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THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE
PAPERBOUND DICTIONARY
OF AMERICAN USAGE

Oxford American Dictionary

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Preface

This new member of the Oxford family has been prepared especially for those who need a to-date guide to American English. It contains a number of slang, informal, and technical terms. Names of states of the United States, as state capitals, terms used to designate a state, and names of the provinces of countries of the world, including those which are also given, as are names of the capital cities used to designate the people of each country.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the members of the Oxford Dictionary Department, Oxford University Press for assistance of various kinds. Dr. John B. Sykes, Editor of the *Oxford American Dictionary*, Sixth Edition, and to Dr. Robert Burdett, Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. We also wish to thank the members of the staff of Oxford University Press, most particularly to Marjorie Mueller, Cecelia Carollo, for help in all stages of the preparation of this dictionary.

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no timber. **bar·ren·ly** *adv.* **bar·ren·ness** *n.*
bar·rette (hă-ret) *n.* a bar-shaped clip for a woman's hair.
bar·ri·cade (bar-i-kayd) *n.* a barrier, especially one hastily erected as a defense.
barricade *v.* (bar-ri-cad-ed, bar-ri-cad-ing) to block or defend with a barricade.
bar·ri·er (bar-i-ēr) *n.* something that prevents or controls advance, access, or progress. **barrier reef**, a coral reef with a channel between it and the land.
bar·ri·o (bah-ri-oh) *n.* (pl. -ri-os) 1. a Hispanic quarter of a U.S. city. 2. a district of a town in a Hispanic country.
bar·ris·ter (bar-i-stēr) *n.* (British) a lawyer entitled to represent clients in the higher law courts.
bar·room (bah-room) *n.* a room in which alcoholic drinks are sold.
bar·row¹ (bar-oh) *n.* 1. a wheelbarrow. 2. a small cart with two wheels and shafts so it can be pulled or pushed by hand.
barrow² *n.* a prehistoric burial mound.
barrow³ *n.* a male hog.
Bart. *abbr.* Baronet.
bar·ten·der (bah-ten-dēr) *n.* a person who prepares and serves alcoholic drinks at a bar.
bar·ter (bah-ter) *v.* to trade by exchanging goods etc. for other goods, not for money. **barter** *n.* trading by exchange.
bas·al (bay-sāl, -zāl) *adj.* of or at the base. **basal metabolism**, the minimum amount of energy needed by an organism at rest.
bas·alt (bā-sawlt) *n.* a kind of dark rock of volcanic origin. **bas·altic** *adj.*
base (bays) *n.* 1. the lowest part of anything, the part on which it rests or is supported. 2. a basic or fundamental part, the main ingredient. 3. a starting point. 4. the headquarters of an expedition or other enterprise. 5. a place at which an expedition or force stores its supplies. 6. a substance into which other things are mixed, *some paints have an oil base*. 7. a cream or liquid applied to the skin as a foundation for makeup. 8. a substance (as an alkali) capable of combining with an acid to form a salt. 9. one of the four stations at the corners of a baseball diamond, especially the first three (excluding home plate). **base** *v.* (based, bas-ing) to use as a base or foundation or as evidence for a forecast.
base *adj.* (bas-er, bas-est) 1. dishonorable, *base motives*. 2. of inferior value, *base metals*. 3. debased, not of acceptable quality, *base coins*. **base·ly** *adv.* **base·ness** *n.* **base exchange**, a post exchange at an air force base. **base hit**,

a hit enabling the batter to reach first base safely. **base on balls** (pl. **bases on balls**), advancement of a batter to first base after four balls. **off base**, (informal) mistaken.

base·ball (bays-bawl) *n.* 1. a team game played with a bat and a ball on a field with four bases arranged in a diamond and in which runs are scored by hitting a ball, getting walks, etc. and circling the bases. 2. the ball used in this game.
base·board (bays-bohrd) *n.* a narrow board around the wall of a room, close to the floor.

base·born (bays-born) *adj.* 1. of illegitimate birth. 2. born of humble family. 3. contemptible.

base·less (bays-lis) *adj.* without foundation, *baseless rumors*.

base·line (bays-lin) *n.* 1. a known line used as a geometrical base in trigonometry. 2. the line at each end of a tennis court. 3. the line between successive bases in baseball.

base·ment (bays-mēt) *n.* the lowest story of a building, below ground level.

bash (bash) *v.* 1. to strike violently. 2. attack with blows. **bash** *n.* 1. a violent blow or knock. 2. (slang) a party, a festive good time.

bash·ful (bash-fūl) *adj.* shy and self-conscious. **bash·ful·ly** *adv.* **bash·ness** *n.*

bas·ic (bay-sik) *adj.* 1. forming a base, starting point, fundamental, *basic principles*. 2. of a chemical base. **bas·ic·ly** *adv.*

bas·il (baz-il, bay-zil) *n.* a sweet-smelling herb.

bas·il·i·ca (bā-sil-i-kā) *n.* 1. a large, long hall or church with two rows of columns and an apse at one end. 2. a church or cathedral granted certain privileges.

bas·i·l·isk (bez-i-lisk) *n.* a mythical creature said to cause death by its glance or breath.

bas·in (bay-sin) *n.* 1. a round opening for holding liquids or soft substances, this with its contents, the amount contained. 3. a washbasin. 4. a sunken area drained by a river. 5. an inlandlocked harbor, a *yacht basin*. **bas·in·ful** *n.* (pl. -fuls).

bas·is (bay-sis) *n.* (pl. -ses, -ses), foundation or support, a main principle.

bask (bask) *v.* 1. to expose oneself to a pleasant warmth. 2. to bask in someone's approval.

bas·ket (bas-kit) *n.* 1. a container for holding or carrying things, made of woven flexible material. 2. the

contents. **bas·ket·ball** (bas-kit-bawl) *n.* a game played on a court (baseball) in which two teams of five players each score by throwing a raised hoop.

bas·ket·work (bas-kit-work) *n.* 1. a structure of interwoven strips. 2. the art of making basketry. **bas·mitz·vah** (bahs-mits-vah) *n.* 1. a ceremony for a Jewish girl. 2. the girl for whom the ceremony is held.

bas·net (bask) *n.* 1. a mesh net used in the western Pyrenees.

bas·relief (bah-ri-leef) *n.* a carving in low relief.

bas·s (bas) *n.* (pl. **basses**) a deep and food fish of the sea.

bas·s (bahs) *adj.* deep-sounding, *bas patch in music*. **bas·s** (bahs) *n.* the lowest male voice.

bas·s (bahs) *n.* a part of a musical instrument.

bas·s (bahs) *n.* (also **bas·s**) a short-legged bird.

bas·tard (bas-tard) *n.* a child born out of wedlock.

bas·tard (bas-tard) *n.* (pl. **bastards**) a man with illegitimate parents.

bas·tard (bas-tard) *n.* a singer with a deep voice.

bas·tard (bas-tard) *n.* a deep-sounding musical instrument.

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