

# THE WORLD BOOK DICTIONARY

Vol.2 L-Z

# The World Book Dictionary

**Volume two L-Z**

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# The World Book Dictionary

Volume two A-Z

## 1981 Edition

### The World Book Dictionary

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# Pronunciation

Say aloud the words *far*, *fat*, and *face*, and you can hear immediately that there are more sounds in English than letters in the alphabet. To make up the difference, this dictionary uses a special set of symbols that tell you how to pronounce the words you look up. The pronunciation follows the word in this way: **dic|tion|ar|y** (dik'shə ner'ē). Each symbol represents a specific sound, as indicated in the short pronunciation key on almost every right-hand page in this dictionary.

Diacritical marks appear above some symbols. These marks indicate specific sounds for the symbols with which they appear. The diacritical marks are:

*circumflex* (sēr'kəm fleks)—the mark over the ô, as in *order*.

*dieresis* (dī er'ə sis)—two dots over the ä, as in *father*, or the ü, as in *rule*.

*macron* (mā'kron)—the long mark over the ā, as in *age*; the ē, as in *equal*; the ī, as in *ice*; and the ō, as in *open*.

*single dot*—over the è in the èr, as in *term*, and over the ù, as in *full*.

*tilde* (til' də)—the curved mark over the ã, as in *care*.

Stress marks show which syllables to emphasize. A heavy stress mark [ˈ] follows the syllable with primary or strong accent. A light stress mark [ˌ] follows the syllable with secondary or lighter accent.

Some words taken from foreign languages are spoken with sounds that otherwise do not occur in English. Symbols for these sounds are given in the complete pronunciation key on this page.

## Complete pronunciation key

a	hat, cap	oi	oil, voice	<b>Non-English sounds</b>	
ā	age, face	ou	house, out		Y as in French <i>du</i> . Pronounce ē with the lips rounded as for English ü in <i>rule</i> .
ã	care, air	p	paper, cup		
ä	father, far	r	run, try	œ	as in French <i>peu</i> . Pronounce ā with the lips rounded as for ô.
b	bad, rob	s	say, yes		
ch	child, much	sh	she, rush	N	as in French <i>bon</i> . The N is not pronounced, but shows that the vowel before it is nasal.
d	did, red	t	tell, it		
e	let, best	th	thin, both		
ē	equal, see	ʔH	then, smooth	H	as in German <i>ach</i> . Pronounce k without closing the breath passage.
èr	term, learn	u	cup, butter		
f	fat, if	ù	full, put		
g	go, bag	ü	rule, move	ä	as in French <i>ami</i> . The quality of this vowel is midway between the a of <i>hat</i> and the ä of <i>far</i> , but closer to the former.
h	he, how	v	very, save		
i	it, pin	w	will, woman		
ī	ice, five	y	young, yet		
j	jam, enjoy	z	zero, breeze		
k	kind, seek	zh	measure, seizure		
l	land, coal				
m	me, am	ə	represents:		
n	no, in	a	in about		
ng	long, bring	e	in taken		
o	hot, rock	i	in pencil		
ō	open, go	o	in lemon		
ô	order, all	u	in circus		



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# L

\***L** or **l** (el), *n.*, *pl.* **L's** or **Ls**, **l's** or **ls**. 1 the 12th letter of the English alphabet. There are two **l's** in *ball*. 2 any sound represented by this letter. 3 (used as a symbol for) the 12th, or more usually 11th (of an actual or possible series, either **l** or **j** being omitted): *row L in a theater*. 4 the Roman numeral for 50.

**L**<sup>2</sup> (el), *n.*, *pl.* **L's**. anything shaped like the letter **L**. An extension to a building at right angles with the main part or a joint connecting two pipes at right angles are **L's**.

**L**<sup>3</sup> (el), *n.* an elevated railroad: *The Third Avenue "L" gave up the ghost ... in its seventy-seventh year, leaving no descendants* (New Yorker). Also, *el*. [for *el*, short for *elevated*]

**L**- or **l**-, combining form. *levo-* (left-handed) in configuration: *l-glucose = levoglucose*. Most amino acids, including glutamic acid ..., can exist in two forms called **D**- and **L**-, distinguished by their effect on polarized light (New Scientist). [**L** = *levo-*]

**l** or **l** (no period), an abbreviation for the following:

- 1 book (Latin; *liber*).
- 2 latitude.
- 3 leaf.
- 4 league.
- 5 left.
- 6 length.
- 7 *pl. ll. line*.
- 8 link.
- 9 lira or liras; lire (Italian money).
- 10 liter or liters.
- 11 locus.
- 12 low.

**L** (no period), an abbreviation or symbol for the following:

- 1 Electricity. coefficient of self-inductance.
- 2 Large (especially of garment sizes).
- 3 Latin.
- 4 Lebanese (as in *£L*, the Lebanese pound).
- 5 Libra (constellation).
- 6 longitude.
- 7 luminosity (of stellar bodies).

**L**, an abbreviation for the following:

- 1 book (Latin; *liber*).
- 2 Lady.
- 3 Lake.
- 4 Latin.
- 5 left (in stage directions).
- 6 length.
- 7 Liberal (Party).
- 8 line.
- 9 Botany. Linnaeus.
- 10 lira or liras; lire (Italian money).
- 11 longitude.

**£**, pound or pounds sterling. [for Latin *libra*]

**la**<sup>1</sup> (lä), *n.* the sixth tone of the diatonic scale. [**L** Latin *la*]. See *etym.* under *gamut*.]

**la**<sup>2</sup> (lä, lö), *interj.* *Archaic*, an exclamation of surprise. [variant of *lo*]

**la**<sup>3</sup> (lä), *French*, the (feminine singular definite article).

**La** (no period), lanthanum (chemical element).

**La**, Louisiana.

**LA** (no periods), Louisiana (with postal Zip Code).

**LA**, 1 Library Association. 2 Los Angeles.

**laager** (lä'ger), *n.*, *v.* — *n.* a camp or encampment, especially a camp in the open country protected by a circle of wagons: *To South Africa's 17th century settlers, "going into laager" meant forming a circle with their covered wagons to defend themselves against attacks by native tribes.* To their present-day descendants, it means turning increasingly to the repressive strictures of 'apartheid' to protect themselves against the nonwhite majority (Time).

— *v.t.*, *v.i.* to arrange or encamp in a laager.

Also, *lager*.

[**L** Afrikaans *laager*, probably **L** German *Lager*]

**lab** (lab), *n.* *Informal*. laboratory: *Rubber research is carried out by a host of firms, and in labs dotted from New England to Southern California* (Wall Street Journal).

**lab**, 1a labor. b laborer. 2 laboratory.

**Lab**, 1 Labrador. 2 British. a Labour (Party). b Labourite.

**labian** (lab'ən, lä'bən), *n.* a thick, semi-solid or liquid food similar to yogurt, made from curdled milk in parts of North Africa and the Middle East. [**L** Arabic *laban*]

**Laban** (lä'bən), *n.* the father of Leah and Rachel, the wives of Jacob (in the Bible, Genesis 29:13-29).

**Labanotation** (lä'bə nō tä'shən, lä'-), *n.* a method of noting and recording dance movements and arrangements. [**L** Rudolf von Laban, a Hungarian-German dance teacher, who devised and wrote about the method in 1923]

**Laban system** (lä'bən, lä'bən), = *Labanotation*.

**labarum** (lab'er əm), *n.*, *pl.* -arums, -ara (-ər ə).

1 a banner of purple silk having the monogram of Christ on it, borne at the head of the Roman armies after the conversion of Constantine the Great. 2 a banner or standard borne in ecclesiastical processions of the Roman Catholic Church. 3 any symbolic banner or standard. [**L** Late Latin *labarum* imperial banner **L** Latin, a military banner **L** Greek *labaron*]

**labba** (lab'e), *n.* = *paca*. [**L** a native name]

**labdanum** (lab'də nəm), *n.* a soft, dark-colored gum resin that exudes from various rockroses, much used in perfumery, cosmetics, and formerly in medicines. Also, *ladanum*. [alteration of Latin *lādanum* (influenced by Greek *lābda*, variant of *lāmbda*) **L** Greek *lādanon* gum from the *lādan* mastic]

**labefaction** (lab'ə fak'shən), *n.* a shaking or weakening; overthrow; downfall: *labefaction of the government*. [**L** Late Latin *labefactio*, -ōnis **L** Latin *labefacere* shake, loosen **L** *labāre* to totter + *facere* make]

**label** (lä'bəl), *n.*, *v.* — *beled*, -belling or (especially British) — *belled*, -belling. — *n.* 1 a slip of paper, cardboard, metal, or other material attached to anything and marked to show what or whose it is, or where it is to go: *Can you read the label on the bottle?* 2 a word or short phrase used to describe some person, thing, or idea; *epithet*: *In winter, Chicago deserves its label of "the Windy City."* 3 a narrow strip of material attached to a document to carry the seal. 4 U.S. an identifying mark or brand: *The workers were urged by the delegates not to spread rumors that the brewery and its label were to be sold* (New York Times). 5 a company producing phonograph records: *A new label, Washington Records, has made a noteworthy initial release* (Better Listening). 6 *Architecture*. a dripstone or other molding across the top of a door or window, especially one that also extends downward at the sides. 7 *Archaic*. a narrow band or strip of linen or other cloth, such as a fillet, ribbon, or tassel: *a knit night-cap ... With two long labels button'd to his chin* (Bishop Joseph Hall). 8 *Heraldry*. a narrow band with pendants, used especially to distinguish the oldest son during his father's life.

— *v.t.* 1 to put or write a label on: *The bottle is labeled "Poison."* *syn:* tag. 2 to describe as; call; name: *He labeled the boastful boy a liar.* *syn:* designate. 3 to infuse or treat (a substance) with a radioactive chemical or isotope so that its course or activity can be noted: *The movement of sugar in plants was studied in Canada by using sugars "labeled" with radioactive carbon (C14)* (Harold William Rickett).

[**L** Old French *label*; origin uncertain] — *la'bellier*, especially British, *la'bellier*, *n.*

**labellate** (le bel'ät), *adj.* lippled; labiate. [**L** Latin *labellum* + English -ate]

**la belle époque** (lä bel' ä pök'), *French*. 1 the period at the turn of the century: *Was the age of Kipling and the Kaiser, McKinley and Dreyfus, really "la belle époque," the sunny Edwardian afternoon it is often nostalgically painted?* (Listener). 2 (literally) the beautiful epoch.

**la belle province** (lä bel' prō vāns'), *French*. 1 (in Canada) a nickname for Quebec. 2 (literally) the beautiful province.

**labelloid** (le bel'oid), *adj.* shaped like a labellum.

**labellum** (le bel'əm), *n.*, *pl.* -bella (-bel'e). 1 the large, liplike, middle petal of an orchid, usually

different in shape and color from the other two. 2 a liplike part at the tip of the proboscis of various insects, used for lapping up liquids. [**L** Latin *labellum* (diminutive) **L** *labium* lip]

**labia** (lä'bē ə), *n.* plural of *labium*.

**labial** (lä'bē əl), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* 1 of the lips: *vibrations of the labial palps of hawk moths*. 2 having to do with or like a labium. 3 *Phonetics*. pronounced with the lips closed, nearly closed, or rounded. 4 *Music*. having tones produced by the impact of an air current on the edge of a lip, such as that of a flute or an organ flue pipe.

— *n.* 1 *Phonetics*. a sound pronounced with the lips closed, nearly closed, or rounded. *B, p,* and *m* are labials. 2 *Music*. a flue pipe, as distinguished from a reed pipe.

[**L** Medieval Latin *labialis* **L** Latin *labium* lip] — *la'bially*, *adv.*

**labialism** (lä'bē ə liz'əm), *n.* *Phonetics*. a tendency to labialize sounds; labial pronunciation.

**labialization** (lä'bē ə le zä'shən), *n.* *Phonetics*. 1 the action of labializing. 2 the condition of being labialized.

**labialize** (lä'bē ə līz), *v.t.* — *ized*, -izing. *Phonetics*. 1 to give a labial character to (a sound). 2 to round (a vowel).

**labia majora** (mə jōr'ə, jōr'), *Anatomy*. the outer folds at the opening of the vulva. [**L** New Latin *labia majora* greater lips]

**labia minora** (mi nōr'ə, nōr'), *Anatomy*. the inner folds at the opening of the vulva. [**L** New Latin *labia minora* lesser lips]

**labiate** (lä'bē ät, -it), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* 1 having one or more liplike parts. 2 *Botany*. a having the corolla or calyx divided into two parts suggesting lips. *b* belonging to or having to do with the mint family.

— *n.* a labiate plant.

[**L** New Latin *labiatu* **L** Latin *labium* lip]

**labiated** (lä'bē ä'tid), *adj.* = *labiate*.

**labile** (lä'bəl), *adj.* 1 having the tendency to undergo displacement in position or change in nature, form, or composition; unstable: *a labile chemical solution*. 2 likely to lapse: *a labile trust fund*. 3 moving over the part treated. *Labile* electrodes are used in medical diagnosis. [**L** Latin *lābilis* **L** *lābī* to slip, lapse]

**lability** (le bil'ē tē), *n.*, *pl.* -ties. instability of form or character.

**labilization** (lä'bē le zä'shən), *n.* the process of making or condition of being unstable.

**labilize** (lä'bē līz), *v.t.* — *lized*, -lizing. to make unstable: *to labilize a chemical compound*.

**labio-**, combining form. made with the lips and \_\_\_\_\_. *Labiodental* = made with the lips and teeth. [**L** Latin *labium* lip]

**labiodental** (lä'bē dən'täl), *adj.*, *n.* *Phonetics*. — *adj.* made with the lower lip and the upper teeth; made with the lips and teeth.

— *n.* a labiodental sound. *F* and *v* are labiodentals.

**labionasal** (lä'bē ð nā'zəl), *adj.*, *n.* *Phonetics*. — *adj.* made with the lips, but with the breath stream passing out through the nose.

— *n.* a labionasal sound. *M* is a labionasal.

**labiovelar** (lä'bē ð vē'lər), *adj.*, *n.* *Phonetics*. — *adj.* made with rounded lips and with the back of the tongue toward or against the soft palate.

— *n.* a labiovelar sound. *W* is a labiovelar.

**labium** (lä'bē əm), *n.*, *pl.* -bia. 1 a lip or liplike part, such as a portion of the corolla of certain flowers or the organ that constitutes the lower lip of an insect. 2 the inner margin of the opening of a gastropod's shell. [**L** Latin *labium* lip]

**lablab** (lab'lab), *n.* 1 a vine of the pea family, with edible seeds, native to India but widely cultivated in other warm countries; hyacinth bean. 2 any one of various related species. [**L** Arabic *lablāb*]

**labor** (lä'bər), *n.*, *v.*, *adj.* — *n.* 1 effort in doing or making something; work; toil: *The carpenter was well paid for his labor*. *Labor disgraces no man* (Ulysses S. Grant). *syn:* exertion, effort. See *syn.* under *work*. 2 a piece of work to be done; task: *The king gave Hercules twelve labors to perform*. *Our life is but a little holding, lent to do a mighty labour* (George Meredith). 3a work, especially manual work, done by skilled and unskilled workers for wages: *Digging ditches is labor*. b the work of human beings that produces goods or services. *Land, labor, and capital* are the three principal factors of production. *Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital* (Abraham Lincoln).

\***L**<sup>1</sup>  
definition 1

*Script letters look like*

examples of fine penmanship. They appear in many formal uses, such as invitations to social functions.

*Handwritten letters, both*

manuscript or printed (left) and cursive (right), are easy for children to read and to write.

*Roman letters have*

serifs (finishing strokes) adapted from the way Roman stonecutters carved their letters. This is *Times Roman* type.

*Sans-serif letters are*

often called *gothic*. They have lines of even width and no serifs. This type face is called *Helvetica*.

*Between roman and gothic,*

some letters have thick and thin lines with slight flares that suggest serifs. This type face is *Optima*.

*Computer letters can be*

sent by machines either from their shapes or from the magnetic ink with which they are printed.

**4a** skilled and unskilled workers as a group: *Labor favors safe working conditions. Labor's function is to join with ... management in the common enterprise of meeting the needs of the universal consumer* (Emory S. Bogardus). **b** labor unions as a group: *The traditional allies of labor, those who struggle for civil rights, social welfare, the needs of the poor, ... should think of organized labor again as their first call for friends and for continuing significant support* (Victor Gotbaum). **5** the physical exertions of childbirth before delivery: *She was in labor for two hours.* **syn:** parturition, travail.

— **v.i.** 1 to do work, especially hard work; toil: *He labored all day at the mill.* 2 to move slowly and heavily: *The old car labored as it climbed the steep hill.* 3 to be burdened, troubled, or distressed: *to labor under a mistake or a handicap.* 4 to be long and drawn out; be elaborate. 5 to be in labor during childbirth.

— **v.t.** 1 to elaborate with effort or in detail: *The speaker labored the point so long that we lost interest.* 2 *Archaic.* to till; cultivate. 3 *Archaic.* to work or strive to bring about or achieve.

— **adj.** of or having to do with labor: *a labor shortage, labor leaders.* Also, *Especially British labor.*

[< Old French *labour*, learned borrowing from Latin *labor*, -ōris toil, pain]

**laboiraire est oraire** (lab'ə rār'ē est ō rār'ē), *Latin.* 1 work is prayer. 2 (literally) to work is to pray.

**laboiraitorial** (lab'ə rōr'ē al, -tōr'; lab're-), *adj.* having to do with the laboratory. — **lab'oiratoirially**, *adv.*

**laboiraitorialian** (lab'ə rōr'ē an, -tōr'; lab're-), *n., adj.* — **n.** a person who works in a laboratory. — **adj.** = laboratorial.

**laboratory** (lab'ər ə tōr'ē, -tōr'; lab're-), *n., pl. -ries, adj.* — **n.** 1 a place where scientific work is done; a room or building fitted with apparatus for conducting scientific investigations, experiments, or tests: *a chemical laboratory.* 2 a place equipped for manufacturing such products as chemicals, medicines, or explosives. 3 any place, not a classroom or library, equipped for systematic study: *a reading laboratory.*

— **adj.** used or performed in, or having to do with a laboratory: *a laboratory animal, a laboratory experiment. Automation is overtaking even the highly trained medical laboratory technician* (Science News Letter).

[< Medieval Latin *laboratorium* < Latin *labōrāre* to work < *labor*, -ōris work, toil]

**laboratory animal**, any animal commonly used for experiments in a laboratory, such as guinea pigs and mice: *A laboratory animal, such as a rabbit ... reacts to any protein from a source outside its body in the same way it does to invading disease germs* (Fred W. Emerson).

**laboratory school**, a school for the observation and study of children and evaluation of teaching methods; campus school. It is usually part of the department of education of a university or college.

**labor camp**, 1 a concentration camp for political prisoners in totalitarian countries and for common criminals sentenced to hard labor. 2 a place providing facilities for migratory workers.

**Labor Day**, the first Monday in September, a legal holiday in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada in honor of labor and laborers.

**labored** (lā'bərd), *adj.* done with much effort; not easy or natural; forced: *labored breathing.* ... the trouble is [his] labored writing, which for the most part is as frothy as yesterday's spaghetti (Clive Barnes). **syn:** laborious, studied, constrained. See **syn.** under **elaborate**. — **lab'oredly**, *adv.* — **lab'oredness**, *n.*

**laborer** (lā'bər ər), *n.* 1 a person who does work requiring much physical labor: *A field hand on a farm is a laborer.* 2 a worker.

**labor exchange**, an employment office, especially in Great Britain, that helps to find jobs and makes job-payment benefits.

**labor force**, 1 the work force of a country. The labor force of the United States comprises all the employable people 16 years old or over. 2 any work force.

**laboring** (lā'bər ing), *adj.* 1 that labors, especially that is engaged in manual or mechanical labor: *the laboring man.* 2 struggling, as under difficulty, emotion, stress, or other burden: *an occasional sigh from the laboring heart of the Captain* (Longfellow). 3 rolling or pitching, as a ship. — **lab'oringly**, *adv.*

**labor-intensity** (lā'bər in ten'se tē), *n.* the condition of being labor-intensive.

**labor-intensive** (lā'bər in ten'siv), *adj.* requiring more money for labor than for machines or materials: *Publishing is a labor-intensive industry. The service sectors have in common the fact*

*that they are disproportionately labor-intensive rather than capital-intensive, even though some sectors (particularly transportation and communication) have extremely high ratios of capital to output* (W. Halder Fisher).

