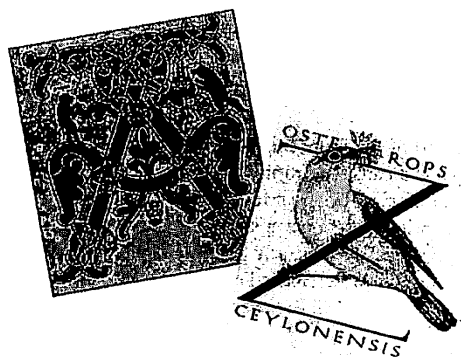


The American Heritage® Dictionary *of the English Language*

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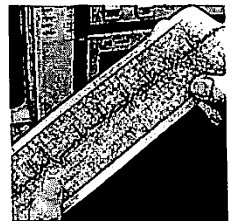
1. English language—Dictionaries

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electrocardiogram

elective (i-lék/tív) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to a selection by vote. 2. Chosen or obtained by election; *elective office*. 3. Having the power or authority to elect; electoral. 4. Permitting or involving a choice; optional; *elective surgery*. **♦** *n.* An optional academic course or subject. —**elec-**/tively *adv.* —**elec'tiveness** *n.*

elector (i-lék/tar) *n.* 1. A qualified voter in an election. 2. A member of the Electoral College of the United States. 3. One of the German princes of the Holy Roman Empire entitled to elect the emperor.

electoral (i-lék/tar-ál) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or composed of electors. 2. Of or relating to election. —**elec'tor-al-ly** *adv.*

electoral college (i-lék/tar-ál) *n.* A body of electors chosen to elect the President and Vice President of the United States.

electorate (i-lék/tar-ít) *n.* 1. A body of qualified voters. 2. The territory or territory of an elector of the Holy Roman Empire.

elect- *pref.* Variant of **electro-**.

Electra (i-lék/trá) *n.* **Greek Mythology** A daughter of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon who with her brother Orestes avenged the murder of Agamemnon by killing their mother and her lover, Aegisthus.

Electra complex *n.* In psychoanalysis, a daughter's unconscious libidinal desire for her father.

electret (i-lék/trít) *n.* A solid dielectric that exhibits persistent dielectric polarization. [ELECTR(ICITY) + (MAGN)ET.]

electric (i-lék/trík) *adj.* 1. also **elec'tric-al** (-trí-kál) Of, relating to, producing, or operated by electricity; *electric current*; *an electrical appliance*. 2a. Of or related to sound created or altered by an electrical or electronic device. b. Amplified by an electronic device; *an electric guitar*. 3a. Emotionally exciting; thrilling; *gave an electric reading of the play*. b. Emotionally tense; highly charged with emotion; *an atmosphere electric with suspicion*. **♦** *n.* An electrically powered machine or vehicle; *The lawnmower is an electric*. [New Latin *electricus*, deriving from amber, as *electrum*, from Latin *electrum*, amber, from Greek *ēlektron*.] —**elec'tric-al-ly** *adv.*

electrical engineering *n.* The branch of engineering that deals with the technology of electricity, especially the design and application of electricity and equipment for power generation and distribution, machine control, and communications. —**elec'tric-al** *engineer* *n.*

electrical storm *n.* A thunderstorm.

electric arc *n.* A luminous discharge of current that is formed when a jumping current jumps a gap in a circuit or between two electrodes.

electric blanket *n.* A blanket fitted with an electric heating element and a control for regulating its temperature.

electric chair *n.* 1. A chair used in the electrocution of a prisoner sentenced to death by law. 2. Execution by means of electrocution. 3. The sentence of death by electrocution.

electric eel *n.* A long, eellike freshwater fish (*Electrophorus electricus*) from South America, having organs capable of producing a powerful electric discharge.

electric eye *n.* See **photoelectric cell**.

electric field *n.* A region of space characterized by the existence of a force generated by electric charge.

electrician (i-lék-trísh'ən, é'lék-) *n.* One whose occupation is installation, maintenance, repair, or operation of electric equipment and machinery.

electric intensity *n.* The ratio of the electrostatic force exerted on a charge on the body.

electricity (i-lék-trísh'it, é'lék-) *n.* 1a. The physical phenomenon arising from the behavior of electrons and protons that is caused by the motion of particles with opposite charges and the repulsion of particles with the same charge. b. The physical science of such phenomena. 2. The current used or regarded as a source of power. 3. Intense, powerful emotional excitement.

electric light *n.* 1. A light that uses electricity to produce illumination. 2. Also called *electric lamp*. 2. Illumination produced electrically.

electric moment *n.* The dipole moment of an electric dipole.

