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Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

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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

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Made in the United States of America

21222324RMcN98

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physiological psychology *n* (1888) : a branch of psychology that deals with the effects of normal and pathological physiological processes on mental life — called also *psychophysiology*

physiological saline *n* (1896) : a solution of a salt or salts that is essentially isotonic with tissue fluids or blood

phys-i-ol-o-gy \,fi-zē-ˈä-lə-jē\ *n* [L *physiologia* natural science, fr. Gk, fr. *physi-* + *-logia* -logy] (1597) **1** : a branch of biology that deals with the functions and activities of life or of living matter (as organs, tissues, or cells) and of the physical and chemical phenomena involved — compare ANATOMY **2** : the organic processes and phenomena of an organism or any of its parts or of a particular bodily process — **phys-i-ol-o-gist** \-jist\ *n*

phys-io-pa-thol-o-gy \ˈfi-zē-ō-pə-ˈthä-lə-jē, -pa-\ *n* (ca. 1889) : a branch of biology or medicine that combines physiology and pathology esp. in the study of altered bodily function in disease — **phys-io-path-o-log-ic** \-,pa-thə-ˈlä-jik\ *or* **phys-io-path-o-log-i-cal** \-ji-kəl\ *adj*

phys-io-ther-a-py \,fi-zē-ō-ˈther-ə-pē\ *n* [NL *physiotherapia*, fr. *physi-* + *therapia* therapy] (ca. 1903) : PHYSICAL THERAPY — **phys-io-ther-a-pist** \-pist\ *n*

phy-sique \fə-ˈzēk\ *n* [F, fr. *physique* physical, bodily, fr. L *physicus* of nature, fr. Gk *physikos*] (1813) : the form or structure of a person's body : bodily makeup

phy-so-stig-mine \,fī-sə-ˈstig-ˌmēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. NL *Physostigma*, genus of vines that bear the Calabar bean] (1864) : a crystalline tasteless alkaloid $C_{15}H_{21}N_3O_2$ from the Calabar bean that is used in medicine esp. in the form of its salicylate for its anticholinesterase activity

phyt- *or* **phyto-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk, fr. *phyton*, fr. *phyein* to bring forth — more at BE] : plant ⟨*phyt*ophagous⟩

phy-tane \ˈfī-ˌtān\ *n* (1907) : an isoprenoid hydrocarbon $C_{20}H_{42}$ that is found esp. associated with fossilized plant remains from the Precambrian and later eras

-phyte *n comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *phyton* plant] : plant having a (specified) characteristic or habitat ⟨*xerophyte*⟩

-phytic *adj comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *phyton* plant] : like a plant ⟨*holophytic*⟩

phy-to-alex-in \,fī-tō-ə-ˈlek-sən\ *n* [ISV *phyt-* + *alexin* substance combating infection, fr. Gk *alexein* to ward off, protect; akin to Skt *rakṣati* the protects] (1949) : a chemical substance produced by a plant to combat infection by a pathogen (as a fungus)

phy-to-chem-i-cal \-ˈke-mi-kəl\ *adj* (ca. 1858) : of, relating to, or being phytochemistry — **phy-to-chem-i-cal-ly** \-mi-kə-lē\ *adv*

phy-to-chem-is-try \-ˈke-mə-strē\ *n* (1837) : the chemistry of plants, plant processes, and plant products — **phy-to-chem-ist** \-ˈke-mist\ *n*

phy-to-chrome \ˈfī-tə-ˌkrōm\ *n* (ca. 1893) : a chromoprotein that is present in traces in many plants and that plays a significant role in initiating floral and developmental processes when activated by red or near-infrared radiation

phy-to-fla-gel-late \,fī-tō-ˈfla-jə-lət, -ˌlāt; -flə-ˈje-\ *n* (1935) : any of various organisms (as dinoflagellates) that are considered a subclass (Phytomastigophora syn. Phytomastigina) usu. of algae by botanists and of protozoans by zoologists and that have many characteristics in common with typical algae

