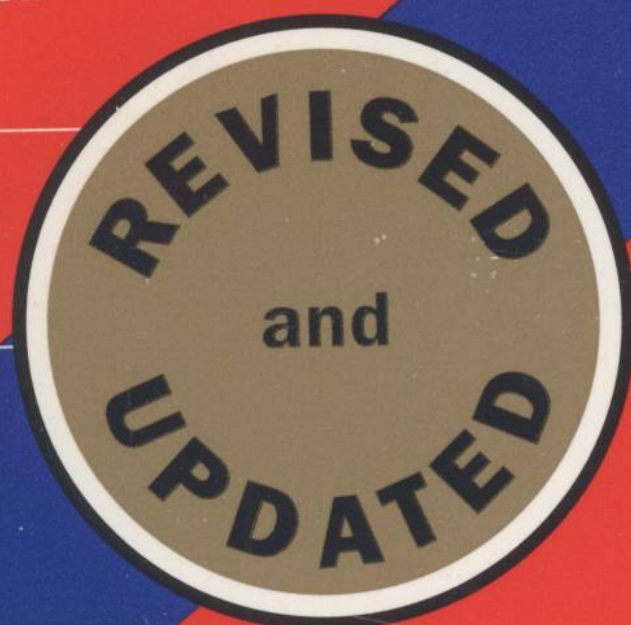
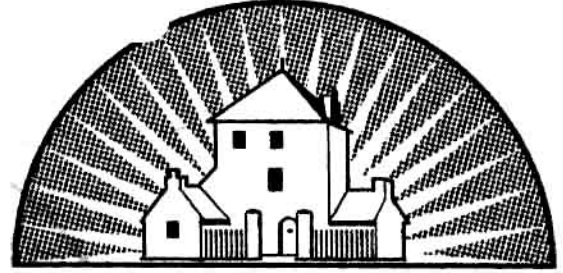


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EAN

PRONUNCIATION KEY

STRESS

Pronunciations are marked for stress to reveal the relative differences in emphasis between syllables. In words of two or more syllables, a primary stress mark (ˈ), as in *mother* (**mʊθˈər**), follows the syllable having greatest stress. A secondary stress mark (ˌ), as in *grandmother* (**grandˈmʊθˌər**), follows a syllable having slightly less stress than primary but more stress than an unmarked syllable.

ENGLISH SOUNDS

a	act, bat, marry	õõ	oomph, book, tour
ā	age, paid, say	ōō	ooze, fool, too
â(r)	air, dare, Mary	ou	out, loud, cow
ä	ah, part, balm	p	pot, supper, stop
b	back, cabin, cab	r	read, hurry, near
ch	beach, child	s	see, passing, miss
d	do, madder, bed	sh	shoe, fashion, push
e	edge, set, merry	t	ten, matter, bit
ē	equal, bee, pretty	th	thin, ether, path
ēr	ear, mere	th	that, either, smooth
f	fit, differ, puff	u	up, sun
g	give, trigger, beg	ûr	urge, burn, cur
h	hit, behave	v	voice, river, live
hw	which, nowhere	w	witch, away
i	if, big, mirror	y	yes, onion
ī	ice, bite, deny	z	zoo, lazy, those
j	just, tragic, fudge	zh	treasure, mirage
k	keep, token, make	ə	used in unaccented syllables to indicate the sound of the reduced vowel in alone, system, easily, gallop, circus
l	low, mellow, bottle (botˈl)	ə	used between i and r and between ou and r to show triphthongal quality, as in fire (fīər), hour (ouər)
m	my, summer, him		
n	now, sinner, button (butˈn)		
ng	sing, Washington		
o	ox, bomb, wasp		
ō	over, boat, no		
ô	order, ball, raw		
oi	oil, joint, joy		

NON-ENGLISH SOUNDS

A	as in French ami (A mēˈ)		flap in Italian and Spanish
kh	as in Scottish loch (lôkh)		and a sound in French and German similar to kh but pronounced with voice]
N	as in French bon (bôn) [used to indicate that the preceding vowel is nasalized]	y	as in French tu (ty)
œ	as in French feu (fœ)	ə	as in French bastogne (ba stônˈyə)
R	[a symbol for any non-english r sound, including a trill or		

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PREFACE

Random House Webster's Dictionary is a revised and updated third edition based on the best-selling *Random House Webster's College Dictionary*. It incorporates many of the features and innovations of the larger book. This compact dictionary contains hundreds of new words and meanings, more than any other paperback dictionary. *New Words in American English*, found in the front of the book, will give the reader an overview of the remarkable growth of the English language.

