



A Merriam-Webster®



WEBSTER'S
Ninth New
Collegiate
Dictionary



A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

A *Merriam-Webster*® is the registered trademark you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 1990 by Merriam-Webster Inc.

Philippines Copyright 1990 by Merriam-Webster Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

Webster's ninth new collegiate dictionary.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-87779-508-8. — ISBN 0-87779-509-6 (indexed). — ISBN
0-87779-510-X (deluxe)

1. English language—Dictionaries.

PE1628.W5638 1990

423—dc20

89-38961

CIP

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary principal copyright 1983

COLLEGIATE trademark Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

353637383940RMcN90

Contents

Preface	6
Explanatory Chart	8
Explanatory Notes	10
The English Language in the Dictionary	23
Guide to Pronunciation	32
English Spelling and Sound Correspondences	37
Abbreviations in This Work	40
Pronunciation Symbols	42
A Dictionary of the English Language	43
Abbreviations and Symbols for Chemical Elements	1374
Foreign Words and Phrases	1385
Biographical Names	1391
Geographical Names	1435
Colleges and Universities	1521
Signs and Symbols	1536
A Handbook of Style	1540
Index	1564

ments is related by a transitive relationship that is not symmetric (2) : having elements labeled by ordinal numbers (an ~ triple has a first, second, and third element)

orderliness \ˈɔrd-ər-lē-nəs\ *n* (1571) : the quality or state of being orderly

orderly \-lē\ *adj* (1577) 1 *a* (1) : arranged or disposed in some order or pattern : REGULAR (~ rows of houses) (2) : not marked by disorder : TIDY (keeps an ~ desk) *b* : governed by law : REGULATED (an ~ universe) *c* : METHODOICAL (an ~ mind) 2 : well behaved : PEACEFUL (an ~ crowd) — **orderly** *adv*

orderly *n*, *pl* -lies (1800) 1 : a soldier assigned to perform various services (as carrying messages) for a superior officer 2 : a hospital attendant who does routine or heavy work (as cleaning, carrying supplies, or moving patients)

order of business [order of business] (predetermined sequence of matters to be dealt with by an assembly) (ca. 1903) : a matter which must be dealt with : TASK (the discipline problem was the first order of business at the meeting of the school board)

order of magnitude (1875) : a range of magnitude extending from some value to ten times that value

order of the day (1698) 1 : the business or tasks appointed for an assembly for a given day 2 : the characteristic or dominant feature or activity (growth and change are the order of the day in every field — Ruth G. Strickland)

ordinal \ˈɔrd-nəl, -n-əl\ *n* (14c) 1 *cap* [ME, fr. ML *ordinale*, fr. LL *neut. of ordinalis*] : a collection of forms to be used in ordination 2 [LL *ordinalis*, fr. *ordinalis*, *adj.*] : ORDINAL NUMBER

ordinal *adj* [LL *ordinalis*, fr. L *ordin-*, *ordo*] (1599) 1 : of a specified order or rank in a series 2 : of or relating to an order (as of fishes)

ordinal number *n* (1607) 1 : a number designating the place (as first, second, or third) occupied by an item in an ordered sequence — see NUMBER table 2 : a number assigned to an ordered set that designates both the order of its elements and its cardinal number

ordination \ˈɔrd-nən(t)s, -d-n-ən(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. MF & ML; MF *ordinatio*, lit., act of arranging, fr. ML *ordinantia*, fr. L *ordinant-*, *ordians*, *pp.* of *ordinare* to put in order — more at *ORDAIN*] (14c) 1 *a* : an authoritative decree or direction : ORDER *b* : a law set forth by a governmental authority; *specif.* : a municipal regulation 2 : something ordained or decreed by fate or a deity 3 : a prescribed usage, practice, or ceremony *syn* see LAW

ordinand \ˈɔrd-n-ən\ *n* [LL *ordinandus*, gerundive of *ordinare* to ordain] (ca. 1842) : a candidate for ordination

