

A new dictionary prepared according to the principles of Noah Webster

# WEBSTER'S II

## New Riverside University Dictionary

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DICTIONARY!

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# New Riverside University Dictionary



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# Preface

The publication of *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary* is an important milestone on a road leading directly back to the American lexicographer whose name is identified, more than any other, with the discipline of making dictionaries on this continent.

In the Preface to his *American Dictionary of the English Language*, originally published in 1828, Noah Webster justified his book. "It is not only important, but, in a degree necessary," Webster said, "that the people of this country, should have an *American Dictionary* of the English language; for, although the body of the language is the same as in England, and it is desirable to perpetuate that sameness, yet some differences must exist."

The "differences" to which Webster refers are, in his view, not mere accidents, not the effects only of the exercise of language over time. Because language is a human faculty, and we humans are imprecise and inventive, there is, to be sure, a kind of drift in language that produces new forms and new meanings.

But Webster had in mind the intimate connection between a people's physical environment and the words they use, and even more the reciprocation between the American culture and its speech and writing. He was particularly aware that the development of the sciences produces a steady stream of new words, and even at the time his *American Dictionary* appeared he gave some signs of understanding that science itself would become in some sense peculiarly American. Indeed, there is in Webster, as in much of American thought of the nineteenth century, an expression of a pervasive sense of cosmic design. He did not blush to admit that he intended his *Dictionary* as a legacy for "three hundred millions of people, who are destined to occupy, and I hope, to adorn the vast territory within our jurisdiction."

Now we offer *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*, our own contribution to American lexicography, almost 200 years after the publication of the *Blue-Backed Speller*, which was Webster's platform for his great leap to define a language, as he said, "accommodated to the condition and institutions of the people in these states."

We send *Webster's II* into a far different world. But "the true principles of the language" on which his dictionary was founded remain the same. A now self-evident one is that there is a distinctly American language. Webster's 1828 dictionary contained perhaps 12,000 terms new to the English lexicon of the time, and we here add many new words to the English lexicon of our day, like "fast-track" and "freebase," "gridlock" and "gulag." We lay particular emphasis on American regional terms—words like "cornpone" and "goober." (We call out such words with a boldface dagger.) As he did, we present our etymologies before our definitions. As he did, we often illustrate our vocabulary with quotations from American writers.

More broadly, like Noah Webster we look upon the dictionary not as the documentation of a retrospect upon the language that, once done, can then be put aside. We intend this book to be used, to shape language as well as reflect it. Accordingly, we have chosen a communicative typography. We have illustrated with line drawings words whose meaning is thereby enhanced. We have prepared hundreds of word histories (included in the A–Z list) that convey a feeling for the origins of language. The hundreds of synonym paragraphs extend the user's word choice; often we present discriminated meanings that clarify the connotations each choice carries.

This is, in short, a user's dictionary. Specific usage notes appear in the word list, and larger questions of usage are treated in a separate essay. Direct guidance about style and diction is given, and, as the reverse of this positive counsel, clichés and redundancies best avoided in felicitous, original prose are listed in a section of the introductory matter. *Webster's II* provides essential background for writing papers and business documents.

But if we intend this book to be functional, we have not lost sight of the larger criteria for any good dictionary: accuracy, clarity, comprehensiveness, conciseness and topicality of entries, and consistency of style. We have wanted to be correct and convenient; we have believed that these virtues are reciprocal.

If our model is partly historical, it is also distinctly contemporary, as we have drawn the lexicon in *Webster's II* from the Houghton Mifflin electronic lexical database. This extraordinary and ever-expanding resource has allowed us to shape *Webster's II* content to the specific principles I set forth here. I must also note that in our documentation of word histories we have depended, as many others have as well, on the great *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Two other characteristics of our work deserve mention. We have avoided stereotyping by sex. And we have omitted certain offensive words, whose meaning is hardly ever retrieved from a dictionary. We have made *Webster's II* to reach a large, diverse audience, and it seems to us pointless to include in a book of this sort words that in practice do not inform so often as they raise questions about the access to the lexicon, particularly by young people.

It is clear that the final lexicon exists only in the mind of God. With Noah Webster, we also must acknowledge that this dictionary, "like all others of the kind, must be left, in some degree, imperfect." We are confident it will meet the ordinary, and more than ordinary, needs that impel people to consult the dictionary. That is, we believe that our specific realization of the lexicon will serve the majority of those who understand that from information about language comes a useful and gratifying richness in employing it.

