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Dictionary
Eleventh Edition

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Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

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EDITION



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com-plier \-plī(-ə)-r\ *n* (1660): one that complies
com-plaint \kəm-plā-mānt\ *n* [MF, fr. *lit. complimento*, fr. Sp *cumplimiento*, fr. *cumplir* to be courteous ~ more at COMPLY] (1598) 1 *a*: an expression of esteem, respect, affection, or admiration; *esp*: an admiring remark 2 *b*: formal and respectful recognition: *HONOR* 2 *pl*: best wishes: *REGARDS* (accept my ~s) (<~s of the season)
com-plaint \-ment\ *n* (1673) 1: to pay a compliment to 2: to present with a token of esteem
com-plaint \-ment\ *n* (1673) 1: to pay a compliment to 2: to present with a token of esteem
com-pli-men-ta-ry \kəm-plā-men-t(ə)-rē\ *adj* (1714) 1 *a*: expressing or containing a compliment (a ~ remark) 2 *b*: FAVORABLE (the novel received ~ reviews) 2: given free as a courtesy or favor (<~ tickets)
com-pli-men-ta-ri-ly \-men-t(ə)-rē-lē\ (*com-pli-ment-er-ə-lē*) *adv*
complimentary close *n* (1919): the words (as *sincerely yours*) that conventionally come immediately before the signature of a letter and express the sender's regard for the receiver ~ called also *complimentary closing*
com-pline \kəm-plān, -plīn\ *n*, often *cap* [ME *compline*, *comple*, fr. AF *complie*, modif. of LL *completa*, fr. L *fem. of completus* complete] (13c): the seventh and last of the canonical hours
com-plot \kəm-plōt\ *n* [MF *complot*, crowd, plot] (1577) *archaic*: PLOT, CONSPIRACY
com-plot \kəm-plōt, kām-\ *n* (1579) *archaic*: PLOT
com-plot \kəm-plōt\ *vi* **com-plied**: **com-plying** [It *compiere*, fr. Sp *cumplir* to complete, perform what is due, be courteous, modif. of L *complere* to complete] (1602) 1 *obs*: to be ceremoniously courteous 2: to conform, submit, or adapt (as to a regulation or to another's wishes) as required or requested (<~ with federal law) (<the devices ~ with industry standards)
com-po \kām-, pō-\ *n*, *pl* **compos** [short for *composition*] (1823): any of various composition materials
com-po-nent \kām-pō-nēnt, kām-, kām-\ *n* [L *component*, *componens*, *prp.* of *componere* to put together ~ more at COMPOUND] (1645) 1: a constituent part: *INGREDIENT* (an important ~ of the program) (stereo ~s) 2 *a*: any one of the vector terms added to form a vector sum or resultant 2 *b*: a coordinate of a vector; also: either member of an ordered pair of numbers *syn* see ELEMENT — **com-po-nen-tial** \kām-pā-nēn(-t)shəl\ *adj*
com-ponent \kām- (1664): serving or helping to constitute: *CONSTITUTE* (~ parts)
com-port \kām-pōrt\ *vb* [MF *comporter* to bear, conduct, fr. L *comportare* to bring together, fr. *com-* + *portare* to carry ~ more at FARE] *vi* (1589) 2: to be fitting: *ACCORD* (<actions that ~ with policy) ~ *vi*: *BEHAVE*; *esp*: to behave in a manner conformable to what is right, proper, or expected (<~ed himself well in the crisis) *syn* see BEHAVE — **com-port-ment** \-mənt\ *n*
com-pote \kām-pōt\ *n* (1771): *COMPOTE* 2
com-pose \kām-pōz\ *vb* **com-posed**; **com-posing** [ME, fr. AF *composer*, fr. L *componere* (perf. indic. *composui*) ~ more at COMPOUND] *vi* (15c) 1 *a*: to form by putting together: *FASHION* (a committee composed of three representatives — *Current Blog*) 2 *b*: to form the substance of: *CONSTITUTE* (composed of many ingredients) 2 *c*: to produce (as columns or pages of type) by composition 2 *a*: to create by mental or artistic labor: *PRODUCE* (< a sonnet) (b) 1: to formulate and write (a piece of music) (2) 2: to compose music for 3: to deal with or act on so as to reduce to a minimum (<~ their differences) 4: to arrange in proper or orderly form 5: to free from agitation: *CALM*, *SETTLE* (<composed himself) ~ *vi*: to practice composition
com-posed \-pōzd\ *adj* (1607): free from agitation: *CALM*; *esp*: *SELF-POSSESSED* *syn* see COOL — **com-posed-ly** \-pō-zəd-lē\ *adv*: *com-posed-ness* \-pō-zəd-nəs\ *n*
