

THE PENGUIN COMPLETE ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Consultant Editor
Robert Allen



PENGUIN BOOKS

PENGUIN BOOKS

Published by the Penguin Group

Penguin Books Ltd, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England

Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, USA

Penguin Group (Canada), 90 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 700, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 2Y3
(a division of Pearson Penguin Canada Inc.)

Penguin Ireland, 25 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland (a division of Penguin Books Ltd)

Penguin Group (Australia), 250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell,

Victoria 3124, Australia (a division of Pearson Australia Group Pty Ltd)

Penguin Books India Pvt Ltd, 11 Community Centre,

Panchsheel Park, New Delhi – 110 017, India

Penguin Group (NZ), cnr Airborne and Rosedale Roads, Albany,

Auckland 1310, New Zealand (a division of Pearson New Zealand Ltd)

Penguin Books (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd, 24 Sturdee Avenue,

Rosebank, Johannesburg 2196, South Africa

Penguin Books Ltd, Registered Offices: 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England

www.penguin.com

First published in hardback as *The New Penguin English Dictionary* 2000

Published in paperback 2001

Second edition published as *The Penguin English Dictionary* 2003

Published in paperback 2004

Published as *The Penguin Complete English Dictionary* 2006

1

Original material copyright © Merriam-Webster Inc. and Longman Group Ltd, 1986

Revisions, updating and new material copyright © Penguin Books, 2000, 2003

All rights reserved

Typeset in ITC Stone

Printed in Finland by WS Bookwell

Except in the United States of America, this book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser

Olga María Valdés Lezaca

what one wants. >>> **netful** *noun*, **netless** *adj*, **netlike** *adj*, **netty** *adj*. [Old English *net*, *nett*]

net² *verb trans* (**netted**, **netting**) **1** to cover or enclose (something) with a net, or as if with a net: *They netted the fruit trees to keep the birds off.* **2** to catch (a fish, etc) in a net, or as if in a net. **3a** to hit (a ball) into the net for the loss of a point in a game in tennis, badminton, etc. **b** to hit or kick (a ball or puck) into the goal for a score in hockey, football, etc. **4** to make a net out of (rope, string, etc). >>> **netter** *noun*.

net³ or **Brit nett** *adj* **1** free from all charges or deductions, e.g.: **a** remaining after all deductions, e.g. for taxes, outlay, or loss: compare **GROSS**¹ (2A): *net earnings*. **b** excluding all **TARE**² (deduction for weight of container): *net weight*. **2** final; ultimate: *the net result*. [Middle English, in the sense 'clean, pure', from French *net*: see **NEAT**¹]

net⁴ or **Brit nett** *verb trans* (**netted**, **netting**) **1** to make (a sum) by way of profit; to clear (it). **2** to get possession of (something) for oneself: ... *succeeded in netting more of the goods of this world* — John Wain.

net⁵ *noun* a net amount, profit, weight, price, or score.

net asset value *noun* the total value of the assets of an organization, minus its capital charges and liabilities.

netball *noun* a game, usu played by women, between teams of seven players who try to score goals by tossing an inflated ball through a high horizontal ring on a post at each end of a hard court.

Net Book Agreement *noun* formerly, in Britain, a voluntary agreement by which booksellers sold books only at the prices decided by the publishers.

net domestic product *noun* a country's gross domestic product with a certain amount deducted to allow for the depreciation of CAPITAL GOODS (goods used in production).

nether /'nedhə/ *adj* **1** beneath the earth's surface: *the nether regions*. **2** formal lower or under. >>> **nethermost** *adj*. [Old English *nithera*, from *nith* down]

Netherlander /'nedhələndə/ *noun* a native or inhabitant of the Netherlands. >>> **Netherlandish** *adj*.

nether regions *pl noun* **1** the world of the dead; the underworld; Hades. **2** Hell. **3** euphem a person's bottom and genital area.

netherworld *noun* the world of the dead; the underworld.

netiquette /'netiket/ *noun* the code of behaviour commonly observed by users of the Internet. [blend of **NET**¹ + **ETIQUETTE**]

Netizen *noun* an Internet user, esp one who actively contributes to the development of the Net. [**NET**¹ (8C) + **CITIZEN**]

net national product *noun* = **NET DOMESTIC PRODUCT**.

net present value *noun* the total income expected from a project over its whole life, discounted at an interest rate to equal its capital value now, and set against its total costs.

net profit *noun* the gross profit of an operation or transaction minus expenses such as operating costs, employees' wages, overheads, and depreciation.

net realizable value *noun* the net value of an asset regarded as a selling prospect.

net statutory income *noun* a person's total taxable income assessed for a particular tax year, after personal allowances have been deducted.

netsuke /'netsooki, 'nets(ə)ki/ *noun* (*pl* **netsuke** or **netsukes**) a small and often intricately carved toggle, e.g. of ivory, used to fasten a pouch to a kimono sash. [Japanese *netsuke*, from *ne* root, bottom + *tsukeru* to attach]

nett /net/ *adj* and *verb trans* see **NET**³, **NET**⁴.