In addition to words and phrases, the main A-Z section includes abbreviations, geographical and biographical names, and prefixes and suffixes. Selected usage notes help the reader to speak and write with confidence. Many dictionary entries include interesting etymologies, or word histories.

There are more than 150 digitally rendered illustrations, serving to clarify the definitions. The new typeface and page design enhance visual clarity and readability.

Readers are encouraged to study the "Guide to the Dictionary," which begins on page xii. Valuable supplements can be found in the front and back of the book. A unique feature, "Avoiding Insensitive and Offensive Language," begins on page 874. Recognizing that the world of business affects us all, we have provided a "Glossary of Business Terms," encompassing fields as diverse as finance, marketing, and economics. Also in this edition is a "Glossary of Computer Terms," defining the terms encountered in computer magazines, advertisements, and user manuals.

Random House Webster's Dictionary will serve the needs of those who want authoritative information but prefer a compact edition that is both handy and affordable.

NEW WORDS IN AMERICAN ENGLISH

Random House Webster's Dictionary includes hundreds of new words and meanings that have come into English in recent years. These new terms represent a variety of subject categories, both general and specialized. New terms have arisen largely as a result of scientific and technological advances, but social and cultural innovations have also contributed to the great expansion of the English vocabulary. A mere five years ago we did not speak about *intranets*, *V-chips*, or *body piercing*.

The Random House family of dictionaries has built a reputation on recording "Newer Words Faster." *Random House Webster's College Dictionary* was the first general dictionary to record the terms *Internet* and *World Wide Web*. The editors have taken maximum advantage of the resources available to them. One resource for new words is the large file of citations from print, broadcast, and electronic sources. A more recently developed resource is the *Random House Living Dictionary Database*, which enables editors to work on-line to add or update entries.

Most terms entered in the Random House dictionaries have passed the tests of time, frequency of occurrence, and range of use. But as editors and readers are aware, some new terms last only for the moment. Are the terms *shock jock* and *soccer mom* going to stay with us? The editors must constantly reevaluate the dictionary word list, sometimes taking out terms which are no longer common, current, or useful. However, terms may go in and out of vogue. It is interesting to note that the exclamation *duh* dates back to the 1960s and is commonly heard

today, especially in the speech of young people. The term *Ebonics* was first used in the 1970s, yet most people have only recently become aware of it.

How do new terms originate? For centuries new words have come into English in several established ways. Many are borrowed from other languages, such as *feng shui* (from Chinese) and *karaoke* (from Japanese). Others are formed by combining or blending two or more words, such as *palmtop* and *netiquette*. The creation of abbreviations and acronyms is another common method of word formation in English. The abbreviations *SUV* and *URL* are certainly more convenient to use than the phrases they stand for; the acronym *PIN* is easier to pronounce or remember than its expanded form. New words are commonly derived from existing words by the addition of a prefix or suffix. Examples of such derivatives are *microbrewery* and *overclass*. Very often pieces of existing words are refit and rearranged in inventive ways, as illustrated by the related terms *downsize*, *upsized*, and *rightsized*. New terms are also created when combining forms (existing only in combination with other forms) are joined with independent words. For example, the combining form *Mc-* (extracted from “McDonald’s”) was joined to the existing word “job” to produce *McJob*.

Existing terms may be shortened to form new, often monosyllabic words: a word as recent as *Generation X* has already been clipped to *Gen X* and *euro* is a shortened form of *Eurocurrency*. As is true of any language, English is constantly evolving new idioms and expressions based on existing words, but with meanings that are not predictable from their constituent elements: to say *the jury is still out* certainly extends the meaning of “jury.” Often a word is converted to a new part of speech, as when the noun *stealth* is used as an adjective.

