

The
**AMERICAN
HERITAGE®**

Dictionary

of the
**English
Language**

**FIFTH
EDITION**

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

BOSTON NEW YORK

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ISBN 978-1-328-84169-8

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-DOW-24 23 22 21 20 19 18

4500715946

name with a feminine ending is a matter of personal choice rather than grammatical necessity. Similarly, the decision whether to call a novel by a woman of Latino heritage a *Latino novel* or a *Latina novel* depends on the writer's personal preference, or on the speaker or writer's intended emphasis, rather than on any requirement of grammar.

La-ti-na² (lā-tē'nā, lā-tē'nā) *n.* A city of west-central Italy southeast of Rome. It is a commercial and industrial center.

Latin alphabet *n.* The Roman alphabet adopted from the Greek by way of the Etruscan alphabet, consisting of 23 letters and forming the basis of numerous alphabets around the world, including those of modern western Europe. Also called *Roman alphabet*.

Latin America *n.* The countries of the Western Hemisphere south of the United States, especially those speaking Spanish, Portuguese, or French.

Latin American *n.* 1. A native or inhabitant of Latin America. 2. A person of Latin-American ancestry. —*Lat'in-A-mer'i-can* *adj.*

Lat-in-ate (lāt'n-āt') *adj.* Of, derived from, or suggestive of Latin: *a Latinate word; a formal, Latinate prose style.*

Latin Church *n.* The Roman Catholic Church.

Latin cross *n.* A cross with a shorter horizontal bar intersecting a longer vertical bar above the midpoint.

Latin Father or **Latin father** *n.* Any of the Church Fathers who wrote in Latin.

Lat-in-ism (lāt'n-iz'm) *n.* An idiom, structure, or word derived from or suggestive of Latin.

Lat-in-ist (lāt'n-ist) *n.* A specialist in Latin.

La-tin-i-ty (lā-tin'i-tē) *n.* 1. The manner in which Latin is used in speaking or writing. 2. Latin quality or character: *Her speech was marked by florid Latinity.* 3. A Latinism. 4. Latin literature: *This concept is not found in all of Latinity.*

Lat-in-ize (lāt'n-iz') *v.* -ized, -izing, -izes —*tr.* 1a. To translate into Latin. b. To transliterate into the characters of the Latin alphabet; Romanize. c. To make (a word, for example) similar in appearance to Latin: *Latinize an English name.* 2. To cause to adopt or acquire Latin characteristics or customs. 3. To cause to follow or resemble the Roman Catholic Church in dogma or practices. 4. To make Latino or Latin American, as in culture. —*intr.* To use Latinisms. —*Lat'in-i-za'tion* (-i-zā'shən) *n.* —*Lat'in-iz'er* *n.*

La-ti-no (lā-tē'nō, lā-, lā-) *n., pl. -nos* 1. A Latin American. 2. A person of Latin-American ancestry, often one living in the United States. See Usage Note at *Hispanic*. [Short for Spanish *latinoamericano*, Latin-American < *latino*, Latin < Latin *Latinus*; see *LATIN*.] —*La-ti'no* *adj.*

Latin Quarter A section of Paris on the southern bank of the Seine River. Centered around the Sorbonne, it has attracted students for many centuries.

lat-ish (lā'tish) *adv. & adj.* Fairly late.

la-tis-si-mus dor-si (lā-tis'si-mas dōr'si) *n., pl. la-tis-si-mi dorsi* (-mī') Either of two broad, flat, triangular muscles with origin from the spinous processes of the lower thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, the sacrum, and the iliac crest, that insert into the humerus and whose action adducts, medially rotates, and extends the arm. [New Latin *latissimus dorsi*: Latin *latissimus*, superlative of *lātus*, wide + Latin *dorsi*, genitive of *dorsum*, back.]

