

AMERICA'S BEST-SELLING DICTIONARY

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary


Eleventh Edition

The Words You Need Today

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA[®] COMPANY



Merriam-Webster's

Collegiate®
Dictionary

PE
1628
.M36
2003

11th Edition



Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, 11th Edition

NEW EDITION—COMPLETELY REVISED AND UPDATED

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE DICTIONARY AVAILABLE

- ▶ 10,000 new words and senses from all fields of knowledge
- ▶ 165,000 entries and 225,000 definitions
- ▶ Detailed symbols show most-common pronunciations and acceptable variants

THE FEATURES YOU NEED

- ▶ More than 40,000 usage examples—the most in any desk dictionary
- ▶ Coverage of 7,500 phrases and idioms clarifies meanings and illustrates common use
- ▶ More than 700 illustrations and diagrams and dozens of informative tables

EXPERT WORD GUIDANCE

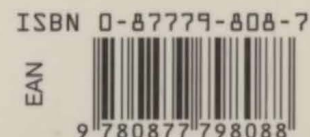
- ▶ Synonym paragraphs explain different shades of meaning between words
- ▶ Usage paragraphs provide guidelines for words with confused or disputed usage
- ▶ A Handbook of Style offers essential information to improve writing skills



Merriam-Webster Inc.
An Encyclopædia Britannica Company
Springfield, MA 01102



www.Merriam-Webster.com • www.Merriam-WebsterCollegiate.com
www.Merriam-WebsterUnabridged.com





Purchased from the

ADELINE MACRUM BANK

MEMORIAL FUND

REFERENCE

L

Carnegie
Library of
Pittsburgh

Main

Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION

ELEVENTH
EDITION

r PB1628.M36 2003
Merriam-Webster's collegiate
dictionary.
Springfield, Mass. :
Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003.



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary®

ELEVENTH
EDITION

r PE1628.M36 2003
Merriam-Webster's collegiate
dictionary.
Springfield, Mass. :
Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003.



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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 © 2005 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — Eleventh ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-807-1	(Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-807-9	(Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-808-8	(Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-808-7	(Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-809-5	(Jacketed hardcover with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-809-5	(Jacketed hardcover with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-810-1	(Leatherlook with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-810-9	(Leatherlook with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-813-2	(Canadian)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-813-3	(Canadian)
ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-814-9	(International)
ISBN-10: 0-87779-814-1	(International)

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Title: Collegiate dictionary. II. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 2003
423—dc21

