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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

Eleventh Edition

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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary - Definition of Close

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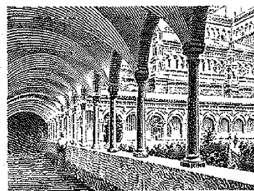
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clock *n* [perh. fr. *clock*] (1530): an ornamental figure on the ankle or side of a stocking or sock
clock-like *adj* (1609): unusually regular, undeviating, and precise (does his job with ~ efficiency)
clock radio *n* (1949): a combination clock and radio device in which the clock can be set to turn on the radio at a designated time
clock-watcher *n* (1911): a person (as a worker or student) who keeps close watch on the passage of time — **clock-watch-ing** *v* *n*
clock-wise *adj* (1888): in the direction in which the hands of a clock rotate as viewed from in front or as if standing on a clock face — **clockwise** *adj*
clock-work *n* (1628) 1: the inner workings of something 2: the machinery (as springs and a train of gears) that run a clock; also 3: a similar mechanism running a mechanical device (as a toy) 3: the precision, regularity, or absence of variation associated with a clock or clockwork (a ~ operation) (the planning went like ~)
clod *n* [ME *clodde*, fr. OE *clod* (in *clodhamer* fieldfare)] (15c) 1: a lump or mass esp. of earth or clay b: SOIL, EARTH 2: OAF, DOLT — **clod-dish** *adj* — **clod-dish-ness** *n* — **clod-dy** *adj*
clod-hop-per *n* [ME *clā-hōp*] (1709) 1: a clumsy and uncouth rustic 2: a large heavy work shoe or boot
clod-hop-ping *adj* (1787): BOORISH, RUDE
clod-pole or **clod-pole** *n* [ME *clād-pōl*] (1601): BLOCKHEAD
clod-fi-brate *n* [ME *clād-fī-brāt*, -fī-*n*] (perh. fr. *chlor* + *fibr* + *-ate*) (1964): a compound C₁₂H₁₅ClO₃ used esp. to lower abnormally high concentrations of fats and cholesterol in the blood
clog *n* [ME *clōg*, fr. ME *clōge* short thick piece of wood] (14c) 1 a: a weight attached esp. to an animal to hinder motion b: something that shackles or impedes: ENCUMBRANCE 1 2: a shoe, sandal, or overshoe having a thick typically wooden sole
clog vb clogged; clogging *v* (14c) 1 a: to impede with a clog b: to hinder c: to halt or retard the progress, operation, or growth of d: ENCUMBER (restraints that have been clogging the market — T. W. Arnold) 2 a: to fill beyond capacity: OVERLOAD (cars clogged the main street) — often used with *up* (petty cases clogging up the courts) b: to cause blockage in — often used with *up* (arteries clogged up by cholesterol) ~ *vi* 1: to become filled with extraneous matter — often used with *up* 2: to unite in a mass: CLOT 3: to dance a clog dance *syn* see HAMPER — **clog-ger** *n* [ME *clōg-gar*, -*klō-* *n*
clog dance *n* (1869): a dance in which the performer wears clogs and beats out a clattering rhythm on the floor — **clog dancer** *n* — **clog dancing** *n*
cloison-né also **cloi-son-né** *n* [ME *cloi-son*, fr. AF, fr. ML *claustrum*, fr. L, bar. *claudere* to close — more at CLOSE] (13c) 1 a: a monastic establishment b: an area within a monastery or convent to which the religious are normally restricted c: monastic life d: a place or state of seclusion 2: a covered passage on the side of a court usu. having one side walled and the other an open arcade or colonnade
cloister *n* **cloi-tered; cloi-ter-ing** *v* (1581) 1: to seclude from the world or as if in a cloister (a scientist who ~s herself in a laboratory) 2: to surround with a cloister (~ed gardens)
cloi-tered *adj* (1581) 1: being or living in or as if in a cloister 2: providing shelter from contact with the outside world (the ~ atmosphere of a small college)
cloi-stral *adj* (1605): of, relating to, or suggestive of a cloister
clois-tress *n* [ME *clōi-strēs*] (1601) *obs*: NUN
clo-mi-phene *n* [ME *clō-mī-fēn*] (1963): a synthetic drug C₂₆H₂₈ClNO used in the form of its citrate to induce ovulation
clo-mip-ra-mine *n* [ME *clō-mī-prā-mēn*] (1975): a tricyclic antidepressant C₁₉H₂₃ClN₂ — used in the form of its hydrochloride to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder
clomp *v* [ME *clāmp*, *klāmp*, *klāmp* *v*] (by alter.) (1829): CLUMP 1
clo-naz-e-pam *n* [ME *clō-nā-zā-pām*] (1970): a benzodiazepine C₁₅H₁₀ClN₃O₃ — used esp. as an anticonvulsant in the treatment of epilepsy
clone *n* [Gk *klōn* twig, slip; akin to Gk *klan* to break — more at CLAST] (1903) 1 a: the aggregate of genetically identical cells or organisms asexually produced by a single progenitor cell or organism b: an individual grown from a single somatic cell or cell nucleus and genetically identical to it c: a group of replicas of all or part of a macromolecule and esp. DNA (~s of identical recombinant DNA sequences) 2: one that appears to be a copy of an original form: DUPLICATE (a ~ of a personal computer) — **clon-al** *adj* — **clon-al-ly** *adv*
clone vb cloned; cloning *v* (ca. 1948) 1: to propagate a clone from 2: to make a copy of ~ *vi*: to produce a clone — **clon-er** *n* [ME *clō-nār*] (1970): an antihypertensive drug C₉H₉Cl₂N₃ used esp. to treat essential



