The Voice of Authority

Merriam
Webster's Collegiate
Dictionary

韦 氏 大 学 词 典

第10版

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

Tenth Edition

韦氏大学词典

第10版

[美]梅里亚姆-韦伯斯特公司 编



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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

内 容 介绍

本词典是当今世界英语界公认的最有权的韦氏词典系列中最畅销的品种之一。自 1898 年初版至今,已有近百年历史。

本词典为1994年的第 10 版,本版更充分相了韦氏公司逐年增加的庞大语料库和计算机检索技术,对第9版中的16万个条与20万条释义详加考证,并作修订与增删,反映了近年来词汇研究的新成果不仅保留了第9版的精华,又增添了近百幅插图,对于读者确切理解词义颇有助。另外,对同义词的解说,则有较大篇幅的补充。

本书是一切英语学习者案头必备的工具中

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前 言

美国 Merriam-Webster 公司出版的《韦氏大学词典》是世界英语界公认的权威性工具书之一。世界图书出版公司北京公司于 1988 年即向 Merriam-Webster 公司购买了《韦氏新大学词典》第 9 版的中国大陆重印权,通过全国外文书店发行,深受广大读者欢迎。本书是第 10 版,在第 9 版的基础上增删与修订而成。

《韦氏大学词典》初版于 1898 年,至今已有近百年历史,是韦氏词典系列最畅销的品种之一。《韦氏大学词典》以《韦氏第 3 版新国际英语大词典》为基础精选、修订、增补而成,第 9 版共收词 16 万条,释义 20 万条,并附有必要的插图。本版(第 10 版)充分利用了韦氏公司逐年增加的庞大的语料库及计算机检索技术对全部词条详加修订与增删,并补充了近百幅插图,以助读者更确切地理解词义,而对同义词的解说,更有较大篇幅的增加。

本词典不仅在内容上充分满足大学生及一般英语学习者与工作者的需要,又 比《韦氏国际英语大词典》携带方便,可放在案头随时查阅,深受个人读者尤其是大 学生的喜爱。

为满足更多个人读者的需要,我们将拓宽发行渠道,通过全国新华书店与各地 外文书店发行,希望得到全国英语爱好者的厚爱。

Merriam-Webster 公司同我公司友好合作多年,今年又进一步扩大合作范围,签署了包括本书在内的十多种常用的权威性词典的合作协议,在我公司成立十周年之际,即于 1996 年向我国读者献上一份厚礼。并藉此机会,谨代表世界图书出版公司和广大读者向美国 Merriam-Webster-公司表示感谢,希望通过版权贸易,有更多好书在中国大陆出版发行。

世界图书出版公司北京公司 一九九五年十二月

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Preface

In 1898 an abridged dictionary titled Webster's Collegiate Dictionary took the place, in the Merriam-Webster line, of an earlier book titled Webster's National Pictorial Dictionary. The new book was based upon the 1890 edition of the Merriam-Webster Unabridged, and it aimed, its editors said, "to present the most essential parts of Webster's International Dictionary, in a compact and convenient form, suited to the general reader and especially to the college student." change cannot have seemed momentous to the people involved; nonetheless, it inaugurated a series of editions that has continued for nearly a hundred years. The book you hold, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, is the very latest in that series. Its title is new, and its contents have undergone the most searching and extensive sort of review and modification over the two-year course of work, but it remains rooted as firmly as ever in the Merriam-Webster tradition of excellence in the making of dictionaries.

A word must be said about the new title, which breaks with tradition in beginning not with Webster's but with Merriam-Webster's. During the time that our Collegiate Dictionary has been in existence, we have seen the proliferation of dictionaries from other publishers bearing the designation Webster's in their titles. In 1982 we changed the name of our company from the G. & C. Merriam Company that it had borne since its inception in 1831 to Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. Events of the succeeding decade have brought us to believe that we must now place even greater emphasis on the Merriam-Webster combination, which is uniquely ours. The new title of a very prominent dictionary in our line reflects this belief.

Although Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, may lack a familiar ring, this dictionary like all earlier editions is meant to serve the general public as its chief source of information about the words of our language. Its title may suggest a special appropriateness for the student, but those who work in offices and those who read, think, and write at home will equally find it a trustworthy guide to the English of our day.

The ever-expanding vocabulary of our language exerts inexorable pressure on the contents of any dictionary. Words and senses are born at a far greater rate than that at which they die out. The 1600 pages of this Collegiate make it the most comprehensive ever published. And its treatment of words is as nearly exhaustive as the compass of an abridged work permits. As in all Merriam-Webster dictionaries, the information given is based on the collection of 14,500,000 citations maintained in the offices of this company. These citations show words used in a wide range of printed sources, and the collection is constantly being augmented through the efforts of the editorial staff. Thus, the user of the dictionary may be confident that entries in the Collegiate are based on current as well as older material. The citation files hold 4,500,000 more examples than were available to the editors of Webster's Third New International Dictionary, published in 1961, and 1,500,000 more than the editors of the Ninth Edition had at their disposal. The editors of this edition also had available to them for the first time a machine-readable corpus of over 20,000,000 words of text drawn from the wide and constantly changing range of publications that supply the paper slips in the citation files.

Those entries known to be trademarks or service marks are so labeled and are treated in accordance with a formula approved by the United States Trademark Association. No entry in this dictionary, however, should be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark or service mark.