**laborious** (lə'bōr'ē es, -bōr'-), *adj.* 1 needing or taking much effort; requiring hard work: *Hoing a garden is laborious.* **syn:** toilsome, arduous, onerous, wearisome. 2 showing signs of effort; not easy; labored: *The girl who was always late made up laborious excuses.* 3 willing to work hard; industrious: *Bees and ants are laborious workers.* **syn:** diligent. [< Latin *labōriōsus* < *labor*, -ōris labor] — **lab'oriously**, *adv.* — **lab'oriousness**, *n.*

**laborism** (lā'bər iz əm), *n.* 1 the principles or tenets of a Labor Party, especially the British Labor Party. 2 adherence to these principles.

**laborist** (lā'bər ist), *n.* 1 a supporter of Laborism, especially British Laborism. 2 = Laborite.

**laboristic** (lā'bər is'tik), *adj.* of labor; tending to favor labor: *The production of wealth is almost wholly capitalistic; the distribution of wealth is largely laboristic* (Wall Street Journal).

**laborite** (lā'bər it), *n.* a person who supports the interests of workers.

**Laborite** (lā'bər it), *n.* a member of a Labor Party.

**laborless** (lā'bər lis), *adj.* free from labor; doing or requiring no labor.

**labor market**, the supply of labor in relation to the demand for it.

**labor of love**, any work done with eager willingness, either from fondness for the work itself or from affection for the person for whom the work is done.

**labor omni'a vincit** (lā'bōr om'nē a vin'sit), *Latin.* labor conquers all things (the motto of the state of Oklahoma).

**labor organization**, any group of workers legally empowered to deal with employers on labor disputes, grievances, or conditions of employment, especially as a labor union.

**labor pains**, 1 the muscular contractions and pains of childbirth. 2 the difficulties encountered at the beginning of an endeavor or enterprise: *the labor pains of starting a new book.*

**Labor Party**, any political party organized to protect and promote the interests of workers.

**labor relations**, the study or practice of improving relations between labor and management.

**labor-saving** or **laborsaving** (lā'bər sāv'ing), *adj.* that takes the place of or lessens labor: *A washing machine is a labor-saving device. The neat labor-saving cook-stove had as yet no being* (Harriet Beecher Stowe).

**labor skate**, *U.S. Slang.* a labor unionist: *These were no local cops picking up a labor skate for disturbing the peace* (Newsweek).

**laborisome** (lā'bər sēm), *adj.* laborious or toilsome. — **lab'orisomely**, *adv.*

**labor turnover**, 1 the number of new workers hired in place of workers who have left their jobs. 2 the proportion of new workers hired to the average number of workers an employer has working for him: *In many industries men are "hired and fired" freely, and a labor turnover of 100 per cent in a year has been known to occur* (Emory S. Bogardus).

**labor union**, a group of workers joined to protect and promote their interests, especially by dealing as a group with their employers; union.

**labor unionist**, a member of a labor union: *Labor unionists believe in collective bargaining* (Emory S. Bogardus).

**labour** (lā'bər), *n., v.i., v.t., adj.* *Especially British.* labor. — **lab'oured**, *adj.* — **lab'ourier**, *n.* — **lab'ouring**, *adj.*

**labour** (lā'bər), *adj.* of or having to do with the Labour Party: *a Labour politician.*

**Labourite** (lā'bər it), *n.* a member of the British Labour Party: *A large majority of the Labourites in Parliament disapproved.* **Abbr.** Lab.

**Labor Party**, a political party in Great Britain that claims especially to protect the rights and advance the interests of working people. It is one of the two major British political parties and was founded by the trade unions late in the 1800's but has attracted much middle-class and intellectual support.

**Labourwallah** (lā'bər wol'ə), *n.* (in Kenya and some other parts of eastern Africa) a prominent member of the Labour movement.

**labra** (lā'bṛə, lab're), *n.* plural of **labrum**.

**Labrador** (lab'rə dōr), *n.* = Labrador retriever.

**Labrador blue**, a very dark blue color.

**Labrador Current**, a current of cold water that rises in the Arctic Ocean and flows along the coast of Labrador to a point near Newfoundland, where it meets the Gulf Stream.

**Labrador duck**, a sea duck of the northern Atlantic coast of North America, extinct since the 1870's, the male of which was black with white head and markings.

**labradoriscent** (lab'rə dō res'əns), *n.* the brilliant play of colors exhibited by labradorite.

**Labradorian** (lab'rə dōr'ē ən), *adj., n.* — **adj.** of or having to do with the peninsula of Labrador, in northeastern North America.

— **n.** a native or inhabitant of Labrador.

**labradorite** (lab'rə dōr'it, lab're dōr'-), *n.* a mineral, a kind of feldspar, that shows a brilliant display of colors when light strikes it. Architects use plates of rock containing labradorite to ornament buildings. [< *Labrador*, where it is found + -ite']

**labradoritic** (lab'rə dō rit'ik), *adj.* of or like labradorite.

**Labrador retriever**, a medium-sized hunting dog used on land or water to retrieve game. It has a thick, water-resistant coat and is black, chocolate, or yellow in color. The breed originated in Newfoundland.

**Labrador tea**, 1 any of a group of low, evergreen shrubs of the heath family, growing in bogs and swamps of arctic and subarctic regions. 2 tea made with the leaves of a plant of this group.

**labral** (lā'bṛəl, lab'rəl), *adj.* of a labrum or liplike part.

**labret** (lā'bret), *n.* an ornament stuck into or through the lip. Labrets are often a piece of wood, stone, bone, or shell worn by certain primitive peoples. [< *labrum* + -et']

**labroid** (lab'roid), *adj., n.* — **adj.** of or having the spiny fins and thick lips characteristic of the family of fishes including the wrasses.

— **n.** any fish belonging to this family.

[< New Latin *Labroidea* the family name < *Labrus* the typical genus < Latin *labrum* lip; see etym. under **labrum**]

**labrum** (lā'bṛəm, lab'rəm), *n., pl. labra* (lā'bṛə, lab're), 1 a lip or liplike part. 2 *Zoology.* a the upper lip of insects and certain other arthropods.

b the outer margin of the opening of a gastropod shell. [< Latin *labrum* lip, related to *labium* labium]

**laburnum** (lə bér'nəm), *n.* a small, poisonous tree or shrub with hanging clusters of bright-yellow flowers. There are several kinds of laburnum, including the golden chain, all belonging to the pea family; all are native to Asia or Europe. [< Latin *laburnum*]

**labware** (lab'wār'), *n.* utensils, as of glass, porcelain, or metal, that are used in a laboratory: *Like all Pyrex labware, these coils are corrosion resistant* (Scientific American). [< *lab* + *ware*]

**labyrinth** (lab'ə rinth), *n.* *Greek Mythology.* the maze built by Daedalus for King Minos of Crete to imprison the Minotaur. [< Latin *labyrinthus* < Greek *labyrinthos*]

**\*labyrinth** (lab'ə rinth), *n.* 1 a number of connecting passages so arranged that it is hard to find one's way from point to point; maze. 2a any confusing, complicated arrangement, such as of streets or buildings: *We could not find our way out of the labyrinth of dark and narrow streets.* b *Figurative.* a confusing, complicated state of affairs: *Undeniably he [Charles de Gaulle] had resurrected French strength by leading the nation out of the colonial labyrinth* (John C. Cairns). **syn:** intricacy, complexity. 3 *Anatomy.* the inner ear, consisting of a bony and a membranous part. The labyrinth holds the end fibers of the auditory nerves. [< *Labyrinth*] — **lab'yirinthlike**, *adj.*

#### \*labyrinth

definition 1



hedge labyrinth

**labyrinth** (lab'ə rin'thel), *adj.* = labyrinthine. **labyrinth fish**, any tropical fish of a group that is brightly colored and has a cavity above the gills for storing air.

**labyrinthian** (lab'ə rin'thē ən), *adj.* = labyrinthine.

**labyrinthic** (lab'ə rin'thik), *adj.* = labyrinthine. — **lab'yirinthically**, *adv.*

**labyrinthical** (lab'ə rin'the kəl), *adj.* = labyrinthine.

**labyrinthine** (lab'ə rin'thin, -thēn), *adj.* 1 of or forming a labyrinth: *labyrinthine passages.*

2 *Figurative.* confusing and complicated; intricate: *... down the labyrinthine ways Of my own mind* (Francis Thompson). **syn:** involved, inextricable.

**labyrinthitis** (lab'ə rin'thītis), *n.* inflammation of the inner ear.

**labyrinthodont** (lab'ə rin'thōdŏn), *n.* = labyrinthodont.

**labyrinthodont** (lab'ə rin'thōdŏn), *adj., n.* — **adj.** 1 having teeth with a labyrinthlike internal



structure. 2 of or having to do with a family of large, sometimes huge, extinct amphibians, with a labyrinthlike tooth structure.

— *n.* a labyrinthodont amphibian: *Some primitive fossil labyrinthodonts probably were ancestral to the oldest reptiles and so to all higher land vertebrates* (Tracy I. Storer).

[< Greek *labyrinthos* + *odous*, *odontos* tooth]  
**labyrinth spider**, a spider that spins a tangled web to hide from its prey and a nearly circular web anchored at various points around the circumference in which to catch insects.

**lac** (lak), *n.* a sticky substance deposited on various trees in southern Asia by scale insects. Lac is used especially in making sealing wax, varnish, red dye, and shellac. [*< Hindustani lākḥ < Sanskrit lākṣā. See related etym. at lacquer.*]

**lac** (lak), *n.*, *adj.* = lakh.

**lac** (lak), *adj.* of or having to do with the lac operon: *The lac repressor binds to DNA that contains the lac genes but not to DNA without lac genes* (Scientific American). [*< lac(tose)*]

**Lacandon** (lā kān dōn'), *n.*, *pl.* -don, -doines (-dō'nās). a member of a small primitive tribe of Indians, believed to be descendants of the Mayas, living in southern Mexico near Guatemala.

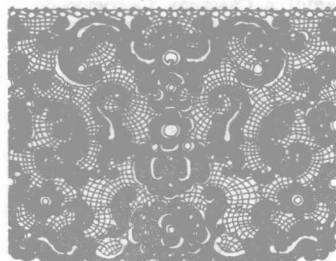
**laccate** (lak'āt), *adj.* having the appearance of being lacquered: *laccate leaves*.

**laccolite** (lak'ə līt), *n.* = laccolith.

**laccolith** (lak'ə līt), *n.* a large mass of igneous rock that has spread on rising from below, causing the overlying strata to bulge upward in a domelike formation. [*< Greek lakkos storage pit, reservoir, pond + lithos stone*]

## \*lace

definition 1



\*lacebug



\*lacewing

**\*lace** (lās), *n.*, *v.*, *laced*, *lacing*. — *n.* 1 an open weaving or net of fine thread in an ornamental pattern. 2 a cord, string, or leather strip passed through holes to pull or hold together the opposite edges of a shoe, garment, or the like: *These shoes need new laces*. 3 gold or silver braid used for trimming: *Some uniforms have lace on them*. 4 a dash of brandy, whiskey, or other liquor added to such beverages as coffee or tea. — *v.t.* 1 to trim with lace: *the white-laced collar of a velvet dress*. 2 to put laces through; pull or hold together with a lace or laces: *Lace your shoes*. 3 to adorn or trim with narrow braid: *His uniform was laced with gold*. 4a to interlace; intertwine: *... a black cotton laced with just enough orlon to keep it from wilting* (New Yorker). *... his oral reports to the F.B.I. were laced with falsehoods* (New York Times). *Though only a story it is laced with many exciting facts about the Revolutionary War*. b to mix; blend (with): *... found that sawdust laced with oatmeal makes a much better soil for mushroom farming* (Scientific American). 5 to mark with streaks; streak: *a white petunia laced with purple*. A waterfall of foam, lacing the black rocks, with a thousand snowy streams (Charles Kingsley). *Four-lane highways lace the island*. 6 informal. to lash; beat; thrash. 7 to add a dash of brandy, whiskey, or other alcoholic liquor, to (a beverage, especially coffee): *Let's go drink a dish of laced coffee, and talk of the times* (William Wycherley). *syn:* flavor. 8 to squeeze in the waist of (a person) by drawing the laces of a corset tight. *syn:* compress. 9 to spread a network over or through: *If any nation were to begin lacing the earth's waters with ... bombs ...* (New Yorker). — *v.i.* to be laced: *These shoes lace easily*. **lace into**, informal. a to attack by striking again and again; lash: *One of the two quarreling boys suddenly laced into the other, knocking him*

down. b to criticize severely: *The coach laced into the team for not trying harder to win*. [*< Old French laz < Latin laqueus noose. See etym. of doublet lasso.*] — *lace'like'*, *adj.* — *lac'er*, *n.*

**lacebark** (lās'bārk'), *n.* = lacewood.

**\*lacebug** (lās'bug'), *n.* a sucking insect with lace-like markings on the body and wings. It sucks the juices of broadleaf evergreens.

**lace-curtain** (lās'kér'ten), *adj.* 1 fancy; pretentious: *Maybe if I describe the game in another, less lace-curtain way it will be easier to see* (Scientific American). 2 characteristic of the middle class, sometimes emphasizing a pretentious but proper or genteel manner: *He is a man with a strong middle-class provincial, even, lace-curtain ... background* (Harper's).

**Lacédæmōnīan** (las'ə di mō'nē ən), *adj.*, *n.* = Spartan.

**lace fern**, a small fern having the underside of the frond covered with matted wool.

**laceflower** (lās'flou'ər), *n.* 1 a small, delicate blue flower of an Australian plant of the parsley family. 2 the plant.

**lace glass**, a Venetian glass with white lacelike designs contained in the body of clear glass; lat-ticino.

**laceleaf** (lās'lēf'), *n.*, *pl.* -leaves. = latticelaf.

**laceless** (lās'lis), *adj.* without laces: *Loafers and most slippers are laceless shoes*.

**lace-making** (lās'mā'king), *n.* the art or process of making lace.

**lace paper**, paper cut or stamped in imitation of lace.

**lace pillow**, a round or oval board with a stuffed covering, held on the knees to support the fabric when making pillow lace.

**lacerability** (las'er ə bil'ə tē), *n.* the condition of being lacerable.

**lacerable** (las'er ə bəl), *adj.* that can be lacerated.

**lacerate** (v. las'ə rāt; *adj.* las'ə rāt, -er it), *v.*, -at-ed, -ating, *adj.* — *v.t.* 1 to tear roughly; mangle: *The bear's claws lacerated the hunter's arm*. *syn:* rend, wound. 2 *Figurative*. to cause pain or suffering to (the feelings, etc.); distress; hurt: *The coach's sharp words lacerated my feelings*. *The inscription on his tomb in Dublin's St. Patrick's says that "the body of Jonathan Swift is buried here, where fierce indignation ... can lacerate his heart no more"* (Time). *syn:* harrow, afflict. — *adj.* 1 deeply or irregularly indented as if torn: *lacerate leaves*. 2 torn; mangled. [*< Latin lacerāre (with English -ate) < lacer mangled*]

**lacerated** (las'ə rā'tid), *adj.* 1 mangled; torn; hurt: *a lacerated arm*. 2 *Figurative*: *lacerated pride*.

**laceration** (las'ə rā'shen), *n.* 1 a rough tearing or mangling; process of lacerating. 2 a rough tear; mangled place: *A torn, jagged wound is a laceration*. *syn:* mutilation.

**lacerative** (las'ə rā'tiv), *adj.* having the power to lacerate or tear; tearing.

**lacerator** (las'ə rā'tər), *n.* a person or thing that lacerates.

**Lacerta** (lə sēr'te), *n.*, *genitive Lacertae*. a northern constellation near Pegasus. [*< Latin Lacerta lizard*]

**Lacertae** (lə sēr'tē), *n.* *genitive of Lacerta*.

**lacertian** (lə sēr'shen), *adj.*, *n.* = lacertilian.

**lacertid** (lə sēr'tid), *n.* = lizard.

**lacertilian** (las'er tī'ē en), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* 1 of or belonging to the lizards. Lacertilians are a sub-order of reptiles that include the geckos, chameleons, and skinks. 2 lizardlike.

— *n.* a lizard or lizardlike reptile. [*< New Latin Lacertilia the suborder name (< Latin Lacerta lizard) + English -an*]

**lacertine** (lə sēr'tin), *adj.* 1 = lacertilian. 2 consisting of intertwined or curving lizardlike forms in decorative work. [*< Latin Lacerta lizard + English -ine*]

**lacier** (lās'ēr ē), *n.*, *pl.* -eries. lacelike work.

**\*lacewing** (lās'wing'), *n.* an insect with four delicate, lacelike wings and prominent, golden-bronze eyes. Lacewings belong to the same order as the ant lions.

**lacewood** (lās'wūd'), *n.* the fibrous bark of the currajong tree of Australia.

**lacework** (lās'wērk'), *n.* 1 = lace. 2 openwork like lace. 3 *Figurative*. a network: *Saigon ... rests on a lacework of rivers and canals* (Frances Fitzgerald).

**lacier** (lās'sē), *adj.*, *lacier*, *lacierest*. = lacy.

**lacheinallia** (lash'ē nā'ē ē), *n.* any South African plant of a genus of the lily family, bearing yellow, bell-shaped flowers. [*< New Latin Lacheinallia the genus name < Lachenal, a Swiss botanist of the 1800's*]

**laches** (lach'iz), *n.*, *pl.* laches. 1 *Law*. failure to do a thing at the right time; delay in asserting a right, claiming a privilege, or applying for redress: *To decide whether the party applying has not, by*

*laches or misconduct, lost his right to the writ* (London Times). 2 inexcusable negligence: *We may visit on the laches of this ministry the introduction of that new principle and power ... Agitation* (Benjamin Disraeli). [*< Anglo-French lachesse, Old French laschesse < lasche negligent < Latin laxus, loose, lax*]

**Lachesis** (lak'ē sis), *n.* *Greek and Roman Mythology*. one of the three Fates. Lachesis measures off the thread of human life. [*< Latin Lachesis < Greek Láchesis*]

**lachrymal** (lak're mēl), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* 1 of tears; producing tears: *Mostly a salt solution, lachrymal fluid also contains substances that fight bacteria, and proteins that help make the eye immune to infection* (G. W. Beadle). 2 for tears: *Collecting the drops of public sorrow into his volume, as into a lachrymal vase* (Washington Irving). 3 *Anatomy*. lacrimar.

— *n.* = lachrymatory. Also, *lacrimar*, *lacrymal*. **lachrymals**, a lacrimar glands. b tears: *Something else I said ... made her laugh in the midst of her lachrymals* (Samuel Richardson). [*< Medieval Latin lachrymalis < Latin lacrima tear*]

**lachrymal gland**, = lacrimar gland.

**lachrymation** (lak're mā'shen), *n.* the shedding of tears. Also, *lacrimation*.

**lachrymator** (lak're mā'tər), *n.* a substance that makes the eyes water, such as tear gas. Also, *lacrimator*.

**lachrymatory** (lak're mā'tōr'ē, -tōr'-), *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* -ries. — *adj.* 1 of tears; producing tears. 2 for tears.

— *n.* a small vase with a narrow neck found in ancient Roman tombs and once believed to hold the tears of mourners. Also, *lacrimatory*, *lacrymatory*.

**lachrymist** (lak're mist), *n.* one who is addicted to tears; weeper.

**lachrymose** (lak're mōs), *adj.* 1 given to shedding tears; tearful: *lachrymose depressions of spirit*. *syn:* weeping. 2 suggestive of or tending to cause tears; mournful: *lachrymose poetry*. *syn:* maudlin, melancholy. [*< Latin lacrimōsus < lacrima tear*]

— *adj.* 1 of tears; producing tears. 2 for tears.

— *n.* a small vase with a narrow neck found in ancient Roman tombs and once believed to hold the tears of mourners. Also, *lacrimatory*, *lacrymatory*.

