



# Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary

*A Merriam-Webster*

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

BASED ON  
WEBSTER'S  
THIRD  
NEW INTERNATIONAL  
DICTIONARY



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## PREFACE

**History of the Collegiate** WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY is an entirely new book — newly edited and typeset. It will however have for many persons the characteristics of an old friend. For many years MERRIAM-WEBSTER dictionaries have formed a series in which the unabridged dictionary is the parent work and the COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY the largest abridgment. From each successive revision of the unabridged work new abridged books have sprung. In 1898 the first edition of the COLLEGIATE appeared. Its size, appearance, typography, and above all its wealth of material and scholarly presentation quickly won for it a high place in the regard of both general reader and scholar. In 1910 a second edition appeared, followed by new editions or revisions in 1916 (the third), 1931 (the fourth), 1936 (the fifth), and 1949 (the sixth). This seventh in the COLLEGIATE series incorporates the best of the time-tested features of its predecessors.

**Scope and format** The general content and overall plan of the previous edition have proved so well adapted to the needs of its users that an attempt to change its essential character and form seems inadvisable. The editors feel too that relatively few entries, both in its main vocabulary and in the special sections, can be omitted without loss to the user of WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE. At the same time many new terms and meanings, many older terms and meanings of increasing importance or frequency, many abbreviations, and many proper names must be added in a new edition. The problem is solved partly by the development of a new dictionary style based upon completely analytical one-phrase definitions throughout and partly by the adoption of a new typeface, Times Roman, introduced to MERRIAM-WEBSTER dictionaries in WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY. This compact and legible face makes possible more words to a line and more lines to a column than in the preceding COLLEGIATE.

**The general vocabulary** The vocabulary of the COLLEGIATE is intended to meet the needs both of the college student and of the general reader seeking clear and accurate but not encyclopedic information. Every entry and every definition of the previous edition has been reviewed, and many of them have been revised to incorporate additional, often new, information or to effect improvements in the former presentation. The definitions are for the most part based on the most recent available information contained in the parent work, WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY, with such modifications or adaptations as are required by the smaller scope of the COLLEGIATE. Wherever they are needed and as freely as possible within the limitations of the space, phrases and sentences have been given that illustrate the definitions. This COLLEGIATE follows the practice of its predecessors in including only a limited selection of slang, dialect, and obsolete terms and meanings. Since behind the present work are all the vast resources of the THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL, containing some 450,000 vocabulary entries, the problem is one of selection of terms to be included here. Usefulness is the criterion.

**Special subjects** The greater emphasis on the technical and scientific vocabulary, which is perhaps the most noticeable difference between recent and earlier COLLEGIATES, has been continued in this COLLEGIATE. The wealth of information prepared by the 200 outside consultants for the THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL has been freely drawn upon.

**Trademarks** Public interest in the status, the pronunciation, and the application of many terms originally coined for use as trademarks makes such terms a matter of lexical concern. In a dictionary of this scope, however, it is possible to include only a limited number of those trademarks most likely to be sought by the average dictionary user. All entries suspected of being trademarks have



been checked on the trademark register in the United States Patent Office at Washington, D. C., and those which were thus found to be trademarks are identified as such. The inclusion of a term in this dictionary is not to be taken as an expression of the publishers' opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights, but only as an expression of their belief that such a term is of sufficiently general use and interest to warrant its inclusion in a work of this kind. No definition in this dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

**Presentation of material** Although the presentation of the material conforms to accepted MERRIAM-WEBSTER dictionary practice and will in general offer no difficulty to most users of this book, occasional details may raise questions requiring precise answer. The editors have tried to anticipate and answer all such questions in the section of "Explanatory Notes" following this preface. Every user of this book, even the experienced dictionary consulter, will gain much from a reading of these pages.

**Order of definitions** In general the order of definitions follows the practice of the THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL, where the earliest ascertainable meaning is placed first and later meanings are arranged in the order shown to be most probable by dated citations and semantic development. This arrangement applies alike to all meanings whether standard, technical, or scientific. The historical order is of especial value to those interested in the development of meanings and offers no difficulty to the user who is merely looking for a particular meaning.

**Pronunciation** The pronunciations given in this dictionary are based on those of the THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL and reflect a large file of transcriptions from actual educated speech in all fields and in all parts of the United States. To make these pronunciations more representative the MERRIAM-WEBSTER pronunciation key has been revised. Many of the symbols of preceding editions have been retained, some with slight alteration, a few substitutions have been made, and some symbols have been dropped altogether. It is still fundamentally a diacritical key that makes use of many of the conventions of English spelling and is based on the principles that every distinct significant sound should have a distinct symbol to represent it and that no sound should be represented in more than one way. The elimination of symbols for all nonsignificant differences in sound makes it possible for transcriptions to convey to speakers in different parts of the English-speaking world sounds proper to their own speech. The new pronunciation alphabet is designed to represent clearly the standard speech of educated Americans. A chart of this key is printed on the front and back inside covers, key lines are printed at the bottom of every other page, and the system is further explained in the "Guide to Pronunciation" in the front matter. This guide has been condensed by Edward Artin, associate editor, from the fuller treatment in the THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL.

**Synonyms** Brief articles discriminating from one another words of closely associated meaning have long been a valuable feature of the COLLEGIATE. The articles, adapted from the fuller treatments in WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY OF SYNONYMS and WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY, were prepared by Dr. Philip H. Goepp, associate editor.

**Pictorial illustrations** The wide scope of illustrations that was a feature of previous editions of the COLLEGIATE has been retained in this new work. Many new illustrations have been especially prepared under the supervision of Mildred A. Mercier, assistant editor. In general the aim has been to include illustrations not for their decorative quality but for their value in clarifying definitions.

**Supplementary features** The supplementary features of the previous edition have been retained, and "Forms of Address" has been added.

The "Pronouncing Gazetteer" gives the spelling, syllabic division, and pronunciation of over ten thousand names and continues to provide information

on location, political status or ownership, population, and other statistics (as length of rivers, height of mountains, area of political divisions) in the concise form familiar to users of the COLLEGIATE.

The "Biographical Names" section gives the spelling, pronunciation, given names, dates, nationality, and a brief indication of achievements or sphere of activity for over five thousand persons, ancient and modern, of general interest.

The list of "Colleges and Universities" which has proved to be one of the most often consulted of the special sections of the COLLEGIATE, has been revised and its basis of selection broadened to include a larger number of institutions. The pronunciation and syllabic division of the names of these institutions are given wherever needed.

The lists of "Abbreviations" and of "Given Names" have been revised and many entries have been added.

The section of "Arbitrary Symbols", the "Vocabulary of Rhymes", and the several sections treating "Spelling", "Punctuation", "Plurals", "Compounds", "Capitalization", "Italicization", and "Proofreaders' Marks" have been revised and retained.

**Editorial staff** The editing, checking, proofreading, and similar operations have been carried out by the trained editorial staff of G. & C. MERRIAM COMPANY, many of whom worked not only on the preparation of the previous edition of the COLLEGIATE but also on the WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL. An exhaustive list of staff members who contributed to this COLLEGIATE, some by performing essential clerical work and others by preparing or reviewing a few definitions, would serve little purpose; but it would be ungracious not to mention the chief participants in various phases of the work. The writing of definitions and production of copy have been under the general supervision of Dr. H. Bosley Woolf, managing editor, assisted by Laverne W. King and Patricia F. Martin. Definitions have been written by Dr. Philip H. Goepp, Dr. Mairé Weir Kay, Hubert P. Kelsey, Dr. Howard G. Rhoads, Dr. Charles R. Sleeth, associate editors; and Dr. Warren B. Austin, Robert B. Costello, Philip W. Cummings, J. Edward Gates, E. Ward Gilman, Dr. Robert J. Quinlan, Thomas H. B. Robertson, and Raymond R. Wilson, assistant editors. Pronunciations have been done by Edward Artin, associate editor, assisted by Elsie Mag, assistant editor, and Harold E. Niergarth, editorial assistant. Etymologies have been under the supervision of Dr. Sleeth and Dr. F. Stuart Crawford, assistant editor, assisted by M. Eluned Roberts, assistant editor, and Betty Meltzer and Mary Ellen Knight, editorial assistants. Cross-referencing has been under the supervision of Ervina E. Foss, assistant editor, assisted by Grace A. Kellogg, assistant editor, and Eulelah W. Lyon and Doris N. Sherwood, editorial assistants. Proof-reading, under the supervision of Mr. Gilman, has been done chiefly by Hubert H. Roe, assistant editor, and by Grace E. Brophy, Robert W. Conboy, James M. Donovan, Peter D. Haraty, Edith M. Lowe, and Gertrude F. New, editorial assistants.

WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY represents the results of the collaborative efforts of the permanent MERRIAM-WEBSTER editorial staff. It is the product of the only organization specializing completely in dictionary making with more than 100 years of continuous experience in this field. It is the latest addition to the MERRIAM-WEBSTER series of dictionaries which have served successive generations. We offer it to the user with the conviction that it will serve him well.

PHILIP B. GOVE  
Editor in Chief

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

A careful reading of these explanatory notes will make it easier for the user of this dictionary to comprehend the information contained at each entry. Here are brief explanations of the different typefaces, different labels, significant punctuation, symbols, and other conventions by which a dictionary can achieve compactness. The chief divisions are:

- |                       |                        |                                 |                          |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. THE MAIN ENTRY     | 7. THE ETYMOLOGY       | 12. VERBAL ILLUSTRATIONS        | 17. SYNONYMIES           |
| 2. THE PRONUNCIATION  | 8. STATUS LABELS       | 13. NAMES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS | 18. COMBINING FORMS      |
| 3. FUNCTIONAL LABELS  | 9. SUBJECT LABELS      | 14. USAGE NOTES                 | 19. THE VOCABULARY ENTRY |
| 4. INFLECTIONAL FORMS | 10. THE SYMBOLIC COLON | 15. CROSS-REFERENCES            | 20. PROPER NAMES         |
| 5. CAPITALIZATION     | 11. SENSE DIVISION     | 16. RUN-ON ENTRIES              | 21. ABBREVIATIONS        |

## 1. THE MAIN ENTRY

**1.1** A heavy black letter or a combination of heavy black letters (**boldface type**) set flush with the left-hand margin of each column of type is a main entry or entry word. The combination consists usually of letters set solid (*about*) or of letters separated by one or more spaces (*air line*) or of letters joined by a hyphen (*air-dry*). What follows each such boldface entry in lightface type on the same line and on indented lines below explains and justifies its inclusion in the dictionary. The boldface entry together with this added matter is also called an entry.