The best features of the vocabulary section in the last edition have been retained, reviewed, and improved for this one. Over a hundred additional pictorial illustrations are present, and many of them were drawn especially for this book in order to supplement and clarify definitions. To the synonym paragraphs brief verbal illustrations have consistently been added to assist with the understanding of the discrimination offered. Usage paragraphs, which appeared for the first time in the Ninth Edition, are here again, augmented in number and extensively revised in the light of the research and thought that produced Webster's Dictionary of English Usage about halfway between these editions. The dates of first use provided at most main entries, also new to the last edition, have proved to be very popular with users of the Collegiate. For the Tenth Edition, thousands of these dates have been pushed back in time, anywhere from a single year to several centuries from published materials not available ten years ago, from the continuing investigations of our own editors, and from the contributions of hundreds of interested readers

The front matter of this book establishes a context for understanding what this dictionary is and how it came to be, as well as how it may be used most effectively. The Explanatory Notes address themselves to the latter topic. They answer the user's questions about the conventions, devices, and techniques by which the editors have been able to compress mountains of information about English words into little more than 1400 pages. All users of the dictionary are urged to read this section through and then consult it for special information as they need to. The brief essay on our language as it is recorded in Merriam-Webster dictionaries, and this Collegiate in particular, is meant to satisfy an interest in lexicography often expressed in the correspondence which our editors receive. The Guide to Pronunciation serves both to show how the pronunciations in this book are arrived at and to explain the mechanics of the respelling system in which they are set down.

The back matter retains five sections from the last edition of the Collegiate. These are Abbreviations and Symbols for Chemical Elements, Foreign Words and Phrases that occur frequently in English texts but have not become part of the English vocabulary; thousands of proper names brought together under the separate headings Biographical Names and Geographical Names; a gathering of important Signs and Symbols that cannot readily be alphabetized; and a Handbook of Style in which various stylistic conventions (as of punctuation and capitalization) are summarized and exemplified. All the sections are expanded in this edition.

Looking at a copy of that long-ago first Collegiate Dictionary, one is struck by how different it is, as a physical book and as a work of reference, from the present edition. The board covers are heavy, the margins of the page are wide, and the type is relatively large; at the same time it holds only about 1100 pages and only about half the number of vocabulary entries of this Tenth Edition. At that time the Meriam-Webster citation file was no more than in its infancy. Yet the editors of that book created it with the same careful, serious attention that the present editors have brought to their work.

The publishers said of their original Collegiate Dictionary, "For the book as a whole we venture to claim that in its class and for its purpose it has no superior and no equal." The trained, experienced, permanent staff of Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, who worked on this Tenth Edition and whose names are given on the facing page, have no less confidence in what they have created. They offer it to people everywhere who need information about the vocabulary of English, in the assurance that it will prove a reliable companion.

