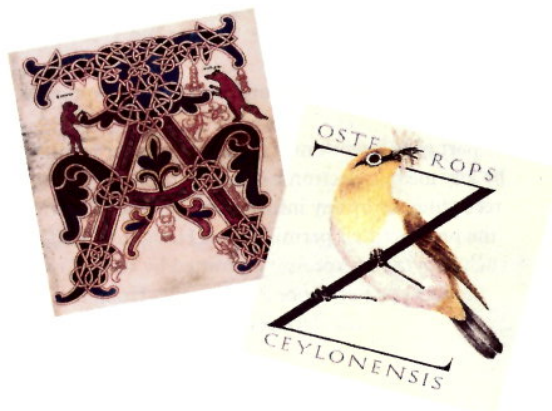


*The*  
**American  
Heritage® Dictionary**  
*of the English Language*

FOURTH EDITION



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**tare<sup>1</sup>** (tār) *n.* 1. Any of various weedy plants of the genus *Vicia*, especially the common vetch. 2. Any of several weedy plants that grow in grain fields. 3. **tares** An unwelcome or objectional element. [Middle English.]

**tare<sup>2</sup>** (tār) *n.* 1. The weight of a container or wrapper that is deducted from the gross weight to obtain net weight. 2. A deduction from gross weight made to allow for the weight of a container. 3. **Chemistry** A counterbalance, especially an empty vessel used to counterbalance the weight of a similar container. ♦ *tr.v.* **tared, taring, tares** To determine or indicate the tare of, especially to weigh in order to find out the tare. [Middle English, from Old French, ultimately from Arabic *tarh*, rejection, subtraction, from *taraha*, to throw away. See **trh** in Appendix II.]

**targe** (tārg) *n.* **Archaic** A light shield or buckler. [Middle English, from Old French. See **TARGET**.]

**tar·get** (tār'gīt) *n.* 1a. An object, such as a padded disk with a marked surface, that is shot at to test accuracy in rifle or archery practice. b. Something aimed or fired at. 2. An object of criticism or attack. 3. One to be influenced or changed by an action or event. 4. A desired goal. 5. A railroad signal that indicates the position of a switch by its color, position, and shape. 6. The sliding sight on a surveyor's leveling rod. 7. A small round shield. 8a. A structure in a television camera tube with a storage surface that is scanned by an electron beam to generate a signal output current similar to the charge-density pattern stored on the surface. b. A usually metal part in an x-ray tube on which a beam of electrons is focused and from which x-rays are emitted. ♦ *tr.v.* **-get·ed, -get·ing, -gets** 1. To make a target of. 2. To aim at or for. 3. To establish as a target or goal. — **idiom:** on target Completely accurate, precise, or valid: *observations that were right on target*. [Middle English, small targe, from Old French *targete*, variant of *targete*, diminutive of *targe*, light shield, of Germanic origin.]

**tar·get·a·ble** (tār'gē-tā-bəl) *adj.* That can be directed at a target: *independently targetable nuclear warheads*.

**target date** *n.* A date established as a target or goal, as for the completion of a project.

**target language** *n.* 1. The language into which a text written in another language is to be translated. 2. A language that a nonnative speaker is in the process of learning. 3. **Computer Science** The computer language, often a machine language, into which a document written in another computer language is to be translated. In all senses also called **object language**.

**Targum** (tār'gōm', -gōm') *n.* Any of several Aramaic explanatory translations or paraphrases of the Hebrew Scriptures. [Mishnaic Hebrew *targūm*, translation, interpretation, Targum, from Aramaic *targamā*, back-formation from *targamānā*, interpreter. See **DRAGOMAN**.]

**Tar Heel** or **Tar·heel** (tār'hēl') *n.* A native or resident of North Carolina. [Perhaps from the tar that was once a major product of the state.]

**tar·iff** (tār'if) *n.* 1a. A list or system of duties imposed by a government on imported or exported goods. b. A duty or duties so imposed. 2. A schedule of prices or fees. ♦ *tr.v.* **-iffed, -iffing, -iffs** To fix a duty or price on. [Italian *tariffa*, from Old Italian, from Arabic *ta'rīf*, notification, infinitive of 'arrafa, to announce, derived stem of 'arafa, to know. See **rp** in Appendix II.]

**Tar·rim He** (tār'rēm' hū) A river of western China flowing about 2,092 km (1,300 mi) eastward to Lop Nur.

**Tarim Pen·di** (pūn'dē') An arid basin of western China south of the Tian Shan and traversed by the Tarim He. The ancient Silk Road passed through the region.