**1.2** The main entries follow one another in this dictionary in alphabetical order letter by letter. For example, *book of account* follows *bookmobile* as if it were printed *bookofaccount* with no spaces in the middle. Entry words containing an arabic numeral (*3-D*, *1080* "ten-eighty") are alphabetized as if the numeral were spelled out. Entry words derived from proper names beginning with abbreviated forms of *Mac-* (*McCoy*) are alphabetized as if spelled *mac-*. Entries often beginning with *St.* in common usage have the abbreviation spelled out *saint* (*Saint Martin's summer*).

**1.3** As an aid to finding a wanted entry, a pair of guide words is printed at the top of each page. These are the first and last words of a sequence of boldface words on one page of the dictionary. Entries alphabetically between the word in the upper left corner and the word in the upper right corner are defined on the same page.

**1.4.1** When one entry has exactly the same written form as another that follows it, the two are distinguished by superior numbers preceding each word:

<sup>1</sup>dead  
<sup>2</sup>dead

Sometimes such homographs are related, like the two *deads*, which are different parts of speech derived from the same root. At other times, there is no relationship beyond the accident of spelling:

<sup>1</sup>can verb  
<sup>2</sup>can noun

Whether homographs are related or not, their order is usually historical: the one first used in English, insofar as the dates can be established, is entered first.

**1.4.2** For homographs one of which is undefined, see 16.1.1.

**1.5** Such superscripts are used only when all the letters, spaces, and hyphens of two or more main entries are identical (except for foreign accent marks). A variation in form calls for a new series of superscripts. In general, words precede word elements made up of the same letters, and lowercase type precedes uppercase type.

**1.6** The centered periods within entry words indicate division points at which a hyphen may be put at the end of a written line, thus for *ar·chae·ol·o·gy*:

archaeology      ar·  
ology              archae·  
ogy                archaeol·  
gy                  archaeolo·

Such periods are not shown after a single initial letter (*aplomb*, not *a-plomb*) or before a single terminal letter (*ar·ea*, not *ar·e·a*) because printers seldom cut off one letter only. Many printers try to avoid cutting off two letters only, especially at the end. They might divide *ar·cha·ic* into *ar·chaic* but not into *archa·ic*. Other words (*April*, *apron*) that are not often divided in printing do not show a centered period.

**1.6.1** A double hyphen = at the end of a line stands for a hyphen that belongs normally at that point in a hyphenated word and should be retained when the word is written out as a unit on one line.

**1.7.1** When a main entry is followed by the word *or* and another spelling or form, the two spellings or forms are equal variants. Their order is usually alphabetical, and the first is no more to be preferred than the second, or third, or fourth, if three or four are joined by *or*. Both or all are standard and any one may be used according to personal inclination or personal style preferences:

ab·er·rance . . . or ab·er·ran·cy  
cad·die or cad·dy

If the alphabetical order of variants joined by *or* is reversed, they remain equal variants. The one printed first may be slightly more common but not enough to justify calling them unequal:

cad·dis or cad·dice

**1.7.2** When another spelling or form is joined to the first entry by the word *also* instead of *or*, the spelling or form after *also* is a secondary variant and occurs less frequently than the first form:

wool·ly also wooly . . . *adj*

The secondary variant belongs to standard usage and may for personal or regional reasons be preferred by some. If there are two secondary variants, the second is joined to the first by *or*. Once the italic *also* is used to signal a secondary variant, all following variants are joined by *or*:

wool·ly also wool·ie or wooly . . . *n*

No evaluation below secondary is implied. Absence of a variant does not mean that there is no variant.

**1.7.3** Standard variants not shown with an *or* or *also* are entered at their own places alphabetically whenever their spelling places them alphabetically more than one column away from the main entry. The form of entry is

loth *var of* LOATH  
rime, rimer, rimester *var of* RHYME, RHYMER, RHYMESTER

in which *var of* stands for "variant of".

## 2. THE PRONUNCIATION

**2.1** The matter between reversed virgules \ \ is the pronunciation in symbols shown in the chart headed "Merriam-Webster Pronunciation Symbols". A hyphen - shows syllable divisions. The hyphens in the respelling for pronunciation often do not correspond with centered periods in the boldface entry. The first syllable of the

pronunciation of *metric* ends with \e\ and the second syllable begins with \t\, but printers usually divide the word between the *t* and the *r*.

**2.2** A high-set mark ' indicates primary accent or stress; a low-set mark , indicates a secondary accent:

**dead.wood** \ˈded-,wud\

A stress mark stands at the beginning of the syllable whose stress it indicates.

**2.3** The presence of variant pronunciations simply indicates that not all educated speakers pronounce the word the same way. A second-place variant is not to be regarded as *per se* a less desirable variant than the one given first. In fact, it may be used by as many educated speakers as the first variant. A variant which our records indicate is appreciably less frequent than that or those preceding may be preceded by *also*. Some variant pronunciations (as \ˈfôr-ən\ and \ˈfär-ən\ for *foreign*) are the kind that one speaker uses but another does not for the reason that their dialects are different and that the speech habits of one are different from those of the other. It is practicable to label such variants in the vocabulary only when analogy is lacking to make them predictable. Thus *South* also precedes the variant \ˈgre(ə)t\ at *great*.

**2.4** Parentheses mean that whatever is indicated by the symbol or symbols between them is present in the pronunciation of some speakers and absent from the pronunciation of other speakers, or that it is present in some utterances and absent from other utterances of the same speaker, or that its presence or absence is uncertain:

**hick-o-ry** \ˈhik-(ə-)rē\  
**sense** \ˈsen(t)s\  
**com-fort-able** \ˈkəm(p)(f)-tə-bəl\

Such pronunciations could alternatively have been shown, at greater cost of space, as \ˈhik-rē, ˈhik-ə-rē\ and \ˈsens, ˈsents\. At *comfortable* the parentheses mean that both \p\ and \f\ occur between \m\ and \t\, or \p\ alone, or \f\ alone, or nothing.

**2.5** When a word that is at its own alphabetical place has less than a full pronunciation, the missing part is to be supplied from a pronunciation in a preceding entry or within the same pair of reversed virgules:

**de.ba.cle** \di-ˈbäk-əl, -ˈbak-\  
**de.cem.vi.ral** \-və-rəl\

The hyphens before and after \ˈbak\ indicate that the first part of the pronunciation and the final part are to be taken from the pronunciation just preceding. The pronunciation for the first two syllables of *decemviral* will be found at the entry *decemvir*:

**de.cem.vir** \di-ˈsem-vər\

**2.6** Open compounds of two or more English words usually have no pronunciation indicated (as at *deadly sin*). In a sequence of numbered homographs usually only the first (if not obsolete) is pronounced if their pronunciations are the same:

<sup>1</sup>**carp** \ˈkärp\  
<sup>2</sup>**carp**

<sup>2</sup>*carp* has the same pronunciation as <sup>1</sup>*carp*. No pronunciation is to be understood for obsolete words. (In general, words obsolete in their entire range of meaning show a pronunciation only if they occur in Shakespeare.)

**2.7** The pronunciation of unpronounced derivatives and compounds at the end of a main entry is the pronunciation at the main entry plus the pronunciation of the suffix or final element as given at its alphabetical place in the vocabulary.

**2.8** When a part of two or more variants is common to each, often only the varying part of such variants is shown. Such partial pronunciations are always begun or stopped at a syllable boundary, except that when a variation of stress is involved a partial pronunciation may be stopped at the stress mark for a syllable not shown:

**er.satz** \ˈer-zäts, er-\  
**di.verse** \dī-ˈvərs, də-, ˈdī-, \

### 3. FUNCTIONAL LABELS

**3.1** An italic label that indicates part of speech or some other functional classification follows the pronunciation or, if no pronunciation is given, the main entry. The eight traditional parts of speech are thus indicated:

<b>ac-tive</b> . . . <i>adj</i>	(adjective)
<b>ac-ross</b> . . . <i>adv</i>	(adverb)
<b>al-though</b> . . . <i>conj</i>	(conjunction)
<b>al-as</b> . . . <i>interj</i>	(interjection)
<b>ac-t</b> . . . <i>n</i>	(noun)
<b>ac-ross</b> <i>prep</i>	(preposition)
<b>he</b> . . . <i>pron</i>	(pronoun)
<b>help</b> . . . <i>vb</i>	(verb)

**3.2** If a verb is both transitive and intransitive, the labels *vt* and *vi* introduce the subdivisions:

**help** . . . *vb* . . . *vt* . . . ~ *vi*

The character ~ is a boldface swung dash used to stand for the main entry (as *help*) and mark the subdivisions of the verb.

If there is no subdivision, *vt* or *vi* takes the place of *vb*:

**de.base** . . . *vi*

Definition of a verb as transitive does not preclude intransitive usage, although it may be uncommon. On occasion most transitive verbs get used intransitively.

**3.3** Other italicized labels sometimes occurring in the same position as the part-of-speech label are:

<b>audio-</b> <i>comb form</i>	(combining form, see 18)
<b>ante-</b> <i>prefix</i>	
<b>-ee</b> . . . <i>n suffix</i>	
<b>may</b> . . . <i>verbal auxiliary</i>	
<b>whoa</b> . . . <i>v imper</i>	(imperative verb)
<b>me-thinks</b> . . . <i>vb impersonal</i>	(impersonal verb)

Occasionally, two or more functional labels are combined, as *n* or *adj*.

