

WEBSTER'S NEW UNIVERSAL UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

The dictionary entries are based on the
Second Edition of *The Random House
Dictionary of the English Language*

BARNES
& NOBLE
BOOKS
NEW YORK

Acknowledgments and Permissions

The "A Dictionary of the English Language" section of this book
(*Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary*) is based on the second edition of
The Random House Dictionary of the English Language,
the Unabridged Edition, copyright 1993, 1987.

Copyright 1996 by Random House Value Publishing, Inc.
All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form
or by any means electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording,
or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission
in writing from the publisher.

This edition published by Barnes & Noble, Inc.
by arrangement with Random House Value Publishing, Inc.

1996 Barnes & Noble Books

ISBN 0-7607-0288-8

Printed and bound in the United States of America

M 9 8 7 6 5

(esp.) the branch of the U.S. Department of the Treasury charged chiefly with the discovery and apprehension of counterfeiters and with providing protection for the president and the president's immediate family. 3. secret work for a government, esp. espionage. [1730-40] —*sec-ret-serv-ice*, adj.

sec-ret soc/ety, an organization, as a fraternal society, the members of which take secret initiation oaths, share secret passwords and rites, and are bound to assist each other. [1820-30]

secs. 1. seconds. 2. sections.

sect (sekt), *n.* 1. a body of persons adhering to a particular religious faith; a religious denomination. 2. a group regarded as heretical or as deviating from a generally accepted religious tradition. 3. (in the sociology of religion) a Christian denomination characterized by insistence on strict qualifications for membership, as distinguished from the more inclusive groups called churches. 4. any group, party, or faction united by a specific doctrine or under a doctrinal leader. [1300-50; ME *secte* < L *secta* something to follow, pathway, course of conduct, school of thought, prob. *n.* deriv. of *sectari* to pursue, accompany, wait upon, freq. of *sequi* to follow]

sect. section.

sec-tar-i-an (sek tār'ē ən), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to sectaries or sects. 2. narrowly confined or devoted to a particular sect. 3. narrowly confined or limited in interest, purpose, scope, etc. —*n.* 4. a member of a sect. 5. a bigoted or narrow-minded adherent of a sect. [1640-50; SECTARY + -AN] —**sec-tar-i-an-ly**, *adv.*

sec-tar-i-an-ism (sek tār'ē ə niz'm), *n.* sectarian spirit or tendencies; excessive devotion to a particular sect, esp. in religion. [1810-20; SECTARIAN + -ISM]

sec-tar-i-an-ize (sek tār'ē ə niz'), *v.t.* -ized, -iz-ing. to make sectarian. Also, *esp. Brit.*, **sec-tar-i-an-ise**. [1835-45; SECTARIAN + -IZE]

sec-tar-y (sek'tərē), *n.* *pl.* -ries. 1. a member of a particular sect, esp. an adherent of a religious body regarded as heretical or schismatic. 2. a Protestant or nonconformist denomination, esp. a minor one. 3. a person zealously devoted to a particular sect. [1550-60; < ML *sectarius*, equiv. to *sect*(a) SECT + -arius -ARY]

sec-tile (sek'til), *adj.* capable of being cut smoothly with a knife. [1710-20; < L *sectilis* cuttable, equiv. to *sect*(us) (ptp. of *secare* to cut; see SAW) + -ilis -ILE] —**sec-til-ly**, *adv.*