**Tar·ken·ton** (tār'kən-tən), **Francis Asbury** Known as "Fran." Born 1940. American football player. A quarterback mainly with the Minnesota Vikings (1961–1967 and 1972–1978), he passed for 342 career touchdowns and over 47,000 career passing yards.

**Tar·king·ton** (tār'kīng-tən), **(Newton) Booth** 1869–1946. American writer whose novels include *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1918) and *Alice Adams* (1921), each of which won a Pulitzer Prize.

**Tar·la·tan** also **tar·le·tan** (tār'lā-tən, -lə-tən) *n.* A thin, stiffly starched muslin in open plain weave. [French *tarlatane*, alteration of earlier *tarnatane*.]

**tar·mac** (tār'māk') *n.* A tarmacadam road or surface, especially an airport runway. ♦ *v.* **-macked, -mack·ing, -macks** —*tr.* To cause (an aircraft) to sit on a taxiway. —*intr.* To sit on a taxiway. Used of an aircraft. [Originally a trademark.]

**tar·mac·ad·am** (tār'mā-kād'am) *n.* A pavement consisting of layers of crushed stone with a tar binder pressed to a smooth surface.

**tarn** (tārn) *n.* A small mountain lake, especially one formed by glaciers. [Middle English *tarne*, of Scandinavian origin.]

**Tarn** (tārn) A river, about 378 km (235 mi) long, of southern France flowing generally west and southwest to the Garonne River.

♦ **tar·nal** (tār'nāl) *adj. & adv.* Chiefly **New England & Upper Southern U.S.** Damned. See **Regional Note** at **tarnation**. [Alteration of **ETERNAL**.] —**tar·nal·ly** *adv.*

♦ **tar·na·tion** (tār-nā'shən) **New England & Southern U.S.** *n.* The act of damning or the condition of being damned. ♦ *interj.* Used to express anger or annoyance. [TARN(AL) + (DAMN)ATION.]

**Regional Note** The noun and interjection *tarnation* illustrate suffixation, the addition of a suffix to a word. *Tarnation* and *darnation* (the latter probably having come first) are both euphemistic forms of *damnation*. *Tarnation* seems to have been influenced by *tarnal*, another mild oath derived from (e)ternal! The *Oxford English Dictionary* cites late-18th-century examples of *tarnation* from New England, indicating that it has been part of American speech since colonial days.

**tar·nish** (tār'nish) *v.* **-nished, -nish·ing, -nish·es** —*tr.* 1. To dull the luster of; discolor, especially by exposure to air or dirt. 2a. To detract from or spoil; taint: *a tragedy that tarnished our hopes*. b. To cast aspersions on; sully: *slander that tarnished the senator's image*. —*intr.* 1. To lose luster; become discolored: *The silver cup tarnished over time as it sat on the shelf*. 2. To diminish or become tainted. ♦ *n.* 1. The condition of being tarnished. 2. Discoloration of a metal surface caused by corrosion or oxidation. 3. The condition of being sullied or tainted. [Middle English *ternissen*, from Old French *ternir*, *terniss-*, to dull, from *terne*, dull, of Germanic origin.] —**tar·nish·a·ble** *adj.*

**Tar·nów** (tār'nōw) A city of southeast Poland east of Kraków. It was a religious and cultural center in the 15th and 16th centuries. Population: 121,582.

**tar·o** (tār'ō, tār'ō) *n., pl. -ros* 1a. A widely cultivated tropical Asian plant (*Colocasia esculenta*) having broad peltate leaves and a large starchy edible tuber. b. The tuber of this plant. 2a. A similar plant of the genus *Xanthosoma*. b. The large starchy tuber of this plant. Also called *cocoyam*. [Probably Tahitian.]

**tar·ok** also **tar·oc** (tār'ək) *n.* A card game developed in Italy in the 14th century, played with a 78-card pack consisting of four suits plus the 22 tarot cards as trumps. [Italian *tarocchi*, pl. of *tarocco*, tarot.]

**tar·ot** (tār'ō, tār'ō) *n.* 1a. Any of a set of usually 78 playing cards including 22 cards depicting vices, virtues, and elemental forces, used in fortunetelling. b. Any of these 22 pictorial cards used as trump in tarok. 2. **tarots** Tarok. [French, from Italian *tarocco*.]

**tar·p** (tārp) *n.* **Informal** A tarpaulin.

**tar·pa·per** (tār'pā'pər) *n.* Heavy paper impregnated or coated with tar, used as a waterproof protective material in building.

**tar·pau·lin** (tār-pō'lin, tār'pā-) *n.* 1. Material, such as waterproofed canvas, used to cover and protect things from moisture. 2. A sheet of this material. [Probably alteration of TARP + PAUL + -ING<sup>2</sup>.]