### 4. INFLECTIONAL FORMS

**4.1** A plural for all standard nouns is shown in this dictionary if it is not formed regularly by adding -s or -es and changing a final -y if present to -i-:

**man** . . . *n, pl men*  
**mouse** . . . *n, pl mice*  
**moth-er-in-law** . . . *n, pl mothers-in-law*

**4.2** If there are two or more plurals, all are written out in full and joined by *or* or *also* to indicate whether the forms are equal or secondary variants (see also 1.7.1 and 1.7.2):

**fish** . . . *n, pl fish or fish-es*  
**court-martial** . . . *n, pl courts-martial also court-martials*  
**fun-gus** . . . *n, pl fun-gi . . . also fun-gus-es*  
**beef** . . . *n, pl beefs . . . or beeves*

**4.3** Nouns that are plural in form and regularly used in plural construction are labeled *n pl* (without a comma):

**en-vi-rons** . . . *n pl*

If the plural form is not always construed as a plural, the label continues with an applicable qualification:

**ge-net-ics** . . . *n pl but sing in constr*  
**forty winks** *n pl but sing or pl in constr*

in which *sing in constr* stands for "singular in construction" and means that the entry word takes a singular verb.

**4.4** An irregular plural form that falls alphabetically more than one column from the main entry is entered at its own alphabetical place:

**mice** *pl of MOUSE*  
**feet** *pl of FOOT*

Such an entry does not specify whether it is the only plural; it simply tells where to look for relevant information. At *foot* the variant plurals *feet* and *foot* are shown.

**4.5** The principal parts of all irregular standard verbs are given in this dictionary. These principal parts, besides the main entry, are the past, the past participle if different from the past, and the present participle. They are printed in that order in boldface:



see... *vb* saw... seen... see-ing  
 make... *vb* made... mak-ing  
 hit... *vb* hit; hit-ting  
 trap *vb* trapped; trap-ping  
 chagrin *vt* cha-grined... cha-grin-ing  
 dye *vb* dyed; dye-ing  
 die... *vi* died; dy-ing  
 volley *vb* vol-leyed; vol-ley-ing  
 emcee *vb* em-ceed; em-cee-ing  
 ring *vb* rang... rung... ring-ing

**4.6** Whenever any of the parts has a variant both are written out in full:

sky *vt* skied or skyed; sky-ing  
 burn... *vb* burned... or burnt... burn-ing  
 show... *vb* showed... shown... or showed; show-ing  
 dwell... *vi* dwelt... or dwelled... dwell-ing  
 im-per-il... *vt* im-per-iled or im-per-illed; im-per-il-ing or im-per-il-ling

**4.7** Verbs are considered regular when they have in their past a terminal *-ed* which is added with no other change except dropping a final *-e* or changing a final *-y* to *-i-*. The principal parts for these verbs are not indicated unless there is some irregularity.

**4.8** Principal parts are usually omitted at compounds containing a terminal element or related homograph whose principal parts are shown at its own place. At

over-take... *vt*  
 un-wrap... *vt*

the principal parts are not given because they can be found at *take* and *wrap*. Principal parts are often not given at nonstandard terms or at verbs of relatively low frequency.

**4.9** An entered principal verb part that falls alphabetically more than one column away from the main entry is entered at its own alphabetical place if there is no entry that is a homograph:

rang *past of* RING

**4.10** All adjectives and adverbs that have comparatives and superlatives with the suffixes *-er* and *-est* have these forms written out in full in boldface when they are irregular or when they double a final consonant:

red... *adj* red-der; red-dest  
 well *adv* bet-ter... best

**4.11** Comparatives and superlatives are usually omitted at compounds containing a constituent element whose inflection is regular. At

kind-heart-ed... *adj*  
 un-lucky... *adj*

*kinderhearted* and *unluckiest* are omitted. Similarly the comparatives and superlatives of adverbs are often omitted when an adjective homograph shows them, as at *flat* and *hot*.

**4.12** Showing *-er* and *-est* forms does not imply anything more about the use of *more* and *most* with a simple adjective or adverb than that the comparative and superlative degrees can often be expressed in either way (*hotter* or *more hot*, *hottest* or *most hot*).

**4.13.1** A form inflected by the addition of an ending that does not add a syllable may be divided at any point where a division is shown in the inflectional base:

mul-let→ *pl* mullet or mullets  
 in-ter-vene→ in-ter-vened→ in-ter-venes

**4.13.2** A form inflected by the addition of an ending that adds a syllable may, if the spelling of the base does not change, be divided between the two components, as well as at any point at which a division is shown in the base:

church→ church-es  
 con-strain→ con-strained→ con-strain-ing→ con-strains  
 ap-proach→ ap-proached→ ap-proach-ing→ ap-proaches  
 re-tort→ re-torted→ re-tort-ing→ re-torts  
 stout→ stout-er→ stout-est

**4.13.3** In a syllable-increased form in which the final consonant of the inflectional base is doubled, a division is made between the doubled consonants:

re-but→ re-but-ted→ re-but-ting→ re-but-s

When both of two identical consonants immediately preceding a syllable-increasing ending belong to the inflectional base, a division is made after the second consonant:

bluff-ing

**4.13.4** In a syllable-increased form in which a final *e* of the base is dropped before the ending, a division is made between the letter that preceded the *e* and the ending:

rate→ rat-ed→ rat-ing  
 glue→ glu-ing  
 plague→ plagu-ing  
 pique→ piqu-ing  
 gro-tesque→ gro-tesqu-er→ gro-tesqu-est

In syllable-increased forms like those in the last three lines, in which *gu* or *qu*, with *u* silent, appears immediately before the ending, some prefer to divide immediately before the *g* or *q* if it is not immediately preceded by a short vowel or, in the case of *g*, by *n* (*haran-guing* would suggest the substandard pronunciation \hə-'rang-gin\):

pi-ning  
 pla-guing  
 grotes-quer

## 5. CAPITALIZATION

**5.1** The entries in this dictionary are set lowercase unless usage calls for an initial uppercase letter when a word is almost always capitalized or capitalized more often than not. Other entries sometimes have an italic label:

often *cap*=as likely to be capitalized as not; acceptable one way or the other  
 sometimes *cap*=more often not capitalized than capitalized; not usually capitalized

The absence of an initial capital or of one of these labels indicates that the word is almost never capitalized except under irrelevant circumstances (as beginning a sentence or being in a list of all-capitalized words):

French *n*  
 Christian *adj*  
 french-ify... *vt*, often *cap*  
 die-sel... *n*... sometimes *cap*

**5.2** When an entry has more than one letter in question, the form or the label specifies the capitalization required by usage:

French bulldog  
 black-eyed Su-san  
 French Canadian  
 neo-Dar-win-ian... often *cap N*

**5.3** A word that usually has some of its senses capitalized and some not is labeled to show a variation from the boldface form of entry by applicable use of two additional labels:

*cap*=almost always capitalized or more often capitalized than not  
 not *cap*=almost never capitalized

**5.4** See also section 20, on "Proper Names".

## 6. ATTRIBUTIVE NOUNS

**6.1** The label *often attrib* in italics added to the label *n* at a main entry indicates that the noun is often used as an adjective equivalent in attributive position before a substantive (as in *air passage*, *cabbage soup*):

air... *n*, often *attrib*  
 cab-bage... *n*, often *attrib*  
 fox... *n*, *pl* fox-es or fox often *attrib*  
 shoul-der... *n*, often *attrib*  
 va-ca-tion... *n*, often *attrib*

**6.2** While any noun is likely to get used attributively sometimes, the label *often attrib* is confined to those having such widespread general frequent attributive use that they could be entered and defined as adjectives or adjectival elements. The label is not used when there is an entered adjective homograph (as *silver*, *adj*). Also, it is not used at open compounds that may be often used attributively when hyphenated (as *X ray* in *X-ray microscope*).

## 7. THE ETYMOLOGY

**7.1** The matter in boldface square brackets preceding the definition is the etymology. Meanings given in roman type within these brackets are not definitions of the main entry, but meanings of the Middle English, Old English, or non-English words within the brackets. Such etymological meanings may or may not be the same as one or more of the meanings of the main entry. For the meanings of abbreviations in an etymology, see the page headed "Abbreviations Used in This Work".

**7.2** It is the purpose of the etymology to trace a main vocabulary entry as far back as possible in English, as to Old English; to tell from what language and what form it came into English; and (except in the case of some words so highly specialized in usage as to be distinctly outside the general vocabulary of English) to trace the pre-English source as far back as possible. These etyma (or a part of them) are printed in italic type.

**7.3** The etymology usually gives the Middle English and Old English forms of native words in the manner illustrated by the following examples:

**earth** . . . *n* [ME *erthe*, fr. OE *eorthe* . . .]  
**day** . . . *n* [ME, fr. OE *dæg* . . .]

**7.3.1** When a word is traced back to Middle English but not to Old English, it is found in Middle English but not in the texts that have survived from the Old English period, even though it cannot be shown to have been borrowed from any other language and even though it may have cognates in the other Germanic languages:

**girl** . . . *n* [ME *gurle*, *girl* young person of either sex]  
**poke** *vb* [ME *poken*; akin to MD *poken* to poke]

**7.3.2** When a word is traced back directly to Old English with no intervening mention of Middle English, it has not survived continuously from Old English times to the present, but died out after the Old English period and has been revived in modern times for its historical or antiquarian interest:

**ge-mot** or **ge-mote** . . . *n* [OE *gemōt* . . .]

**7.4** For words borrowed into English from other languages, the etymology gives the language from which the word is borrowed and the form or a transliteration of the word in that language if the form differs from that in English:

**etch** . . . *vb* [D *etsen* . . .]  
**flam-boy-ant** . . . *adj* [F . . .]  
**judge** . . . *vb* [ME *juggen*, fr. OE *jugier* . . .]  
**ab-bot** . . . *n* [ME *abbod*, fr. OF, fr. LL *abbat*-, *abbas* . . .]