**lacity** (lā'sē lē), *adv.* in a lacy way or manner.

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fire made him cold. 2 not having enough; shortage: *Lack of rest made her tired. Let his lack of years be no impediment* (Shakespeare). **syn:** deficiency, deficit, dearth, paucity, scarcity. 3 thing needed: *The campers' main lack was dry wood for a fire.*

for lack of, a because of too little: *I sold the business for lack of capital.* b for want of; being without: *More than 100 inadequately staffed interagency committees which for lack of authority have ended up doing virtually nothing* (Edmund S. Muskie).

[origin uncertain. Compare Middle Dutch *lac*, Middle Low German *lak*.]

— **Syn.** v.t. 1, 2 **Lack**, want, need mean to be without something. **Lack** means to be completely without or without enough of something, good or bad: *A coward lacks courage.* Want means to lack something worth having, desired, or, especially, necessary for completeness: *That dress wants a belt.* Need means to lack something required for a purpose or that cannot be done without: *He does not have the tools he needs. She needs more sleep.*

**lackadaisical** (lak'ə dā'zē kəl), *adj.* lacking interest or enthusiasm; languid; listless: *A lackadaisical sales staff. The new mayor has worked long and hard and is far from lackadaisical.* **syn:** spiritless, lethargic, dreamy. [*< lackadaisy*, variant of *lackaday* + *-ic* + *-al*] — **lack'a dai'si cal'ly**, *adv.* — **lack'a dai'si cal'ness**, *n.*

**lackaday** (lak'ə dā'), *interj.* an exclamation of sorrow or regret; alas. [variant of *alackaday*]

**lack'er** (lak'ər), *n.*, v.t. = lacquer. — **lack'er'er**, *n.*

**lackey** (lak'ē), *n.*, pl. *-eys*, *adj.*, v., *-eyed*, *-ey-ing*. — *n.* 1 a male servant; footman: *The nobleman sent one of his lackeys ahead with a message. I saw a gay gilt chariot ... the coachman with a new cockade, and the lackeys with insolence and plenty in their countenances* (Sir Richard Steele). **syn:** flunky. 2 a follower who obeys orders as if he were a servant; toady. **syn:** sycophant.

— *adj.* servile; slavish: *a lackey informer.* — *v.t.* 1 to wait on: *A thousand liveried angels lacky her* (Milton). 2 to be slavish to.

— *v.i.* to act or serve as a lackey: *The Navy still lackeys around the clock for the Royal Yacht Squadron and its guests* (Manchester Guardian Weekly).

[*< Middle French laquais < Spanish lacayo* foot soldier, perhaps *< Arabic al-qā'id* chief, captain (usually a Moor who occupies a lesser post because he was captured by Christians). Compare etym. under *alcaide*.]

**lack'ing** (lak'ing), *adj.*, *prep.* — *adj.* 1 not having enough; deficient: *A weak person is lacking in strength.* 2 absent; not here: *Water is lacking because the pipe is broken.*

— *prep.* without; not having: *Lacking butter, we ate jam on our bread.*

**lack-in-office** (lak'en ōf'is, -ōf'), *n.*, pl. *lacks-in-office*, a person who seeks to gain public office; an office seeker.

**lackland** (lak'land'), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* without land; landless.

— *n.* a person who has no land.

**lackluster** (lak'lus'tər), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* lacking brightness; dull and drab: *a lackluster performance of a play. From a gaudy blue to a faint lackluster shade of grey* (Dickens).

— *n.* *Rare.* the absence of luster or brightness.

**lackluster** (lak'lus'tər), *adj.*, *n.* Especially British. lackluster.

**lackwit** (lak'wit'), *n.* Informal. a stupid person.

**Laconian** (lə kō'nē ən), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* having to do with Laconia, an ancient country in southern Greece whose capital was Sparta, or its inhabitants; Spartan or Lacedaemonian.

— *n.* an inhabitant of Laconia.

**laconic** (lə kō'n'ik), *adj.* using few words; brief in speech or expression; concise: *Boccalini ... indicates a laconic writer for speaking that in three words which he might have said in two* (Sir Richard Steele). **syn:** short, condensed, terse, succinct, pithy, sententious. [*< Latin Lāconicus < Greek Lakōnikós* Spartan *< Lākōn* a Spartan (because Spartans were noted for brevity in speech)] — **lacon'ic ally**, *adv.*

**laconicism** (lə kō'nē siz əm), *n.* = laconism.

**laconicum** (lə kō'nē kəm), *n.* the sweating room of an ancient Roman bath. [*< Latin Laconicum*, neuter of *Lāconicus* (because it was first used by the Spartans); see etym. under *laconic*]

**laconism** (lak'ə niz əm), *n.* 1 laconic brevity.

2 a laconic speech or expression. [*< Greek lakōnismós < lakōnizein* to imitate Lacedaemonians, especially in speech *< Lākōn*; see etym. under *laconic*]

**lac operon**, the operon involved in the metabolism of lactose. It was the first operon isolated in pure form. The isolation in pure form of a set of

six bacterial genes known as the *lac operon* has been accomplished by a group led by Dr. Jon Beckwith of the Harvard Medical School ... (Science Journal). [*< lac(tose)*]

**lacquer** (lak'ər), *n.*, v. — *n.* 1 a varnish used to give a coating or shiny appearance to metals, wood, or paper. Lacquers are made in all colors that are commonly found in paints. Lacquer consists of a solution of pale shellac dissolved in alcohol or some other solvent. Other lacquers are made from the resin of a sumac tree of southeast Asia. 2 articles coated with lacquer; lacquerware. 3 *Obsolete.* lac'. — *v.t.* 1 to coat with or as if with lacquer.

2 *Slang.* to polish; make more presentable: *the Actors Studio, an organization dedicated to lacquering up-and-coming performers* (New York Times).

[*< Middle French lacre < Portuguese, sealing wax < lacca lac < Arabic lakk < Persian lak lac gum.* See related etym. at *lake*, *shellac*.] — **lac'quer-er**, *n.*

**lacquer tree**, = varnish tree.

**lacquerware** (lak'ər wār'), *n.* wooden articles coated with lacquer.

**lacquerwork** (lak'ər wérk'), *n.* 1 = lacquerware. 2 the making of lacquerware.

**laquey** (lak'ē), *n.*, pl. *-queys*, v., *-queyed*, *-queying*. = lackey.

**lacrymal** or **lacrymal** (lak're mēl), *adj.*, *n.*

— *adj.* 1 = lachrymal. 2 *Anatomy.* of, having to do with, or near the glands (lacrymal glands) that secrete tears, or the ducts leading from them.

— *n.* a vessel for tears; lachrymatory.

**lacrymal gland**, either of the two glands one above each eye, that produces tears.

**lacrymation** (lak're mā'shən), *n.* = lachrymation.

**lacrymator** (lak're mā'tər), *n.* lachrymal substance; lachrymator.

**lacrymatory** or **lacrymatory** (lak're mō-tōr-ē, -tōr-ē), *adj.*, *n.*, pl. *-ries*. = lachrymatory.

\***lacrosse** (lə krōs', -krōs'), *n.* a game played on a field by two teams, usually of 10 players each, with a ball and long-handled rackets with a loose net at one end. The players on one team carry and pass the ball to each other trying to send the ball into the other team's goal. [American English *< Canadian French la crosse* (originally) the racket used in the game; (literally) hooked stick, cross]

\***lacrosse**



**lacryma Christi** (lak're me kris'tē), *pl.* **lacrymae Christi** (lak're mē kris'tē). 1 a sweet or dry, white or red wine of southern Italy. 2 a dry, sparkling white wine of northern Italy.

[*< New Latin lacryma Christi* (literally) tears of Christ]

**lact-**, combining form. the form of *lacto-* before vowels, as in *lactase*.

**lactagogue** (lak'tē gōg, -gog), *adj.*, *n.* = galactagogue. [*< lact-* + Greek *-agogos* a leading]

**lactalbimin** (lak'tal byū'min), *n.* the albumin found in milk. [*< lact-* + *albumin*]

**lactam** (lak'tam), *n.* *Chemistry.* any of a group of compounds containing the NH-CO group. It is a cyclic anhydride of an amino acid, produced by the elimination of water from the amino (-NH<sub>2</sub>) and carboxyl (-COOH) radicals. [*< lact(ose) + am(ino acid)*]

**lactarene** (lak'tē rēn), *n.* a preparation of the casein of milk, used as a color fixative in printing calico. [*< Latin lactārius* having to do with milk [*< lac, lactis* milk] + English *-ene*]

**lactarine** (lak'tē rin, -rēn), *n.* = lactarene.

**lactary** (lak'tər ē), *adj.* of or having to do with milk. [*< Latin lactārius < lac, lactis* milk]

**lactase** (lak'tās), *n.* *Biochemistry.* an enzyme in certain yeasts and in the intestines, capable of decomposing lactose into glucose and galactose. [*< lact(ose) + -ase*]

**lactate** (lak'tāt), *n.* *Chemistry.* a salt or ester of lactic acid. [*< lact(ic acid) + -ate*]

**lactate** (lak'tāt), *v.i.*, *-tated*, *-tating*. 1 to secrete milk. 2 to give suck. [*< Latin lactāre* (with English *-ate*) to suckle]

**lactate dehydrogenase**, an enzyme produced in animal tissue that oxidizes lactic acid and is released in increased amounts by cancerous cells. *Abbr:* LDH (no periods).

**lactation** (lak'tā'shən), *n.* 1 the secretion or formation of milk: *lactation records of cows.* 2 the

time during which a mother gives milk. 3 the act of suckling a baby. [*< Latin lactāre* to suckle + English *-ation*]

**lactation** (lak'tā'shən), *adj.* of or having to do with lactation: *a lactational physiologist.* — **lacta'tion ally**, *adv.*

**lacteal** (lak'tē əl), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* 1 of milk; like milk; milky: *a lacteal secretion.* 2 carrying chyle, a milky liquid formed from digested food: *lacteal vessels.*

— *n.* any one of the tiny lymphatic vessels that carry chyle from the small intestine to be absorbed by the blood.

[*< Latin lacteus* (*< lac, lactis* milk) + English *-al*]

— **lac'teally**, *adv.*

**lacteous** (lak'tē əs), *adj.* = milky.

**lactescence** (lak'tēs'ens), *n.* 1 a milky appearance; milkiness. 2 an abundant flow of sap from a plant when wounded. The sap is commonly white, but sometimes red or yellow.

**lactescent** (lak'tēs'ent), *adj.* 1 becoming milky; having a milky appearance. 2 producing or secreting milk. 3 (of plants and insects) producing a milky fluid. [*< Latin lactescens, -entis*, present participle of *lactescere* become milky, be able to give milk *< lactere* have milk or juice; suckle *< lac, lactis* milk]

**lactile** (lak'tik), *adj.* of milk; from milk, especially sour milk. [*< Latin lac, lactis* milk + English *-ic*]

**lactic acid**, a colorless, odorless, syrupy acid, formed by the action of lactobacilli in sour milk, the fermentation of vegetable juices, etc., and produced by muscle tissue during exercise: *Lactic acid* [is] used normally in the manufacture of such essentials as leather, textiles, foods, and liquors (Science News Letter). *Formula:* C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

**lactic dehydrogenase**, = lactate dehydrogenase.

**lactide** (lak'tid), *n.* *Chemistry.* 1 a compound formed by heating lactic acid, and regarded as an anhydride of that acid. 2 any of a class of similar compounds. [*< lact(ic acid) + -ide*]

**lactiferous** (lak'tif'ər əs), *adj.* 1 (of animals or their organs) secreting or conveying milk or a milky fluid. 2 (of plants) yielding a milky juice. [*< Latin lactifer* producing milk or juice [*< lac, lactis* milk + *ferre* to bear] + English *-ous*]

— **lac'tif'er-ous-ness**, *n.*

**lactiflous** (lak'tif'ik), *adj.* producing milk.

**lactivorous** (lak'tiv'ər əs), *adj.* devouring milk.

**lacto-**, combining form. 1 milk, as in *lactometer*. 2 lactic acid, as in *lactobacillus*. Also, *lact-* before vowels.

[*< Latin lac, lactis*]

**lactobacillus** (lak'tō bə sil'əs), *n.*, pl. *-cilli* (-sil'i). any one of a genus of aerobic bacteria that produces lactic acid by the fermentation of sugar: *It is not the acid-forming lactobacilli that cause tooth decay but another kind that attack the keratin of the teeth* (Science News Letter).

**lactoduct** (lak'tō dukt'), *n.* a plastic pipeline conveying milk from high mountain pastures to villages, especially in Switzerland.

**lactoflavin** (lak'tō flā'vin), *n.* *Biochemistry.* riboflavin.

**lactogen** (lak'tē jən), *n.* a hormone that stimulates the secretion of milk.

**lactogenesis** (lak'tē jən'ē sis), *n.* the power of initiating milk secretion.

**lactogenic** (lak'tē jən'ik), *adj.* stimulating the secretion and flow of milk: *lactogenic hormones.*

**lactoglobulin** (lak'tō glob'yē lin), *n.* the globulin found in milk.

**lactometer** (lak'tō mē'tər), *n.* an instrument for testing the purity or richness of milk.

**lactone** (lak'tōn), *n.* *Chemistry.* any of a group of cyclic anhydrides produced by the loss of a molecule of water from the hydroxyl (-OH) and carboxyl (-COOH) radicals of hydroxy acids.

**lactonic** (lak'tōn'ik), *adj.* of or having to do with lactone.

**lactophosphate** (lak'tē fos'fāt), *n.* a lactate and a phosphate in combination.

**lactoprene** (lak'tē prēn), *n.* a synthetic rubber with high resistance to oils and heat, made from acrylate and acrylonitrile. [*< lacto-* + (iso)prene]

**lactoprotein** (lak'tē prō'tēn, -tē in), *n.* any protein found in milk.

**lactoscope** (lak'tē skōp), *n.* an instrument for testing the purity or richness of milk by its resistance to the passage of light.

**lactose** (lak'tōs), *n.* a crystalline sugar, present in milk; milk sugar. It is usually obtained by evaporating whey and converting it into hard, white crystals. Lactose is an isomer of common table sugar. *Formula:* C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>11</sub> [*< French lactose < Latin lac, lactis* milk + French *-ose* -ose]

**lactovegetarian** (lak'tō vej'ē tār'ē ən), *adj.* consisting of a diet of milk and vegetables.

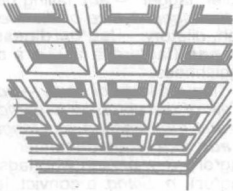
**lacuna** (lə kyū'ne), *n.*, pl. *-nae* (-nē), *-nas*. 1a an empty space; gap: *There was a lacuna in the old letter where the ink had faded.* b *Figurative.* [*He*] has sought to fill, with this elegant collection of essays, a serious and regrettable lacuna in Italian



*studies* (Saturday Review). Every teacher knows that the week before and after vacation is largely lost to study ... This means almost a month's *lacuna* (New York Times). **syn:** hiatus. 2 a tiny cavity or depression in bones or tissues. 3 space in or among the cells of an animal or plant. [*< Latin lacuna hole, pit < lacus, -ūs cistern, lake. See etym. of doublet lagoon.*]

**lacunae** (le kyū'nei), *adj.* 1 of or having to do with a lacuna. 2 having lacunae.

\***lacunar** (le kyū'ner), *n., pl.* lacunars, lacunaria (lak'yū'nār'ē), *adj.* — *n.* 1 Architecture. a ceiling formed of sunken compartments. 2 one of the compartments; a sunken panel. — *adj.* of a lacuna or consisting of lacunae; lacunary.



\*lacunar  
definition 1

**lacunary** (lak'yū'ner'ē, le kyū'ner-), *adj.* = lacunary.

**lacunate** (le kyū'nit, lak'yū'nit; -nāt), *adj.* = lacunary.

**lacune** (le kyū'n), *n.* = lacuna.

**lacunose** (le kyū'nōs), *adj.* having lacunae; pitted; furrowed.

**lacunosity** (lak'yū'nōs'ē tē), *n.* lacunose quality.

**lacunulose** (le kyū'nyē iōs), *adj.* minutely pitted or furrowed.

**lacustrine** (le kus'trē en), *adj., n.* — *adj.* = lacustrine. — *n.* a lake dweller.

**lacustrine** (le kus'trin), *adj.* 1 of lakes: lacustrine mire. 2 living or growing in lakes: lacustrine water fleas. 3 Geology. of or having to do with strata that originated by deposition at the bottom of a lake: Lacustrine plains are one of the flattest landforms extant. [ultimately *< Latin lacus, -ūs lake; receptacle (on analogy of palustris, -tris marshy; palustrine) + English -ine*].

**lace** (lās), *adj., lacier, laciest.* 1 of lace: The little girl wore a lace frock. 2 like lace; having an open delicate pattern: the lace leaves of a fern. Also, lacey.

**lace glass**, glass pressed with designs of a lace appearance, made especially in the United States in the early 1800's.

**lad** (lad), *n.* 1 a boy; youth: The little lad was playing on the swing. ... he was then a gallant lad on the ready for new ideas (Lillian Smith). **syn:** stripling, youngster. 2 Informal. a man: How now, old lad? (Shakespeare). **syn:** fellow, chap. [Middle English *ladde* boy, youth; earlier, serving man; origin uncertain]

**ladak** (le dāk'), *n.* a variety of winter-hardy alfalfa that resists drought, but not wilt. [*< Ladakh, a region of eastern Kashmir*]

**ladang** (lād'āng), *n.* a system of cultivation practiced by farmers in Indonesia and Malaysia, in which they clear a part of the jungle and farm it until the soil is exhausted, after which they move on to another part and repeat the process. [*< Malay ladang dry clearing*]

**ladanum** (lad'ē nem), *n.* = labdanum.



\*ladder  
definition 1



\*ladder-back chair

\***ladder** (lad'or), *n., v.* — *n.* 1 a set of rungs or steps fastened into two long sidepieces of wood, metal, or rope, for use in climbing: The boys climbed the rope ladder to get into their tree house. 2 Figurative. a means of climbing higher: Hard work is often a ladder to success. 3 Figurative. This company has an elaborate promotion ladder. The mathematician has reached the highest rung on the ladder of human thought (Havelock Ellis). 4 a series of steps to enable fish to

ascend a fall or dam by a succession of leaps; fish ladder. 5 British. a run in a stocking or other knitted garment, especially a silk or nylon stocking.

— *v.t.* British. to develop runs in (a knitted garment, such as a stocking) as the result of the breaking of a thread. [Old English *hlæder*] — **lad'or/less**, *adj.* — **lad'or/like**, *adj.*

\***ladder-back chair** (lad'or bak'), a chair having a back formed of horizontal pieces of wood between two upright pieces, such as a ladder has. **lad'or-backed** (lad'or bakt'), *adj.* having a back formed like the rungs of a ladder: a ladder-backed armchair.

**ladder-backed woodpecker**, U.S. a North American woodpecker having black-and-white bars on its upper parts.

**ladderer** (lad'erd), *adj.* 1 in regular, even sequence, resembling the steps or rungs of a ladder: See, from the ladderer shelves Shakespeare and Swift themselves speak straightly down (Atlantic). 2 provided with a ladder or ladders.

**ladder polymer**, a polymer made up of double-stranded chains of molecules connected by hydrogen or chemical bonds at regular intervals like the rungs connecting the two sides of a ladder.

**ladderproof** (lad'or pruf'), *adj.* British. resistant to runs: ladderproof nylon stockings.

**ladder stitch**, an embroidery stitch made with crossbars between ridges of raised work.

**ladder truck**, a fire engine equipped with extension ladders, fire hooks, and other fire-fighting apparatus.

**ladderly** (lad'or ē), *adj.* resembling a ladder.

**ladle** (lad'), *n.* Scottish. a lad.

**ladish** (lad'ish), *adj.* like a lad; boyish; juvenile. — **ladishness**, *n.*

**lade** (lād), *v.* laded, laden or laded, lading.

— *v.t.* 1 to put a burden on; load, especially a cargo on board (a ship): Our ships are laden with the harvest of every climate (Joseph Addison). **syn:** burden, oppress. 2 to take up (liquid) with a ladle, scoop, or the like; dip: Like one that ... chides the sea ... saying he'll lade it dry (Shakespeare). **syn:** scoop.

