





Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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Contents

Preface	6a
Explanatory Chart	8a
Explanatory Notes	10a
The English Language in the Dictionary	23a
Guide to Pronunciation	31a
Abbreviations in This Work	36a
Pronunciation Symbols	38a
A Dictionary of the English Language	1
Abbreviations and Symbols for Chemical Elements	1379
Foreign Words and Phrases	1390
Biographical Names	1396
Geographical Names	1441
Signs and Symbols	1531
A Handbook of Style	1535
Index	1559

assassinate \ə-ˈsə-si-nāt\ *vt* -nat-ed; -nat-ing (1607) 1: to injure or destroy unexpectedly and treacherously 2: to murder by sudden or secret attack usu. for impersonal reasons *syn* see KILL — **assassin** \ə-ˈsə-si-nən\ *n* — **assassin-na-tor** \ə-ˈsə-si-nə-tər\ *n* — **assassin bug** (1895): any of a family (Reduviidae) of bugs that are usu. predatory on insects though some (as a conenose) suck the blood of mammals — called also *reduviid*

assault \ə-ˈsɔlt\ *n* [ME *assault*, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL *assaultus*, fr. *assallere* (14c) 1 a: a violent physical or verbal attack b: a military attack usu. involving direct combat with enemy forces c: a concerted effort (as to reach a goal or defeat an adversary) 2 a: a threat or attempt to inflict offensive physical contact or bodily harm on a person (as by lifting a fist in a threatening manner) that puts the person in immediate danger of or in apprehension of such harm or contact — compare BATTERY 1b b: RAPE

assault *vt* (15c) 1: to make an assault on 2: RAPE *syn* see ATTACK — **assault-er** *n* — **assaultive** \ə-ˈsɔlt-iv\ *adj* — **assaultive-ly** *adv* — **assaultive-ness** *n*

assault boat *n* (1941): a small portable boat used in an amphibious military attack or in land warfare for crossing rivers or lakes

assault rifle *n* (1975): any of various automatic or semiautomatic rifles designed for military use with large capacity magazines

assay \ə-ˈsɑ, ə-ˈsɑ\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *essai*, *assai* test, effort — more at ESSAY] (14c) 1 *a*: TRIAL, ATTEMPT 2: examination and determination as to characteristics (as weight, measure, or quality) 3: analysis (as of an ore or drug) to determine the presence, absence, or quantity of one or more components 4: a substance to be assayed; also b: the tabulated result of assaying

assay \ə-ˈsɑ, ə-ˈsɑ\ *vi* (14c) 1: TRY, ATTEMPT 2 a: to analyze (as an ore) for one or more specific components b: to judge the worth of: ESTIMATE *syn* *vi*: to prove up in an assay — **assayer** *n*

assed \əst\ *adv* (1932): *ass* — used in combination (smart-assed); often considered vulgar

as-se-gai or **as-sa-gai** \ə-ˈsi-ɡi\ *n* [ultim. fr. Ar *az-zaghāya* the assegai, fr. *al-* the + *zaghāya* assegai] (1600): a slender hardwood spear or light javelin usu. tipped with iron and used in southern Africa

as-sem-blage \ə-ˈsem-blj, for 3 also ə-ˈsəm-ˈblāzh\ *n* (1690) 1: a collection of persons or things: GATHERING 2: the act of assembling; the state of being assembled 3 a: an artistic composition made from scraps, junk, and odds and ends (as of paper, cloth, wood, stone, or metal) b: the art of making assemblages

as-sem-blage-ist \ə-ˈbli-jist, -ˈblā-zhɪst\ *n* (1965): an artist who specializes in assemblages

as-sem-ble \ə-ˈsem-bl\ *vb* **as-sem-bled**; **as-sem-bling** \ə-ˈb(ə)-lɪŋ\ [ME, fr. OF *assembler*, fr. (assumed) VL *assimulare*, fr. L *ad-* + *simul* together — more at SAME] *vt* (13c) 1: to bring together (as in a particular place or for a particular purpose) 2: to fit together the parts of *syn* *vi*: to meet together: CONVENE

as-sem-bler \ə-ˈb(ə)-lər\ *n* (1635) 1: one that assembles 2 a: a computer program that automatically converts instructions written in assembly language into machine language b: ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE

as-sem-bly \ə-ˈsem-bl\ *n*, *pl* -blies [ME *assemblee*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *assembler*] (14c) 1: a company of persons gathered for deliberation and legislation, worship, or entertainment 2 *cap*: a legislative body; *specif*: the lower house of a legislature 3: ASSEMBLY 1, 2 4: a signal for troops to assemble or fall in 5 a: the fitting together of manufactured parts into a complete machine, structure, or unit of a machine b: a collection of parts so assembled 6: the translation of assembly language to machine language by an assembler