**7.4.1** In the comparatively rare cases where the expression "deriv. of" replaces the more usual "fr.", this indicates that one or more intermediate steps in the derivation of the form preceding the expression from the form following have been omitted in the etymology:

**es-pal-ier** . . . *n* [F, deriv. of It *spalla* . . .]

**7.5.1** Usually no etymology is given for words (including open compounds) created in English by the combination of existing constituents or by functional shift from a homograph. This generally indicates that the identity of the constituents is expected to be evident to the user without guidance. Examples:

**black-fish** . . . *n* **1** : any of numerous dark-colored fishes  
**black-ness** *n* : the quality or state of being black  
**lame** *vt* **1** : to make lame

**7.5.2** When a family of words is obviously related to a common English basic word, differing from it only by containing various easily recognizable suffixes, usually no etymology is given except at the basic word, even though some of the derivatives may have been formed in some other language than English:

**im-mor-tal** . . . *adj* [ME, fr. L *immortalis* . . .] **1** : exempt from death  
**im-mor-tal-i-ty** . . . *n* : the quality or state of being immortal . . .

Actually the latter word was borrowed into Middle English (via Middle French) from Latin *immortalitas*.

**7.6** A considerable part of the technical vocabulary of the sciences and other specialized studies consists of

words or word elements that are current in two or more languages with only such slight modifications as are necessary to adapt them to the structure of the individual language in each case. Many words and word elements of this kind have become sufficiently a part of the general vocabulary of English to require entry even in an abridged dictionary of our language. On account of the vast extent of the relevant published material in many languages and in many scientific and other specialized fields, it is impracticable to ascertain the language of origin of every such term, yet it would not be accurate to formulate a statement about the origin of any such term in a way that could be interpreted as implying that it was coined in English. Accordingly, whenever a term that is entered in this dictionary belongs recognizably to this class of internationally current terms, and no positive evidence is at hand to show that it was coined in English, the etymology recognizes its international status and the possibility that it originated elsewhere than in English by use of the label ISV (for International Scientific Vocabulary). Examples:

**en-do-scope** . . . *n* [ISV]  
**hap-loid** . . . *adj* [ISV, fr. Gk *haploeidēs* single . . .] **1** : having the gametic number of chromosomes or half the number characteristic of somatic cells  
**-ene** . . . *n* suffix [ISV, fr. Gk *-ēnē*, fem. of *-ēnos*, *adj.* suffix]  
 : unsaturated carbon compound

**7.7.1** An etymology beginning with the name of a language (including ME or OE) and not giving the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) form indicates that the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) form is the same as that in present-day English:

**for** . . . *prep* [ME, fr. OE . . .]  
**au-tom-a-ton** . . . *n* . . . [L, fr. Gk . . .]

**7.7.2** An etymology beginning with the name of a language (including ME or OE) and not giving the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) meaning indicates that the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) meaning is the same as that expressed in the first or only definition in the entry:

**bea-con** . . . *n* [ME *beken*, fr. OE *bēacen* sign . . .] **1** : a signal fire  
**de-note** . . . *vt* [MF *denoter*, fr. L *denotare* . . .] **1** : to serve as an indication of

**7.8** When an entry word is derived from an earlier Modern English word now obsolete or so rare that it does not deserve an entry of its own in an abridged dictionary, the meaning of such a word is given in parentheses:

**dab-ble** . . . *vb* . . . [perh. freq. of *dab* (to daub)]

**7.9** Small superscript figures following words or syllables in an etymology refer in each case to the tone of the word or syllable which they follow, and accordingly are used only with forms cited from tone languages:

**sam-pan** . . . *n* [Chin(Pek) *san¹ pan³*, fr. *san¹* three + *pan¹* board, plank]  
**voo-doo** . . . *n* [ . . . Ewe *vo¹du³* tutelary deity, demon]

**7.10** When the source of a word appearing as a main entry is unknown, the formula "origin unknown" is usually used. Only rarely and in exceptional circumstances does absence of an etymology mean that it has not been possible to furnish any informative etymology; this is the case, however, with some ethnic names. More usually it means that no etymology is felt to be necessary; this is the case, for instance, with a very large proportion of the entries identified as variants and with derivatives of the kind mentioned in paragraphs 7.5.1 and 7.5.2.

**7.11.1** When a word has been traced back to its ultimate attested source language, if this is an Indo-European language, selected cognates in other Indo-European languages, especially Old High German, Latin, and Greek, are usually given where possible. Examples:

**bench** . . . *n* [ME, fr. OE *benc*; akin to OHG *bank* bench]  
**bear** *vb* . . . [ME *beren*, fr. OE *beran*; akin to OHG *beran* to carry, L *ferre*, Gk *pherein*]  
**equine** . . . *adj* [L *equinus*, fr. *equus* horse; akin to OE *eoh* horse, Gk *hippos*]

**7.11.2** Sometimes, however, to avoid space-consuming repetition, what is done is to direct the user by a "more

at" cross-reference to another entry where the cognates are given:

**edict** . . . *n* [L *edictum*, fr. neut. of *edictus*, pp. of *edicere* to decree, fr. *e-* + *dicere* to say — more at **DICTION**]

**7.1.2** Besides the use of "akin to" to denote ordinary cognate relationship, as in several examples in the preceding paragraph, there is in some etymologies a somewhat special use of "akin to" as part of a longer formula "of—origin; akin to—". This longer formula indicates that a word was borrowed from some language belonging to a group of languages, the name of the group being inserted in the blank just before *origin*; that for some reason it is not possible to say with confidence that the word in question is a borrowing of a particular attested word in a particular language of the source group; and that the word or words cited in the blank after "akin to" are a cognate or cognates of the word in question as attested within the source group. Examples:

**guard** . . . *n* [ME *garde*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *garder* to guard, defend, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *wartēn* to watch, take care — more at **WARD**]

**cant** *n* [ME, prob. fr. MD or ONF; MD, edge, corner, fr. ONF, fr. L *canthus*, *cantus* iron tire, perh. of Celt origin; akin to W *cant* rim; akin to Gk *kanthos* corner of the eye]

This last example shows the two uses of "akin to" in explicit contrast with each other. The word cited immediately after "of Celt origin; akin to" is a Celtic cognate of the presumed Celtic source word from which the Latin word was borrowed; the word cited after the second "akin to" is a further cognate from other Indo-European languages.

## 8. STATUS LABELS

**8.0** A status label in italics sometimes appears before a definition. It provides a degree of usage orientation by identifying the character of the context in which a word ordinarily occurs. Status labels are of three kinds: temporal, stylistic, and regional.

**8.1.1** The temporal label *obs* for "obsolete" means that no evidence of standard use since 1755 has been found:

**en-wheel** . . . *vt*, *obs*  
**em-boss** . . . *vt* . . . *obs*

*obs* is a comment on the word being defined, not on the thing denoted by the word. When obsolescence of the thing is in question, it is implied in the definition (as by *onetime*, *formerly*, or historical reference):

**ge-mot** . . . *n* . . . : a judicial or legislative assembly in England before the Norman conquest  
**man-telet** . . . *n* . . . : a movable shelter formerly used by besiegers as a protection when attacking

**8.1.2** The temporal label *archaic* means standard after 1755 but surviving in the present only sporadically or in special contexts:

**be-like** . . . *adv*, *archaic*  
**end-long** . . . *adv* . . . *archaic*  
**eld** . . . *n* . . . : 1 *archaic*

*archaic* is a comment on the word being defined, not on the thing the word represents.

**8.2.1** The stylistic label *slang* is affixed to terms especially appropriate in contexts of extreme informality, having usually a currency not limited to a particular region or area of interest, and composed typically of clipped or shortened forms of extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech:

**cork-er** . . . *n* . . . : *slang*  
**lu-lu** . . . *n* . . . : *slang*  
**egg** *n* . . . : 3 *slang*

There is no completely satisfactory objective test for slang, especially in application to a word out of context. No word is invariably slang, and many standard words can be given slang connotations or used so inappropriately as to become slang.

**8.2.2** The stylistic label *substand* for "substandard" indicates status conforming to a pattern of linguistic usage that exists throughout the American language community but differs in choice of word or form from that of the prestige group in that community:

**drown** . . . *vb* . . . *substand* **drown-ed**

This label is not regional.

**8.2.3** The stylistic label *nonstand* for "nonstandard" is used for a very small number of words that can hardly stand without some status label but are too widely current in reputable context to be labeled *substand*:

**ir-re-gard-less** . . . *adj* . . . *nonstand*

**8.3.1** The regional label *dial* for "dialect" when unqualified indicates a regional pattern too complex for summary labeling usually because it includes several regional varieties of American English or of American and British English:

**larrup** *n*, *dial*

**8.3.2** The combined label *dial Brit* and the combined label *dial Eng* indicate substandard currency in a provincial dialect of the British Commonwealth and in England respectively:

**thir** . . . *pron* . . . *dial Brit*  
**end vi** . . . *dial Eng*

**8.3.3** A standard word requiring a specified regional restriction in the U.S. will have one of the seven labels *North*, *NewEng*, *Midland*, *South*, *West*, *Southwest*, and *Northwest*. These correspond loosely to the areas in Hans Kurath's *Word Geography of the Eastern United States* (1949). Examples:

**bon-ny-clab-ber** . . . *n* . . . : *North & Midland*  
**can-ni-kin** . . . *n* . . . : *NewEng*  
**jay-bird** . . . *n*, chiefly *Midland*  
**light-wood** . . . *n*, chiefly *South*  
**Cay-use** . . . *n* . . . : *West*  
**ace-quia** . . . *n* . . . : *Southwest*  
**pot-latch** . . . *n* . . . : *Northwest*

No collective label (as *U.S.*) is used to indicate currency in all regions of the U.S.