—Howard Webber, Publisher

# Noah Webster and American Lexicography

Noah Webster has long been considered the founder of the tradition of American lexicography. The position that has been accorded him by popular opinion will certainly stand, even though a sober assessment reveals that his contributions to the field were firmly in the mainstream of an English tradition originating in the early seventeenth century, almost two hundred years before Webster began his labors. It is, however, no diminution of his accomplishment to point out this fact, for his influence on our attitudes toward language as well as on lexicography has been incalculable.

To evaluate Webster's contributions and arrive at a realistic measure of his virtues as a lexicographer, it would be useful to consider the advances in the making of English dictionaries since the first dictionary of English, Robert Cawdrey's *Table Alphabeticall of Hard Words*, which appeared in 1604. This first English dictionary contained approximately 2,500 words accompanied by brief definitions; its aim was to list and define those words Cawdrey judged to be difficult or unfamiliar rather than to provide an exhaustive inventory of the English vocabulary. During the two centuries that followed, compilers of new books added diverse features to increase the interest and applicability of their dictionaries. The scope of the word list broadened to include common terms and technical vocabulary as well as rare or learned words. Etymologies, pronunciations, and the division of words into syllables were other additions that have become standard features in the modern dictionary. And the separation and order-

ing of the different senses of a word and the inclusion of quotations and example sentences to illustrate usage were also developments that date from this period and persist to the present day.

In the eighteenth century the dictionaries of Samuel Johnson (1755) and Nathaniel Bailey (1721) enjoyed the greatest popularity and can be thought of as representing the art of English lexicography at its highest state of development. Bailey's dictionary in its many editions and revisions offered the general public a single-volume book of great utility at a popular price. Samuel Johnson, who drew heavily from Bailey's work, produced a dictionary notable for its definitions, in which the senses of words were discriminated and classified, and for its extensive use of citations from literature as evidence of usage. Johnson's use of quoted sources, although not an innovation in lexicography, was a feature employed for the first time in an English dictionary.

It was in the last half of the eighteenth century that pronunciations appeared in English dictionaries to meet the growing interest of the public in correct or standard speech. The most influential of these pronouncing dictionaries was produced by John Walker, who took his word list and definitions from Johnson's book. Walker's dictionary appeared in many editions and was exceedingly popular in the United States. Its influence was further extended by those who borrowed freely from Walker, incorporating his authoritarian and prescriptive norms into dictionaries produced both in the United States and in Great Britain. Thus, by the time Webster was ready to begin his

work, the organization of the modern dictionary and the framework for his efforts had already been established.

Webster's goals, as he stated them in his Preface to the publication of *A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language* in 1806, were to produce for Americans "a dictionary which shall exhibit a far more correct state of the language than any work of this kind" and, by so doing, "to dissolve the charm of veneration for foreign authorities which fascinates [sic] the mind of men in this country, and holds them in the chains of illusion." The conjunction of scholarly aspiration and fierce nationalistic pride revealed in these words provided the motive force for his endeavors and informs all his works on language. The first of these was the famous blue-backed spelling book of 1783, which was somewhat grandly entitled *A Grammatical Institute of the English Language*. The culmination of his linguistic work was the 1828 publication of *An American Dictionary of the English Language*. It is significant that Webster chose as a motto for this dictionary a quotation from the *Rambler*, the series of essays written by the great English lexicographer, Samuel Johnson: "He that wishes to be counted among the benefactors of posterity, must add, by his own toil, to the acquisitions of his ancestors." This epigraph is at once an acknowledgment of the intellectual debt owed to those who preceded him and an assertion of Webster's sense of mission in compiling *An American Dictionary*.

It is a matter of record that *An American Dictionary* failed to achieve the success and acceptance that Webster had hoped for. On what grounds, then, does

Noah Webster's reputation rest and why is he considered an important figure in the history of lexicography? First, he was a definer without equal. At their best, his definitions are marked by the careful and precise discrimination of senses and are written in a pithy, economical style. Webster's enduring legacy, however, resides in two principles he enunciated that all makers of modern dictionaries follow in the exercise of their craft. The first deals with the need to recognize the inexorable nature of language change: "a language must keep pace with improvements in knowledge, and . . . no definable limits can be assigned to a living language, because such limits cannot be assigned to future discoveries and advances in science. To arrest the progress of a language is therefore impossible: and, if possible, would be a misfortune." The second describes the proper task of the lexicographer: "The business of a lexicographer is to collect, arrange, and define, as far as possible, *all* the words that belong to a language, and leave the author to select from them at his pleasure and according to his own taste and judgement."