2003003674
CIP

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, principal copyright 2003

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

567TT:QWV0504

- adorns 3: one whose virtues or graces add luster to a place or society
4: the act of adorning or being adorned 5: an embellishing note not belonging to the essential harmony or melody — called also *embellishment*, *floritura*
- or-na-ment** \-nə-mənt\ *n* (1656): to provide with ornament: EMBELLISH
syn see ADORN
- or-na-men-tal** \-nə-mən-təl\ *adj* (1646): of, relating to, or serving as ornament; *specif*: grown as an ornamental — **or-na-men-tal-ly** \-təl-ē\ *adv*
- ornamental** *n* (1650): a decorative object; *esp*: a plant cultivated for its beauty rather than for use
- or-na-men-ta-tion** \-nə-mən-tā-shən, -mənt-ən\ *n* (1706) 1: something that ornaments: EMBELLISHMENT 2: the act or process of ornamenting: the state of being ornamented
- or-nate** \-nāt\ *adj* [ME *ornat*, fr. L *ornatus*, pp. of *ornare* to furnish, embellish; akin to L *ordo* order — more at ORDER] (15c) 1: marked by elaborate rhetoric or florid style 2: elaborately or excessively decorated (an ~ mantle) — **or-nate-ly** *adv* — **or-nate-ness** *n*
- or-nery** \-nə-rē, -ār-, -örn-rē, -örn-ē\ *adj* **or-neri-er**, -est [alter. of *ordinary*] (1816): having an irritable disposition: CANTANKEROUS — **or-neri-ness** *n*
- ornith-** or **ornitho-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk, fr. *ornith-*, *ornis* — more at ERNE]: bird [ornithology]
- or-nith-ic** \-nī-thik\ *adj* [Gk *ornithikos*, fr. *ornith-*, *ornis*] (1854): of, relating to, or characteristic of birds
- or-ni-thine** \-nə-thēn\ *n* [ISV *ornithuric acid* (a compound of which ornithine is a component, found in the urine of birds) + *-ine*] (1881): a crystalline amino acid $C_5H_{12}N_2O_2$ that functions esp. in urea production as a carrier by undergoing conversion to citrulline and then arginine in reaction with ammonia and carbon dioxide followed by recovery along with urea by enzymatic hydrolysis of arginine
- or-nith-is-chi-an** \-nə-this-kē-ən\ *n* [NL *Ornithischia*, fr. *ornith-* + *ischium*] (1933): any of an order (Ornithischia) of herbivorous dinosaurs (as a stegosaur) that have the pubis of the pelvis rotated backward to a position parallel and close to the ischium — compare SAURISCHIAN — **ornithischian** *adj*
- or-ni-thol-o-gy** \-nə-thā-lə-jē\ *n*, *pl* -gies [NL *ornithologia*, fr. *ornith-* + *-logia* -logy] (1676) 1: a treatise on ornithology 2: a branch of zoology dealing with birds — **or-ni-tho-log-i-cal** \-thā-lə-jē-kəl\ *also* **or-ni-tho-log-ic** \-jik\ *adj* — **or-ni-tho-log-i-cal-ly** \-jik-ē\ *adv* — **or-ni-thol-o-gist** \-thā-lə-jist\ *n*
- or-nith-o-pod** \-nī-thə-pād, -nī-thə-ē\ *n* [ultim. fr. Gk *ornith-* + *pod-*, *pous* foot — more at FOOT] (ca. 1889): any of a suborder (Ornithopoda) of bipedal ornithischian dinosaurs (as a hadrosaur) with digitigrade walking limbs usu. having only three functional toes
- or-ni-thop-ter** \-nə-thāp-tər\ *n* [ISV *ornith-* + *-pter* (as in *helicopter*)] (1908): an aircraft designed to derive its chief support and propulsion from flapping wings
- or-ni-tho-sis** \-nə-thō-səs\ *n*, *pl* -tho-ses \-sēz\ [NL] (1939): PSITTACOSIS
- oro-** *comb form* [Gk *oros* — more at ORIENT]: mountain [orography]
- oro-** *comb form* [L *or-*, *os* — more at ORAL]: mouth [oropharynx]
- oro-gen-e-sis** \-ə-jē-nə-səs\ *n* [NL] (1886): OROGENY — **oro-gen-et-ic** \-jə-nē-tik\ *adj*
- orog-e-ny** \-ə-rā-jə-nē\ *n* [ISV] (1890): the process of mountain formation esp. by folding of the earth's crust — **oro-gen-ic** \-ə-jē-nik\ *adj*
- oro-graph-ic** \-ə-gra-fik\ *also* **oro-graph-i-cal** \-fi-kəl\ *adj* (ca. 1803): of or relating to mountains; *esp*: associated with or induced by the presence of mountains (~ rainfall)
- orog-ra-phy** \-ə-rā-grā-fē\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1846): a branch of physical geography that deals with mountains
- Oro-mo** \-rō-(j)mō, -ō\ *n*, *pl* **Oromos** or **Oromo** [Oromo (western dial.) *oromo*, a self-designation, prob. fr. obs. pl. of *orma* person, stranger] (1893) 1: a member of a Cushitic-speaking people of southern Ethiopia and adjacent parts of Kenya 2: the Cushitic language of the Oromo
- oro-pa-ryn-geal** \-ə-rə-fa-rən-jē-əl, -fə-rin-jē-əl\ *adj* (1885) 1: of or relating to the oropharynx 2: of or relating to the mouth and pharynx
- oro-phar-ynx** \-ə-fa-rin(k)s\ *n* (1887): the part of the pharynx that is below the soft palate and above the epiglottis and is continuous with the mouth
