WEBSTER'S NEW COLLEGE DICTIONARY

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families (esp, Buccinidae) of large marine snails which are often carnivorous and edible



WHELK

whelm (hwelm, welm) *vt.* [ME *welmen, whelmen*: ? merging of OE *-hwelfan*, to overwhelm, with *helmian*, to cover: see HELM[1]] **1** to submerge, cover, or engulf **2** to overpower or crush; overwhelm

whelp (hwelp, welp) *n.* [ME < OE *hwelp*, akin to Ger *welf*, ON *hvelpr*, puppy, prob. < IE **kwel-*, var. of base **kel-*, to cry out, call > LOW[2], Welsh *colwyn*, puppy] **1** a young dog; puppy **2** a young lion, tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, etc.; cub **3** a youth or child: a term showing contempt **4** any of the teeth on a sprocket wheel **5** *Naut.* any of the ribs or ridges along the barrel of a capstan or the drum of a windlass: *usually used in pl.* —*vt., vi.* to give birth to (young): said of some animals

when (hwen, wen) *adv.* [ME *whenne* < OE *hwænne*, akin to Ger *wann*, when, *wenn*, if, akin to *hwa*, who: see WHAT] **1** *a)* at what time? *[when* did they leave? he asked *when* he should go*] b)* on what occasion or under what circumstances? *[when* do you double the final consonant?*] c)* at what point? *[when* shall I stop pouring?*]* **2** at an earlier time and under different, often less favorable, circumstances *[*I knew him *when]* Used interrogatively and in indirect questions —*conj.* **1** *a)* at what time or point *[*they told us *when* to eat*] b)* at the time that *[when* we were at college*]* **2** at which *[*a time *when* people must speak out*]* **3** as soon as *[*the runners started *when* the gun went off*]* **4** at whatever time; whenever *[*she smiles *when* you praise her*]* **5** although; while on the contrary *[*to complain *when* there's no reason to do so*]* **6** if; considering the fact that *[*how can he help *when* they won't let him?*]* —*pron.* **1** what time *[*until *when* will you stay?*]* **2** which time *[*we came a week ago, since *when* we've been very busy*]* —*n.* the time or moment (*of* an event) *[*the *when* and where of his arrest*]*

when·as (hwen az′, wen-) *conj.* [prec. + AS[1]] **1** [Archaic] when **2** [Archaic] inasmuch as **3** [Obs.] whereas

whence (hwens, wens) *adv.* [ME *whennes* (< *whenne*, WHEN + adv. gen. *-s*), replacing OE *hwanan*] from what place, source, or cause?; from where? *[whence* does he find his strength?*]* —*conj.* **1** from what place, source, or cause *[*I know *whence* he comes*]* **2** from which place, source, or cause *[*we went home, *whence* we departed soon after*]* **3** to the place from which *[*return *whence* you came*]* **4** from which fact *[*there was no reply, *whence* he inferred that all had gone*]* —*pron.* a place, cause, etc.: preceded by *from*: its use is still frowned on by some

whence·so·ever (hwens′sō ev′ər, wens′-) *adv., conj.* from whatever place, source, or cause

when·ever (hwen ev′ər, wen-) *adv.* [Informal] when: an emphatic form expressing bewilderment, impatience, etc. *[whenever* will he learn?*]* —*conj.* **1** at whatever time *[*leave *whenever* you're ready*]* **2** on whatever occasion *[*visit us *whenever* you can*]* Also [Old Poet.] **when′·e'er'** (-er′)

when·so·ever (hwen′sō ev′ər, wen′-) *adv., conj.* whenever: an emphatic form: also [Old Poet.] **when′·so·e'er'** (-er′)

where (hwer, wer) *adv.* [ME *wher* < OE *hwær*, akin to Ger *wo* & to *war-* in *warum*: for IE base see WHAT] **1** in or at what place? *[where* is the car?*]* **2** to or toward what place or point? *[where* did he go?*]* **3** in what situation or position *[where* will we be if we lose?*]* **4** in what respect? *[where* is she to blame?*]* **5** from what place or source? *[where* did you get your information?*]* —*conj.* **1** in or at what place *[*he knows *where* they are*]* **2** in or at which place *[*we came home, *where* we had dinner*]* **3** in or at the place or situation in which *[*he is *where* he should be*]* **4** in whatever place, situation, or respect in which *[*there is never peace *where* men are greedy*]* **5** *a)* to or toward the place to which *[*the bus will take you *where* you're going*] b)* to a place in which *[*she never goes *where* she's not wanted*]* **6** to or toward whatever place *[*go *where* you please*]* **7** [Informal] whereas *[*a plant needs little attention, *where* a pet demands a lot*]* **8** [Informal] that: used before a noun clause: still objected to by some *[*I see *where* the tax rates are going up*]* —*pron.* **1** the place or situation in, at, or to which *[*he lives two miles from *where* he works*]* **2** what or which place *[where* do you come from?*]* —*n.* the place (*of* an event) *[*to announce the when and *where* of the marriage*]*

