1894) : a tall grass (*Uniola paniculata*) that has panicles resembling those of the oat, grows chiefly on the coast of the southern U.S., and is useful as a sand binder
sea onion *n* (14c) : SQUILL 1a
sea otter *n* (1664) : a rare marine otter (*Enhydra lutris*) of the northern Pacific coasts that may attain a length of six feet (two meters), is chiefly brown but with lighter coloration on the back of the head and neck, and feeds largely on shellfish
sea pen *n* (1763) : any of numerous anthozoans (order Pennatulacea) growing in colonies with a feathery form
sea-piece *\s(e)-p(e)s\ n* (1656) : SEASCAPE 2
sea pink (1731) 1 : THRIFT 4 2 : any of a genus (*Sabatia*) of smooth slender N. American herbs of the gentian family typically having pink or white cymose flowers
sea-plane *\s(e)-pl(e)n\ n* (1913) : an airplane designed to take off from and land on the water
sea-port *\s(e)-p(e)rt-, -p(e)rt\ n* (ca. 1520) : a port, harbor, or town accessible to seagoing ships
sea power *n* (1849) 1 : a nation having formidable naval strength 2 : naval strength
sea puss *\s(e)-p(e)s\ n* [alter. of dial. *seapoose* tidal stream, fr. Unquachog (Algonquian language of Long Island) *seépus* river] (ca. 1891) : a swirling or along shore undertow
seaquake *\s(e)-kw(e)k\ n* [sea + earthquake] (1680) : a submarine earthquake
sear *\s(e)-\ vb* [ME *seren*, fr. OE *sēarian* to become sere, fr. *sēar* sere] *vi* (bef. 12c) : to cause withering or drying ~ *vt* 1 : to make withered and dry : PARCH 2 : to burn, scorch, or injure with or as if with sudden application of intense heat — **sear-ing-ly** *\-iŋ-,lē\ adv*
sear *n* (1874) : a mark or scar left by searing
sear *n* [prob. fr. MF *serre* grasp, fr. *serre* to press, grasp, fr. LL *serare* to bolt, latch, fr. L *sera* bar for fastening a door] (1596) : the catch that holds the hammer of a gun's lock at cock or half cock
search *\s(e)-\ vb* [ME *cerchen*, fr. MF *cerchier* to go about, survey,**

