

Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary

Fourth Edition

Edited by
Colin McIntosh



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107619500

© Cambridge University Press 2013

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

Defined words which we have reason to believe constitute trademarks have been labelled as such. However, neither the presence nor absence of such labels should be regarded as affecting the legal status of any trademarks.

First published 1995 as *Cambridge International Dictionary of English*

This edition first published 2013 as *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*
3rd printing 2013

Printed in India by Replika Press Pvt. Ltd

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-035157 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-685499 Paperback

ISBN 978-1-107-674479 Hardback with CD-ROM

ISBN 978-1-107-619500 Paperback with CD-ROM

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate. Information regarding prices, travel timetables and other factual information given in this work is correct at the time of first printing but Cambridge University Press does not guarantee the accuracy of such information thereafter.

1 [C] a small, thin object with a sharp point that is thrown by hand in a game, shot from a gun, or blown from a tube when used as a weapon → Compare **arrow**
2 darts [U] a game in which darts are thrown at a circular board. The number of points won depends on where the darts land on the board: *a game of darts* • *a darts tournament* **SEWN FOLD** ▶ **3** [C] a small fold, becoming narrower towards one end, that is sewn into a piece of clothing to make it fit better
QUICK MOVEMENT ▶ **4** [C usually singular] a quick, sudden movement: *We made a dart for (= moved quickly towards) the exit.*

▶ verb [I + adv/prep] **1** to move quickly or suddenly: *I darted behind the sofa and hid.* **2** *dart a glance/look at sb* to look quickly at someone: *She darted an angry look at me.*

dartboard /'dɑ:t.bɔ:d/ (US) /'dɑ:rt.bɔ:rd/ noun [C] a circular board which darts are thrown at in a game

dash /dæʃ/ verb; noun; exclamation

▶ verb **MOVE QUICKLY** ▶ **1** (US) [I] to go somewhere quickly: *I've been dashing around all day.* • *I must dash - I've got to be home by seven.* **HIT** ▶ **2** [I or T, usually + prep] to hit something with great force, especially causing damage: *The tidal wave dashed the ship against the rocks.* • *Waves dashed against the cliffs.*

IDIOM **dash sb's hopes** to destroy someone's hopes: *Saturday's 2-0 defeat dashed their hopes of reaching the final.*

PHRASAL VERB **dash sth off** to write something quickly, putting little effort into it: *She dashed the letter off in five minutes.*

▶ noun **QUICK MOVEMENT** ▶ **1** (US) [S] the act of running somewhere very quickly: *I made a dash for the bathroom.* • *There was a mad dash for the exit.* • *As soon as the rain dies down I'm going to make a dash for it (= run somewhere very fast).* **2** [C usually singular] mainly US a race over a short distance: *Who won the 100-yard dash?* **PUNCTUATION** ▶ **3** (US) [C] the symbol - used to separate parts of a sentence → Compare **hyphen** **4** [C] a long sound or flash of light that is used with dots to send messages in MORSE (CODE)
SMALL AMOUNT ▶ **5** a dash (US) a small amount of something, especially liquid food, that is added to something else: *'Cream with your coffee, Madam?' 'Yes please - just a dash.'* • figurative a youthful ambience with a dash of (= small amount of) sophistication
STYLE ▶ **6** [U] old-fashioned style and confidence

▶ exclamation UK old-fashioned informal used to express anger: *Oh dash (it)! I've left my umbrella in the office.*

dashboard /'dæʃ.bɔ:d/ (US) /-bɔ:rd/ noun [C] (mainly US dash, UK old-fashioned fascia) the part of a car which contains some of the controls used for driving and the devices for measuring speed and distance

dashed /dæʃt/ adj [before noun], adv mainly UK old-fashioned extremely: *Dashed decent of you, old boy!*

dashing /'dæʃ.ɪŋ/ adj old-fashioned attractive in a confident, exciting, and stylish way: *a dashing young soldier* • **dashingly** /-li/ adv

dastardly /'dæs.təd.li/ (US) /-təd-/ adj old-fashioned or humorous evil and cruel: *It's the story of a woman who plots a dastardly revenge on her unfaithful lover.*

DAT /dæt/ noun [C or U] abbreviation for **digital audio tape**

data /'deɪ.tə/ (US) /-tə/ noun [U, + sing/pl verb] (US) information, especially facts or numbers, collected to be examined and considered and used to help decision-making, or information in an electronic form that can be stored and used by a computer: *The data was/were collected by various researchers.*

• *Now the data is/are being transferred from magnetic tape to hard disk.*

data bank noun [C] a large collection of information that can be searched through quickly, especially by a computer

database /'deɪ.tə.bæz/ (US) /-tə-/ noun [C] (US) a large amount of information stored in a computer system in such a way that it can be easily looked at or changed: *We're linked to the on-line database at our head office.*

data capture noun [U] any method of collecting information and then changing it into a form that can be read and used by a computer

dataglove /'deɪ.tə.gləv/ (US) /-tə-/ noun [C] an electronic glove (= hand covering) which sends information about the hand movements of the person wearing it to a computer

data processing noun [U] the use of a computer to perform calculations on DATA: *a data-processing bureau*

data projector noun [C] a piece of electronic equipment that is used to show information from a computer screen on a large screen

date /deɪt/ noun; verb

▶ noun [C] **DAY** ▶ **1** (US) a NUMBERED day in a month, often given with a combination of the name of the day, the month, and the year: *What's the date (today)?/What date is it?/What's today's date?* • UK *Today's date is 11 June (the eleventh of June).* • US *Today's date is June 11 (June the eleventh).* • *What is your date of birth?* • *The closing date for applications is the end of this month.* • *We've agreed to meet again at a later date.*

• *I'd like to fix a date for our next meeting.* • *I've made a date (= agreed a date and time) to see her about the house.* → See also **out of date**, **up to date** **2** a particular year: *The date on the coin is 1789.* • *Albert Einstein's dates are 1879 to 1955 (= he was born in 1879 and died in 1955).* **3** a month and a year: *The expiry (US expiration) date of this certificate is August 2013.*

MEETING ▶ **4** (US) a social meeting planned before it happens, especially one between two people who have or might have a romantic relationship: *He's asked her out on a date.* • *She has a hot date (= an exciting meeting) tonight.* **5** mainly US a person you have a romantic meeting with: *Who's your date for the prom?* **PERFORMANCE** ▶ **6** a performance: *They've just finished an exhausting 75-date European tour.* **FRUIT** ▶ **7** (US) the sweet fruit of various types of PALM tree

IDIOMS **it's a date** informal used to say that a particular time is a suitable time to meet: *'I can't make it at seven o'clock. How about 9.30?' 'Sure, it's a date.'* • **to date** formal (US) up to the present time: *This novel is his best work to date.*

▶ verb **TIME** ▶ **1** (US) [T] to write the day's date on something you have written or made: [+ obj + noun] *Thank you for your letter dated 30 August.* **2** [T] to say how long something has existed or when it was made: *Archaeologists have been unable to date these fossils.*

• *An antique dealer had dated the vase at (= said that it was made in) 1734.* **MEET** ▶ **3** [I or T] mainly US to regularly spend time with someone you have a romantic relationship with: *They dated for five years before they got married.* • *How long have you been dating Nicky?* **BECOME OLD** ▶ **4** [I or T] to stop being fashionable or become old-fashioned, or to show the age of a person or thing: *Some James Bond films have dated more quickly than others.* • *I can remember watching live TV coverage of the first lunar landing, so that dates me (= shows how old I am).*