The outright coinage of new words not based on existing words is quite uncommon; nevertheless individuals do invent terms that are onomatopoeic, fanciful, or descrip-

tive. Recent examples of coined words are *mondegreen* and *mosh*. A large number of coinages are names of people or places: the term *Zamboni* is an “eponym,” a word derived from a person’s name.

Not only does a living language add new vocabulary, but existing words change, broaden, or narrow their meanings over time. No one today uses *knave* to mean “boy,” although that was the original meaning in Old English. The new senses of *holy war* and *metastasize* are examples of figurative uses of literal meanings. The new senses of *author* (writer of software) and *extreme* (said of dangerous sports) illustrate shifted or extended meanings.

Bearing the censure associated with fads, slang, and unfamiliar usages, new terms are often fraught with controversy. Dictionary editors are objective reporters on the language, stating the observed facts of usage. At the same time they are obliged to note objections and criticism, leaving it to readers to make an informed choice. Some controversial usages have become accepted over time, but it remains to be seen how others will fare in the future. The term *challenged*, as in “physically challenged,” “vertically challenged,” and “ethically challenged,” is considered by some to be overly euphemistic or even humorous.

As for the future of English, growth and change in language is a completely normal process. It is probably no exaggeration to assert that more new terms have come into English in the last fifty years than in any other comparable period in history, with the possible exception of the early Middle English period (1100s–1300s). Judging by its remarkable rate of growth, the English language is likely to continue to expand in the course of the 21st century. As we approach a new century and millennium, English is at its zenith in global influence and prestige. From the perspective of the late 1990s, the English language is indeed alive and well.

The following is only a partial list of the new words and meanings contained in the main A-Z section of this dictionary or in the *Glossary of Business Terms* and *Glossary of Computer Terms* at the back of the book. A careful study of these terms will reveal a great deal about our changing world.

scrunchy**no-brainer****aromatherapy****HDTV****gene therapy****latte****snowboard****in-your-face****morphing****microbrewery****abs****dongle****personal trainer****roofie****PCS****dis****yada-yada-yada****sport-utility vehicle****bad hair day****digerati****network computer****transgendered****air bag****alternative medicine****control freak****mesclun****micromanage****dead-cat bounce**

Sample Page

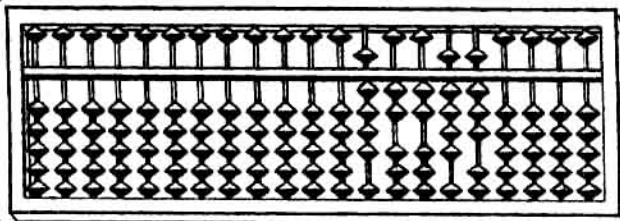
abacus

ab·a·cus (ab/ə kəs), *n.*, *pl.* **-a·cus·es**, **-a·ci** (-ə sī, -kī/). a device for making arithmetic calculations, consisting of a frame set with rods on which beads are moved.

vocabulary entry

pronunciation

illustration and caption



abacus

syllable dots

a·ban·don¹ (ə ban/dən), *v.t.* **1.** to leave completely; desert: *to abandon a sinking ship.* **2.** to give up; discontinue: *to abandon a project.* —**a·ban/don·ment**, *n.*

homograph number

a·ban·don² (ə ban/dən), *n.* a complete surrender to natural impulses; freedom from constraint.

numbered definitions

a·bort (ə bôrt/), *v.i.*, *v.t.* **1.** to undergo or cause to undergo abortion. **2.** to terminate (a missile flight, a mission, or a procedure) before completion. —*n.* **3.** the termination of a missile flight, a mission, or a procedure before completion. —**a·bor/tive**, *adj.* —**a·bor/tive·ly**, *adv.*

parts of speech

ac·cess (ak/ses), *n.* **1.** the ability or right to enter, approach, or use. **2.** a way or means of approach. **3.** a sudden outburst, as of rage. —*v.t.* **4.** to gain access to. **5.** to locate (data) for transfer from one part of a computer system to another.