More than one hundred and fifty years have passed since *An American Dictionary of the English Language* was published. Although the book received a measure of critical recognition, Webster was disappointed that it failed to achieve a popular success. In spite of this initial failure, time has nevertheless justified Webster's prediction that "it is not unreasonable to expect that a few seeds of improvement planted by my hand may germinate and grow and ripen into valuable fruit when my remains shall be mingled with the dust."



# Explanatory Diagram: Major Elements of This Dictionary

MAIN-ENTRY WORD	<b>quick</b> (kwik) <i>adj.</i> <b>-er, -est.</b> [ME <i>quicke</i> , swift, alive < OE <i>cwicu</i> , alive.] <b>1.</b> Moving or performing with speed and agility : <b>F.A.S.T.</b>
SENSE NUMBER	<b>2.</b> Thinking or understanding rapidly and easily : <b>B.R.I.G.H.T</b> <a quick learner> <b>3. a.</b> Perceiving or responding with speed and sensitivity : <b>K.E.E.N.</b> <b>b.</b> Reacting immediately and sharply <a quick temper>
SUBSENSE NUMBER	<b>4. a.</b> Occurring or achieved in a relatively short time <a quick trip> <b>b.</b> Done or occurring immediately : <b>P.R.O.M.P.T</b> <quick service>
TEMPORAL LABEL	<b>5.</b> Tending to react hastily or impulsively <quick to forgive> <b>6. Archaic.</b> Alive. <b>7. [Archaic]</b> Pregnant. — <b>n.</b> <b>1.</b> Raw or sensitive exposed flesh, as under the fingernails. <b>2.</b> The most intimate and sensitive aspect of the emotions <pierced me to the quick> <b>3.</b> The living <the quick and the dead> <b>4.</b> The vital core of a thing : <b>E.S.S.E.N.C.E</b> <the quick of the matter> — <i>adv.</i> <b>F.a.s.t. ; p.r.o.m.p.tly.</b> <b>usage:</b> Both <i>quick</i> and <i>quickly</i> can be used as adverbs. In speech, <i>quick</i> is more frequent, as in <i>Come quick!</i> In writing, <i>quickly</i> is preferred, as in <i>They returned quickly when they heard the news.</i> — <b>quickly</b> <i>adv.</i>
USAGE NOTE	— <b>quick-ness</b> <i>n.</i>
PLURAL LABEL	<b>quick-and-dirty</b> (kwik'ən-dûr'tē) <i>adj.</i> Shoddily made or done : cheap <a quick-and-dirty construction project>
INFLECTED FORMS, VERB	<b>quick assets</b> (kwik'ə-sēts) <i>pl. n.</i> Liquid assets, including cash on hand and assets readily convertible to cash.
	<b>quick bread</b> <i>n.</i> A bread made with a leavening agent, as baking powder, that does not require a leavening period before baking.
	<b>quick-en</b> (kwik'ən) <i>v.</i> <b>-ened, -ening, -ens.</b> — <i>vt.</i> <b>1.</b> To make more rapid : <b>A.C.C.E.L.E.R.A.T.E.</b> <b>2.</b> To make or bring alive : <b>V.I.T.A.L.I.Z.E.</b> <b>3.</b> To stimulate : stir <The good news quickened our interest> <b>4.</b> To make steeper. — <i>vi.</i> <b>1.</b> To become more rapid. <b>2.</b> To come or return to life. <b>3.</b> To reach the stage of pregnancy when the fetus can be felt to move. — <b>quick-er</b> <i>adj.</i>
	<b>quick-freeze</b> (kwik'frēz) <i>vt.</i> <b>-froze</b> (-frōz'), <b>-froz-en</b> (-frōz'ən), <b>-freez-ing, -freez-es.</b> To freeze (food) by a process sufficiently rapid to retain desirable properties, as flavor and nutritional value.
	<b>quick grass</b> <i>n.</i> [Var. of <b>QUITCHGRASS</b> .] Couch grass.
	<b>quickie</b> (kwik'ē) <i>n.</i> [Informal.] Something done or made hastily.
	<b>quick-lime</b> (kwik'lim') <i>n.</i> [ME <i>quykke lyme</i> , transl. of Lat. <i>calx viva</i> .] Calcium oxide.
