THE GROLIER INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY



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Volume Two



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Guide to the Dictionary

he editors of a dictionary face the difficult task of presenting an enormous mass of detailed information as economically and clearly as possible. The editors of this Dictionary have attempted to provide maximum information to the user with no knowledge of the organization of the Dictionary beyond its alphabetical order. Here are brief explanations of the principles and conventions adopted in compiling this Dictionary. An understanding of these will enable the user to consult it more easily, more rapidly, and more profitably.

Guide Words

As an aid to finding the page on which an entry appears, a pair of guide words, together with the page number, is printed at the top of each page:

brouhaha brush 170

The word to the left of the vertical bar is the first of the sequence of entries on that page of the Dictionary. The word to the right of the bar is the last entry on the page. Thus **brouhaha** and **brush** and all entries that fall between them alphabetically are defined on page 170.

The Entry Word

The entry word, syllabicated, is printed in boldface type and is set slightly to the left of the text column. As in most reference books, all entries —including biographical and geographic names, abbreviations, combining forms, and compounds of two or more words—have been listed in strict alphabetical order. This alphabetical order takes account of each letter in turn through the full entry even if the entry consists of several words. All elements printed in boldface type are to be regarded as of equal importance; however, when a phrase has been inverted for alphabetizing, the letter sequence is considered up to the comma:

Mar-shall (mär'shəl), George Catlett. 1880-1959. American General of the Army, statesman, and diplomat.

Mar-shall Islands (mär'shal). An archipelago consisting of two island chains with a total land area of 70 square miles, about

Superscript Numbers

Words that are identical in spelling but whose meanings and etymologies have little, if anything, in common are entered separately; the entries bear superscript numbers:

baste¹ (bāst) tr.v. basted, basting, bastes. To sew loosely with large running stitches so as to hold together temporarily. [Middle English basten, from Old French bastir, to build, prepare, baste, from Common Germanic bastjan (unattested), to sew with bast, from bastaz (unattested), BAST.]

baste² (bāst) tr.v. basted, basting, bastes. To pour pan drippings or sauce over (meat) while cooking. [Origin obscure.] baste³ (bāst) tr.v. basted, basting, bastes. 1. To beat vigorously; thrash: "I took a broom and basted her till she cried out extremely" (Pepys). 2. To berate. [Perhaps ultimately from Old Norse beysta, to thrash, strike. See bhau- in Appendix.*]

Syllabication

An entry word is divided into syllables by means of centered dots:

bas-ti-na-do (băs'tə-nā'dō, -nä'dō) n., pl. -does. Also bas-ti-

In entries consisting of more than one word, words that appear as separate entries are not syllabicated:

Ba-tan Islands (ba-tan'). A group of islands occupying 76

meth-a-done hydrochloride (měth'a-dôn'). An organic compound, C₂₁H₂₇NO·HCL, used as an analgesic and in treating

Island and hydrochloride are separate entries; Batan and methadone are not.

The pronunciations are also syllabicated for clarity. Syllabication of the pronunciation does not necessarily match the syllabication of the entry word being pronounced. The former follows phonological rules; the latter represents the established practice of printers and editors in breaking words at the ends of lines. Often additional limitations are imposed on word breaks, but in any system words are properly broken at one of the divisions shown.

Pronunciation

The pronunciation, enclosed in parentheses, appears immediately after the boldface entry word. Differing pronunciations within an entry are given wherever necessary, as in shifts of part of speech and in other special cases; these are indicated in parentheses following the forms to which they apply. The key to the use of the pronunciation symbols extends across the bottom of each pair of facing pages. A fuller key appears on page L.

A careful reading of the section on pronunciation symbols and principles on page XLIX will make it easier for the user of this Dictionary to master the meaning of the symbols used to represent the various speech sounds.

Part-of-Speech Labels

The eight traditional part-of-speech categories are used for identification. The following italicized labels, which follow the pronunciation of the entry words, are used to indicate parts of speech:

n. (noun) conj. (conjunction)
adj. (adjective) prep. (preposition)
adv. (adverb) v. (verb)

pron. (pronoun) interi. (interiection)

The additional italicized labels below are used as needed to indicate inflected forms:

pl. (plural) sing. (singular)

We also use the label *pl.n.* (plural noun) for words, such as **clothes** and **cattle**, that are used only in the plural.

In addition the italicized labels *tr*. and *intr*. are used to indicate whether a verb is transitive or intransitive.

These parts of speech are not to be regarded as perfectly exclusive categories. Many nouns in English, for example, can be used to modify other nouns in the manner of an adjective but nevertheless lack other essential characteristics that would require their classification as adjectives. Thus the use of the word air in air base, air brake, air freight, and other similar phrasal entries does not justify the listing of air as an adjective.

Similarly, the labeling of a verb as transitive

does not preclude intransitive usage, since many transitive verbs can be used intransitively.

Many words can function in more than one part of speech. For example, paint can be both a verb (as in a man painting a wall) and a noun (as in a gallon of paint). In such cases the different parts of speech are defined in a single entry called a combined entry. In an entry of this kind shifts in part of speech are indicated by a boldface dash and the new part-of-speech label:

paint (pant) n. 1. a. A liquid mixture, usually of a solid pigment in a liquid vehicle, used as a decorative or protective coating. b. The thin dry film formed by such a mixture applied to a surface. c. The solid pigment before it is mixed with a vehicle. 2. a. A cosmetic, especially one that colors, as rouge. b. Grease paint (see). 3. A pinto (see). —v. painted, painting, paints. —tr. 1. To make (a picture) with paints. 2. a. To represent in a picture with paints. b. To depict vividly in words. 3. To coat or decorate with paint. paint a house. 4. To apply cosmetics to 5. To apply medicine to; swab: paint a wound. —intr. 1. To practice the art of painting pictures. 2. To cover something

This label comes before all elements that apply to that part of speech and may be followed by any elements (different pronunciation, new syllabication, additional labels, etc.) that can appear after the entry word itself; all definitions that appear following a part-of-speech label belong to that part of speech.

Phrasal entries, or entries consisting of more than one word (hyphenated forms are considered one word), are not given part-of-speech labels:

cedar waxwing. A North American bird, Bombycilla cedrorum, having a crested head and predominantly brown plumage.

Other categories of entries that do not receive part-of-speech labels are biographical and geographic entries, given names and other proper nouns, abbreviations, symbols, acronyms, contractions, combining forms and affixes, entries of variants, and inflected forms that are crossreferences.

Inflected Forms

Inflected forms are forms of the entry word that differ from the main-entry form in the addition of suffixes or in changes of the stem form.

In this Dictionary we list the following inflected forms with the main entry:

- 1. All principal parts that an English verb may show, whether regular or irregular.
- 2. All degrees of adjectives and adverbs formed by inflection.
 - 3. Irregular plurals of nouns.