where·abouts (hwer′ə bouts′, wer′-) *adv.* **1** near or at what place? where? **2** [Obs.] about or concerning which —*conj.* [Now Rare] at, in, or near what place *[*the lost hikers wondered *whereabouts* the cabin was*]* —*n.* [*now usually with pl. v.*] the place where a person or thing is *[*to know the *whereabouts* of a person*]* Also [Rare] **where′·about'** (-bout′)

where·as (hwer az′, wer-) *conj.* **1** it being the case that; in view of the fact that: used in the preamble to a formal document *[whereas* the following incidents have occurred*]* **2** while on the contrary; but on the other hand *[*she is careful, *whereas* he takes risks*]* —*n., pl.* **-as′es** a statement beginning with "whereas"

where·at (-at′) *conj.* [Archaic] **1** at which point *[*he turned to leave, *whereat* she began to weep*]* **2** as a consequence of which

where·by (-bī′) *adv.* [Archaic] by what? how? *[whereby* did you expect to profit?*]* —*conj.* by which; by means of which *[*a device *whereby* to make money*]*

where·fore (hwer′fôr′, wer′-) *adv.* [ME *hwarfore*: see WHERE & FOR[1]] [Archaic] for what reason or purpose? why? *[wherefore* are you angry?*]* —*conj.* [Archaic] **1** for which *[*the reason *wherefore* we have met*]* **2** on account of which; because of which; therefore *[*we are victorious, *wherefore* let us rejoice*]* —*n.* the reason; cause *[*never mind the why and *wherefore*]*

where·from (hwer frum′, wer-) *adv., conj.* from which

where·in (-in′) *adv.* [ME *hwerin*: see WHERE & IN[1]] [Archaic] in what way? how? *[wherein* is it wrong?*]* —*conj.* in which *[*the room *wherein* he lay*]*

where·into (-in′to͞o, -in to͞o′) *conj.* [Archaic] into which

where·of (-uv′) *adv., conj.* [ME: see WHERE & OF[1]] of what, which, or whom *[*the things *whereof* he spoke*]*

where·on (-än′) [Archaic] *adv.* on what? *[whereon* do you rely?*]* —*conj.* on which *[*the hill *whereon* we stand*]*

where's (hwerz, werz) *contraction* **1** where is **2** where has **3** [Informal] where does

where·so·ever (hwer′sō ev′ər, wer′-) *adv., conj.* at, in, or to whatever place; wherever: an emphatic form: also [Old Poet.] **where′·so·e'er'** (-er′)

where·through (hwer thro͞o′, wer-) *conj.* [Archaic] through which

where·to (-to͞o′) *adv.* [ME *hwerto*] to what? toward what place, direction, or end? —*conj.* to which *[*the place *whereto* they hurry*]*

where·unto (-un′to͞o, -ən to͞o′) *adv., conj. archaic var. of* WHERETO

where·upon (hwer′ ə pän′, wer′-; hwer′ə pän′, wer′-) *conj.* **1** [Archaic] upon which *[*the ground *whereupon* he had fallen*]* **2** at which; upon which; as a consequence of which *[*she told a tale, *whereupon* he laughed heartily*]*

wher·ever (hwer ev′ər, wer-) *adv.* [ME] [Informal] where: an emphatic form expressing surprise or bewilderment *[wherever* did you hear that?*]* —*conj.* in, at, or to whatever place or situation *[*he thinks of us, *wherever* he is*]* Also [Old Poet.] **wher·e'er'** (-er′)

where·with (hwer with′, wer-; -with′) *adv.* [ME *wher with*] [Archaic] with what? *[wherewith* shall he be saved?*]* —*conj.* [Archaic] with which; by means of which *[*lacking the money *wherewith* to pay his debts*]* —*pron.* [Now Rare] that with which *[*to have *wherewith* to stock one's larder*]* —*n.* [Rare] WHEREWITHAL

