



Second College Edition

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AMERICAN
HERITAGE
DICTIONARY

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1. One who hunts or processes. 3. A whaleboat. shark. *Rhincodon typus*, of warm ocean body and feeding chiefly on fish.

n. The business or practice of catching whales. 1. A forceful, resounding blow, as of a whip. 2. To beat with a whip. 3. To strike or smash. —*intr.* To smash with great force.

5) *n., pl. -mies.* Slang. A superabundant adversary; hex; put the 1. < WHAM.]

Informal. 1. A thong or whip of shing blow, as of a whip. 2. The v. whanged, whanging, whangs ip with a thong. 2. To beat with a of ME *thwang*, *thong*.]

Formal. —v. whanged, whanging, as to produce a loud, reverberant a loud, reverberant noise. —*n.* A nit.]

g)-*n.* 1. Any of several bamboo-*Phyllostachys*. 2. A walking stem of a whanghee. (China; yellow + *li*, a kind of bran-

l. wharves (hwōrvz, wōrvz) or pier where ships may tie up. 2. A shore or riverbank. —*tr.* 1. To moor (a vessel) at a re (cargo) on a wharf. 3. To fur-

1 a wharf or wharves. —*intr.* To rfe < OE *hwearf*.]

ij) *n.* 1. a. The use of a wharf or r this. 2. Wharves collectively. wōr)-*n.* The owner or manager. VWARPAGE + -ER.]

infests wharves and shipping person who frequents wharves. A plural of wharf.

hwat, wat when unstressed) pron. 1 particular one of many: What that did he say? b. Which kind. What are these objects? c. One of

ance: What are possessions to a r; the thing that: Listen to what I that: come what may. 3. a. Non- that: It's the poor what gets the hing: I'll tell you what. —*adv.*

veral or many: What college are know what musical that song is oon repaired what damage had much; which degree of. 4. How at a fool! —*adv.* 1. How much

1 does it matter? 2. Why: what urying for? —*conj.* Nonstan- what I'll go. —*interj.* 1. Used to y, or other strong and sudden

Used to express agreement: A s. and what not. And other less things: nails, bolts, screws, and ng or strong reprimand: I really late. what have you. What re-

tioned: chairs, lamps, radios. What would occur if; suppose r. what it takes. The necessary for success. what's what. *Informal*

l details of a situation or pro- dition. what with. *Informal* because of: What with the humid

< OE *hwæt*.) e subject of a clause, it may be or as plural, depending on the

is taken as equivalent to that hat seems to be a dead tree is plural when it is equivalent to

which: What were intended as strued by the enemy. But when a sentence, it will not in general

ess it is the subject of a plural i, we say what most surprise me the article, where the main verb

b surprise is plural in the sub- what she was holding in her lap cause what is not the subject of

e. In the same way, we say what ditional grammarians are called lists, but what I am most inter-

stamps. it-wōt-, wūt-) pron. 1. Every- whatever you please. 2. What what: Whatever is left over is

hatever happens, we'll meet here

rw which / i tip / i pie / ir pier / se / ou out / oō took / oō boot

tonight. 4. *Informal.* What; which thing or things: *Whatever does he mean?* —*adj.* 1. Of any number or kind; any: *Whatever requests you make will be granted.* 2. All of; the whole of: *He applied whatever strength he had left to the task.* 3. Of any kind at all: *No campers whatever may use the lake before noon.*

Usage: *Whatever* (pronoun) and *what ever* are used in questions and statements: *Whatever (or what ever) made her say that?* Both forms are used, although some meticulous writers prefer the two-word form. The same is true of *whoever*, *whenever*, *wherever*, and *however*, when used in corresponding senses. For the adjective, only the one-word form is used: *Take whatever books you need.* • When a clause beginning with *whatever* is the subject of its sentence, no comma should be used: *Whatever you do is right.* Otherwise, a comma may be used: *Whatever you do, don't burn the toast.*

• When the phrase preceding a restrictive clause is introduced by *whichever* or *whatever*, that should not be used in formal writing. It is held to be incorrect to write *whatever book that you want to look at*; one should write instead *whatever book you want to look at* will be sent to your office or *whichever book costs less* (not *that costs less*) is fine with us. See also *Usage* note at *that*.

whatnot (hwōt'not', hwūt', wōt', wūt'-) *n.* 1. A minor or unspecified object or article. 2. A set of light, open shelves for ornaments.

what-so-ever (hwōt'sō-ēvər, hwūt', wōt', wūt'-) *pron.* *Whatever.* —*adj.* *Whatever: no power whatsoever.*

wheel (hwēl, wēl) *n.* A small acute swelling on the skin. [Var. of WALE.]

