

The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dic·tion·ary

of the
English
Language

FIFTH
EDITION

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
BOSTON NEW YORK

Words are included in this dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. The inclusion of any word in this dictionary is not, however, an expression of the publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

American Heritage and the eagle logo are registered trademarks of American Heritage Inc. Their use is pursuant to a license agreement with American Heritage Inc.

Copyright © 2011 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to:
Reference Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt,
222 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Visit our website at www.ahdictionary.com
or www.youareyourwords.com.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The American Heritage dictionary of the English language. -- 5th ed.
p. cm.
Previous ed.: 2000.
ISBN 978-0-547-04101-8
1. English language--Dictionaries.
PE1628.A623 2011
423--dc22

2011004777

Manufactured in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10-QGV-15 14 13 12 11



long-hand (lɒŋ'hænd', lɒŋ'-) *n.* Cursive writing.
long haul *n.* 1. A long distance: *It is a long haul from New York to Los Angeles.* 2. A long period of time: *Over the long haul the candidates performed well.* —**long-haul'** *adj.*
long-head-ed also **long-head-ed** (lɒŋ'hɛd'ɪd, lɒŋ'-) *adj.* 1. *Anthropology* Dolichocephalic. 2. Foresighted; wise.
long-horn (lɒŋ'hɔrn', lɒŋ'-) *n.* 1a. Any of a breed of cattle with long horns and a brown and white coat, developed in England for meat and milk and now rare. b. A Texas Longhorn. 2. A variety of Cheddar cheese molded into a long cylinder.
longhorn beetle *n.* Any of numerous beetles of the family Cerambycidae, having long antennae and often having wood-boring larvae. Also called *cerambycid*, *longicorn*.
long-horned grasshopper (lɒŋ'hɔrnd', lɒŋ'-) *n.* Any of various large, usually greenish insects of the family Tettigoniidae, having very long, slender antennae.
long-house or **long house** (lɒŋ'həʊs', lɒŋ'-) *n.* A long communal dwelling, especially of certain Native American, Polynesian, and Indonesian peoples.
lon-gi-corn (lɒŋ'ji-kɔrn') *n.* See **longhorn beetle**. ♦ *adj.* 1. Having long antennae. 2. Of or relating to the longhorn beetles. [*< New Latin Longicornia*, former group name: Latin *longus*, long; see **LONGITUDE** + Latin *cornū*, horn; see **ker-** in App. I.]
long-ing (lɒŋ'ɪŋ, lɒŋ'-) *n.* A strong persistent yearning or desire, especially one that cannot be fulfilled. —**long-ing-ly** *adv.*
Lon-gi-nus (lɒŋ'ji-nəs), **Dionysius Cassius** AD 210?–273. Greek philosopher. The influential volume of literary criticism *On the Sublime* is traditionally attributed to him but is most likely the work of an earlier author.
Long Island A long, narrow island of southeast New York bordered on the south by the Atlantic Ocean. **Long Island Sound**, an arm of the Atlantic, separates it from Connecticut on the north. The western part of Long Island includes two boroughs of New York City.
Long Island iced tea or **Long Island ice tea** *n.* A strong cocktail typically made with gin, rum, tequila, vodka, cola, an orange-flavored liqueur, lemon juice, lime juice, and sugar and having the appearance of tea. [After **LONG ISLAND**, where it was perhaps invented in the 1970s by bartender Robert "Rosebud" Butt.]
lon-gi-tude (lɒŋ'ji-tʊd', -tʊd', lɒŋ'-) *n.* 1. Angular distance on the earth's surface, measured east or west from the Prime Meridian at Greenwich, England, to the meridian passing through a position, expressed in degrees (or hours), minutes, and seconds. 2. Celestial longitude. [Middle English, length, a measured length < Old French < Latin *longitudo*, *longitudin-* < *longus*, long; see **del-** in App. I.]
lon-gi-tu-di-nal (lɒŋ'ji-tʊd'i-nəl, -tʊd'i-, lɒŋ'-) *adj.* 1a. Of or relating to longitude or length: *a longitudinal reckoning by the navigator; made longitudinal measurements of the hull.* b. Concerned with the development of persons or groups over time: *a longitudinal study of twins.* 2. Placed or running lengthwise: *longitudinal stripes.* —**lon-gi-tu-di-nal-ly** *adv.*
longitudinal dune *n.* An elongated dune, typically tens of meters high and ranging up to several hundred kilometers long, lying parallel to the prevailing wind direction. Also called *seif dune*.
long johns *p.l.n.* Informal Warm underpants covering the legs down to the ankles. [*< the name John.*]
long jump *n.* A jump in track and field that is made for distance rather than height, performed either from a stationary position or from a moving start.
long-leaf pine (lɒŋ'leɪf, lɒŋ'-) *n.* A pine tree (*Pinus palustris*) of the southeast United States, having long needles and heavy, tough, resinous wood used as a source of timber and pulp and formerly as an important source of naval stores.
long-line (lɒŋ'li:n, lɒŋ'-) *n.* A heavy fishing line usually several miles long and having a series of baited hooks. —**long-lin'ing** *n.*
long-lin-er (lɒŋ'li:nər, lɒŋ'-) *n.* 1. A person who fishes using a longline. 2. A vessel used for long-lining.
long-list (lɒŋ'list', lɒŋ'-) *n.* A list of items or candidates that have been selected for consideration, as for an award, before being reduced to a shortlist. [On the model of **SHORTLIST**.]
long-lived (lɒŋ'lɪvd', -lɪvd', lɒŋ'-) *adj.* 1. Having a long life: *a long-lived aunt.* 2. Lasting a long time; persistent: *a long-lived rumor.* 3. Functioning a long time; durable: *a long-lived light bulb.* [Middle English *long-lived*: *long*, long; see **LONG** + *live*, life; see **LIFE** + *-ed*, having; see **-ED** in App. I.] —**long-lived-ness** *n.*