assembly language *n* (ca. 1964): a programming language that consists of instructions that are mnemonic codes for corresponding machine language instructions

assembly line *n* (1914) 1: an arrangement of machines, equipment, and workers in which work passes from operation to operation in direct line until the product is assembled 2: a process for turning out a finished product in a mechanically efficient manner (academic assembly lines)

as-sem-bly-man \ə-ˈsem-blə-mən\ *n* (1647): a member of an assembly

Assembly of God (1952): a congregation belonging to a Pentecostal body founded in the U.S. in 1914

as-sem-bly-woman \ə-ˈwū-mən\ *n* (1969): a woman who is a member of an assembly

as-sent \ə-ˈsent, ə-ˈvi\ [ME, fr. OF *assenter*, fr. L *assentari*, fr. *assentire*, fr. *ad-* + *sentire* to feel — more at SENSE] (14c) 1: to agree to something esp. after thoughtful consideration: CONCUR — **as-sen-tor** or **as-sen-ter** \ə-ˈsen-tər\ *n*

syn ASSENT, CONSENT, ACCEDE, ACQUIESCE, AGREE, SUBSCRIBE mean to concur with what has been proposed. ASSENT implies an act involving the understanding or judgment and applies to propositions or opinions (voters assented to the proposal). CONSENT involves the will or feelings and indicates compliance with what is requested or desired (consented to their daughter's going). ACCEDE implies a yielding, often under pressure, of assent or consent (officials acceded to the prisoners' demands). ACQUIESCE implies tacit acceptance or forbearance of opposition (acquiesced to his boss's wishes). AGREE sometimes implies previous difference of opinion or attempts at persuasion (finally agreed to come along). SUBSCRIBE implies not only consent or assent but hearty approval and active support (subscribes wholeheartedly to the idea).

as-sen-ta-tion \ə-ˈsən-tā-shən, ə-ˈsen-\ *n* (15c): ready assent esp. when insincere or obsequious

as-sert \ə-ˈsɜrt, ə-ˈvi\ [L *asserere*, pp. of *asserere*, fr. *ad-* + *serere* to join — more at SERIES] (ca. 1604) 1: to state or declare positively and often forcefully or aggressively 2 a: to demonstrate the existence of (one's manhood — James Joyce) b: POSIT, POSTULATE — **assert one-self**: to compel recognition esp. of one's rights

syn ASSERT, DECLARE, AFFIRM, PROTEST, AVOW mean to state positively usu. in anticipation of denial or objection. ASSERT implies stating confidently without need for proof or regard for evidence (asserted that modern music is just noise). DECLARE stresses open or public statement (declared her support for the candidate). AFFIRM implies conviction based on evidence, experience, or faith (affirmed the existence of an afterlife). PROTEST emphasizes affirming in the face of denial or doubt (protested that he really had been misquoted). AVOW stresses

frank declaration and acknowledgment of personal responsibility for what is declared (avowed that all investors would be repaid in full).

syn see in addition MAINTAIN

as-sert-ed-ly \ə-ˈsɜrt-əd-lee\ *adv* (1937): by positive and usu. unsubstantiated assertion: ALLEGEDLY

as-ser-tion \ə-ˈsɜr-shən, ə-ˈn\ (15c): the act of asserting; also: DECLARATION, AFFIRMATION

as-ser-tive \ə-ˈsɜr-tiv, ə-ˈvi\ *adj* (ca. 1619) 1: disposed to or characterized by bold or confident assertion 2: having a strong or distinctive flavor or aroma (— wines) *syn* see AGGRESSIVE — **as-ser-tive-ly** *adv* — **as-ser-tive-ness** *n*

assertiveness training *n* (1975): a method of training individuals to act in a bold self-confident manner

asses *pl* of AS or OF ASS

as-sess \ə-ˈses, ə-ˈvi\ [ME, prob. fr. ML *assessus*, pp. of *assidere*, fr. L *to sit beside, assist in the office of a judge — more at ASSIZE*] (15c) 1: to determine the rate or amount of (as a tax) 2 a: to impose (as a tax) according to an established rate b: to subject to a tax, charge, or levy 3: to make an official valuation of (property) for the purposes of taxation 4: to determine the importance, size, or value of 5: to charge (a player or team) with a foul or penalty *syn* see ESTIMATE — **as-sess-able** \ə-ˈse-sə-bəl\ *adj*

as-sess-ment \ə-ˈses-mənt, ə-ˈn\ (1534) 1: the action or an instance of assessing: APPRAISAL 2: the amount assessed

as-ses-sor \ə-ˈse-sər\ *n* (14c) 1: an official who assists a judge or magistrate 2: one that assesses; esp: an official who assesses property for taxation