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angle brackets PAGE 18a	pet • punch up — guide words PAGE 10a
binomial	pet adi (1584) 1: kept or treated as a pet 2: expressing fondness endearmen (3~ name) 3: FAVORITE (a~ project) pharaph ant a (ca. 1972) a little od ent (Monomorium pharaph
PAGE 21a	pharach and a (ea. 1977) a little sed and (Monomorium pharaon that is a common household pest
Andrews and Annie Mary and extends a second Philipping of the second and provide a second and a	phar-ma-cy \far-ma-se\ n, pl-cies [LL pharmacia administration
boldface colon	phar-ma-cy \far-mo-se\ n, plcies [LL pharmacia administration drugs, fr. Gk pharmakeia, fr. pharmakeuein to administer drugs, pharmaken magic charm, poison, drug\(\frac{1}{1651}\)\(\frac{1}{16}\)\(1
PAGE 19a	profession of preparing, preserving, compounding, and dispensi
	medical drugs 2 a : a place where medicines are compounded dispensed (:) DRUGSTORE 3 : PHARMACOPOEIA 2
called also	phase—contrast microscope n (1947): a microscope that translat differences in phase of the light transmitted through or reflected by t
PAGE 18a	object into differences of intensity in the image - called also pho
	microscope \fi-lo-sten; fo-'lis-tan, -ten; fi-lo-stan\ n (14c) 1: a n
capitalization label	tive or inhabitant of ancient Philistia 2 often not cap a: a pers who is guided by materialism and is usu disdainful of intellectual
PAGE 15a	artistic values b: one uninformed in a special area of knowledge
the state of the s	philistine adj. often cap phi-lis-tin-ism \-la-ste-ni-zam: *lis-t
centered dots	pic Jul esque ", pik-cha-resk" adj [F & It. F pittoresque, ir. It pittores ir pittore painter, fr. L pictor, fr. pingere] (1703) 1 a : resembling
PAGES 10a, 11a	picture; suggesting a painted scene b; charming of quain in appear
AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT	ance 2. evoking mental images: VIVID SVB see GRAPHIC - PIC-TH
cognate cross-reference	esque-ly adv — pic-tur-esque-ness n
PAGES 21a, 22a	pillory w -ried; -ry-ing(ca. 1000) 1: 10 set in a pinory as punis
	pin-fold \told\ n ME, tr. OE punajala, ir. puna-enclosure + Ju
cutback inflected forms PAGES 13a, 14a	fold I(13c) 1 · POUND la 2 : a place of restraint
FAULD IJA, 14A	Pins and needles n pl (1813); a pricking tingling sensation in a ling growing number recovering from numbers. Jon pins and need
	; in a nervous or jumpy state of anticipation pi-ra-nna \p3-ra-na, -ran-\p3-ra-na, -ran-\p3-ra
date PAGE 17a	+ ava toothl (1869): any of various usu. small So. American charac
TAGE 17a	fishes (genus Serrasalmo) having very sharp teeth and including so that may attack and inflict dangerous wounds upon humans and lar
defined we on order	animals — called also caribe pis-til \pis-til \n [NL pistillum, fr. L. pestle — more at PESTLE] (174
defined run-on entry PAGE 11a	a single carpel or group of tused carpels usin differentiated into
/////	ovary, style, and stigma see FLOWER illustration
definition	ways, it places side; akin to L place net, region, Lik pelagos sea 1132
definition PAGE 19a	pare AUTHENTIC 4a 2 of a cadence; progressing from the subdomina
	shord to the tonis compare AUTHENTIC 4b
directional cross-reference	pare AUTHENTIC 4a plaguev or plaguy plead 'plead' pleaded 'plead' plead'
PAGE 21a	plead \'pled\ vb plead-ed \'ple-d-d\ or pled also plead \'pled\; plead in a [MF plaiden to institute a lawsum. It. wif plaidien in plaid pleal
	. (13c) 1: to argue a case or cause in a court of law 2 a: to make
equal variant	allegation in an action or other legal proceeding; esp:: to answer to previous pleading of the other party by denying facts therein stated by alleging new facts b: to conduct pleadings 3: to make a pleading of the other party by the state of programment a claim.
PAGE 11a	by alleging new facts b: to conduct pleadings 3: to make a plea
	a specified nature (~ not guilty) 4 a: To argue for or against a classe; to entreat or appeal carnestly ~ vt 1: to maintain (as a case cause) in a court of law or other tribunal 2: To allege in or by way
etymology	
PAGES 15a,16a	plead-able \'plē-də-bə\\ adj — plead-er n — plead-ingdy \'plē-di
A COLOMBRIAN STORY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP	
functional label	plo-ver 'pla-var, 'plo-\ n. pl plover or plovers [ME. fr. MF, fr. (sumed) VL pluviarius, fr. L pluvia rain — more at PLUVIAL] (140) any or a family (Charadridae) of short-inhabiting birds that different plants and the plants of the plants
PAGE 13a	
	ciouter more compact build 2: any of various birds as a turnstone
guide phrase	sandpiper) related to the plovers
PAGE 18a	rainy, it. phase to air. more at FLOW (ca. 1656) it as of or religing to rain, b: characterized by abundant air. of a geologic char
	resulting from the action of rain
homographs	resulting from the action of rain point-ed \ 'point-ed \ 'point-ed \ 'adj (14c) 1 a : having a point b : being arch with a pointed crown; also : marked by the use of a pointed ar
PAGE 10a	(~ architecture) 2 a: being to the point; Pertinent b: simed a particular person or group 3: CONSPICUOUS MARKED (~ indifferent
illustrative quotation	2 - interdigit lebout for appointed to 57 trans- SET FIXED
PAGE 18a	poise vo poised; poiseng [ME, to weigh, ponder, it will post se
	esp: to hold or carry in equilibrium (carried a water ja: poised on i
inflected forms PAGES 13a, 14a	head) h: to hold supported or single single state and position (poised her fork and gave her guest a knowing look — to Bromfield) Z: to hold or carry the nead in a particular way 3:
1710LU 10a, 17a	
effectional gross reference	put into readiness: BRACE - W 1: to become drawn upon with a pole 2: 1pole - poled; pol-ingly (1573) 1: to propel a boat with a pole 2:
inflectional cross-reference PAGES 21a, 22a	
the state of the s	to use ski poles to gain speed
list of undefined words	pole is properties
PAGE 22a	- more at of 1 a: after: subsequent: later (postdate) h: behit
	- more at of 1 a: after: subsequent: later (postdate) b: behi : posterior: following after (postdate) (postconsonantal) 2 a: subsequent to: later than (postoperative) b: posterior to (postorbital)
lowercase	post-abor-tion post-Ein-stein-lan post-mat-ing
PAGE 15a	post-ac-ci-dent post-elec-tion post-me-di-e-val
	post-ad-o-les-cent post-em-bry-o-nal post-mid-night post-am-pu-ta-tion post-em-bry-on-ic post-neo-na-tal
main-entry	post-ampurement
PAGE 10a	po-sy \'pō-zë\ n, pl posies [alter, of poesy] (1533) 1: a brief sen
	ment, motto, or legend 2 a: ROHOUET NOSEGAY b: FLOWER po-tas-si-um po-tas-si-um poften attrib NL, fr. potassa potash, fr.
often attrib	potash] (ca. 1807); a silver-white soft light low-melting univalent in
PAGE 15a	

Explanatory pot-ten-tate (pot-tin-tat) n (13c); RULER, SUVEREIGN broadly; One who wields great power of swey; pot-herb (pat-prb, -horb); (1538); a usu leafy herb that is ecoled for use as greens, size; one las mint) used to season food pot lik-ker \-'li-kar\ Southern & Midland por of rot tiscor pot-sherd \pat-pat-pat-at a | Mab pot-sherd, fr. pot | chord chard] (14c); a pottery fearbrent pout also pouffe (pat-hort). a | Mab pot-sherd, fr. pot | chord chard] (14c); a pottery fearbrent pout also pouffe (pat-hort). a | Lab pot-sherd, fr. pot | chord chard] (187) 1: PUFF bb(3) 2: a boutfant or fluffy part of a garment or accessory 3: ottoman - pouffed or pouffed (pat-hort) adj poult \'polt\ n [ME polet, pulte young fowl — more at PULLET] (15c); a young fowl; esp = young turker, pow-dery \pat-ore\ adj (15c) 1 (a) resembling or consisting spowder (~ snow) b: easily reduced to powder: CRUMBLING (2): covered with or as if with powder prexy \'prek-se\ also prex \'preks n, pl prex-ies also prex-es [prexy fr. prex, by shortening & alter. fr. president] (1871) | slang | pat-sident | used chiefly of a college president | proph-et \'rpa-fat\ n [ME prophete, fr. OF, fr. L propheta, fr. Gk prophetes, fr. pro for + phanai to speak — more at FOR, BAN] (12c) 1: one who utters divinely inspired revelations; specif, often cap: the writter of one of the prophetic books of the Old Testament 2: one gifted with more than ordinary spiritual and moral insight; esp: an inspired poet 3: one who foretells future events: PREDICTOR 4: an effective or leading spokesman for a cause, doctrine, or group 5 Christian Science a : A Struttus events: PREDICTOR 4: an effective or leading spokesman for a cause, doctrine, or group 5 Christian Science a : A Struttus events: PREDICTOR 4: an effective or leading spokesman for a cause, doctrine, or group 5 Christian Science a : A Struttus events: PREDICTOR 4: an effective or leading spokesman for a cause, doctrine, or group 5 Christ po-ten-tate (Po-t'n-tatty n'(13c): RULER. SUVEREIGN: broadly: primary stress pronunciation PAGES 12a. 13a regional label PAGES 17a, 18a secondary stress PAGE 12a inspired poet 3: one who foretells future events: PREDICTOR 4: an effective or leading spokesman for a cause, doctrine, or group 5 Christian Science 3: a spiritual seer b: disappearance of material sense before the conscious facts of spiritual Truth — prophet-hood \, hud\ n propose \, pro-pose secondary variant PAGE 11a sense divider PAGE 19a someone and esp. oneself as an aim or intent (proposed to spend the summer in Italy) 2 a: to set forth for acceptance or rejection (~ sense letter PAGE 198 terms for peace \(\sum_{\text{a-terms for debate}} \) b : to recommend to fill a place or vacancy: NOMINATE (\simeq \text{them for membership}) c: to offer as proce of vacancy: Nomate \(\) then for membership \(c \): to other as a toast \(\cdot \) the happiness of the couple \(\)—prosposer \(n \)