- oro-tund** \-ə-tənd, -ār-ē\ *adj* [modif. of L *ore rotundo*, lit., with round mouth] (ca. 1799) 1: marked by fullness, strength, and clarity of sound: SONOROUS (an ~ voice) 2: POMP, BOMBASTIC (an ~ speech) — **oro-tun-di-ty** \-ə-tən-dā-tē, -ār-ē\ *n*
- orphan** \-ə-fən\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *orphanus*, fr. Gk *orphanos*; akin to OHG *erbi* inheritance, L *orbus* orphaned] (15c) 1: a child deprived by death of one or usu. both parents 2: a young animal that has lost its mother 3: one deprived of some protection or advantage (~s of the storm) — **orphan** *adj* — **orphan-hood** \-hūd\ *n*
- orphan** *vt* or **orphaned**; **orphan-ing** \-ə-fə-nin, -ōrf-nin\ (1814): to cause to become an orphan
- orphan-age** \-ə-fə-nij, -ōrf-nij\ *n* (ca. 1580) 1: the state of being an orphan 2: an institution for the care of orphans
- orphan drug** *n* (1981): a drug that is not developed or marketed because its extremely limited use makes it unprofitable
- orphan's court** *n* (1713): a probate court with jurisdiction in some states over the affairs of minors and the administration of estates
- Or-phues** \-ə-fyūs, -fē-əs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk] (14c): a poet and musician in Greek mythology who almost rescues his wife Eurydice from Hades by charming Pluto and Persephone with his lyre
- or-phic** \-ə-fik\ *adj* (1655) 1 *cap*: of or relating to Orpheus or the rites or doctrines ascribed to him 2: MYSTIC, ORACULAR 3: FASCINATING, ENTRANSCING — **or-phi-cal-ly** \-fi-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*
- Or-phism** \-ə-fiz-əm\ *n* [Orpheus, its reputed founder] (1880): a mystic Greek religion offering initiates purification of the soul from innate evil and release from the cycle of reincarnation
- or-phrey** \-ə-frē\ *n*, *pl* **orpreys** [ME *orfrey*, fr. AF *orfreis*, fr. ML *aurifrigium*, fr. L *aurum* gold + *Phrygius* Phrygian — more at AUREUS] (13c) 1 *a*: elaborate embroidery 2 *b*: a piece of such embroidery 2: an ornamental border or band esp. on an ecclesiastical vestment
- or-pi-ment** \-ə-pə-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *auripigmentum*, fr. *aurum* + *pigmentum* pigment] (14c): a rare orange to lemon-yellow mineral consisting of a native trisulfide of arsenic
- or-pine** \-ə-pən\ *n* [ME *orpin*, fr. AF, fr. *orpinet*] (14c): an herb (Scrophulariaceae) of the family Crassulaceae, the orpine family) that has fleshy leaves and pink or purple flowers and was formerly used in folk medicine; *broadly*: SEDUM
- Or-ping-ton** \-ə-piŋ-tən\ *n* [Orpington, England] (1897): any of an English breed of large deep-chested domestic chickens
- or-rery** \-ə-rē, -ār-ē\ *n*, *pl* **or-rer-ies** [Charles Boyle †1731 4th Earl of Orrery] (1713): an apparatus showing the relative positions and motions of bodies in the solar system by balls moved by a clockwork
- or-ris** \-ə-ris, -ār-ē\ *n* [prob. alter. of ME *ireos*, fr. ML, alter. of L *iris* iris] (1545): ORRISROOT
- or-ris-root** \-rūt, -rüt\ *n* (1598): the fragrant rootstock of any of three European irises (*Iris florentina*, *I. germanica*, and *I. pallida*) used esp. in perfumery
- ort** \-ərt\ *n* [ME, fr. MLG *orte*] (15c): a morsel left at a meal: SCRAP
- orth-** or **ortho-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *orthos* straight, right, true; akin to Skt *ūrdhva* high, upright] 1: straight: upright: vertical [orthographic] 2: perpendicular [orthorhombic] 3: correct: corrective [orthographic] 4 *a*: hydrated or hydroxylated to the highest degree [orthophosphoric acid] 5 *b*: involving substitution at or characterized by or having the relationship of two neighboring positions in the benzene ring [ortho-xylene]
- orth-con** \-ə-thi-kən\ *n* [ISV *orth-* + *iconoscope*] (1939): a camera tube similar to but more sensitive than an iconoscope in which the charges are scanned by a low-velocity beam
- orth-** \-ə-thi\ *adj* (1904): ORTHOCHROMATIC
- orth-cen-ter** \-ə-thə-sen-tər\ *n* [ISV] (1869): the common intersection of the three altitudes of a triangle or their extensions or of the several altitudes of a polyhedron provided these latter exist and meet in a point
- orth-chro-mat-ic** \-ə-thə-kro-ma-tik\ *adj* [ISV] (1887) 1: of, relating to, or producing tone values of light and shade in a photograph that correspond to the tones in nature 2: sensitive to all colors except red