section (sek'shən), *n.* 1. a part that is cut off or separated. 2. a distinct part or subdivision of anything, as an object, country, community, class, or the like: the poor section of town; the left section of a drawer. 3. a distinct part or subdivision of a writing, as of a newspaper, legal code, chapter, etc.: the financial section of a daily paper; section 2 of the bylaws. 4. one of a number of parts that can be fitted together to make a whole: sections of a fishing rod. 5. (in most of the U.S. west of Ohio) one of the 36 numbered subdivisions, each one square mile (2.59 sq. km or 640 acres), of a township. 6. an act or instance of cutting; separation by cutting. 7. Surg. a. the making of an incision. b. an incision. 8. a thin slice of a tissue, mineral, or the like, as for microscopic examination. 9. a representation of an object as it would appear if cut by a plane, showing its internal structure. 10. Mil. a. a small unit consisting of two or more squads. b. Also called **staff section**, any of the subdivisions of a staff. c. a small tactical division in naval and air units. 11. Railroads. a. a division of a sleeping car containing both an upper and a lower berth. b. a length of trackage, roadbed, signal equipment, etc., maintained by one crew. 12. any of two or more trains, buses, or the like, running on the same route and schedule at the same time, one right behind the other, and considered as one unit, as when a second is necessary to accommodate more passengers than the first can carry: On holidays the New York to Boston train runs in three sections. 13. a segment of a naturally segmented fruit, as of an orange or grapefruit. 14. a division of an orchestra or band containing all the instruments of one class: a rhythm section. 15. Bookbinding. signature (def. 8). 16. Also called **section mark**, a mark used to indicate a subdivision of a book, chapter, or the like, or as a mark of reference to a footnote. 17. Theat. one of a series of circuits for controlling certain lights, as footlights. 18. shape (def. 12). —*u.t.* 19. to cut or divide into sections. 20. to cut through as to present a section. 21. Surg. to make an incision. [1550-60; < L *sectio* - (s. of *sectio*) a cutting, equiv. to *sect*(us) (ptp. of *secare* to cut; see SAW) + -iōn -iōn]

—**Syn.** 1. See part 8. specimen, sample, cutting.

section-al (sek'shə nl), *adj.* 1. pertaining or limited to a particular section; local or regional: sectional politics. 2. composed of several independent sections: a sectional sofa. 3. of or pertaining to a section: a sectional view of the machine. —*n.* 4. a sofa composed of several independent sections that can be arranged individually or in various combinations. [1800-10; Amer.; SECTION + -AL] —**sec-tion-al-ly**, *adv.*

section-al-ism (sek'shə nl iz'm), *n.* excessive regard for sectional or local interests; regional or local spirit; prejudice, etc. [1850-55; Amer.; SECTIONAL + -ISM] —**sec-tion-al-ist**, *n.*

section-al-ize (sek'shə nl iz'), *v.t.* -ized, -iz-ing. 1. to render sectional. 2. to divide into sections, esp. geographical sections. Also, *esp. Brit.*, **sec-tion-al-ise**. [1850-55; SECTIONAL + -IZE] —**sec-tion-al-iza-tion**, *n.*

sec-tion boss, Railroads. the boss of a section gang. [1860-70]

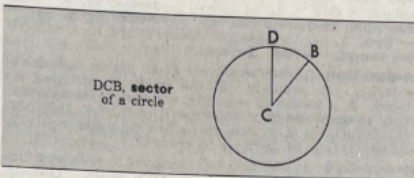
sec-tion eight, 1. a military discharge for physical or mental unfitness as determined by an Army Regulation in effect from 1922 to 1944. 2. a soldier receiving such a discharge. [1940-45, Amer.]

sec-tion gang, Railroads. a group of workers who take care of a section of railroad track. Cf. **floating gang**. [1885-90, Amer.]

sec-tion hand, Railroads. a person who works on a section gang. Also called **tracklayer**. [1870-75]

sec-tion mark, section (def. 16). [1890-95]

sec-tor (sek'tər), *n.* 1. *Geom.* a plane figure bounded by two radii and the included arc of a circle. 2. a mathematical instrument consisting of two flat rulers hinged together at one end and bearing various scales. 3. a device used in connection with an index plate, plate and set to indicate the angle through which the work is indexed. 4. Mil. a designated defense area, usually in a combat zone, within which a particular military unit operates and for which it is responsible. 5. Astron. an instrument shaped like a sector of a circle, having a variable central angle and sights along the two straight sides, for measuring the angular distance between two celestial bodies. 6. a distinct part, esp. of society or of a nation's economy: the housing sector; the educational sector. 7. a section or zone, as of a city. 8. Computers. a portion of a larger block of storage, as 1/16 of a track or disk. —*u.t.* 9. to divide into sectors. [1560-70; < LL *sector*, L: cutter, equiv. to *se*(are) to cut + -tor -TOR] —**sec-tor-al**, *adj.*