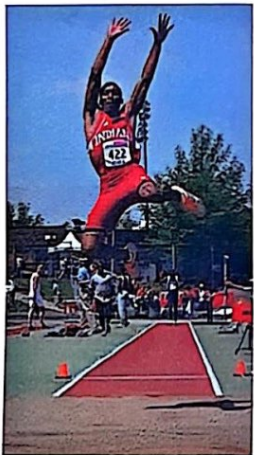
♦ **WORD HISTORY** Some uncertainty exists as to the correct pronunciation of *long-lived*. Should one say (lɒŋ'lɪvd') or (lɒŋ'lɪvd')? The answer depends in part on how one looks at the word. Historically, the first pronunciation is the more accurate. The word was formed in Middle English times as a compound of *long* and the noun *life*, plus the suffix *-ed*. This suffix, though identical in form to the past tense suffix, has a different function: to form adjectives from nouns, as in the words *hook-nosed*, *ruddy-faced*, and *round-shouldered*. (Note that English has no verbs such as "to hook-nose," and "to ruddy-face," that would have formed participial adjectives ending in *-ed*.) In Middle English, the suffix *-ed* was always pronounced as a full syllable, so *long-lived* (as it was then spelled) had three syllables. The *f* in the middle, by a rule of earlier English phonology, was voiced between the two vowels to (v); eventually, the spelling became *long-lived* to reflect the pronunciation. (We see the same alternation in *life* and *lives*; in Middle English, *lives* had two syllables just like *-lived*.) However, this new spelling introduced an ambiguity; it was no longer clear from the spelling that the word came from the noun *life*, but

rather looked as though it came from the verb *live*. In this way a second pronunciation, (lɒŋ'lɪvd'), was introduced.