— *v.i.* 1 to take on a load or cargo. 2 to take up with a ladle, scoop, or the like; bail.

[Old English *hladan*. See related etym. at *last*\*.] **laden** (lād'en), *adj., v.* — *adj.* loaded, burdened, or weighed down: The laden ship lay low in the water. The laden boughs for you alone shall bear (John Dryden).

— *v.* a past participle of *lade*: The camels were laden with bundles of silk and rice.

**laden** (lād'en), *v.t.* to lade; load.

**la-di-da** (lā'dē dā'), *adj., n., v.* — *adj.* — *daed, -daling, interj.* Slang. — *adj.* languidly genteel in speech or manner; affected; pretentious: What can old Pratt be thinking of, publishing a la-di-da book about men's clothes? (New Yorker).

— *n.* an affected person; fop.

— *v.i.* to be snobbish or pretentious.

— *interj.* an exclamation ridiculing snobbish or pretentious speech or manners.

**la-di-dah** (lā'dē dā'), *adj., n., v.i., -dahed, -daling, interj.* = la-di-da.

**ladies auxiliary** (lād'ēz), U.S. a women's organization associated with a men's club, a fire department, or similar group.

**ladies chain**, a square-dancing figure or call in which the women join hands as they cross over to the men.

**ladies' day**, U.S. a day on which a special privilege, such as reduced theater prices or free admission to a sporting event, is given to women.

**ladies' man**, = lady's man.

**ladies' room**, U.S. a public lavatory for women.

**ladies' tresses**, = lady's-tresses.

**ladify** (lād'ē fī), *v.t., -fied, -fying*, = ladyfy.

**ladik** (lā dēk'), *n.* a finely textured Turkish rug woven in or near the town of Ladik, Turkey.

**Ladin** (le dēn'), *n.* 1 a Rhaeto-Romanic dialect spoken in parts of Switzerland and Tyrol, closely related to Romansh. 2 any Rhaeto-Romanic dialect, such as Romansh. 3 one of the people of Switzerland and the Tyrol who speak Ladin. [*< Rhaeto-Romanic Ladin < Latin Latīnus Latin*]

**lading** (lād'ing), *n.* 1 the act of loading. 2 load; freight; cargo: bill of lading.

**Ladino** (le dē'nō), *n., pl.* — *nos.* 1 Also, *ladino*. In Spanish America: a a mestizo. b a mestizo or other native who adopts Western ways of living. 2 Also, *ladino*. = Ladino clover. 3 the ancient Spanish or Castilian language. 4 a Spanish dialect with Hebrew elements, spoken in Turkey and elsewhere by descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Jews; Judeo-Spanish. [*< Spanish Ladino (literally) Latin < Latin Latīnus Latin*]

**Ladino or ladino clover**, a variety of giant white clover valuable as a forage crop.

**ladle** (lād'el), *n., v.* — *died, -diling*. — *n.* a large cup-shaped spoon with a long handle, for dipping

out liquids: We filled our cups with punch from a ladle in the bowl.

— *v.t.* 1 to dip: Mother ladled out the soup. 2 to carry in a ladle.

[Old English *hlædel < hladan lade*] — **lad'ler**, *n.* **ladle car**, a car into which molten iron is poured from a furnace.

**ladleful** (lād'el fūl), *n., pl.* — *fuls*. the amount that a ladle holds.

**la dolce vita** (lā dōl'chā vē'tā), Italian. the sweet life; dolce vita: Existentialism ... presents an escape from the morass of conformity, la dolce vita, boredom (Harper's).

**ladrone** (le drōn'), *n.* (in Spain or Spanish America) a robber; highwayman. [*< Spanish ladron < Latin latrō, -ōnis bandit; (originally) hired servant*]

**lady** (lād'ē), *n., pl.* — *dies, adj.* — *n.* 1a a woman of good family and high social position: Here lies a lady of beauty and high degree (John Crowe Ransom). **syn:** gentlewoman. See *syn.* under woman. b a woman who is looked up to because she has good taste and pleasant manners; well-bred woman: A lady is polite and courteous to everyone. 2 a polite term for any woman: "Ladies" is often used in speaking or writing to a group of women. I stood in front of ... my hostess a married lady (Holiday). 3 a noblewoman; woman who has the title of Lady: She is the daughter of an earl, a lady by birth. 4 a woman who has the rights or authority of a lord; mistress of a household. 5 a woman whom a man loves or is devoted to: My lady sweet, arise! (Shakespeare). **syn:** sweetheart. 6 a wife: By a former marriage, Mr. Henry Dashwood had one son; by his present lady, three daughters (Jane Austen). **syn:** spouse. 7 the bony structure in a lobster's stomach that grinds its food.

— *adj.* 1 woman; female: a lady reporter. 2 of or having to do with a lady; ladylike.

[Old English *hlāfdige* (literally) one who kneads a loaf of bread. See related etym. at *lord*.]

► **Lady** is often used in everyday speech to refer to any woman, no matter what her social position or background: lady cabdriver, lady clerk. "I'm your dustman, lady, come to wish you a Happy New Year" (Sunday Times). In many cases woman, as in *cleaning woman*, might be more appropriate, though *saleslady* and *landlady* are well established. And generally among many women *lady* as a term differentiating job, duty, or office by sex is a complete anathema.

**Lady** (lād'ē), *n., pl.* — *dies*. a title in speaking to or of women of certain ranks in Great Britain, as:

a a marchioness, countess, viscountess, or baroness. b the daughter of a duke, marquis, or earl. c the wife of a man with a courtesy title of Lord. d the wife of a baronet or knight.

**Our Lady**, a title of the Virgin Mary: Low on her knees herself she cast, Before Our Lady murmur'd she (Tennyson).

**Lady Amherst's pheasant** (am'ers), a brightly colored pheasant, native to parts of China and Tibet. [*< Lady Amherst a British noblewoman of the 1800's*]

**lady apple**, a small, delicate, red, c d and yellow, variety of apple, valued chiefly for its waxy-looking ornamental appearance.

**Lady Baltimore cake**, a white cake of three layers, having a flavored icing which contains chopped figs, nuts, and raisins.

**lady beetle**, = ladybug.

**ladybird** (lād'ē bērd'), *n.* = ladybug. [*< earlier genitive case of (Our) Lady + bird*]

**ladybird beetle**, = ladybug.

**Lady Bountiful**, a kind and gracious, usually well-to-do, woman. [*< L. dy Bountiful, a character in George Farquhar's play The Beaux' Stratagem*]

**ladybug** (lād'ē bug'), *n.* a small, reddish or yellow beetle that has a rounded back with black or colored spots. Many ladybugs eat certain insects, such as aphids and scale insects, that are harmful to fruit and other crops. See picture under beetle.

**lady chair**, a kind of seat for a third person, formed by two persons holding each other's hands crossed.

**Lady Chapel or chapel**, a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, generally placed behind the high altar in a cathedral or large church.

**lady crab**, any of various crabs, especially a species common on the Atlantic coast of the United States; calico crab.

**lady cracker**, a small firecracker.

**Lady Day**, 1 = Annunciation Day. 2 (formerly)

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil, out; cup, pūt, rŭle; child; long; thin; wēn; zh, measure; a represents a in about, e in taken, i in pencil, o in lemon, u in circus.



any festival day honoring the Virgin Mary.  
**lady fern**, a fern similar to the spleenwort but having curved spore cases.  
**ladyfinger** (lā'dē fing'gər), *n.* a small sponge cake shaped somewhat like a finger. Also, **lady's-finger**.  
**ladyfish** (lā'dē fish'), *n., pl.* -fishes or (*collectively*) -fish. any one of various small marine game fishes found in the tropical regions of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.  
**lady friend**, 1 a woman friend or companion. 2 a man's sweetheart; girl friend.  
**ladyfy** (lā'dē fī), *v.t., -fied, -fying*. to make a lady of; give the title "Lady" to. Also, **ladify**.  
**ladyhood** (lā'dē hūd), *n.* 1 the condition or character of a lady. 2 ladies as a group.  
**lady in waiting**, or **lady-in-waiting** (lā'dē in-wā'ting), *pl.* ladies in waiting, **ladies-in-waiting**. a lady of the royal household who accompanies or serves a queen or princess.  
**ladylike** (lā'dē ish), *adj.* like a lady; having a ladylike quality or character. — **ladylike**, *adv.* — **ladylike**, *n.*  
**ladykiller** (lā'dē kil'ər), *n.* Slang. a man whom women are supposed to find captivating or irresistible.  
**ladykilling** (lā'dē kil'ing), *n., adj.* Slang. — *n.* the acts or arts of a lady-killer. — *adj.* of or having to do with a lady-killer.  
**ladykin** (lā'dē kin), *n.* a little lady.  
**ladyless** (lā'dē lis), *adj.* without a lady or ladies; unaccompanied by a lady.  
**ladylike** (lā'dē lik'), *adj.* 1 like a lady; polite and courteous: a refined, ladylike young woman. *syn.* well-bred. 2a suitable for a lady: ladylike manners. *b* effeminate: tops at all corners, ladylike in mien (William Cowper). — **ladylike**, *n.*  
**ladylove** (lā'dē luv'), *n.* a woman who is loved by a man; sweetheart.  
**lady luck**, chance; good fortune: ... the large gambling casinos where adventurers have wooed lady luck for generations (New York Times).  
**lady may**, *British*. the wife of a lord mayor.  
**lady of the bedchamber**, *British*. a companion or personal attendant upon the queen, not a servant.  
**lady of the evening**, = prostitute.  
**lady of the house**, the woman who is head of the household: The salesman asked to speak to the lady of the house.  
**Lady of the Lake**, = Vivian.  
**Lady of the Snows**, Our, Canada: 'For we be also a people,' said our Lady of the Snows (Rudyard Kipling).  
**lady's bedstraw**, a small plant with clusters of white flowers, and fragrant stems and leaves; bedstraw.  
**lady's delight**, the common pansy; wild pansy.  
**lady's-eardrop** (lā'dēz ir'drɒp'), *n.* any of various plants with drooping racemes or flowers that suggest eardrops, such as the fuchsia.  
**lady's-finger** (lā'dēz fing'gər), *n.* = ladyfinger.  
**lady's glove**, = foxglove.  
**ladyship** (lā'dē ship), *n.* the rank or position of a lady.  
**Ladyship** (lā'dē ship), *n.* *British*. a title used in speaking to or of a woman having the rank of Lady: "Your Ladyship."  
**lady-slipper** (lā'dē slip'ər), *n.* = lady's-slipper.  
**lady's maid**, a woman servant who attends a lady in dressing.  
**lady's man**, a man who is devoted to the society of women and diligent in his attention to them. Also, **ladies' man**.  
**lady's-mantle** (lā'dēz man'tel), *n.* a perennial herb of the rose family. It is an Old-World plant formerly used in medicine as an astringent.  
**lady-smock** (lā'dē smɒk'), *n.* = lady's-smock.  
**lady's-slipper** (lā'dēz slip'ər), *n.* 1 a wild orchid whose flower looks somewhat like a slipper; moccasin flower. It has a pouch-shaped lip and is terrestrial, growing in temperate regions. 2 any one of various related plants bearing similar flowers, especially a tropical species cultivated in greenhouses.  
**lady's-smock** (lā'dēz smɒk'), *n.* = cuckoo-flower.  
**lady's-thumb** (lā'dēz thum'), *n.* a common smartweed whose oblong spike suggests a thumb.  
**lady's-tresses** (lā'dēz tres'iz), *n.* any one of various low terrestrial orchids, bearing spikes of small, spirally arranged flowers. Also, **ladies' tresses**.  
**Laennec's cirrhosis** (lā nek's), cirrhosis of the liver. [*<* René T. H. Laennec, 1781-1826, a French physician]  
**Laertes** (lā ēr'tez), *n.* 1 *Greek Legend*. the father of Odysseus. 2 the son of Polonius and brother of Ophelia in Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*.  
**Laestrygonian** (les'tre gō'nē-ən), *n.* a cannibal giant who was one of a mythical race that slew

many of Odysseus's companions in Homer's *Odyssey*. Also, **Laestrygonian**.  
**Laetare Sunday** (lē'tā-rē), the fourth and middle Sunday in Lent celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church and named after the beginning of the introit for the day, "Laetare Jerusalem," from Isaiah 66:10. [*<* Latin *laetare* be joyful]  
**Laetrile** (lē'e tril), *n.* Trademark. a drug extracted from apricot pits and related to amygdalin, widely administered to treat cancer and believed by many to help prevent cancer: *Laetrile ... is not only banned in Canada and the United States but denounced by the Canadian Medical Association as "a cruel fraud"* (Maclean's). Formula: C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>7</sub>  
**laevo-**, combining form. a variant of *levo-*, as in *laevorotatory*.  
**laevo/rotatory** (lē'vō rō'tē tōr'ē, -tōr'), *adj.* = levorotatory.  
**laifayette** (lā'fē et', lā'fē-), *n.* 1 a small edible fish with spiny fins, living in the waters of the eastern coast of the United States. 2 an oval-shaped fish with a deeply split tail and unelevated fins, abundant along the eastern coast of America. [American English *<* Marquis de La Fayette, 1757-1834, a French general who aided the American Revolution]  
**l'affaire** (lā fer'), *n.* French. the affair, especially a political scandal or intrigue: *Since the days of the Dreyfus case, one of the perennial features of French government has been "l'affaire"—that unique combination of intrigue, scandal and politics that seems to come along at times of great political unrest* (Time).  
**La Fleche** (lā flesh'), any one of a French breed of chicken with a long body, solid black plumage, and white ear lobes. [*<* La Flèche, a commune in northwestern France]  
**LAFTA** (no periods), Latin American Free Trade Association.  
**lag** (lag), *v., lagged, lagging, n., adj.* — *v.t.* 1 to move too slowly; fall behind: *The child lagged because he was tired.* *syn.* dawdle, delay, tarry. See *syn.* under *linger*. 2 to become weaker; flag: *Interest lagged as the speaker droned on.* 3 to toss a marble at a line on the ground to fix the order of shooting in the game of marbles. 4 *Billiards*. to string. — *v.t.* 1 to cause to lag. 2 *Physics*. (of an electric current) to fall behind (the voltage) in speed of response to alterations. 3 *Economic Statistics*. to follow changes in another variable by a regular interval: *Changes in employment tend to lag changes in wholesale prices.* — *n.* 1 the act or fact of lagging; falling behind: *There was a long lag in forwarding mail to us while we were on vacation.* 2a the amount by which a person or thing falls behind: *There was a month's lag between the order for our car and its delivery.* *b Physics*. the retardation, or amount of retardation, in any current or movement. 3 the last or hindmost one (in a race, game, sequence of any kind): *What makes my ram the lag of all the flock?* (Alexander Pope). — *adj.* 1 last; hindmost: *The lag end of my life* (Shakespeare). 2 tardy; slow: *An' faith! thou's neither lag nor lame* (Robert Burns). [origin unknown]  
**lag** (lag), *n., v., lagged, lagging.* — *n.* 1 one of the staves or strips that support the cylindrical surfaces of a wooden drum, the casing of a boiler, or the cylinder of a carding machine. 2 a barrel stave. — *v.t.* to cover (a boiler or steam pipe) with staves or insulating material. [apparently *<* Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *lōgg* barrel rim, Swedish *lagg* stave)]  
**lag** (lag), *v., lagged, lagging, n.* Slang. — *v.t.* 1 to transport (a convict); send to penal servitude. 2 to arrest. — *n.* 1 a convict. 2 a term of transportation or penal servitude. [origin unknown]  
**lagan** (lag'en), *n.* goods or wreckage sunk in the sea, but attached to a buoy in order that they may be recovered: *Sir Robert can pick up whenever he likes all the jetsam, flotsam, and lagan that may be washed ashore along this coast* (Manchester Guardian Weekly). Also, *ligan*. [*<* Old French *lagan*, perhaps *<* Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *lagnir*, plural of *lōgn* net laid in the sea)]  
**Lag Ba'Omer** (lāg bō'mer), a Jewish holiday, the 18th of Iyar, when the restrictions on weddings and other celebrations in force between Passover and Shavuoth are lifted. Lag Ba'Omer commemorates the end of a plague among students of Rabbi Akiba in Palestine during the 100's C.E. [*<* Hebrew *lag* 33 (*<* the numerical value of 30 and *g* 3) + *be* in + *Omer* the 49 days from Passover to Shavuoth]  
**lag bolt**, = lag screw.  
**lagend** (lag'end), *n.* = lagan.  
**lager** (lā'gər), *n., v., -n.* = lager beer. — *v.t.* to ferment and store (beer) to make it a

lager. [American English, short for *lager beer*, half-translation of German *Lagerbier* *<* Lager storehouse + *Bier* beer]  
**lager<sup>2</sup>** (lā'gər), *n., v.* = laager.  
**lager beer**, a beer with a light body that is slowly fermented at a low temperature and stored from six weeks to six months before being used; lager.  
**lag fault**, *Geology*. a fault caused by one layer of rock being moved more slowly than another layer of rock.  
**laggard** (lag'ərd), *n., adj.* — *n.* a person or thing that moves too slowly or falls behind; loiterer: *Here comes a laggard hanging down his head, Who seems no bolder than a beaten hound* (Tennyson). *Housing is a laggard in the current business recovery* (Wall Street Journal). *syn.* linger, dawdler, lagger. — *adj.* falling behind; slow; backward: *the laggard pace of the tired hikers.* *syn.* sluggish, dilatory. — **laggardness**, *n.*  
**laggardliness** (lag'ərd lē nis), *n.* a being laggardly; sluggishness.  
**laggardly** (lag'ərd lē), *adj., adv.* — *adj.* laggard; sluggish: *Few of the actors who participated could sing, and the direction was laggardly* (New Yorker). — *adv.* in a laggard manner.  
**lagger** (lag'ər), *n.* a person who lags; laggard.  
**lagger<sup>2</sup>** (lag'ər), *n.* Slang. a convict; lag.  
**lagging** (lag'ing), *n.* 1 a lag for a boiler or steam pipe. 2 the act of lagging a boiler or steam pipe. 3 *Architecture*. the narrow cross strips in the centering of an arch.  
**lag line**, the line in marble games drawn on the ground toward which the players toss marbles to fix the order of shooting.  
**lagnappe** or **lagnappe** (lan yap', lan'yap), *n.* U.S. 1 something given to a customer with a purchase; an extra attraction; prize; bonus: *Dealers have competed fiercely for customers. Some, for example, proposed vacation trips as lagnappe for coy buyers* (Atlantic). 2 a gratuity; tip. [American English *<* Haitian Creole *lagnappe* *<* American Spanish *la rapa*, or *la yapa* the gift *<* Quechua *yapa* something given into the bargain, an extra]  
**lagniormorph** (lag'ē mōrf), *n.* any one of an order of mammals consisting of the rabbits and hares and the pikas. They are similar to rodents, but have two pairs of upper incisor teeth, the second pair, just behind the first, being smaller, and short tails. [*<* New Latin *Lagomorphica* *<* Greek *lagōs* hare *<* morphē form, shape]  
**lagniormorphic** (lag'ē mōrf'ik), *adj.* having the form or structure of a lagomorph.  
**lagoon** (lē gū'n'), *n.* 1 a pond or small lake connected with a larger body of water. 2 shallow water separated from the sea by low ridges of sand. A lagoon has salt or brackish water. 3 the water within a ring-shaped coral island. See picture under *bay*! 4 a natural or artificial pond for sewage disposal: *First, the effluent will go into aeration lagoons for biological treatment by bacteria. Then it will go into storage lagoons capable of holding the effluent during the non-irrigation season* (Science News). Also, **lagune**. [*<* French *lagune* (*<* Italian) or *<* Italian *laguna* *<* Latin *lacuna* pond, hole. See etym. of doublet *lacuna*.]  
**lagoonial** (lē gū'nēl), *adj.* of or having to do with a lagoon: *lagoonial areas, lagoonial deposits*.  
**Lagrangian** (lē grān'jē-ən, -grān'), *adj., n.* — *adj.* of or having to do with Joseph Louis Lagrange (1736-1813), a French mathematician and astronomer. — *n.* = Lagrangian function.  
**Lagrangian function**, *Physics*. a function equal to the difference between the total kinetic energy and the total potential energy of a dynamic system; kinetic potential.  
**lag screw**, a wood screw having a square bolt-head; lag bolt.  
**Lagting** or **Lagthing** (lāg'ting), *n.* the smaller of the two sections of the national legislature (Storting) of Norway. [*<* Norwegian *Lagting* *<* lag law + ting, thing assembly, parliament]  
**Laguina** (lē gū'nē), *n., pl.* -nas or -nas. a member of a Keresan tribe of North American Indians living in New Mexico.  
**lagune** (lē gū'n'), *n.* = lagoon.  
**laic** (lā'ik), *adj., n.* — *adj.* of the laity; lay; secular. — *n.* = layman. [*<* Latin *laicus* *<* Greek *laikos* *<* laōs people. See etym. of doublet *laity*.] — **laically**, *adv.*  
**laical** (lā'ē kēl), *adj.* = laic.  
**laicism** (lā'ē siz'əm), *n.* 1 the power or influence of the laity, especially in politics. 2 the removal of religious influence, especially from political affairs; secularization.  
**laicity** (lā'ē sē tē), *n., pl.* -ties. the rule or influence of the laity.  
**laicization** (lā'ē sē zā'shen), *n.* a removal from clerical influence or control.  
**laicize** (lā'ē sīz), *v.t., -cized, -cizing*. to secularize.  
**laid** (lād), *v.* the past tense and past participle of

**lay<sup>1</sup>**: *He laid down the heavy bundle. Those eggs were laid this morning.*

**laid-back** or **laidback** (lād'bak'), *adj.* *Slang.* relaxed; listless; sluggish: Yates' tenacity in a fight might come as a surprise to those whose judgment is based on his apparent laid-back manner (Chicago Sun Times). What's Muscle Shoals like? It's in the country; it's very laid-back (Rolling Stone).