**Prospect \(\)'prä-spekt \(n \) [ME, fr. \(L \) prospectus view, prospect, fr. prospecte to look forward, exercise foresight, fr. pro-forward + specere to look more at PRO. SPY] (15c) \(1 : EXPOSURE 3b \) \(2 \) a \(1 :): an extensive view \((2 : a \) mental consideration: SURVEY \(b : a \) place that sense number PAGE 19a tensive view (2): a mental consideration: SURVEY b: a place that commands an extensive view: LOOKOUT c: something extended to the view: SCENE d archaic: a sketch or picture of a scene 3 obs: ASPECT 4 a: the act of looking forward: ANTICIPATION b: a mental picture of something to come: VISION e: Something that is awaited or expected: POSSIBILITY d pl (1): financial expectations (2): CHANCES 5: a place showing signs of containing a mineral deposit 6 a: a potential buyer or customer b: a likely candidate — in prospect possible or likely for the future. stylistic label PAGES 17a, 18a subject label PÁGE 18a potential buyer or customer b: a likely candidate — In prospect:

possible or likely for the future

syn Prospect. OUTLOOK. ANTICIPATION. FORETASTE mean an advance realization of something to come. Prospect implies expectation of a particular event, condition, or development of definite interest or concern (the prospect of a quiet weekend). OUTLOOK suggests a forecasting of the future (a favorable outlook for the economy). ANTICIPATION implies a prospect or outlook that involves advance suffering or enjoyment of what is foreseen (the anticipation of her arrival). FORE TASTE implies an actual though brief or partial experience of something forthcoming (the frost was a foretaste of winter).

Prostrate \ pra-strate \ pra-strate (a) [ME prostrat, fr. L prostratus, pp. of prosternere, fr. pro-before + sternere to spread out, throw down — more at STREW] (14c) 1: stretched out with face on the ground in adoration or submission; also: lying flat 2: completely overcome and lacking vitality, will, or power to rise (was ~ from the heat) 3: trailing on the ground: PROCUMBENT (~ shrub) [syn see PRONE]

pro-tensive \-^*ten(!)-siv\ adj [L protensis, pp. nl protenders (1671) 1 archaic: having continuance in time 2 larchaic: having lengthwise extent or extensiveness — pro-tensive-ly/adv

Protestant ethic n (1920): an ethic that stresses the virtue of hard work short, and self-discipline

prove ("prit" by proved; proved or prov-en \ pru-va Brit also pro\, prov-ing \ priv-ing \ p possible of likely for the future

syn Prospect, Outlook, Anticipation, Foretaste mean an advance swung dash (boldface)
PAGE 13a swung dash (lightface) PAGE 18a synonymous cross-reference PAGES 21a, 22a synonym paragraph PAGE 22a syn see PAGE 22a temporal label undefined run-on entry PAGE 11a uppercase PAGE 15a usage note PAGES 18a, 19a usage paragraph PAGE 19a usage see PAGE 19a proved in all contexts. As an attitudity adjective proved in proved as proved as proved as proved as provided configuration of provided configuration of provided to provided configuration of provided to provide verbal illustration PAGE 18a

Explanatory Notes

Entries

MAIN ENTRIES

A boldface letter or a combination of such letters, including punctuation marks and diacritics where needed, that is set flush with the left-hand margin of each column of type is a main entry or entry word. The main entry may consist of letters set solid, of letters joined by a hyphen or a diagonal, or of letters separated by one or more spaces:

lalone . . . adj

au-to-da-fé . . . n

and/or . . . conj

automatic pilot . . . n

The material in lightface type that follows each main entry on the same line and on succeeding indented lines explains and justifies its inclusion in the dictionary.

Variation in the styling of compound words in English is frequent and widespread. It is often completely acceptable to choose freely among open, hyphenated, and closed alternatives (as lifestyle, life-style, or life style). However, to show all the stylings that are found for English compounds would require space that can be better used for other information. So this dictionary limits itself to a single styling for a compound:

peace-mak-er pell-mell boom box

When a compound is widely used and one styling predominates, that styling is shown. When a compound is uncommon or when the evidence indicates that two or three stylings are approximately equal in frequency, the styling shown is based on the analogy of parallel compounds.

ORDER OF MAIN ENTRIES

The main entries follow one another in alphabetical order letter by letter without regard to intervening spaces or hyphens: battle royal follows battlement and earth-shattering follows earth-shaking. Those containing an Arabic numeral are alphabetized as if the numeral were spelled out: 3-D comes between three-color and three-decker. Those that often begin with the abbreviation St. in common usage have the abbreviation spelled out: Saint Anthony's fire.