summary of parts of speech

ace (as), *n.*, *v.*, **aced**, **ac·ing**. —*n.* **1.** a playing card with one spot. **2.** a point, as in tennis, made on a serve that an opponent fails to touch. **3.** a fighter pilot who downs a number of enemy planes. **4.** an expert. —*v.t.* **5.** to score an ace against (an opponent). **6.** *Slang.* to defeat (usu. fol. by *out*). **7.** *Slang.* to receive a grade of A in or on.

verb inflected forms

ache (āk), *v.*, **ached**, **ach·ing**, *n.* —*v.i.* **1.** to have a continuous dull pain. **2.** to yearn; long. —*n.* **3.** a continuous dull pain. —**ach/y**, *adj.* —**-i·er**, **-i·est**.

adjective inflected forms

grammatical information

a·cous/tics, *n.* **1.** (used with a *sing. v.*) the branch of physics that deals with sound and sound waves. **2.** (used with a *pl. v.*) the qualities of a room, auditorium, etc., that determine the audibility of sounds in it.

add (ad), *v.t.* **1.** to unite or join so as to increase in number, quantity, size, or importance. **2.** to find the sum of. **3.** to say or write further. —*v.i.* **4.** to perform arithmetic addition. **5.** to be or serve as an addition. **6.** **add up**, to seem reasonable. **7.** **~ up to**, to amount to; signify.

phrasal verbs

capitalization style

ad·min/is·tra/tion, *n.* **1.** management, as of a government or business. **2.** (often *cap.*) the executive branch of a government. **3.** the period during which an administrator or body of administrators serves. **4.** *Law.* the management of an estate. **5.** the act of administering.

subject label

lowercase style

Af·ghan (af/gan, -gən), *n.* **1.** a native or inhabitant of Afghanistan. **2.** (*l.c.*) a soft knitted or crocheted blanket. **3.** Also

called **Af'ghan hound'**, a hound with a long head and long, silky fur.

-age, a suffix meaning: action or process (coverage); result of (wreckage); residence of (parsonage); aggregate (coinage); charge (postage).

a•gree'ment, *n.* 1. the state of being in accord; harmony. 2. a. an arrangement accepted by all parties. b. a document setting forth such an arrangement.

air'head', *n.* Slang. a scatterbrained or stupid person.

al•low (ə lou'), *v.t.* 1. to permit. 2. to let have. 3. to acknowledge; concede: *I had to allow that he was right.* 4. to set apart; allocate. —*v.i.* 5. to permit as a possibility; admit. 6. to make provision: *to allow for breakage.* —**al•low/a•ble**, *adj.*

al'pha rhythm', *n.* a pattern of slow brain waves (**al'pha waves'**) in normal persons at rest with closed eyes.

Alz'hei•mer's disease' (ältz'hi mērz, ōlts'-), *n.* a disease marked by progressive memory loss and mental deterioration associated with brain damage. [after A. Alzheimer (1864–1915), German neurologist]

a•men•i•ty (ə men'i tē, ə mē'ni-), *n., pl. -ties*. 1. an agreeable act or manner; courtesy or civility: *social amenities*. 2. a feature that provides comfort, convenience, or pleasure.

Am•er•ind (am'ə rind), *n.* AMERICAN INDIAN. Also called **Am'er•in'di•an** (rɪn'dē-ən).

a•mour•pro•pre (A mōōr prô'prə), *n.* French. self-esteem.

an•eu•rysm or **-rism** (an'yə riz'əm), *n.* a permanent cardiac or arterial dilatation usu. caused by weakening of the vessel wall.

an•te•room (an'tē rōōm', -rōōm'), *n.* ANTECHAMBER.

an•ti•pas•to (an'ti pä'stō, än'tē-), *n., pl. -pas•tos, -pas•ti* (-pä'stē). an appetizer course in an Italian meal.

anx•ious (angk'shəs, ang'-), *adj.* 1. uneasy in the mind; worried. 2. earnestly desirous; eager. —**anx'ious•ly**, *adv.* —**anx'ious•ness**, *n.* —**Usage**. ANXIOUS has had the meaning "earnestly desirous, eager" since the mid-18th century: *We were anxious to see our new grandson.* Although some insist that ANXIOUS must always convey a sense of distress or worry, the sense "eager" is fully standard.

ap•par•el (ə par'əl), *n., v., -eled, -el•ing* or (esp. Brit.) **-elled, -el•ling**. —*n.* 1. clothing, esp. outerwear; garments. —*v.t.* 2. to dress; clothe.