**laid paper**, paper with a ribbed or lined appearance, from the watermark made by raised parallel wires in the mold.

**laigh** (lāh), *adj., adv., n.* Scottish. low<sup>1</sup>.

**lain** (lān), *v.* the past participle of **lie<sup>2</sup>**: The snow has lain on the ground for a week.

**lair<sup>1</sup>** (lār), *n., v. — n.* 1 the den or resting place of a wild animal: to rouse the lion from his lair. *syn.* shelter, retreat. 2 *Figurative.* a secret or secluded retreat; hideaway: a pirate's lair. 3 a place to lie in; bed; couch: Rising ... he summoned his companions from their warm lairs (James Fenimore Cooper). 4 *British.* a pen or shelter for cattle. — *v.i.* to go to or rest in a lair.

[Old English *leger* act or place of lying down, related to *licgan* to lie<sup>2</sup>]

**lair<sup>2</sup>** (lār), *v.i.* to stick or sink in a mire or bog. [*<* Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *leir* clay, mud)]

**lairage** (lār'ij), *n.* *British.* 1 the placing of cattle in lairs. 2 the space or a place for lairing cattle.

**laird** (lārd), *n.* Scottish. the owner of land, in ancient times limited to those who held grants immediately from the king. [variant of *lord*]

**lairdly** (lārd'li), *adj.* having the rank or quality of lairds.

**laissez-aller** (le sā'ā lār'), *n.* French. lack of restraint; ease.

**laissez-faire** or **laisser-faire** (les'ā fār'), 1 the principle that trade, business, industry, etc., should operate with a minimum of regulation and interference by government: After 1945, Belgium stood for laissez-faire and orthodox economics, while Holland seemed a model Keynesian economy (Economist). 2 the principle of letting people do as they please: Not everyone is sufficiently inner-directed to enjoy laissez-faire. [*<* French *laissez-faire* allow to do (as one pleases)]

**laissez-faire** or **laisser-faire** (les'ā fār'), *adj.* of or based on laissez-faire; not interfering: Currency reform and the laissez-faire economic policy adopted by Konrad Adenauer's businessman Government gave Germans a driving incentive to rebuild their factories, buy new machinery on credit, and go without to make the monthly interest payments (Time).

**laissez-passer** or **laisser-passer** (le sā'ā pās'), a permit; pass. [*<* French *laissez passer* allow to pass]

**laitance** (lā'tens), *n.* a layer of milky water droplets formed on the upper surface of freshly laid concrete, usually as a result of using too much water in the mixture. [*<* French *laitance* *<* lait milk (*<* Latin *lac, lactis*) + *-ance* -ance]

**laity** (lā'ē), *n., pl. -ties.* people who are not members of the clergy or of a professional class; laymen collectively: Doctors use many words that the laity do not understand.

**Laius** (lā'ēs), *n.* Greek Legend. the king of Thebes and father of Oedipus.

**lakatoi** (lak'ē toi), *n.* a sailing boat of New Guinea, made of several dugout canoes with sails shaped like crab claws. [*<* Papuan *lakator*]

**lake<sup>1</sup>** (lāk), *n.* 1a a body of water entirely or nearly surrounded by land. A lake usually consists of fresh water and is larger than a pond. Lakes differ from ponds chiefly in size, but this carries with it profound changes in all the principal factors of environment—light, temperature, and dissolved gases, with their effect upon nutrition (A. Franklin Shull). b a wide place in a river. 2 *Figurative.* a pool of liquid: a lake of oil. [partly Old English *lacu* *<* Latin *lacus*, -ūs pond, tank, lake; partly *<* Old French *lac*, learned borrowing *<* Latin *lacus*, -ūs]

**lake<sup>2</sup>** (lāk), *n., v., laked, laking.* — *n.* 1 a deepened or purplish-red coloring matter, obtained from lac or cochineal. 2 an insoluble colored compound formed by combining animal, vegetable, or coal tar coloring matter and metallic salts: madder lake.

— *v.t.* to make (blood) lake-colored by diffusion of the hemoglobin in the plasma. — *v.i.* to cause blood to become lake-colored by this means. [variant of *lac<sup>1</sup>*. See related etym. at *lacquer*, *shellac*.]

**lake basin**, 1 a depression for a lake: 2 the area drained by the streams that empty into a lake.

**Lake District** or **Country**, a region of beautiful mountains and lakes in northwestern England, associated with William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, and other English poets.

**lake dweller**, a person living in a lake dwelling, especially in prehistoric times.

**lake dwelling**, a house built, especially in prehistoric times, on piles driven into a lake or along the shore of a lake: Remains from the Swiss lake dwellings afford positive evidence that flax was domesticated and its fibers used in weaving (Beals and Hoijer).

**lakefront** (lāk'frnt'), *n.* the area bordering on a lake: ... a great exposition and convention hall on the Chicago lakefront (Wall Street Journal).

**lakehead** (lāk'hed'), *n.* the area of a lake nearest its source.

**lake herring**, = cisco.

**lake/land terrier** (lāk'lend), a terrier with a narrow body, long head, and beard, weighing 15 to 17 pounds. The breed was developed in England for hunting the fox and otter. [*<* *Lakeland* the Lake District]

**lake/like** (lāk'lik'), *adj.* resembling a lake: the lakelike glisten of desert sands.

**Lakenvelder** (lāk'en vel'der), *n.* any of a breed of chicken with black-and-white plumage and white-shelled eggs. It was developed in Germany.

**Lake poets**, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, and other English poets who lived in the Lake District; Lakers.

**lakier** (lāk'er), *n.* 1 a fish living in or taken from a lake, especially a lake trout. 2 a ship or freighter on a lake, especially the Great Lakes: Giant lakiers, previously land-locked on the Great Lakes, can now navigate right down to the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Maclean's). 3 a person accustomed to living, working, or sailing on a lake.

**Lakier** (lāk'er), *n.* one of the Lake poets: The Lakiers all ... first despised, and then patronised Walter Scott (Edward Fitzgerald).

**lake salmon**, 1 = lake trout. 2 a landlocked salmon.

**Lake School**, the Lake poets of England and their followers.

**lake/shore** (lāk'shōr'), *n.* = lakeside.

**lake/side** (lāk'sid'), *n.* the margin or shore of a lake: the willows and alders by the lakeside.

**lake sturgeon**, a sturgeon of the Great Lakes and Mississippi Valley waters that reaches a weight of 300 pounds and a length of eight feet; rock sturgeon.

**lake trout**, a large, dark trout with gray or yellowish spots, of the lakes of North America; naimy-cush.

**lake/ward** (lāk'wārd), *adv., adj.* toward the lake: Most of the cottages faced lakeward.

**lakh** (lak), *n., adj. — n.* in India: 1 a unit of 100,000, especially a unit of money equivalent to 100,000 rupees. 2 any large number; great amount. — *adj.* 100,000. Also, *lac*. [*<* Hindustani *lākh* *<* Sanskrit *lakṣha* 100,000]

**lakin** (lāk'in), *n.* Obsolete. ladykin (only in by our lakin, a form of by Our Lady). [*<* *la(dy)kin*]

**Lalkoida** (le kō'da), *n.* a glossy, amber-colored seal fur obtained from an Alaskan fur seal. [*<* the name of an area on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea]

**Lalkota** (le kō'ta), *n., pl. -ta or -tas.* = Dakota.

**Lakshmi** (luk'shmē), *n.* the Hindu goddess of prosperity and light, wife of Vishnu.

**laky** (lāk'y), *adj.* of or like the color of lake; purplish-red. [*<* *lak(e)²* + *-y*]

**lalang** (lālāng), *n.* a long, coarse East Indian grass of the jungle. [*<* Malay *lalang*]

**Lalique glass** (le lāk'), an ornamental glass decorated in relief with figures or flowers. [*<* René Lalique, 1860-1945, a French designer of glassware and jewelry]

**Lallian** (lal'ēn), *n., adj.* Scottish. Lowland.

**Lallians** (lal'ēnz), *n.* the Lowland Scottish dialect; Lowlands: [He] is a solid intelligent Scottish poet who writes partly in English, partly in Lallians (Observer).

**lalliation** (la lā'shən), *n.* the pronunciation of *r* like *l*, as in *velly* for *very*. [*<* Latin *lallāre* sing a lullaby + English *-ation*]

**Lally column** (lāl'i), *Trademark.* a steel column filled with concrete: The adjustment of the houses—a simple shift of stresses on existing uprights and the installation of a Lally column in the center of the dining room—can be accomplished in less than a week (New Yorker).

**lallygag** (lal'ē gag), *v.i., -gagged, -gagging.* U.S. Slang. lollygag: He was in high spirits after weeks of fishing and lallygagging in Florida ... (Sports Illustrated).

**lam<sup>1</sup>** (lam), *n., v., lammed, lamming.* Slang. — *n.* a hurried escape, as from the scene of a crime. — *v.i.* to escape, especially from an officer of the law; run away; flee.

**on the lam**, in flight; escaping: When he [a bear] is on the lam, he can make good time through thickets almost impenetrable to dogs (Newsweek).

**take it on the lam**, to flee hurriedly; escape: The heat was on and Antony took it on the lam (Punch).

[origin uncertain, perhaps *<* *lam²*]

**lam<sup>2</sup>** (lam), *v.t., v.i., lammed, lamming.* Informal. to beat soundly; thrash; whack: I bet you I'll lam

Sid for that. I'll learn him! (Mark Twain). [probably *<* Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *lemja* thrash)]

**Lam<sup>1</sup>**, 1 Lamentations (book of the Old Testament). 2 Botany. Lamarck.

**lama** (lāmē), *n.* a Buddhist priest or monk in Tibet and Mongolia. [*<* Tibetan *blama*]

**Lamaism** (lāmē iz'əm), *n.* the religious system of the lamas in Mongolia and in Tibet. It is a form of Mahayana Buddhism and possesses a widespread monastic system and a hierarchical organization headed by the Dalai Lama.

**Lamaist** (lāmē ist), *n., adj. — n.* a believer in Lamaism. — *adj.* = Lamaistic.

**Lamaistic** (lāmē is'tik), *adj.* 1 characteristic of a Lamaist. 2 of or having to do with Lamaism: the Lamaistic form of Buddhism.

**Lamanite** (lāmē nīt), *n.* one of the ancient Hebrew ancestors of the American Indians according to the Book of Mormon. [*<* *Laman*, son of Lehi, a Hebrew prophet who supposedly led a group of people to America in the 600's B.C.]

**Lamarckian** (le mār'kē ən), *adj., n. — adj.* of the French biologist Jean de Lamarck or Lamarckism. — *n.* person who supports Lamarckism.

**Lamarckianism** (le mār'kē ə niz'əm), *n.* = Lamarckism.

**Lamarckism** (le mār'kiz'əm), *n.* the theory of organic evolution proposed by Jean de Lamarck (1744-1829). Lamarckism states that characteristics acquired from the environment by parents tend to be inherited by their descendants.

**lama/seriy** (lāmē ser'ē), *n., pl. -series.* a monastery of lamas in Mongolia and Tibet. [*<* French *lamaserie*, apparently *<* *lama* lama + Persian *serāi*, or *sarāi* inn. Compare etym. under *caravansary*.]

**Lamaze** (le mās'), *adj.* of or having to do with a widely used form of natural childbirth developed in the 1950's by Fernand Lamaze, a French obstetrician: The method is known as "psychoprophylaxis," or more commonly the Lamaze Method of "natural" childbirth ... (Sally Olds and Linda Witt).

**lamb** (lam), *n., v. — n.* 1 a young sheep: Mary had a little lamb. 2 meat from a lamb: roast lamb. 3 = lambskin. 4 *Figurative.* a young, innocent, or dear person: The widow she cried over me and called me a poor lost lamb (Mark Twain). 5 Slang. *Figurative.* a person who is easily cheated. b an inexperienced speculator. 6 Informal. = Persian lamb.

— *v.i.* to give birth to a lamb or lambs: Lambing is always hazardous and is made more difficult by the uncertainty of the weather (Manchester Guardian Weekly).

— *v.t.* to attend (ewes) which are lambing.

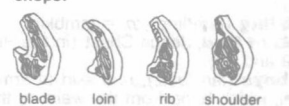
**like a lamb**, a meekly; timidly: He accepted his defeat like a lamb. b easily fooled: He was like a lamb in the hands of the swindlers, and they fleeced him of all his savings.

**The Lamb**, Jesus Christ (in the Bible, John 1:29, 36). So shows my soul before the Lamb, My spirit before Thee (Tennyson). [Old English *lamb*]

roasts:



chops:



\*lamb definition 2

**lam/bast** (lam bast'), *v.t.* Informal. lambaste.

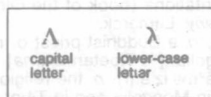
**lambaste** (lam bāst'), *v.t., -basted, -basting.* Informal. 1 to strike again and again; beat severely; thrash: The Queen and husband Philip spent the night at Government House, watched the traditional ... drummers lambasting their three-foot drums with ferocious, stout-filled glee (Time). 2 to scold roughly; denounce violently; condemn: Apparently the American people expect that in a campaign the two contending parties will lambaste each other unmercifully (Wall Street Journal). *syn.* excoriate, revile, score. 3 Nautical. to beat with the end of a rope. [perhaps *<* *lam²* + *baste³*]

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil, out; cup, pūt, rūle; child; long; thin; wnen; zh, measure; a represents a in about, e in taken, i in pencil, o in lemon, u in circus.



\***lambda** (lám'da), *n.* the 11th letter of the Greek alphabet. [**< Greek lámbda**]

\***lambda**



**lambda particle**, a heavy elementary particle, a form of hyperon, having a neutral charge and decaying very rapidly: *a lambda particle, first discovered in cosmic radiation in 1947* (London Times).

**lambda point**, the temperature, about 2.2 degrees, on the Kelvin scale, below which liquid helium becomes a superfluid.

**lambdoid** (lám'doid), *adj.* 1 shaped like the Greek capital lambda. 2 *Anatomy.* of or noting the suture between the occipital bone and the parietal bones of the skull. [**< Middle French lambdoide** **< Medieval Latin lambdoides** **< Greek lambdoideús** (medical sense) **< lámbda** **lambda** + **eidos** (shape)]

**lambdoidal** (lám'doidel), *adj.* = **lambdoid**.

**lambency** (lám'ben sē), *n., pl. -cies*. 1 *lambent* quality or condition. 2 a flickering light; shimmer: *In the picture, these colors were all different, all smudgy and gray, and the point of this, said Mr. Fowler, was to accent the lambencies of the hair* (New Yorker).

**lambent** (lám'bent), *adj.* 1 moving lightly over a surface: *a lambent flame*. *syn:* flickering. 2 *Figurative.* playing lightly and brilliantly over a subject: *lambent wit*. *syn:* playful, lively. 3 *Figurative.* shining with a soft, clear light: *lambent eyes*. *Moonlight is lambent*. *syn:* shimmering. [**< Latin lambēns, -entis**, present participle of *lambere* to lick] — **lambently**, *adv.*

**lambert** (lám'bért), *n.* the unit of brightness, equivalent to the brightness of a perfectly diffusing surface that emits or reflects one lumen per square centimeter. [**< Johann H. Lambert**, 1728-1777, a German physicist]

\***Lambert conformational projection** or **Lambert projection**, a map projection in which the meridians are drawn on the surface of a cone and the parallels are spaced mathematically to conform to the actual shape of the features represented. [**< Johann H. Lambert**]

\***Lambert conformational projection**



**Lambeth Conference** (lám'beth), a meeting of bishops of the Anglican Communion held to discuss church policy about once every ten years in London.

**Lambeth walk**, a ballroom song and dance popular, especially in England, in the late 1930's.

**lambkill** (lám'kil'), *n.* U.S. the sheep laurel.

**lambkin** (lám'kin'), *n.* 1 a little lamb; young lamb. 2 a young or dear person.

**lamblike** (lám'lík'), *adj.* like a lamb; gentle; meek.

**lambling** (lám'ling), *n.* = **lambkin**.

**Lamb of God**, Jesus Christ (in the Bible, John 1:29 and 36).

**lamboys** (lám'boiz), *n.* a skirt of armor, usually steel, which hung from the waist to the knees. It was used chiefly in the 1400's and 1500's. [origin uncertain]

**lambrequin** (lám'bre kin; -bér-), *n.* 1 U.S. a drape covering the top of a window or door, or hanging from a shelf. 2 a scarf worn in medieval times as a covering over a helmet to protect it from heat or dampness. [**< Middle French lambrequin** **< Dutch lamperkijn** **< lamper veil** + **-kin**]

**lambskin** (lám'skin'), *n.* 1 the skin of a lamb, especially with the wool on it: *a heavy coat lined with lamb skin*. 2 leather made from the skin of a lamb. 3 parchment made from this skin.

**lamb's-lettuce** (lámz'let's), *n.* = **corn salad**.

**lamb's-quarters** or **lamb's-quarters** (lámz'kwór'térz), *n., pl. -ters*. a weed of the goosefoot family, a species of pigweed, which is sometimes cultivated and used as a potherb and in salad.

**lamb's wool** or **lamb's wool** (lámz'wúl'), *n., adj.* — *n.* 1 a light, soft wool yarn spun from the first shearing of a lamb less than a year old. 2 hot ale mixed with the pulp of roasted apples and sweetened and spiced: *Lay a crab in the fire to roast*

for **lamb wool** (George Peele).

— *adj.* made from lambswool: *lambswool blankets, a lambswool shawl*.

**lame**<sup>1</sup> (lām), *adj.*, *lamer*, *lamest*, *v.*, *lamed*, *laming*. — *adj.* 1 not able to walk properly; having an injured leg or foot; crippled: *The soldier limps because he is lame from an old wound*. *syn:* disabled, halt, game. 2 stiff and sore: *His arm is lame from playing ball*. 3 *Figurative.* poor or weak; not very good: *Sleeping too long is a lame excuse for being late*. *Santa Croce and the dome of St. Peter's are lame copies after a divine model* (Emerson). *syn:* imperfect, unconvincing, feeble, unsatisfactory. 4 U.S. *Slang.* not up to date; naive: *Anyone who does not know that he is the positively super-fab lead singer of Paul Revere and the Raiders is obviously lame ... or perhaps just over 25 and into the twilight of life* (Time). 5 *Archaic.* crippled or impaired in any way; unable to move; infirm.

— *v.t.* to make lame; cripple: *The accident lamed him for life*. *syn:* disable.

— *v.i.* to become lame; go lame.

