
The New Oxford American Dictionary

SECOND EDITION

FIRST EDITION

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SECOND EDITION

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OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

2005

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UNIVERSITY PRESS

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The first edition of the *New Oxford American Dictionary* was based on *The New Oxford Dictionary of English*, published in the United Kingdom in 1998.

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Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10016
www.oup.com/us
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Oxford University Press

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
The new Oxford American dictionary.-- 2nd ed.
p. cm.

ISBN-13 978-0-19-517077-1

1. English language--United States--Dictionaries. 2.
Americanisms--Dictionaries.
PE1628.N429 2005
423'.1--dc22

2005000941

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4

Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper

sake," he wheedled. ■ [trans.] (wheedle someone into doing something) coax or persuade someone to do something. ■ [trans.] (wheedle something out of) coax or persuade (someone) to say or give something. 17th cent.; perhaps from German *wedeln* 'cringe, fawn,' from *Wedel* 'tail, fan.' —**wheel-dler** *n.* —**wheel-dling-ly** *adv.*

wheel /('h)wēl/ *n.* **1** a circular object that revolves on an axle and is fixed below a vehicle or other object to enable it to move easily over the ground. ■ a circular object that revolves on an axle and forms part of a machine. ■ (the wheel) used in reference to the cycle of a specified condition or set of events: *the final release from the wheel of life*. ■ (the wheel) *historical* a large wheel used as an instrument of punishment or torture, esp. by binding someone to it and breaking their limbs: *a man sentenced to be broken on the wheel*. **2** a machine or structure having a wheel as its essential part. ■ (the wheel) a steering wheel (used in reference to driving or steering a vehicle or vessel): *his crew knows when he wants to take the wheel*. ■ a vessel's propeller or paddle-wheel. ■ a device with a revolving disk or drum used in various games of chance. ■ a system, or a part of a system, regarded as a relentlessly moving machine: *the wheels of justice*. **3** (wheels) *informal* a car: *she's got wheels now*. ■ a bicycle. **4** a thing resembling a wheel in form or function, in particular a cheese made in the form of a disk. **5** an instance of wheeling: a turn or rotation. **6** *informal* short for **BIG WHEEL**.

► *v.* **1** [trans.] push or pull (a vehicle with wheels): *the sea sled was wheeled out to the flight deck*. ■ [trans.] carry (someone or something) in or on a vehicle with wheels: *a young woman is wheeled into the operating room*. ■ (wheel something in/on/out) *informal* produce something that is unimpressive because it has been frequently seen or heard before: *the old journalistic arguments have to be wheeled out*. **2** [intrans.] (of a bird or aircraft) fly in a wide circle or curve: *the birds wheeled and dived*. ■ turn around quickly so as to face another way: *Robert wheeled around to see the face of Mr. Mafouz*. ■ turn or seem to turn on an axis or pivot: *the stars wheeled through the sky*. ► Old English *hwēol* (noun), of Germanic origin, from an Indo-European root shared by Sanskrit *cakra* 'wheel, circle' and Greek *kuklos* 'circle'. —**wheeled** *adj.* [in combination] *a four-wheeled cart*. —**wheel-less** *adj.*

► **PHRASES** **on wheels** **1** by, or traveling by, car or bicycle: *a journey on wheels*. ■ (of a service) brought to one's home or district; mobile. **2** *informal* used to emphasize one's distaste or dislike of the person or thing mentioned: *she was a bitch on wheels*. □ **wheel and deal** engage in commercial or political scheming, esp. unscrupulously: [as *n.*] (**wheeling and dealing**) *the wheeling and dealing of the Wall Street boom years*. □ **the wheel of Fortune** the wheel that the deity Fortune is fabled to turn as a symbol of random luck or change. □ **wheels within wheels** used to indicate that a situation is complicated and affected by secret or indirect influences.

wheel and axle *n.* a simple lifting machine consisting of a rope that unwinds from a wheel onto a cylindrical drum or shaft joined to the wheel to provide mechanical advantage.

wheel arch *n.* an arch-shaped cavity in the body of a vehicle, which houses a wheel.

wheel-barrow /('h)wēl-,

barō *n.* a small cart with a single wheel at the front and two supporting legs and two handles at the rear, used typically for carrying loads in building-work or gardening.

► *v.* [trans.] carry (a load) in a wheelbarrow.

wheel-base /('h)wēl-,

bās *n.* the distance between the front and rear axles of a vehicle: [in combination] *a short-wheelbase model*.

wheel-chair /('h)wēl-,

chā *n.* a chair built on wheels for an invalid or disabled person, pushed by another person or propelled by the occupant, or motorized.

wheel dog *n.* the dog harnessed nearest to the sleigh in a dog team.