phy-to-ge-og-ra-phy \,fī-tō-jē-ˈä-grə-fē\ *n* [ISV] (1847) : the biogeography of plants — **phy-to-ge-og-ra-pher** \-fər\ *n* — **phy-to-geograph-i-cal** \-,jē-ə-ˈgra-fi-kəl\ *or* **phy-to-geo-graph-ic** \-fik\ *adj* — **phy-to-geo-graph-i-cal-ly** \-fi-kə(-ə)lē\ *adv*

phy-to-path-o-gen \,fī-tō-ˈpa-thə-jən\ *n* (ca. 1930) : an organism parasitic on a plant host — **phy-to-path-o-gen-ic** \-,pa-thə-ˈje-nik\ *adj*

phy-to-pa-thol-o-gy \-pə-ˈthä-lə-jē, -pa-\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1859) : plant pathology — **phy-to-path-o-log-i-cal** \-,pa-thə-ˈlä-ji-kəl\ *adj*

phy-toph-a-gous \fī-ˈtä-fə-gəs\ *adj* (1826) : feeding on plants ⟨a ~ insect⟩

phy-to-plank-ter \,fī-tō-ˈplaŋ(k)-tər\ *n* (1944) : a planktonic plant

phy-to-plank-ton \-ˈplaŋ(k)-tən, -ˌtän\ *n* [ISV] (1897) : planktonic plant life — **phy-to-plank-ton-ic** \-plaŋ(k)-ˈtä-nik\ *adj*

phy-to-so-ci-ol-o-gy \-,sō-sē-ˈä-lə-jē, -shē-\ *n* (ca. 1928) : a branch of ecology concerned esp. with the structure, composition, and interrelationships of plant communities — **phy-to-so-cio-log-i-cal** \-sē-ə-ˈlä-ji-kəl\ *adj*

phy-tos-ter-ol \fī-ˈtäs-tə-ˌrȯl, -ˌrōl\ *n* [ISV] (1898) : any of various sterols derived from plants — compare ZOOSTEROL

phy-to-tox-ic \,fī-tə-ˈtäk-sik\ *adj* (1926) : poisonous to plants — **phy-to-tox-ic-i-ty** \-,täk-ˈsi-sə-tē\ *n*

¹pi *also* **pie** \ˈpī\ *n, pl* **pies** [origin unknown] (ca. 1659) **1** : type that is spilled or mixed **2** : a pi character or matrix

²pi *also* **pie** *vb* **pied; pi-ing** *or* **pie-ing** *vt* (1870) : to spill or throw (type or type matter) into disorder ⟨~ *vi*⟩ : to become pied

³pi *adj* (ca. 1940) **1** : not intended to appear in final printing ⟨~ lines⟩ **2** : capable of being inserted only by hand ⟨~ characters⟩

⁴pi *n, pl* **pis** \ˈpīz\ [MGk, fr. Gk *pei*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *pē* pe] (1823) **1** : the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet — see ALPHABET table **2 a** : the symbol *π* denoting the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter **b** : the ratio itself : a transcendental number having a value to eight decimal places of 3.14159265

pi-al \ˈpī-əl, ˈpē-\ *adj* (1889) : of or relating to the pia mater

pia ma-ter \ˈpī-ə-ˌmā-tər, ˈpē-ə-ˌmä-\ *n* [ME, fr. ML, fr. L, tender mother] (14c) : the thin vascular membrane that invests the brain and spinal cord internal to the arachnoid and dura mater

pi-a-nism \ˈpē-ə-ˌni-zəm\ *n* (1844) **1** : the art or technique of piano playing **2** : the composition or adaptation of music for the piano

¹pi-a-nis-si-mo \ˌpē-ə-ˈni-sə-ˌmō\ *adv or adj* [It, fr. *piano* softly] (1724) : very softly — used as a direction in music