com-pos-er \kām-pō-zər\ *n* (1597): one that composes; *esp*: a person who writes music
composing room *n* (1737): the department in a printing office where typesetting and related operations are performed
composing stick *n* (1659): a tray with an adjustable slide that a compositor holds in one hand and sets type into with the other
com-pos-ite \kām-pā-zēt, kām-, *esp* Brit \kām-pā-zīt\ *adj* [L *compositus*, *pp.* of *componere*] (1563) 1: made up of distinct parts: as *a cap*: relating to or being a modification of the Corinthian order combining angular Ionic volutes with the acanthus-circled bell of the Corinthian b: of or relating to a very large family (Compositae *syn.* Asteraceae) of dicotyledonous herbs, shrubs, and trees often considered to be the most highly evolved plants and characterized by florets arranged in dense heads that resemble single flowers *c*: factorable into two or more prime factors other than 1 and itself (8 is a positive ~ integer) 2: combining the typical or essential characteristics of individuals making up a group (the ~ man called the Poet — Richard Poirier) 3 *a*: of a statistical hypothesis: specifying a range of values for one or more statistical parameters ~ compare SIMPLE 10 — **com-pos-ite-ly** *adv*: 2: composite 2 (1656) 1: something composite: *COMPOUND* (a ~ of two images) 2: a composite plant 3: *COMPOSITE FUNCTION* 4: a solid material which is composed of two or more substances having different physical characteristics and in which each substance retains its identity while contributing desirable properties to the whole; *esp*: a structural material made of plastic within which a fibrous material (as silicon carbide) is embedded
composite *vb* -ited; -it-ing (1923): to make composite or into something composite (<composed four soil samples) (<~ the images)
composite function *n* (1965): a function whose values are found from two given functions by applying one function to an independent variable and then applying the second function to the result and whose domain consists of those values of the independent variable for which the result yielded by the first function lies in the domain of the second
com-po-si-tion \kām-pō-zī-shən\ *n* [ME *composicion*, fr. AF *composicion*, fr. L *compositio*, *compositio*, fr. *componere*] (14c) 1 *a*: the act or process of composing; *specif*: arrangement into specific proportion or relation and *esp.* into artistic form (b) 1: the arrangement of type for printing (hand ~) (2) 2: the production of type or typographic characters (as in photocomposition) arranged for printing 2 *a*: the manner in which something is composed *b*: general makeup (<the changing ethnic ~ of the city — Leonard Buder) *c*: the qualitative and quantitative makeup of a chemical compound 3: mutual settlement or agreement 4: a product of mixing or combining various elements or ingredients 5: an intellectual creation; as *a*: a piece of writing; *esp*: a school exercise in the form of a brief essay *b*: a written piece of music *esp.* of considerable size and complexity 6: the quality or state of being compound 7: the operation of forming a composite function; also: *COMPOSITE FUNCTION* — **com-po-si-tion-al** \-zish-nəl, -zī-shā-n\ *adj* — **com-po-si-tion-al-ly** *adv*
com-po-si-tion-ist \-zī-sh(ə)-nist\ *n* (1985): a teacher of writing *esp.* in a college or university
com-pos-itor \kām-pā-zə-tər\ *n* (1569): one who sets type
com-pos-men-tis \kām-pōs-men-tis\ *adj* [L, lit. having mastery of one's mind] (1616): of sound mind, memory, and understanding
com-post \kām-pōst, *esp* Brit -pāst\ *n* [AF, fr. ML *compostum*, fr. L, neut. of *compositus*, *compositus*, *pp.* of *componere*] (1587) 1: a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land 2: *MIXTURE*, *COMPOUND*
com-post *vr* (1829): to convert (as plant debris) to compost — **com-post-able** \kām-pōs-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **com-post-er** \-tər\ *n*