- orth-clase** \-ə-thə-klass, -klāz\ *n* [G *Orthoklas*, fr. *orth-* + Gk *klasis* breaking, fr. *klaō* to break — more at CLAST] (1849): a monoclinic mineral of the feldspar group consisting of a silicate of potassium and aluminum
- orth-don-tia** \-ə-thə-dān(t)-sh(ē)-ə\ *n* [NL] (ca. 1849): ORTHODONTICS
- orth-don-tics** \-dān-tiks\ *n* *pl* but *sing* in constr (1909): a branch of dentistry dealing with irregularities of the teeth (as malocclusion) and their correction (as by means of braces) — **orth-don-tic-ly** \-dān-tik-ē\ *adv* — **orth-don-ti-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ *adv* — **orth-don-tist** \-dān-tist\ *n*
- orth-dox** \-ə-thə-dāks\ *adj* [ME *orthodoxe*, fr. MF or LL; MF *orthodoxe*, fr. LL *orthodoxus*, fr. LGk *orthodoxos*, fr. Gk *orth-* + *doxa* opinion — more at DOXOLOGY] (15c) 1 *a*: conforming to established doctrine esp. in religion 2 *cap*: of, relating to, or constituting any of various conservative religious or political groups: *a*: EASTERN ORTHODOX 2 *b*: of or relating to Orthodox Judaism — **orth-dox-ly** *adv*
- orthodox** *n*, *pl* **orthodox** *also* **orth-dox-es** (1587) 1: one that is orthodox 2 *cap*: a member of an Eastern Orthodox church
- Orthodox Judaism** *n* (1904): Judaism that adheres to the Torah and Talmud as interpreted in an authoritative rabbinic law code and applies their principles and regulations to modern living — compare CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM, REFORM JUDAISM
- orth-doxy** \-ə-thə-dāks-ē\ *n*, *pl* **orth-dox-ies** (1630) 1: the quality or state of being orthodox 2: an orthodox belief or practice 3 *cap* *a*: Eastern Orthodox Christianity 2 *b*: ORTHODOX JUDAISM
- orth-ep-y** \-ə-thə-we-pē, -ə-thə-ə-pē\ *n* [NL *orthoepia*, fr. Gk *ortho-* + *epos* word — more at VOICE] (1668) 1: the customary pronunciation of a language 2: the study of the pronunciation of a language — **orth-ep-ic** \-ə-thə-we-pik\ *adj* — **orth-ep-i-cal-ly** \-pi-k(ə)-lē\ *adv* — **orth-epist** \-ə-thə-we-pist, -ə-thə-ə-pist\ *n*
- orth-gen-e-sis** \-ə-thə-jē-nə-səs\ *n* [NL] (1895): variation of organisms in successive generations that in some esp. former evolutionary theories takes place in some predestined direction resulting in progressive evolutionary trends independent of external factors — **orth-gen-et-ic** \-jə-nē-tik\ *adj* — **orth-gen-et-i-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*
- orth-gon-al** \-ə-thā-gə-nəl\ *adj* [MF, fr. L *orthogonius*, fr. Gk *orthogōnios*, fr. *orth-* + *gōnia* angle — more at GON] (1612) 1 *a*: intersecting or lying at right angles 2 *b*: having perpendicular slopes or tangents at the point of intersection (~ curves) 2: having a sum of products or an integral that is zero or sometimes one under specified conditions: *a* of real-valued functions: having the integral of the product of each pair of functions over a specific interval equal to zero 2 *b* of vectors: having the scalar product equal to zero 2 *c* of a square matrix: having the sum of products of corresponding elements in any two rows or any two columns equal to one if the rows or columns are the same and equal to zero otherwise: having a transpose with which the product equals the identity matrix 3 of a linear transformation: having a matrix that is orthogonal: preserving length and distance 4: composed of mutually orthogonal elements (~ basis of a vector space) 5: statistically independent — **orth-gon-al-i-ty** \-thā-gə-nə-lē-tē\ *n* — **orth-gon-al-ly** \-thā-gə-nəl-ē\ *adv*
- orth-gon-al-ize** \-ə-thā-gə-nə-līz\ *vt* -ized; -iz-ing (1930): to make orthogonal — **orth-gon-al-i-za-tion** \-thā-gə-nə-lā-zā-shən\ *n*
- orth-grade** \-ə-thə-grād\ *adj* (1902): walking with the body upright or vertical
- orth-graph-ic** \-ə-thə-gra-fik\ *also* **orth-graph-i-cal** \-fi-kəl\ *adj* (1706) 1: of, relating to, being, or prepared by orthographic projection (an ~ map) 2 *a*: of or relating to orthography 2 *b*: correct in spelling — **orth-graph-i-cal-ly** \-fi-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*
- orthographic projection** *n* (1668) 1: projection of a single view of an object (as a view of the front) onto a drawing surface in which the lines of projection are perpendicular to the drawing surface 2: the representation of related views of an object as if they were all in the same plane and projected by orthographic projection
- orthog-ra-phy** \-ə-thā-grā-fē\ *n* [ME *ortografie*, fr. AF, fr. L *orthographia*, fr. Gk, fr. *orth-* + *graphein* to write — more at CARVE] (15c)