	<b>quick-sand</b> (kwik'sænd) <i>n.</i> A bed of loose sand mixed with water forming a soft, shifting mass that does not support heavy objects.
	<b>quick-set</b> (kwik'sēt') <i>n.</i> Chiefly Brit. <b>1.</b> Cuttings or slips of a plant, as hawthorn, capable of rooting when set in the ground. <b>2.</b> A hedge grown from quickset.
	<b>quick-silver</b> (kwik'sil'vər) <i>n.</i> [ME < OE <i>cwicseolfor</i> , transl. of Lat. <i>argentum vivum</i> .] <b>MERCURY 2.</b> — <i>adj.</i> Unpredictable : mercurial.
	<b>word history:</b> The name <i>quicksilver</i> for the element mercury is a translation of Latin <i>argentum vivum</i> , literally "living silver." Mercury was so called because it is a silvery colored metal that is liquid at ordinary temperatures. In <i>quicksilver</i> the word <i>quick</i> preserves its original but now archaic sense "living, alive."
	<b>quick-step</b> (kwik'stēp') <i>n.</i> [Mus.] A march for accompanying military quick time.
	<b>quick-tempered</b> (kwik'tēm'pərd) <i>adj.</i> Easily aroused to anger.
	<b>quick time</b> <i>n.</i> A military marching pace of 120 steps per minute.
	<b>quick-wit-ted</b> (kwik'wit'id) <i>adj.</i> Mentally alert and sharp : <b>C.L.E.V.E.R.</b> — <b>quick-wit-ted-ly</b> <i>adv.</i> — <b>quick-wit-ted-ness</b> <i>n.</i>
	<b>quid</b> (kwid) <i>n.</i> [ME <i>quide</i> , cud < OE <i>cwidu</i> .] A cut of something to be chewed, esp. a plug of tobacco.
	<b>quid</b> (kwid) <i>n., pl. quid or quids.</i> [Orig. unknown.] [Chiefly Brit.] A pound sterling.
	<b>quid-dity</b> (kwid'ī-tē) <i>n., pl. -ties.</i> [Med. Lat. <i>quidditas</i> < Lat. <i>quid</i> , what.] <b>1.</b> The inherent nature of a thing : <b>E.S.S.E.N.C.E.</b> <b>2.</b> An unreasonably fine distinction : <b>Q.U.I.B.B.L.E.</b>
	<b>quid-nunc</b> (kwid'nūŋk') <i>n.</i> [Lat. <i>quid nunc?</i> what now?] A prying or meddlesome person : <b>B.U.S.Y.B.O.D.Y.</b>
	<b>quid pro quo</b> (kwid' prō kwō') <i>n.</i> [Lat., something for something.] An equal exchange or substitution.
	<b>quies-cent</b> (kwī-ēs'ənt, kwē-) <i>adj.</i> [Lat. <i>quiescens</i> , <i>quiescent</i> , pr. part. of <i>quiescere</i> , to rest < <i>quies</i> , rest.] Inactive or still : <b>D.O.R.M.A.N.T.</b>
	— <b>quies-cence</b> <i>n.</i> — <b>quies-cent-ly</b> <i>adv.</i>
	<b>qui-et</b> (kwī'it) <i>adj.</i> <b>-et-er, -et-est.</b> [ME < OFr. <i>quiete</i> < Lat. <i>quietus</i> , p. part. of <i>quiescere</i> , to rest < <i>quies</i> , rest.] <b>1.</b> Making little or no sound : <b>S.I.L.E.N.T.</b> <b>2.</b> Free of noise : <b>H.U.S.H.E.D.</b> <b>3.</b> Calm and unmoving : <b>S.T.I.L.L.</b> <a quiet woodland pool> <b>4.</b> Free of agitation and turmoil : <b>U.N.T.R.O.U.B.L.E.D.</b> <a quiet life> <b>5.</b> Restful : soothing. <b>6.</b> Marked by
LANGUAGE LABEL	
INFLECTED FORM, NOUN	
WORD HISTORY PARAGRAPH	
SUBJECT LABEL	
CROSS-REFERENCE	
PRONUNCIATION	
STYLISTIC LABEL	
PRIMARY STRESS	
SECONDARY STRESS	
PLURAL LABEL	
USAGE NOTE	
TEMPORAL LABEL	
SUBSENSE NUMBER	
SENSE NUMBER	
MAIN-ENTRY WORD	
INFLECTED FORMS, ADJECTIVE	
VERBAL ILLUSTRATION	

tranquility: PEACEFUL. 7. Not showy or obtrusive: RESTRAINED —*n.*  
The condition or quality of being quiet: TRANQUILLITY. —*v.* **-et-ed,**  
**-eting, -ets.** —*vt.* 1. To cause to become quiet. 2. Law. To make (a  
title) secure by freeing from all questions or claims. —*vi.* To become  
quiet <The heckler finally *quieted* down.> —**qui-et-ly** *adv.*  
**—qui-et-ness** *n.*

