

# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD

## DICTIONARY

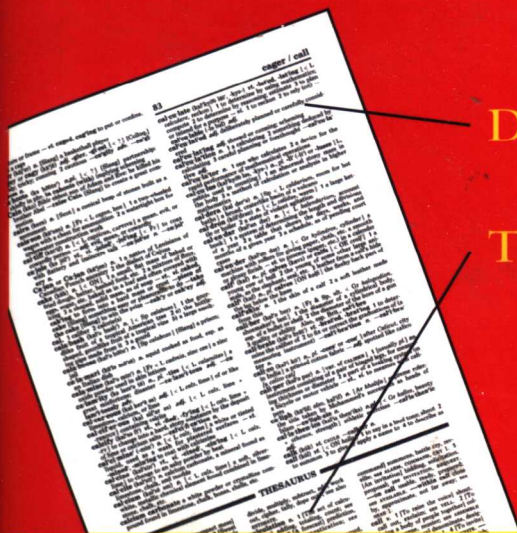
— AND —

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# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD<sup>TM</sup> DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS

SECOND EDITION

*Compiled by the Editors of  
Webster's New World Dictionaries*

**Michael Agnes**  
*Editor in Chief*

*With Principal Thesaurus Text by*  
**Charlton Laird**



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# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD

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## FOREWORD

*Webster's New World Dictionary and Thesaurus* was first published in 1996 and quickly proved an immensely useful language reference work for people from all walks of life — students, office professionals, in fact, anyone needing a concise, up-to-date dictionary combined with a full-length thesaurus in a single volume.

The dictionary portion of this Second Edition draws on our flagship *Webster's New World College Dictionary*, Fourth Edition, published in 1999. That work, updated annually, provides comprehensive, up-to-date coverage of the newest terms entering our vocabulary. For this derived work, more than 3,000 new entries have been added. Specially commissioned fonts have been used to improve page clarity and readability. The thesaurus section derives from Charlton Laird's *Webster's New World Thesaurus*, first published in 1971 and comprehensively updated several times since then. Thesaurus entries in the previous edition have been thoroughly reviewed and augmented.

Readers who found the previous work a useful reference guide to the English language will appreciate an important innovation in the Second Edition: the inclusion of biographical and geographical entries. These entries fall conveniently within the single alphabetical listing, making it unnecessary for a user to consult separate appendixes to find them. Finally, extensive reference tables are incorporated in the back of the book.

We recommend a careful reading of the two sections of the Guide to the Use of This Book, which begins on the following page. It gives a clear explanation of how to access the wealth of information stored within the dictionary and thesaurus entries.

The Second Edition is the ideal portable reference work for our time. Every entry demonstrates the expertise of Webster's New World's staff of lexicographers, with their combined 150 years of experience in editing dictionaries and thesauruses.

Michael Agnes  
Editor in Chief

# GUIDE TO THE USE OF THIS BOOK

## THE DICTIONARY

### I. GUIDE WORDS

The two guide words at the top of each page indicate the alphabetical range of entries on that page. The first and last main entry words in the dictionary portion of a page serve as the guide words.

### II. THE MAIN ENTRY WORD

**A. Arrangement of Entries**—All main entries, including single words, hyphenated and unhyphenated compounds, proper names, prefixes, suffixes, combining forms, and abbreviations, are listed in strict alphabetical order and are set in large boldface type.

**a**<sup>2</sup> (ə; *stressed*, ā) *adj.* ...

**a**<sup>3</sup> *abbrev.* 1 about 2 ...

**a**<sup>-2</sup> *prefix* ...

**aard-vark** (ärd'värk') *n.* ...

**Aar-on** (er'ən) *n.* *Bible* ...

**AB**<sup>1</sup> (ä'bē') *n.* a blood type

**AB**<sup>2</sup> *abbrev.* 1 Alberta (Canada) 2 ...

**ab-** [L] *prefix* ...

**a-back** (ə bak') *adv.* [Archaic] backward; back — taken **aback** ...

In biographical entries only the last, or family, name is used in alphabetization; but when two or more persons have the same family name, they appear within the entry block in alphabetical order by first names.

**John-son** (jän'sen) 1 **An-drew** ... 2 **Lyn-don Baines** ... 3 **Samuel** ...

Biographical and geographical names that are spelled the same way are given separate entry blocks.

Idiomatic phrases after a main entry are also listed alphabetically within each group.

**fly**<sup>1</sup> (fli) *vi.* ... —let fly (at) ... —on the fly ...

**B. Alternative Spellings and Variant Forms**—When different spellings of a word are some distance apart alphabetically, the definition appears with the spelling most frequently used, and the other spellings are cross-referred to this entry. If two commonly used alternative

spellings are alphabetically close to each other, they appear as a joint boldface entry, but the order of entry does not necessarily indicate that the form entered first is "more correct" or is preferred.

**the-a-ter** or **the-a-tre** (thē'ə tər) *n.* ...

If an alternative spelling is alphabetically close to the prevailing spelling, it is given at the end of the entry block in small boldface.

**cook'ie** *n.* ...; also **cook'y**, *pl.* **-ies** ...

**C. Cross-references**—When an entry is cross-referred to another term that has the same meaning but is more frequently used, the entry cross-referred to is usually set in small capitals.

**an-aes-the-sia** ... *n.* ANESTHESIA ...

**D. Homographs**—Main entries that are spelled alike but are different in meaning and origin, such as **bat** (a club), **bat** (the animal), and **bat** (to wink), have separate entry blocks and are marked by superscript numbers following the boldface spelling.