sec-to-ri-al (sek tōr'ē əl, -tōr'-), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to a sector. 2. Zool. (of teeth) adapted for cutting; carnassial. [1795-1805; < NL *sectorius* (see SECTION, -TORY) + -AL]

sec-ular (sek'yə lər), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to worldly things or to things that are not regarded as religious, spiritual, or sacred; temporal: secular interests. 2. not pertaining to or connected with religion (opposed to sacred): secular music. 3. (of education, a school, etc.) concerned with nonreligious subjects. 4. (of members of the clergy) not bound by religious vows; not bound by monastic vows (opposed to regular). 5. occurring or celebrated once in an age or century: the secular games of Rome. 6. going on from age to age; continuing through long ages. —*n.* 7. a layperson. 8. one of the secular clergy. [1250-1300; < ML *secularis*, LL *saecularis* worldly, temporal (opposed to eternal), L: of an age, equiv. to L *saecul*(um) long period of time + -aris -AR-; ME *seculer* < OF < L, as above] —**sec-ular-ly**, *adv.*

sec-ular hu-man-ism, any set of beliefs that promotes human values without specific allusion to religious doctrines. [1880-85] —**sec-ular hu-man-ist**, *n.*

sec-ular-ism (sek'yə lə riz'm), *n.* 1. secular spirit or tendency, esp. a system of political or social philosophy that rejects all forms of religious faith and worship. 2. the view that public education and other matters of civil policy should be conducted without the introduction of a religious element. [1850-55; SECLAR + -ISM] —**sec-ular-ist**, *n.* *adj.* —**sec-ular-ist-ic**, *adj.*

sec-ular-ity (sek'yə lər'ē tē), *n.* *pl.* -ties. 1. secular views or beliefs; secularism. 2. the state of being devoted to the affairs of the world; worldliness. 3. a secular matter. [1350-1400; ME. See SECLAR, -ITY]

sec-ular-ize (sek'yə lə riz'), *v.t.* -ized, -iz-ing. 1. to make secular; separate from religious or spiritual connection or influences; make worldly or unspiritual; imbue with secularism. 2. to change (clergy) from regular to secular. 3. to transfer (property) from ecclesiastical to civil possession or use. Also, *esp. Brit.*, **sec-ular-ise**. [1805-15; SECLAR + -IZE] —**sec-ular-iza-tion**, *n.* —**sec-ular-iz-er**, *n.*

sec-ular ter-ti-aries. See under tertiary (def. 5).

sec-ular vic'ar. See lay vicar.

se-cund (se'kund, sek'und), *adj.* Bot., Zool. arranged on one side only; unilateral. [1770-80; < L *secundus* following. See SECOND] —**se-cund-ly**, *adv.*

Se-cun-der-a-bad (se kun'dər ə bād'), *n.* a city in N Andhra Pradesh, in central India, part of Hyderabad: a former British military cantonment.

sec-un-dine (sek'un din', -din), *n.* Bot. the inner integument of an ovule. Cf. **primine**. [1350-1400; ME < L *secundinae* (pl.) afterbirth]

se-cun-dus (se kun'dəs), *adj.* (in prescriptions) second. [1820-30; < L]

se-cure (si kyō'r), *adj.* -**cur-er**, -**cur-est**, *v.* -**cured**, -**cur-ing**. —*adj.* 1. free from or not exposed to danger or harm; safe. 2. dependable; firm; not liable to fail, yield, become displaced, etc., as a support or a fastening: The building was secure, even in an earthquake. 3. affording safety, as a place: He needed a secure hideout. 4. in safe custody or keeping: Here in the vault the necklace was secure. 5. free from care; without anxiety: emotionally secure. 6. firmly established, as a relationship or reputation: He earned a secure place among the ship or reputation. 7. sure; certain; assured: secure of baseball immortality. 8. safe from penetration or interception by unauthorized persons: secure radio communications between army units. 9. Archaic. overconfident. —*u.t.* 10. to get hold or possession of; procure; obtain: to secure materials; to secure a high government position. 11. to free from danger or harm; make safe: Sanabags secured the town during the flood. 12. to effect; make certain of; ensure: The novel secured its reputation. 13. to make firm or fast, as by attaching its reputation. 14. Finance. a. to assure payment (of a debt) by pledging property. b. to assure (a creditor) of payment by the pledge or mortgaging of property. 15. to lock or fasten against intruders: to secure the doors. 16. to protect from attack by taking cover, by building fortifications, etc.: The regiment secured its position. 17. to capture (a person or animal): No one is