\* **syns:** QUIET, INOBTRUSIVE, RESTRAINED, SUBDUED, UNOB-  
TRUSIVE *adj.* **core meaning:** not showy or obtrusive <decor that is  
subtle and *quiet*>] **ant:** gaudy, loud

**qui-et-ism** (kwī-tīz'əm) *n.* 1. Christian mysticism calling for pas-  
sive contemplation and the beatific annihilation of individual will.  
2. Quietness and passivity. —**qui-et-ist** *n.* —**qui-et-ist-ic** *adj.*

**qui-et-ude** (kwī-tī-tōod', -tyōod') *n.* [Lat. *quietudo* < Lat. *quietus*,  
part. of *quiescere*, to rest < *quies*, rest.] Quiet tranquillity.

**qui-et-us** (kwī-ē'təs) *n.* [Short for Med. Lat. *quietus est*, he is dis-  
charged (of an obligation).] 1. Something that suppresses, termi-  
nates, or allays. 2. Release from life: DEATH. 3. A final discharge, as  
of a debt or obligation.

**quiff** (kwif) *n.* [Orig. unknown.] Chiefly Brit. A tuft of hair, esp. a  
forelock.

**quill** (kwil) *n.* [ME *quil*, of Germanic orig.] 1. The hollow stemlike  
main shaft of a feather. 2. A large wing or tail feather. 3. A writing  
pen made from a quill. 4. A plectrum for a stringed musical instru-  
ment of the clavichord type. 5. A toothpick made from the stem of a  
feather. 6. One of the sharp hollow spines of a hedgehog or porcu-  
pine. 7. [A musical pipe having a hollow stem.] 8. A spool or bobbin  
for holding or winding yarn. 9. A mechanical device consisting of  
a hollow cylinder that rotates on a solid shaft. —*vt.* **quilled, quill-**  
**ing, quills.** 1. To wind (yarn or thread) onto a quill. 2. To imprint  
(fabric) with textured ridges.

**quill-back** (kwil'bāk') *n., pl.* **-backs or quillback.** A North  
American freshwater fish, *Carpiodes cyprinus*, having a dorsal fin  
with one ray conspicuously extended.

**quill-wort** (kwil'wūrt', -wōrt') *n.* An aquatic plant of the genus  
*Isoetes*, having short, fleshy stems and grasslike leaves.

**quilt** (kwilt) *n.* [ME *quiltē* < OFr. *cuilte* < Lat. *culcita*, mattress.]

1. A bed covering consisting of two layers of fabric with a layer of  
batting or feathers between and stitched firmly together, usu. in a  
decorative pattern. 2. A padded cover similar to a quilt. —*v.* **quilt-**  
**ed, quilting, quilts.** —*vt.* 1. To make into a quilt by stitching  
together (layers of fabric). 2. To construct like a quilt <[*quilt* a  
vest]>. 3. To pad and stitch in decorative designs. —*vi.* 1. To make a  
quilt. 2. To do quilted work.

**quilt-ing** (kwil'ting) *n.* 1. The act or process of doing quilted work.  
2. a. Material used to make quilts. b. Quilted material.

**quin-** *pref.* var. of QUINO-

**quin-a-crine hydrochloride** (kwīn'ə-krēn') *n.* [QUIN- + AC-  
(ID)INE.] A bright yellow, bitter, crystalline compound, used  
chiefly to treat malaria.

**quin-a-liz-a-rin** (kwīn'ə-līz'ə-rīn) *n.* A reddish crystalline com-  
pound,  $C_{14}H_8O_6$ .

**qui-nate** (kwī'nāt') *adj.* [*<* Lat. *quini*, five each.] Arranged in  
groups of five <*quinate* leaflets>

**quince** (kwins) *n.* [ME *quynce*, pl. of *quyn*, quince < OFr. *coin* <  
Lat. *cotoneum*, var. of *cydonium*, after *Cydonia*, an ancient town in  
Crete.] 1. A tree, [*Cydonia oblonga*] orig. of western Asia, bearing  
white flowers and edible fruit. 2. The yellow applelike fruit of the  
quince.