ordinary \ˈɔrd-n-er-ē\ *n*, *pl* -naries [ME *ordinarie*, fr. AF & ML; AF, fr. ML *ordinarius*, fr. L *ordinarius*, *adj.*] (14c) 1 *a* (1) : a prelate exercising original jurisdiction over a specified territory or group (2) : a clergyman appointed formerly in England to attend condemned criminals *b* : a judge of probate in some states of the U.S. 2 *often cap* : the parts of the Mass that do not vary from day to day 3 : the regular or customary condition or course of things — *usu.* used in the phrase *out of the ordinary* 4 *a Brit* : a meal served to all comers at a fixed price *b chiefly Brit* : a tavern or eating house serving regular meals 5 : a common heraldic charge (as the bend or chevron) of simple form

ordinary *adj* [ME *ordinarie*, fr. L *ordinarius*, fr. *ordin-*, *ordo* order] (15c) 1 : of a kind to be expected in the normal order of events : ROUTINE, USUAL 2 : having or constituting immediate or original jurisdiction; *also* : belonging to such jurisdiction 3 *a* : of common quality, rank, or ability *b* : deficient in quality : POOR, INFERIOR. *syn* see COMMON

ordinarily \ˈɔrd-n-er-ē-lē\ *adv* — **ordinariness** \ˈɔrd-n-er-ē-nəs\ *n*

ordinary-language philosophy *n* (1964) : a trend in philosophical analysis that seeks to resolve philosophical perplexity by revealing sources of puzzlement in the misunderstanding of ordinary language

Ordinary level *n* (1947) : O LEVEL

ordinary seaman *n* (1702) : a seaman of some experience but not as skilled as an able seaman

ordinate \ˈɔrd-nət, -n-ət, -n-āt\ *n* [NL (*linea*) *ordinate* (*applicata*), lit., line applied in an orderly manner] (1706) : the Cartesian coordinate obtained by measuring parallel to the y-axis — compare *ABSCISSA*

ordination \ˈɔrd-n-ā-shən\ *n* (15c) : the act or an instance of ordaining : the state of being ordained

ordnance \ˈɔrd-nən(t)s\ *n* [ME *ordnaunce*, fr. MF *ordenance*, lit., act of arranging] (14c) 1 *a* : military supplies including weapons, ammunition, combat vehicles, and maintenance tools and equipment *b* : a service of the army charged with the procuring, distributing, and safekeeping of ordnance 2 : CANNON, ARTILLERY

ordo \ˈɔrd-ə\ *n*, *pl* *ordos* or *ordines* \ˈɔrd-n-ē\ [ML, fr. L, *ordo*] (ca. 1849) : a list of offices and feasts of the Roman Catholic Church for each day of the year

ordonnance \ˈɔrd-n-āns\ *n* [F, alter. of MF *ordenance*] (1644) : disposition of the parts (as of a literary composition) with regard to one another and the whole : ARRANGEMENT

Ordovician \ˈɔrd-ə-vish-ən\ *adj* [L *Ordovices*, ancient people in northern Wales] (1879) : of, relating to, or being the period between the Cambrian and the Silurian or the corresponding system of rocks — *Ordovician* *n*

ordure \ˈɔr-jər\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. *ord* filthy, fr. L *horridus* horrid] (14c) 1 : EXCREMENT 2 : something that is morally degrading

ore \ˈɔr-ə\, \ˈɔ(ə)r\ *n*, *often attrib* [ME *ore*, fr. OE *ār*; akin to OHG *ēr* bronze, L *aes* copper, *bronze*] (bef. 12c) 1 : a mineral containing a valuable constituent (as metal) for which it is mined and worked 2 : a source from which valuable matter is extracted

ore \ˈɔr-ə\ *n*, *pl* *ores* [Sw *öre* & Dan & Norw *øre*] (1716) — see *krona*, *kroned* at MONEY table