permeabil-ity \pə-mē-ə-bi-lə-tē/ *n* (1759) 1: the quality or state of being permeable 2: the property of a magnetizable substance that determines the degree in which it modifies the magnetic flux in the region occupied by it in a magnetic field

permeable \pə-mē-ə-bəl/ *adj* (15c) 1: capable of being permeated 2: having pores or openings that permit liquids or gases to pass through (a ~ membrane) (< limestone)

permeate \pə-mē-ās, -āz/ *v* [ISV *perme-* (fr. *permeate*) + *-ase*] 1: to pass through (a cell membrane) 2: to pass through the pores or interstices of — **permeation** \pə-mē-ā-shən/ *n* (ca. 1623) 1: the quality or state of being permeated 2: the action or process of permeating

permethrin \pə-mē-thrən/ *n* [per- + methyl + pyrethrin] (1976): a synthetic pyrethroid $C_{21}H_{20}Cl_2O_3$ used esp. as an insecticide

Permian \pə-mē-ən, -ēr-/ *adj* [Permi, former province in eastern Russia] (1841): of, relating to, or being the last period of the Paleozoic era or the corresponding system of rocks — see GEOLOGIC TIME table

per mil \pə-mil/ *adv* [per + L *mille* thousand] (1721): per thousand

permissible \pə-mis-si-bəl/ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *permissibilis*, fr. L *permissus*, pp. of *permittere*] (15c): that may be permitted; ALLOWABLE

permissibility \pə-mis-si-bi-lə-tē/ *n* — **permissibility-ness** \pə-mis-si-bi-lə-tē-ness/ *n* — **permissively** \pə-mis-si-bi-lē/ *adv*

permission \pə-mi-shən/ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *permissio-*, *permissio*, *permittere*] (15c) 1: the act of permitting 2: formal consent; AUTHORIZATION