Electric Peak (i-lék/trík) A mountain, 3,402.3 m (11,155 ft) high, in the Gallatin Range of southern Montana near the Wyoming border. It is the highest elevation in the range.

electric potential gradient *n.* The net difference in electric potential across a cell membrane.

electric ray *n.* Any of various tropical or subtropical marine fishes of the family Torpedinidae, having a rounded body and a pair of organs for producing an electric discharge, which is used to stun or kill prey. Also called *crampfish*, *numbfish*, *torpedo*.

electricity (i-lék-trísh'it) *n.* **tr.v.** **-fied, -fy-ing, -fies** 1. To produce an electric charge on or in (a conductor). 2a. To wire or equip (a building, machine, etc.) for the use of electric power. b. To provide with electric power. c. **Music** To amplify (music) by electronic means. 3. To thrill, excite, or shock; *a powerful performance that electrified the audience*. [ELECTR(IC) + -FY.] —**elec'tric-fi-a-ble** *adj.* —**elec'tric-fi-ca-tion** (-shən) *n.* —**elec'tric-fi'er** *n.* —**elec'tric-fi-ing-ly** *adv.*

electro- *pref.* 1a. Electricity; *electromagnet*. b. Electric; *electrode*. 2. Electrolysis; *electrodeposition*. 3. Electron; *electrostatic*. [New Latin *electro-*, from Latin *electrum*, amber. See **ELEC-**.

electroacoustics (i-lék-trō-ə-kō'stíks) *n.* (used with a sing.) The science that deals with the interaction or interconversion of electrical and acoustic phenomena. —**elec'tro-ə-cous'tic** *adj.*

electroanalysis (i-lék-trō-ə-nál'í-sis) *n.*, pl. **-ses** (-séz') *n.* Analysis using electrolytic techniques. —**elec'tro-an-a-lis** *adj.*

electrocardiogram (i-lék-trō-kár-dé-ə-grám') *n.* **Abbr.**

EKG or ECG The curve traced by an electrocardiograph. Also called *cardiogram*.

electrocardiograph (i-lék-trō-kár-dé-ə-gráf') *n.* **Abbr.** **EKG or ECG** An instrument used in the detection and diagnosis of heart abnormalities that measures electrical potentials on the body surface and generates a record of the electrical currents associated with heart muscle activity. Also called *cardiograph*. —**elec'tro-kár-dí-ō-graph'ic** (-gráf'ík) *adj.* —**elec'tro-kár-dí-ō-graph'ic-al-ly** *adv.* —**elec'tro-kár-dí-ō-graph'ic-al-ly** *adv.* —**elec'tro-kár-dí-ō-graph'ic-al-ly** *adv.*

electrochemical cell (i-lék-trō-kém'í-kál) *n.* See **cell** (sense 6a).

electrochemistry (i-lék-trō-kém'í-strē) *n.* The science of the interaction or interconversion of electric and chemical phenomena. —**elec'tro-kém'í-cal-ly** *adv.* —**elec'tro-kém'í-cal-ly** *adv.*

electrochromic (i-lék-trō-kró-mík) *adj.* Of or relating to a substance that changes color or transparency when subjected to charged electrodes, as in the liquid crystal display of many calculators. [ELECTRO- + CHROM(O)- + -IC.]

electrocoagulation (i-lék-trō-kō-ág'ya-lá-shən) *n.* **Medicine** Therapeutic use of a high-frequency electric current to bring about the coagulation and destruction of tissue.

electroconvulsive therapy (i-lék-trō-kón-vül'sív) *n.* **Abbr.** **ECT** Administration of electric current to the brain through electrodes placed on the head in order to induce seizure activity in the brain, used in the treatment of certain mental disorders, especially severe depression. Also called *electroshock*, *electroshock therapy*.

