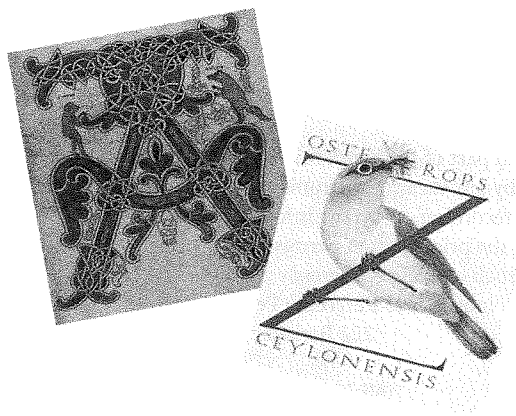


The
American
Heritage[®] Dictionary
of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



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lo·ca·tion (lō-kā'shən) *n.* 1. The act or process of locating. 2. A place where something is or could be located; a site. 3. A site away from a studio at which part or all of a movie is shot: *filming a Western on location in the Mexican desert.* 4. A tract of land that has been surveyed and marked off. [Latin *locatiō*, *locatiōn-*, a placing, from *locātus*, past participle of *locāre*, to place. See LOCATE.] —**lo·ca·tion·al** *adj.*

lo·ca·tive (lōk'ə-tiv) *adj.* Of, relating to, or being a grammatical case in certain inflected languages that indicates place in or on which or time at which, as in Latin *domi*, "at home." ♦ *n.* 1. The locative case. 2. A form or construction in the locative case. [New Latin *locativus*, from Latin *locātus*, past participle of *locāre*, to place. See LOCATE.]

lo·ca·tor (lō'kə-tər) *n.* One that locates, as a person who fixes the boundaries of mining claims.

loc. cit. *abbr.* Latin *loco citato* (in the place cited)

loch (lōkh, lōk) *n.* *Scots* 1. A lake. 2. An arm of the sea similar to a fjord. [Middle English *loch*, from Scottish Gaelic *loch*, from Old Irish.]

Loch (lōk, lōkh) See **Lake**.

lo·chi·a (lō'kē-ə, lōk'ē-ə) *pl.n.* *Medicine* The normal uterine discharge of blood, tissue, and mucus from the vagina after childbirth. [Greek *lochia*, from neuter pl. of *lokhios*, of childbirth, from *lokhos*, childbirth. See **legh-** in Appendix I.] —**lo·chi·al** *adj.*

lo·ci (lō'si', -kē, -ki') *n.* Plural of **locus**.

lock¹ (lōk) *n.* 1. A device operated by a key, combination, or keyboard and used, as on a door, for holding, closing, or securing. 2. A section of a waterway, such as a canal, closed off with gates, in which vessels in transit are raised or lowered by raising or lowering the water level of that section. 3. A mechanism in a firearm for exploding the charge. 4. An interlocking or entanglement of elements or parts. 5a. *Sports* A hold in wrestling or self-defense that is secured on a part of an opponent's body. b. A secure hold; control: *The distributor has a lock on most of the market.* c. A sure thing; a certainty: *His promotion is a lock.* ♦ *v.* **locked, locking, locks** —*tr.* 1a. To fasten the lock of: *close and lock a drawer.* b. To shut or make secure with or as if with locks: *locked the house.* 2. To confine or exclude by or as if by means of a lock: *locked the dog in for the night; locked the criminal up in a cell.* 3. To fix in place so that movement or escape is impossible; hold fast: *The ship was locked in the ice through the winter. She felt that she had become locked into a binding agreement.* 4a. To sight and follow (a moving target) automatically: *locked the enemy fighter in the gun sights.* b. To aim (a weapon or other device) at a moving target so as to follow it automatically: *"The pilot had locked his targeting radar on the slow-moving frigate"* (Ed Magnuson). 5. To engage and interlock securely so as to be immobile. 6. To clasp or link firmly; intertwine: *locked arms and walked away.* 7. To bind in close struggle or battle: *The two dogs were locked in combat.* 8a. To equip (a waterway) with locks. b. To pass (a vessel) through a lock. 9. *Printing* a. To secure (letterpress type) in a chase or press bed by tightening the quoins. b. To fasten (a curved plate) to the cylinder of a rotary press. 10. To invest (funds) in such a way that they cannot easily be converted into cash. 11. *Computer Science* a. To end the processing of (a magnetic tape or disk) in such a way as to deny access to its contents. b. To protect (a file) from changes or deletion. —*intr.* 1. To become fastened by or as if by means of a lock: *The door locks automatically when shut.* 2. To become entangled; interlock. 3. To become rigid or immobile: *The mechanism tends to lock in cold weather.* 4. To pass through a lock or locks in a waterway.