**tar·pit** *n.* An accumulation of natural tar or asphalt at the earth's surface, especially one that traps animals and preserves their bones.

**tar·pon** (tār'pən) *n., pl. tarpon or -pons* Any of several fishes of the family Elopidae or Megalopidae, especially a large silvery game fish (*Megalops atlanticus*) of Atlantic coastal waters. [Origin unknown.]

**Tar·quin·i·i** (tār-kwīn'ē-i') An ancient city of central Italy northwest of Rome. Head of the Etruscan League, it was defeated by Roman forces in the fourth century B.C. and lost its independence in the third century. The modern village of Tarquinia has a museum displaying notable Etruscan antiquities.

**tar·a·did·dle** also **tar·a·did·dle** (tār'a-dīd'l) *n.* 1. A petty falsehood; a fib. 2. Silly pretentious speech or writing; twaddle. [Origin unknown.]

**tar·ra·gon** (tār'rā-gōn', -gən) *n.* 1. An aromatic Eurasian herb (*Artemisia dracunculoides*) having linear to lance-shaped leaves and small, whitish-green flower heads arranged in loose, spreading panicles. 2. The leaves of this plant used as a seasoning. [New Latin *tarchon*, from Medieval Greek *tarkhōn*, from Arabic *tarhūn*, perhaps from Greek *drakōn*, dragon, tarragon. See **derk-** in Appendix I.]

**Tar·ra·go·na** (tār'rā-gō'na, tār'rā-gō'nā) A city of northeast Spain on the Mediterranean Sea west-southwest of Barcelona. A leading town of Roman Spain after the third century B.C., it fell to the Moors in A.D. 714. Population: 110,837.

**Tar·ra·sa** (tār'rā'sā, tār'rā'sā) A city of northeast Spain north-northwest of Barcelona. Founded in Roman times, it is an industrial center noted for its textiles. Population: 158,063.

**tar·ri·ance** (tār'ē-əns) *n.* **Archaic** 1. The act of tarrying. 2. A temporary stay; a sojourn.

**Tar River** A river, about 346 km (215 mi) long, of northeast North Carolina flowing generally southeast to an estuary of Pamlico Sound.

**tar·ry** (tār'ē) *v.* **-ried, -ry·ing, -ries** —*intr.* 1. To delay or be late in going, coming, or doing. See synonyms at **stay**<sup>1</sup>. 2. To wait. 3. To remain or stay temporarily, as in a place; sojourn. —*tr.* **Archaic** To wait for; await. ♦ *n.* A temporary stay; a sojourn. [Middle English *tarien*.] —**tar·ri·er** *n.*

**tar·ry** (tār'ē) *adj.* **-rier, -riest** Of, resembling, or covered with tar. **Tar·ry·town** (tār'ē-toun') A village of southeast New York on the Hudson River north of New York City. Founded by the Dutch in the 17th century, it was the home of Washington Irving and the setting for many of his short stories. Population: 10,739.

**tar·sal** (tār'səl) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or situated near the tarsus of the foot: *the tarsal bones*. 2. Of or relating to the tarsus of the eyelid: *the tarsal ligaments*. [New Latin *tarsālis*, from *tarsus*, tarsus. See **TARSUS**.]

**tarsal gland** *n.* Any of the branched sebaceous glands located in the tarsus of the eyelid.

**tarsal plate** *n.* See **tarsus** (sense 2).

**tar·si·er** (tār'sē-ər, -sē-ə') *n.* Any of several small nocturnal arboreal primates of the genus *Tarsius*, of the East Indies and the Philippines, having large round eyes, a long tail, and long fingers and toes tipped with soft disklike pads. [French, from *tarse*, tarsus (from its elongated ankles), from New Latin *tarsus*. See **TARSUS**.]

**tar·so·met·a·tar·sus** (tār'sō-mēt'ə-tār'səs) *n., pl. -si (-sī, -sē)* A compound bone between the tibia and the toes of a bird's leg, formed by fusion of the tarsal and metatarsal bones. —**tar·so·met·a·tar·sal** (-tār'səl) *adj.*

**tar·sus** (tār'səs) *n., pl. -si (-sī, -sē)* 1a. The section of the vertebrate foot between the leg and the metatarsus. b. The bones making up this section, especially the seven small bones of the human ankle. 2. A fibrous plate that supports and shapes the edge of the eyelid. Also called *tarsal plate*. 3. **Zoology** a. The tarsometatarsus. b. The distal part of the



tarot

selection of tarot cards



tarsier

Philippine tarsier  
*Tarsius syrichta*