permissive \pə-mi-siv/ *adj* [ME *permissivus*, fr. MF *permissif*, fr. L *permissivus*] (15c) 1 *archaic*: granted on sufferance; TOLERANT 2 *a*: relating or tending to grant permission; TOLERANT *b*: deficient in control; INDULGENT, LAX 3: allowing discretion; OPTIMISM (reduced the ~ retirement age from 65 to 62) — **permissiveness** \pə-mis-si-və-ness/ *n*

permit \pə-mit/ *v* **per-mit-ted**; **per-mit-ting** [ME *permittere*, fr. L *mittere* to let through, *per-* through + *mittere* to let go, *mit-* (15c) 1: to consent to expressly or formally (< access to the library) 2: to give leave; AUTHORIZE 3: to make possible (< the device) — *easy access* — *~ vi*: to give an opportunity; ALLOW (< if time permits) — **per-mit-tee** \pə-mit-tē, -tē/ *n* — **per-mit-ter** \pə-mit-tər/ *n* (1682) 1: a written warrant or license granted by one having authority (< a gun ~) 2: PERMISSION

permutability \pə-mi-ti-bi-lə-tē, -mə-/ *n* [permut + *-ity* (as in *selectivity*)] (1887): the ability of a material to store electrical potential energy under the influence of an electric field measured by the ratio of the capacitance of a capacitor with the material as dielectric to its capacitance with vacuum as dielectric — called also *dielectric constant*

permutation \pə-myū-tā-shən/ *n* [ME *permutacioun* exchange, *permutatio*, fr. *permutare*] 1: often major or fundamental change (as in character or content) based primarily on rearrangement of existent elements (the system has gone through several ~s); also: a form or variety resulting from such change (technology available in various ~s) 2 *a*: the act or process of changing the linear order of an ordered set of objects *b*: an ordered arrangement of a set of objects — **per-mu-ta-tion-al** \pə-mi-tā-shən/ *adj*

permutation group *n* (1904): a group whose elements are permutations and in which the product of two permutations is a permutation

permutate \pə-myūt/ *v* **per-mut-ed**; **per-mut-ing** [ME, to exchange, *per-* through + *mutare*, fr. L *permutare*, fr. *per-* through + *mutare* to change] (1878): to change the order or arrangement of; to arrange in all possible ways — **per-mut-able** \pə-myūt-ə-bəl/ *adj*

pernicious \pə-ni-shəs/ *adj* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *perniciōsus*, fr. *perniciōsus*, fr. *per-* through + *nec*, *nec* violent death — more at NOXIOUS] 1: highly injurious or destructive; DEADLY 2 *archaic*: WICKED

perniciously \pə-ni-shəs-lē/ *adv* — **per-ni-cious-ness** *n*

pernicious, BANEFUL, NOXIOUS, DELETERIOUS, DETRIMENTAL, EXCEEDINGLY HARMFUL, PERNICIOUS implies irreparable harm through evil or insidious corrupting or undermining (the claim of pornography has a pernicious effect on society). BANEFUL implies injury through poisoning or destroying (the baneful notion that pornography destroys creativity). NOXIOUS applies to what is both offensive and injurious to the health of a body or mind (noxious chemical agents). DELETERIOUS applies to what has an often unsuspected harmful effect (a diet found to have deleterious effects). DETRIMENTAL implies obvious harmfulness to something specified (the detrimental effects of excessive drinking).

pernicious anemia *n* (1874): a severe megaloblastic anemia that is caused by a progressive decrease in the number of red blood cells and by weakness, and gastrointestinal and nervous disturbances and is caused by malabsorption of vitamin B₁₂ due to the absence of intrinsic factor

peroneal \pə-rō-nē-əl/ *adj* [origin unknown] (ca. 1818) chiefly of the leg

peroneal \pə-rō-nē-əl/ *adj* [NL *peroneus*, fr. *perone* fibula, *peronē*, lit., pin, fr. *peirein* to pierce — more at DIAPHRAGM] (1831): relating to, or located near the fibula

peroral \pə-rō-rəl/ *adj* [ISV] (1908): occurring through the mouth — **per-or-al-ly** \pə-rō-rəl-lē/ *adv*