safe until the murderer is secured. 18. to tie up (a person), esp. by binding the person's arms or hands; pinion. 19. to guarantee the privacy or secrecy of: to secure diplomatic phone conversations. —*u.t.* 20. to be or become safe; have or obtain security. 21. Naut. a. to cover openings and make movable objects fast: The crew was ordered to secure for sea. b. to be excused from duty: to secure from general quarters. [1525-35; < L *securus* carefree, equiv. to *se*-*se* + *cūr*(a) care (see CURE) + -us *adj.* suffix; cf. *sure*] —**se-cur'a-ble**, *adj.* —**se-cure-ly**, *adv.* —**se-cure-ness**, *n.* —**se-cur'er**, *n.*

—**Syn.** 1. protected. See safe. 2. stable, fast, fixed. 7. confident. 10. gain. See get. 11. protect, guard, safeguard. 12. assure, guarantee. —**Ant.** 1. unsafe.

se-cure-ment (si kyō'r'mənt), *n.* 1. the act of securing. 2. security or protection. [1615-25; SECLAR + -MENT]

Sec-ur-ities and Exchange/ Commis'sion. See SEC.

Secu-rities Exchange/ Act, U.S. Govt. a law passed in 1934 establishing the SEC.

se-cu-rity (si kyō'r'ē tē), *n.* *pl.* -ties, *adj.* —*n.* 1. freedom from danger, risk, etc.; safety. 2. freedom from care, anxiety, or doubt; well-founded confidence. 3. something that secures or makes safe; protection; defense. 4. freedom from financial cares or from want: The insurance policy gave the family security. 5. precautions taken to guard against crime, attack, sabotage, espionage, etc.: The senator claimed security was lax and potential enemies know our plans. 6. a department or organization responsible for protection or safety: He called security when he spotted the intruder. 7. protection or precautions taken against escape; custody: The dangerous criminal was placed under maximum security. 8. an assurance; guarantee. 9. Law. a. something given or deposited as surety for the fulfillment of a promise or an obligation, the payment of a debt, etc. b. one who becomes surety for another. 10. an evidence of debt or of property, as a bond or a certificate of stock. 11. Usually, securities, stocks and bonds. 12. Archaic. overconfidence; cockiness. —*adj.* 13. of, pertaining to, or serving as security: The company has instituted security measures. [1400-50; late ME *securite*, *securite*(e) < L *securitas*. See SECURE, -ITY] —**Syn.** 2. assurance, certainty, positiveness. 3. safeguard, safety.

se-cu-rity an-aly-st, a person who specializes in evaluating information regarding stocks and bonds. Also, **se-cu-rities an-aly-st**. —**se-cu-rity an-aly-sis**, **se-cu-rities an-aly-sis**.

se-cu-rity blan-ket, 1. a blanket or other familiar item carried esp. by a young child to provide reassurance and a feeling of psychological security. 2. someone or something that gives a person a sense of protection or a feeling of security: His wealthy uncle is his security blanket. [1965-70]

Secu-rity Coun-cil, the division of the United Nations charged with maintaining international peace, composed of five permanent members (U.S., Russian Federation, France, United Kingdom, and the People's Republic of China) and ten temporary members, each serving for two years.

se-cu-rity guard, a uniformed guard employed by a bank, airport, office building, etc., to maintain security. [1955-60]

se-cu-rity police, 1. a police force responsible for maintaining order at a specific locale or under specific circumstances, as at an airport or factory. 2. a police force concerned with detecting and preventing enemy espionage. 3. See **secret police**. [1915-20]

se-cu-rity risk, a person considered by authorities as likely to commit acts that might threaten the security of a country. [1950-55]

se-cu-rity thread, a colored thread running through the paper of a piece of paper money, used to deter counterfeiting.

se-cy, secretary. Also, **sec'y**

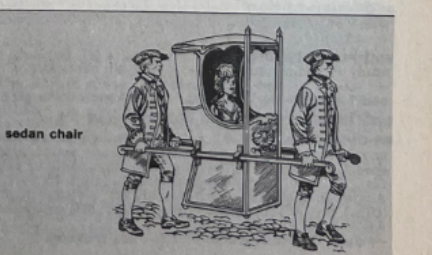
SED, shipper's export declaration.