Ap•po•mat•tox (ap'ə mat'əks), *n.* a town in central Virginia where Lee surrendered to Grant in 1865, ending the Civil War. 1345.

A.S.A.P. or **a.s.a.p.**, as soon as possible.

As•i•mov (az'ə mōf', -mōf'), *n.* Isaac, 1920–92, U.S. science and science-fiction writer, born in Russia.

a•vaunt (ə vōnt', ə vānt'), *interj.* Archaic. go away!

suffix

lettered subdefinitions

label of style or status

example sentences or phrases

hidden entry

stressed multiple-word entry

etymology

variant pronunciation

variant form

foreign language label

variant spelling

cross reference

variant plural

run-on derived entries

usage note

variant inflected forms

geographical entry

abbreviation

biographical entry

label of time

GUIDE

TO THE DICTIONARY

ENTRIES: WHERE AND HOW TO FIND THEM

MAIN ENTRIES AND THEIR VARIANTS

All **main entries**, whether they are single words, phrases, abbreviations, proper names, prefixes, or suffixes, are shown in one vocabulary listing in strict letter-by-letter alphabetical order. They appear in **large boldface type**, even with the left margin of the column.

Alternate forms are common alternatives to the entry term, having only minor spelling differences or a difference in suffix. They follow the main entry, in the same **large boldface type**, and are introduced by "or" or "also."

Examples: **medieval**; **elegiac**

Variants that are more substantially different in form are shown for some nouns. They appear in **smaller boldface type**, introduced by the words "Also called."

Example: **goose flesh**

Any variants that do not apply to the entire entry are shown either at the portion of the entry to which they apply (as at the beginning of a definition or following a part-of-speech label) or at the end of the entry, with numbers indicating the definitions for which they are appropriate alternatives.

Example: **ammonia** (def. 2)

HOMOGRAPHS

Homographs are identically spelled terms that differ in derivation. They are given separate main entries, each marked with a small superscript number.

Example: **cuff**¹, **cuff**²

GUIDE WORDS

Guide words, which are shown at the top left of even-numbered pages and the top right of odd-numbered ones, give the range of main entries covered on that page.

RUN-ONS

Run-ons are words closely related to the main entry, but having a different grammatical function. Preceded by a lightface dash, these words appear at the end of an individual entry, following either the last definition or the bracketed etymology.

Run-ons are typically formed by adding a suffix. Although a run-on is not explicitly defined, its meaning can be understood by combining the senses of its root word and suffix, taking into account the part of speech. Thus the adverb **elaborately**, run on to the adjective **elaborate**, is understood to mean "in an elaborate manner."

Some run-ons are formed in other ways, as by deleting or changing a suffix. Derivation of run-ons not involving suffixes follows standard conventions of English, as when a hyphenated adjective is formed from a two-word noun.

LIST WORDS

List words are grouped by the prefix they share, and are understood by adding the formulaic sense of that prefix to the meaning of the root. Thus **anti-** + **war** means "against war." All such lists start at the bottom of the page containing the entry for the prefix, or on the following page.

HIDDEN ENTRIES

Hidden entries are parenthesized boldface terms shown in the context of a definition, where the sense of the hidden entry is made clear.

Example: **intestine**

PHRASAL VERBS

Phrasal verbs, like **back off**, **clear up**, and **stand by** (sometimes known as two-word verbs), follow all other verb senses in an entry. In any entry showing two or more such phrases, the first is spelled out completely, while those that follow show a swung dash (~) replacing the entry verb in the phrase.

IDIOMS

Idioms, like **make one's mark**, are expressions whose meanings cannot be predicted from the usual meanings of their components. They are normal constructions in the language and may range in usage from formal to slang. Idioms appear in a labeled group as the final definitions in an entry.

ENTRIES: HOW THEY ARE SHOWN

SYLLABIFICATION

All single-word entries of more than one syllable are **syllabified**. That is, they are divided into syllables by boldface centered dots. These dots indicate possible hyphenation points, places where a word may break at the end of a line in printed or typed text. (Detailed rules for appropriate end-of-line hyphenation can be found in some style manuals.)