Inflected forms are shown in boldface type and are not syllabicated. Inflected forms always follow the part-of-speech label and are pronounced when necessary. When more than one inflected form is given, the forms are separated by commas; if variants are given for any inflected form, the variants are listed in order of preference, and they are separated by the word "or" in roman:

blush (blush) v. blushed, blushing, blushes. —intr. 1. To become suddenly red in the face from modesty, embarrassment,

flap (flăp) ν . flapped, flapping, flaps. —tr. 1. To wave (wings or arms) up and down; to beat. 2. To cause to wave or undulate; keep (kēp) ν . kept (kěpt), keeping, keeps. —tr. 1. To retain possession of. 2. To store; put customarily: Where do you keep dry (drī) adj. drier or dryer, driest or dryest. 1. Free from liquid or moisture; not wet, damp, or moistened. 2. Having or charcactus (kāk'tos) n., pl. -ti (-ti') or -tuses. Any of a large group of plants of the family Cactaceae, mostly native to arid regions

Shortening of Inflected Forms

Inflected forms are normally shortened to the last syllable of the original entry word plus the inflected ending. Irregular inflected forms are spelled out to the extent that clarity requires. When inflected forms are shortened, each shortened form is preceded by a boldface hyphen:

fun-ny (fŭn'ē) adj. -nier, -niest. 1. Causing laughter or amuse-

man-gle¹ (măng'gəl) tr.v. -gled, -gling, -gles. 1. To mutilate or disfigure by battering, hacking, cutting, or tearing. 2. To ruin

psy-cho-sis (sī-kō'sĭs) n., pl. -ses (-sēz'). Any severe mental disorder, with or without organic damage, characterized by deteri-

Note that a single letter at the beginning or the end of an entry word never stands alone, nor is it ever dropped:

o-bey (\bar{o} -ba') ν . obeyed, obeying, obeys. —tr. 1. To carry out or fulfill the command, order, or instruction of. 2. To carry out or

In combined entries, when inflected forms are given for subsequent parts of speech, the first (or only) inflected form given is not shortened. Subsequent forms at that part of speech are shortened:

can-ter (kan'tər) n. A gait slower than the gallop but faster than the trot. —v. cantered, -tering, -ters. —intr. To move or ride

Principal Parts of Verbs

All principal parts of verbs, whether regular or irregular, are entered in the following order: past tense, past participle (if different), present participle, third person singular present tense:

drink (dringk) v. drank (drăngk) or archaic drunk (drŭngk), drunk or obsolete drunken (drŭng'kən), drinking, drinks. —tr.

1. To take into the mouth and swallow (a liquid). 2. To soak

com-mu-ni-cate (ka-myoo'na-kāt') v. -cated, -cating, -cates.

-tr. 1. To make known; impart: communicate information.

Comparison of Adjectives and Adverbs

For adjectives and adverbs whose comparative and superlative degrees are formed by adding -er and -est, we usually show the comparative and superlative forms immediately following the part-of-speech label, regardless of whether the forms are regular or irregular. These forms follow the general rules of style and presentation for all inflected forms:

fast¹ (făst, fäst) adj. faster, fastest. 1. Acting, moving, or capable of moving quickly; swift; rapid. 2. Accomplished in rel-

air-y (âr'ē) adj. -ier, -iest. 1. Having the constitution or nature of air. 2. High in the air; lofty; towering. 3. Open to the air;

Showing -er and -est forms does not preclude the use of more and most with a simple adjective or adverb in the formation of the comparative and superlative degrees of these words. Often the comparative and superlative degrees can be expressed in either way, as in slower or more slow, slowest or most slow.

Plurals of Nouns

Plurals of nouns other than those formed by suffixing -s or -es are shown and labeled pl. The regular plural is shown, however, when there is an irregular variant plural or when the spelling of the regular plural might present difficulties, as with words ending in -o and some in -ev:

pi-an-o¹ (pē-ăn²ō) n., pl. -os. A musical instrument with a manual keyboard actuating hammers that strike wire strings,

po-ta-to (po-tā/tō) n., pl. -toes. 1. A plant, Solanum tuberosum, native to South America and widely cultivated for its starchy,

si·lo (si'lō) n., pl. -los. 1. a. A tall, cylindrical structure in which fodder is stored. b. A pit dug for the same purpose. 2. Mili-

mon-key (mŭng'kē) n., pl. -keys. 1. Any member of the order Primates except man; specifically, most long-tailed primates,

If a noun is defined chiefly or exclusively in its plural senses, the plural form is the main entry and is labeled *pl.n.* (plural noun):

clothes (kloz, klothz) pl.n. 1. Articles of dress; wearing apparel; garments. 2. Bedclothes (see). [Middle English, from Old

When a word is always plural in form but is not always used with a plural verb, it is labeled n.; the label is followed by a grammatical note:

aes-thet-ics, es-thet-ics (ës-thët'îks) n. Plural in form, used with a singular verb. 1. The branch of philosophy that provides pol-i-tics (pŏl'o-tiks) n. Plural in form, usually used with a singular verb. See Usage note below. Abbr. pol., polit. 1. The scis-sors (siz'orz) n. Plural in form, used with a singular or

plural verb. 1. A cutting implement consisting of two blades,

For further information see the Usage note at collective noun on page 261.

Separate Entries for Inflected Forms

1. Verbs such as **do**, **be**, **have**, etc., have several frequently recorded archaic inflected forms such as **doth**, **art**, **hadst**, etc., involving change of the stem form. These forms are entered separately:

doest. Archaic. Second person singular, present tense of do. doeth. Archaic. Third person singular, present tense of do.

2. Inflected forms of monosyllabic verbs in

which vowel changes signal tense changes are entered separately. Thus flew¹ and flown², past tense and past participle of fly¹, are separate entries. These forms when entered separately are usually not pronounced; each pronunciation will be found at the main-entry form. Thus at fly¹ the Dictionary lists all the inflected forms of the verb together with their pronunciations:

fly¹ (fli) v. flew (floo) or flied (for sense 8 only), flown (flon) or flied (for sense 8 only), flying, flies. —intr. 1. To engage in flight, especially: a. To move through the air with the aid of

3. For the purposes of this Dictionary irregular plurals are those in which the change in the ending is not a regular one; such plurals are entered separately. Thus we show

child (child) n., pl. children (chil'dren). 1. Abbr. ch. Any person children. Plural of child.

wom-an (wŏm'ən) n., pl. women (wim'in). 1. An adult female wom-en. Plural of woman.

The rule for pronunciation of verbal inflected forms is also applicable to irregular plurals.

Labels

In addition to the part of speech, three other kinds of information are given by labels:

1. A label *Plural* at the beginning of a definition indicates that the plural form of the entry word is used in the sense being defined; for example, sense 3 of finding is:

find-ing (fin'ding) n. 1. Something that has been found. 2. Often plural. A conclusion reached after examination or investigation. 3. Plural. The tools and materials used by an artisan or workman.

Less often the label *Singular* appears if the entry word itself is in the plural form and the definition deals with the singular.

- 2. Many definitions are labeled according to the field of knowledge with which they are concerned. These labels are merely an aid to orientation; they are not to be interpreted as stating that the sense is not used outside the special field, only that the sense being defined is of primary concern within that field. Such labels are especially useful when a word has many senses; for example, senses 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13 of base¹ are labeled Sports, Military, Architecture, Heraldry, Linguistics, Mathematics, and Chemistry, respectively.
- 3. Most important among the labels are those that restrict a definition to some level or style of usage. All senses that are not labeled, or restricted by Usage notes, are to be regarded as suitable in all contexts, even though a particular word might be unlikely in a given context because of the subject it deals with.