**quin-cun-cial** [also **quin-cunx-ial**] (kwīn-kūn'shəl) *adj.* Of, re-  
lating to, or forming a quincunx. —**quin-cun-cial-ly** *adv.*

**quin-cunx** (kwīn-kūngks') *n.* [Lat., five twelfths : *quinque*, five +  
*uncia*, twelfth < *unus*, unit.] An arrangement of five things with one  
at each corner of a square or rectangle and one at the center.

**quin-cunx-ial** (kwīn-kūn'shəl) *adj.* var. of QUINCUNCIAL.

**quin-de-cen-nial** (kwīn-dī-sēn'ē-əl) *adj.* [Lat. *quindécim*, fifteen  
(*quinque*, five + *decem*, ten) + *annus*, year.] 1. Occurring once  
every 15 years. 2. Lasting 15 years. —*n.* A 15th anniversary.

**qui-nel-la** (kwī-nē'lə, kē-) [or **qui-nie-la**] (kēn-yē'lə) *n.* [Am. Sp., a  
lottery-like game.] A system of betting in which the bettor wins by  
correctly picking the first two finishers of a race regardless of their  
order.

**quin-i-dine** (kwīn'tī-dēn') *n.* A colorless crystalline alkaloid,  
 $[C_{20}H_{24}N_2O_2]$ , resembling quinine and used in treating certain heart  
disorders and malaria.

## SUBENTRIES

SYNONYM PARAGRAPH  
ANTONYMS

## UNDEFINED RUN-ONS

## BOLDFACE COLON

PART-OF-SPEECH LABEL  
FOR MAIN ENTRY

## DEFINITION

PART-OF-SPEECH LABEL  
FOR SUBENTRY

## VARIANT NOUN PLURALS

## ETYMOLOGY

## ANGLE BRACKETS

## VARIANT CROSS-REFERENCE

## SYLLABICATION DOTS

## SCIENTIFIC BINOMIAL

## SECONDARY VARIANT

## EQUAL VARIANT

## CHEMICAL FORMULA

# Explanatory Notes

Every user of this book should read these Explanatory Notes carefully, because a thorough understanding of the content and scope of *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary* is essential to its effective use.

## Guide Words

A pair of guide words is printed at the top of every numbered page as an aid to locating an entry on that page:

### Adlerian • adopt

The word to the left of the bullet is the first entry on that page of the Dictionary. The word to the right of the bullet is the last entry on the page.

## Entry Order

Entry words are printed in boldface type and are positioned slightly to the left of the text columns. All entries—including compounds of two or more words—have been listed in strict alphabetical sequence, which accounts for each letter in turn through the full entry even if that entry consists of several words: **u-ra-ni-um**, **uranium 235**, **uranium 238**, **uranium dioxide**, **uranium enrichment**, **uranium trioxide**, **urano-**. Inclusion of numbers with a term (such as the 235 in *uranium 235*) has no effect on alphabetical order.

## Boldface Daggers: Americanisms

A boldface dagger appearing at the left of an entry word indicates that the entry or at least one of its senses is limited in use to a region or regions of the United States. The label *Regional* or a more narrowly specified geographic label also appears at such entries:

†**brew-is** (brōō'is, brōōz) *n.* [ME < OFr. *brouetz*, dim. of *brouet*, broth, of Germanic orig.] *Regional*. Broth.

In the following example, the dagger signals an Americanism, and the *Regional* label at sense 2. indicates that only sense 2. is an Americanism:

†**tan-y-more** (ēn'ē-mōr', -mōr') *adv.* 1. At the present: from now on <can't go there anymore> 2. *Regional*. Nowadays.

When a regional inflected form of an entry is shown at its own alphabetical place in the vocabulary with a cross-reference to the appropriate main entry, the cross-reference entry is also marked with a dagger and bears a label:

†**bought-en** (bōt'n) *v.* *Regional*. var. *p.p.* of *buy*.

The above cross-reference indicates that the entry **boughten** is a regional variant of the past participle of the verb *buy*.