**bat**<sup>1</sup> ... *n.* ...

**bat**<sup>2</sup> ... *n.* ...

**bat**<sup>3</sup> ... *vt.* ...

**E. Foreign Terms**—Foreign words and phrases occurring with some frequency in English, but not completely naturalized, are set in boldface italic type. This is a signal to the user of the dictionary to print these terms in italics or underline them in writing.

**bon-jour** (bōn zhōōr') *interj., n.* [Fr] ...

**F. Prefixes, Suffixes, & Combining Forms**—Prefixes and initial combining forms have a hyphen at the end.

**hemi-** ... *prefix* half ...

Suffixes and terminal combining forms have a hyphen at the beginning.

**-a-ble** ... *suffix* 1 that can or will ...

The abundance of these forms, whose syllabification and pronunciation can be determined from the words containing them, makes it

possible for the reader to understand and pronounce many complex terms not entered in the dictionary but formed with affixes and words that are entered.

**G. Word Division**—Boldface entry words are divided into syllables that are separated by either a center dot or a stress mark.

**gen'er-a'tor**  
**in'ter-me'di-ary**

For information regarding stress marks, see the GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION.

### III. PRONUNCIATION

The handling of pronunciations in the dictionary is explained in the GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION, which follows this general guide.

### IV. PART-OF-SPEECH LABELS

The dictionary portion of this book gives part-of-speech labels, in boldface italic type, for most main entry words that are solid or hyphenated forms. Labels are not given to prefixes, suffixes, combining forms, trademarks and service marks, abbreviations, and biographical and geographical entries.

Here are the part-of-speech labels used in the dictionary portion of this book:

<b><i>n.</i></b>	noun
<b><i>pl.n.</i></b>	plural noun
<b><i>sing.n.</i></b>	singular noun
<b><i>fem.n.</i></b>	feminine noun
<b><i>masc.n.</i></b>	masculine noun
<b><i>pron.</i></b>	pronoun
<b><i>v.</i></b>	verb
<b><i>vt.</i></b>	transitive verb
<b><i>vi.</i></b>	intransitive verb
<b><i>v.aux.</i></b>	auxiliary verb
<b><i>v.impersonal</i></b>	impersonal verb
<b><i>adj.</i></b>	adjective
<b><i>adv.</i></b>	adverb
<b><i>prep.</i></b>	preposition
<b><i>conj.</i></b>	conjunction
<b><i>interj.</i></b>	interjection
<b><i>definite article</i></b>	
<b><i>indefinite article</i></b>	
<b><i>possessive pronominal adj.</i></b>	

When an entry word is used as more than one part of speech, long dashes introduce each separate part-of-speech label.

**round ... *adj.* ... —*n.* ... —*vt.* ... —*vi.* ... —*adv.* ... —*prep.* ...**

Sometimes an entry has two or more part-of-speech labels separated by commas, with a definition or cross-reference that is understood to apply to all parts of speech.

**des-patch ... *vt., n.* DISPATCH**

### V. INFLECTED FORMS

The dictionary shows three types of inflected forms: plurals of nouns, principal parts of verbs, and comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs.

Only inflected forms regarded as irregular or offering difficulty in spelling are entered. They appear in boldface immediately after the part-of-speech label. They are shortened where possible, and syllabified and pronounced where necessary.

**cit-y ... *n., pl.* -ies ...**  
**hap-py ... *adj.* -pi-er, -pi-est ...**  
**an'a-lyze' ... *vt.* -lyzed', -lyz'ing ...**

**Plurals:** This dictionary does not show regular plurals:

- 1) formed by adding *-s* to the singular (**cats**)
- 2) formed by adding *-es* to a singular that ends with *s*, *x*, *z*, and *sh* (**boxes** or **bushes**)
- 3) formed by adding *-es* to a singular that ends with *ch* when *ch* is pronounced [ch] (**churches**) and by adding *-s* when *ch* is pronounced [k] (**stomachs**)

**Principal Parts:** This dictionary does not show principal parts when:

- 1) the past tense and past participle are formed by simply adding *-ed* to the infinitive (**search/searched, talk/talked**)
- 2) the present participle is formed by simply adding *-ing* to the infinitive (**search/searching, talk/talking**)

If only two principal parts are shown, as at **love**, the first is both the past tense and the past participle (**loved**) and the second is the present participle (**loving**). If three principal parts are shown, as at **go**, the first is the past tense (**went**), the second is the past participle (**gone**), and the third is the present participle (**going**).

**Comparatives & Superlatives:** This dictionary does not show comparatives and superlatives formed by the simple addition of *-er* or *-est* to the base form (**tall/taller/tallest**).

## VI. ETYMOLOGY

The etymology, or word history, appears inside open double brackets immediately before the definitions. The symbols and abbreviations used in the etymologies are found in the list immediately preceding page 1 of the dictionary proper.

**di-shev-el** ... [*< OFr des-, DIS- + chevel, hair*] ...

If the parts making up an entry word are obvious to the reader, no etymology appears at that entry.

## VII. THE DEFINITIONS

**A. Order of Senses**—In general, each entry lists meanings in historical order; the standard, general senses of a word appear first. Informal, slang, etc. senses come next. Technical senses preceded by field labels, such as *Astron.* or *Chem.*, follow in alphabetical order.