The labels that indicate restricted usage in one way or another are *Nonstandard*, *Informal*,

Slang, Vulgar, Obsolete, Archaic, Rare, Poetic, Regional (plus labels indicating specific regions), British, and foreign-language labels such as French.

Nonstandard. This label implies, of course, the existence of standard American English. While it cannot be said that standard language is uniform throughout America, it is clear that there are forms that do not belong to any standard educated speech. Such words are recognized as nonstandard, not only by those whose speech is standard, but even by most of those who regularly use nonstandard expressions. One application of the label Nonstandard is for forms that have resulted from error, for example:

ir-re-gard-less (ir'i-gard'lis) adv. Nonstandard. Regardless. Usage: Irregardless, a double negative, is never acceptable except when the intent is clearly humorous.

This label also covers forms such as ain't and nowheres that have never been admitted to the standard language, though they have long existed alongside equivalent standard forms.

Informal. Among those whose speech is standard, there are always two levels of language, the language of formal discourse and the language of conversation. The great mass of words are the same in both, but many words are perfectly acceptable in conversation that would not be suitable in formal writing, for example, the noun sense of somebody:

some-bod-y (sŭm'bŏd'ē, -būd'ē, -bə-dē) pron. An unspecified or unknown person; someone. —n., pl. somebodies. Informal. A person of importance.

Such words are here labeled *Informal*. This label must not be taken to imply ignorant or inferior usage. It describes what has been called the cultivated colloquial, that is, the speech of educated persons when they are more interested in what they are saying than in how they are saying it. Informal terms may, of course, appear also in writing when the flavor of speech is being sought.

Slang. The label Slang indicates a style of language rather than a level of formality or cultivation. The distinguishing feature of slang as understood in the Dictionary is the intentionhowever often unsuccessful—to produce rhetorical effect, such as incongruity, irreverence, or exaggeration; for example, an underworld informer sings. A word that is strictly denotative simply points to a referent—is not slang. Slang always has strong connotations in addition to its denotation. It is frequently figurative, and its figure is most often hyperbole. Its connotation is intentionally, often aggressively, informal. The label Slang is not applied to merely loose, slovenly, or illiterate usage; some forms of slang occur in the most cultivated speech, but not in discourse that is intended to be formal. A slang expression is usually transitory, either dying out

or being incorporated in the standard vocabulary as its rhetorical aspect is lost.

Vulgar. The label Vulgar warns of social taboo attached to a word. A straightforward denotative vulgar sense of a word is distinguished from a slang sense. The label Vulgar therefore appears both alone and as Vulgar Slang, for example:

snot (snot) n. 1. Vulgar. Nasal mucus; phlegm. 2. Vulgar Slang. An untrustworthy, devious, or malicious person; one who is treacherous in a haughty or indifferent way. [Middle English snot(te), Old English gesnot. See sne-2 in Appendix.*] snot-ty (snot'e) adj. -tier, -tiest. 1. Vulgar. Dirtied with nasal mucus. 2. Vulgar Slang. Nasty.

No word is omitted from the Dictionary merely because of taboo.

Obsolete. A term labeled Obsolete is no longer used except in quotation or intentional archaism. The fact that an object or a situation to which a word refers may be obsolete does not make the word itself obsolete, for example:

bea-ver² (bē'vər) n. 1. A movable piece of medieval armor attached to a helmet or breastplate to protect the mouth and chin.

2. The visor on a helmet. [Middle English baviere, from Old

This entry is not labeled, because its name is still beaver, but its description as "medieval" indicates that the object is no longer in use. The label is applied only to words or senses of words that have themselves disappeared from current language, for example:

pre-vent (pri-věnt') v. -vented, -venting, -vents. —tr. 1. To keep from happening, as by some prior action; avert; thwart. 2. To keep (someone) from doing something; hinder; impede. Often used with from. 3. Obsolete. To anticipate or counter in advance: "Your goodness still prevents my wishes." (Dryden). 4. Obsolete. To come before; precede. —intr. To present an

The following quotation from Francis Bacon (1561-1626) is a good example of sense 4 of prevent: "He had prevented [come before] the Houre, because [so that] we might have the whole day before us."

Archaic. The label Archaic is applied to words that once were common but are currently rare and are readily identifiable as belonging to a style of language no longer in general use, for example:

af-fright (a-frīt') tr.v. -frighted, -frighting, -frights. Archaic. To arouse fear in; terrify. —n. Archaic. 1. Terror. 2. A cause of

Rare. Terms that are labeled Rare were never common. Rare does not necessarily imply archaic; a rare term may be of recent coinage. The label is not used for terms whose use is rare because of the limitation of their application, such as abstruse technical terms; it is confined to general terms for which more common synonyms exist, for example:

no-cent (nō'sent) adj. Rare. 1. Causing injury; harmful. 2. Guilty. [Middle English, from Latin nocēns, from the present participle of nocēre, to harm. See nek-1 in Appendix.*]

(Nocent is the "lost positive" of the word in-

nocent; it became rare after Middle English.)

Poetic. The label *Poetic* is applied to locutions, such as shortenings (e'er, o'er), that are or were common in poetry but have never been common in prose, for example:

eve (ēv) n. 1. Often capital E. The evening or day preceding a special day, such as a saint's day or holiday. 2. The period immediately preceding a certain event: the eve of war. 3. Poetic. Evening. [Middle English eve, variant of EVEN (evening).]

o'er. Poetic. Contraction of over.

Regional. When an expression is commonly used in one area and little used-even if known-in other areas, it bears in the Dictionary an area label, such as Southwestern U.S., Southeastern U.S., New England, Northern England. Western England. For example, the word arroyo is labeled Southwestern U.S. Often an expression may be common to several areas and yet not be used in American speech in general. Such expressions are labeled Regional, for example, the use of fair as a verb in The weather will fair today. If the expression is regarded as distinctly nonstandard in its own area, it is labeled Nonstandard and no information is given as to its regional character, since Nonstandard is the stronger (more restrictive) label; for example, nowheres is labeled Nonstandard.

British. Because the distinction between British and American vocabulary is seldom exclusive, and because British terms are often in use elsewhere in the world, as in Australia, this label usually appears as British or as Chiefly British, for example:

bon-net (bŏn'ft) n. 1. A hat that is held in place by ribbons tied under the chin. 2. Scottish. A brimless cap worn by men. 3. A feather headdress worn by some American Indians. 4. A removable metal plate over a valve or other machinery part. 5. British. The hood of an automobile. 6. A wind screen for a

Sense 5 of the noun bonnet is so labeled. The Dictionary makes no effort to record British English exhaustively, but many British terms deserve entry because of the shared literature.

Foreign-language labels. English has borrowed heavily from other languages, and this fact is normally indicated in the etymologies. Some expressions from other languages, though fairly common, are still felt by the native speaker as not belonging to English. Such words are represented in italic type by many publications. The language from which they come is indicated in the Dictionary by a label:

a-di-os (ä'dē-ōs', ăd'ē-ōs') interj. Spanish. Good-by; farewell. [Spanish adios, translation of French adieu, ADIEU.]

