

Webster's New World™ Dictionary

Fourth Edition

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tions, as a type of dermatitis, thought to be inherited

-a-to-ry (ə tōr'ē) [**< L**] *suffix* -ORY

ATP (ā'tē'pē') *n.* [**a**(denosine)-**t**(ri)p(hosphate)] an organic compound present in, and vital to, all living cells

a-tri-um (ā'trē am) *n., pl. a'tri-a* (-ə) or **a'tri-ums** [**L**] 1 the central court or main room of an ancient Roman house 2 a court or entrance hall, usually of more than one story 3 either of the heart's upper chambers

a-tro-cious (ə trō'shəs) *adj.* [**< L** *atrox*, fierce] 1 very cruel, evil, etc. 2 very bad or unpleasant; offensive —**a-tro-ciously** *adv.* —**a-tro-cious-ness** *n.*

a-troc-i-ty (ə trās'ə tē) *n., pl. -ties* 1 atrocious behavior 2 an atrocious act 3 [Inf.] a very displeasing thing

at-ro-phy (ā'trō fē) *n.* [**< Gr** *a-*, not + *trephein*, to feed] a wasting away or failure to grow, esp. of body tissue, an organ, etc. —*vi.* **-phied**, **-phy-ing** to undergo atrophy —*vt.* to cause atrophy in

at-ro-pine (ā'trō pēn', -pin') *n.* [**< Gr** *Atropos*, one of the Fates + **-ine**³] an alkaloid obtained from belladonna, used to relieve spasms, etc.

at-tach (ə tach') *vt.* [**< OFr** *estache*, a post, stake] 1 to fasten by sticking, tying, etc. 2 to join; often used reflexively 3 to connect by ties of affection, etc. 4 to add (a signature, etc.) 5 to ascribe 6 *Law* to take (property) by writ —**at-tach'a-ble** *adj.*

at-ta-ché (at'ə shā'; chiefly *Brit* ə tash'ā) *n.* [**Fr**: see *prec.*] a member of an ambassador's diplomatic staff

attaché *case* a briefcase

at-tach'ment *n.* 1 an attaching or being attached 2 anything that attaches; fastening 3 devotion 4 anything attached 5 an accessory for an electrical appliance, etc. 6 *Law* a taking of property into custody

at-tack (ə tak') *vt.* [**< It** *attaccare*] 1 to use force against in order to harm 2 to speak or write against 3 to undertake vigorously 4 to begin acting upon harmfully —*vi.* to make an assault —*n.* 1 an attacking 2 any hostile action, esp. with troops 3 the onset of a disease 4 a beginning of a task, undertaking, etc. —**at-tack'er** *n.*

at-tain (ə tān') *vt.* [**< L** *ad-*, to + *tangere*, to touch] 1 to gain; accomplish; achieve 2 to reach; arrive at —**at-tain'a-bil'i-ty** *n.* —**at-tain'a-ble** *adj.*

at-tain'der (-dər) *n.* [see *prec.*] loss of civil rights and property of one sentenced to death or outlawed

at-tar (at'ər) *n.* [**< Ar** *'itr*, perfume] a perfume made from flower petals, esp. of roses (*attar of roses*)

at-tempt (ə tempt') *vt.* [**< L** *ad-*, to + *temptare*, to try] to try to do, get, etc. —*n.* 1 a try; endeavor 2 an attack, as on a person's life

at-tend (ə tend') *vt.* [**< L** *ad-*, to + *tendere*, to stretch] 1 [Now Rare] to take care of 2 to go with 3 to accompany as a result 4 to be present at —*vi.* 1 to pay attention 2 to wait (on or upon) 3 to apply oneself (to) 4 to give

the required care (to)

at-tend'ance *n.* 1 an attending 2 the number of persons attending

at-tend'ant *adj.* 1 attending or serving 2 being present 3 accompanying —*n.* one who attends or serves

at-ten-tion (ə ten'shən) *n.* [see **ATTEND**] 1 mental concentration or readiness 2 notice or observation 3 care or consideration 4 an act of courtesy or devotion: *usually used in pl.* 5 the erect posture of soldiers ready for a command

attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder a mental disorder marked by inability to concentrate, impulsiveness, etc.