²pianissimo *n, pl* **-mi** \-(ˌ)mē\ *or* **-mos** (1883) : a passage played, sung, or spoken very softly

pi-a-nist \pē-ˈa-nist, ˈpē-ə-\ *n* (ca. 1828) : one who plays the piano; *esp* : a skilled or professional performer on the piano

pi-a-nis-tic \,pē-ə-ˈnis-tik\ *adj* (1881) **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the piano **2** : skilled in or well adapted to piano playing — **pi-a-nis-ti-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

¹pi-a-no \pē-ˈä-(ˌ)nō\ *adv or adj* [It, fr. LL *planus* smooth, fr. L, level — more at FLOOR] (1683) : at a soft volume : SOFT — used as a direction in music

²pi-ano \pē-ˈa-(ˌ)nō *also* -ˈä-\ *n, pl* **pianos** [It, short for *pianoforte*, fr. *gravicembalo col piano e forte*, lit., harpsichord with soft and loud; fr. the fact that its tones could be varied in loudness] (1803) : a musical instrument having steel wire strings that sound when struck by felt-covered hammers operated from a keyboard

piano accordion *n* (1860) : an accordion with a keyboard for the right hand resembling and corresponding to the middle register of a piano keyboard

pi-ano-forte \pē-ˈa-nə-ˌfȯrt, -ˈä-, -ˌfȯrt, -ˌfȯr-tē, -ˌa-nə-ˈfȯr-tē, -ä-\ *n* [It] (1767) **1** : FORTEPIANO **2** : PIANO

piano hinge *n* (1926) : a hinge that has a thin pin joint and extends along the full length of the part to be moved

pi-as-sa-va \,pē-ə-ˈsä-və\ *n* [Pg *piassaba*, fr. Tupi *piasawa*] (1835) : any of several stiff coarse fibers obtained from palms and used esp. in cordage or brushes **2** : a palm yielding piassava; *esp* : either of two Brazilian palms (*Attalia funifera* and *Leopoldinia piassaba*)

pi-as-tre *also* **pi-as-ter** \pē-ˈas-tər, -ˈäs-\ *n* [F *piastre*, fr. It *piastra* thin metal plate, coin, fr. L *emplastra*, *emplastrum* plaster] (1592) **1** : PIECE OF EIGHT **2** — see *pound* at MONEY table

pi-az-za \pē-ˈa-zə, -ˈäz-\ *I is usu* -ˈat-sə, -ˈät-\ *n, pl* **piazzas** *or* **pi-az-ze** \-ˈat-(ˌ)sā, -ˈät-\ [It, fr. L *platea* broad street — more at PLACE] (1562) **1** *pl piazze* : an open square esp. in an Italian town **2 a** : an arcaded and roofed gallery **b** *dial* : VERANDA, PORCH

pi-broch \ˈpē-ˌbräk, -ˌbräk\ *n* [ScGael *piobaireachd* pipe music] (1719) : a set of martial or mournful variations for the Scottish Highland bagpipe

¹pic \ˈpik\ *n, pl* **pics** *or* **pix** \ˈpiks\ [short for *picture*] (1884) **1** : PHOTOGRAPH **2** : MOTION PICTURE

²pic \ˈpik, ˈpēk\ *n* [Sp *pica*, fr. *picar* to prick] (1926) : the picador's lance

¹pi-ca \ˈpī-kə\ *n* [NL, fr. L, magpie — more at PIE] (1563) : an abnormal desire to eat substances (as chalk or ashes) not normally eaten

²pica *n* [prob. fr. ML, collection of church rules] (1588) **1** : 12-point type **2** : a unit of about ⅙ inch used in measuring typographic material **3** : a typewriter type providing 10 characters to the linear inch and six lines to the vertical inch

pic-a-dor \ˈpik-ə-ˌdȯr, -ˌpi-kə-\ *n, pl* **picadors** \-ˌdȯrz, -ˈdȯrz\ *or* **picadores** \pi-kə-ˈdȯr-ēz, -ˈdȯr-\ [Sp, fr. *picar* to prick, fr. (assumed) VL *piccare* — more at PIKE] (1797) : a horseman in a bullfight who pikes the bull with a lance to weaken its neck and shoulder muscles

pi-ca-ra \ˈpē-kä-ˌrä\ *n* [Sp *picara*, fem. of *picaro*] (ca. 1930) : a woman who is a rogue