Many terms that appear to be foreign have been incorporated into the vocabulary of a special field such as law or medicine. These are given the label of the field rather than a language label. Thus the entry

nol-le pros-e-qui (nŏl'ē prŏs'a-kwī'). Abbr. nol. pros. Law. A declaration that the plaintiff in a civil case or the prosecutor in

is labeled Law rather than Latin.

Cross-References

Many cross-references are used to expand the information given at any one entry. The cross-reference instructions are self-explanatory; the entry referred to is in boldface type. When one of two entries merely refers to the other, the entry that has the definition is the preferred form. Thus

bitter apple. A plant, the colocynth (see), or its fruit. lan-tha-nide (lăn'tha-nīd') n. A rare-earth element (see).

Order of Definitions

Numerous English words have a spread of more than three or four distinct meanings or shades of meaning that must be identified and distinguished as separate semantic aspects and presented in a meaningful and useful order. The editors of this Dictionary have taken the position that the most useful order for the general user is neither historical nor by statistical frequency, even if sufficient evidence were available for either of those schemes. The order used here is an effort to arrange a complex word in a psychologically meaningful order, with one subgroup leading into another, so that the word can to some extent be perceived as a structured unit rather than a string of unrelated senses.

Numbers and Letters in a Definition

When an entry has more than one definition, these are numbered in sequence. In a combined entry the definitions are numbered in separate sequences beginning with 1. after each part of speech:

ear·mark (îr'märk') n. 1. An identifying mark on the ear of a domestic animal. 2. Any identifying mark, feature, or charac-

When one numbered definition has two or more closely related senses, these are indicated by the letters a., b., c., etc.:

earth-ly (ûrth'lē) adj. 1. Of the earth, specifically: a. Not heavenly or divine; secular. b. Terrestrial. 2. Conceivable; feasible; possible: no earthly meaning whatever. —earth'li-ness n.

Variants

Standardization of the spelling of American English is more nearly complete than at any earlier time, but the number of variant spellings in common use remains large. All variants presented in the Dictionary are acceptable in any context unless marked with a restrictive label, such as *Regional*. Variants are set in boldface type and are treated in two ways:

1. A variant may follow the main entry, separated from it only by a comma. This indicates

that the two forms are in almost equally frequent use in edited sources:

ax, axe (ăks) n., pl. axes. 1. A tool with a bladed head mounted on a handle, used for felling or splitting lumber. 2. Any similar

2. When there is a more distinct preference for one spelling, the variant is introduced by the word "Also":

e-soph-a-gus (i-sŏf'a-gas) n., pl. -gi (-ji'). Also oe-soph-a-gus. A muscular, membranous tube for the passage of food from the

A large class of variants consists of spellings that are preferred in British English and are sometimes used in American English. Such variants as colour and centre are labeled *Chiefly British*. The variant -ise, which occurs in many British spellings for which American has -ize (for example, realize, realise), is not given unless it is also a common American variant.

When a word that has a variant occurs in a compound, the variant is not repeated at the compound. The *Chiefly British* variant colour is given for color but is not repeated at colorblind, color guard, and other compounds.

Apart from variant spellings, which are given at the beginning of an entry, there are often situations in which two or more distinct words or phrases exist that have identical meaning. These additional terms for the same thing are cited in quotation marks at the end of the definitions or at the end of the relevant sense. In such cases the entry is the preferred term, but the other terms are to be regarded as fully acceptable unless they are introduced by a note or label indicating their status:

mountain lion. A large, powerful, wild cat, Felis concolor, of mountainous regions of the Western Hemisphere, having an unmarked tawny body. Also called "catamount," "cougar," "mountain cat," "panther," "puma."

vi-o-lin (vi'>-lin') n. Abbr. v. 1. A stringed instrument played with a bow, having four strings tuned at intervals of a fifth, an unfretted fingerboard, and a shallower body than the viol, and capable of great flexibility in range, tone, and dynamics. Also informally called "fiddle." 2. A violinist. [Italian violino, di-

Variants as Separate Entries

A variant spelling or other less preferred term is entered at its alphabetical place and referred back to the defined entry thus:

pu-ma (pyoo'ma) n. The mountain lion (see). [Spanish, from Quechua.]

Idioms

Many entry words are commonly used in phrases the meaning of which is not clear from the meanings of the separate words in the phrase. Except as noted, such phrases are defined within the entry for the most significant word. The phrase is introduced by a bold dash and is set in boldface type. Thus at the entry **blood**:

in the organization. 13. A dashing young man; a rake; a dandy.
—in cold blood. Dispassionately; deliberately; coldly. —make one's blood boil. To make extremely angry. —make one's blood run cold. To terrify. —tr.v. blooded, blooding, bloods.

Phrases, such as **dial tone**, made up of an attributive (adjective or noun) plus a noun are separate main entries. Verb phrases that form nouns are also separate main entries:

cast off. 1. To discard or reject. 2. To let go; set loose. 3. To make the last row of stitches in knitting. 4. To estimate the space a manuscript will occupy when set into type. cast-off (käst'ôf', -ôf', käst'-) adj. Discarded; rejected. cast-off (käst'ôf', -ôf', käst'-) n. 1. Someone or something that has been discarded. 2. Printing. A calculation of the amount of space a manuscript will occupy when set into type.

Etymologies

Etymologies appear in square brackets [] following the definitions. In accordance with the Dictionary's policy of eliminating special symbols and abbreviations, none have been used in the etymologies. The etymologies, like the definitions, have been written so that they speak for themselves, without the need for special explanation. Highly technical terms have not been used. The terminology used is the traditional, mostly familiar language of descriptive grammar, identifying parts of speech and the various grammatical and morphological forms and processes, such as diminutive, frequentative, variant, stem, past participle, metathesis, all of which are, of course, fully defined in their places in the Dictionary. Likewise, every language that is cited in an etymology is entered and described.

A special innovation is the systematic policy of tracing each word to its prehistoric Indo-European origin whenever possible. Every etymology pursues its story back to one of four possible conclusions:

- 1. Outside Indo-European. For example, a word from a Semitic language is traced as far into its historical origins as will conduce to illuminating the word or its relations to other words that are represented in English; it is not necessarily traced back to reconstructed Proto-Semitic. Likewise, words from Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese that are early borrowings from Chinese are generally traced back to Ancient Chinese, while words taken directly into English from Chinese are not necessarily so traced; and American Indian words are often but not usually traced back into ancestral forms such as Proto-Algonquian.
- 2. Obscure origin. The origins of numerous English words are still obscure, either immediately or at some earlier historical stages. Many newly discovered origins are presented here, but many more will doubtless always remain obscure. In such cases, the earliest known form is marked with a dagger † referring to a footnote "†Of obscure origin" carried on every right-hand page through the Dictionary.
 - 3. Proper names. If a word is taken from

the name of a place or person, the story generally stops there, although sometimes a further etymology of the name itself is given if it seems sufficiently interesting or relevant. Such names are in any event identified with pertinent information as to time or place; and the reason for the coinage is stated if necessary.