Full words come before parts of words made up of the same letters. Solid compounds come first and are followed by hyphenated compounds and then open compounds. Lowercase entries come before entries that begin with a capital letter:

semi n
semi prefix
take-out n
take-out adj
take out y
tim-o-thy n
Tim-o-thy n

HOMOGRAPHS

When one main entry has exactly the same written form as another, the two are distinguished by superscript numerals preceding each word:

Sometimes such homographs are related: the two entries melt are derived from the same root. Sometimes there is no relationship: the two entries pine are unrelated beyond the accident of spelling. The order of homographs is usually historical: the one first used in English is entered first. A homograph derived from an earlier homograph by functional shift, however, follows its parent immediately, with the result that occasionally one homograph appears ahead of another that is older in usage. For example, of the three entries kennel the second (a verb) is derived from the first (a noun). Even though the unrelated third entry kennel was used in English many years before the second, it follows the two related entries.

GUIDE WORDS

A pair of guide words is printed at the top of each page. The entries that fall alphabetically between the guide words are found on that page.

It is important to remember that alphabetical order rather than position of an entry on the page determines the selection of guide words. The first guide word is the alphabetically first entry on the page. The second guide word is usually the alphabetically last entry on the page:

academe • accessible

The entry need not be a main entry. Another boldface word—a variant, an inflected form, or a defined or undefined run-on—may be selected as a guide word. For this reason the last printed main entry on a page is not always the last entry alphabetically:

ace • achromatize

On the page where these guide words are used, achromatic lens is the last printed entry, but achromatize, a derivative word run on at achromatic, is the last entry alphabetically and so has been chosen as the second guide word.

All guide words must themselves be in alphabetical order from page to page throughout the dictionary; thus, the alphabetically last entry on a page is not used if it follows alphabetically the first guide word on the next page:

alençon • alignment

On the page where these guide words are found, alinement, a variant at the entry alignment, is the last entry alphabetically, but it is not used as the second guide word because it follows alphabetically the entry alike, which is the first guide word on the next page. To use alinement would violate the alphabetical order of guide words from page to page, and so the entry alignment is the second guide word instead.

END-OF-LINE DIVISION

The centered dots within entry words indicate division points at which a hyphen may be put at the end of a line of

print or writing. Thus the noun pos-si-bil-i-ty may be ended on one line with:

pospossipossibilpossibili-

and continued on the next with:

sibility bility ity ty

Centered dots are not shown after a single initial letter or before a single terminal letter because printers seldom cut off a single letter:

> aswirl . . . adj mouthy . . . adj idea . . . n

Nor are they shown at second and succeeding homographs unless these differ among themselves:

 \$1 re-form . . . vb
 \$1 min-ute . . . n

 \$2 reform n
 \$2 minute vi

 \$3 reform adj
 \$3 mi-nute . . . adj

There are acceptable alternative end-of-line divisions just as there are acceptable variant spellings and pronunciations. It is, for example, all but impossible to produce a convincing argument that either of the divisions aus-ter-i-ty, au-ster-i-ty is better than the other. But space cannot be taken for entries like aus-ter-i-ty or au-ster-i-ty, and au-s-ter-i-ty would likely be confusing to many. No more than one division is, therefore, shown for an entry in this dictionary.

Many words have two or more common pronunciation variants, and the same end-of-line division is not always appropriate for each of them. The division pi-an-ist, for example, best fits the variant \pē-a-nist\ whereas the division pi-a-nist best fits the variant \pē-a-nist\. In instances like this, the division falling farther to the left is used, regardless of the order of the pronunciations:

pi-a-nist \pē-'a-nist, 'pē-ə-nist\

A double hyphen at the end of a line in this dictionary (as in the definition at abstract expressionism) stands for a hyphen that belongs at that point in a hyphenated word and that is retained when the word is written as a unit on one line.

VARIANTS

When a main entry is followed by the word or and another spelling, the two spellings are equal variants. Both are standard, and either one may be used according to personal inclination:

ocher or ochre

If two variants joined by or are out of alphabetical order, they remain equal variants. The one printed first is, however, slightly more common than the second:

plow or plough

When another spelling is joined to the main entry by the word also, the spelling after also is a secondary variant and occurs less frequently than the first:

can-cel·la-tion also can-cel·ation

Secondary variants belong to standard usage and may be used according to personal inclination. If there are two secondary variants, the second is joined to the first by or. Once the word also is used to signal a secondary variant, all following variants are joined by or:

¹Shake-spear-ean or Shake-spear-ian also Shak-sper-ean or Shak-sper-ian

Variants whose spelling places them apprahetically more than a column away from the main entry are entered at their own alphabetical places and usually not at the main entry:

> ¹jibe . . . var of gibe ³rime, rimester var of Rhyme, Rhymester

Variants having a usage label appear only at their own alphabetical places:

metre . . . chiefly Brit var of METER
agin . . . dial var of AGAINST

RUN-ON ENTRIES

A main entry may be followed by one or more derivatives or by a homograph with a different functional label. These are run-on entries. Each is introduced by a lightface dash and each has a functional label. They are not defined, however, since their meanings are readily derivable from the meaning of the root word:

```
slay . . . vb . . . . — slay-er n

spir-it-ed . . . adj . . . — spir-it-ed-ly adv — spir-it-ed-ness n

stac-ca-to . . . adj . . . — staccato adv — staccato n
```

A main entry may be followed by one or more phrases containing the entry word or an inflected form of it. These are also run-on entries. Each is introduced by a lightface dash but there is no functional label. They are, however, defined since their meanings are more than the sum of the meanings of their elements:

hole . . . n . . . — in the hole : . . .

live . . . vb . . . — live it up : . . .

Defined phrases of this sort are run on at the entry constituting the first major element in the phrase. The first major element is ordinarily a verb or a noun, but when these are absent another part of speech may serve instead:

¹but . . . conj . . . — but what : . .

When there are variants, however, the run-on appears at the entry constituting the first major invariable element in the phrase:

¹clock . . . n . . . — kill the clock or run out the clock : . . . ¹hand . . . n . . . — on all hands or on every hand : . . .