cloister 2

hypertension, to prevent migraine headache, and to diminish opioid and nicotine withdrawal symptoms
clonk *v* [ME *clōnk*, *klōnk* *v*] (1930): to make a dull hollow thumping sound ~ *vi*: to cause to clonk — **clonk** *n*
clonus *n* [ME *klō-nus*] (1817): a rapid succession of alternating contractions and partial relaxations of a muscle occurring in some nervous diseases — **clon-ic** *adj* — **clon-ic-i-ty** *n* [ME *klō-nī-sē-tē*, *klō-nī-sē-tē* *n*
clout *n* [ME *klūt*] (1725) 1: a cloven hoof 2 *pl*, *cap*, *Scot*: CLOOTIE
Cloot-ie *n* [dim. of *clout*] (1785) chiefly *Scot* — used as a name of the devil
clap *v* [ME *klāp*] (1841): a sound made by or as if by a hoof or wooden shoe against the pavement — **clap** *v*
clap-clap *n* [ME *klāp-klāp*] (1841): a sound of rhythmically repeated claps — **clap-clap** *v*
clo-que also **clo-que** *n* [ME *klō-kā*, *klō-kā* *n*] [F *cloqué*, fr. pp. of *cloquer* to become blistered, fr. F dial. (Picard) *cloque* bell, bubble, fr. ML *clocca* bell — more at CLOCK] (1936) 1: a fabric with an embossed design 2: a fabric esp. of piqué with small woven figures
close *v* [ME *klōz*] (13c) **close**; **close-ing** *v* [ME *clōs*, stem of *clōre*, fr. L *claudere* to shut, close; perh. akin to Gk *kleinō* to close — more at CLAVICLE] *v* (13c) 1 a: to move so as to bar passage through something (~ the gate) b: to block against entry or passage (~ a street) c: to deny access to (the city closed the beach) d: SCREEN, EXCLUDE (~ a view) e: to suspend or stop the operations of (~ school) — often used with *down* 2 *archaic*: ENCLOSE, CONTAIN 3 a: to bring to an end or period (~ an account) b: to conclude discussion or negotiation about (the question is closed); also: to consummate by performing something previously agreed (~ a transfer of real estate title) c: to terminate access to (a computer file or program) 4 a: to bring or bind together the parts or edges of (a closed book) b: to fill up (as an opening) c: to make complete by circling or enveloping or by making continuous (~ a circuit) d: to reduce to nil (~ the distance to the lead racer) ~ *vi* 1 a: to contract, fold, swing, or slide so as to leave no opening (the door closed quietly) b: to cease operation (the factory closed down) (the stores ~ at 9 p.m.) 2 a: to draw near (the ship was closing with the island) b: to engage in a struggle at close quarters: GRAPPLE (~ with the enemy) 3 a: to come together: MEET b: to draw the free foot up to the supporting foot in dancing 4: to enter into or complete an agreement (~ on a deal) 5: to come to an end or period (the services closed with a short prayer) 6: to reduce a gap (closed to within two points) — **close-able** or **close-able** *adj* — **close one's doors** 1: to refuse admission (the nation closed its doors to immigrants) 2: to go out of business — **close one's eyes**: to ignore deliberately — **close ranks**: to unite in a concerted stand esp. to meet a challenge — **close the door**: to be uncompromisingly obstructive (closed the door to further negotiation)