4. Indo-European. It is remarkable that the great bulk of the now vast vocabulary of English can be traced back, either through its native origins in Old English and Proto-Germanic, or through borrowings from nearly every other Indo-European language (but chiefly from Germanic, Romance, Latin, and Greek), to the reconstructed ancestral language called Proto-Indo-European. In this Dictionary, for the first time, every word that can be so traced is taken back to its earliest ascertainable origins (either in Proto-Indo-European or in the prehistoric stage of one of its chief branches, such as Germanic or Celtic). It is also remarkable that the constantly ramifying nature of lexical creativity, descent, and borrowing is such that many tens of thousands of modern English words can be proved to be descended from a mere 1,500 Indo-European roots. Some such individual roots are represented in English by hundreds of English words. Each word so descended is traced in its own etymology in the body of the Dictionary back to its earliest documentary attestation. It is then cross-referred to the Appendix of Indo-European roots, with an asterisk referring to a footnote carried on each right-hand page guiding the reader to the Appendix at the end of the main vocabulary section. A description of the Indo-European language, with observations on the cultural inferences that can be drawn from it, by Professor Watkins, is carried at the beginning of the Appendix; there is also an explanatory Guide to the Appendix itself and, on the endpaper, a table of the Indo-European languages preceded by a chart of the principal sound changes. Along with its scholarly interest, the Appendix provides a rich source of curious information for the casually interested.

Certain details of style in the etymologies are worth describing. When a compound word is split into its component elements, an analytical gloss is given if necessary to explain the semantics of the compound, and then a boldface colon (:) is used. Each of the two components in turn is then traced to its further origins:

nepenthe...[Greek nēpenthes (pharmakon), "grief-banishing (drug)": nē, not (see ne in Appendix*) + penthos, grief (see kwenth- in Appendix*).]

Quotation marks are used around certain glosses; these explain underlying meanings different from the effective meaning:

mediocre. . . [From Latin mediocris, "halfway up the mountain," in a middle state: medius, middle (see medhyo- in Appendix*) + ocris, mountain, peak (see akin Appendix*).]

The word "from" is used to indicate origin of

any kind—by inheritance, borrowing, derivation, composition—with one exception. In order to stress the fact that the native core of English is a permanent unbroken continuum of its earlier forms, "from" is not used between Middle English and Old English, thus emphasizing that the forms given are earlier forms of the same linguistic item rather than their models or sources, as in the case of borrowings:

room. . . [Middle English roum, Old English rūm. See rewe- in Appendix.*]

Cross-references are indicated in two ways. If preceded by the word "see," as in the case of the references to the Appendix, and in some others, the words cited are in **boldface**. But *implicit* cross-references to the etymologies of other English words in the Dictionary are given in SMALL CAPITALS:

ritual. . . [Latin rītuālis, from rītus, RITE.]

Obvious derivatives are not given etymologies. Thus, although *laxity* may be modeled on Latin *laxitās* (itself from *laxus*, lax), its relationship to *lax* is so obvious that to give it an etymology would be unreasonable in the limited space available.

The transliterations of various languages are standard and not innovative. Greek *kappa* is given as *K* and *chi* as *kh*; the Old English *thorn* and *edh* are both given as *th* (since they reflect only different scribal practices), while in Old Norse the *thorn* is given as *th* and the *edh* as *dh* (since here they do reflect different phonetic values); tone marks are given for Chinese and other tone languages; macrons are used for all long vowels in Latin, while in Greek only the graphically differentiated long vowels are so marked (long *a*, *i*, and *u* are not marked).

Undefined Forms

Additional words formed from the main-entry word by the addition of a suffix will be found at the end of many entries. These run-on entries are obviously related to the main-entry word and have the same essential meaning, but they have a different grammatical function, as indicated by the part-of-speech label. The use of run-on entries saves valuable space that would otherwise be used for definitions that would merely be repetitions of previous definitions or for a word formula that would give no more information than the part-of-speech label does. Run-on entries appear in boldface type, followed by a partof-speech label. All run-ons are syllabicated; stress is indicated for all such undefined forms that have more than one syllable, and pronunciation is indicated as needed:

com-men-su-rate (kə-měn'sə-rīt, -shə-rīt) adj. 1. Of the same size, extent, or duration. 2. Corresponding in scale or measure; proportionate. 3. Having a common measure or standard; commensurable. [Late Latin commensuratius: com-, same + mēnsūrātus, past participle of mēnsūrāte, to measure, from Latin mēnsūra, MEASURE.] —com-men'su-rate-by adv. —commen'su-rat'ton (-sə-rā'shən, -shə-rā'shən) n.

When different run-on forms have the same grammatical function, they are separated by a comma and have a single part-of-speech label:

lu-cid (loo'sid) adj. 1. Easily understood; clear: a lucid speech.
2. Sane; rational: a lucid speaker. [French lucide and Italian lucido, from Latin lucidus, from lucier, to shine. See leuk- in Appendix.*] —lu-cid'-ty, lu'cid-ness n. —lu'cid-ty adv.

Sometimes the entry word may appear unchanged at the end of the entry, with a different part-of-speech label. This indicates that the word is used in exactly the same senses as those defined above, but with different grammatical function. Again this eliminates definitions that would not add any semantic information and would tell no more than is conveyed by the part-of-speech label:

a-fire (a-fir') adj. 1. Burning; on fire. 2. Intensely interested and involved: He was afire about the new project. —a-fire' adv.

Usage Notes

The Usage notes are a significant aspect of the Dictionary, as explained in the editor's introduction and the article "Good Usage, Bad Usage, and Usage" by Professor Bishop. The reader should find it useful to glance at the end of any entry being consulted to see if it has such a note; if so, it is labeled simply *Usage*. The definitions may appear sometimes to contradict the Usage notes by recording a sense of a word that the Usage Panel finds unacceptable. This is not contradiction but basic policy of the Dictionary. All significant usages, regardless of status, are recorded in the definitions. Those that present usage problems are then pursued further in the notes.

Usage: Bus, as a transitive verb (to bus children), has now established itself as an almost indispensable term. It is acceptable in formal writing to 91 per cent of the Usage Panel. The more common inflected forms are bused, busing, and buses.

Synonyms

Paragraphs that provide discrimination of related words also appear at the end of some entries and are headed **Synonyms**. The word synonyms should not be interpreted to indicate that the words treated together are of precisely the same meaning. It is their differences of meaning and usage that make the discrimination among them valuable.

Synonyms: flock, flight, herd, drove, pack, gang, gaggle, bevy, brood. These nouns denote a number of animals, birds, or fish considered collectively, and some have human connotations. Flock is applied to a congregation of animals of one kind, especially sheep or goats herded by man, and to any congregation of wild or domesticated birds, especially when on the ground. It is also applicable to people who form the membership of a church or to people under someone's care or supervision. Flight refers to a flock of birds in flight. Herd is used of a number of animals, especially cattle, herded by man; or of such wild animals as antelope, elephants, and zebras; or of whales and seals. Applied to people, it is used disparagingly of a crowd or of the masses, and suggests the gregarious aspect of crowd psychology. Drove is used of a herd or flock of cattle, sheep, geese, or the like, that are being moved or driven from one place to another; less often it refers to a crowd of people in movement. Pack is applicable to any body of animals, especially wolves, or of birds, especially grouse, and to a body of hounds trained to

Pronunciation Guide

The set of symbols used in this Dictionary is designed to enable the reader to reproduce a satisfactory pronunciation with no more than a quick reference to the key. All pronunciations given are acceptable in all circumstances. When more than one is given, the first is assumed to be the most common, but the difference in frequency may be insignificant.