**B. Numbering & Grouping of Senses**—Senses are numbered consecutively within a part of speech in boldface numerals. Where a primary sense of a word is subdivided into several closely related meanings, those meanings are preceded by italicized letters.

**flat**<sup>1</sup> ... **adj.** ... **1** having ... **2** lying ... **10 Music a)** lower ... **b)** below —**adv.** ... —**n.** **1** anything ... **2** ... **3 Music a)** a note ... **b)** the symbol ... —**vt.** ... —**vi.** ...

**C. Capitalization**—If a main entry word is capitalized in all its senses, the entry word itself begins with a capital letter. If a capitalized main entry word has a sense or senses that are not capitalized, these are marked with the corresponding small-boldface, lowercase letter followed by a short dash and enclosed in brackets.

**Pu-ri-tan** ... **n.** ... **1** ... **2** [**p-**] ...

If a lowercase main entry word has a meaning or meanings that are capitalized, they are marked with the corresponding small-boldface, uppercase letter followed by a short dash and enclosed in brackets.

**left**<sup>1</sup> ... —**n.** **1** ... **2** [**often L-**] ...

In some of these usage notes, a self-explanatory qualifying word may be added.

**D. Plural Forms**—In a singular noun entry, the designation “[*pl.*]” (or “[*often pl.*]”, “[*usually pl.*]”, etc.) before a definition indicates that it is (or *often*, *usually*, etc. is) the plural form of the entry word that has the meaning given in the definition.

**look** ... **vi.** ... —**n.** **1** ... **2** ... **3** [*Inf.*] **a)** [*usually pl.*] appearance **b)** [*pl.*] personal appearance ...

If a plural is used as a singular with a singular verb, the designation [*with sing. v.*] is added.

**E. Verbs Followed by Prepositions or Objects**—In many cases, one or more specific prepositions follow a particular verb in general use. This dictionary shows this either by including the preposition in the definition, italicized and usually enclosed in parentheses, or by adding a note after the definition giving the particular prepositions associated with that definition of the verb.

In definitions of transitive verbs, the specific or generalized object of the verb, where given, is enclosed in parentheses, since the object is not grammatically part of the definition of the verb.

**F. Illustrative Examples**—Phrases or sentences containing the entry word and showing how it is used in context are enclosed in italic brackets. The word being illustrated is set in italics within its phrase or sentence.

**a-cross** ... **adv.** ... —**prep.** **1** ... **2** ... **3** into contact with by chance [*to come across an oldfriend*]

## VIII. USAGE LABELS

People use language in different ways depending on differences in geographic location, age, education, and employment; people's individual language usage varies also according to the situation they are in or their purpose in speaking or writing. The usage labels used in this dictionary are listed below, with an explanation of each.

**Informal:** The word or meaning is widely used in everyday talk, personal letters, etc., but not in formal speaking or writing. Abbreviated *Inf.*

**Slang:** The word or meaning is not generally considered standard usage but is used, even



by the best speakers and writers, in very informal situations or for creating special effects. People belonging to a certain group often use their own slang terms.

*Old Informal, Old Slang:* The word or meaning was informal or slang when regularly used in the recent past and is not used much today.

*Obsolete:* The word or meaning is no longer used but occurs in earlier writings. Abbreviated *Obs.*

*Archaic:* The word or meaning is not used in ordinary speech or writing today but occurs in certain special situations such as church ritual and in older books.

*Old-fashioned:* The word or meaning is not yet considered archaic but seems out-of-date.

*Rare:* The word or meaning has never been in general use.

*Now Rare:* The word or meaning is not used much today but was in general use in the past.

*Historical:* The word or meaning refers to something that no longer exists and for which there is not a modern term.

*Old Poetic:* The word or meaning was often used in the past, especially in poetry, but is used today only in certain kinds of traditional or somewhat old-fashioned poetry. Abbreviated *Old Poet.*

*Literary:* The word or meaning is regarded as having an elevated, polished, highly formal quality.

*Dialect:* The word or meaning is used regularly only in certain geographical areas. When a word or meaning is used mainly in some specific area of the U.S., a more specific label, such as *South* or *Northwest*, appears. Abbreviated *Dial.*

*British:* The word or meaning is used mainly in Great Britain and also, usually, in the other English-speaking regions of the world outside the U.S. Abbreviated *Brit.*

*Canadian (or Irish, etc.):* The word or meaning is used mainly in Canada (or Ireland, etc.). Abbreviated *Cdn., etc.*

In addition to the above usage labels, supplementary information often appears in a short note after the definition, indicating that a word or meaning is used in an insulting, familiar, ironic, humorous, or other way.

## IX. RUN-IN DERIVED ENTRIES

It is possible in English to create an almost infinite number of derived forms simply by adding certain prefixes and suffixes to the base word. The editors have included as many of these common derived words as space permit-

ted, as run-in entries in boldface type—but only when the meaning of such words is immediately clear from the meanings of the base words and the affixes.

Thus, **greatness** and **liveliness** are run in at the end of the entries for **great** and **lively**; the suffix **-ness** is found as a separate entry meaning “state, quality, or instance of being.” Many words formed with common suffixes, such as **-able**, **-er**, **-less**, **-like**, **-ly**, and **-tion**, are similarly treated as run-in entries with the base word from which they are derived. All such entries are syllabified and either accented to show stress in pronunciation or, where necessary, pronounced in full or in part.

When a derived word has a meaning or meanings different from those that can be deduced from the sum of its parts, it has been entered separately, pronounced, and fully defined (see **folder**).