syn CLOSE, END, CONCLUDE, FINISH, COMPLETE, TERMINATE mean to bring or come to a stopping point or limit. CLOSE usu. implies that something has been in some way open as well as unfinished (close a debate). END conveys a strong sense of finality (ended his life). CONCLUDE may imply a formal closing (as of a meeting) (the service concluded with a blessing). FINISH may stress completion of a final step in a process (after it is painted, the house will be finished). COMPLETE implies the removal of all deficiencies or a successful finishing of what has been undertaken (the resolving of this last issue completes the agreement). TERMINATE implies the setting of a limit in time or space (your employment terminates after three months).
2 close *v* [ME *klōz*] (14c) 1 a: a coming or bringing to a conclusion (at the ~ of the party) b: a conclusion or end in time or existence: CESSATION (the decade drew to a ~) c: the concluding passage (as of a speech or play) 2: the conclusion of a musical strain or period: CADENCE 3 *archaic*: a hostile encounter 4: the movement of the free foot in dancing toward or into contact with the supporting foot
3 close *n* [ME *klōs*, U.S. also *klōz*] (13c) 1 a: an enclosed area b: chiefly *Brit*: the precinct of a cathedral 2 chiefly *Brit*: a narrow passage leading from a street to a court and the houses within or to the common stairway of tenements b: a road closed at one end
4 close *adj* **close-er; close-est** [ME *clōs*, fr. AF, fr. L *clausus*, pp. of *claudere*] (14c) 1: having no openings: CLOSED 2 a: confined or carefully guarded (~ arrest) b (1) of a vowel: HIGH 13 (2): formed with the tongue in a higher position than for the other vowel of a pair 3: restricted to a privileged class 4 a: SECLUDED, SECRET b: SECRETIVE (she could tell us something if she would... but she was as ~ as wax — A. Conan Doyle) 5: STRICT, RIGOROUS (keep ~ watch) 6: hot and stuffy (a room with an uncomfortably ~ atmosphere) 7: not generous in giving or spending: TIGHT 8: having little space between items or units (a ~ weave) (a ~ grain) 9 a: fitting tightly or exactly (a ~ fit) b: very short or near to the surface (a ~ haircut) 10: being near in time, space, effect, or degree (at ~ range) (~ to my birthday) (~ to the speed of sound) 11: INTIMATE, FAMILIAR (~ friends) 12 a: very precise and attentive to details (a ~ reading) (a ~ study) b: marked by fidelity to an original (a ~ copy of an old master) c: TERSE, COMPACT 13: decided or won by a narrow margin (a ~ baseball game) 14: difficult to obtain (money is ~) 15 of punctuation: characterized by liberal use esp. of commas *syn* see STINGY — **close-ly** *adv* — **close-ness** *n* — **close to home**: within one's personal interests so that one is strongly affected (the speaker's remarks hit close to home) — **close to the bone**: within a sensitive or personal area (the criticism cut close to the bone) — **close to the vest**: in a reserved or cautious manner
5 close *adv* (15c): in a close position or manner
close call *n* (1881): a narrow escape

\ə\ about \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar \au\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job \j\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot \y\ yet \zh\ vision, beige \k, n, æ, u, e, y\ see Guide to Pronunciation