perorate \pə-rō-rāt/ *v* **per-or-at-ed**; **per-or-ating** [L *peroratus*, pp. of *perorare* to declaim at length, wind up an oration, fr. *per-* through +

orare to speak — more at PER-, ORATION] (1603) 1: to deliver a long or grandiloquent oration 2: to make a peroration

peroration \pə-rō-rā-shən/ *n* [ME *peroracyon*, fr. L *peroratio*, *peroratio*, fr. *perorare*] (15c) 1: the concluding part of a discourse and esp. an oration 2: a highly rhetorical speech — **per-or-ation-al** \pə-rō-rā-shən-lē, -shən-lē/ *adj*

perovskite \pə-rōv-skīt, -rāf-/ *n* [G Perowskit, fr. Count L. A. Perovskii †1856 Russ. statesman] (1840): a yellow, brown, or grayish-black mineral consisting of an oxide of calcium and titanium and sometimes containing rare earth elements

peroxidase \pə-rāk-sā-dās, -dāz/ *n* (1900): an enzyme that catalyzes the oxidation of various substances by peroxides

peroxidation \pə-rāk-sā-dā-shən/ *n* (1839): oxidation to the greatest possible extent resulting esp. in formation of a peroxide

peroxide \pə-rāk-sid/ *n* (1804): a compound (as hydrogen peroxide) in which oxygen is visualized as joined to oxygen — **per-ox-id-ic** \pə-rāk-sid-ik/ *adj*

peroxide *vt* **-id-ed**; **-id-ing** (1906): to treat with a peroxide; *esp*: to bleach (hair) with hydrogen peroxide

peroxide *adj* (1920): having or being bleached hair (< a ~ blonde)

peroxisome \pə-rāk-sō-sōm/ *n* [*peroxide* + *-some*] (1965): a cytoplasmic cell organelle containing enzymes (as catalase) which act in oxidative reactions and esp. in the production and decomposition of hydrogen peroxide — **per-ox-i-som-al** \pə-rāk-sō-sō-məl/ *adj*

peroxy- *comb form* [ISV *per-* + *oxy-*]: containing the divalent group O-O (<peroxyacetyl nitrate)

peroxy-acetyl nitrate \pə-rāk-sē-ō-sē-tē-l-, -sē-tē-l-, -tē-l-/ *n* (1963): a toxic compound C₂H₃O₅N found esp. in smog

perp \pərp/ *n* (1981): a perpetrator esp. of a crime

perp *abbr* perpendicular

perpend \pə-pend/ *v* [ME, fr. L *perpendere*, fr. *per-* thoroughly + *pendere* to weigh — more at PER-, PENDANT] *vt* (15c): to reflect on carefully; PONDER ~ *vi*: to be attentive; REFLECT

perpendicular \pə-pən-dik-ylər/ *adj* [ME *perpendicular*, fr. MF, fr. L *perpendicularis*, fr. *perpendicular* plumb line, fr. *per-* + *pendere* to hang — more at PENDANT] (14c) 1 *a*: standing at right angles to the plane of the horizon: exactly upright *b*: being at right angles to a given line or plane 2: extremely steep; PRECIPITOUS 3 *often cap*: of or relating to a medieval English Gothic style of architecture in which vertical lines predominate 4: relating to, uniting, or consisting of individuals of dissimilar type or on different levels *syn* see VERTICAL — **per-pen-dic-u-lar-ly** \pə-pən-dik-yl-er-lē/ *adv*

perpendicular *n* (1571): a line at right angles to a line or plane (as of the horizon)

perpetrate \pə-pə-trāt/ *vt* **-trat-ed**; **-trat-ing** [L *perpetratus*, pp. of *perpetrare*, fr. *per-* through + *patrare* to accomplish, fr. *pater* father — more at FATHER] (1537) 1: to bring about or carry out (as a crime or deception); COMMIT 2: to produce, perform, or execute (something likened to a crime) (< a pun) — **per-pe-tra-tion** \pə-pə-trā-shən/ *n* — **per-pe-tra-tor** \pə-pə-trā-tər/ *n*