lat-i-tude (lāt'i-tōd', -tyōd') *n.* 1a. The angular distance north or south of the earth's equator, measured in degrees along a meridian, as on a map or globe. b. A region of the earth considered in relation to its distance from the equator: *temperate latitudes.* 2. *Astronomy* The angular distance of a celestial body north or south of the ecliptic. 3. Freedom from normal restraints, limitations, or regulations. See Synonyms at *room*. 4. A range of values or conditions, especially the range of exposures over which a photographic film yields usable images. 5. *Archaic* Width; breadth. [Middle English, geographical latitude < Old French, width < Latin *lātītūdō*, width, geographical latitude < *lātus*, wide.] —*lat'i-tu'din-al* (-tōd'n-əl, -tyōd'-) *adj.* —*lat'i-tu'di-nal-ly* *adv.*

lat-i-tu-di-nar-i-an (lāt'i-tōd'n-ār'ē-ən, -tyōd'-) *adj.* Holding or expressing broad or tolerant views, especially in religious matters. *cf.* *n.* **Latitudinarian** A member of a group of Anglican Christians active from the 17th through the 19th century who were opposed to dogmatic positions of the Church of England and allowed reason to inform theological interpretation and judgment. [Latin *lātītūdō*, *lātītūdin-*, latitude; see *LATITUDE* + *-ARIAN*.] —*lat'i-tu'di-nar'i-an-ism* *n.*

La-ti-um (lā'shē-əm, -shəm) 1. An ancient country of west-central Italy bordering on the Tyrrhenian Sea. It was dominated by Rome after the third century BC. 2. See *Lazio*.

lat-ke (lāt'ka) *n.* A pancake, especially one made of grated potato. [Yiddish < Ukrainian *oladka* < Old Russian, diminutive of *olad'ya* < Greek *eladia*, pl. of *eladion*, little oily thing, diminutive of *elaion*, olive oil < *elaia*, olive.]

lat-o-sol (lāt'ā-sōl', -sōl') *n.* Soil that is rich in iron, alumina, or silica and formed in tropical woodlands with great humidity and high temperatures. [LAT(ERITE) + *-sol*, soil (< Latin *solum*).]

La Tour (lā tōor', lā tōor'), *Georges de* 1593–1652. French painter of religious subjects and genre scenes. Many of his works, including *The Newborn* (c. 1630), are dramatically lit nocturnal scenes.

la-trine (lā-trēn') *n.* A communal toilet of a type often used in a camp or barracks. [French *latrines*, privies < Old French < Latin *latrina*, privy < *lavātina*, bath, privy; see *leu(a)-* in App. I.]

lat-rorse (lāt'rōrs') *adj.* Botany Facing toward the side; not turned toward or away from the axis: *latrorse anthers.* [Latin *lātus*, later-, side (on the model of *extroorse*, *introorse*, etc.).]

—*latry* *suffix*. Worship: *bibliolatry*. [Greek *latreia*, service, worship.]

lats (lāts) *n., pl. la-ti* (lā'tē') See table at *currency*. [Latvian, probably < shortening of *latvietis*, Latvian.]

lat-te (lāt'tā, lāt'tē) *n.* A caffè latte.

lat-ten (lāt'n) *n.* 1. Brass or an alloy resembling brass, hammered thin and formerly used in the manufacture of church vessels. 2. A thin sheet of metal, especially of tin. [Middle English *laton* < Old French < Arabic *lātān*, probably < Old Turkic *altun*, gold; akin to Mongolian *altan*.]

lat-ter (lāt'tər) *adj.* 1. Being the second of two persons or things mentioned: *Regarding captain and major, the latter rank is higher.* 2. Near or nearer to the end: *the latter part of the book.* 3. Further advanced in time or sequence; later: *a style that has been revived in latter times.* *cf.* *n.* The second of two persons or things mentioned. [Middle English, later < Old English *lætra*; see *lē-* in App. I.] —*lat'ter-ly* *adv.*

lat-ter-day (lāt'tər-dā') *adj.* Belonging to present or recent times; modern.

Latter-day Saint *n.* See *Mormon* (sense 2).

lat-tice (lāt'is) *n.* 1a. An open framework made of strips of metal, wood, or similar material overlapped or overlaid in a regular, usually crisscross pattern. b. A structure, such as a window, screen, or trellis, made of or containing such a framework. 2. Something, such as a decorative motif or heraldic bearing, that resembles an open, patterned framework. 3. *Physics* a. A regular, periodic configuration of points, particles, or objects throughout an area or a space, especially the arrangement of ions or molecules in a crystalline solid. b. The spatial arrangement of fissionable and nonfissionable materials in a nuclear reactor. *cf.* *tr.v.* -ticed, -tic-ing, -tic-es To construct or furnish with a lattice or lattice-work. [Middle English *latis* < Old French *latis* < *latte*, lath, of Germanic origin.] —*lat'ticed* *adj.*

lattice crust *n.* A pastry crust of overlapping, crisscrossed strips of dough placed on the tops of pies or tarts.

lat-tice-work (lāt'is-wōrk') *n.* 1. A lattice or latticelike structure. 2. An open, crisscross pattern or weave.