## Superscript Numerals

Two or more entry words that are identical in spelling but that have different etymologies are entered sepa-

ately with superscript numerals immediately following them:

**bon-go**<sup>1</sup> (bōng'gō, bōng'-) *n.*, *pl.* -**gos**. [Of Bantu orig.] An antelope, *Boocercus eurycerus* of central Africa, having a reddish-brown coat with white stripes and spirally twisted horns.

**bon-go**<sup>2</sup> (bōng'gō, bōng'-) *n.*, *pl.* -**gos** or -**goes**. [Am. Sp. (West Indies) *bongó*.] One of a pair of connected tuned drums played with the hands.

## Syllabication

An entry and its inflected and derived forms (if there are any such forms) are syllabicated with boldface centered dots:

**u-ra-ni-nite** (yōō-rā'nā-nīr') *n.*  
**u-ra-ni-um** (yōō-rā'nē-əm) *n.*

In an entry for an open compound (i.e., a term composed of two or more words with a space between them), a word that appears elsewhere in the Dictionary as a separate entry is not syllabicated:

**uranium enrichment** *n.*

In the above example, *uranium* and *enrichment* are terms that are entered and syllabicated elsewhere in the Dictionary.

Pronunciations are also syllabicated but the syllabication of the phonetic form does not necessarily match the syllabication of the graphic form of the entry word. The former follows phonological rules, while the latter represents the traditional practice of typesetters and editors in breaking words at the ends of lines.

## Pronunciation

Pronunciations are given immediately after the boldface entry word, enclosed by parentheses. Variant pronunciations are given wherever necessary and follow the form to which they apply. A short key to the pronunciation symbols appears across the bottom of the inside column of each pair of facing pages. A full pronunciation key is given on page 64.

**Pronunciation symbols.** The pronunciation symbols have been selected so that the Dictionary user will be able to pronounce a word with only a quick reference to the key. These symbols have been so designed that they represent an acceptable pronunciation for each of the regional varieties of American English, since speakers of any one of these dialects will automatically apply the regional features of their speech in reading the key. All pronunciations are those of cultivated speech; when more than one pronunciation is given, all are acceptable in spite of the fact that there may be differences between them in frequency of occurrence.

ə This special symbol is called a *schwa*. It is used to represent a vowel that receives the weakest level of stress (reduced vowel) within a word and that almost always has a different quality than it would if



stressed, as in the first syllables of **telemeter** (těl'ə-mē'tər) and **telemetry** (tə-lēm'ī-trē).

**Stress.** There are three relative degrees of stress or loudness with which the syllables of a word are spoken. A syllable with primary, or strongest stress is signaled by a boldface mark (') after it. A syllable with secondary, or weaker, stress has a lighter mark (ˈ) after it. A syllable with no mark after it has the weakest stress in a multisyllabic word. Monosyllabic words have no stress mark because there is no other level of stress within the word with which the syllable can be compared.

**Spelling-sound correspondence table.** The English language employs over forty distinct speech sounds and uses an alphabet of only twenty-six characters to represent these sounds. This table, which is designed to help the user find a word known only through its pronunciation, lists the speech sounds of English and matches them with the possible spellings for each sound.

Pronunciation	Symbol	Spelling	Example
(ă)	a	pat	
	ai	plaid	
	al	half, halve	
	au	laugh	
(ā)	a	mane	
	ae	maelstrom	
	ai	aiguille, aim, maize,	
		train	
	aig	arraign	
	aigh	straight	
	ao	gaol	
	au	gauge	
	ay	pray, say	
	e	bouquet, consomme,	
		forte, sachet, suede	
	ea	great, steak	
	ee	matinee melee,	
	ei	beige, rein, skein, veil	
	eig	reign	
	eigh	eight, neighbor,	
		sleigh, weigh	
	ey	dey, prey, they	
(âr)	a	care	
	ae	aerial, aerosol	
	ai	air, bairn, pair	
	ay	prayer	
	e	berry, ere, there	
	ea	pear, tear, wear	
	ei	Eire, their	
	hei	heiress	
(ä)	a	father	
	ah	ah, Mahdi, shah	
	al	palm	
	e	sergeant	
	ea	heark, hearth	
	i	lingerie	
(b)	b	bib	
	bb	cabbage, ebb, rubber	
	bh	bhang	
	pb	cupboard, raspberry	

