



HOW TO USE THE DICTIONARY

To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

[guide to the dictionary](#)



THE USAGE PANEL

The Usage Panel is a group of nearly 200 prominent scholars, creative writers, journalists, diplomats, and others in occupations requiring mastery of language. Annual surveys have gauged the acceptability of particular usages and grammatical constructions.

[The Panelists](#)



NEED HELP SOLVING A CROSSWORD PUZZLE?

Go to our [Crossword Puzzle Solver](#) and type in the letters that you know, and the Solver will produce a list of possible solutions.



AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY APP

The new American Heritage Dictionary app is now available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).



THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY BLOG

The articles in our [blog](#) examine new words, revised definitions, interesting images from the fifth edition, discussions of usage, and more.

THE 100 WORDS®

See word lists from the best-selling 100 Words Series!

[Find out more!](#)



INTERESTED IN DICTIONARIES?

Check out the Dictionary Society of North America at <http://www.dictionariesociety.com>

reg-is-ter (rĕj ĭ-star)

Share: [Tweet](#)

n.

1.

a. A formal or official recording of items, names, or actions.

b. A book for such entries.

c. An entry in such a record.

2. The act of registering.

3. A device that automatically records a quantity or number.

4. *Computers* A part of the central processing unit used as a storage location.

5. An adjustable, grill-like device through which heated or cooled air is released into a room.

6. A state of proper alignment: *to be in register*.

7. *Printing*

a. Exact alignment of the lines and margins on the opposite sides of a leaf.

b. Proper positioning of colors in color printing.

8. *Music*

a. The range of an instrument or a voice.

b. A part of such a range.

c. A group of matched organ pipes; a stop.

9. A variety or level of language used in a specific social setting: *speaking in an informal register; writing in a scientific register*.

v. **reg-is-tered, reg-is-ter-ing, reg-is-ters**

v.tr.

1.

a. To enter in an official register.

b. To enroll officially or formally, especially in order to vote or attend classes.

2.

a. To set down in writing: *registered the events of the day in his diary*.

b. To express or make known: *registered his dissatisfaction with the chef*.

3.

a. To indicate (data). Used of an instrument or scale.

b. To be indicated as: *The earthquake registered 6.8 on the Richter scale*.

c. To give outward signs of; express: *Her face registered surprise*.

d. To attain or achieve: *registered a new high in sales*.

e. To cause (mail) to be officially recorded and specially handled by payment of a fee.

f. To adjust so as to be properly aligned.

v.intr.

1. To place or cause placement of one's name in a register.

2. To have one's name officially placed on a list of eligible voters.

3. To enroll as a student.

4. To have a list of gifts for preferred wedding presents, as at a store. Used of a couple.

5. To be indicated on an instrument or a scale.

6. To be shown or expressed, as on the face: *The teacher's reprimand did not register on the students' faces*.

7. To make an impression; be recorded in the mind: *The warning failed to register*.

8. To be in proper alignment.

[Middle English *registre*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *registrum*, alteration of Late Latin *regesta*, from Latin, neuter pl. past participle of *regerere*, to record : *re-*, *re-* + *gerere*, to carry.]

reg is-ter-er *n.*

reg is-tra-ble (-ĭ-strə-bəl) *adj.*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2018 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

This website is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari. Some characters in pronunciations and etymologies cannot be displayed properly in Internet Explorer.

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [FAQs](#)



- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms & Conditions of Use](#)

The *You Are Your Words* word cloud generator is no longer available.

Copyright 2018 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.