## THE THESAURUS

### I. ARRANGEMENT OF ENTRIES

As in the Dictionary portion of this book, all headwords, including single words, hyphenated and unhyphenated compounds, and phrases, are listed in strict alphabetical order and are set in large, boldface type.

**account** *n.* ...  
**accountant** *n.* ...  
**account for** *v.* ...  
**acquaintance** *n.* ...  
**acquainted (with)** *a.* ...  
**acquaint with** *v.* ...  
**acting** *a.* ...

Idiomatic phrases that are listed within an entry have also been alphabetized.

**action** *n.* ... —bring action ... —see action ...  
 —take action ...

### II. Part-of-Speech Labels

Part-of-speech labels are given for all headwords, including single words, hyphenated and open compounds, and phrases. Generally, a word having more than one part of speech is given a separate entry block for each part of speech.

**abuse** *n.* misuse, debasement, degradation, ...  
**abuse** *v.* insult, injure, hurt, ...

Sometimes, though, its synonyms can be conveniently grouped together in a single entry block.

**above** *a., prep.* 1 [High in position] over, high, higher, superior, ...

### III. THE ENTRY BLOCK

**A. Synonyms**—Every entry block in the Thesaurus lists synonyms (words or phrases that are similar in meaning).

**wholly** *a.* totally, entirely, fully; see COMPLETELY.

**therefore** *a., conj.* accordingly, consequently, hence, wherefore, for, since, inasmuch as, ...

Since we do not have space to list every synonym at every entry block, we have chosen certain entry blocks or numbered senses to be the primary location of synonyms belonging to a particular family of meanings. These primary locations are "main entries." Main entries always contain more than three synonyms.

**dwell** *v.* live, inhabit, stay, lodge, stop, settle, remain, live in, live at, continue, ...

Entry blocks or numbered senses containing only three synonyms are "brief entries." Brief entries always refer the user to a primary location of synonyms in the Thesaurus and often refer to two or more main entries.

**abide** *v.* 1 [To lodge] stay, room, reside; see DWELL. ...

**locate** *v.* ... 2 [To take up residence] settle down, establish oneself, inhabit; see DWELL, SETTLE 5.

When we wish to call the user's attention to another, closely related, family of synonyms, we have placed a cross-reference from one main entry to another.

**settle** *v.* ... 5 [To establish residence] locate, lodge, become a citizen, reside, ... establish a home, keep house; see also DWELL.

All cross-references in the Thesaurus portion of the book are to other Thesaurus entries. No cross-references are made from the Thesaurus to the Dictionary.

**B. Definitions**—Distinct senses located in a single entry block are numbered consecutively in boldface numerals and may be further distinguished by brief definitions or explanatory notes in brackets.

**capital** *n.* 1 [A seat of government] ... 2 [Money and property] ... 3 [A letter usually used initially] ...

**calm** *a.* 1 [Said especially of persons] ... 2 [Said often of things] ...

**C. Lists of Examples**—Often, a writer or speaker is looking not for other words similar to a word at hand, but for a specific thing in a general category. So, in addition to providing synonyms, the Thesaurus also provides lists of concrete examples.

**boat** *n.* *Types of small boats include the following:* sailboat, rowboat, shell, scull, kayak, dugout, canoe, scow, raft, ...

**verb** *n.* *Verbs include the following:* finite, active, passive, transitive, intransitive, modal, auxiliary, linking, ...

**writer** *n.* ... *Major writers include the following—British:* Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, Henry Fielding, Samuel Johnson, ... ; *Spanish:* Miguel de Cervantes, Jorge Luis Borges; *Yiddish:* I. B. Singer.

**D. Antonyms**—Antonyms (words that are opposite or nearly opposite in meaning) are listed after the synonyms.

**insulted** *a.* slandered, libeled, reviled, disgraced, ... shamed; see also HURT.—*Ant.* PRAISED, admired, extolled.

**a<sup>2</sup>** *a., indefinite article, prep.* 1 ... —*Ant.* THE, this, that.

Antonyms in small capitals are Thesaurus entries that the user will find especially useful.

**E. The Asterisk**—A headword, a run-on idiomatic phrase, a definition in brackets, a synonym, or an antonym may be marked with an asterisk. An asterisk is intended to alert the user that the word, definition, etc. is slang, informal, dialectal, regional, archaic, etc. The user is thus cautioned to consider whether that term is appropriate for his or her purposes. The Dictionary will usually provide information on a word marked with an asterisk, but remember that not every synonym or antonym in the Thesaurus is entered in the Dictionary.

#### IV. HOMOGRAPHS AND SUPERSCRIPTS

Superscripts in the Dictionary portion of this book are used to distinguish *homographs*—headwords that are spelled alike but that are different in meaning and origin.

*An example of Dictionary homographs:*

**bat-ter**<sup>1</sup> ( ... ) *vt.* ... **1** to strike with blow after blow ...

**bat-ter**<sup>2</sup> ( ... ) *n.* ... *Baseball, Cricket* the player at bat

**bat-ter**<sup>3</sup> ( ... ) *n.* ... a flowing mixture of flour, milk, etc. for making pancakes, etc.

Superscripts in the Thesaurus, however, have a different function. They serve to link an entry block in the Thesaurus half of a page to an entry block in the Dictionary half of the same page. In the Thesaurus, homographs may be joined together in a single entry, so long as they share the same part of speech.