Pronunciation	Symbol	Spelling	Example
(ch)	c	cello	
	ch	church	
	cz	Czech	
	tch	catch, hitch, pitcher	
	te	righteous	
	ti	bestial	
	tu	denture, nature, pasture	
(d)	d	deed	
	ed	mailed, ringed, winged	
	dd	gladden, ladder, saddle	
	dh	dhow	
	ld	would	
(ë)	a	any, many	
	ae	aesthete	
	ai	again, said	
	ay	says	
	e	pet	
	ea	bread, cleanse, steady,	
		treasure	
	ei	heifer, Seine	
	eo	leopard	
	ie	friend	
	oe	oedipal	
	u	bury	
(ë)	ae	archaeology, paean	
	ay	quay	
	e	be	
	ea	beach, eagle, leap, sea	
	ee	beet, creep, peevish	
	ei	deceit, receipt, receive,	
		seize	
	eo	people	
	ey	covey, key	
	i	bialy, miniskirt, piano,	
		solarium, symposium	
	ie	believe, grief, siege	
	oe	amoeba, oenology,	
		phoenix	
	y	appendectomy, city,	
		comedy	
(f)	f	fame	
	fe	rife	
	ff	sniffle, tiff	
	gh	enough, rough	
	lf	half	
	ph	alphabet, nymph,	
		photo, sphinx	
(g)	g	go	
	gg	baggage, drugged, slug-	
		gish	
	gh	ghastly, gherkin,	
		ghetto, ghou	
	gu	guard, guest	
	gue	catalogue, vague	
(h)	h	house	
	wh	who, whose	
	g	Gila monster	
	j	Jerez	
(hw)	wh	wheat	

## Pronunciation

Symbol	Spelling	Example
(i)	a	certificate, climate, vil- lage
	e	English, enough, rebuff, recite
	ee	been
	i	pin
	ia	carriage
	ie	sieve
	o	women
	u	busy
	ui	guilty
	y	cyst, hymn, symbol
(i)	ai	aisle
	ay	aye, bayou
	ei	eider, height, stein
	ey	eying
	eye	eyeball
	ie	lie
	ig	align
	igh	high, right
	is	island, lisle
	uy	buy
	y	lyre, my, sky
(ir)	ye	rye
	e	cereal, here, series
	ea	beard, smear, tear
	ee	beer, steer
	ei	weird
(i)	ie	pier
	d	graduation, individual
	dg	judgment, trudging
	dge	bridge, lodge
	di	soldier
	dj	adjutant
	g	agile, angina, gem
	ge	diverge, stage
	gg	exaggerate
	j	jam
(k)	c	call, ecstasy, eczema
	cc	account
	cch	saccharin
	ch	alchemy, chorus, school
	ck	acknowledge, kick, pack
	cqu	lacquer
	cu	biscuit, circuit
	k	kind
	lk	walk
	qu	liquor, quay
	que	saque, torque
(kw)	ch	choir
	qu	quick
	cqu	acquit
(l)	l	lid
	le	lisle
	ll	llama, tall
	lle	faillie
	lh	Lhasa

## Pronunciation

Symbol	Spelling	Example
(m)	chm	drachm
	gm	paradigm, phlegm
	lm	calm
	m	mum
	mb	comb, plumb
	mm	grammar, mummy
	mn	autumn, condemn, hymn
(n)	gn	align, gnat, gnome
	kn	knee, knife, know
	mn	mnemonic
	n	no
	nn	banner, bonny, inn
(ng)	pn	pneumatic
	n	anchor, congruent, ink, uncle
	ng	sing
	ngue	tongue
(ö)	a	water, what
	ho	honest
	o	pot
	ou	trough
(ö)	au	hautboy, mauve
	eau	beau, bureau, trousseau
	eo	yeoman
	ew	sew
	o	no
	oan	broach, croak, loan
	oel	foe
	ohm	oh, ohm
	oo	brooch
	ou	boulder, shoulder
(ow)	ough	borough, though
	ow	low
	owe	owe, Marlowe
	ow	low
(ö)	a	all, water
	al	talk
	ah	Utah
	ar	warm
	as	Arkansas
	au	daughter, haunt
	aw	awe, awning, brawl, paw
	o	for, order
	oa	broad
	ough	thought, wrought
(oi)	oi	noise, voice
	oy	boy, royal
(ou)	au	sauerkraut
	aue	sauerbraten
	hou	hour
	ou	out
	ough	bough
	ow	now, scowl
(oo)	o	wolf, woman
	oo	took
	ou	should
	u	bush, full