The

AMERICAN HERITAGE

dic·tion·ar·y

of

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

THIRD EDITION

EX1009
HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS
IPR2025-01272

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE® DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

THIRD EDITION

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
Boston · New York

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The American heritage dictionary of the English language.
—3rd ed.
p. cm.
ISBN 0-395-44895-6
1. English language—Dictionaries.
PE1628.A623 1992 92-851
423—dc20 CIP

Manufactured in the United States of America

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countersunk (koun'tər-sungk') *v.* Past tense and past participle of **countersink.**

countertenor (koun'tər-tĕn'ər) *n. Music.* **1.** An adult male singer whose voice is above that of tenor. **2.** A singer having this range. —*attributive.* Often used to distinguish a countertenor part; *a countertenor aria.*

counterterror (koun'tər-tĕr'ər) *adj.* Intended to prevent terrorism; *counterterror measures; counterterror operations.* —**coun'ter·ter'ror·ism** *n.* Action or strategy intended to counteract terrorism. —**coun'ter·ter'ror·ist** *adj.* & *n.*

countertop (koun'tər-tŏp') *n.* A level surface on a cabinet or counter in a kitchen or department store. —*attributive.* Usually followed by another noun; *a countertop appliance; countertop cooking.*

countertrade (koun'tər-trād') *n.* International barter in which a country agrees to import commodities from another country that imports commodities. —**coun'ter·trad'er** *n.*

countertransference (koun'tər-trăns-fûr'əns) *n.* The surfacing of a psychotherapist's own repressed emotions through identification with the emotions, experiences, or problems of a person undergoing treatment.

countervail (koun'tər-vāl', koun'tər-vāl') *v.* **-vailed, -vailing, -vails.** —*tr.* **1.** To act against with equal force; counterbalance. **2.** To compensate for; offset. —*intr.* To act against an opposing influence or power. [Middle English *countrevailen*, from Old French *contrevaloir, contrevail-* : *contre-*, against + *valoir*, to be worth (from Latin *valēre*, to be strong; see WEL-1 in Appendix).]

counterweigh (koun'tər-wā') *intr.* & *tr.v.* **-weighed, -weighing, -weighs.** To counterbalance or cause to counterweigh.

counterweight (koun'tər-wāt') *n.* **1.** A weight used as a counterbalance. **2.** A force or influence equally counteracting another. —**coun'ter·weight'ed** (-wā'tĭd) *adj.*

countryman (koun'trē-wŏom'ən) *n.* A woman who lives in the country or has country ways.

countess (koun'tĭs) *n.* **1.** A woman holding the title of count in her own right. **2.** The wife or widow of a count in various European countries. **3.** The wife or widow of an earl in Great Britain. **4.** A woman of rank equal to such a noblewoman. [Middle English *countes*, from Old French *contesse*, feminine of *conte*, count. See COUNT².]

counting house also **count·ing house** (koun'tĭng-hous') *n.* A room or office in which a business firm carries on such activities as accounting and correspondence.

countless (kount'lĭs) *adj.* Incapable of being counted; innumerable. See Synonyms at **incalculable.** —**count'less·ly** *adv.*

count noun *n.* A noun for an object, such as *chair*, or for an abstract reference, that speakers of a language identify as being a single entity and that can form a plural or occur in construction with an indefinite article, with numbers, or with such terms as *many.*

countship *n.* Obsolete. **counts palatine. 1.a.** Any of various counts originally exercising certain royal powers within their territories, especially a count of the Holy Roman Empire having sovereign powers in his own territories. **b.** A feudal lord having sovereign powers over his lands. **2.** The titled proprietor of a palatinate in England or Ireland.

countrified also **coun·try-fied** (kŭn'trĭ-fīd') *adj.* **1.** Resembling or having the characteristics of country life; rural. **2.** Unsophisticated.

country (kŭn'trē) *n., pl.* **-tries. 1.a.** A nation or state. **b.** The territory of a nation or state; land. **c.** The people of a nation or state. *The whole country will profit from the new highway.* **2.** The land of a person's birth or citizenship: *a writer restricted in his country.* **3.** A region, territory, or tract of land distinguishable by features of topography, climate, etc.: *hill country; Bible country.* **4.** A district outside towns; a rural area: *a vacation in the country.* **5.** *Informal.* Country music. —**country** *adj.* **1.** Of, typical of the country: *a country road; country ways.* **2.** Of or relating to country music. —***idiom.*** **in country.** Serving in country during the period of U.S. military operations in Vietnam: *"a month longer than the other four" in country* [Middle English *countre*, from Old French *contree*, from Vulgar Latin **(terra) contrāta*, (land) opposite, before, from Latin *contrā*, opposite. See **kom** in Appendix.]

country and western *n.* Abbr. **C & W, C and W.** See **country music.**

country club *n.* A suburban club for social and sports activities, usually featuring a golf course.

country cousin *n.* One whose ingenuousness or rustic ways set him apart from certain city dwellers.

country-dance (kŭn'trē-dăns') *n.* A folk dance of English origin in which lines of dancers face each other.

countrified (kŭn'trĭ-fīd') *adj.* Variant of **countrified.**

country gentleman *n.* A man who owns a country estate.

country house (kŭn'trē-mən) *n.* **1.** A person from one's own country. **2.** A native or inhabitant of a particular country.

country mile *n. Informal.* A person who lives in the country or has country ways.

country music *n. Music.* A very great distance.

country music *n. Music.* Popular music based on the folk style of the southern rural United States or on the image of cowboys in the American West. Also called *country and western.*

coun·try·seat (kŭn'trē-sēt') *n.* An estate or mansion in the country.