at-ten'tive (-tiv) *adj.* 1 paying attention 2 courteous, devoted, etc. —**at-ten'tive-ly** *adv.* —**at-ten'tive-ness** *n.*

at-ten-u-ate (ə ten'yōō āt') *vt.* **-at'ed**, **-at'ing** [**< L** *ad-*, to + *tenuis*, thin] 1 to make thin 2 to dilute 3 to lessen or weaken —*vi.* to become thin, weak, etc. —**at-ten'u-a'tion** *n.* —**at-ten'u-a'tor** *n.*

at-test (ə test') *vt.* [**< L** *ad-*, to + *testari*, to bear witness] 1 to declare to be true or genuine 2 to certify, as by oath 3 to serve as proof of —*vi.* to bear witness (to) —**at-tes-ta'tion** (at'əs tā'shən) *n.*

at-tic (at'ik) *n.* [**< Gr** *Attikos*, of Attica (ancient Gr state): with reference to architectural style] the room or space just below the roof; garret

At-ti-la (at'tl ə, ə til'ə) A.D. 406?-453; king of the Huns: called *Attila the Hun*

at-tire (ə tir') *vt.* **-tired'**, **-tir'ing** [**< OFr** *a-*, to + *tire*, order, row] to dress, esp. in fine garments; clothe —*n.* clothes, esp. fine or rich apparel

at-ti-tude (at'ə tōd') *n.* [ult. **< L** *aptus*, apt] 1 a bodily posture showing mood, action, etc. 2 a manner showing one's feelings or thoughts 3 one's disposition, opinion, etc. 4 [Slang] a quarrelsome or haughty temperament or manner

at-ti-tu-di-nize (at'ə tōd'n iz') *vi.* **-nized'**, **-niz'ing** to pose for effect

Attn or **attn** *abbrev.* attention

at-tor-ney (ə tur'nē) *n., pl. -neys* [**< OFr** *a-*, to + *torner*, to turn] any person legally empowered to act for another; esp., a lawyer

attorney at law a lawyer

attorney general *pl.* **attorneys general** or **attorney generals** the chief law officer of a government

at-tract (ə trakt') *vt.* [**< L** *ad-*, to + *trahere*, to draw] 1 to draw to itself or oneself 2 to get the admiration, attention, etc. of; allure —*vi.* to be attractive —**at-tract'a-ble** *adj.*

at-trac-tion (ə trak'shən) *n.* 1 an attracting or being attracted 2 power to attract; esp., charm 3 anything that attracts 4 *Physics* the mutual tendency of bodies to draw together

at-trac'tive (-tiv) *adj.* that attracts; esp., pleasing, charming, pretty, etc. —**at-trac'tive-ly** *adv.* —**at-trac'tive-ness** *n.*

at-trib-ute (ə trib'yōōt; for *n.* a'trə byōōt') *vt.* **-ut-ed**, **-ut-ing** [**< L** *ad-*, to +

tribuere, assign] to think of as belonging to a certain person or thing —*n.* a characteristic or quality of a person or thing —*at-trib'ut-a-ble adj.* —*at-trib-ution* (ə'trə byō'shən) *n.*

at-trib-u-tive (ə trib'yō tiv) *adj.* 1 attributing 2 preceding the noun it modifies: said of an adjective —*at-trib'u-tive-ly adv.*

at-tri-tion (ə trish'ən) *n.* [*< L ad-*, to + *terere*, to rub] 1 a wearing away by or as by friction 2 a normal loss of personnel, as by retirement

at-tune (ə tōn') *vt.* -tuned', -tun'ing 1 to tune 2 to bring into harmony

atty *abbrev.* attorney

ATV (ā'tē've') *n., pl.* *ATVs* [*A(l)-T(errain) V(ehicle)*] a small motor vehicle for traveling over rough ground, snow and ice, etc.

a-twit-ter (ə twit'ər) *adv., adj.* twitting

a-typ-i-cal (ā tip'i kəl) *adj.* not typical; abnormal —*a-typ'i-cal-ly adv.*

Au [*L aurum*] *Chem. symbol* for gold

au-burn (ō'bərn) *adj., n.* [*< L albus*, white; infl. by *ME brun*, brown] reddish brown

Auck-land (ōk'lənd) seaport in N New Zealand: pop. 910,000

au-ction (ōk'shən) *n.* [*< L augere*, to increase] a public sale of items, one by one, to the highest bidder for each item —*vt.* to sell at auction —*au-ction off* to sell at auction —*au-ction-er' n.*

au-da-cious (ō dā'shəs) *adj.* [*< L audax*, bold] 1 bold; daring 2 too bold; brazen; insolent —*au-da'cious-ly adv.* —*au-da'cious-ness n.*

au-dac-i-ty (ō das'ə tē) *n.* 1 bold courage 2 insolence; impudence 3 *pl.* -ties an audacious act or remark

au-di-ble (ō'də bəl) *adj.* [*< L audire*, hear] loud enough to be heard —*au'di-bil'i-ty* (-bil'ə tē) *n.* —*au'di-bly adv.*