[Old English *lama*] — **lame'ly**, *adv.* — **lame'ness**, *n.*

**lame**<sup>2</sup> (lām), *n.* 1 one of numerous thin, small, steel plates laid in an overlapping pattern in making pieces of flexible armor. 2 *Obsolete.* a thin piece of any substance; lamina. [**< Old French lame** **< Latin lámina**, and *lámna*. See **doublet** etym. at **lamina**.]

**lame** (lá má, lá-), *n.* a rich fabric made wholly or partly of metal threads: *Young men in heavy boots stroll the sidewalks with maybe silver lame inserts in their black shirts* (Patrick O'Donovan). [**< French lame** a fabric, type of thread; (literally) laminated **< Old French lame** metal leaf]

**lame-brain** (lám'brān'), *n.* *Informal.* a stupid person: *Only lame-brains and weak sisters resort to handouts* (Wall Street Journal).

**lame-brained** (lám'brānd'), *adj.* *Informal.* not bright; foolish; stupid.

**lamed** (lá'med), *n.* the twelfth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. [**< Hebrew lamedh** goad]

**lame duck**, 1 U.S. a public official, especially a Congressman, who has been defeated for reelection and is serving the last part of his term: *Like a lame-duck President, a Prime Minister who is known to be on the way out cannot command authority* (Manchester Guardian Weekly). 2 a disabled or helpless person or thing: *They started out in convoy, but they had some engine trouble—and you know the rule of the road nowadays: no waiting for lame ducks* (Graham Greene). 3 *Slang.* a person who cannot meet his financial commitments on the stock market. — **lame'-duck'**, *adj.*

**Lame Duck Amendment**, the 20th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which moved forward the opening of a new Congress to January 3 and the inauguration of a new President to January 20, thus providing the earlier assumption of office by newly elected persons.

**lamella** (le mel'ə), *n., pl. -mellae* (-mel'ē), **-mellae**. 1 a thin plate, scale, or layer, especially of flesh or bone. 2 one of the thin scales or plates composing some shells, as in bivalve mollusks. 3 *Botany.* a one of the thin radiating plates or gills forming the spore-bearing layer of a mushroom. 4 one of the erect scales appended to the corolla of some flowers. 5 an erect sheet of cells on the midrib of a leaf in mosses. [**< Latin lá-mella** (diminutive) **< lámina** thin plate, lamina]

**lamellar** (le mel'ər, lám'ər), *adj.* consisting of or arranged in lamellae. — **lamel'larly**, *adv.*

**lamellate** (lám'ē lát, -lit; le mel'āt, -it), *adj.* 1 = **lamellar**. 2 consisting of a flat plate or leaf. 3 platelike or leaflike; flat. 4 = **lamellicorn**. — **lamel'ellately**, *adv.*

**lamellated** (lám'ē lā'tid), *adj.* = **lamellate**.

**lamellation** (lám'ē lā'shən), *n.* lamellate arrangement or structure.

**lamellibranch** (le mel'ē brangk), *n., adj.* — *n.* a mollusk having thin, platelike gills and a headless body enclosed in a shell whose two parts are connected by a hinge; pelecypod. Lamellibranchs are a class of mollusks that include oysters, clams, and scallops, have a wedge-shaped foot, and are bilaterally symmetrical within a mantle secreted by the shell.

— *adj.* of or belonging to this class of mollusks; lamellibranchiate.

[**< New Latin Lamellibranchia** the class name **< Latin lá-mella** lamella + **Greek bránchia** gills, branchia]

**lamellibranchiate** (le mel'ē brangk'ē át, -it), *adj., n.* — *adj.* belonging to the lamellibranchs. — *n.* = **lamellibranch**.

**lamellicorn** (le mel'ē kōrn), *adj., n.* — *adj.* 1 of a group of beetles having antennae ending in flattened segments. 2 ending in flattened segments: *lamellicorn antennae*. — *n.* a cockchafer, dung beetle, scarab, Japanese beetle, or other beetle whose antennae end

in flat plates. [**< New Latin Lamellicornes** the group name **< Latin lá-mella** lamella + **cornū, -ūs** horn]

**lamelliform** (le mel'ə fōrm), *adj.* having the shape or structure of a lamella or thin plate.

**lamellose** (le mel'ōs, lám'ē lōs), *adj.* = **lamellar**.

**lament** (le men't'), *v., n.* — *v.t.* 1 to sorrow for; mourn aloud for: *We lament the dead*. *syn:* bewail, deplore. 2 to feel sorrow about; regret: *We lamented his absence. I lamented my own folly ... in attempting a second voyage* (Daniel Defoe). — *v.i.* to feel or show grief; mourn aloud; weep: *Why does she lament so? The ghost of Freud laments wanly of yet another disservice perpetrated in his name* (Mary O'Reilly). *syn:* grieve, wail.

— *n.* 1 an expression of grief or sorrow; wail: *The Russian scholars raised a lament against, of all things, the slighting of Latin and Greek in Soviet curriculums* (Newsweek). *Good grandire, leave these bitter deep laments* (Shakespeare). 2 a poem, song, or tune that expresses grief: *Soon as the dire lament was play'd, it waked the lurking ambushade* (Scott). *syn:* elegy, dirge. 3 *Poetic.* the act of lamenting; lamentation. [**< Latin lamentārī** **< lamentum** a wailing, related to *lātrāre* to bark, cry] — **lament'er**, *n.* — **lament'ingly**, *adv.*

**lamentable** (lám'en tē bel, le men'-), *adj.* 1 giving cause for sorrow; to be regretted or pitied: *a lamentable accident*. *It was a lamentable day when our dog was run over*. *syn:* pitiable, deplorable. 2 not so good; inferior; pitiful: *a lamentable fake*. *The singer gave a lamentable performance*. 3 *Archaic.* sorrowful; mournful: *a lamentable voice*.

**lamentably** (lám'en tē blē, le men'-), *adv.* to a lamentable degree; regrettably; pitifully: *He was lamentably ignorant about everything except sports*.

**lamentation** (lám'en tā'shən), *n.* loud grief; cries of sorrow; mourning; wailing: *She tried to forget, but she could not. Her lamentations continued with a strange abundance, a strange persistence* (Lytton Strachey).

**Lamentations** (lám'en tā'shən), *n.pl.* a book of the Old Testament, according to tradition, written by Jeremiah: *By Christians it is customarily placed among the prophetic books, following Jeremiah, but in the Hebrew Bible it is classed among the sacred writings (Hagiographa) rather than among the Prophets (Nebiim)*. *Abbr:* Lam.

**lamented** (le men'tid), *adj.* 1 mourned for, as one who is dead: *his excellent, learned, and ever lamented friend the late Mr. Yorke* (Edmund Burke). 2 regretted; deplored.

**lamester** (lá'mē tər), *n.* *Scottish and Northern English.* a lame person; cripple: *You have now, no doubt, friends who will ... not suffer you to devote yourself to a blind lameter like me* (Charlotte Brontë). Also, **lamiter**. [ultimately **< lame**<sup>1</sup>]

**lamia** (lá'mē ə), *n., pl. -mias, -miae* (-mē ē). 1 *Greek and Roman Mythology.* a fabulous monster having the head and breasts of a woman and the body of a serpent, said to lure away children, especially the newborn, to suck their blood. 2 a witch; female demon. [**< Latin lamia** sorceress, a blood-sucking witch **< Greek lá-mia** flesh-eating monster]

**lamina** (lá'mē ə), *n., pl. -nae* (-nē), **-nas**. 1 a thin plate, scale, or layer: *A type of record which occurs widely throughout the world is that of varves, the laminae in certain clays and sands* (G. H. Dury). 2 the flat, wide part of a leaf; blade. 3 *Anatomy.* a thin layer of bone, membrane, or the like. [**< Latin lá-mina** thin piece of metal or wood; plate, leaf, layer. See etym. of **doublet lame**<sup>2</sup>.]

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**laminar** (lám'ē nər), *adj.* 1 consisting of or arranged in laminae. 2 smooth; streamlined; not turbulent: *The flow of oil for lubrication in bearings is laminar*.

**laminar flow**, a steady flow of a fluid, as opposed to turbulent flow: *When you open the faucet a little bit, the water streams out smoothly in what is known as laminar (or streamlined) flow* (George Gamow). *Air can flow in the boundary layer in ... orderly paths parallel to the surface of the airplane ... The parallel flow is called laminar flow* (A. Wiley Sherwood). See diagram under **fluid flow**.

**lamellar** (lám'ē lər), *adj.* = **lamellar**.



longing to a group of brown algae that includes the large kelps. [*< New Latin Laminaria the genus name (< Latin lamina thin plate) + English -aceous*]

**lam[ina]rin** (lam'ē nā'rin), *n.* a sulfated form of starch derived from seaweed, which serves as an anticoagulant. [*< New Latin Laminaria the genus name + English -in*]

**lam[ina]te** (v. lam'ē nāt; *adj.*, *n.* lam'ē nāt, -nit), *v.* -nated, -nating, *adj.*, *n.* -v.t. 1 to make (plywood, plastics, or glass) by fastening together layer on layer of one or more materials. 2 to beat or roll (metal) into a thin plate. 3 to split into thin layers. 4 to cover with thin plates. — *v.i.* to separate into thin layers.

— *adj.* laminated; laminar. — *n.* laminated plastic. [*< Latin lamina lamina + English -ate*]

**lam[ina]ted** (lam'ē nā'tid), *adj.* 1 formed or manufactured in a succession of layers of material: *The magnet must be of laminated construction and is built up from a large number of 1/2-inch sheets* (L. L. Green). 2 consisting of or arranged in laminae.

**lam[ina]tion** (lam'ē nā'shen), *n.* 1 the process of laminating or the condition of being laminated: *Lamination consists of gluing thin planks of wood together to make a thick one.* 2 a laminated structure; arrangement in thin layers. 3 a thin layer.

**lam[ina]tive** (lam'ē nā'tiv), *adj.* of a laminated texture.

**lam[ina]tor** (lam'ē nā'ter), *n.* a device which protects documents by laminating them between sheets of transparent plastic.

**lam[ina]to[my]** (lam'ē nek'te mā), *n.*, *pl.* -mies. surgical removal of the posterior arch of a vertebra.

**lam[ing]ton** (lam'ing ten), *n.* (in Australia and New Zealand) a square of sponge cake with a coating of chocolate and coconut. [*< Baron Lamington (C.W. Baillie), governor of Queensland from 1895 to 1901*]

**lam[ini]tis** (lam'ē nī'tis), *n.* inflammation of the sensitive laminar structures of a horse's foot; founder. [*< New Latin laminitis < lamina lamina + -itis -itis*]

**lam[ino]se** (lam'ē nōs), *adj.* consisting of or having the form of laminae.

**lam[ino]us** (lam'ē nes), *adj.* = laminose.

**lam[is]ter** (lam'ē ster), *n.* Slang. a person who is escaping or hiding from the law; escaped convict; fugitive: *The Irish law was already so well publicized ... that every major British lamister had long since flown the coop* (Time). Also, **lamster**. [*< lam + -ster*]

**lam[is]ter** (lā'mē ter), *n.* = lameter.

**Lammas** (lam'ēs), *n.*, or **Lammas Day**, 1 August 1, the day of a harvest festival formerly held in England. 2 August 1; a religious feast in the Roman Catholic Church commemorating the imprisonment and miraculous escape of Saint Peter (in the Bible, Acts 12:4-10). [Old English *hlāf-mæsse* < *hlāf* bread + *mæsse* mass (the consecration of loaves of the year's first grain)]

**Lammas[tide]** (lam'ēs tīd'), *n.* the season around August 1 (Lammas).

**lam[mer]goller** or **lam[mer]geyer** (lam'er gī'er), *n.* the largest European bird of prey, with a wingspread of nine to ten feet, inhabiting lofty mountains in southern Europe, Asia, and northern Africa; ossifrage; bearded vulture. [*< German Lämmergeier < Lämmer, plural of Lamm lamb + Geier vulture*]

**lam[mer]geir** (lam'er gīr), *n.* = lammergeier.

**Lam[mo]na** (le mō'ne), *n.* any of an American breed of chicken with white plumage and white-shelled eggs.

**lamp** (lamp), *n.*, *v.* — *n.* 1 a device that gives artificial light. Oil lamps hold oil and a wick by which the oil is burned. A gas or electric light, especially when covered with a glass globe or other shade, is called a lamp. Sometimes anything that gives light, such as a torch or flashlight, is called a lamp. 2 a similar device that gives heat: *a spirit lamp*. 3 Figurative. something that suggests the light of a lamp: *the lamp of learning*. ... *reason, that heav'n-lighted lamp in man* (Edward Young). 4 Slang. an eye. 5 one of the heavenly bodies, such as the sun, the moon, a star, or a meteor: *that glorious lamp of heaven, the sun* (Robert Herrick). — *v.t.* Slang. to eye; look at: *From the corner of his eye, he lamped the woman* (James T. Farrell).

**smell of the lamp**, to suggest long hours of hard work late at night; be stuffy or pedantic: *Hardly any poet smells of the lamp less disagreeably than Spenser* (George E. B. Saintsbury). [*< Old French lampe < Latin lampas, -adis < Greek lampás, -ados < lampein to shine*]

**lampade** (lamp'adz), *n.*, *pl.* Poetic. the seven "lamps of fire" burning before the throne of God (in the Bible, Revelation 4:5). [*< Greek lampás, -ados lamp*]

**lampas**<sup>1</sup> (lam'pes), *n.* an inflammation of the mucous membrane covering the hard palate of the mouth in the horse. [*< Old French lampas*]

**lampas**<sup>2</sup> (lam'pes), *n.* a kind of flowered silk fabric, originally imported from China and usually made into shawls or kerchiefs. [*< French lampas*]

**lampblack** (lamp'blak'), *n.*, *v.* — *n.* a fine black soot consisting of almost pure carbon that is deposited when oil, gas, etc., burns incompletely. Lampblack is used as a coloring matter in paint, ink, cement, and in making tires.

— *v.t.* to paint, smear, or coat with lampblack: *A ... scoundrel who knows no pleasure beyond ... lampblackening signs* (Thomas Brown).

**lampbrush chromosome** (lamp'brush'), a type of large chromosome found especially in the immature eggs of amphibians, consisting of two long strands that form many brushlike loops along the main axis of the chromosome.

**lamp[er] eel** (lamp'per), 1 = lamprey. 2 = eelpout (def. 1).

**lamp[er]s** (lamp'perz), *n.* = lampas<sup>1</sup>.

**lamp holder**, Especially British. a socket for an electric-light bulb.

**lamp[ho]use** (lamp'hous'), *n.* an enclosure for a source of light, as in a lantern: *This new carbon in its proper lamphouse gives twice as much light as any ... unit previously available* (William F. Kelley).

**lamp[li]on** (lamp'pō en), *n.* a simple small lamp, often of colored glass, used for illumination. [*< French lampion < Italian lampione street or carriage light (augmentative) < lampa, probably < Old French lampe lamp*]

**lamp[li]ght** (lamp'lit'), *n.* the light from a lamp.

**lamp[li]ghter** (lamp'lit'er), *n.* 1 a person who lights lamps, especially a person formerly employed to light gas-burning street lamps. 2 U.S. (formerly) a torch, twisted paper, or the like, used to light lamps.

**lamp oil**, 1 oil used for burning in a lamp. 2 U.S. kerosene.

**lampoon** (lamp'pūn'), *n.*, *v.* — *n.* a piece of writing, a speech, or a remark that attacks and makes fun of a person in a spiteful or insulting way: *Many popular nursery rhymes probably originated as lampoons on famous people*. SYN: satire, pasquinade.

— *v.t.* to attack and make fun of in a lampoon; ridicule: *It does not pull any punches in lampooning our most august political figures in a program of skits, songs, dialogues, and impersonations of a very high artistic level* (Friedrich Luft).

[*< earlier French lampon drinking song < lampo- lampo- let us drink (a refrain of a drinking song) < slang lampo to drink*] — **lampoon'er**, *n.*

**lampoon[er]y** (lamp'pūn'ēr), *n.* 1 the practice of writing lampoons: *The portentous triviality of the questions offered an irresistible cue for lampoonery* (Time). 2 lampooning quality or spirit.

**lampoon[ist]** (lamp'pū'nist), *n.* a person who writes or makes lampoons.

**lamp[po]st** (lamp'pōst'), *n.* a post used to support a street lamp.

**lamp[prey]** (lamp'prē), *n.*, *pl.* -preys. a marine and freshwater animal having a body like an eel with gill slits like a fish and no jaws but a large, round mouth. Lampreys are vertebrates found throughout the world and are parasitic, some attaching themselves to fishes with their mouths to suck the body fluids. See picture under eel. [*< Old French lampreie < Medieval Latin lampreda, uncertain relationship to Late Latin lampetra < Latin lambeo to lick + petra rock*. See etym. of doublet limpet.]

**lampshade** (lamp'shād'), *n.* a shade over a lamp to soften or direct the light.

**lamp shell**, = brachiopod.

**lampwork[ing]** (lamp'wēr'king), *n.* the reshaping of glass rods or tubing softened by reheating to make incandescent bulbs, radio tubes, scientific equipment, and decorative objects.

**lam[zi]ek[te]** (lām'zēk'te), *n.* = lamziekte.

**lam[is]ter** (lam'ster), *n.* = lamister.

**Lam[ut]** (le mūt'), *n.*, *pl.* mut or -muts. 1 a member of a people of Kamchatka, a peninsula in Siberia, who herd reindeer. 2 their Tungusic language.

**lam[zi]ek[te]** (lām'zēk'te), *n.* a paralytic disease of cattle in South Africa. It is a form of botulism. [*< Afrikaans lamziekte < Dutch lam lame + ziekte disease*]

**lana[il]** (lā nī'), *n.*, *pl.* -nais. a porch or veranda. [*< Hawaiian*]

**lana[te]** (lā'nāt), *adj.* Botany, Entomology. having a woolly covering or surface; lanose. [*< Latin lana wool < lana wool*]

**Lancaster** (lang'ke ster), *n.* the royal house of England from 1399 to 1461. Its emblem was a red rose. The House of Lancaster was descended from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. The three kings of this house were Henry IV, Henry V, and Henry VI.

**Lancasterian** (lang'ke stir'ē en), *adj.* of or having to do with the English educator Joseph Lancaster (1778-1838) or the system of instruction used by him, in which the younger pupils were taught by the more advanced pupils, who were called monitors.

**Lancasterian** (lang kas'trē en), *n.*, *adj.* — *n.* 1 (in English history) a supporter or member of the royal house of Lancaster, especially in the Wars of the Roses. 2 a native of Lancashire, county in England.

— *adj.* of or having to do with the royal house of Lancaster.

**lance**<sup>1</sup> (lans, lāns), *n.*, *v.*, **lanced**, **lancing**. — *n.* 1 a long wooden spear with a sharp iron or steel head: *The knights and some cavalry troops carried lances as they rode into battle.* 2 = lancer. 3a any instrument like a soldier's lance. A spear for harpooning a whale is called a lance. b a surgeon's knife; lancet. 4 a metal pipe for supplying oxygen under pressure, used to cut or pierce metal or to oxidize molten iron. 5 a thin paper tube filled with color-producing fireworks. [*< Old French lance < Latin lancea light Spanish spear*]

— *v.t.* 1 to pierce with or as if with a lance: *to lance a fish*. *They lanced his flesh with knives* (John Bunyan). SYN: cut, gash, slit. 2 to cut open with a surgeon's knife: *The dentist lanced the gum where a new tooth had difficulty coming through.* 3 to supply (oxygen) through a lance under pressure in smelting: *Oxygen is lanced into the furnace as it is being tapped. This causes the slag and lead to run* (London Times).

— *v.i.* to dart, rush, or bound away. **carry the (or a) lance for**, defend or argue in favor of: *Miss Butler, carrying a lance for Sarah and the Churchills, charges magnificently up and down the field going the opposition and reducing Abigail Hill to mincemeat* (London Times).

[*< Old French lancier < Late Latin lanceāre < Latin lancea*. See etym. of doublet launch<sup>1</sup>.]

**lance**<sup>2</sup> (lans, lāns), *n.* = lancea.

**lance corporal**, 1 an enlisted man in the United States Marine Corps ranking next below a corporal and next above a private first class. 2 a private in the British Army acting temporarily as a corporal without increase of pay.