coun·try·side (kŭn'trē-sīd') *n.* **1.** A rural region. **2.** The inhabitants of a rural region.

country singer *n. Music.* One who sings country music.

coun·try-wide (kŭn'trē-wīd') *adv.* & *adj.* Throughout a whole country; nationwide: *launched a fundraising campaign countrywide; a countrywide search.*

coun·try·wom·an (kŭn'trē-wŏom'ən) *n.* **1.** A woman from one's own country; a compatriot. **2.** A woman from a particular country. **3.** A woman who lives in the country or has country ways.

coun·ty (koun'tē) *n., pl.* **-ties.** *Abbr.* **co, co.** **1.** An administrative subdivision of a state in the United States. **2.a.** A territorial division exercising administrative, judicial, and political functions in Great Britain and Ireland. **b.** The territory under the jurisdiction of a count or earl. **3.** The people living in a county. [Middle English *counte*, territorial division, from Old French *conte*, the territory of a count, from Medieval Latin *comitātus*, from Late Latin, the office of count, from Latin, retinue, from *comes, comit-*, companion. See **ei-** in Appendix.] —**coun'ty** *adj.*

county agent *n.* A government employee who serves as a consultant and adviser in a chiefly rural county on such matters as agriculture, education, and home economics.

county fair *n.* A fair usually held every year at the same location in a county, especially for the competitive showing of livestock and farm products.

county palatine *n., pl.* **counties palatine.** The domain of a count palatine in England or Ireland.

county seat *n.* A town or city that is the administrative center of its county.

county town *n. Chiefly British.* A county seat. Also called *shire town.*

coun·ty-wide (koun'tē-wīd') *adv.* & *adj.* Throughout a whole county: *found at locations countywide; a countywide war on drugs.*

coup (kōō) *n., pl.* **coups** (kōōz). **1.** A brilliantly executed stratagem; a masterstroke. **2.** A coup d'état. **3.** Among certain Native American peoples, a feat of bravery performed in battle, especially the touching of an enemy's body without causing injury. —***idiom.*** **count coup.** Among certain Native American peoples, to ceremoniously recount one's exploits in battle. [French, stroke, from Old French *colp*, from Late Latin *colpus*. See COPE¹.]

coup de grâce (kōō' də grăs') *n., pl.* **coups de grâce.** **1.** A deathblow delivered to end the misery of a mortally wounded victim. **2.** A finishing stroke or decisive event. [French : *coup*, stroke + *de*, of + *grâce*, mercy.]

coup de main (də măn') *n., pl.* **coups de main.** A sudden action undertaken to surprise an enemy. [French : *coup*, stroke, blow + *de*, of + *main*, hand.]

coup d'é·tat (dā-tä') *n., pl.* **coups d'état** or **coup d'états** (-tä'). The sudden overthrow of a government by a usually small group of persons in or previously in positions of authority. [French : *coup*, blow, stroke + *de*, of + *état*, state.]

coup de thé·â·tre (də tə-ä'trə) *n., pl.* **coups de théâtre.** **1.** A sudden, dramatic turn of events in a play. **2.** An unexpected and sensational event, especially one that reverses or negates a prevailing situation. [French : *coup*, stroke + *de*, of + *théâtre*, theater.]

coup d'oeil (dœ'yə) *n., pl.* **coups d'oeil.** A quick survey; a glance. [French : *coup*, stroke + *de*, of + *oeil*, eye.]

coupe¹ (kōōp) *n.* **1.a.** A dessert of ice cream or fruit-flavored ice, garnished and served in a special dessert glass. **b.** The stemmed glass in which a coupe is served. **2.** A shallow, bowl-shaped dessert dish. [French, cup, from Late Latin *cuppa*.]

coupe² (kōōp) *n.* Variant of **coupé** (sense 2).

cou·pé (kōō-pā') *n.* **1.** A closed four-wheel carriage with two seats inside and one outside. **2.** Also **coupe** (kōōp). A closed two-door automobile. [French, from past participle of *couper*, to cut, from *coup*, blow. See COUPE.]

Cou·pe·rin (kōō-pə-răn', kōōp-răn'), **François.** 1668–1733. French composer who was court organist at Versailles during the reign of Louis XIV.

cou·ple (kŭp'əl) *n.* **1.** Two items of the same kind; a pair. **2.** Something that joins or connects two things together; a link. **3.** *(used with a sing. or pl. verb).* **a.** Two people united, as by betrothal or marriage. **b.** Two people together. **4.** *Informal.* A few, several: *a couple of days.* **5.** *Physics.* A pair of forces of equal magnitude acting in parallel but opposite directions, capable of causing rotation but not translation. —**couple** *v.* **-pled, -pling, -ples.** —*tr.* **1.** To link together; connect. *coupled her refusal with an explanation.* **2.a.** To join as spouses; marry. **b.** To join in sexual union. **3.** *Electricity* To link (two circuits or currents) as by magnetic induction. —*intr.* **1.** To form pairs; join. **2.** To unite sexually; copulate. **3.** To join chemically. —**couple** *adj. Informal.* Two or few; *"Every couple years the urge strikes, to ... haul off to a new site"* (Garrison Keillor). [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *copula*, bond, pair.]

SYNONYMS: *couple, pair, brace, yoke.* These nouns denote two individuals of the same kind together. *Couple* does not necessarily

ă pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
âr care	oo took
ä father	oo boot
ə pet	ŭ cut
ē be	ûr urge
ĭ pit	th thin
ī pie	*th* this
îr pier	hw which
ŏ pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ô paw	● regionalism

Stress marks: ' (primary), ' (secondary), as in **dictionary** (dĭk'shə-nĕr'ē)