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

Attention is called to the definition of vocabulary entry in this book. The term dictionary entry includes all vocabulary entries as well as all boldface entries in the separate sections of the back matter headed "Abbreviations and Symbols for Chemical Elements," "Foreign Words and Phrases," "Biographical Names," and "Geographical Names."

Pronunciation

Pronunciation is indicated between a pair of reversed virgules following the entry word. The symbols used are listed in the chart printed inside the back cover of this dictionary and on the page facing the first page of the dictionary proper. An abbreviated list appears at the bottom of the second column of each right-hand page of the vocabulary. Explanations of the symbols are given in the Guide to Pronunciation.

SYLLABLES

A hyphen is used in the pronunciation to show syllabic division. These hyphens sometimes coincide with the centered dots in the entry word that indicate end-of-line division; sometimes they do not:

ab-sen-tee (ab-sen-te)
met-ric (me-trik)

STRESS

A high-set mark \('\' \) indicates primary (strongest) stress or accent; a low-set mark \(\' \' \) indicates secondary (medium) stress or accent:

heart-beat hart-bet

The stress mark stands at the beginning of the syllable that receives the stress.

Stress marks are an indication of the relative prominence of the syllables in a word. In running speech the primary stress can vary in English words for several contextual and semantic reasons. Because the variation is so great, this book shows the primary stress of a word in its pronunciation as a single word out of context.

VARIANT PRONUNCIATIONS

The presence of variant pronunciations indicates that not all educated speakers pronounce words the same way. A second-place variant is not to be regarded as less acceptable than the pronunciation that is given first. It may, in fact, be used by as many educated speakers as the first variant, but the requirements of the printed page make one precede the other:

apri-cot 'a-pro-,kät, 'a- \
for-eign 'for-ən, 'far-

A variant that is appreciably less common than the preceding variant is preceded by the word also:

¹al·loy ¹a-₁lói also ə-¹lói \

A variant preceded by *sometimes* is even less common, though it does occur in educated speech:

in-vei-gle in-'va-gəl sometimes -'vē-

Sometimes a regional label precedes a variant:

¹great \'grat. Southern also 'gre(ə)t :

The label dial precedes a variant that is noteworthy or common in a dialect or dialects of American English, but that is not considered to be a standard pronunciation:

ask 'ask, 'ask; dial 'aks

The symbol $\times \div \times$ is placed before a pronunciation variant that occurs in educated speech but that is considered by some to be unacceptable:

cu-po-la "kyü-pə-lə, ÷-,lö\

This symbol refers only to the immediately following variant and not to subsequent variants separated from it by a comma or a semicolon.

PARENTHESES IN PRONUNCIATIONS

Symbols enclosed by parentheses represent elements that are present in the pronunciation of some speakers but are absent from the pronunciation of other speakers, or elements that are present in some but absent from other utterances of the same speaker:

Ttwin-kle \(\structure\) twin-kling \(\structure\) -k(a-)lin\(\sat\) sat-is-fac-to-ry \(\si\), sat-is-fak-t(a-)re\(\si\)

re-sponse \(\si\) ri-'sp\(\si\)

Thus, the parentheses at twinkling mean that there are some who pronounce the 'a' between $k \in A$ and $k \in A$ and others who do not pronounce it.

PARTIAL AND ABSENT PRONUNCIATIONS

When a main entry has less than a full pronunciation, the missing part is to be supplied from a pronunciation in a preceding entry or within the same pair of reversed virgules:

cham·pi-on-ship -,ship \
Ma·dei-ra \ ma-'dir-a, -'der-\

The pronunciation of the first three syllables of championship is found at the main entry champion:

¹cham-pi-on \'cham-pē-ən\

The hyphens before and after \der\ in the pronunciation of Madeira indicate that both the first and the last parts of the pronunciation are to be taken from the immediately preceding pronunciation.

Partial pronunciations are usually shown when two or more variants have a part in common. When a variation of stress is involved, a partial pronunciation may be terminated at the stress mark which stands at the beginning of a syllable not shown:

di-verse di-vers, de-', 'di-,' an-cho-vy \'an-,cho-ve, an-'\

In general, no pronunciation is indicated for open compounds consisting of two or more English words that have own-place entry:

witch doctor n

A pronunciation is shown, however, for any element of an open compound that does not have entry at its own alphabetical place:

Oc-cam's razor - 'ä-kəmz- > sieve of Er-a-tos-the-nes \ -,er-ə-'täs-thə-,nez \

Only the first entry in a sequence of numbered homographs is given a pronunciation if their pronunciations are the same:

're-ward \ri-'word\

 2 reward

Pronunciations are shown for obsolete words only if they occur in Shakespeare: The pronunciation of unpronounced derivatives and compounds run on at a main entry is a combination of the pronunciation at the main entry and the pronunciation of the suffix or final element as given at its alphabetical place in the vocabulary:

— oval-ness n
— shot in the dark

Thus, the pronunciation of ovalness is the sum of the pronunciations given at oval and -ness; that of shot in the dark, the sum of the pronunciation of the four elements that make up the phrase.

Functional Labels

An italic label indicating a part of speech or some other functional classification follows the pronunciation or, if no pronunciation is given, the main entry. The eight traditional parts of speech are indicated as follows:

 *bold
 . adj
 bo-le-ro
 n

 hand-some-ly
 adv
 *under
 prep

 *but
 conj
 some-one
 pron

 oops
 interj
 *shrink
 vb

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

flat-ten . . . vb . . . vt . . . ~ vi

A boldface swung dash \sim is used to stand for the main entry (as mortify) and separate the subdivisions of the verb. If there is no subdivision, vt or vt takes the place of vb:

²fleece vt ap•per-tain . . . vi

Labeling a verb as transitive, however, does not preclude occasional intransitive use (as in absolute constructions).