Americans do not all speak alike; nevertheless, they can understand one another, at least on the level of speech sounds. For most words a single set of symbols can represent the pronunciation found in each regional variety of American English, provided the symbols are planned to enable the reader to reproduce a satisfactory pronunciation. When a single pronunciation is given in this Dictionary, the reader will supply those features of his own regional speech that are suggested by his reading of the key. The policy of this Dictionary is to record pronunciations used in educated speech. In every community, educated speech is accepted and understood by everyone, including those who do not themselves use it.

Pronunciation Key

A shorter form of the key on page L appears across the bottom of each pair of facing pages. The symbols marked with an asterisk are discussed in this guide.

Explanatory Notes

a: This nonalphabetical symbol is called a schwa. The symbol is used in the Dictionary to represent a reduced vowel, that is, a vowel that receives the weakest level of stress (which can be thought of as no stress) within a word and that therefore nearly always has a different quality than it would have if it were stressed, as in telegraph (těl'ə-grăf') and telegraphy (tə-lěg'rə-fē). Vowels are never reduced to a single vowel sound; the schwa sound varies, sometimes according to the vowel it is representing and often according to the sounds surrounding it. ar: These symbols represent vowels that have ir been altered by the r that follows. This ûr situation can be understood by considering the words Mary, merry, and marry. In some regional varieties of American English, all

three words are pronounced alike (měr'ē).

However, in many individual American

speech patterns, the three words are distin-

guished. It is this pattern that the Diction-

ary represents, thus: Mary (mâr'ē), merry

(měr'ē), marry (măr'ē). However, in some

words all three pronunciations are heard,

grading indistinctly one into another. For these words the Dictionary represents only (â), for example, care (kâr), dairy (dâr'ē).

In words such as hear, beer, and dear, the vowel could be represented by (\bar{e}) were it not for the effect of the following r, which makes it approach (i) in sound. In this Dictionary a special symbol (ir) is used for this combination, as in beer (bir).

The symbol ($\hat{u}r$), used in her ($h\hat{u}r$), fur ($f\hat{u}r$), etc., has a regular regional variant that is not separately recorded. In one pattern the effect of the r is heard simultaneously with the vowel; in the other, some, but not all, such syllables are heard with a vowel like (\check{u}) before the onset of the r.

ôr: There are regional differences in the distincor tions among various pronunciations of the syllable -or-. In pairs such as horse, hoarse, and morning, mourning, the vowel varies between (ô) and (ō). In this Dictionary these vowels are represented as follows: horse (hôrs), hoarse (hôrs, hōrs); morning (môr'ning), mourning (môr'ning, mōr'-). Other words for which both forms are shown include more (môr, mōr), glory (glôr'ē, glōr'-). Another group of words with variation in the pronunciation of -or- syllables includes words such as forest and horrid, in which the pronunciation of o before r varies between (ô) and (ŏ). In these words the (ôr) pronunciation is given first: forest (fôr'ist, fŏr'-).

Syllabic Consonants

Two consonants are often represented as complete syllables. These are l and n (called syllabics) when they occur after stressed syllables ending in or followed by d or t in such words as **cradle** (krād'l), **rattle** (răt'l), **redden** (rĕd'n), **cotton** (kŏt'n), and **midden** (mĭd'n). Syllabic n is not shown following -nd- or -nt-, as in **abandon** (a-băn'dan) and **mountain** (moun'tan); but syllabic l is shown in that position: **spindle** (spĭnd'l).

Stress

In this Dictionary, stress, the relative degree of loudness with which the syllables of a word (or phrase) are spoken, is indicated in three different ways. An unmarked syllable has the weakest stress in the word. The strongest, or primary, stress is marked with a bold mark ('). An intermediate level of stress, here called secondary, is marked with a similar but lighter mark (').

Words of one syllable show no stress mark, since there is no other stress level to which the syllable is compared.

Pronunciation Key

The system of indicating pronunciation in the Dictionary is explained in the section headed "Pronunciation" in the "Guide to the Dictionary." The column below headed GID represents the pronunciation key used in the Dictionary. The symbols marked with an asterisk are discussed in the guide. The symbols in the right-hand column, labeled T-S, are from the system of phonemes described by Henry Lee Smith, Jr.,

and George L. Trager, and are widely used by linguists. (The Trager-Smith symbols, however, are for phonemes of English only.) The center column, labeled IPA, contains symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet, also widely used by scholars. The three systems do not precisely correspond, because they were conceived for somewhat different purposes.

spellings	GID	IPA	T-S	spellings	GID	IPA	T-S
pat	ă	æ	æ	ship, dish	sh	ſ	š
pay	ā	e	ey	tight, stopped	t	t	t
care	*âr	εr, er	ehr, eyr, er	thin	th	θ	θ
father	ä	a:, a	ah	this	th	ð	ð
bib	b	b	b	cut	ŭ	Λ	Э
church	ch	t∫	č	urge, term, firm,	*ûr	3°, 3r	ər, əhr
deed, milled	d	d	d	word, heard			
pet	ĕ	ε	e	valve	v	v	v
bee	ē	i	iy	with	w	w	w
fife, phase, rough	f	f	f	yes	У	j	у
gag	g	g	g	zebra, xylem	Z	Z	Z
h at	h	h	h	vision, pleasure,	zh	3	ž
which	hw	hw (also m)	hw	gara ge			9
pit	*ĭ	I	i	about, item, edible	, * ə	э	ə, i
pie, by	ī	aı	ay	gallop, circus			
pier	*îr	ır, ir	ihr, iyr, ir	butter	ər	3	ər
judge	j	d ₃	j ,				
kick, cat, pique	k	k	k			EIGN	
lid, needle	*l (nēd'l)	l, [['nid]]	l (not syllabic)		GI	D	IPA
mum	m	m '	m	French ami	à		a
no, sudden	*n (sŭd'n)	n, n ['sʌdn]	n (not syllabic)	French feu,	œ		œ
thing	ng	ŋ	ŋ	German schön	192		
pot, *horrid	ŏ	a	a, o	French tu,	ü		У
toe, *hoarse	ō	0	ow	German über			
caught, paw, *for	ô	3	oh, oh, o	German ich,	KH		x
noise	oi	IC	oy	Scottish loch			
took	ŏŏ	U	u	French bon	N		õ, æ, ã, œ
boot	\overline{oo}	u	uw	French compiègne	y' (kôn-pyĕn'y')	р
out	ou	au	aw, æw				
pop	p	p	p		CTT	FCC	
roar	*r	r	r	D :	211	RESS	
sauce	S	S	S	Primary stress		bi-ol'o-gy (b	
				Secondary stress	,	bi'o·log'i·ca	ıl (bī'ə-lŏj'ĭ-kəl)

Note on Illustrations: Each illustration has been positioned as close as possible to the entry it illustrates. In those instances where close juxtaposition proved impossible, the illustration nevertheless always appears on the same page as the entry or on the page opposite.