wheat (hwēt, wēt) *n.* 1. Any of various cereal grasses of the genus *Triticum*, esp. *T. aestivum*, widely cultivated in many varieties for its commercially important edible grain. 2. The grain of a wheat plant, ground to produce flour used in breadstuffs and pasta products such as spaghetti and macaroni. [ME *whete* < OE *hwæte*.]

wheat bread *n.* A bread made from a mixture of white and whole-wheat flours.

wheat-ear (hwēt'ēr, wēt'-) *n.* A brown, black, and white bird, *Oenanthe oenanthe*, indigenous to northern regions. [Back-formation from obs. *wheatears*, *wheatear*, prob. by folk ety. < WHITE + ARSE.]

wheat-en (hwēt'n, wēt'n) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or derived from wheat.

wheat germ *n.* The vitamin-rich embryo of the wheat kernel that is separated before milling for use as a cereal or food supplement.

wheat rust *n.* 1. A destructive disease of wheat. 2. A fungus, such as *Puccinia graminis*, that causes wheat rust.

Wheatstone bridge (hwēt'stōn, wēt'-) also **Wheatstone's bridge** (-stōnz) *n.* An instrument or circuit consisting of four resistors, or their equivalent, in series, with a galvanometer linking the junction between one pair and the other, used to determine the value of an unknown resistance when the other three resistances are known. [After Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875).]

wheat-worm (hwēt'wūrm, wēt'-) *n.* A nematode worm, *Anguina tritici*, that is parasitic on and destructive to wheat.

wee (hwē, wē) *interj.* Used to express extreme pleasure or enthusiasm.

wee-dle (hwēd'l, wēd'l) *v.* -dled, -dling, -dles. —*tr.* 1. To persuade or attempt to persuade by flattery or guile; cajole. 2. To obtain through the use of flattery or guile: *a con artist who wheedled her entire savings out of her.* —*intr.* To use flattery or cajolery to achieve one's ends. [Orig. unknown.]

—*wee-dler* *n.* —*wee-dling-ly* *adv.*

wheel (hwēl, wēl) *n.* 1. A solid disk or a rigid circular ring connected by spokes to a hub, designed to turn around an axle passed through the center. 2. Anything resembling a wheel in appearance or movement or having a wheel as its principal part or characteristic, as: a. In the Middle Ages, an instrument to which a victim was bound for torture. b. A type of firework that rotates while burning. c. The steering device on a vehicle. d. *Informal.* A bicycle. e. A spinning wheel. f. A water wheel. g. A potter's wheel. h. A device used in roulette and other games of chance. 3. **wheels.**

Forces that provide energy, movement, or direction: *the wheels of commerce.* 4. The act or process of turning; revolution or rotation. 5. A military maneuver to change the direction of movement of a formation, as of troops or ships, in which the formation is maintained while the outer unit describes an arc and the inner unit remains stationary as a pivot. 6. **wheels.** Slang. An automobile or access thereto.

7. Slang. A person with a great deal of power or influence: *he's a wheel because he works for the town.* —*v.*

wheeled, wheel-ing, wheels. —*tr.* 1. To roll, move, or transport on a wheel or wheels. 2. To cause to turn around or as if around a central axis; revolve or rotate. 3. To provide with a wheel or wheels. —*intr.* 1. To turn around or as if around a central axis; revolve or rotate. 2. To roll or move on or as if on a wheel or wheels. 3. To fly in a curving or circular course: *A flock of birds wheeled just above the house.*

4. To turn or whirl around in place; pivot: *"the boy wheeled and the fried eggs leaped from his tray"* (Ivan Gold). 5. To reverse one's opinion or practice: *can never tell when he'll wheel about on that subject.* —*idioms.* at (or behind) the

whatnot *n.* 1. Operating the steering mechanism of a vehicle; driving. 2. In charge; directing or controlling. **wheel and deal.** *Informal.* To engage in the advancement of one's own interests. [ME < OE *hwēol*.]

wheel and axle *n.* A mechanical device, analogous to the lever, consisting of two coaxial wheels of different diameters conjoined so that the effort applied by a cord to the larger wheel in the form of a torque is transmitted as an action by a cord around the circumference of the smaller, yielding a mechanical advantage equal to the ratio of the diameters of the wheels.

wheel animalcule *n.* A rotifer. **wheelbar-row** (hwēl'bār'ō, wēl'-) *n.* A one- or two-wheeled vehicle with handles, used to convey small heavy loads by hand.

wheel-base (hwēl'bās', wēl'-) *n.* The distance from front to rear axle in a motor vehicle, usually expressed in inches. **wheel bug** *n.* A large predatory insect, *Arilus cristatus*, having a notched, wheel-like projection on the thorax.