—**phrasal verb:** **lock out** To withhold work from (employees) during a labor dispute. —**idioms:** **lock horns** To become embroiled in conflict. **lock, stock, and barrel** To the greatest or most complete extent; wholly: *an estate that was auctioned off lock, stock, and barrel.* **under lock and key** Securely locked up. [Middle English, from Old English *loc*, bolt, bar.] —**lock·a·ble** *adj.*

lock² (lōk) *n.* 1a. A length or curl of hair; a tress. b. The hair of the head. Often used in the plural. 2. A small wisp or tuft, as of wool or cotton. [Middle English, from Old English *loc*.]

lock·age (lōk'ij) *n.* 1. The passage of a ship through a lock. 2. A toll paid for the use of a lock. 3. A system of locks.

lock·down (lōk'daun) *n.* 1. The confinement of prison inmates to their cells as a security measure following a disturbance in the prison. 2. A prison, especially a high-security one. 3. A device that secures a piece of equipment, especially a computer, so that it cannot be moved or stolen.

Locke (lōk), **Alain LeRoy** 1886–1954. American educator and writer who was a leader of the Harlem Renaissance. His works include *Four Negro Poets* (1927) and *Negro Art: Past and Present* (1936).

Locke, John 1632–1704. English philosopher. In *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690) he set out the principles of empiricism, and his *Two Treatises on Government* (1690) influenced the Declaration of Independence.

lock·er (lōk'ər) *n.* 1. One that locks: *a locker of windows and doors.* 2. A small, usually metal compartment that can be locked, especially one at a gymnasium or public place for the safekeeping of clothing and valuables. 3. A flat trunk for storage. 4. A heavily insulated refrigerated cabinet, compartment, or room for storing frozen foods.

locker room *n.* A room furnished with lockers, as in a gymnasium, school, or workplace, used as a place in which to change clothes and store equipment.

lock·er·room (lōk'ər-rōm', -rōm') *adj.* 1. Relating to, found in, or appropriate for a locker room: *locker-room interviews.* 2. Bawdy or crude: *objected to their locker-room language.*

lock·et (lōk'it) *n.* A small ornamental case for a picture or keepsake, usually worn as a pendant. [Middle English *loket*, crossbar, from Old French *loquet*, latch, diminutive of *loc*, lock, of Germanic origin.]

lock·ing (lōk'ing) *n.* A style of dancing in which energetic maneuvers

are performed, especially emphasizing the use of arm movements, usually to funk or hip-hop music.

lock·jaw (lōk'jō') *n.* 1. See **tetanus** (sense 1). 2. An early sign of tetanus, in which the jaw is locked closed because of a tonic spasm of the muscles of mastication. Also called **trismus**.

lock·keep·er (lōk'kē'pər) *n.* One who is in charge of a lock on a waterway. Also called **lockmaster**.

lock·mas·ter (lōk'mās'tər) *n.* See **lockkeeper**.

lock·nut also **lock nut** (lōk'nūt') *n.* 1. A usually thin nut screwed down on another nut to prevent it from loosening. 2. A self-locking nut.

lock-on (lōk'ōn', -ōn') *n.* The start of the automatic tracking of a target, as by a missile.

lock-out (lōk'out') *n.* The withholding of work from employees and closing down of a workplace by an employer during a labor dispute. Also called **shutout**.

lock·set (lōk'sēt') *n.* A set of hardware for shutting or locking a door.

lock·smith (lōk'smith') *n.* One that makes or repairs locks.

lock·step (lōk'stēp') *n.* 1. A way of marching in which the marchers follow each other as closely as possible. 2. A standardized procedure that is closely, often mindlessly followed.

lock stitch *n.* A stitch made on a sewing machine by the interlocking of the upper thread and the bobbin thread.

lock-up (lōk'ūp') *n.* 1. *Informal* A jail, especially one in which offenders are held while awaiting a court hearing. 2a. The act or an instance of locking. b. The state of being locked.

Lockwood (lōk'wōd'), **Belva Ann Bennett** 1830–1917. American lawyer and suffragist. She was the first woman admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court (1879).