Se-da-li-a (si dā'le ə, -dāl'yə), *n.* a city in central Missouri. 20,927.

se-dan (si dā'n), *n.* 1. an enclosed automobile body having two or four doors and seating four or more persons on two full-width seats. 2. See **sedan chair**. [1625-35; of obscure orig.]

Se-dan (si dā'n; Fr. so dā'n), *n.* a city in NE France, on the Moselle River: defeat and capture of Napoleon III 1870. 25,430.

sedan' chair, an enclosed vehicle for one person, borne on poles by two bearers and common during the 17th and 18th centuries. [1740-50]



CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, cape, dare, part; set, equal; if, ice; ox, over, order, oil, bōsh, bōst, out, up, ūrg; child; sing, shoe; thin, that; th as in treasure, a = a as in alone, e as in system, i as in easily, o as in gullip, u as in circus; * as in fire (fī'r), hour (ou'r), [] and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krad'l), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.

ise/. [1605-15; SECULAR + -IZE] —**sec/u-lar-i-za/tion**, *n.* —**sec/u-lar-iz/er**, *n.*

sec/ular ter/tiar-ies. See under **tertiary** (def. 5).

sec/ular vic/ar. See **lay vicar**.

se-cund (sē/kund, sek/und), *adj.* *Bot., Zool.* arranged on one side only; unilateral. [1770-80; < L *secundus* following. See **SECOND**¹] —**se/cund-ly**, *adv.*

Se-cun-dar-a-bad (sə kun/dər ə bad/), *n.* a city in N Andhra Pradesh, in central India, part of Hyderabad: a former British military cantonment.

sec-un-dine (sek/en din/, -din), *n.* *Bot.* the inner integument of an ovule. Cf. **primine**. [1350-1400; ME < L *secundinae* (pl.) afterbirth]

se-cun-dus (sə kun/dəs), *adj.* (in prescriptions) second. [1820-30; < L]

se-cure (si kyōōr/), *adj.*, **-cur-er**, **-cur-est**, *v.*, **-cured**, **-cur-ing**. —*adj.* **1.** free from or not exposed to danger or harm; safe. **2.** dependable; firm; not liable to fail, yield, become displaced, etc., as a support or a fastening: *The building was secure, even in an earthquake.* **3.** affording safety, as a place: *He needed a secure hideout.* **4.** in safe custody or keeping: *Here in the vault the necklace was secure.* **5.** free from care; without anxiety: *emotionally secure.* **6.** firmly established, as a relationship or reputation: *He earned a secure place among the baseball immortals.* **7.** sure; certain; assured: *secure of victory; secure in religious belief.* **8.** safe from penetration or interception by unauthorized persons: *secure radio communications between army units.* **9. Archaic. overconfident. —*v.t.* **10.** to get hold or possession of; procure; obtain: *to secure materials; to secure a high government position.* **11.** to free from danger or harm; make safe: *Sandbags secured the town during the flood.* **12.** to effect; make certain of; ensure: *The novel secured his reputation.* **13.** to make firm or fast, as by attaching: *to secure a rope.* **14.** *Finance.* **a.** to assure payment of (a debt) by pledging property. **b.** to assure (a creditor) of payment by the pledge or mortgaging of property. **15.** to lock or fasten against intruders: *to secure the doors.* **16.** to protect from attack by taking cover, by building fortifications, etc.: *The regiment secured its position.* **17.** to capture (a person or animal): *No one is***

secu/rit
the pape
terfeiting

secy, se

SED, sh

Se-da-li-

souri. 20,

se-dan

having tv

sons on

[1625-35;

Se-dan

on the M

1870. 25,

sedan/

borne on

17th and

sedan c

CONCISE PRO
ox, ōver, ōrd
that; zh as i
easily, o as i
l and n can
button (but/