com-po-sure \kām-pō-zhər\ *n* (1647): a calmness or repose *esp.* of mind, bearing, or appearance: *SELF-POSSESSION* *syn* see EQUANIMITY
com-pote \kām-pōt\ *n* [F, fr. OF *compote*, fr. L *composita*, *fem.* of *compositus*, *pp.*] (1693) 1: a dessert of fruit cooked in syrup 2: a bowl of glass, porcelain, or metal usu. with a base and stem from which *compotes*, fruits, nuts, or sweets are served
com-pound \kām-paund, kām-, kām-\ *vb* [ME *compounen*, fr. AF *compundre*, fr. L *componere*, fr. *com-* + *ponere* to put ~ more at POSITION] *vi* (14c) 1: to put together (parts) so as to form a whole 2: *COMBINE* (< ingredients) 2: to form by combining parts (< a medicine) 3 *a*: to settle amicably; adjust by agreement 2 *b*: to agree for a consideration not to prosecute (an offense) (< a felony) 4 *a*: to pay (interest) on both the accrued interest and the principal 2 *b*: to add to: *AUGMENT* (<we ~ed our error in later policy — Robert Le-kachman) ~ *vi* 1: to become joined in a compound 2: to come to terms of agreement — **com-pound-able** \-paun-də-bəl, -paun-\ *adj* — **com-pound-er** *n*
com-pound \kām-paund, kām-, kām-\ *adj* [ME *compounded*, *pp.* of *compounen*] (14c) 1: composed of or resulting from union of separate elements, ingredients, or parts: as *a*: composed of similar elements *esp.* of a kind usu. independent (a ~ plant ovary) *b*: having the blade divided to the midrib and forming two or more leaflets on a common axis (a ~ leaf) 2: involving or used in a combination 3 *a*: of a word: constituting a compound *b*: of a sentence: having two or more main clauses
com-pound \kām-paund\ *n* (1530) 1 *a*: a word consisting of components that are words (as *rowboat*, *high school*, *devil-may-care*) *b*: a word (as *anthropology*, *kilocyte*, *builder*) consisting of any of various combinations of words, combining forms, or affixes 2: something formed by a union of elements or parts; *esp*: a distinct substance formed by chemical union of two or more ingredients in definite proportion by weight
com-pound \kām-paund\ *n* [by folk etymology fr. Malay *kampung* group of buildings, village] (1679): a fenced or walled-in area containing a group of buildings and *esp.* residences
com-pound-com-plex \kām-pōleks\ *adj* (1923) of a sentence: having two or more main clauses and one or more subordinate clauses
compound eye *n* (1836): an eye (as of an insect) made up of many separate visual units
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com-pra-dor or **com-pra-dore** \kām-prā-dōr\ *n* [Pg *comprador*, lit., buyer] (1840) 1: a Chinese agent engaged by a foreign establishment in China to have charge of its Chinese employees and to act as an intermediary in business affairs 2: *INTERMEDIARY*
com-pre-hend \kām-pri-hend, -prē-\ *vb* [ME, fr. AF *comprendre*, *comprehendere*, fr. L *comprehendere*, fr. *com-* + *prehendere* to grasp ~ more at GET] (14c) 1: to grasp the nature, significance, or meaning of (unable to ~ what has happened) 2: to contain or hold within a total scope, significance, or amount (philosophy's scope ~ the truth of everything which man may understand — H. O. Taylor) 3: to include by construction of implication (<does not prudence ~ all the virtues? — Thomas B. Silver) *syn* see UNDERSTAND, INCLUDE — **com-pre-hend-ible** \-hēn-də-bəl\ *adj*
com-pre-hen-si-ble \-hēn(-t)shə-bəl\ *adj* (1598): capable of being comprehended: *INTELLIGIBLE* (a ~ explanation) — **com-pre-hen-si-bil-ity** \-hēn(-t)shə-bil-ē-tē\ *n* — **com-pre-hen-si-ble-ness** \-hēn(-t)shə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **com-pre-hen-si-ly** \-blē\ *adv*
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\ə\ abut \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar
\ə\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \ə\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \i\ job
\ə\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \ō\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ fool \ū\ foot
\ə\ yet \zh\ vision, beige \ā\ by, cc, ee, \ē\ see Guide to Pronunciation
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