oread \ˈɔr-ē-ad, -ē-əd\ *n* [L *oread-*, *oreas*, fr. Gk *oreiad-*, *oreias*, fr. the nymphs of a mountain, fr. *oros* mountain — more at *RISE*] (14c) : any of the nymphs of mountains and hills in Greek mythology

ore dressing *n* (1862) : mechanical preparation (as by crushing) and concentration (as by flotation) of ore

oregano \ˈɔr-ə-gə-nə\ *n* [AmerSp *origano*, fr. Sp, wild marjoram, fr. L *origanum* — more at *ORIGANUM*] (1771) 1 : a bushy perennial mint (*Origanum vulgare*) that is used as a seasoning and a source of aromatic oil — called also *origanum*, wild marjoram 2 : any of several plants

(genera *Lippia* and *Coleus*) other than oregano of the vervain or mint families

Or-e-gon grāpe \ˈɔr-i-gən-, -ār-, -gən-\ *n* [Oregon, state of the U.S.] (1851) : an evergreen shrub (*Mahonia aquifolium*) of the barberry family that has yellow flowers, bears bluish black berries, and is native to the Pacific coast

Ores-tes \ə-ˈres-(j)tez, ɔ-ˈ\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Orestēs*] : the son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra who with his sister Electra avenges his father by killing his mother and her lover Aegisthus

or-gan \ˈɔr-gən\ *n* [ME, partly fr. OE *organa*, fr. L *organum*, fr. Gk *organon*, lit., tool, instrument; partly fr. OF *organe*, fr. L *organum*; akin to Gk *ergon* work — more at *WORK*] (bef. 12c) 1 *a* *archaic* : any of various musical instruments; *esp.* : WIND INSTRUMENT *b* (1) : a wind instrument consisting of sets of pipes made to sound by compressed air and controlled by keyboards and producing a variety of musical effects — called also *pipe organ* (2) : REED ORGAN (3) : an instrument in which the sound and resources of the pipe organ are approximated by means of electronic devices (4) : any of various similar cruder instruments 2 *a* : a differentiated structure (as a heart, kidney, leaf, or stem) consisting of cells and tissues and performing some specific function in an organism *b* : bodily parts performing a function or cooperating in an activity (the eyes and related structures that make up the visual ~) 3 : a subordinate group or organization that performs specialized functions (the various ~s of government) 4 : PERIODICAL

organ-or organo- *comb form* [ME, fr. ML, fr. L *organum*] 1 : organ (*organogenesis*) 2 : organic (*organomercurial*)

or-gan-dy *also* **or-gan-die** \ˈɔr-gən-dē\ *n*, *pl* -dies [F *organdi*] (1835) : a very fine transparent muslin with a stiff finish

or-gan-elle \ˈɔr-gə-nel\ *n* [NL *organella*, fr. L *organum*] (1909) : a specialized cellular part (as a mitochondrion, lysosome, or ribosome) that is analogous to an organ

organ-grind-er \ˈɔr-gən-grīn-dər\ *n* (ca. 1806) : one that cranks a hand organ; *esp.* : an itinerant street musician who operates a barrel organ

or-gan-ic \ˈɔr-gən-ik\ *adj* (1517) 1 *archaic* : INSTRUMENTAL 2 *a* : of, relating to, or arising in a bodily organ *b* : affecting the structure of the organism 3 *a* (1) : of, relating to, or derived from living organisms (2) : relating to, yielding, dealing in, or involving the use of food produced with the use of feed or fertilizer of plant or animal origin without employment of chemically formulated fertilizers, growth stimulants, antibiotics, or pesticides (~ farming) (~ stores) *b* (1) : of, relating to, or containing carbon compounds (2) : relating to, being, or dealt with by a branch of chemistry concerned with the carbon compounds of living beings and most other carbon compounds 4 *a* : forming an integral element of a whole : FUNDAMENTAL (incidental music rather than ~ parts of the action — Francis Fergusson) *b* : having systematic coordination of parts : ORGANIZED (an ~ whole) *c* : having the characteristics of an organism : developing in the manner of a living plant or animal (society is ~) 5 : of, relating to, or constituting the law by which a government or organization exists —