**8.3.4** A regional label that names a country indicates standard currency in the named part of the whole English language area. Examples:

**syne** . . . *adv* . . . chiefly *Scot*  
**sun-down-er** . . . *n*, *Austral*  
**ma-vour-neen** . . . *n* . . . : *Irish*  
**Ca-nuck** . . . *n* . . . : chiefly *Canad*  
**pet-rol** . . . *n* . . . : *Brit*  
**draught** chiefly *Brit*

## 9. SUBJECT LABELS

**9.1** A prefixed word or phrase in italics names an activity or association in relation to which a word usually has a special meaning not identical with any other meaning it may have apart from the labeled subject:

**dhar-ma** . . . *n* . . . : 1 *Hinduism* ;  
**dress** . . . *vi* . . . : 2 *of a food animal* ;  
**dressmaker** *adj*, of women's clothes ;  
**ex-og-e-nous** . . . *adj* . . . : b *of disease* ;

## 10. THE SYMBOLIC COLON

**10.1** This dictionary uses a boldface character recognizably distinct from the usual roman colon as a linking symbol between the main entry and a definition. It stands for an unexpressed simple predicate that may be read "is being here defined as (or by)". It indicates that the supporting orientation immediately after the main entry is over and thus facilitates a visual jumping from word to definition:

**de-bil-i-tate** . . . : to impair the strength of  
**debt** . . . : 3 : something owed

**10.2** Words that have two or more definitions have two or more symbolic colons. The signal for another definition is another symbolic colon:

**dead** . . . *adj* . . . : 1 : deprived of life : having died

**10.3** If there is no symbolic colon, there is no definition. For what sometimes takes the place of a definition see 14.2, 15.3.

## 11. SENSE DIVISION

**11.1** Boldface arabic numerals separate the senses of a word that has more than a single sense:

**x** ... **1** ... **2** ... **3** :  
**de-camp** ... *vi* ... **1** : to break up a camp **2** : to depart suddenly

**11.2** Boldface lowercase letters separate coordinate subsenses of a numbered sense or sometimes of an unnumbered sense:

**x** ... **1** ... **2a** ... **b** ... **c** ... **3** :  
**de-cen-cy** ... *n* ... **2a** : the quality or state of being decent  
 ... **b** : conformity to standards of taste, propriety, or quality  
**x** ... **1** ... **2** ... **a** ... **b** ... **c** :  
**hump** ... *n* ... **1** : a rounded protuberance: as **a** : HUMPBACK  
**b** : a fleshy protuberance on the back of an animal ...  
**2** ...  
**x** ... **1** ... **a** ... **b** ... **c** :  
**whael** ... *n* ... **a** : a suddenly formed elevation of the skin surface: as **a** : WELT **b** : a flat burning or itching eminence ...  
**x** ... **1** ... **2** ... **a** ... **b** ... **c** :  
**in-an-i-mate** ... *adj* ... **1** : not animate: **a** : not endowed with life or spirit **b** : lacking consciousness or power of motion **2** : ...

**11.2.1** The lightface colon (as in the preceding formulas) indicates that the definition immediately preceding it binds together or subsumes the coordinate subsenses that follow it:

**de-ceit-ful** ... *adj* : having a tendency or disposition to deceive: **a** : not honest ... **b** : DECEPTIVE, MISLEADING

**11.2.2** The word *as* may or may not follow this lightface colon. Its presence indicates that the subsenses following are typical or significant examples which are not exhaustive. Its absence indicates that the subsenses following are exhaustive with respect to evidence for dictionary inclusion.

**11.3** Lightface numbers in parentheses indicate a further division of subsenses:

**x** ... **1a** ... **b** (1) ... (2) ... **c** ... **2** :  
**drag** ... *n* ... **3a** : something (as a sea anchor) that retards motion **b** (1) : the retarding force acting on a body ... moving through a fluid ... parallel and opposite to the direction of motion (2) : friction between engine parts

**11.4.1** The system of separating by numbers and letters reflects something of the semantic relationship between various senses of a word. It is only a lexical convenience. It does not evaluate senses or establish an enduring hierarchy of importance among them. The best sense is the one that most aptly fits the context of an actual genuine utterance.

**11.4.2** Occasionally a particular semantic relationship between senses is suggested by use of one of four italic sense dividers: *esp* (for *especially*), *specif* (for *specifically*), *also*, or *broadly*.

**11.5** The order of senses is historical: the one known to have been first used in English is entered first. This ordering does not imply that each sense has developed from the immediately preceding sense. Sense 1 may give rise to sense 2 and sense 2 to sense 3. As often as not, however, each of several senses derived in independent lines from sense 1 has served as the source of a number of other meanings. Sometimes an arbitrary arrangement or rearrangement is the only reasonable and expedient solution to the problems of ordering senses.

**11.6.1** An italic functional label or other information given between a main entry and the etymology of a multisense word applies to all senses and subsenses unless a limiting label (as *pl*) is inserted immediately after a divisional number or letter and before the symbolic colon or unless in any way clearly inapplicable. Examples of limiting labels:

**li-on** ... *n*, *pl lions* ... **1a** or *pl lion* :  
**ep-i-cu-re-an** ... *adj* **1** *cap* : of or relating to Epicurus or Epicureanism **2** : of, relating to, or suited to an epicure

**11.6.2** The etymology also applies to all senses and subsenses unless another etymology in boldface brackets is given after a sense number or letter:

**deuce** ... *n* [MF *deus* two ...] ... **3** [obs. E *deuce* bad luck]

**11.6.3** An italic status label, subject label, or guide phrase does not apply to all the senses of a multisense word. When divisional numbers are present, such a label is inserted after the number:

**x** **n** **1** *slang* : ... **2** *slang* :  
**hor-rent** ... *adj* ... **1** *archaic* : ... **2** *archaic* : ...

It then applies to lettered and parenthetically numbered subsenses that follow. It does not apply to succeeding boldface-numbered senses:

**x** ... *vt* ... **2** *obs* **a** : ... **b** : ... **3** :  
**im-pugn** ... *vt* ... **1** *obs* **a** : ASSAIL **b** : RESIST **2** : ...

Senses 1a and 1b are both obsolete but not sense 2. If it falls between a boldface letter and the symbolic colon or between a lightface number in parentheses and the symbolic colon, it applies only to the immediately following sense.

## 12. VERBAL ILLUSTRATIONS

**12.1** The matter enclosed in a pair of angle brackets illustrates an appropriate use of the word in context. The word being illustrated is replaced by a swung dash which stands for the same form of the word as the main entry or by a swung dash plus an italicized suffix which can be added without any change of letters to the form of the main entry. Otherwise the word is written in full and italicized:

**er-satz** ... *adj* ... (<~ flour)  
**Lu-cul-lan** ... *adj* ... **2** : ... (<~ feast)  
**high-water** *adj* : unusually short (<~ pants)  
**join** ... *vt* ... **4a** : ... (<~ed us for lunch)

**12.2.1** A person's name or an italicized title included in the angle brackets acknowledges the authorship or source of a quoted verbal illustration:

**like** *conj* **1** : in the same way that : AS (<they raven down scenery ~ children do sweetmeats —John Keats)

**12.2.2** Suspension periods indicate an omission in quoted matter. Sometimes spelling, punctuation, or capitalization has been normalized without notation usually because the brief quotation is so far removed from its original context that such matters are no longer significant and may be actually misleading.

## 13. NAMES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

**13.1** A main entry that defines the name of a kind of plant or animal (as rose or lion) is a taxonomic entry. Such entries employ in part a formal codified vocabulary of New Latin names (*taxa*) developed and used by biologists in accord with international codes of botanical and of zoological nomenclature to identify and to indicate the relations of plants and animals. Names of taxa higher than the genus (as class, order, family) are capitalized plural nouns often used with singular verbs and are not abbreviated in normal use. The genus is the fundamental taxon, names a group of closely related kinds of plants (as *Malus*, which includes wild and cultivated apples, crab apples, pears) or animals (as *Felis*, which includes domestic and wild cats, lions, tigers, cougars), and is a capitalized singular noun. Each kind of organism has one and only one correct name under these codes, that for a species (binomial or species name) consisting of a singular capitalized genus name combined with an uncapitalized specific epithet or trivial name which is an appositive or genitive noun or an adjective agreeing in case, number, and gender with the genus name (as in *Rosa setigera*). For a variety or subspecies (trinomial or variety name or subspecies name) the name adds a similar varietal or subspecific epithet (as in *Rosa setigera tomentosa*). Taxa when used in this dictionary are enclosed in parentheses and ordinarily immediately follow the primary orienting noun. Genus names and higher taxa are routinely oriented in rank while genus names as well as binomials and trinomials are italicized:

**ba-sid-i-o-my-cete** ... *n* ... : any of a large class (Basidiomycetes) ...  
**perch** *n* ... **2** : any of numerous teleost fishes (as of the families Percidae, Centrarchidae, Serranidae) ...  
**hem-lock** ... *n* ... **2** : any of a genus (*Tsuga*) of evergreen coniferous trees ...  
**rob-in** ... *n* ... **1a** : a small European thrush (*Erithacus rubecola*) ...



By their use an absolute identification is made, and as purely technical devices they do not have separate entry.

**13.2** Taxonomic entries are in general oriented indirectly to higher taxa by other vernaculars (as by *thrush* at *robin* or *alga* at *seaweed*) or by technical adjectives (as by *teleost* at *perch*, *leguminous* at *pea*, or *composite* at *daisy*). Among the higher plants except the composites and legumes and a few obscure tropical groups such orientation is by a vernacular family name which at the corresponding taxonomic entry is linked to its technical equivalent:

**oak** ... *n* ... **1** : a tree or shrub (genera *Quercus* or *Lithocarpus*) of the beech family ...  
**beech** ... *n* ... any of a genus (*Fagus* of the family *Fagaceae*, the beech family) of hardwood trees ...  
**parsley** ... *n* ... a southern European annual or biennial herb (*Petroselinum crispum*) of the carrot family ...  
**carrot** ... *n* ... **1** : a biennial herb (*Daucus carota* of the family *Umbelliferae*, the carrot family) ...

**13.3** A genus name used more than once in an unnumbered entry or in a numbered sense of an entry is routinely abbreviated in uses after the first:

**nas-tur-tium** ... *n* ... : any of a genus (*Tropaeolum* ...); *esp* : either of two widely cultivated ornamentals (*T. majus* and *T. minus*)

## 14. USAGE NOTES

**14.1** A usage note is introduced by a lightface dash. Two or more successive usage notes are separated by a semicolon. A usage note provides information about the use of the word being defined and so always modifies the word that is the main entry. It may be in the form of a comment on idiom, syntax, semantic relationship, status, or various other matters:

**dredge** *vt* ... — often used with *up*  
**al-le-gro** ... *adv* (or *adj*) ... : — used as a direction in music  
**drag** ... *n* ... **1** ... — usu. used in *pl*.