Lockyer (lōk'yər), **Sir Joseph Norman** 1836–1920. British astronomer who founded and was the first editor (1869–1919) of *Nature* magazine.

lo·co¹ (lō'kō) *adj.* *Slang* Mad; insane. ♦ *n., pl. -cos* 1. See **loco-weed**. 2. See **loco disease**. ♦ *tr.v. -coed, -coing, -cos* 1. To poison with locoweed. 2. *Slang* To make insane; craze. [Spanish, crazy, possibly from Arabic *lawqā*, foolish, feminine sing. of *alwaq*, from *lāqa*, to soften. See **lwq** in Appendix II.]

lo·co² (lō'kō) *adv. & adj.* *Music* At the pitch written. Used chiefly as a direction. [From Italian *loco*, from Latin *locō*, ablative of *locus*, place.]

loco disease *n.* A disease of livestock caused by locoweed poisoning and characterized by weakness, lack of coordination, trembling, and partial paralysis. Also called **loco**, **locoism**.

lo·co·ism (lō'kō-iz'm) *n.* See **loco disease**.

lo·co·mote (lō'kə-mōt') *intr.v. -mot-ed, -mot-ing, -motes* To move from one place to another. [Back-formation from **LOCOMOTION**.]

lo·co·mo·tion (lō'kə-mō'shən) *n.* 1. The act of moving from place to place. 2. The ability to move from place to place. [Latin *locō*, from a place, ablative of *locus*, place + **MOTION**.]

lo·co·mo·tive (lō'kə-mō'tiv) *n.* 1. A self-propelled vehicle, usually electric or diesel-powered, for pulling or pushing freight or passenger cars on railroad tracks. 2. A driving or pulling force; an impetus: *"The US could no longer serve as the locomotive for the world economy"* (George Soros). ♦ *adj.* 1a. Of, relating to, or involved in locomotion. b. Serving to put into motion or propel forward: *"It may be that the founding fathers overestimated the locomotive force of the collective and mutual self-interest"* (Ian Davidson). 2. Able to move independently from place to place. 3. Of or relating to a self-propelled locomotive. 4. Of or relating to travel. [Latin *locō*, from a place, ablative of *locus*, place + Medieval Latin *mōtivus*, causing motion; see **MOTIVE**.]

lo·co·mo·tor (lō'kə-mō'tər) *adj.* Of or relating to locomotion; locomotive. [Latin *locō*, from a place, ablative of *locus*, place + **MOTOR**.]

locomotor ataxia *n.* See **tabes dorsalis**.

lo·co·weed (lō'kō-wēd') *n.* Any of several plants of the genera *Oxytropis* and *Astragalus* in the pea family, which are widespread in the western and central United States and cause severe poisoning when eaten by livestock. Also called **crazyweed**, **loco**.

locu·lar (lōk'yə-lər) also **locu·late** (-lāt', -lit) or **locu·la·ted** (-lāt'id) *adj.* Having, formed of, or divided into small cavities or compartments. [LOCUL(US) + -AR.] —**loc·u·la·tion** *n.*

locu·le (lōk'yōöl) or **locu·lus** (-yə-ləs) *n., pl. -ules or -li (-lī')* A small cavity or compartment within an organ or part of an animal or plant, as any of the cavities within a plant ovary. [Latin *loculus*, little place, diminutive of *locus*, place.]

locu·li·ci·dal (lōk'yə-lō-sid'l) *adj.* *Botany* Longitudinally dehiscent along the capsule wall between the partitions of the locule, as in the fruits of irises and lilies. [LOCUL(US) + Latin *-cida*, one who cuts; see -CIDE + -AL.]

locu·lus (lōk'yə-ləs) *n.* Variant of **locule**. [Latin, little place, diminutive of *locus*, place.]

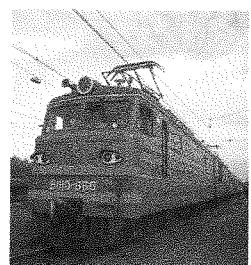
lo·cum tenens (lō'kəm' tē'nēnz', tē'nənz) *n., pl. locum te·nen·tes* (tə-nēn'tēz) A person, especially a physician or cleric, who substitutes temporarily for another. [Medieval Latin *locum tenens*: Latin *locum*, accusative of *locus*, place + Latin *tenēs*, present participle of *tenēre*, to hold.]

lo·cus (lō'kəs) *n., pl. -ci* (-sī', -kē, -ki') 1. A locality; a place. 2. A center or focus of great activity or intense concentration: *"the cunning exploitation of loci of power; the insulation from normal American society"* (Clifton Fadiman). 3. *Mathematics* The set or configuration of all points whose coordinates satisfy a single equation or one or more algebraic conditions. 4. The position that a given gene occupies on a chromosome. [Latin.]

locus clas·si·cus (klās'i-kəs) *n., pl. loci clas·si·ci* (klās'i-sī', -ki')



locket



locomotive
Russian electric locomotive



locoweed
scarlet locoweed
Astragalus coccineus

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

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