**lance knight**, = lansquenet. [*< German Lanzknecht (< Lanze lance), alteration of Landsknecht-Land(e)sthand's + Knechtservant*]

**lanceleaf** (lans'lāf', lāns'-), *n.*, *pl.* -leaves. a lungwort of western North America, having smooth stems, large leaves, and bell-shaped pink or blue flowers.

**lancellet** (lans'lit, lāns'-), *n.* a small, limbless, often translucent, fishlike marine animal, regarded as a link between the vertebrates and the invertebrates, found in the sand under shallow waters; amphioxus; cephalochordate. Lancelets have a thin body, pointed at both ends and no skull. [earlier, a lancet < lance + -let]

**lancelike** (lans'lik'), *adj.* shaped like a lance; lanceolate: *Strange that so gigantic a tree [the sequoia] should put out such paltry lancelike leaves* (New Yorker).

**Lancellet** (lans'set, -lot; lān'-), *n.* the bravest of King Arthur's knights of the Round Table. Lancelot was the lover of Queen Guinevere and the father of Sir Galahad.

**lan[ce]olate** (lan'sē ē lāt, -lit), *adj.* shaped like the head of a lance; tapering from a rounded base toward the apex; lanceolated; lancelike: *a lanceolate leaf*. [*< Latin lanceolatus < lanceola (diminutive) < lancea lance*] — **lan[ce]olately**, *adv.*

**lan[ce]olated** (lan'sē ē lāt'id), *adj.* = lanceolate.

**lancier** (lan'ser, lān'-), *n.* a mounted soldier armed with a lance; lance. The **Lancers** are members of a light cavalry unit of the British Army.

**lancers** or **lan[c]iers** (lan'serz, lān'-), *n.* *pl.* 1 a form of square dance or quadrille having figures imitating military drill. 2 the music for it.

**lance sergeant**, a corporal in the British Army, appointed to act temporarily as a sergeant without increase of pay.

**lan[cet]** (lan'sit, lān'-), *n.* 1 a small pointed knife, usually having two sharp edges, used by doctors and surgeons in opening boils and abscesses and making other small incisions; lance. 2 a lancet arch or lancet-window: *Two smaller lancers show red-and-blue designs* (New Yorker). [*< Old French lancette (diminutive) < lance lance < Latin lancea*]

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil, out; cup, pūt, rŭle; child; long; thin; wēn; zh, measure;

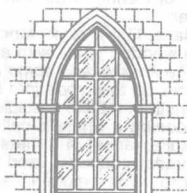
ē represents a in about, ē in taken, i in pencil, o in lemon, u in circus.

**lancet arch**, a narrow, sharply pointed arch; lancet.

**lancet(ed)** (lan'se tid, län'-), *adj.* having a lancet arch or lancet window.

**lancet fish**, a large, fierce marine fish with a long body, long sharp teeth, and a very long, high dorsal fin.

\***lancet window**, a high, narrow window with a lancet arch at the top but not divided by tracery; lancet.



\*lancet window

**lance/wood** (lans'wud', län's-), *n.* 1 a tough, straight-grained, springy wood used especially for fishing rods, carriage shafts, and cabinetwork. 2 any one of various American trees that yield this wood.

**lan/ci/nate** (lan'se nāt), *v.t.*, *-nated*, *-nating*. to pierce; tear. [*<* Latin *lancināre* (with English *-ate*)] destroy, tear to pieces, related to *lacerāre* lacerate

**lan/ci/nating** (lan'se nā'ting), *adj.* piercing; darting: *lancinating pain*, *lancinating criticism*.

**lan/ci/nation** (lan'se nā'shen), *n.* a sharp, shooting pain.

**land** (land), *n.*, *v.* — *n.* 1 the solid part of the earth's surface: *After many weeks at sea, the sailors sighted land.* 2 ground or soil: *This is good land for a garden.* *syn:* earth. 3a ground or soil used as property; real estate, such as a piece of ground and everything permanently attached to it: *The farmer invested in land and machinery.* b any property interest a person has in land. 4 anything furnished by nature without the help of man, such as soil, mineral deposits, water, or wildlife. *Land, labor, and capital* are the three principal factors of production. 5 a country or region: *the explorers traveled north until they reached the Land of the Midnight Sun.* *Switzerland is a mountainous land.* 6 the people of a country; nation: *He collected folk songs from all the land.* 7 realm; domain: *the land of the living.* *Soldiers are citizens of death's grey land* (Siegfried Sassoon). 8 one of the strips into which a field is divided by plowing: *I was ploughing in lands, strips across the paddock which widen and eventually join up* (London Times). 9 one of the smooth, raised surfaces between the grooves in the bore of a rifle or other gun with rifling.

— *v.i.* 1 to come to land or something solid: *The ship landed at the pier.* *The crippled airplane landed at an emergency field.* *The fly landed on the bread.* 2 to go on shore from a ship, boat, or airplane: *The passengers landed.* 3 to come to a stop; arrive: *The thief landed in jail.* *The car landed in the ditch.*

— *v.t.* 1a to bring to land; set ashore; set on something solid: *The ship landed its passengers.* *The pilot landed the airplane in Seattle.* b to set down from a vehicle: *The bus landed him in front of his house.* 2 to cause to arrive: *This train will land you in London.* *A combination of circumstances landed the company in bankruptcy.* 3 informal. to get; catch: *to land a job*, *to land a fish.* 4 Slang. to strike with (a blow): *I landed a blow on his chin.*

**how the land lies**, what the state of affairs is: *Uncle Charles's eyes had discovered how the land lay as regarded Rose and himself* (Mary Bridgman).

**lands**, a territorial possessions: *Their lands had been divided by Cromwell among his followers* (Macaulay). b those parts of a farm in South Africa on which crops are cultivated: *There are, too, the 'lands' where the mealies and the corn are planted* (Beatrice M. Hicks).

**make land**, to discover or see land as the ship approaches a shore: *We were at sea a full week before we finally made land.*

[Old English *land*]

**Land** (lānt), *n.*, *pl.* Lānder or Laender (len'der). German. a state; province: *The Federal Republic of Germany is a federal state composed of ten Lānder.*

**land agent**, 1 a manager of a property and its land. 2 real-estate agent.

\***landau** (lan'dō, -dou), *n.* 1 a four-wheeled carriage with two inside seats facing each other and a top made in two parts that can be folded back. 2 an automobile with a similar top or one that

imitates such a top. [*<* *Landau*, a town in Germany, where it was first made]

\*landau  
definition 1



**lan'dau/let** or **lan'dau/lette** (lan'dō let'), *n.* 1 a landau with only one seat: *The mistress of a very pretty landaulette* (Jane Austen). 2 an automobile with a single seat and a folding top.

**land bank**, 1 a bank that grants long-term loans on real property in return for mortgages: *As the land bank system developed, it has been able to keep pace with modern farming* (Joseph G. Knapp). 2 British. (formerly) a banking institution that issued notes on the security of real property.

**land/bound** (land'bound'), *adj.* 1 bound or limited to the land: *In total nuclear warfare, what can a landbound army do?* (Newsweek). 2 bounded by land: *There are four provinces in Galicia, and we were in Orense—the southernmost and the only one of the four that is landbound* (New Yorker).

**land breeze**, a breeze blowing from the land toward the sea: *The land breeze is usually less developed than the sea breeze; it is shallower, has less speed, and extends only 5 or 6 miles over the sea* (Thomas A. Blair).

**land bridge**, a neck of land connecting two land masses: *Australia may have been settled earlier, when a land bridge still joined that continent to South-East Asia* (Punch).

**land crab**, any one of various large crabs that inhabit the coasts of many tropical countries.

**Land Dyak**, a member of a tribe of Dyaks living inland in Sarawak, in northeastern Borneo. Land Dyaks are distinguished from the Ibans or Sea Dyaks.

**lande** (land; French *lând*), *n.* an uncultivated or unfertile plain covered with heath, broom, ferns, or other undergrowth, as in southwestern France. [*<* French *lande*]

**landed** (lan'did), *adj.* 1 owning land: *the landed aristocracy.* 2 consisting of land: *Landed property is real estate.*

**lander** (lan'der), *n.* 1 a person who makes a landing. 2 a person who settles on land. 3 a spacecraft designed for landing instead of orbiting; landing vehicle: *The 30 kg. lander was released from a hovering helicopter and allowed to free fall to the lake bed. In the thin atmosphere of Mars, the lander would be slowed to the same velocity by a six metre parachute; no parachute was used in this test* (Science Journal).

**land/fall** (land'fōl'), *n.* 1 a sighting of land. 2 the land sighted or reached: *When you arrive at Darwin, your landfall in Australia, you are given a form to complete* ... (James Morris). 3 an approach to land; landing: *our landfall on the moon.*

**land/fast** (land'fast'), *adj.* attached to land: *A million years ago the island was either landfast or near the shore.*

**land/fill** (land'fil'), *n.* U.S. 1 a place where rubbish or other debris is deposited and covered with earth: *Refuse from Brooklyn and Manhattan ... is dumped in a landfill* (New York Times). 2 this system of rubbish disposal. 3 the material used to fill in low or wet land. 4 a part of a body of water that is drained and filled with earth for use as land: *Building a commercial expressway on landfill along the river's east bank would seriously impair the scenic and historic values of the Hudson highlands* (New York Times).

**land/filling** (land'fil'ing), *n.* the using of landfill.

**land/form** (land'fōrm'), *n.* the physical characteristics of land; irregularities of land: *The principal groups of landforms to be considered, as distinguished by their several characteristic features and degrees of relative relief, are (a) plains, (b) plateaus, (c) hill lands, and (d) mountains* (Finch and Trewartha).

**land freeze**, a government restriction on the sale and transfer of land.

**land grabber**, a person who acquires land from another by treachery, force, or other means contrary to the spirit of the law.

**land grant**, a grant of land; gift of land by the government for colleges, railroads, roads, or other public projects. Land grant colleges or universities are institutions that receive federal aid in land or money under the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890, which permitted each state to use public lands to support at least one agricultural or industrial college.

**land/grave** (land'grāv'), *n.* 1 a German count in the Middle Ages having authority over a considerable territory or over other counts. 2 the title of

certain German princes. [ultimately *<* Middle High German *lantgrāve* *<* *lant* land + *grāve* count]

**land/hold/er** (land'hōl'der), *n.* a person who owns or occupies land.

**land/hold/ing** (land'hōl'ding), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* that owns or occupies land: *a landholding corporation.*

— *n.* an owning or occupying of land.

**land/ing** (lan'ding), *n.* 1 a coming to land: *There are many millions of take-offs and landings at the nation's airports each year.* *syn:* debarkation, disembarkation. 2 a place where persons or goods are landed from a ship, helicopter, or the like; landing place. A wharf, dock, or pier is a landing for boats. *syn:* port, wharf. 3a a platform between flights of stairs. b the floor at the top or bottom of a staircase. 4 the catching of fish, especially in large amounts by commercial methods: *Halibut landings of 37 million pounds were down six million from the ... catch* (Wall Street Journal). 5 a place where logs are gathered before being transported to a sawmill.

**landing craft**, a boat or ship used for landing troops or equipment on a shore, especially during an assault. Landing craft often have a front that opens or drops to form a ramp and are usually flat-bottomed boats with a very shallow draft.

**landing field**, a field large enough and smooth enough for airplanes to land on and take off from safely.

**landing gear**, wheels, pontoons, or skids which support an aircraft in landing; undercarriage. When on land or water an aircraft rests on its landing gear. See picture under *airplane*.

**landing light**, 1 any of the lights on an aircraft used to see when landing at night. 2 any of the lights of a landing system.

**landing mat**, a mat of meshed steel that can be joined to others to form a smooth landing surface for aircraft on rough ground.

**landing net**, a small net to take fish from the water after they are caught.

**landing party**, 1 any group of people who make a landing. 2 a group of soldiers who make a landing, especially in advance of a main invasion force.

**landing stage**, a floating platform used for loading and unloading people and goods.

**landing strip**, = airstrip.

**landing system**, controls which regulate or assist in the landing of an aircraft: *A jet bomber was safely landed by a ground-based, automatic landing system using radar to track the plane and radio to transmit flight path correction signals to the airplane's auto-pilot* (Science News Letter).

**landing vehicle**, = lander (def. 3).

**land/lady** (land'lā'dē), *n.*, *pl.* -dies. 1 a woman who owns a building or land that she rents to others. 2 a woman who runs an inn or rooming house.

**land/less** (land'lis), *adj.* without land; owning no land: *the landless serfs of the Middle Ages.*

— **land/less/ness**, *n.*

**land/like** (land'lik'), *adj.* like or characteristic of land: *The sea-bottom has landlike hills and valleys.*

**land/line** (land'līn'), *n.* a communication cable that runs on or under the land: *The program, which lasted one hour, was transmitted by a combination of landline and microwave* (New Scientist).

**land/locked** (land'lokt'), *adj.* 1 shut in, or nearly shut in, by land: *the landlocked Great Lakes.* *The landlocked harbor was protected from the full force of the wind and waves.* 2 living in waters shut off from the sea: *Landlocked salmon must spend their lives in freshwater instead of making the migration to salt water.*

**land/lord** (land'lōrd'), *n.* 1 a person who owns a building or land that he rents to others: *absentee landlords.* 2 a person who runs an inn or rooming house. *syn:* host, innkeeper.

**land/lord/ism** (land'lōr'diz em), *n.* 1 the methods or practices of landlords; system of renting from landlords: *... agriculture with low productivity hampered still by the relics of landlordism* (Wall Street Journal). 2 the principle of the supremacy of the landlord class.

**land/lub/ber** (land'lub'er), *n.* a person not used to being on ships; person who is awkward on board ship because of lack of experience: *The sailors called the landsmen landlubbers in scorn. Their dream, like the dream of so many landlubbers was ... to sail to the South Seas, to leave the world behind* (New York Times).

**land/lub/berly** (land'lub'er lē), *adj.* confined to or used on land rather than the sea: *landlubberly phrases*, *landlubberly sports such as cricket and polo.*

**land/lub/bing** (land'lub'ing), *adj.*, *n.* — *adj.* living or staying on the land; not seafaring.

— *n.* life or activity on land.

**land/mark** (land'mārk'), *n.*, *adj.*, *v.* — *n.* 1 some-



thing familiar or easily seen, used as a guide: *The hiker did not lose his way in the forest because the rangers' high tower served as a landmark.* 2 *Figurative.* an important fact or event; a happening that stands out above others: *The inventions of the printing press, the telephone, the radio, and television are landmarks in the history of communications.* 3 a historic building, monument, or site: *Under the Landmarks Law, the exterior of a landmark building must be preserved, but there are no restrictions on interior remodeling (Ada Louise Huxtable).* 4 a stone or other object that marks the boundary of a piece of land: *Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark (Deuteronomy 19:14).*

— *adj.* U.S. serving as a guide in future judicial ruling; setting a legal precedent: *a landmark Supreme Court decision.*

— *v.t.* to mark by a landmark; indicate as if by a landmark: *Wakeful and missing little, and land-marking the flylike dance of the planets ... (Ted Hughes).*

**land mass**, or **land mass** (land'mas'), *n.* a large, unbroken area of land, especially a continent: *Antarctica is the earth's coldest land mass. The Soviet Union and its satellites form a land mass extending from eastern Europe through most of Asia.*

**land measure**, a system of square measure for the area of land.

**land mine**, a container filled with explosives, placed on the ground or lightly covered. It is usually set off by the weight of vehicles or troops passing over it or by magnetic contact.

**Land of Beulah**, the land of rest and happiness just this side of the river of death in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.

**Land of Enchantment**, a nickname for New Mexico.

**land office**, a government office dealing with records of sale and transfer of public lands.

**land-office business** (land'ôf'is, -ôf'), *U.S. informal.* exceedingly active or rapid business: *By day the tomb is thronged with parents and children, and wagons selling ... soft drinks were doing a land-office business (Saturday Review).*

**Land of Lincoln**, a nickname for Illinois.

**land of nod**, sleep. [pun on the *Land of Nod* (in the Bible) the country to which Cain traveled. Genesis 4:16]

**Land of Opportunity**, a nickname for Arkansas.

**Land of Promise**, = Promised Land.

**Land of Shining Mountains**, a nickname for Montana.

**land of the leal**, the dwelling place of the blessed after death; heaven.

**Land of the Midnight Sun**, a nickname for arctic regions, especially the northernmost part of Norway.

**Land of the Rising Sun**, a nickname for Japan.

**land otter**, = river otter.

**landowner** (land'ô'ner), *n.* a person who owns land.

**landowner'ship** (land'ô'ner ship), *n.* the condition of being a landowner.

**landowning** (land'ô'ning), *adj.* holding or possessing landed estates: *the landowning class.*

**land patent**, *Law.* a deed that gives a private citizen possession of public land.

**landplane** (land'plân'), *n.* an airplane equipped to land on and take off from land.

**land plaster**, gypsum ground to a powder for use as a fertilizer.

**land-poor** (land'pûr'), *adj.* 1 owning much land but needing ready money. 2 poor because of taxes or liens on one's land.

**land power**, 1 military strength in land forces. 2 a nation that maintains large and effective land forces.

**Landrace** (land'räs'), *n.* any one of a breed of large, white hogs introduced from Scandinavia into Great Britain.

**land rail**, = corn crane.

**land reform**, 1 a program of breaking up and redistributing large land holdings, often among the laborers that worked them: *Now all but complete, the land-reform program has freed 98% of Iran's 50,000 villages from landlord control (Time).* 2 any social or economic measure that will benefit farmers.

**landrise** (land'rîz'), *n.* an uplifting of part of the earth's surface.

**Land Rover**, *Trademark.* an English motor vehicle resembling a jeep but of heavier construction.

**lands** (landz), *n.pl.* See under *land*.

**Land-sat** (land'sat'), *n.* a United States artificial satellite using remote-sensing apparatus to gather data about the earth's natural resources. [*< Land sat(ellite)*]

**landscape** (land'skâp), *n., v., -scaped, -scaping.* — *n.* 1 a view of scenery on land that can be taken in at a glance from one point of view: *From the church tower the two hills with the valley formed a beautiful landscape.* *syn:* prospect.

2a a picture showing a land scene: *an exhibit of landscapes.* b the art of painting such scenes: *to study landscape.* 3 *Figurative.* panorama; scene; view: *The landscape of international politics is now very different from what it was (Listener).*

*syn:* vista.

— *v.t.* to make (land) more pleasant to look at by arranging trees, shrubs, or flowers: *The park is landscaped. ... the beautifully landscaped motels with swimming pools (Wall Street Journal).*

— *v.i.* to be a landscape gardener.

[*< Dutch landschap < land land + -schap -ship*]

— *land'scap'er, n.*

**landscape architect**, a person whose business is designing landscape.

**landscape architecture**, the designing of landscape, as in a city park or along a highway.

**landscape gardener**, a person whose business is landscape gardening.

**landscape gardening**, the arrangement of trees, shrubs, or flowers, to give a pleasing appearance to grounds, parks, or other areas.

**landscapist** (land'skâp'ist), *n.* 1 a painter of landscapes: *Though Europe has produced a host of great landscapists, from Claude Lorrain to Paul Cézanne, the West's best could have learned much from the Chinese (Time).* 2 a landscape architect or gardener: *In the skillful hands of the Belgian landscapists, the grounds were transformed into a wonderland of light and verdure (Atlantic).*

**land shark**, 1 a dishonest person who cheats or robs seamen on shore: *Flophouse keepers, saloon owners, and other land sharks ... shanghaied [sailors] aboard ship (Atlantic).* 2 *U.S.* a land grabber.

**landship** (land'ship), *n.* 1 a ship erected and kept on land for training purposes. 2 a wagon or other vehicle used for transportation on land.

**landside** (land'sîd'), *n.* the flat side of a plow, which is turned toward the unplowed land.

**landslide** (land'slîd'), *n., v., -slid or -sliding.* — *n.* 1 a sliding down of a mass of soil or rock on a steep slope: *The term landslide usually refers to a rapid movement of earth from side embankments of roadside cuts but can also refer to slow motion movements in which earth gradually slips from roadbeds onto the paving (Science News Letter).* 2 the mass that slides down. 3 *Figurative.* an overwhelming number of votes for one political party or candidate in an election: *The enormous vote cast for the President made his election a landslide.* 4 *Figurative.* an event of rapidly developing proportions, especially a disaster: *Along with all their other problems, the two leaders now had to face landslide inflation (Atlantic).*

— *v.t.* to win an election by a landslide.