wheel-chair also **wheel chair** (hwēl'chār', wēl'-) *n.* A chair mounted on large wheels for the use of the sick or disabled. **wheeled** (hwēld, wēld) *adj.* Having a wheel or wheels: *a three-wheeled bike.*

wheel-er (hwēl'ər, wēl'-) *n.* 1. One that wheels. 2. A thing that moves on or is equipped with a wheel or wheels: *a three-wheeler.* 3. A wheel horse. **wheel-er-dealer** (hwēl'ər-dēl'ər, wēl'-) *n.* *Informal.* A person who wheels and deals; sharp operator.

wheel horse *n.* 1. In a team, the horse that follows the leader and is harnessed nearest to the front wheels. 2. A diligent, dependable worker, esp. in a political organization. **wheel house** *n.* A pilothouse. **wheel lock** *n.* A firing mechanism in certain obsolete small arms, in which a small wheel produces sparks by revolving against a flint.

wheel-man (hwēl'man, wēl'-) *n.* 1. One who steers a ship; helmsman. 2. A bicyclist. **wheelsman** (hwēl'smān, wēl'-) *n.* A wheelman. **wheel-work** (hwēl'wūrk', wēl'-) *n.* An arrangement of gears or wheels in a mechanical device. **wheel-wright** (hwēl'rit', wēl'-) *n.* One whose trade is the building and repairing of wheels.

wheeze (hwēz, wēz) *v.* wheezed, wheez-ing, wheez-es. —*intr.* 1. To breathe with difficulty, producing a hoarse whistling sound. 2. To make a sound suggestive of laborious breathing. —*tr.* To produce or utter with a hoarse whistling sound: *The old locomotive wheezed steam.* —*n.* 1. A wheezing sound. 2. *Informal.* An old joke. [ME *whesen*, prob. < ON *hvaeza*, to hiss.] —*wheezer* *n.* —*wheezy* *adj.*

wheezy (hwēzē, wēz'-) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. Given to wheezing. 2. Producing a wheezing sound. —*wheezy-ly* *adv.* —*wheezy-ness* *n.*

whelk (hwēlk, wēlk) *n.* Any of various large, sometimes edible marine snails of the family Buccinidae, having pointed, turreted shells. [ME *whelke* < OE *weoloc*.]

whelk? (hwēlk, wēlk) *n.* *Pathol.* A swelling, protuberance, or pustule; wheal. [ME *whelke* < OE *hwylca* < *hwelian*, to suppurate.] —*whelky* *adj.*

whelm (hwēlm, wēlm) *tr.v.* whelmed, whelm-ing, whelms. 1. To cover with water; submerge. 2. To overwhelm. [ME *whelmen*, to turn over.]

whelp (hwēlp, wēlp) *n.* 1. A young offspring of a mammal, such as a dog or wolf. 2. a. A child; youth. b. An impudent young fellow. 3. a. A tooth of a sprocket wheel. b. Any of the ridges on the barrel of a windlass or capstan. —*v.* whelped, whelp-ing, whelps. —*intr.* To give birth to a whelp or whelps. —*tr.* To give birth to (a whelp or whelps). [ME *whelpe* < OE *hwelp*.]

when (hwēn, wēn) *adv.* 1. At what time: *When will we leave?* 2. At which time: *I know when to leave.* —*conj.* 1. At the time that: *in the spring, when the snow melts.* 2. As soon as: *I'll call you when I get there.* 3. Whenever: *When the wind blows, all the doors rattle.* 4. During the time at which; while: *when I was younger.* 5. Whereas; although: *He stopped short when he might have reached his goal.* 6. Considering that; if: *How can he succeed when he won't work?* —*pron.* What or which time: *Since when has this been going on?* —*n.* The time or date: *Have they decided the where and when?* [ME < OE *hwenne*.]

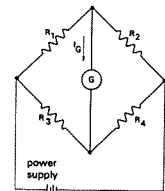
Usage: In informal style *when* is often used to mean "a situation or event in which," as in *A dilemma is when you don't know which way to turn.* This usage is best avoided in formal writing.

when-as (hwēn-āz', wēn-) *conj.* *Archaic.* 1. When. 2. Whereas.

whence (hwēns, wēns) *adv.* 1. From where; from what place: *Whence came this man?* 2. From what origin or source: *Whence comes this splendid feast?* —*conj.* 1. Out of which place; from or out of which. 2. By reason of which; from which: *The dog was coal black from nose to tail, whence the name Shadow.* [ME *whennes* < *whenne*, whence < OE *hwanon*.]

Usage: Historically, *whence* contains the sense of *from*. Therefore the construction *from whence*, although it can be found in the works of good writers, is often held to be redundant. Examples such as *Tell us the place from whence he*

whatnot whence



Wheatstone bridge

The current I_G , measured by detector G , is zero when $R_1 \times R_4 = R_2 \times R_3$



wheelbarrow



wheel bug



wheelchair



whelk¹

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P
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