Other italicized labels used to indicate functional classifications that are not traditional parts of speech are:

poly- comb form -itis n suffix
-logy . . n comb form -ize vb suffix
-lf-er-ous adj comb form Ly-cra . . trademark

super- prefix -nd symbol

Gram-my . . . service mark 1may . . . verbal auxiliary

1-ic adj suffix gid-dap . . . vb imper

2-ward or -wards adv suffix me-thinks . . . vb impersonal

NC-17 . . . certification mark

Two functional labels are sometimes combined:

zilch . . . adj or n afloat . . . adj or adv

Inflected Forms

In comparison with some other languages English does not have many inflected forms. Of those which it has, several are inflected forms of words belonging to small, closed groups (as the personal pronouns or the demonstratives). These forms can readily be found at their own alphabetical places with a full entry (as whom, the objective case form of who) or with a cross-reference in small capital letters to another entry (as those, the plural form of that).

Most other inflected forms, however, are covered explicitly or by implication at the main entry for the base form. These are the plurals of nouns, the principal parts of verbs (the past tense, the past participle when it differs from the past tense, and the present participle), and the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs. In general, it may be said that when these inflected forms are created in a manner considered regular in English (as by adding -s or -es to nouns. -ed and -ing to verbs, and -er and -est to adjectives and adverbs) and when it seems that there is nothing about the formation likely to give the dictionary user doubts, the inflected form is not shown in order to save space for information more likely to be sought. Inflected forms are also not shown at undefined run-ons or at some entries bearing a limiting label:

gour-mand ... n ... — gour-man-dize ... vi

1fem-i-nine ... adj ... — fem-i-nine-ness ... n

2lake n ... — laky ... adj

2cote ... vt ... obs : to pass by

crouse ... adj ... chiefly Scot : BRISK, LIVELY

On the other hand, if the inflected form is created in an irregular way or if the dictionary user is likely to have doubts about it (even though it is formed regularly), the inflected form is shown in boldface, either in full or cut back to a convenient and easily recognizable point. Full details about the kinds of entries at which inflected forms are shown and the kinds at which they are not shown are given in the three following sections.

NOUNS

The plurals of nouns are shown in this dictionary when suffixation brings about a change of final -y to -i-, when the noun ends in a consonant plus -o or in -ey, when the noun ends in -oo, when the noun has an irregular plural or a zero plural or a foreign plural, when the noun is a compound that pluralizes any element but the last, when a final consonant is doubled, when the noun has variant plurals, and when it is believed that the dictionary user might have reasonable doubts about the spelling of the plural or when the plural is spelled in a way contrary to expectations:

2spy n, pl spies
si-lo ... n, pl silos
1ro-deo ... n, pl ro-de-os
2shampoo n, pl shampoos
1mouse ... n, pl mice
moose ... n, pl moose
cri-te-ri-on ... n, pl -ria
son-in-law ... n, pl sons-in-law
1quiz ... n, pl quiz-zes
1fish ... n, pl fish or fish-es
cor-gi ... n, pl corgis
3dry n, pl drys

Cutback inflected forms are used when the noun has three or more syllables:

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ame-ni-ty . . . n, pl -ties

The plurals of nouns are usually not shown when the base word is unchanged by suffixation, when the noun is a compound whose second element is readily recognizable as a regular free form entered at its own place, or when the noun is unlikely to occur in the plural:

¹night . . . n ²crunch n fore-foot . . . n mo-nog-a-my . . . n

Nouns that are plural in form and that regularly occur in plural construction are labeled n pl:

munch-ies . . . n pl

Nouns that are plural in form but that are not always construed as plurals are appropriately labeled:

ro-bot-ics . . . n pl but sing in constr two bits n pl but sing or pl in constr

A noun that is singular in construction takes a singular verb when it is used as a subject; a noun that is plural in construction takes a plural verb when it is used as a subject.

VERBS

The principal parts of verbs are shown in this dictionary when suffixation brings about a doubling of a final consonant or an elision of a final -e or a change of final -y to -i-, when final -c changes to -ck in suffixation, when the verb ends in -ey, when the inflection is irregular, when there are variant inflected forms, and when it is believed that the dictionary user might have reasonable doubts about the spelling of an inflected form or when the inflected form is spelled in a way contrary to expectations:

2snag vt snagged; snag-ging

1move ... vb moved; mov-ing

1cry ... vb cried; cry-ing

2trolic vi frol-icked; frol-ick-ing

1sur-vey ... vb sur-veyed; sur-vey-ing

1drive ... vb drove ...; driv-en ...; driv-ing

2bus vb bused or bussed; bus-ing or bus-sing

2visa vt vi-saed ...; vi-sa-ing

2chagrin vt cha-grined ...; cha-grin-ing

The principal parts of a regularly inflected verb are shown when it is desirable to indicate the pronunciation of one of the inflected forms:

learn . . . vb learned \"lərnd, 'lərnt\"; leara-ing rip-en . . . vb rip-ened; rip-en-ing \"rī-pə-nin, 'rīp-nin \

Cutback inflected forms are often used when the verb has three or more syllables, when it is a disyllable that ends in -l and has variant spellings, and when it is a compound whose second element is readily recognized as an irregular verb:

elimi-nate vr -nat-ed; -nat-ing

quarrel vi -reled or -relied; -rel-ing or -rel-ling

tre-take vr -took . . .; -tak-en . . .; -tak-ing

The principal parts of verbs are usually not shown when the base word is unchanged by suffixation or when the verb is a

compound whose second element is readily recognizable as a regular free form entered at its own place:

¹jump . . . vb pre-judge . . . vt

Another inflected form of English verbs is the third person singular of the present tense, which is regularly formed by the addition of -s or -es to the base form of the verb. This inflected form is not shown except at a handful of entries (as have and do) for which it is in some way anomalous.