**14.2** A usage note may stand in place of a definition and without the symbolic colon. Some function words have little or no semantic content, and most interjections express feelings but otherwise are untranslatable into a meaning that can be substituted. Many other words (as some oaths and imprecations, calls to animals, specialized signals, song refrains, and honorific titles), though genuinely a part of the language, have a usage note instead of a definition:

**gee** *interj* ... — used as an introductory expletive or to express surprise or enthusiasm  
**at** ... *prep* ... **1** — used as a function word to indicate presence or occurrence in, on, or near  
**ahoy** ... *interj* ... — used in hailing (ship ~)

## 15. CROSS-REFERENCES

**15.0** Various word relationships requiring that matter at one place in a dictionary show special awareness of matter at another place are taken care of by a system of cross-references. A sequence of lightface small capitals used anywhere in a definition is identical letter-by-letter with a boldface main entry (or with one of its inflectional forms) at its own alphabetical place. This sequence is a cross-reference; its boldface equivalent elsewhere is what is cross-referenced to and is not itself a cross-reference.

**15.1** A cross-reference following a lightface dash and beginning with either *see* or *compare* is a directional cross-reference. It explicitly directs one to look somewhere else for further information. It never stands for a definition but (with a few exceptions, as at variant combining forms and numerals) is always appended to one:

**im-ide** ... *n* ... — compare *AMIDE*  
**eight** ... *n* ... **1** — see *NUMBER* table

**15.2** A cross-reference following a symbolic colon is a synonymous cross-reference. It may stand alone as the only definitional matter for a boldface entry or for a sense or subsense of an entry. It may be one of a group of definitions joined in series by symbolic colons. In either case the cross-reference means that the definitions at the entry cross-referenced to can be substituted as

definitions for the boldface entry or the sense or subsense at which the cross-reference appears:

**horse-less carriage** ... *n* : *AUTOMOBILE*  
**dec-la-ra-tion** ... *n* **1** : the act of declaring : *ANNOUNCEMENT*  
**deck** *vt* ... **2** *a* : to clothe elegantly : *ARRAY* *b* : *DECORATE*

**15.2.1** Two or more synonymous cross-references are sometimes introduced by a symbolic colon and separated from each other by a comma. This indicates that there are two or more sets of definitions at other entries which can be substituted in various contexts:

**lay out** *vt* ... **4** : *ARRANGE, DESIGN*

**15.2.2** A synonymous cross-reference sometimes accounts for a usage note introduced by *called also* at the entry cross-referenced to:

**vir-gule** ... *n* ... *DIAGONAL 3*  
**diagonal** *n* ... **3** : — called also ... *virgule*

**15.3.1** A cross-reference following an italic *var of* is a cognate cross-reference. It is explained and illustrated in 1.7.3 as applied to standard variants.

**15.3.2** A limiting label before the *var of* in a cognate cross-reference indicates in what way an entry word is nonstandard.

**gie** ... chiefly *Scot var of GIVE*  
**hern** ... *dial var of HERON*

**15.4** A cross-reference following an italic label identifying an entry as an inflectional form of a singular noun, of an adjective or adverb, or of an infinitive verb is an inflectional cross-reference. These are illustrated in 4.4 and 4.9.

**15.5** A cross-reference may or may not be identified by a superscript number before it or by a lightface sense number or letter after it. A synonymous cross-reference to a homograph is not identified by part of speech: nouns refer to nouns, adjectives to adjectives. Cross-references to verbs sometimes distinguish between *vt* and *vi*.

## 16. RUN-ON ENTRIES

**16.1.1** A main entry may be continued after a lightface dash by a boldface derivative or compound or by a homograph with a different functional label. This is a run-on entry. Its boldface is always in alphabetical order with respect to the word it is run on to. It has a functional label but no definition:

**elas-tic** ... *adj* ... — **elas-ti-cal-ly** ... *adv*  
**gate** ... *n* ... — **gate-keep-er** ... *n* — **gate-way** ... *n*  
**El-e-at-ic** ... *adj* ... — **Eleatic** *n*

**16.1.2** An additional run-on entry sometimes follows:

**er-ro-ne-ous** ... *adj* ... — **er-ro-ne-ous-ly** *adv* — **er-ro-ne-ous-ness** *n*

**16.2** A main entry may be continued after a lightface dash by a boldface phrase containing the main entry word or an inflected form of it. This also is a run-on entry. It often is not in alphabetical order. It may or may not have a functional label but it has a definition:

**event** ... *n* ... — **in any event** :

**16.3** A run-on entry is an independent entry with respect to function and status. Labels at the main entry do not apply unless they are repeated.

## 17. SYNONYMIES

**17.1** Synonymous words are briefly discriminated in a paragraph following the entry of one of the words of a group. This paragraph is a synonymy and is signaled by the boldface abbreviation **syn** indented.

**17.2** Words considered in a synonymy refer at their own alphabetical places to its location by running on the boldface letters **syn** and the word:

**decline** *n* ... **syn** see *DETERIORATION*

## 18. COMBINING FORMS

**18.1** A main entry that begins or ends with a hyphen is a word element that forms part of an English compound. The identifying label, besides the hyphen, is *comb form* for "combining form", or if the element is used only as an affix, the label is *prefix* or *suffix*. A suffix or terminal combining form that always determines syntactic function is further identified by addition of a part-of-speech label (as *adj suffix* or *n comb form*):

*eo-* *comb form*  
*de-* *prefix*  
*-derm* . . . *n comb form*

**18.2** This dictionary enters combining forms for two reasons: chiefly to make easier the writing of etymologies of words in which they occur over and over again; and to recognize meaningful elements that are constantly being used to form new words not yet authenticated for dictionary inclusion. A compound consisting of a known word and a known combining form is not censurable merely by being absent from the dictionary.

## 19. THE VOCABULARY ENTRY

**19.1** The following definition appears at its own alphabetical place in the dictionary:

**vocabulary entry** *n*: a word (as the noun *book*), hyphenated or open compound (as the verb *book-match* or the noun *book review*), word element (as the affix *pro-*), abbreviation (as *agt*), verbalized symbol (as *Na*), or term (as *man in the street*) entered alphabetically in a dictionary for the purpose of definition or identification or expressly included as an inflectional form (as the noun *mice* or the verb *saw*) or as a derived form (as the noun *godlessness* or the adverb *globally*) or related phrase (as *one for the book*) run on at its base word and usu. set in a type (as boldface) readily distinguishable from that of the lightface running text which defines, explains, or identifies the entry

As defined, this term applies to all the entries as they are printed alphabetically with or without hyphens, all their boldface and italic variants (preceded by *called also*), all the run-on entries, and all inflectional forms written out in boldface.

## 20. PROPER NAMES

**20.1** Names of human beings are not entered as such in the main vocabulary. They are dictionary entries but are

not classed as vocabulary entries. They are entered in a separate section of back matter titled "Biographical Names", containing surname and prenames, pronunciation and syllabic division, dates, epithets, nationality, and occupation.

**20.2** Names of places and geographic formations (as rivers and mountains) are not entered as such in the main vocabulary. They are dictionary entries but are not classed as vocabulary entries. They are entered in a separate section of back matter titled "A Pronouncing Gazetteer", containing name, pronunciation and syllabic division, location by geographic or national relationship, and quantitative data (as population, area, length, or height). Many entries run on derivative adjectives and nouns (as *Cuban*) not given in the main vocabulary if there are no extended senses.

**20.3** Names of institutions of higher education are not entered as such in the main vocabulary. They are dictionary entries but are not classed as vocabulary entries. They are entered in a separate section in the back matter under the title "Colleges and Universities in the United States and Canada", containing name, pronunciation and syllabic division, location, kind of student body, and earliest date.

**20.4** Given names of persons are not entered as such in the main vocabulary. They are dictionary entries but are not classed as vocabulary entries. They are entered in two lists in the back matter under the title "A Pronouncing Vocabulary of Common English Given Names", containing pronunciation and syllabic division, provenience, and meaning if known.

## 21. ABBREVIATIONS

**21.1** Abbreviations are not included as main entries in the vocabulary but they are classed as vocabulary entries. They are separately alphabetized in a section of back matter titled "Abbreviations". For abbreviations used in the dictionary chiefly as space savers see the separate list "Abbreviations Used in This Work" preceding the first page of the vocabulary.