¹pi-ca-resque \,pi-kə-ˈresk, ˌpē-\ *adj* [Sp *picaresco*, fr. *picaro*] (1810) : of or relating to rogues or rascals; *also* : of, relating to, suggesting, or being a type of fiction dealing with the episodic adventures of a roguish protagonist ⟨a ~ novel⟩

²picaresque *n* (1895) : one that is picaresque

pi-ca-ro \ˈpē-kä-rō\ *n, pl* **-ros** [Sp *picaro*] (1623) : ROGUE, BOHEMIAN

¹pic-a-roon *or* **pick-a-roon** \,pi-kə-ˈrün\ *n* [Sp *picarón*, aug. of *picaro*] (1624) **1** : PIRATE **2** : PICARO

²picaroon *vi* (1675) : to act as a pirate

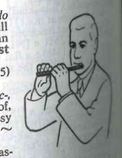
¹pic-a-yune \,pi-kē-ˈyün\ *n* [Prov *picaioun*, a small coin, fr. *picar* to jingle, of imit. origin] (1804) **1 a** : a Spanish half money, fr. *pica* to jingle, of imit. origin] (1804) **1 a** : a Spanish half money, fr. *picar* to jingle, of imit. origin] (1804) **1 a** : a Spanish half real piece formerly current in the South **b** : HALF DIME **2** : something trivial

²picayune *adj* (1836) : of little value : PALTRY; *also* : PETTY, SMALL-MINDED — **pic-a-yun-ish** \-ˈyü-nish\ *adj*

pic-ca-lil-li \ˈpi-kə-ˈli-lē\ *n* [prob. alter. of *pickle*] (1845) : a relish of chopped vegetables and spices

¹pic-co-lo \ˈpi-kə-ˌlō\ *adj* [It, small] (ca. 1854) : smaller than ordinary size ⟨a ~ banjo⟩

²piccolo *n, pl* **-los** [It, short for *piccolo flauto* small flute] (1856) : a small shrill flute whose range is an octave higher than that of an ordinary flute — **pic-co-lo-ist** \-,lō-ist\ *n*



piccolo

¹pice \ˈpīs\ *n, pl* **pice** [Hindi *paisā*] (1615) : PAISA

pi-ce-ous \ˈpī-sē-əs\ *adj* [L *piceus*, fr. *pic-*, *pix* pitch — more at PITCH] (1826) : of, relating to, or resembling pitch; *esp* : glossy brownish black in color ⟨an insect with a ~ abdomen⟩

¹pick \ˈpik\ *vb* [ME *piken*, partly fr. (assumed) OE *pician* (akin to MD *picken* to prick); partly fr. MF *piquer* to prick — more at PIKE] (14c) **1** : to pierce, penetrate, or break up with a pointed instrument ⟨~*ed* the hard clay⟩ **2 a** : to remove bit by bit ⟨~ meat from bones⟩ **b** : to remove covering or adhering matter from ⟨~ the bones⟩ **3 a** : to gather by plucking ⟨~ apples⟩ **b** : CHOOSE, SELECT ⟨tried to ~ the shortest route⟩ ⟨~ out the most expensive dress⟩ **c** : to make (one's way) slowly and carefully ⟨~*ed* his way through the rubble⟩ **4 a** : PILFER, RIFLE ⟨~ pockets⟩ **b** : to obtain useful information from by questioning — esp in such phrases as *pick the brains of* **5** : PROVOKE ⟨~ing his teeth⟩ **b** : to pluck (as a guitar) with a plectrum **6 a** : to dig into : PROB