electrocute (i-lék-trō-kyót') *tr.v.* **-cut-ed, -cut-ing, -cutes** 1. To kill with electricity; *a worker who was electrocuted by a high-tension wire*. 2. To execute (a condemned prisoner) by means of electricity. [ELECTRO- + (EXE)CUTE.] —**elec'tro-cu'tion** (-kyót'shən) *n.*

electrode (i-lék-trōd') *n.* 1. A solid electric conductor through which an electric current enters or leaves an electrolytic cell or other medium. 2. A collector or emitter of electric charge or of electric-charge carriers, as in a semiconducting device.

electrodeposition (i-lék-trō-dí-pōz'it) *tr.v.* **-it-ed, -it-ing, -its** To deposit (a dissolved or suspended substance) on an electrode by electrolysis. **♦** *n.* The substance so deposited. —**elec'tro-dep-ō-si'tion** (-dép'ə-zish'ən, -dép'ə-) *n.*

electrodermal (i-lék-trō-dúr'mál) *adj.* Of or relating to the electrical properties of the skin.

electrodialysis (i-lék-trō-dí-ál'í-sis) *n.*, pl. **-ses** (-séz') Dialysis at a rate increased by the application of an electric potential across the dialysis membrane, used especially to remove electrolytes from a colloidal suspension.

electrodynamics (i-lék-trō-dí-nám'íks) *n.* (used with a sing. verb) The study of moving electric charges and their interaction with magnetic and electric fields. —**elec'tro-dí-nám'ic** *adj.*

electrodynamometer (i-lék-trō-dí-ná-móm'í-tar) *n.* An instrument that measures electric current by indicating the level of magnetic attraction or repulsion between a fixed and a movable coil, one of which carries the current to be measured.

electroencephalogram (i-lék-trō-én-séf'ə-lə-grám') *n.* **Abbr.** **EEG** A graphic record of the electrical activity of the brain as recorded by an electroencephalograph. Also called *encephalogram*.

electroencephalograph (i-lék-trō-én-séf'ə-lə-gráf') *n.* **Abbr.** **EEG** An instrument that measures electrical potentials on the scalp and generates a record of the electrical activity of the brain. Also called *encephalograph*. —**elec'tro-én-séf'ə-lə-graph'ic** *adj.* —**elec'tro-én-séf'ə-lə-graph'ic** *adj.*

electroform (i-lék-trā-fórm') *tr.v.* **-formed, -form-ing, -forms** To produce or reproduce (an object) by electrodeposition on a mold.

electrogasdynamics (i-lék-trō-gás'dí-nám'íks) *n.* (used with a sing. verb) Generation of electrical energy based on the conversion of the kinetic energy contained in a high-pressure, ionized, moving combustion gas. —**elec'tro-gás-dí-nám'ic** *adj.*

electrogenesis (i-lék-trō-jén'í-sis) *n.* Production of electrical impulses in living organisms or tissues. —**elec'tro-jén'ic** *adj.*

electrograph (i-lék-trā-gráf') *n.* 1. An electrically produced graph or tracing. 2. Equipment used to produce such a graph or tracing in facsimile transmission.

electrohydraulic (i-lék-trō-hí-dró'fík) *adj.* Of, relating to, or involving a combination of electric and hydraulic mechanisms. —**elec'tro-hí-dró-fík-al-ly** *adv.*

electrojet (i-lék-trō-jét') *n.* An electric current that moves in an ionized layer above the equator in the earth's upper atmosphere. [ELECTRO- + JET (STREAM).]

electrokinetics (i-lék-trō-kí-nét'íks, -kí-) *n.* (used with a sing. verb) The electrostatics of heating effects and current distribution in electric networks.

electrolologist (i-lék-trō-lō-jíst, é'lék-) *n.* One who removes body hair by means of an electric current.

electroluminescence (i-lék-trō-lō's-má-nés'əns) *n.* 1. Direct conversion of electric energy to light by a solid phosphor subjected to an alternating electric field. 2. Emission of light caused by electric discharge in a gas. —**elec'tro-lū-mí-nés'ent** *adj.*

electrolysis (i-lék-trō-lí-sis, é'lék-) *n.* 1. Chemical change, especially decomposition, produced in an electrolyte by an electric current. 2. Destruction of living tissue, especially of hair roots, by means of an electric current applied with a needle-shaped electrode.

electrolyte (i-lék-trō-lít') *n.* 1. A chemical compound that ion-

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ū urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
ī pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ō paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: ' (primary);
' (secondary), as in
dictionary (dík'shə-nér'ē)