**21.2** Symbols for chemical elements are included alphabetically among the abbreviations in the back matter.

# MERRIAM-WEBSTER PRONUNCIATION SYMBOLS

See "Guide to Pronunciation", "Explanatory Notes", 2

- ə . . . . banana, collect, abut  
 'ə, ə humdrum, abut  
 ə . . . . immediately preceding \l/, \n/, \m/, \ŋ/, as in battle, mitten, eaten, and sometimes cap and bells \-ʒm-, lock and key \-ʒŋ-; immediately following \l/, \m/, \r/, as often in French table, prisme, titre  
 əɹ . . . . operation, further, urger  
 'ər- } as in two different pronunciations  
 'ə-ɹ } of hurry \hər-ē, hā-rē\  
 a . . . . mat, map, mad, gag, snap, patch  
 ā . . . . day, fade, date, aorta, drape, cape  
 ä . . . . bother, cot, and, with most American speakers, father, cart  
 ă . . . . father as pronounced by speakers who do not rhyme it with bother  
 aʊ . . . . now, loud, out  
 b . . . . baby, rib  
 ch . . . . chin, nature \nā-chər\ (actually, this sound is \t\ + \sh\  
 d . . . . did, adder  
 e . . . . bet, bed, peck  
 'ē, ē beat, nosebleed, evenly, easy  
 ē . . . . easy, mealy  
 f . . . . fifty, cuff  
 g . . . . go, big, gift  
 h . . . . hat, ahead  
 hw . . . . whale as pronounced by those who do not have the same pronunciation for both whale and wail  
 i . . . . tip, banish, active  
 ī . . . . site, side, buy, tripe (actually, this sound is \ā\ + \i\, or \ā\ + \i\  
 j . . . . job, gem, edge, join, judge (actually, this sound is \d\ + \zh\  
 k . . . . kin, cook, ache  
 k̄ . . . . German ich, Buch  
 l . . . . lily, pool  
 m . . . . murmur, dim, nymph  
 n . . . . no, own  
 ɲ . . . . indicates that a preceding vowel or diphthong is pronounced with the nasal passages open, as in French un bon vin blanc \œⁿ-bōⁿ-vāⁿ-blāⁿ\  
 ŋ . . . . sing \siŋ\, singer \siŋ-ər\, finger \fiŋ-ər\, ink \iŋk\, thing \thiŋ\  
 ō . . . . bone, know, beau  
 ȯ . . . . saw, all, gnaw  
 œ . . . . French bœuf, German Hölle  
 Ȱ . . . . French feu, German Höhle  
 ȱ . . . . coin, destroy, sawing  
 p . . . . pepper, lip  
 ɹ . . . . rarity  
 s . . . . source, less  
 sh . . . . with nothing between, as in shy, mission, machine, special (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a hyphen between, two sounds as in death's-head \deths-hed\  
 t . . . . tie, attack  
 th . . . . with nothing between, as in thin, ether (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a hyphen between, two sounds as in knighthood \nīt-hūd\  
 th̄ . . . . then, either, this (actually, this is a single sound, not two)  
 ü . . . . rule, youth, union \yün-yən\, few \fyü\  
 ũ . . . . pull, wood, book, curable \kyür-ə-bəl\  
 ʉ . . . . German füllen, hübsch  
 ũ̄ . . . . French rue, German fühlen  
 v . . . . vivid, give  
 w . . . . we, away; in some words having final \,)ō\ a variant \ə-w\ occurs before vowels, as in \fāl-ə-wiŋ\, covered by the variant \ə(-w)\ at the entry word  
 y . . . . yard, young, cue \kyü\, union \yün-yən\  
 ȳ . . . . indicates that during the articulation of the sound represented by the preceding character the front of the tongue has substantially the position it has for the articulation of the first sound of yard, as in French digne \dēⁿy\  
 ȳü . . . . youth, union, cue, few, mute  
 yū . . . . curable, fury  
 z . . . . zone, raise  
 zh . . . . with nothing between, as in vision, azure \azh-ər\ (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a hyphen between, two sounds as in gazehound \gāz-haünd\

For syllable-final \i\, \u\, see \i\, \u\ in "Guide"

- \ . . . . slant line used in pairs to mark the beginning and end of a transcription: \pen\  
 ' . . . . mark preceding a syllable with primary (strongest) stress: \pen-mən-ship\  
 , . . . . mark preceding a syllable with secondary (next-strongest) stress: \pen-mən-ship\  
 - . . . . mark of syllable division  
 ( ) . . . . indicate that what is symbolized between is present in some utterances but not in others: factory \fak-t(ə-)rē\  
 15a

# A GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION

**\ə\** when a stress mark ( ' or , ) stands at the beginning of the syllable in which it occurs, this symbol, called *schwa*, is pronounced as in *bud* or *nut* or the last syllable of *aqueduct*; when the syllable in which it stands is without stress mark, it is pronounced as in the first syllable of *alone* or *occur* or as in the second syllable of *colony* or as in the last syllable of *abbot* or *famous* or *sabbath* or *circus*.

Formerly nearly all phonetic alphabets used for the vowel of *bud* a symbol different from that for the vowel of the second syllable of *abbot*, and some alphabets still do. Some who are familiar only with these alphabets find the use of **\ə\** in stressed syllables objectionable when they encounter it for the first time. But use of **\ə\** as a symbol for both unstressed and stressed vowel is rapidly increasing, and abandonment of a separate symbol for the vowel of *bud* parallels abandonment of former symbols for half-long *a*, *e*, and *o* in whose stead **\ā**, **\ē**, and **\ō** without stress mark are entirely adequate. With **\ə**-*bat* for *about* compare **\ē**-*zē* for *easy*, where the same vowel symbol is used in both a stressed and unstressed syllable.

The sound **\ə\** often intrudes between a vowel and a following **\i\** or **\r\** in words whose orthography has no letter answering to **\ə\**, as in *eel*, *aisle*, *mere*, *flour*. On the other hand, words often pronounced with **\ə\** between a vowel and **\i\** or **\r\** and written with a letter answering to **\ə\** may often or sometimes be pronounced without **\ə\**, as *dental*, *betrayal*, *theory*, *flower*, *aeronaut*, *puerile*, *diary*.

Many transcribers who record an epenthetic **\ə\** before **\r\** completely or largely ignore the same epenthesis before **\i\** and yet **\ə\** is often as distinctly heard in *frailty* as in *reality*, *cruelty*, *loyalty*. In spite of the fact that a context favorable to the presence or the absence of **\ə\** in *flower* is usually equally favorable to the presence or the absence of **\ə\** in *flour*, writers of metered verse usually treat a vowel + **\i\** or **\r\** of words like *denial* and *flower* as freely either disyllabic or monosyllabic but infrequently treat the vowel + **\i\** or **\r\** of words like *aisle* and *flour* as disyllabic. Therefore the transcriptions in this book parenthesize **\ə\** in both *flower* and *flour* but show a hyphen before the **\ə\** of *flower* and no hyphen before the **\ə\** of *flour*, thus:

**flower**    \ˈflaʊ(-ə)r\  
**flour**      \flaʊ(ə)r\  
              \flaʊ(ə)r\

A variant pronunciation without hyphen before the **\ə\** (e.g., \ˈflaʊ(ə)r\ at *flower*, \di-ˈnī(ə)\ is to be understood for all words in whose transcription \(-ə\) occurs, except in the sequence \ər(-ə)\ as at *pearl*. Words transcribed with \(-ə\) before a word-final **\i\** or **\r\** are more apt to retain the **\ə\** before a vowel-initial word following without pause than words transcribed only with \(-ə\) in such position.

For such words as *weary*, *erie*, which do not contain any of the orthographic sequences *ir*, *irr*, *yr*, *yr*, most dictionaries of English show the first vowel as something other than the vowel of *bid* or the first vowel of *mirror*, *pyrrhic*. American dictionaries have often used for the first syllable of *weary*, *erie* the same vowel symbol as for the first syllable of *beady*; \ˈwē-ri\ or \ˈwē-rē\, \ˈē-ri\ or \ˈē-rē\ are indeed often heard from speakers in the deep South. British dictionaries usually show the penult of these words as containing the vowel of the penult of *mirror* and *pyrrhic* but as having, unlike *mirror* and *pyrrhic*, **\ə\** between the **\i\** and the **\r\**: \ˈwiəri\, \ˈiəri\ . Some observers of American speech believe that many American speakers, especially in the region east of the Alleghenies, consistently have, like southern British speakers, **\iə\** in the penult of *weary* but only **\i\** in the penult of *mirror*. Webster's *Third New International Dictionary* usually shows no more than what may be regarded as the two extremes of variation of words like *weary*, \ˈwir- and \ˈwēr-, leaving the third variant, \ˈwiər-, to be inferred. In this *Collegiate* the pronunciation for *weary* is the less

space-consuming formula \ˈwi(ə)r-ē\ (= \ˈwir-ē, \ˈwiər-ē\), leaving the variant \ˈwē-rē\ to be inferred. We do not, however, transcribe \i(ə)\ in all environments in which some transcribers do. For example, **\ə\** following the **\r\** often seems less conducive than **\ē\** or **\i\** following the **\r\** to **\iə\** before the **\r\** in American speech. We accordingly show only **\i\** in *serum*, *appearance*, although both apparently usually have **\iə\** in southern British speech and the first at least often has **\ē\** in the deep South.

Certain disyllables, typically with only one intervocalic *r* and with a *a* or *ai* preceding and *y* or *ie* following, as *vary*, *fairy*, are usually shown as having **\aə\**, **\eə\**, or **\iə\** in their penult and as differing from *very* (with penultimate **\ə\**) and *carry* (with penultimate **\a\**). The treatment of *vary* and *fairy* in Webster's *Third New International Dictionary* and in this book parallels that of words like *weary* and *erie*. We are less confident than some observers, however, as to the extent and consistency of the distinction that penultimate **\ə\** maintains between words like *weary* and *vary* on the one hand and *mirror*, *very*, and *carry* on the other. Sentence-final *erie*, *vary* in "How utterly *erie*!", "They never *vary*" are more apt to be spoken with an **\ə\**-final penultimate diphthong in all varieties of American speech than weaker-stressed *very*, *Larry* of "not very good", "Larry Johnson". But we hear **\ə\** in words like *very* and *Larry* also when they are more prominent, as when *Very*! is the whole of a sentence or *Larry* is used vocatively.

No dialect of English appears to contain a class of disyllables that contrasts with disyllables like *fury* in that the penult of the one class has \(-y)uə\ or \(-y)ü\ whereas the penult of the other has \(-y)ü\ . Words like *fury* have traditionally been transcribed with \(-y)ü\ or \(-y)uə\ in the penult. Treatment in this book parallels that for *weary* and *vary*.

For words of the type *glory* the usual transcription in American dictionaries is with **\ō\** or **\ō\**, or both, in the penult. We show both **\ō\** and **\ō\**, and have a degree of misgiving that \(-ə\ might have been justifiable after the first. At least beyond much doubt \ˈglōr-ē\ is a better transcription than the often shown \ˈglō-rē\ for most speakers who have **\ō\** in the penult, although \ˈglō-ri\, with more of a diphthongizing \(-y)ü\ ending to the **\ō\** and with a more consonantal **\r\**, is often used in the deep South.