Lat-vi-a (lāt'vē-ə) A country of north-central Europe on the Baltic Sea. The original inhabitants, the Letts, were conquered and Christianized in the 1200s by German knights, the Livonian Brothers of the Sword, who ruled the area until 1561, when it passed to Poland. Under Russian control from the 18th century, Latvia became independent after World War I but was annexed in 1940 by the USSR and known as the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic until it declared its independence in 1990. Riga is the capital.

Lat-vi-an (lāt'vē-ən) *adj.* Of or relating to Latvia or its people, language, or culture. *cf.* *n.* 1a. A native or inhabitant of Latvia. b. A person of Latvian ancestry. 2. The Baltic language of the Latvians. Also called *Letish*.

laud (lōd) *tr.v.* *laud-ed, laud-ing, lauds* To give praise to; glorify. See Synonyms at *praise*. *cf.* *n.* 1. Praise; glorification. 2. A hymn or song of praise. 3. *lauds* also *Lauds* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. verb*) a. *Ecclesiastical* The service of prayers formerly following the matins and constituting with them the first of the seven canonical hours. b. The time appointed for this service. [Middle English *lauden* < Old French *lauder* < Latin *laudare* < *laus*, *laud-*, praise.] —*laud'er* *n.*

Laud (lōd), *William* 1573–1645. English prelate who as archbishop of Canterbury (1633–1645) supported Charles I, absolutism in church and state, and High-Church doctrine. He was tried for treason by Parliament and executed.

laud-a-ble (lō'də-bəl) *adj.* Deserving commendation; praiseworthy. —*laud'a-bil'i-ty, laud'a-ble-ness* *n.* —*laud'a-bly* *adv.*

lau-da-num (lōd'n-əm) *n.* A tincture of opium, formerly used as a drug. [New Latin, perhaps alteration of Medieval Latin *labdanum*, *labdanum*; see *LABDANUM*.]

laud-a-tion (lō-dā'shən) *n.* The act of lauding; praise.

laud-a-tive (lō'də-tiv) *adj.* Laudatory.

laud-a-to-ry (lō'də-tōr'ē) *adj.* Expressing or conferring praise: *a laudatory review of the new play.*

Lau-e (lou'ə), *Max Theodore Felix* von 1879–1960. German physicist who won a 1914 Nobel Prize for demonstrating the diffraction of x-rays by crystals.

laugh (lāf, lāf) *v.* *laughed, laugh-ing, laughs* —*intr.* 1. To express certain emotions, especially mirth or delight, by a series of spontaneous, usually unarticulated sounds often accompanied by corresponding facial and bodily movements. 2. To show or feel amusement or good humor: *an experience we would laugh about later on.* 3a. To feel or express derision or contempt; mock: *I had to laugh when I saw who my opponent was.* b. To feel a triumphant or exultant sense of well-being: *You won't be laughing when the truth comes out.* 4. To produce sounds resembling laughter: *parrots laughing and chattering in the trees.* —*tr.* 1. To affect or influence by laughter: *laughed the speaker off the stage; laughed the proposal down.* 2. To say with a laugh: *He laughed his delight at the victory.* *cf.* *n.* 1a. The act of laughing. b. The sound of laughing; laughter. 2. *Informal* Something amusing, absurd, or contemptible; a joke: *The solution they recommended was a laugh.* 3. *often laughs* *Informal* Fun; amusement: *went along just for laughs.* —*phrasal verbs:* *laugh at* To treat lightly; scoff at: *a daredevil who laughed at danger; laugh off (or away)* To dismiss as ridiculously or laughably trivial: *laughed off any suggestion that her career was over.* —*idioms:* *laugh all the way to the bank* To take glee in making money, especially from activity that others consider to be unimpressive or unlikely to turn a profit. *laugh out of the other side of (one's) mouth* To see one's good fortune turn to bad; suffer a humbling reversal. *laugh up (or in) (one's) sleeve* To rejoice or exult in secret, as at another's error or defeat. [Middle English *laughen* < Old English *hlæhhan*, probably ultimately of imitative origin.] —*laugh'er* *n.* —*laugh-ing-ly* *adv.*