STRESS

Primary and secondary stress marks replace centered dots at some syllable breaks. These marks serve as an aid to pronunciation for entries that are not pronounced fully by indicating the relative differences in emphasis between syllables. A primary stress mark (ˈ) follows the syllable with greatest emphasis and a secondary stress mark (ˈ) follows one with lesser emphasis.

Entries consisting of two or more words, where each is handled at its own entry, are not fully syllabified, but are shown with a pattern of stress that reveals the relationship of each word to the others.

Example: **physical therapy**

PRONUNCIATION

Pronunciations are shown in parentheses immediately following the entry form, using a system of diacritical marks over vowels. Use the *Pronunciation Key* in this book.

Many entries show full pronunciations. Entries that are not pronounced fully are similar in pronunciation to nearby related entries or have component parts pronounced elsewhere in the dictionary. In these cases, the word is syllabified and stressed, with either no parenthesized pronunciation or with a pronunciation for only that portion of the word that changes significantly.

MAJOR PARTS OF THE ENTRY**PARTS OF SPEECH**

Italicized **part-of-speech** labels, usually abbreviated, are given for main entries, run-ons, and list words to show their grammatical function in a sentence. Thus a main entry that is commonly used as a noun, whether spelled as a single solid word, a hyphenated form, or two or more words, would receive the label *n.* (Trademarks, however, defined as such, are capitalized and labeled *Trademark*.)

Example: **min'eral wa'ter, n.**

If a main entry has more than one grammatical function, a part-of-speech label precedes each group of definitions given for that part of speech. Such an entry also includes a summary of all its parts of speech with inflected forms if appropriate.

Example: **net'tle, n., v. -tled, -tling.—n. 1:** a plant with stinging hairs.—*v.t.* **2.** to irritate or annoy.

INFLECTED FORMS

Inflected forms are, typically, plurals of nouns, past tenses and participles of verbs, and comparatives and superlatives of adjectives and adverbs.

Such forms traditionally regarded as “regular” are generally not shown in the dictionary for the following:

- 1. nouns** whose plural is formed by the simple addition of -s or -es, as *dogs* or *classes*. Nor are plurals shown for “mass nouns,” nouns that would not be pluralized.

2. **verbs** whose past tense and past participle is formed by the addition of *-ed* and whose present participle is formed by the addition of *-ing*, with no alteration of the spelling (as in *talk, talked, talking*).

This dictionary does show inflected forms for:

1. **nouns** that form their plurals irregularly.
2. **nouns** ending in a vowel, where even if the plural is regular, some confusion about its form might exist.
3. **nouns** whose plurals require pronunciation.
4. **verbs** with irregular inflections.
5. **adjectives** and **adverbs** that form the comparative and superlative with an internal change in form or by adding *-er* and *-est*. The comparative and superlative are not shown for adjectives and adverbs that, by definition, cannot be compared or for those forming their inflections with *more* and *most*.

Inflected forms for verbs are shown in the following order: past tense, past participle (where this differs from the past tense), and present participle.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions within an entry are individually numbered in a single sequence, regardless of their groupings according to part of speech. In general, the most common part of speech is listed first, as is the most frequent meaning within the part-of-speech group.

Closely related definitions may be grouped together and sequentially marked with boldface letters under the same boldface definition number.

For meanings using the entry term in a form slightly different from that shown as the main entry or variant, the changed form is indicated at the beginning of the definition. Plural forms of singular main entries are spelled out, while a change in typeface from roman to italics, or a change in capitalization, is shown by means of an italicized label.

Examples: **card**¹ (def. 3); **democrat** (def. 2)

USAGE AND OTHER LABELS

Entries that are limited to a particular region, time, subject, or level of usage are marked with appropriate labels, as *Brit.*, *Archaic*, *Law*, *Slang*, and *Informal*. These labels are placed so as to indicate clearly whether they apply to the entire entry or to a portion of it, as a single definition or a part-of-speech group.

CROSS REFERENCES

Definitions that serve as **cross references** to another part of the alphabet, where the entry with the full definition is shown, are displayed in