*The Thesaurus entry that links to the above Dictionary homographs:*

**batter**<sup>"</sup> *n.* **1** [One who bats] ... **2** [Baking mixture] ...

The superscripts "2,3" link this Thesaurus entry block to both **batter**<sup>1</sup> and **batter**<sup>3</sup> in the Dictionary.

#### V. SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THE THESAURUS

For convenience, here is a summary of things you may want to have in mind while you use the Thesaurus portion of this book:

1. Look up any word that you have thought of but are, for some reason, not fully satisfied with.
2. Unless you have thought of a rare word, you should find: (a) a main entry, with many alternative terms, some antonyms, and possibly a "see also" cross-reference, or (b) a brief entry, with three synonyms and one or more cross-references.
3. If you have turned to a main entry, check to see whether more than one meaning is recognized, and, if so, pick the one you want. The various meanings will be numbered in boldface numerals.
4. Work through the list, looking for a term that meets your needs. Try the cross-reference at the end if you need it.
5. If you find a word or phrase you may want to use but do not know very well, look it up in the Dictionary. But remember that not every synonym or antonym given in the Thesaurus is necessarily entered in the Dictionary.
6. If you have looked up a brief entry, it will provide a few common synonyms. If you are not satisfied with any of them, turn to the main entry cross-referred there. The entry to which you are referred may have more than one grammatical use—*fast* can be an adjective, adverb, noun, or verb. Choose synonyms having the same part of speech as your original, brief entry.

# GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION

## I. PRONUNCIATION STYLE

Pronunciations are provided in the Dictionary as needed. Pronunciations are given in parentheses immediately after the boldface entry word:

**mil-len-ni-um** (mi len'ē əm)

Pronunciations have sometimes been shortened so as to cover only a particular part of the entry word, generally the part most likely to cause confusion or difficulty. Hyphens are used to indicate which part of the pronunciation is not shown.

**home'stead'** (-sted')

More than one pronunciation is sometimes given. Each variant pronunciation may be regarded as having wide currency in American

English unless a qualifying note has been added to a particular variant indicating that it is less common. Variants may be also qualified with respect to particular grammatical usage.

**av-o-ca-do** (av'ə kă'dō, ä'və-)

**ex-cuse** (ek sky'ōōz'; for n., -skyōōs')

This dictionary does not attempt to cover all pronunciations of a given word and does not indicate differences arising out of various regional dialects.

## II. PRONUNCIATION KEY

The Pronunciation Key lists the pronunciation symbols used in this dictionary along with several Key Words. Key Words are short, familiar words that illustrate each of the various sounds represented by the symbols.

### PRONUNCIATION KEY

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Vowel Sounds Key Words</i>
a	at, cap, parrot
ā	ape, play, sail
ä	cot, father, heart
e	ten, wealth, merry
ē	even, feet, money
i	is, stick, mirror
ī	ice, high, sky
ō	go, open, tone
ô	all, law, horn
oo	could, look, pull
yoo	cure, furious
ōō	boot, crew, tune
yōō	cute, few, use
oi	boy, oil, royal
ou	cow, out, sour
u	mud, ton, blood, trouble
u	her, sir, word
ə	ago, agent, collect, focus
'l	cattle, paddle
'n	sudden, sweeten

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Consonant Sounds Key Words</i>
b	bed, table, rob
d	dog, middle, sad
f	for, phone, cough
g	get, wiggle, dog
h	hat, hope, ahead
hw	which, white
j	joy, badge, agent
k	kill, cat, quiet
l	let, yellow, ball
m	meet, number, time
n	net, candle, ton
p	put, sample, escape
r	red, wrong, born
s	git, castle, office
t	top, letter, cat
v	voice, every, love
w	wet, always, quart
y	yes, canyon, onion
z	zoo, misery, rise
ch	chew, nature, punch
sh	shell, machine, bush
th	thin, nothing, truth
th	then, other, bathe
zh	beige, measure, seizure
ŋ	ring, anger, drink

### III. FOREIGN SOUNDS

A number of foreign words are entered in the dictionary. An approximation of the native pronunciation—typically French or Spanish in this dictionary—has been provided. Foreign pronunciations use sounds not generally found in English, and, therefore, some additional pronunciation symbols are required. Below is a short explanation of these symbols.

- ä Used in French; a sound between [a] as in *cat* and [ä] as in *cot*.
- ë Used in French; round the lips as though to say *oh* while pronouncing [e] as in *get*.
- ö Used chiefly in French; round the lips as though to say *oh* while pronouncing the sound [ä] as in *ate*.
- ø Used in French, German, Spanish, etc.; round the lips loosely as though to say *aw* while pronouncing [u] as in *cut*.
- ü Used in French and German; round the lips as though to say *oh* while pronouncing [ë] as in *meet*.
- kh Used in German and Scots English; pronounce [k] while allowing the breath to escape in a stream, as in saying [h].
- H Used in German; pronounce [sh] while keeping the tip of the tongue pointed downward.

- n Used chiefly in French; this symbol indicates that the vowel sound preceding it is pronounced with air expelled through both the mouth and the nose.
- r Pronounce [r] with a vibrating of the tip of the tongue in Spanish or Italian, or with a trilling of the uvula in French or German.
- ' Used in French to indicate that a final consonant is short and unvoiced or that a letter *e* is silent or nearly so.
- y' Used in Russian; pronounce an unvoiced [y] immediately after pronouncing the preceding consonant.