or-gan-ic-al-ly \-i-k(ə)-lē\ *adv* — **or-gan-ic-ity** \ˈɔr-gən-ik-ə-tē\ *n*

organic *n* (1942) : an organic substance; *as* : *a* : a fertilizer of plant or animal origin *b* : a pesticide whose active component is an organic compound or a mixture of organic compounds

or-gan-ic-ism \ˈɔr-gən-ə-siz-əm\ *n* [ISV] (1883) 1 *a* : the explanation of life and living processes in terms of the levels of organization of living systems rather than in terms of the properties of their smallest components *b* : VITALISM 2 : any of various theories that attribute to society or the universe as a whole an existence or characteristics analogous to those of a biological organism — **or-gan-ic-ist** \-sist\ *n*

or-gan-ism \ˈɔr-gən-iz-əm\ *n* (1768) 1 : a complex structure of interdependent and subordinate elements whose relations and properties are largely determined by their function in the whole 2 : an individual constituted to carry on the activities of life by means of organs separate in function but mutually dependent : a living being — **or-gan-is-mic** \ˈɔr-gən-iz-mik\ *also* **or-gan-is-mal** \-mə\ *adj* — **or-gan-is-mi-cally** \-mi-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

or-gan-ist \ˈɔr-gən-ist\ *n* (1591) : one who plays the organ

or-gan-i-za-tion \ˈɔr-g(ə)-nə-zā-shən\ *n* (15c) 1 *a* : the act or process of organizing or of being organized *b* : the condition or manner of being organized (a high degree of ~) 2 *a* : ASSOCIATION, SOCIETY (tax exemptions for charitable ~s) *b* : an administrative and functional structure (as a business or a political party); *also* : the personnel of such a structure

organization *adj* (1949) : characterized by complete conformity to the standards and requirements of an organization (an ~ man)

or-gan-i-za-tion-al \-shənəl, -shən-əl\ *adj* (1881) 1 : of or relating to an organization : involving organization (the ~ state of a crystal) 2 : ORGANIZATION — **or-gan-i-za-tion-al-ly** \-ə\ *adv*

or-gan-ize \ˈɔr-gən-īz\ *vb* -nized; -nizing *vt* (15c) 1 : to cause to develop an organic structure 2 : to arrange or form into a coherent unity or functioning whole : INTEGRATE (trying to ~ her thoughts) 3 *a* : to set up an administrative structure for *b* : to persuade to associate in an organization; *esp.* : UNIONIZE 4 : to arrange by systematic planning and united effort ~ *vi* 1 : to undergo physical or organic organization 2 : to arrange elements into a whole of interdependent parts 3 : to form an organization; *specif.* : to form or persuade workers to join a union *syn* see ORDER — **or-gan-iz-able** \-n-iz-ə-bəl\ *adj*

or-gan-ized *adj* (1817) 1 : having a formal organization to coordinate and carry out activities (~ baseball) (~ crime) 2 : affiliated by membership in an organization (as a union) (~ steelworkers)

or-gan-izer \-n-ī-zər\ *n* (1849) 1 : one that organizes 2 : a region of a developing embryo or a substance produced by such a region that is capable of inducing a specific type of development in undifferentiated tissue — called also *inductor*

or-gano-chlo-rine \ˈɔr-gən-ə-ˈklō(ə)r-ēn, -ˈklō(ə)r-, -ən\ *adj* (1961) : of, relating to, or belonging to the chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides (as aldrin, DDT, or dieldrin) — **organochlorine** *n*

\ə\ abut \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ cot, cart \a\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet. \ē\ easy \g\ go \h\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job \j\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot \v\ yet \zh\ vision \ā, k, ʰ, æ, ɔ, ʉ, ʊ, ʉ, ʌ\ see Guide to Pronunciation