examine for articles concealed on the person e : to look at as if to discover or penetrate intention or nature 2 : to uncover, find, or come to know by inquiry or scrutiny — usu. used with *out* ~ *vi* 1 : to look or inquire carefully (~ed for the papers) 2 : to make painstaking investigation or examination — **search-able** *\s(e)-ch(e)-ə-bəl\ adj* — **search-er** *n* — **search-ing-ly** *\-ch(iŋ-,lē\ adv*
**search n (15c) 1 a : an act of searching (a ~ for food) (go in ~ of help) b : an act of boarding and inspecting a ship on the high seas in exercise of right of search 2 *obs* : a party that searches 3 : power or range of penetrating; also : a penetrating effect
search engine *n* (1984) : computer software used to search data (as text or a database) for specified information
search-less *\s(e)-l(e)-s\ adj* (1605) : INSCRUTABLE, IMPENETRABLE
search-light *\-,lit\ n* (1883) : an apparatus for projecting a powerful beam of light; also : a beam of light projected by it
search warrant *n* (1818) : a warrant authorizing a search (as of a house) for stolen goods or unlawful possessions
sea robin *n* (1814) : any of a family (Triglidae) of marine bony fishes typically having a spiny armored head and the bottom three rays of the pectoral fin on each side free of membrane and modified for use as feelers or in crawling — called also *gurnard*
sea room *n* (ca. 1554) : room for maneuver at sea
sea rover *n* (ca. 1580) : one that roves the sea; *specif* : PIRATE
sea-run *\s(e)-r(e)n\ adj* (1885) : ANADROMOUS (a ~ salmon)
sea-scape *\s(e)-sk(e)p\ n* (1799) 1 : a view of the sea 2 : a picture representing a scene at sea
sea scorpion *n* (1896) 1 : SCULPIN 2 : EURYPTERID
Sea Scout *n* (1911) : SEA EXPLORER
sea serpent *n* (1774) : a large marine animal resembling a serpent often reported to have been seen but never proved to exist
sea-shell *\s(e)-shel\ n* (bef. 12c) : the shell of a marine animal and esp. a mollusk
sea-shore *\-,sh(e)r-, -sh(e)r\ n* (1526) 1 a : land adjacent to the sea : COAST b : NATIONAL SEASHORE 2 : all the ground between the ordinary high-water and low-water marks : FORESHORE
sea-sick *\-,sik\ adj* (ca. 1566) : affected with or suggestive of seasickness
sea-sick-ness *\-nəs\ n* (1625) : motion sickness experienced on the water
sea-side *\s(e)-sid\ n* (13c) : the district or land bordering the sea : country adjacent to the sea : SEASHORE — **seaside** *adj*
sea slug *n* (1779) 1 : HOLOTHURIAN 2 : a naked marine gastropod; *specif* : NUDIBRANCH
sea snake *n* (1755) 1 : SEA SERPENT 2 : any of numerous venomous aquatic chiefly viviparous elapid snakes of warm seas
season *\s(e)-z(e)n\ n* [ME, fr. MF *saison*, fr. OF, fr. L *saetio*, *saetio* action of sowing, fr. *serere* to sow — more at *sow*] (14c) 1 a : a time characterized by a particular circumstance or feature (in a ~ of religious awakening — F. A. Christie) b : a suitable or natural time or occasion (when my ~ comes to sit on David's throne — John Milton) c : an indefinite period of time : WHILE (sent home again to her father for a ~ — Francis Hackett) 2 a : a period of the year characterized by or associated with a particular activity or phenomenon (hay fever ~) : as (1) : a period associated with some phase or activity of agriculture (as growth or harvesting) (2) : a period in which an animal engages in some activity (as migrating or mating); also : ESTRUS, HEAT (3) : the period normally characterized by a particular kind of weather (a long rainy ~) (4) : a period marked by special activity esp. in some field (tourist ~) (5) : a period in which a place is most frequented b : one of the four quarters into which the year is commonly divided c : the time of a major holiday 3 : YEAR (a boy of seven ~) 4 [ME *sesoun*, fr. *sesounen* to season] : SEASONING 5 : the schedule of official games played or to be played by a sports team during a playing season (got through the ~ undefeated) 6 : OFF-SEASON (closed for the ~) — **in season** 1 : at the right time 2 : at the stage of greatest fitness (as for eating) (peaches are *in season*) 3 : legally available to be hunted or caught — **out of season** : not in season
season vb *seasoned*, **season-ing** *\s(e)-z(e)n-, -z(e)-n(iŋ-\ n* [ME *sesounen*, fr. MF *assaisonner* to ripen, season, fr. OF, fr. a- (fr. L *ad-*) + *saison* season] *vt* (14c) 1 a : to give (food) more flavor or zest by adding seasoning or savory ingredients b : to give a distinctive quality to as if by seasoning; esp : to make more agreeable (advice ~ed with wit) c *archaic* : to qualify by admixture : TEMPER 2 a : to treat (as wood or a skillet) so as to prepare for use b : to make fit by experience (a ~ed veteran) ~ *vi* : to become seasoned
season-able *\s(e)-n(e)-ə-bəl-, -s(e)-z(e)-n(e)-ə-bəl\ adj* (14c) 1 : suitable to the season or circumstances : TIMELY (a ~ frost) 2 : occurring in good or proper time : OPPORTUNE (a ~ time for discussion) — **season-able-ness** *n* — **season-ably** *\-ə-b(ə)-lē\ adv*
season-al *\s(e)-z(e)-n(e)-əl-, -s(e)-z(e)-n(e)-əl\ adj* (1838) 1 : of, relating to, or varying in occurrence according to the season (~ storms) 2 : affected or caused by seasonal need or availability (~ industries) — **season-al-ity** *\s(e)-z(e)-n(e)-ə-l(e)-t(e)-\ n* — **season-al-ly** *\s(e)-z(e)-n(e)-ə-l(e)-lē\ adv*
seasonal affective disorder *n* (1985) : depression that tends to recur as the days grow shorter during the fall and winter
season-er *\s(e)-z(e)-n(e)-ər-, -s(e)-z(e)-n(e)-ər\ n* (1598) : one that seasons : as a : a user of seasonings (a heavy ~) b : SEASONING
season-ing *\s(e)-z(e)-n(iŋ-, -s(e)-z(e)-n(iŋ-\ n* (1580) : something that serves to season; esp : an ingredient (as a condiment, spice, or herb) added to food primarily for the savor that it imparts**

\ə\ about \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar
\au\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \e\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job
\j\ sing \d\ go \d\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ü\ loot \ü\ foot
\y\ yet \zh\ vision \ä, k, ", öe, üe, \ see Guide to Pronunciation

“...superb...”

—WILLIAM SAFIRE, *The New York Times*

100
YEARS
DICTIONARY
OF CHOICE

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

**A 100th-anniversary edition with hundreds of brand-new,
up-to-date words and meanings**

**EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND DEFINITIONS HELP YOU
COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY.**

- More than 215,000 definitions deliver extensive coverage of the words you need.
- Illustrations and tables aid understanding and offer information at a glance.

**SPELLINGS AND PRONUNCIATIONS HELP YOU
WRITE AND SPEAK ACCURATELY.**

- Entries present correct spellings for more than 160,000 words and phrases.
- Detailed symbols show most-common pronunciations and acceptable variants.

**USAGE GUIDES AND SYNONYM PARAGRAPHS HELP YOU
CHOOSE THE RIGHT WORD.**

- Authoritative usage notes and paragraphs answer questions about how words are used.
- Synonym paragraphs go beyond a thesaurus to explain shades of difference among words.

**SPECIAL SECTIONS OFFER UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION TO HELP
BUILD YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE.**

- Special sections include: Biographical Names, Geographical Names, Abbreviations, Foreign Words and Phrases, Signs and Symbols.
- A Handbook of Style provides essential information to improve your writing.



\$24.95

Your #1 Language Resource
From the Inkwell to the Internet

UPC



X002651TSF

UsedGood - Merriam-Webster's Collegiat

Webster Inc.
l, MA 01102
w.m-w.com
d: MERRIAM

EAN



ISBN 0-87779-709-9

90000

9 780877 797098

CC-009-A01-8910