### IV. STRESS MARKS

Stress marks appear in the pronunciations and in boldface entry words that are not given full pronunciation. A heavy mark [ˈ] after a syllable indicates that the syllable is spoken with the most force. A light mark [ˌ] after a syllable indicates that the syllable is spoken with relatively less force. Syllables with no marking are given the least force.

**dic-tion-ar-y** (dik'shə ner'ē)

# ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THIS BOOK

a.	adjective or adverb (i.e., modifier); used only in the thesaurus section	F	Fahrenheit
abbrev.	abbreviated, abbreviation	fem.	feminine
adj.	adjective	Fl	Flemish
adv.	adverb	fol.	following entry
Afr	African	Fr	French
Afriks	Afrikaans	ft.	foot, feet
alt.	alternative	Gael	Gaelic
Am	American	Geol.	Geology
AmInd	American Indian	Geom.	Geometry
AmSp	American Spanish	Ger	German
Anat.	Anatomy	Gmc	Germanic
Anglo-Fr	Anglo-French	Gr	Classical Greek
Ar	Arabic	Gram.	Grammar
Aram	Aramaic	Haw	Hawaiian
Archit.	Architecture	Heb	Hebrew
Austral.	Australian	Hung	Hungarian
Biol.	Biology	IE	Indo-European
Bot.	Botany	i.e.	that is
Brit	British	in.	inch(es)
C	Celsius	indic.	indicative
c.	century	Inf., inf.	informal
c.	circa	infl.	influenced
cap.	capital city	intens.	intensive
Cdn	Canadian	interj.	interjection
Celt	Celtic	Ir	Irish
cf.	compare	It	Italian
Ch.	Church	Jpn	Japanese
Chem.	Chemistry	km	kilometer(s)
Chin	Chinese	L	Classical Latin
compar.	comparative	lb.	pound(s)
Comput.	Computer Science	lit.	literally
conj.	conjunction	LL	Late Latin
contr.	contraction (grammar)	LowG	Low German
Dan	Danish	m	meter(s)
Dial., dial.	dialectal	masc.	masculine
dim.	diminutive	Math.	Mathematics
Du	Dutch	MDu	Middle Dutch
E	eastern, English	ME	Middle English
EC	east central	Mech.	Mechanics
Eccles.	Ecclesiastical	Med.	Medicine
Educ.	Education	met.	metropolitan
e.g.	for example	Mex	Mexican
Egypt	Egyptian	MHG	Middle High German
Elec.	Electricity	mi.	mile(s)
Eng	English	Mil.	Military
Esk	Eskimo	ML	Middle Latin
esp.	especially	ModGr	Modern Greek
etc.	and the like	ModL	modern scientific Latin
Ex.	example	Myth	Mythology
exc.	except	N	northern
		n.	noun
		Naut.	nautical usage
		NC	north central

NE	northeastern	SC	south central
NormFr	Norman French	Scand	Scandinavian
Norw	Norwegian	Scot	Scottish
NW	northwestern	SE	southeastern
Obs., obs.	obsolete	sing.	singular
occas.	occasionally	sing.n.	singular noun
OE	Old English	Sp	Spanish
OFr	Old French	sp.	spelling, spelled
OHG	Old High German	specif.	specifically
ON	Old Norse	sq.	square
orig.	origin, originally	superl.	superlative
OS	Old Saxon	SW	southwestern
OSlav	Old Church Slavonic	Swed	Swedish
oz.	ounce(s)	Theol.	Theology
pers.	person (grammar)	transl.	translated, translation
Pers	Persian	Turk	Turkish
Photog.	Photography	ult.	ultimately
pl.	plural	v.	verb
pl.n.	plural noun	var.	variant
Poet.	Poetic	v.aux.	auxiliary verb
Pol	Polish	vi.	intransitive verb
pop.	population	VL	Vulgar Latin
Port	Portuguese	vt.	transitive verb
poss.	possessive	W	western
pp.	past participle	WC	west central
prec.	preceding entry	WInd	West Indian
prep.	preposition	WWI	World War I
pres.	present tense	WWII	World War II
prob.	probably		
pron.	pronoun		
Prov	Provençal		
prp.	present participle		
pseud.	pseudonym		
Psychol.	Psychology		
pt.	past tense		
R.C.Ch.	Roman Catholic Church		
Rom.	Roman		
Russ	Russian		
S	southern		
Sans	Sanskrit		

### Symbols

<	derived from
?	uncertain or unknown
+	plus
&	and
°	degree
*	slang, informal, dialectal, regional, archaic, etc.; used only in the thesaurus section

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**a**<sup>1</sup> or **A** (ā) *n.*, *pl.* **a's**, **A's** (āz) the first letter of the English alphabet

**a**<sup>2</sup> (ə; stressed, ā) *adj.*, **Indefinite article** [**< AN**] 1 one; one sort of 2 each; any one —**prep.** per/once a day/ Before words beginning with a consonant sound, *a* is used [*a child, a home, a uniform*] See **AN**

**a**<sup>3</sup> *abbrev.* 1 about 2 adjective 3 alto 4 answer

**A**<sup>1</sup> (ā) *n.* 1 a blood type 2 a grade indicating excellence 3 *Music* the sixth tone in the scale of C major

**A**<sup>2</sup> *abbrev.* 1 answer 2 April 3 Baseball, Basketball assist(s) 4 August

**a**<sup>-1</sup> [**< OE**] **prefix** 1 in, into, on, at, to [*ashore*] 2 in the act or state of [*asleep*]

**a**<sup>-2</sup> **prefix** 1 [**< OE**] up, out [*arise*] 2 [**< OE**] off, of [*akin*] 3 [**< Gr**] not, without [*amoral*]