long measure *n.* 1. See **linear measure**. 2. See **long meter**.
long meter *n.* A quatrain in iambic tetrameter, rhyming in the second and fourth lines and often in the first and third. Also called *long measure*.
long-neck (lɒŋ'nɛk', lɒŋ'-) *n.* A glass beer bottle with an elongated neck.
long-play-ing (lɒŋ'plɪ'ɪŋ, lɒŋ'-) *adj.* Relating to or being a phonograph record that turns at 33½ revolutions per minute.
long-range (lɒŋ'ræŋj', lɒŋ'-) *adj.* 1. Of, suitable for, or reaching long distances: *long-range missiles.* 2. Requiring or involving an extended span of time: *long-range planning.*
long run *n.* A rather lengthy period of time: *The paint must not deteriorate in quality over the long run.*
long-shore (lɒŋ'shɔr', lɒŋ'-) *adj.* Occurring, living, or working along a seacoast. [Short for **ALONGSHORE**.]
long-shore-man (lɒŋ'shɔr'mən, lɒŋ'-) *n.* A dock worker who loads and unloads ships.
long shot *n.* 1. An entry, as in a horserace, with only a slight chance of winning. 2a. A bet made at great odds. b. A venture that offers a great reward if successful but has very little chance of success. 3. A photograph or a movie shot in which the subject appears small or distant in relation to the rest of the image. —**idiom:** *by a long shot* Informal To any extent; at all. Usually used in negative sentences: *You haven't done your share of the work by a long shot.*
long-sight-ed (lɒŋ'si:tɪd, lɒŋ'-) *adj.* Farsighted. —**long'-sight-ed-ly** *adv.* —**long'-sight-ed-ness** *n.*
long-some (lɒŋ'səm, lɒŋ'-) *adj.* Tiresomely long.
Longs Peak (lɒŋgz, lɒŋgz) A mountain, 4,345 m (14,255 ft) high, in the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in north-central Colorado.
long-spur (lɒŋ'spɜr', lɒŋ'-) *n.* Any of several sparrowlike birds of the genera *Calcarius* and *Rhynchophanes* of North America and Eurasia, having brownish plumage and long-clawed hind toes.
long-stand-ing or **long-standing** (lɒŋ'stænd'ɪŋ, lɒŋ'-) *adj.* Of long duration or existence: *a long-standing friendship.*
Long-street (lɒŋ'stri:t', lɒŋ'-), **James** 1821–1904. American Confederate general who distinguished himself in the battles of Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburg (all 1862) and in the Wilderness Campaign (1864). He surrendered with Gen. Robert E. Lee at Appomattox (1865).
long-suf-fer-ing (lɒŋ'sʊfər'ɪŋ, lɒŋ'-) *adj.* Patiently enduring wrongs or difficulties. ♦ *n.* Patient endurance. —**long'-suf-fer-ing-ly** *adv.*
long suit *n.* 1. Games The suit in which a player holds the most cards in a given hand. 2. The personal quality or talent that is one's strongest asset.
long-tailed duck (lɒŋ'tæld', lɒŋ'-) *n.* A sea duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) that is black and white with a long thin tail and is found in Arctic and northern temperate regions. Also called *oldsquaw*, *oldwife*.
long-term (lɒŋ'tɜrm', lɒŋ'-) *adj.* Involving, maturing after, or being in effect for a long time: *a long-term investment.*
long-term potentiation *n.* Repeated presynaptic stimulation of a nerve, either naturally or in vitro, that results in the long-lasting increased strength of a synapse and is thought to be necessary for learning and memory formation.
long-time (lɒŋ'tɪm', lɒŋ'-) *adj.* Having existed or persisted for a long time: *a longtime friend; a longtime resident of Detroit.*
long ton *n.* See **ton** (sense 2).
Lon-gueuil (lɒŋ'gɛɪl', lɒŋ'-) A city of southern Quebec, Canada, on the St. Lawrence River opposite Montreal.
lon-gueur (lɒŋ'gɜr', lɒŋ'-) *n.* A tedious passage in a work of literature or performing art: *"longueurs and passages of meretricious vulgarity" (Stephen Schiff).* [French < Old French *longor*, a protracted discussion < *long*, long < Latin *longus*; see **LONGITUDE**.]
Long-view (lɒŋ'vyʊ', lɒŋ'-) A city of northeast Texas on the Sabine River west of Shreveport, Louisiana. Founded in 1870, it grew following the discovery of oil in the 1930s.
long-waist-ed (lɒŋ'wɛst'ɪd, lɒŋ'-) *adj.* Having a distance between shoulders and waist that is longer than average.
long wave *n.* A radio wave with a wavelength in excess of 1,000 meters.
long-wind-ed (lɒŋ'wɪnd'ɪd, lɒŋ'-) *adj.* 1. Wearisomely verbose: *a long-winded speaker.* See Synonyms at **wordy**. 2. Able to maintain breathing power during exertion: *a long-winded swimmer.* —**long'-wind-ed-ly** *adv.* —**long'-wind-ed-ness** *n.*
long-wise (lɒŋ'wɪz', lɒŋ'-) *adv. & adj.* Lengthwise.
Long-worth (lɒŋ'wɜrθ', lɒŋ'-), **Alice Roosevelt** 1884–1980. American socialite. The daughter of Theodore Roosevelt, she was a favorite subject of the press because of her active social life and her caustic wit.
lon-gyi (lɒŋ'gɛ, lɒŋ'-) *n.* Variant of **lungi**.
loo¹ (loo) *n., pl. loos* A card game in which each player contributes stakes to a pool. [Short for obsolete *lanterloo* < French *lanturlu*, a meaningless refrain, *loo*.]
loo² (loo) *n., pl. loos* Chiefly British A toilet. [Origin unknown.]
loo-fah or **loo-fa** (loo'fə) also **luf-fa** (loo'fə, luf'ə) *n.* 1. Any of several tropical cucurbit vines of the genus *Luffa* native to Asia, having cylindrical fruit with a fibrous, spongelike interior. 2. The dried, fibrous part of the loofah fruit, used as a washing sponge or as a filter. Also called *dishcloth gourd*, *vegetable sponge*. [Arabic *lūfa*, singulative of *lūf*.]



longitudinal dune



long jump

Kiwan Lawson at the 2008 Big Ten Track and Field Championships Champaign, Illinois



loofah
smooth loofa
Luffa aegyptiaca