ADJECTIVES & ADVERBS

The comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs are shown in this dictionary when suffixation brings about a doubling of a final consonant or an elision of a final -e or a change of final -y to -i-, when the word ends in -ey, when the inflection is irregular, and when there are variant inflected forms:

¹red . . . adj red-der; red-dest
¹tame . . . adj tam-er; tam-est
¹kind-ly . . . adj kind-li-er; -est
¹ear-ly . . . adv ear-li-er; -est
dic-ey . . . adj dic-i-er; -est
¹good . . . adj bet-ter . . .; best
¹bad . . . adj worse . . .; worst
¹far . . . adv far-ther . . . or fur-ther . . .; far-thest or fur-thest

The superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs of two or more syllables are usually cut back:

³(ancy adj fan-ci-er; -est ¹ear-ly . . . adv ear-li-er; -est

The comparative and superlative forms of regularly inflected adjectives and adverbs are shown when it is desirable to indicate the pronunciation of the inflected forms:

1young . . . adj youn-ger \'yon-gor \; youn-gest \'yon-gost \

The inclusion of inflected forms in -er and -est at adjective and adverb entries means nothing more about the use of more and most with these adjectives and adverbs than that their comparative and superlative degrees may be expressed in either way; lazier or more lazy; laziest or most lazy.

At a few adjective entries only the superlative form is shown:

3mere . . . adj, superlative mer-est

The absence of the comparative form indicates that there is no evidence of its use.

The comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs are not shown when the base word is unchanged by suffixation or when the word is a compound whose second element is readily recognizable as a regular free form entered at its own place:

¹nesr . . . adv un-wary . . . adj

The comparative and superlative forms of adverbs are not shown when they are identical with the inflected forms of a preceding adjective homograph:

hot . . . adj hot-ter; hot-test

2hot adv

Capitalization

Most entries in this dictionary begin with a lowercase letter. A few of these have an italicized label often cap, which indicates that the word is as likely to be capitalized as not, that it is as acceptable with an uppercase initial as it is with one in lowercase. Some entries begin with an uppercase letter, which indicates that the word is usually capitalized. The absence of an initial capital or of an often cap label indicates that the word is not ordinarily capitalized:

lunk-head . . . n
gar-gan-tuan . . . adj, often cap
Mo-hawk . . . n

The capitalization of entries that are open or hyphenated compounds is similarly indicated by the form of the entry or by an italicized label:

obstacle course n
neo-Dar-win-ian . . . adj, often cap N
off-off-Broadway n, often cap both Os
un-Amer-i-can . . . adj
Dutch oven n

Old Glory n

A word that is capitalized in some senses and lowercase in others shows variations from the form of the main entry by the use of italicized labels at the appropriate senses:

re-nais-sance ... n ... 1 cap ... 2 often cap

Shet-land ... n ... 2 often not cap

Trin-l-ty ... n ... 2 not cap

Attributive Nouns

The italicized label often attrib placed after the functional label n indicates that the noun is often used as an adjective equivalent in attributive position before another noun:

gold . . . n, often attrib busi-ness . . . n, often attrib

Examples of the attributive use of these nouns are gold chain and business ethics.

While any noun may occasionally be used attributively, the label often attrib is limited to those having broad attributive use. This label is not used when an adjective homograph (as lron or paper) is entered. And it is not used at open compounds (as X ray) that may be used attributively with an inserted hyphen (as in X-ray therapy).

Etymology

The matter in boldface square brackets preceding the definition is the etymology. Meanings given in roman type within these brackets are not definitions of the entry, but are meanings of the Middle English, Old English, or non-English words within the brackets.

The etymology traces a vocabulary entry as far back as possible in English (as to Old English), tells from what language

and in what form it came into English, and (except in the case of such words outside the general vocabulary of English as bascule and zloty) traces the pre-English source as far back as possible if the source is an Indo-European language. These etyma are printed in italics.

OLD, MIDDLE, AND MODERN ENGLISH

The etymology usually gives the Middle English and the Old English forms of words in the following style:

```
<sup>1</sup>nap . . . w . . . [ME nappen, fr. OE hnappian . . . ]

<sup>1</sup>old . . . adj [ME, fr. OE eald . . . ]
```

An etymology in which a word is traced back to Middle English but not to Old English indicates that the word is found in Middle English but not in those texts that have survived from the Old English period:

¹slab . . . n [ME slabbe]

¹stale . . . adj . . . [ME, aged (of ale), not fresh; akin to MD stel stale]

An etymology in which a word is traced back directly to Old English with no intervening mention of Middle English indicates that the word has not survived continuously from Old English times to the present. Rather, it died out after the Old English period and has been revived in modern times:

```
ge-mot . . . n [OE gem\tilde{o}t . . . ] thegn . . . n [OE . . . ]
```

An etymology is not usually given for a word created in English by the combination of existing constituents or by functional shift. This indicates that the identity of the constituents is expected to be self-evident to the user.

book-shelf ... n. : an open shelf for holding books

'fire-proof ... adj ...: proof against or resistant to fire

off-put-ting ... adj ...: that puts off: REPELLENT, DISCONCERT-ING

penal code n. . . : a code of laws concerning crimes and offenses and their punishment

3stalk n . . . 1: the act of stalking

In the case of a family of words obviously related to a common English word but differing from it by containing various easily recognizable suffixes, an etymology is usually given only at the base word, even though some of the derivatives may have been formed in a language other than English:

¹equal . . . adj [ME, fr. L aequalis, fr. aequus level, equal] . . . 1 a (1) : of the same measure, quantity, amount, or number as another

equal: ity . . . n . . . 1: the quality or state of being equal equal ize vt . . . 1: to make equal

While equalize was formed in Modern English, equality was actually borrowed into Middle English (via Middle French) from Latin aequalitas.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

The etymology gives the language from which words borrowed into English have come. It also gives the form or a transliteration of the word in that language if the form differs from that in English:

*mar-ble . . . n [ME, fr. OF marbre, fr. L marmor, fr. Gk marmaros]

pome-gran-ate . . . n [ME poumgrenet, fr. MF pomme grenate, lit., seedy apple]

souk . . . n [Ar sūq market]