— *v.t.* to elect by a landslide: *The English electorate ... has landslideed the Tomboy Tories in for yet another fun-filled term (Punch).*

[*American English*]

**landslip** (land'slîp'), *n.* *British.* landslide (defs. 1 and 2).

**Landsmål** (lâns'mô'l'), *n.* the more recent of the two varieties of standard, literary Norwegian (contrasted with *Riksmål*); Nynorsk. It incorporates various native dialects. [*< Norwegian Landsmål < lands, genitive of land land + mál language, speech*]

**landsmen** (landz'men), *n., pl. -men.* 1 a person who lives or works on land or who has had no experience at sea: *There is nothing so helpless and pitiable an object in the world as a landsman beginning a sailor's life (Richard Henry Dana).* 2 *Nautical.* an inexperienced seaman, below an ordinary seaman in rating.

**land speed**, speed of a vehicle on land or the speed comparable to that of a vehicle on land: *Then the land speed record merely becomes an air speed record at zero altitude (New Scientist).*

**landspout** (land'spout'), *n.* a funnel-shaped cloud resembling a waterspout but occurring on land. A landspout may be produced by certain severe whirling storms of small extent.

**Landsraad** (lâns'rôd'), *n.* the legislative council of Greenland. [*< Danish Landsraad < lands, genitive of land land + raad council*]

**land's sakes**, an exclamation or expression of surprise, wonder, or mild disgust. [euphemism for *Lord's sakes*]

**Lands ting or Lands thing** (lâns'tîng'), *n.* (formerly) the upper house of the Rigsdag or former bicameral parliament of Denmark. [*< Danish Lands ting < lands, genitive of land land + ting, thing assembly, parliament*]

**Landsturm** (lânt'shtûrm'), *n.* in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria: 1 a general levy in time of war. 2 the force that consists of all men liable to call for military service and not already in the army, navy, or Landwehr. [*< German Landsturm < Land land + Sturm storm, military assault*]

**lands woman** (landz'wûm'ën), *n., pl. -women.* a woman who lives or works on land.

**Landtag** (lânt'tâk'), *n., pl. -taige (-tâ'ge).* a diet, or lawmaking body, of a German state or of Liechtenstein. [*< German Landtag (literally) land-day < Land land + Tag day, assembly*]

**land-tied** (land'tîd'), *adj.* joined to the mainland or to other land by the growth of reefs or sand-spits, as islands.

**land-to-land** (land'te land'), *adj.* launched from land at a target on land: *land-to-land missiles.*

**landward** (land'wêrd), *adv., adj.* toward the land or shore.

**landwards** (land'wêrdz), *adv.* = landward.

**Landwehr** (lânt'vâr'), *n.* (in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria) that part of the organized military forces of the nation that have been trained in regular units for a given period of time and who are required to serve only in time of war. [*< German Landwehr < Land land + Wehr defense*]

**land wind**, a wind blowing from the land toward the sea.

**landworker** (land'wêr'kêr), *n.* = farm hand.

**land yacht**, = sand yacht.

**lane**¹ (lân), *n.* 1 a narrow way between hedges, walls, or fences, especially a narrow country road or path or city street: *A carriage drove down the muddy lane. A parish all of fields, high hedges, and deep-rutted lanes (George Eliot).* *syn:* passage. 2 a lengthwise division of a highway marked for a single line of traffic: *Center lane for left turn only (highway sign).* *Many four-lane highways cross the country.* 3 a course or route used by ships or aircraft going in the same direction.

4 an alley between buildings. 5 any narrow way or other thing resembling a lane: *The President walked down a lane formed by two lines of soldiers and sailors. The FCC patrols the radio lanes for illegal operations and technical violators (George O. Gillingham).* 6 a bowling alley: *Reflecting the new tone, alleys have become "lanes," and even the gutters that line the alleys are now channels (Time).* 7 one of the narrow alleys on a track, marked by chalked lines, especially one in which a runner must stay during sprint or hurdle races. [Old English *lane*]

**lane**² (lân), *adj.* *Scottish.* lone.

**laneway** (lân'wâ'), *n.* 1 the path or pavement of a lane. 2 = lane.

**lang** (lang, lãng), *adj., adv., n.* *Scottish.* long¹.

**lang**, language.

**langaiha** (lãng gâ'hâ), *n.* a snake of Madagascar, having the snout prolonged into a sharply flexible tip. [*< the Malagasy name*]

**langbeinite** (lang'bî'nî), *n.* a mineral, a sulfate of potassium and magnesium, that occurs in potassium salt deposits and is mined as a source of potassium sulfate. *Formula:*  $K_2Mg_2(SO_4)_3$  [*< A. Langbein, a German chemist of the 1800's + -ite¹*]

**Langierhans Islands** (lãng'êr hãns), = islets of Langerhans.

**langlauf** (lãng'louf'), *n.* the act or sport of cross-country skiing. [*< German Langlauf (literally) long run*]

**langläufer** (lãng'loi'fêr), *n., pl. -läufer or -läufers.* a cross-country skier; geländelauffer. [*< German Langläufer (literally) long runner*]

**langley** (lang'lê), *n.* a unit of solar radiation equal to 1 small calorie per square centimeter. [*< Samuel P. Langley, 1834-1906, an American astronomer and physicist*]

**Langmuir probe** (lang'myûr), a device to measure plasma density by calculating the potential electric discharge along a probe in a plasma-filled tube. [*< Irving Langmuir, 1881-1957, an American chemist*]

**Langobard** (lang'gê bård), *n.* = Lombard.

**Langobardian** (lang'gô bård'ên), *n.* the Germanic language of the Lombards.

**Langobardic** (lang'gê bård'îk), *adj., n. — adj.* = Lombardic.

— *n.* = Langobardian.

**langouste** (lân gûst'), *n.* *French.* spiny lobster.

**langoustine** (lân gûs'tên'), *n.* *French.* a small lobster.

**langrage** or **langridge** (lang'grij), *n.* a kind of scattering shot of nails, bolts, and the like, fastened together or enclosed in a case, formerly used in naval warfare for damaging sails and rigging. [origin unknown]

**langrel** (lang'grêl), *n.* *Obsolete.* langrage.

**Langshan** (lang'shan), *n.* any of an Asian breed of large, white-skinned chicken that produces very dark-brown eggs. [*< Langshan, a locality near Shanghai, China*]

**lang syne**, or **lang'syne** (lang'sîn', -zîn'), *adv.,*

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, âge, câre, fâr; let, êqual, têrm; it, îce; hot, ôpen, ôrder; oil, out; cup, pût, rûle; child; long; thin; ænen; zh, measure; e represents a in about, e in taken, i in pencil, o in lemon, u in circus.



*n. Scottish.* — *adv.* long since; long ago: ... this south-east corner of Scotland, full of memories of men on the march and battles fought lang syne (London Times).  
— *n.* a time long ago, especially in the phrase *auld lang syne*.  
[< Scottish *lang* long + *syne* since]  
**laniguage** (lang'gwi), *n.* 1 human speech, spoken or written: *Without language men would be like animals. Language is the basis of man's uniqueness, and the essence of his culture* (Scientific American). *Language is a set of habits. Like other habits, they are easily formed in early life and difficult to change later* (Yuen Ren Chao). 2 the speech used by one nation, tribe, or other similar large group of people; tongue: *the French language, the Navaho language*. 3 a form, style, or kind of language; manner of expression: *bad or strong language, Shakespeare's language. The best language must inevitably be conservative, but it needs no less to be continuously refreshed from the springing well of everyday utterance ...* (Simeon Potter). *syn:* diction, parlance. 4 wording or words: *in the language of the Lord's Prayer. The lawyer explained to us very carefully the language of the contract*. 5 the special terms used by a science, art, profession, or class of persons: *the language of chemistry. There is one language for the pulpit and another for on board ship* (Frederick Marryat). *syn:* phraseology, vocabulary, jargon, cant. 6 the expression of thoughts and feelings otherwise than by words: *sign language, the language of reason. A dog's language is made up of barks, whines, growls, and tail-wagging*. 7 = computer language. 8 the study of language or languages; linguistics. 9 a set of assumptions or attitudes, often held by a group: *He just doesn't speak my language*. *Abbr:* lang. [< Old French *langage* < *langue* tongue, language < Latin *lingua*]  
— *Syn.* 2 **Language, dialect, idiom** mean the form and pattern of speech of a particular group of people. **Language** applies to the body of words, forms, and patterns of sounds and structure making up the speech of a people, nation, or group of peoples. **Dialect** applies to a form of speech peculiar to one locality or district of the geographical territory of a language: *The dialect of the English language spoken in Boston sounds strange to a Westerner*. **Idiom** applies to a particular language's characteristic manner of using words in phrases and sentences: *The use of prepositions is a striking feature of English idiom*.  
**language arts**, *U.S.* training in reading, writing, and speaking, as distinguished from training in literary appreciation and scholarship.  
**laniguaged** (lan'gwiid), *adj.* having or versed in a language or languages: *many-languaged nations*.  
**language laboratory**, a schoolroom equipped with tape recorders and similar apparatus to enable students to practice hearing and speaking a foreign language they are studying.  
**laniguageless** (lang'gwiilis), *adj.* without language or speech.  
**language of flowers**, a method of expressing sentiments by means of flowers.  
**langue** (läng), *n.* **Linguistics**. language as a system or code, as distinguished from individual speech; the grammar, vocabulary, and syntax of a language (contrasted with *parole*). [< French *langue* language]  
**langue d'oc** (läng' dök'), *French*. the Romance dialect spoken in southern France (Provence) in the Middle Ages. It became modern Provençal.  
**langue d'oïl** (läng' dō il'), *French*. the Romance dialect spoken in northern France in the Middle Ages. It became modern French.  
**laniguet** or **laniguette** (lang'gwet), *n.* 1 anything shaped like a little tongue. 2 *Music*. a flat plate or tongue fastened opposite the mouth of an organ flue pipe. 3 a tongue-shaped part of any of various implements, as a narrow blade projecting at the edge of a type of spade. [< Middle French *lanquette* (diminutive) < Old French *langue* tongue < Latin *lingua*]  
**laniguid** (lang'gwid), *adj.* 1 feeling weak; without energy: *A hot, sticky day makes a person feel languid*. *syn:* weary, fatigued, exhausted. 2 without interest or enthusiasm; indifferent: *The lazy boy felt too languid to do anything*. *syn:* listless, spiritless, apathetic. 3 not brisk or lively; sluggish; dull: *languid competition*. 4 without force or effectiveness: *a languid narrative, a languid style*. [< Latin *languidus* < *languere* be faint, related to *laxus* lax] — *lan'guidly*, *adv.* — *lan'guidness*, *n.*  
**laniguidity** (lang'gwid' tē), *n.* the state of being languid; languor: ... languidity induced by oppressive heat (Time).  
**laniguish** (lang'gwis), *v., n.* — *v.i.* 1 to grow weak; become weary; droop: *The flowers lan-*

*guished from lack of water*. *syn:* wither, fade. 2 to become weak or wasted through pain, hunger, or other suffering; suffer under any unfavorable conditions: *The innocent man languished in prison for twenty years. The New York Shakespeare Festival ... is a most important cultural endeavor in the city and should not be allowed to languish and disappear* (New York Times). 3 to grow dull, slack, or less intense: *The sentry's vigilance never languished*. *syn:* dwindle. 4 to droop with longing; pine with love or grief (for): *She languished for the home she had been forced to leave*. 5 to assume a soft, tender look for effect: *When a visitor comes in, she smiles and languishes, you'd think that butter wouldn't melt in her mouth* (Thackeray).  
— *n.* 1 the act or state of languishing: *One desperate grief cures with another's languish* (Shakespeare). 2 a tender look or glance: *the warm, dark languish of her eyes* (John Greenleaf Whittier).  
[< Old French *languiss-*, stem of *languir* < Vulgar Latin *languire*, for Latin *languere* be weary]  
— *lan'guish*, *n.*  
**laniguishling** (lang'gwi shing), *adj.* 1 drooping as with longing. *syn:* languid, faint, languorous. 2 tender; sentimental; loving: *languishing glances*. 3 lasting; lingering. 4 failing to excite interest. *syn:* lethargic, spiritless. — *lan'guishlingly*, *adv.*  
**laniguishment** (lang'gwis ment), *n.* 1 a languishing: *Yet do I sometimes feel a languishment for skies Italian* (Keats). 2 a drooping, pining condition. 3 a languishing look or manner.  
**laniguor** (lang'ger), *n., v. — n.* 1 lack of energy; weakness; weariness: *A long illness caused his languor*. *syn:* feebleness, fatigue. 2 lack of interest or enthusiasm; indifference: *Languor is not in your heart* (Matthew Arnold). *syn:* apathy. 3 softness or tenderness of mood. 4 quietness; stillness: *the languor of a summer afternoon*. 5 lack of activity; sluggishness: *The languor of Rome—its weary pavements, its little life* (Hawthorne).  
— *v.i.* to grow weak; languish: *to languor with an illness*.  
[< Old French *languor*, or *langour* < Latin *languor* < *languere* be weary]  
**laniguorous** (lang'ger es), *adj.* 1 languid; listless. 2 causing languor: *languorous fragrance*. — *lan'guorously*, *adv.* — *lan'guorousness*, *n.*  
**lanigur** (lang'gur), *n.* any one of several genera of large, long-tailed, slender monkeys that live in trees in southern Asia, such as the entellus. [< Hindustani *lāngūr* < Sanskrit *lāngūlin* having a long tail < *lāngūla* tail]  
**lanilard** (lan'yerd), *n.* = lanyard.  
**laniliar** (lā'nē er' d, lan'ē'), *adj.* (of teeth) fitted for tearing, as the canine teeth. [< Latin *laniliaris* having to do with a butcher < *lanius* a butcher < *laniare* to tear]  
**lanilate** (lā'nē āt, lan'ē'), *v.t., -ated, -ating*. to tear apart; rend. [< Latin *laniare* (with English *-ate*) to tear]  
**laniferous** (le nif'əf es), *adj.* wool-bearing; woolly. [< Latin *lanifer* (< *lana* wool + *ferre* to bear) + English *-ous*]  
**lanigerous** (le nij'er es), *adj.* = laniferous.  
**lank** (langk), *adj.* 1 long and thin; slender: *a lank boy, lank grasses*. *syn:* skinny, lanky, gaunt. 2 straight and flat; not curly or wavy: *lank locks of hair*. [Old English *hlanc*] — *lank'ly*, *adv.* — *lank'ness*, *n.*  
**lankilly** (lang'ke ilē), *adv.* in a lanky condition or form.  
**lankiness** (lang'kē nis), *n.* the condition of being lanky.  
**lanky** (lang'kē), *adj.*, **lankilier**, **lankilest**. awkwardly long and thin; tall and ungraceful: *a lanky boy*.  
**lanier** (lan'er), *n.* 1 a falcon found in southern Europe, North Africa, and southern Asia. 2 *Falconry*. a female lanier. [< Old French *lanier*, probably < Vulgar Latin *lanarius*, variant of Latin *lanarius* a type of falcon < *laniare* tear flesh]  
**lanieret** (lan'er et), *n.* *Falconry*. a male lanier, smaller than the female.  
**lanolin** (lan'e lin), *n.* a yellowish, fatty substance obtained from the natural coating on wool fibers; wool fat. Lanolin is purified and mixed with water (hydrous lanolin) and used in cosmetics, ointments, shoe polish, leather dressing, and as a protective coating for metals. [< Latin *lana* wool + English *-olē* + *-in*]  
**lanoline** (lan'e lin, -lən), *n.* = lanolin.  
**lanose** (lā'nōs), *adj.* woolly; lanate.  
**Lansdowne** (lanz'doun), *n.* *Trademark*. a fine, soft fabric of silk and wool, used for dresses.  
**lanisign** (lan'sin'), *n.* (in semantics) a word, character, sound, or other language symbol for a thing or idea: *In the 1930s C. K. Ogden, I. A. Richards and A. Korzybski, and more recently C. E. Osgood, D. H. Mowrer and others, tried to show how language symbols and signs (lanisigns, as they are sometimes called) are associated*

*with their referents in much the same way as conditioned stimulus becomes associated with an unconditioned stimulus, as in the classical conditioning theory of Pavlov* (Science Journal). [< *lan-* (guage) sign]  
**Lansing strain** (lan'sing), one of three known types of virus causing polio. The other two are the Brunhilde and Leon strains. [< *Lansing*, a city in Michigan, home of a victim of the disease]  
**lansquenet** (lans'ke net), *n.* 1 a mercenary foot soldier, commonly armed with a pike or lance. Lansquenets were formerly employed in the German and other Continental armies in the 1600's and 1700's. 2 a card game in which the players bet against the banker. [< Middle French *lansquenēt* < German *Landsknecht*; see *etym.* under *lance knight*]  
**lantaina** (lan tā'ne, -tā'-), *n.* any of a group of tropical or subtropical, chiefly American plants of the verbena family, noted for their bright flowers: *Lantana in glowing shades of orange, yellow or rose ...* (New York Times). [< New Latin *Lantana* the genus name]  
**\*lantern** (lan'tern), *n.* 1 a case to protect a light from wind or rain. A lantern has sides of glass, paper, or some other material through which the light can shine and can be carried from place to place. 2a the room at the top of a lighthouse where the light is. b *Obsolete*. a lighthouse. 3a an upright structure on a roof or dome for letting in light and air or for decoration. b a louvre on a roof. 4 = magic lantern. 5 = lantern pinion. [< Old French *lanterne* < Latin *lanterna* (with ending patterned on *lucerna* lamp) < Greek *lampō* torch < *lāmpein* to shine]  
**\*lantern**  
definitions 1, 3a  
  
definition 1  
  
definition 3a  
**lantern fish**, any of various fishes, chiefly deep-sea, having organs or glands that give off light.  
**lantern fly**, any of certain homopterous insects of the tropics; plant hopper. The lantern fly has a long head and was formerly thought to produce light in the dark.  
**lantern jaw**, 1 a protruding lower jaw: *He has the long, slow step of a countryman, the lantern jaw of a Scotsman ...* (Observer). 2 **lantern jaws**, long, thin jaws, giving a hollow appearance to the cheeks.  
**lantern-jawed** (lan'tern jōd'), *adj.* having a lantern jaw or lantern jaws.  
**lantern pinion** or **wheel**, a kind of gear, used especially in clocks. Lantern pinions have a circular top and bottom connected along the circumferences by staves inserted at equal distances, that serve as teeth; *tumble; lantern*.  
**lantern slide**, 1 a small thin sheet of glass with a picture on it that is shown on a screen by a slide projector or a magic lantern.  
**lanthanide** (lan'the nid, -nid), *n.* any of the rare-earth elements. [< *lanthanum* (first of the rare-earth elements) + *-ide*]  
**lanthanide series**, the rare-earth elements: *Cerium is the first of the lanthanide series of the periodic table, so-called because they follow lanthanum in the table* (Science News Letter).  
**lanthanon** (lan'the non), *n.* = lanthanide.  
**\*lanthanum** (lan'the nem), *n.* a soft, malleable, metallic chemical element which occurs in certain rare minerals such as monazite, cerite, and samarskite. Lanthanum is one of the most common of the rare-earth elements, belonging to the cerium metals, and is used in making alloys. Some series do not include lanthanum. [< New Latin *lanthanum* < Greek *lanthánein* lie hidden]  
**\*lanthanum**  

symbol	atomic number	atomic weight	oxidation state
La	57	138.91	3

  
**lanthorn** (lant'hörn, lan'tern), *n.* *Archaic*. lantern.  
**Lan'tian man** (lan'tyan'), an extinct species of man, thought to be older than Peking man, identified from bones discovered in central China in 1964. [< *Lantien* (county in Shensi province, China, where it was found) + *-ian*]  
**lanuginose** (le nü'je nōs, -nyü'-), *adj.* = lanuginous.  
**lanuginous** (le nü'je nes, -nyü'-), *adj.* 1 covered