Perpetual Calendar

Our present calendar—the Gregorian calendar—was calculated by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. Great Britain and her colonies did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752. Eleven of the months in this calendar have 30 or 31 days. The month of February has 28 days except every fourth year, or leap year, when its days "leap" to 29. However, century years that cannot be divided by 400, such as 1700,

1800, and 1900, are not leap years and February will have 28 days. The century year 2000 will be a leap year. This is necessary so that calendar and solar years will remain the same.

Directions: Pick desired year from chart below. The number shown with each year indicates what calendar to use for that year.

1796. 13 1821. 2 1846. 5 1871. 1 1896. 11 1921. 7 1946. 3 1971. 6 1996. 9 2021. 6 2046. 2 2071. 5 1797. 1 1822. 3 1847. 6 1872. 9 1887. 6 1922. 1 1947. 4 1972. 14 1997. 4 2022. 7 2047. 3 2072. 13 1798. 2 1823. 4 1848. 14 1873. 4 1898. 7 1923. 2 1948. 12 1973. 2 1998. 5 2023. 1 2048. 11 2073. 1 1799. 3 1824. 12 1849. 2 1874. 5 1899. 1 1924. 10 1949. 7 1974. 3 1999. 6 2024. 9 2049. 6 2074. 2	1797 1 1798 2	1822 3 1823 4	1847 6 184814	1872 9 1873 4	1897 6 1898 7	1922 1 1923 2	19474 194812	197214 1973 2	1997 4 1998 5	2022 7 2023 1	20473 204811	207213 20731
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letters of administration. A legal document entrusting an individual with the administration of the estate of a decedent. letters of credence. Also letter of credence. An official document conveying the credentials of a diplomatic envoy to a

foreign government.

letters of marque. Also letter of marque. 1. A document issued by a nation allowing a private citizen to seize citizens or goods of another nation. 2. A document issued by a nation allowing a private citizen to equip a ship with arms in order to attack enemy ships. Also called "letter of marque and reprisal," [Middle English, from Old French marque, reprisal, from Old Provençal marca, from marcar, to seize as a pledge, from Germanic. See merg- in Appendix.*]

letters patent. Law. A document issued by a government granting a patent to an inventor.

letters testamentary. Law. A document issued by a probate court or officer informing an executor of a will of his appointment and authority.

Let-tish (let'ish) adj. Of or relating to the Latvians or their

language. —n. Latvian (see).

let-tuce (let'es) n. 1. Any of various plants of the genus Lactuca; especially, L. sativa, cultivated for its edible leaves. 2. The leaves of L. sativa, cational as salad. 3. Slang. Paper money. [Middle English letus(e), from Old French laituēs, plural of laituē, from Latin lactūca, from lac (stem lact-), milk (from its milky juice). See melg- in Appendix.*]

let up. 1. To diminish; slacken; lessen. 2. To stop.

let up. 1. 10 diminish; slacken; lessen. 2. 10 stop.
let-up (lĕt'ŭp') n. 1. A slackening of pace, force, intensity, or the like; a slowdown. 2. A temporary stop; a pause.
le-u (lĕ'ŏo) n., pl. lei (lĕ'ī). 1. The basic monetary unit of Rumania, equal to 100 bani. See table of exchange rates at currency. 2. A coin worth one leu. [Rumanian, "lion," from Latin leō (stem leōn-), LION.]
leu-cine (lōo'sēn') n. An essential amino acid, C₆H₁₃NO₂, derived from the hydrolysis of protein by pancreatic enzymes and used as a nutrient. [LEU(O), ± JNE]

rived from the hydrolysis of protein by pancreatic enzymes and used as a nutrient. [LEUC(0)- + -INE.]

leu-cite (loo'sit') n. A white or gray mineral, essentially KAl-(SiO₃)₂. [German Leucit: LEUC(0)- + -ITE.]

leu-co- Variant of leuko-.

leu-co-plast (loo'kə-plast') n. Also leu-co-plas-tid (loo'kə-plas'-tid). A colorless plastid in the cytoplasm of plant cells, around which starch collects. [LEUCO- + PLAST(ID).]

Leu-kas. See Levkas.

leu-ke-mi-a (loo-ke'me-a) n. Any of a group of usually fatal diseases of the reticuloendothelial system, involving uncontrolled proliferation of leukocytes. [New Latin: LEUK(O) + -EMIA.]

-EMIA.]

leuko-, leuko-, leuco-. Indicates: 1. White or colorless; for example, leukoderma, leucoplast. 2. Leukocyte; for example, leukemia, leukopenia. [New Latin, from Greek leukos, clear, white. See leuk- in Appendix.*]

leu-ko-cyte (loō'ka-sit') n. Also leu-co-cyte. Any of the white or colorless nucleated cells occurring in blood. Also called "white blood cell," "white corpuscle." [LEUKO- + -CYTE.] —leu'ko-

cyt'ic (-sĭt'ĭk) adj.

leu-ko-cy-to-sis (lōō'kō-sī-tō'sīs) n., pl. -ses (-sēz'). Also leu-co-cy-to-sis. A large increase in the number of leukocytes in the blood. [New Latin: LEUKOCYT(E) + -OSIS.] —leu'ko-cy-tot'ic (-tōt'īk) adj.

(-tŏt'ĭk) adj.

| leu-ko-der-ma (loō'kō-dûr'mə) n. Also leu-co-der-ma. Partial or total lack of skin pigmentation. [New Latin: LEUKO-+DERMA.] —leu'ko-der'mal, leu'ko-der'mic adj.
| leu-ko-ma (loō-kō'mə) n. Also leu-co-ma. A dense, white opacity of the cornea of the eye. [New Latin leucoma, from Greek leukōma: LEUK(0)-+-OMA.]
| leu-ko-pe-ni-a (loō'kə-pē'nē-ə) n. Also leu-co-pe-ni-a. An abnormally low number of leukocytes in the circulating blood. [New Latin: LEUKO-+-PENIA.]
| leu-ko-poi-e-sis (loō'kō-poi-ē'sis) n. Also leu-co-poi-e-sis. The formation and development of leukocytes. [New Latin: LEUKO-+-POIESIS.] —leu'ko-poi-et'ic (-ēt'īk) adj.
| leu-kor-rhe-a (loō'kə-rē'ə) n. Also leu-cor-rhe-a. A vaginal discharge containing mucus and pus cells. [New Latin: LEUKO+-RHEA.]

-RRHEA.]

lev (léf) n., pl. leva (lév'a). The basic monetary unit of Bulgaria, equal to 100 stotinki. See table of exchange rates at currency. [Bulgarian, "lion," from Old Bulgarian livu, probably from Old High German levo, from Latin leō, LION.]

Lev. Leviticus (Old Testament).

Lev-al-loi-si-an (lev'ə-loi'ze-ən) adj. Of or related to a western European stage in lower Paleolithic culture, known from the

method of striking off flake tools from pieces of flint. [After Levallois-Perret, district near Paris.]

le-vant (la-vănt') n. A type of heavy, coarse-grained morocco leather often used in bookbinding. Also called "Levant morocco." [Originally imported from the LEVANT.]