**AA** *abbrev.* 1 Alcoholics Anonymous 2 Associate in (or of) Arts

**aard-vark** (ārd'vārk') *n.* [*Du, earth pig*] a nocturnal, ant-eating S African mammal

**Aar-on** (er'ən) *n.* Bible the first high priest of the Hebrews

**AB**<sup>1</sup> (ā'bē') *n.* a blood type

**AB**<sup>2</sup> *abbrev.* 1 Alberta (Canada) 2 Bachelor of Arts: also **A.B.**

**ab-** [**IL**] **prefix** away, from, from off, down [*abdiccate*]

**ABA** *abbrev.* American Bar Association

**a-back** (ə bak') *adv.* [*Archaic*] backward; back —**taken** back startled and confused; surprised

**ab-a-cus** (ab'ə kəs) *n.*, *pl.* **-cus-es** or **-ci'** (-sī') [**< Gr** *abax*] a frame with sliding beads for doing arithmetic

**a-baft** (ə baft') *adv.* [**< OE** *on, on + be, by + æftan, aft*] **aft** —**prep.** *Naut.* behind

**ab-a-lo-ne** (ab'ə lō'nē) *n.* [**< AmInd**] an edible sea mollusk with an oval, somewhat spiral shell

**a-ban-don** (ə ban'dən) *vt.* [**< OFr** *mettre a bandon*, to put under (another's) ban] 1 to give up completely 2 to desert —*n.* unrestrained activity; exuberance —**a-ban-don-ment** *n.*

**a-ban-doned** *adj.* 1 deserted 2 shamefully wicked 3 unrestrained

**a-base** (ə bās') *vt.* **a-based'**, **a-bas'ing** [**< ML** *abassare*, to lower] to humble —**a-base-ment** *n.*

**a-bash** (ə bash') *vt.* [**< OFr** *es-, intens. + baer, gape*] to make ashamed and uneasy; disconcert —**a-bash-ed-ly** *adv.*

**a-bate** (ə bāt') *vt.*, *vi.* **a-bat-ed**, **a-bat'ing** [**< OFr** *abattre*, beat down] 1 to make or become less 2 *Law* to end —**a-bate-ment** *n.*

**ab-at-toir** (ab'ə twā'r) *n.* [*Fr*: see *prec.*] a slaughterhouse

**ab-bé** (ə bā) *n.* [*Fr*: see *ABBOT*] a French priest's title

**ab-bess** (ab'əs) *n.* [*see* *ABBOT*] a woman who heads a convent of nuns

**ab-bey** (ab'ē) *n.* 1 a monastery or convent 2 a church belonging to an abbey

**ab-bot** (ab'ət) *n.* [**< Aram** *abbā*, father] a man who heads a monastery

**abbr** or **abbrev** *abbrev.* 1 abbreviated 2 abbreviation

**ab-bre-viate** (ə brē've āt') *vt.* **-at-ed**, **-at'ing** [**< L** *ad-, to + brevis*, brief] to make shorter; esp., to shorten (a word) by omitting letters

**ab-bre-vi-a-tion** (-ā'shən) *n.* 1 a shortening 2 a shortened form of a word or phrase, as *Mr.* for *Mister*

**away from, stand up\*, leave in the lurch, turn one's back on, run out on\*, walk out on\*, doublecross\*, let down, drop.**

**abandoned** *a.* deserted, desolate, destitute, desperate, empty, unused, vacated, left, neglected, relinquished, lonely, forsaken, solitary, hopeless, cast off, cast aside, cast away, forgotten, shunned, forlorn, avoided, out-cast, rejected, helpless, unfortunate, alone, discarded, scorned, lost, doomed, friendless, wretched, thrown overboard\*, out on a limb\*, waiting at the church\*, left in the lurch, in the cold, left holding the bag\* —*Ant.* **INHABITED**, befriended, in use.

**abbreviate** *v.* shorten, cut, condense; see **DECREASE** 2.

**abbreviation** *n.* contraction, abridgment, sketch, brief, abstract, synopsis, reduction, abstraction, condensation, digest, resumé, outline, summary, short form; see also **SUMMARY**.

**abdicate** *v.* relinquish, give up,

**withdraw; see** **ABANDON** 1.

**abdomen** *n.* midsection, belly, gut\*; see **STOMACH**.

**abduct** *v.* capture, seize, carry off; see **KIDNAP**.

**abide** *v.* 1 [*To lodge*] stay, room, reside; see **DWELL**. 2 [*To submit to*] put up with, bear, bear with, withstand; see also **ENDURE** 2. —**abide by** follow, observe, comply with; see **FOLLOW** 3.

**ability** *n.* aptitude, intelligence, innate qualities, powers, potency, worth, talent, gift, genius, capability, competence, proficiency, adeptness, qualifications, knowledge, self-sufficiency, technique, craft, skill, artistry, cunning, skillfulness, dexterity, facility, flair, finesse, mastery, cleverness, deftness, experience, ingenuity, strength, understanding, faculty, comprehension, makings, sense, what it takes\*, brains, **knack**, the hang of something, know-how\* —*Ant.* **IGNORANCE**, incompetence, inexperience.