netting *noun* a fabric or other material consisting of a network of interlocked threads, wires, etc: *wire netting*.

nettle¹ /'netl/ *noun* **1** any of several species of a widely distributed plant with greenish flowers and jagged leaves covered with stinging hairs: *Urtica dioica* and other species. **2** (used in combinations) any of various plants like the nettle: *dead nettle*. * **grasp the nettle** to tackle a problem with bold determination. [Old English *netel*]

nettle² *verb trans* **1** said of a remark, etc: to goad or sting (somebody): *Nettled by the criticism, she retaliated fiercely.* **2** to strike or sting (somebody) with or as if with nettles.

nettle rash *noun* a raised itchy skin rash caused by allergy; = **URTICARIA**.

nettlesome /'netls(ə)m/ *adj* chiefly *N Amer* **1** causing irritation or annoyance. **2** easily annoyed; testy; irritable.

net ton *noun* a unit of total internal capacity, e.g., in the case of a ship, with tonnage deducted to allow for crew accommodation, operating machinery, etc.

net-top box *noun* a device that makes it possible to access the Internet via a television set.

network¹ *noun* **1** a structure of crisscrossing cords, wires, etc, secured at the intersections, e.g. by knots. **2** any system of intersecting horizontal and vertical lines. **3** a system of interconnected railways, roads, etc. **4** a group of broadcasting stations linked together for a simultaneous broadcast. **5** an arrangement of connected electrical conductors. **6** a set of interconnected computers or terminals.

network² *verb trans* **1** *Brit* to broadcast (a programme) on a network. **2** to link up (computers or terminals) so as to interact with each other. >> *verb intrans* to create useful contacts for oneself by talking and interacting with others.

networker *noun* **1** a person working from home or a remote office through a link to a central network. **2** a person who networks with others with similar interests in order to establish useful contacts.

Neufchâtel /'nuhshatel (*French* *nœʃatɛl*)/ *noun* a soft white cheese similar to cream cheese but containing less fat. [named after *Neufchâtel*, town in France where it is made]

neume or **neum** /nyoohm/ *noun* **1** in medieval plainsong, a note or group of notes assigned to one syllable. **2** any of a set of written symbols used to show this. [late Latin *neuma* from Greek *pneuma* breath]

neur- or **neuro-** *comb. form* forming words, with the meanings: **1** nerve; nervous system: *neural*; *neurosurgeon*. **2** neural; neural and: *neuromuscular*. [Greek *neuron* nerve, sinew]

neural /'nyooəɹəl/ *adj* **1** relating to a nerve or the nervous system. **2** dated denoting an anatomical part lying towards the spine as distinct from the front of the body; = **DORSAL**: compare **HAEMAL**, **VENTRAL**. >>> **neurally** *adv*.

neural chip *noun* = **NEUROCHIP**.

neural computer *noun* = **NEUROCOMPUTER**.

neuralgia /nyoo(ə)'rālʒə/ *noun* intense paroxysms of pain radiating along the course of a nerve, esp in the head or face. >>> **neuralgic** /-jɪk/ *adj*.

neural net *noun* = **NEURAL NETWORK**.

neural network *noun* a computer system modelled on the human brain, which is designed to learn by trial and error, as distinct from being programmed.

neural tube *noun* a hollow structure in the embryo of a mammal, from which the brain and spinal cord form.

neurasthenia /nyooə'stheeni-ə/ *noun* dated an emotional disorder causing severe fatigue, depression, etc. >>> **neurasthenic** /-nik/ *adj*, **neurasthenically** /-nikli/ *adv*.

neurilemma /nyooəri'lemə/ *noun* see **NEUROLEMMMA**.

neuritis /nyooə'rietəs/ *noun* inflammation of a nerve or nerves, causing pain, sensory disturbances due to impaired function, etc. >>> **neuritic** /nyooə'ritik/ *adj*.

neuro- *comb. form* see **NEUR-**.

neuroanatomy /nyooəroh-'ənatəmi/ *noun* the study of the structure of the nervous system. >>> **neuroanatomical** /-ənə'tomikl/ *adj*, **neuroanatomist** *noun*.

neurobiology /nyooərohbi-ə'ləʒi/ *noun* the anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry of the nervous system. >>> **neurobiological** /-ləʒikl/ *adj*, **neurobiologist** *noun*.

neurochemistry /nyooəroh'kemistri/ *noun* the biochemistry of nerves or of the transmission of impulses along them. >>> **neurochemical** /-ikl/ *adj*, **neurochemist** /'nyoo-/ *noun*.

neurochip /nyooəroh'chip/ *noun* a semiconductor chip for use in a **NEURAL NETWORK** (computer system modelled on the brain).

neurocomputer /nyooəroh'kəm'pyoohtə/ *noun* a computer using a **NEURAL NETWORK** (system modelled on the brain) to imitate the working of the brain.

neuroendocrine /nyooəroh'endəkriən/ *adj* relating to the interaction of the nervous system and the **ENDOCRINE**¹ (hormonal) system in controlling certain functions.