where·withal (hwer′with ôl′, wer′-) *n.* that with which something can be done; necessary means, esp. money: usually with *the [*the *wherewithal* to continue one's education*]* —*adv., conj. archaic var. of* WHEREWITH

wherry (hwer′ē , wer′-) *n., pl.* **-ries** [ME *whery* < ? *whirren*, WHIR, with suggestion of fast movement] **1** a light rowboat used on rivers **2** a racing scull for one person **3** [Brit.] a large, broad, but light barge, used for moving freight —*vt.* **-ried**, **-ry·ing** to transport in a wherry

whet (hwet, wet) *vt.* **whet′·ted**, **whet′·ting** [ME *whetten* < OE *hwettan*, to make keen < *hwæt*, sharp, keen, bold < IE base **kwed-*, to pierce, sharpen, whet > prob. L (*tri*)*quetrus*, (three-)cornered] **1** to sharpen by rubbing or grinding (the edge of a knife or tool); hone **2** to make keen; stimulate *[*to *whet* the appetite*]* —*n.* **1** an act of whetting **2** something that whets (the appetite, etc.) —**whet′·ter** *n.*

whether (hweth′ər, weth′-) *conj.* [ME < OE *hwæther* (akin to Ger *weder*, neither) < IE **kwotero-*, which (of two) < base **kwo-*, who (> WHAT) + compar. suffix] **1** if it be the case or fact that: used to introduce an indirect question *[*ask *whether* she will help*]* **2** in case; in either case that: used to introduce alternatives, the second of which is preceded by *or* or by *or whether [whether* he drives *or* (*whether* he) flies, he'll be on time*]*: sometimes, the second is merely implied or understood *[*we don't know *whether* he'll improve (or not)*]* **3** either *[*taxation to support the war, *whether* just or unjust*]* —*pron.* [Archaic] which (esp. of two): used interrogatively and relatively —**whether or no** in any case

whet·stone (hwet′stōn′, wet′-) *n.* [ME *whetston* < OE *hwetstan* < *hwettan* (see WHET) + *stan*, STONE] an abrasive stone for sharpening knives or other edged tools

whew (hwyo͞o, hyo͞o) *interj.* [echoic] used to express variously relief, surprise, dismay, or disgust: an exclamation or a sharp breathing sound

whey (hwā, wā) *n.* [ME *whei* < OE *hwæg*, akin to Du *wei* < ? IE base **kwei-*, slime, muck: see OBSCENE] the thin, watery part of milk, that separates from the thicker part (curds) after coagulation, as in cheese making —**whey′ey** (-ē) *adj.*

whey·face (hwā′fās′, wā′-) *n.* [prec. + FACE] **1** a pale or pallid face **2** a person having such a face —**whey′·faced′** *adj.*

which (hwich, wich) *pron.* [ME *whiche* < OE *hwylc, hwelc*, for **hwa-lic*, lit., who like (akin to Goth *hwileiks*, OHG *hwelīh*, Ger *welch*): see WHO & -LY[1]] **1** what one (or ones) of the number of persons, things, or events mentioned or implied? *[which* of the men answered? *which* do you want?*]* **2** the one (or ones) that *[*he knows *which* he wants*]* **3** that: used as a relative referring to the thing, group, or event specified in the antecedent word, phrase, or clause: *which* can be used in a restrictive clause *[*the war *which* had just ended, the class to *which* he spoke*]*, in a restrictive clause preceded by the pronoun *that [*he sacrificed that *which* he valued most*]*, in a nonrestrictive clause *[*my car, *which* is not running; my family, in *which* she found a warm welcome*]*, or, archaically, of a person *[*Our Father, *which* art in heaven*]* **4** either, or any, of the persons, things, or events previously mentioned or implied; whichever *[*take *which* you prefer*]* **5** a thing or fact that *[*you are late—*which* reminds me, where were you yesterday?*]* —*adj.* **1** what one or ones (of the number mentioned or implied) *[which* man (or men) answered? *which* books did he choose?*]* **2** whatever; no matter what *[*try *which* method he pleased, he could not succeed*]* **3** being the one just mentioned *[*he is very old, *which* fact is important*]*

which·ever (hwich ev′ər, wich-) *pron.* **1** any one (of two or more) *[*he may choose *whichever* he likes*]* **2** no matter which one *[which-*

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