# A

**ABC** (ā'bē'sē') *n.*, *pl.* **ABC's** [*usually pl.*] 1 the alphabet 2 the basic elements (of a subject)

**ab-di-cate** (ab'dī kāt') *vt.*, *vi.* **-cat-ed**, **-cat'ing** [**< L** *ab-, off + dicare*, to proclaim] 1 to give up formally (a throne, etc.) 2 to surrender (a right, responsibility, etc.) —**ab-di-ca-tion** *n.*

**ab-do-men** (ab'də mən, ab dō'-) *n.* [**IL**] the part of the body between the diaphragm and the pelvis; belly —**ab-dom'i-nal** (-dām'ə nəl) *adj.*

**ab-duct** (ab duk't') *vt.* [**< L** *ab-, away + ducere*, to lead] to kidnap —**ab-duc-tion** *n.* —**ab-duc-tor** *n.*

**a-beam** (ə bēm') *adv.*, *adj.* at right angles to a ship's length or keel

**a-bed** (ə bed') *adv.*, *adj.* in bed

**A-bel** (ā'bəl) *n.* Bible the second son of Adam and Eve; see **CAIN**

**a-be-li-a** (ə bē'l'yə, ə bē'lē ə) *n.* an ornamental shrub with clusters of fragrant flowers

**ab-er-ra-tion** (ab'ər ā'shən) *n.* [**< L** *ab-, from + errare*, wander] 1 a deviation from what is right, true, normal, etc. 2 mental derangement or lapse 3 *Optics* the failure of light rays from one point to converge at a single focus —**ab-er-rant** (-ənt) *adj.* —**ab-er-ra-tion-al** *adj.*

**a-bet** (ə bet') *vt.* **a-bet'ted**, **a-bet'ting** [**< OFr** *a-, to + beter*, to bait] to urge on or help, esp. in crime —**a-bet-tor** or **a-better** *n.*

**a-bey-ance** (ə bā'əns) *n.* [**< OFr** *a-, to, at + bayer*, wait expectantly] temporary suspension, as of an activity or ruling

**ab-hor** (ab hōr') *vt.* **-horred'**, **-hor'ring** [**< L** *ab-, from + horrere*, to shudder] to shrink from in disgust, hatred, etc.; detest —**ab-hor-rence** *n.*

**ab-hor-rent** (-ənt) *adj.* causing disgust, hatred, etc.; detestable —**ab-hor-rent-ly** *adv.*

**a-bide** (ə bīd') *vi.* **a-bode**' or **a-bid-ed**, **a-bid'ing** [**< OE** *ā-, intens. + bīdan*, bide] 1 to remain 2 [*Archaic*] to reside —*vt.* 1 to await 2 to put up with —**abide by** 1 to live up to (a promise, etc.) 2 to submit to and carry out —**a-bid-ance** *n.*

**a-bid'ing** *adj.* enduring; lasting

**a-bil-i-ty** (ə bil'ə tē) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties** [**< L** *habilitas*] 1 a being able; power to do 2 talent or skill

**-a-bil-i-ty** (ə bil'ə tē) [**L** *-abilitas*] **suffix** a (specified) ability, capacity, or tendency

**ab-ject** (ab'jekt', ab jekt') *adj.* [**< L** *ab-, from + jacere*, to throw] 1 miserable; wretched 2 lacking self-respect; degraded —**ab-ject'ly** *adv.* —**ab-ject-ion** or **ab-ject'ness** *n.*

**ab-jure** (ab joor', əb-) *vt.* **-jured'**, **-jur'ing** [**< L** *ab-, away + jurare*, swear] 1 to give up (rights, allegiance, etc.) on oath; renounce 2 to recant —**ab-ju-ra-tion** (ab'jə rā'shən) *n.* —**ab-ju-ra-tory** (-ə tōr'ē) *adj.* —**ab-ju-rer** *n.*

**ab-late** (ab lāt') *vt.* **-lat-ed**, **-lat'ing** [*see fol.*] 1 to remove,

## THESAURUS

**a**<sup>2</sup> *a.*, **Indefinite article**, **prep.** 1

[The indefinite article; before vowels, written "an"] some, one, any, each, some kind of, some particular, any of, any one of, a certain. —*Ant.* **THE**, this, that. 2 [An indication of frequency] per, every, at the rate of; see **EACH** 2.

**abandon** *n.* unrestraint, spontaneity, freedom, exuberance, spirit, enthusiasm, vigor.

**abandon** *v.* 1 [*To give up*] leave, quit, withdraw, discontinue, break off, go off from, cast away, cast aside, let go, cease, cast off, discard, vacate, give away, part with, evacuate, surrender, yield, desist, concede, renounce, abdicate, lose hope of, go back on, secede, waive, forgo, back down from, lay aside, dispose of, have done with, throw in the towel\*, break the habit. 2 [*To leave someone or something in trouble*] desert, forsake, ostracize, back out on, break with, break up with, run away, defect, reject, disown, cast off, maroon, depart from, throw overboard, jettison, leave behind, slip

away from, stand up\*, leave in the lurch, turn one's back on, run out on\*, walk out on\*, doublecross\*, let down, drop.

**abandoned** *a.* deserted, desolate, destitute, desperate, empty, unused, vacated, left, neglected, relinquished, lonely, forsaken, solitary, hopeless, cast off, cast aside, cast away, forgotten, shunned, forlorn, avoided, out-cast, rejected, helpless, unfortunate, alone, discarded, scorned, lost, doomed, friendless, wretched, thrown overboard\*, out on a limb\*, waiting at the church\*, left in the lurch, in the cold, left holding the bag\* —*Ant.* **INHABITED**, befriended, in use.

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