perpetual \pə-pet-uəl/ *adj* [ME *perpetuel*, fr. AF, fr. L *perpetuus* uninterrupted, fr. *per-* through + *petere* to go to — more at FEATHER] (14c) 1 *a*: continuing forever; EVERLASTING (< motion) *b* (1): valid for all time (< a ~ right) (2): holding (as an office) for life or for an unlimited time 2: occurring continually; indefinitely long-continued (< problems) 3: blooming continuously throughout the season *syn* see CONTINUAL — **per-pet-u-al-ly** *adv*

perpetual calendar *n* (1895): a table for finding the day of the week for any one of a wide range of dates

perpetual check *n* (ca. 1909): an endless succession of checks to which an opponent's king may be subjected to force a draw in chess

perpetuate \pə-pet-uāt/ *vt* **-at-ed**; **-at-ing** [L *perpetuatus*, pp. of *perpetuare*, fr. *perpetuus*] (1530): to make perpetual or cause to last indefinitely (< the species) — **per-pet-u-a-tion** \pə-pet-uā-shən/ *n* — **per-pet-u-a-tor** \pə-pet-uā-tər/ *n*

perpetuity \pə-pet-ū-ē-tē, -tyū-/ *n*, *pl* -ties [ME *perpetuite*, fr. AF *perpetuité*, fr. L *perpetuitas*, *perpetuitas*, fr. *perpetuus*] (15c) 1: ETERNITY 2: the quality or state of being perpetual (bequeathed to them in ~) 3 *a*: the condition of an estate limited so that it will not take effect or vest within the period fixed by law *b*: an estate so limited 4: an annuity payable forever

perphenazine \pə-pə-fē-nā-zēn, -fē-/ *n* [blend of *piperazine* and *phen-1*] (1957): a phenothiazine tranquilizer C₂₁H₂₆N₂O₃S that is used esp. to control psychotic symptoms (as anxiety and agitation)

perplex \pə-rē-plēks/ *vt* [obs. *perplex*, *adj.*, involved, perplexed, fr. L *perplexus*, fr. *per-* thoroughly + *plexus* involved, fr. pp. of *plectere* to braid, twine — more at PER-, PLY] (1593) 1: to make unable to grasp something clearly or to think logically and decisively about something (her attitude ~es me) (< a ~ing problem) 2: to make intricate or involved; COMPLICATE *syn* see PUZZLE

perplexed \pə-rē-plēkst/ *adj* (15c) 1: filled with uncertainty; PUZZLED 2: full of difficulty — **per-plex-ed-ly** \pə-rē-plēkst-lē, -plēkst-lē/ *adv*

perplexity \pə-rē-plēks-tē-/ *n*, *pl* -ties [ME *perplexite*, fr. MF *perplexité*, fr. LL *perplexitas*, *perplexitas*, fr. L *perplexus*] (14c) 1: the state of being perplexed; BEWILDERMENT 2: something that perplexes 3: ENTANGLEMENT

perquisit \pə-rē-kwā-zat/ *n* [ME, property acquired by means other than inheritance, fr. AF *perquisit*, ML *perquisitum*, fr. neut. of *perquisitus*, pp. of *perquirere* to purchase, acquire, fr. L, to search for thoroughly, fr. *per-* thoroughly + *querere* to seek] (15c) 1: a privilege, gain, or profit incidental to regular salary or wages; *esp*: one expected or promised 2: GRATUITY, TIP 3: something held or claimed as an exclusive right or possession

perron \pə-rən, pə-rōn/ *n* [F, fr. OF, fr. *perre*, *perre* rock, stone, fr. L *petra*, fr. Gk] (1723): an outdoor stairway leading up to a building entrance; also: a platform at its top

\ə/ abut \ə/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ā/ ace \ā/ mop, mar \aʊ/ out \ch/ chin \e/ bet \ē/ easy \g/ hit \i/ hit \i/ ice \j/ job \j/ sing \ō/ go \ō/ law \oi/ boy \th/ thin \th/ the \ū/ loot \ū/ foot \y/ yet \zh/ vision, beige \k, n, æ, u, v/ see Guide to Pronunciation