au-di-ence (ō'dē əns) *n.* [*< L audire*, hear] 1 those assembled to hear and see something 2 all those reached by a TV or radio program, book, etc. 3 a hearing, esp. a formal interview

au-di-o (ō'dē ō') *adj.* [*< L audire*, hear] 1 of frequencies corresponding to audible sound waves 2 of sound reproduction, as of the sound phase of television

au'di-o-book' n. a recording of a reading of a book, as by the author

au-di-ol-o-gy (ō'dē əl'ə jē) *n.* evaluation and treatment of hearing defects —*au'di-ol'o-gist n.*

au-di-om'e-ter (-ām'ət ə) *n.* an instrument for measuring the sharpness and range of hearing —*au'di-o-met'ric* (-ō me'trik) *adj.*

au-di-o-phile (ō'dē ō fil') *n.* a devotee of high-fidelity sound reproduction, as from recordings

au-di-o-vis-u-al (ō'dē ō vizh'ō əl) *adj.* 1 involving both hearing and sight 2 of teaching aids such as films and recordings

au-dit (ōd'it) *n.* [*< L auditus*, a hearing] a formal checking of financial records

—*vt., vi.* 1 to check (accounts, etc.) 2 to attend (a college class) as a listener receiving no credit

au-di-tion (ō dish'ən) *n.* [*< L audire*, hear] a hearing to try out an actor, singer, etc. —*vt., vi.* to try out in an audition

au-di-tor (ō'dit ə) *n.* 1 a listener 2 one who audits accounts 3 one who audits classes

au-di-to-ri-um (ō'də tōr'ē əm) *n.* 1 a room where an audience sits 2 a building or hall for speeches, concerts, etc.

au-di-to-ry (ō'də tōr'ē) *adj.* of hearing or the sense of hearing

auf Wie-der-seh-en (auf vē'dər zā'ən) [*Ger*] goodbye

au-ger (ō'gər) *n.* [*< OE nafu*, hub (of a wheel) + *gar*, a spear] a tool for boring holes in wood

ought (ōt) *n.* [*< OE a*, ever + *wiht*, creature] 1 anything whatever 2 [*< (N)AUGHT*] a zero

aug-ment (ōg ment') *vt., vi.* [*< L augere*, to increase] to make or become greater —*aug-men-ta'tion n.* —*aug-ment'er n.*

au gra-tin (ō grat'n, -grät'-) [*Fr*] with a crust of bread crumbs and grated cheese

au-gur (ō'gər) *n.* [*L*, priest at fertility rites] a prophet; soothsayer —*vt., vi.* 1 to prophesy 2 to be an omen (of) —*augur ill* (or *well*) to be a bad (or good) omen

au-gu-ry (ō'gyō rē) *n.* 1 the practice of divination 2 *pl.* -ries an omen; portent

au-gust (ō gust') *adj.* [*L augustus*] inspiring awe; imposing —*au-gust'ly adv.* —*au-gust'ness n.*

Au-gust (ō'gəst) *n.* [*< L Augustus*] the eighth month of the year, having 31 days: *abbrev.* *Aug*

Au-gus-ta (ō gus'tə) capital of Maine: pop. 21,000

Au-gus-tine (ō'gəs tēn', ə gus'tin), Saint (A.D. 354-430); early Christian church father

Au-gus-tus (ō gus'təs) 63 B.C.-A.D. 14; 1st Rom. emperor (27 B.C.-A.D. 14)

au jus (ō zhōō', ō jōōs') [*Fr*] served in its natural juices: said of meat

auk (ōk) *n.* [*< ON alka*] a diving bird of northern seas, with webbed feet and short wings used as paddles

auld lang syne (ōld' lan' zīn') [*Scot*, lit., old long since] the good old days

aunt (ant, änt) *n.* [*< L amita*] 1 a sister of one's mother or father 2 the wife of one's uncle

au poivre (ō pwävrə) [*Fr*] with crushed black peppercorns and a sauce

au-ra (ō'rə) *n., pl.* -ras or -rae (-rē) [*< Gr*] 1 an invisible emanation 2 a particular quality surrounding a person or thing

au-ral (ō'rəl) *adj.* [*< L auris*, ear] of the ear or the sense of hearing

au-re-ole (ō'rē ōl') *n.* [*< L aurum*, gold] 1 a halo 2 a corona around the sun

Au-re-o-my-cin (ō'rē ō mī'sin) *trade-mark* for an antibiotic used to treat infections and viruses

au re-voir (ō'rə vwär') [*Fr*] goodbye

au-ri-cle (ō'ri kəl) *n.* [*< L dim.* of *auris*,