Le-vant (le-vant'). The countries bordering on the eastern Mediterranean. [Middle English levaunt, "the Orient," from Old French levant, "rising" (said of the sun), present participle of lever, to rise, raise. See lever.]

Me-vant-er (13-văn'tsr) n: 1. A strong easterly wind of the Mediterranean area. 2. Capital L. A Levantine. 18-văn'tin, 18v'3n-tēn', -tīn') n. A sturdy, closely woven silk fabric. [Originally made in the LEVANT.]

Le-van-tine (la-văn'tin, lev'an-tēn', -tīn') adj. Of or relating to the Levant. —n. 1. A native or resident of the Levant. 2. A ship from the Levant.

le-va-tor (la-va'tar) n., pl. levatores (lev'a-tôr'ez, -tôr'ez).

1. Anatomy. A muscle that raises a part. 2. Surgery. An instrument for lifting the depressed part of a fractured skull. [New Latin, from Latin levare, to raise. See lever.]

lev-ee1 (lev'e) n. 1. An embankment raised to prevent a river from overflowing. 2. A small ridge or raised area bordering an irrigated field. 3. A landing place on a river; pier. [French levée, from Old French levee, "raising," from the past participle

levee, from the past participle of lever, to raise. See lever, to raise. See lever.]

levee² (lĕv'ē, la-vē') n. 1. A reception held by a monarch or other high-ranking person upon his arising from bed. 2. A formal reception, as at a court. [French levé, variant of lever,

rising, from lever, to rise. See lever.]

lev-el (lev'al) n. 1. Relative position or rank on a scale: a high level of achievement. 2. A natural or proper position, place, or stage: finally found his own level. 3. Position along a vertical axis; elevation; height: the level of the windows. 4. a. A horizontal line or plane at right angles to the plumb. b. The position or height of such a line or plane: eye level. 5. A flat, horizontal surface. 6. A tract of land of uniform elevation. 7. a. An instrument for ascertaining whether a surface is horizontal consisting essentially of an encased, liquid-filled tube containing an air bubble that moves to a center window when the instrument is set on a horizontal plane. Also called "spirit level." b. Such a device combined with a telescope, used in surveying. c. A computation of the difference in elevation between two points, using such a device. —on the level. *Informal*. Without deception. —adj. 1. Having a flat, smooth surface. 2. On a horizontal plane. 3. Being at the same height as another; even. 4. Poured or measured into a container so as to be even with its rim: a level teaspoon. 5. Being of the same degree or rank as another; equal. 6. Without abrupt variations; uniform; consistent. eventual best. Conscientious best. — v. leveled or -elled, -eling or -elling, -els. — tr. 1. To make horizontal, flat, or even. Often used with off. 2. To tear down; raze. 3. To knock down with or as if with a blow. 4. To put (two persons or things) in the same rank, degree, or plane. 5. To aim along a horizontal plane: level a gun at her head. 6. To direct emphatically or forcefully toward someone. 7. To measure the different elevations of (a tract of land) with a level. —intr. 1. To render persons or things equal, as in rank, importance, or size. 2. To achieve or come to a level. 3. To aim a weapon horizontally. 4. Informal. To be frank. Used with with: Level with me on what 4. Informal. 10 be frank. Osed with with: Level with me on what happened last night. —level off. 1. To move toward stability or consistency. 2. To maneuver an aircraft into flight that is parallel to the surface of the earth after gaining or losing altitude. —adv. Along a flat or even line or plane. [Middle English level, livel, from Old French livel, from Vulgar Latin libellum (unattested), variant of Latin libella, level, water level, plummet line, diminutive of libra, "a pound," balance, level. See lithra in Appendix.*] —lev'el-ly adv. —lev'el-ness n.

Synonyms: level, flat, plane, even, smooth, flush. These adjectives are applicable to surfaces in which there are no variations, or no significant variations, in the form of elevations or depressions. *Level* implies being horizontal, or parallel with the line of the horizon. *Flat* often refers to such a horizontal surface, but can also be applied to one that is oblique or even vertical. *Plane* and *even* refer to flat surfaces that are wholly without elevations or depressions and demonstrably so either by the application of scientific principles, in the case of plane, or by observation, in the case of even. Smooth describes a surface in which the absence of even slight irregularities can be established by sight or touch. Flush is applied to a surface that is on an exact level with an adjoining one, forming a continuous sur-

level crossing. British. A grade crossing (see). lev-el-er (lev's-ler) n. Also lev-el-ler. 1. One that levels. 2. One who advocates the abolition of social inequities.

who advocates the aboution of social inequities.

lev-el-head-ed (lčv'ɔl-hĕd'id) adj. Characteristically self-composed and sensible. —lev'el-head'ed-ness n.

leveling rod. A graduated pole or stick with a movable marker, used with a surveyor's level to measure differences in elevation.

Also called "leveling staff," "leveling pole."

Lev-ei-ler (lev'a-lar) n. A member of an English radical political movement active in the 1640's that advocated universal male

movement active in the 1640's that advocated universal male suffrage, parliamentary democracy, and religious tolerance.

1e-ver (lev'ər, le'vər) n. 1. A sımple machine (see) consisting of a rigid body, typically a metal bar, pivoted on a fixed fulcrum.

2. A projecting handle used to adjust or operate a mechanism.

3. A means of accomplishment. —tr.v. levered, -vering, -vers. To move or lift with a lever. [Middle English lever, levour, from Old French levier, leveor, from lèver, to raise, from Latin levāre, from levis, light. See legwh- in Appendix.*]

1e-ver-age (lĕv'ər-ij, lē'vər-) n. 1. The action of a lever. 2. The mechanical advantage; power to act effectively.

nower to act effectively.

lev-er-et (lev'or-it) n. A young hare, especially one less than a year old. [Middle English, from Norman French leveret, diminutive of levre, variant of Old French lievre, hare, from

Latin lepus (stem lepor-). See leporine.]
Lever-ku-sen (lā'vər-kōo'zən). A city of West Germany, in southwestern North Rhine-Westphalia. Population, 103,000.
Lever-rier (lə-vĕ-ryā'), Urbain Jean Joseph. 1811–1877.

French astronomer. Lé•vesque (la-věk'), René. Born 1922. Canadian political leader; premier of Quebec (since 1976).

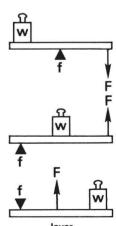
Le-vi' (lē'vi'). A son of Jacob and Leah. Genesis 29:34. [Hebrew, "joining."]
Le-vi' (lē'vī') n. A tribe of Israel descended from Levi. lev-i-a-ble (lĕv'ē-a-bəl) adj. Liable to be levied or levied on.



levee Mississippi River, Louisiana



level Level for gauging horizontal surfaces



Three basic types of lever; f is the fulcrum and F is the force needed to raise a weight W

t tight/th thin, path/th this, bathe/ŭ cut/ûr urge/v valve/w with/y yes/z zebra, size/zh vision/ə about, item, edible, gallop, circus/a Fr. ami/œ Fr. feu, Ger. schön/ü Fr. tu, Ger. über/KH Ger. ich, Scot. loch/N Fr. bon. *Follows main vocabulary. †Of obscure origin.