Wheeler /('h)wēl-,

John Archibald (1911–), U.S. theoretical physicist. Wheeler worked with Niels Bohr on nuclear fission and collaborated with Richard Feynman on problems concerning the retarded effects of action at a distance. He coined the term **black hole** in 1968.

wheel-er /('h)wēl-,

n. **1 [in combination] a vehicle**

having a specified number of wheels: *a huge eighteen-wheeler truck*. **2** a wheelwright. **3** a horse harnessed next to the wheels of a cart and behind a leading horse.

wheel-er-deal-er (also **wheel-er and dealer**) *n.* a person who engages in commercial or political scheming. —**wheel-er-dealing** *n.*

Wheeler Peak /('h)wēl-,

a peak in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, northeast of Taos, the highest peak in New Mexico at 13,161 feet (4,011 m)

wheel horse *n.* a horse harnessed nearest the wheels of a vehicle. ■ *figurative* a responsible and hardworking person, esp. an experienced and conscientious member of a political party.

wheel-house /('h)wēl-,

hous *n.* a part of a boat or ship serving as a shelter for the person at the wheel.

wheel-ie /('h)wēl-,

n. *informal* a trick or maneuver whereby a bicycle or motorcycle is ridden for a short distance with the front wheel raised off the ground.

Wheeling /('h)wēl-,

a historic industrial city in northern West Virginia, on the Ohio River: pop. 31,419.

wheel lock *n.* *historical* a kind of gunlock having a steel wheel that rubbed against a flint. ■ a gun having such a gunlock.

wheel-man /('h)wēl-,

men *n.* (*pl.* **-men**) a person who drives a car or takes the wheel of a boat. ■ a cyclist.

wheels-man /('h)wēl-,

men *n.* (*pl.* **-men**) a person who steers a ship or boat.

wheel-spin /('h)wēl-,

spin *n.* rotation of a vehicle's wheels without traction.

wheel well *n.* a recess in a vehicle in which a wheel is located.

wheel-wright /('h)wēl-,

rit *n.* *chiefly historical* a person who makes or repairs wooden wheels.

wheeze /('h)wēz-,

v. [intrans.] (of a person) breathe with a whistling or rattling sound in the chest, as a result of obstruction in the air passages: *the illness often leaves her wheezing*. ■ [trans.] utter with such a sound: *he could barely wheeze out his pleas for a handout* [with *direct speech*] "Don't worry son," he wheezed.

■ [intrans.] walk or move slowly with such a sound: *she wheezed up the hill toward them*. ■ (of a device) make an irregular rattling or spluttering sound: *the engine coughed, wheezed, and sputtered into life*.

► *n.* [usu. in *sing.*] **1** a sound of or as of a person wheezing: *I talk with a wheeze*. **2** an old joke, story, aphorism, act, or routine: *the old wheeze about the diner complaining about the fly in his soup*. ■ *Brit., informal* a clever or amusing scheme, idea, or trick: *a new wheeze to help farmers*. ► late Middle English: probably from Old Norse *hvasa* 'to hiss'. —**wheeze-er** *n.* —**wheeze-ingly** *adv.*

wheezy /('h)wēz-,

adj. making the sound of a person wheezing: *a wheezy laugh*. —**wheezy-ly** /-lē/ *adv.* —**wheezy-ness** *n.*

whelk /('h)wɒlk-,

n. a predatory marine mollusk with a heavy, pointed spiral shell, some kinds of which are edible. ■ Family *Buccinidae*, class *Gastropoda*: *Buccinum* and other genera. ► Old English *hwelc*, *weoloc*, of unknown origin; the spelling with *wh-* was perhaps influenced by **WHELK**.

whelk *n.* *archaic* a pimple. ► Old English *hwylca*, related to *hwelian* 'suppurate.'

whelm /('h)wɛlm-,

v. [trans.] *archaic* or *poetic/literary* engulf, submerge, or bury (someone or something): *a swimmer whelmed in a raging storm*. ■ [intrans.] flow or heap up abundantly: *the brook whelmed up from its source*.

► *n.* *archaic* or *poetic/literary* an act or instance of flowing or heaping up abundantly; a surge: *the whelm of the tide*. ► Middle English: representing an Old English form parallel to *hwelfan* 'overtum (a vessel).'

whelp /('h)wɛlp-,

n. a puppy. ■ a cub. ■ a boy or young man (often as a disparaging form of address). ■ (whelps) a set of projections on the barrel of a capstan or windlass, designed to reduce the slippage of a rope.