In words of the type *serious*, *various*, *furious*, and *glorious*, with antepenultimate rather than penultimate stress, a diphthongizing **\ə\**, although apparently usual in southern British speech, is rare in most varieties of U.S. speech and is not shown in this book. Thus pairs like *serious* and *Sirius* are rarely distinguished in this country except in the deep South, where *Sirius* has first-syllable **\i\** and *serious* may have first syllable **\ē\**, and the other three-syllable words mentioned have the same vowel as the related two-syllable words.

In three of the four classes of antepenultimate-stress words of which the foregoing statements are made—the classes to which belong *serious*, *various*, and *glorious*—two successive vowel sounds follow the **\r\**. Words in which a single vowel sound follows usually do not exhibit the same pronunciation pattern. Compare *imperial* but *imperative*, *posterior* but *posterity* (*experiment*, however, may have \ˈpīr-, especially in less cultivated speech, on the analogy of *experience*), *hilarious* but *hilarity* (the latter never or rarely has \ˈlār-,), *victorious* but *priority* (the latter never or rarely has \ˈōr-). The *u* of *security*, however, is of the same quality as the *u* of *curious*.

**\ə\** (preceding **\i\**, **\n\**, **\m\**, **\ŋ\**; for <sup>3</sup> following **\i\**, **\m\**, **\r\**, see below **\iː\**, **\mː\**, **\rː\**) printed as a superior character means that a consonant following it is a syllabic consonant, that is, a consonant that immediately follows another consonant without any vowel between, as in the second syllable of *battle* \ˈbat-ːl, *eaten* \ˈē-ːn, and in one pronunciation of



and as in *cap* and *bells* \,kəp-<sup>3</sup>m-'belz\ and in *lock* and *key* \lɒk-'ŋ-'kē\.

When the consonant next preceding the \l\ or \n\ of an unstressed syllable is other than \t\, \d\, \s\, \z\, or (before \l\ or \n\), there is room for doubt whether the nucleus of the unstressed syllable is syllabic \l\ or \n\ or is \ə\ between the two consonants.

\ə\ immediately following \l\, \m\, \r\ (used only in words borrowed from French) indicates that these sounds are like the *-le*, *-me*, and *-re* respectively of French *table*, *prisme*, *titre*, all of which are one-syllable words when so pronounced. In certain contexts in French and, with speakers who know something of the phonetics of French, in similar contexts in English, words such as these for which the vocabulary may show only \l\, \m\, \r\ have other variants. Illustrative examples, with fully French transcriptions:

*table* \tābl\—one syllable; before a pause\

*table* \tāb—one syllable; also before a pause; most frequent in rapid or informal speech\

*la table est belle* \lā-tā-blē-bel—four syllables; before a vowel following without pause\

*table de bois* \tā-blā-dā-bwā—four syllables; before a consonant following without pause\

*table de bois* \tāb-dā-bwā—three syllables; also before a consonant following without pause; most frequent in rapid or informal speech and in set phrases\

\ə-r-ər\ words like *demurrer* are so transcribed but in rapid speech the last syllable is much weakened or lost.

\a\ as in *mat*, *map*, *mad*, *gag*, *snap*, *patch*. For the vowel part of the words *map*, *mad*, *gag* most dictionaries use the same symbol, although two appreciably different vocalic sounds or sequences are heard from some speakers and three from others. For many speakers and for most items with other speakers the differences are susceptible to the explanation that one word has the sort of \a\ that occurs before \p\, the second the kind of \a\ that occurs before \d\, and the third the kind of \a\ that occurs before \g\, but for some speakers whose two *can*'s of "Let's can what we can" are vocally different such an explanation does not suffice. The number of such otherwise identical pairs consistently occurring in the speech of any one speaker is small enough, however, so that we follow the traditional practice of showing \a\ in *mad* and *gag* as well as in *map*. Words of the type of *vary*, *Carey*, *carious*, discussed in section on \ə\, are reported by observers of the speech of an area having New York City at its northern perimeter and Washington, D.C., at its southern, to have with a high percentage of speakers a stressed vowel like that of *mad*, *maddest* as spoken in the same area and to differ therein from words like *carry*, whose stressed vowel is like that of *map* as spoken in the same area. The discussion at the section on \ə\ provides clues to the identification of such words.

In words in which this dictionary shows only \ər\ some American speakers have \er\ instead, pronouncing both *marry* and *merry* \mer-ē\.

\ä\, \ʌ\ the symbol \ä\ represents the vowel of *cot* and *cod* in the speech of those who pronounce these words differently from *caught* and *cawed*. The \ä\ of some such speakers may vary appreciably from the \ʌ\ of other such speakers, the \ä\ of most Americans, for example, being articulated with the lips not or little rounded and being fairly long in duration before certain consonants. The \ä\ of many southern British speakers, on the other hand, is articulated with appreciable lip rounding and is short in duration in all contexts. \ä\ is to be understood, however, as covering all pronunciations of *cot*, *cod* that are different from *caught*, *cawed*.

The symbol \ʌ\ represents the *a* of *cart*, *card*, *father* in the speech of those who have for the *a* a sound different from the sound used for the *o* of *cot*, *cod*, *bother*. Because speakers of American English who have a sound requiring \ä\ for its representation are a decided minority, \ä\ is sparingly used in vocabulary transcriptions of English words (see last paragraph of this section). In transcriptions of foreign words, as French, \ä\ indicates a vowel with an articulation between that of the vowel of English *stack* and that of the most frequent American pronunciation of *stock*. In British and British-dialect pronunciations, as at Scottish *daw*, \ä\ indicates a vowel of fairly long duration.

The four words *stalk*, *stork*, *stock*, *stark* conveniently illustrate (with respect to the sound immediately follow-

ing the \t\ the variation in the pronunciation of these and rhyming words in the English-speaking world as a whole. With probably most American speakers *stalk* and *stork* have after the \t\ the same vowel, for which our symbol is \ö\, and *stock* and *stark* both have after the \t\ the same vowel, different from \ö\, for which our symbol is \ä\:

\ö\ *stalk*, *stork*    \ä\ *stock*, *stark*

In the vocabulary, these and rhyming words are so transcribed only, and departures from this pattern have to be supplied from the paragraphs that follow.

In southern British speech the grouping for these words is

*stalk*, *stork*;    *stock*;    *stark*

This grouping has been the traditional one for a long period even in American dictionaries, and symbols of the type \ö\, \o\, and \ä\, respectively, have usually been employed. But we strongly feel the desirability of emphasizing the sameness in most American speech of the vowels of *stock* and *stark*, and have no doubt that an *a*-based symbol is much more acceptable in a transcription of *stock* than an *o*-based in a transcription of *stark*. Our vowel symbols for the southern British pronunciation of these words would be

\ö\ *stalk*, *stork*    \ä\ *stock*    \ä\ *stark*

With many speakers in eastern New England these words group in one of the two following ways:

\ö\ *stalk*, *stork*, *stock*    \ä\ *stark*

\ö\ *stalk*, *stork*    \ö\ or \ä\ *stock*    \ä\ *stark*

In both southern British and eastern New England speech \ä\ occurs in a small number of words not having *ar* in the spelling and not shown with an \ä\ variant in the vocabulary transcription. The commonest of these are listed below.

In areas of the United States as disparate as western Pennsylvania and the Far West the four words group

\ö\ *stork*    \ä\ or \ö\ *stalk*, *stock*    \ä\ *stark*

Another grouping, heard in the Southwest, is

\ö\ *stalk*, *stork*, *stark*    \ä\ *stock*

With many in the New Orleans area either the grouping is the same or *stark* belongs in a middle group, with articulation between that of *stalk*, *stork* and that of *stock*.

In dialects in which \ä\ is to be understood instead of the \ʌ\ of our transcriptions, \ä\ occurs in words of the type of *stark*, *hearken* (in which the sound or sound sequence used for *ar*, *ear* is followed by a consonant), in words of the type of *star* (in which the sound or sound sequence used for *ar* is followed by pause when the word is sentence-final), in derivatives of words like *star* (as *starry*, *starred*), and in words in which *a* of the spelling is followed by a consonant letter other than *r* and is not preceded by *w* or *wh* (thus \ä\ may be the value of the *a* in *father*, *calm*, *Chicago* but not of the *a* in *watch*, *what*, *swap*; \ä\ does occur, however, in *quaff*, *waft*). \ä\ occurs also, with more consistency probably in southern British than in eastern New England speech, in certain words in which \ä\ is the usual American vowel and in most of which the vowel is immediately followed by \f\, \th\, \s\ (but not by \sh\), or by \n\ and a consonant. The following words and word constituents are among the most susceptible to the \ä\ pronunciation. It is to be understood for all of these items although in the vocabulary it is shown only for the dozen or so in which it occurs with especially high frequency.

*advānce*, *advāntage*, *aft*, *after*, *aghāst*, *Alexānder*, *answer*, *ask*, *aunt*, *avalānche*, *bask*, *basket*, *bath*, *behalf*, *blanch*, *Blanche*, *blast*, *branch*, *brass*, *calf*, *can't*, *cask*, *casket*, *cast*, *caste*, *caster*, *castle*, *castor*, *chaff*, *chance*, *chancel*, *chancellor*, *chancery*, *chandler*, *chant*, *clasp*, *class*, *craft*, *daft*, *dance*, *disaster*, *distaff*, *draft*, *draught*, *enchant*, *example*, *fast*, *fasten*, *flabbergāst*, *Flanders*, *flask*, *France*, *Frances*, *Francis*, *gasp*, *ghastly*, *giraffe*, *glance*, *glass*, *graff*, *grant*, *-graph*, *grass*, *grasp*, *half*, *halve*, *lance*, *last*, *lath*, *laugh*, *-mand*, *mask*, *mast*, *master*, *nasty*, *pass*, *past*, *pastor*, *path*, *plant*, *plaster*, *prance*, *raft*, *rafter*, *rāscal*, *rasp*, *raspberry*, *repast*, *salve* (n), *sample*, *sampler*, *Sanders* (on), *shaft*, *shan't*, *slander*, *slant*, *staff*, *stanchion*, *supplant*, *task*, *trance*, *transvāntage*, *vast*