► *v.* [trans.] (of a female dog) give birth to (a puppy): *Copper whelped seven puppies* [intrans.] *a bitch due to whelp*. ► Old English *hwelp* (noun), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *welp* and German *Welp*.

► **PHRASE** **in whelp** (of a female dog) pregnant.

when /('h)wen-,

interrog. adv. at what time: *when did you last see him?* [with *prep.*] *since when have you been interested?* ■ *how soon: when can I see you?* ■ in what circumstances: *when would such a rule be justifiable?*

► *relative adv.* at or on which (referring to a time or circumstance): *Saturday is the day when I get my hair done*.

► *conj.* **1** at or during the time that: *I loved math when I was in school*. ■ after: *call me when you're finished*. ■ at any time that; whenever: *can you spare five minutes when it's convenient?* **2** after which; and just then (implying suddenness): *he had just drifted off to sleep when the phone rang*. **3** in view of the fact that; considering that: *why bother to paint it when you can photograph it with the same effort?* **4** although; whereas: *I'm saying it now when I should have told you long ago*. ► Old English *hwonne*, *hwenne*, of Germanic origin; related to German *wenn* 'if', *wann* 'when.'

whence /('h)wens-,

also from whence *interrog. adv.* *formal* or *archaic* from what place or source: *whence does Congress derive its power?*

► *relative adv. formal* or *archaic* from which: *from where: the Ural mountains, whence the ore is procured*. ■ to the place from which: *he will be sent back whence he came*. ■ as a consequence of which: *whence it followed that the strategies were obsolete*. ► Middle English *whennas*, from earlier *whenne* (from Old English *hwanon*, of Germanic origin) + *-s* (later respelled *-e* to denote the unvoiced sound).

USAGE Strictly speaking, **whence** means 'from what place,' as in *whence did you come?* Thus, the preposition **from** in *from whence did you come?* is redundant and its use is considered incorrect by some. The use with **from** is very common, though, and has been used by reputable writers since the 14th century. It is now broadly accepted in standard English.

whence-so-ev-er /('h)wensō-'evər-,

relative adv. formal or *archaic* from whatever place or source.

when-e'er /('h)wən-'e(ə)r-,

poetic/literary ► *contraction* of whenever.

when-ev-er /('h)wən-'evər-,

conj. at whatever time; on whatever occasion (emphasizing a lack of restriction): *you can ask for help whenever you need it*. ■ every time that: *the springs in the armchair creak whenever I change position*.

► *interrog. adv.* used for emphasis instead of "when" in questions, typically expressing surprise or confusion: *whenever shall we get there?*

► **PHRASE** **or whenever** *informal* or at any time: *if you lay eyes on him, either tonight or tomorrow or whenever, call me right away*.

USAGE See usage at **WHATEVER**.

when-is-sued *adj.* Finance of or relating to trading in securities that have not yet been issued.

when-so-e'er /('h)wensō-'e(ə)r-,

poetic/literary ► *contraction* of whenever.

when-so-ev-er /('h)wensō-'evər-,

conj. & adv. formal term for **WHENEVER**.

where /('h)wɛr-,

interrog. adv. in or to what place or position: *where do you live?* [with *prep.*] *where is the going?* [with *prep.*] *where do you come from?* ■ in what direction or respect: *where does the argument lead?* ■ in or from what source: *where did you read that?* ■ in or to what situation or condition: *just where is all this leading us?*

► *relative adv.* **1** at, in, or to which (used after reference to a place or situation): *I first saw him in Paris, where I lived in the early sixties*. **2** the place or situation in which: *this is where I live*. ■ in or to a place or situation in which: *sit where I can see you* [where people were concerned, his threshold of boredom was low]. ■ in or to any place in which: *wherever: he was free to go where he liked*.

► *conj. informal* **1** that: *do you see where the man in your life are emotionally unavailable to you?* [I see where: the hotel has changed hands again]. **2** whereas: *where some care-givers burn out, others become too involved*.

► *n.* (prec. by *the*) the place; the scene of something (see **WHEN n.**). ► Old English *hwær*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *waar* and German *wo*.

where-a-bouts /('h)wɛr-'əbz-,

adv. *interrog.* where or approximately where: *whereabouts do you come from?*

► *n.* (treated as *sing.* or *pl.*) the place where someone or something is: *his whereabouts remain secret*.

where-after /('h)wɛr-'æftər-,

relative adv. formal after which: *dinner was taken at a long wooden table, where-after we sipped liqueurs in front of a roaring fire*.

where-as /('h)wɛr-'æz-,

conj. in contrast or comparison with the fact that: *you treat the matter lightly,*



wheelbarrow



whelk