as-set \ə-ˈset also -sət\ *n* [back-formation fr. *assets*, sing., sufficient property to pay debts and legacies, fr. AF *asetz*, fr. OF *assez* enough, fr. (assumed) VL *ad satis*, fr. L *ad* + *satis* enough — more at SAT, SAD] (1531) 1 *pl* a: the property of a deceased person subject by law to the payment of his or her debts and legacies b: the entire property of a person, association, corporation, or estate applicable or subject to the payment of debts 2: ADVANTAGE, RESOURCE (his wit is his chief —) 3 a: an item of value owned b *pl*: the items on a balance sheet showing the book value of property owned

as-sev-er-ate \ə-ˈse-və-ˈrāt\ *vt* -at-ed; -at-ing [L *asseveratus*, pp. of *asseverare*, fr. *ad-* + *severus* severe] (1791): to affirm or aver positively or earnestly — **as-sev-er-a-tion** \ə-ˈse-və-ˈrā-shən\ *n* — **as-sev-er-a-tive** \ə-ˈse-və-ˈrā-tiv\ *adj*

ass-hole \ə-ˈh(ə)l\ *n* (14c) 1: ANUS — usu. considered vulgar 2 a: a stupid, incompetent, or detestable person — usu. considered vulgar b: a despicable place — usu. used in the phrase *asshole of the universe*, usu. considered vulgar

as-si-du-ity \ə-ˈsɪ-dü-ə-tē, -ˈdyü-\ *n*, *pl* -ities (1596) 1: the quality or state of being assiduous: DILIGENCE 2: persistent personal attention — usu. used in *pl*

as-sid-u-ous \ə-ˈsɪ-wəs, -ˈsɪ-jə-\ *adj* [L *assiduus*, fr. *assidere*] (1660): marked by careful unremitting attention or persistent application (an ~ book collector) (tended her garden with ~ attention) *syn* see BUSY — **as-sid-u-ous-ly** *adv* — **as-sid-u-ous-ness** *n*

as-sign \ə-ˈsɪn\ *vi* [ME, fr. OF *assigner*, fr. L *assignare*, fr. *ad-* + *signare* to mark, fr. *signum* mark, sign] (13c) 1: to transfer (property) to another esp. in trust or for the benefit of creditors 2 a: to appoint to a post or duty (—ed them to light duty) (—ed me two clerks) b: to appoint as a duty or task (—s 20 pages for homework) 3: to fix or specify in correspondence or relationship (— counsel to the defendant) (— a value to the variable) 4 a: to ascribe as a motive, reason, or cause esp. after deliberation b: to consider to belong to (a specified period of time) *syn* see ASCRIBE — **as-sign-a-bil-i-ty** \ə-ˈsi-nə-ˈbi-lə-tē\ *n* — **as-sign-a-ble** \ə-ˈsi-nə-bəl\ *adj* — **as-sign-er** \ə-ˈsi-nər\ or **as-sign-or** \ə-ˈsɪ-nər, ə-ˈsi-, -ˈsɪ-\ *n*

assign *n* (15c): ASSIGNEE 3 (heirs and ~s)

as-sig-nat \ə-ˈsɪn-ˈyā, ə-ˈsɪn-ˈnāt\ *n* [F, fr. L *assignatus*, pp. of *assignare*] (1790): a bill issued as currency by the French Revolutionary government (1789-96) on the security of expropriated lands

as-sig-na-tion \ə-ˈsɪg-nā-shən, ə-ˈn\ (15c) 1: the act of assigning or the assignment made 2: an appointment of time and place for a meeting; esp: TRYST (returned from an ~ with his mistress — W. B. Yeats)

assigned risk *n* (1946): a poor risk (as an accident-prone motorist) that insurance companies would normally reject but are forced to insure by state law

as-sign-ee \ə-ˈsɪn-ˈē, ə-ˈsɪ-, -ˈsɪ-\ *n* (14c) 1: a person to whom an assignment is made 2: a person appointed to act for another 3: a person to whom a right or property is legally transferred

as-sign-ment \ə-ˈsɪn-mənt\ *n* (14c) 1: the act of assigning 2 a: a position, post, or office to which one is assigned b: a specified task or amount of work assigned or undertaken as if assigned by authority 3: the transfer of property; esp: the transfer of property to be held in trust or to be used for the benefit of creditors *syn* see TASK

as-sim-i-la-ble \ə-ˈsi-mə-lə-bəl\ *adj* (1667): capable of being assimilated — **as-sim-i-la-bil-i-ty** \ə-ˈsi-mə-lə-ˈbi-lə-tē\ *n*

as-sim-i-late \ə-ˈsi-mə-lāt\ *vb* -lat-ed; -lat-ing [ME, fr. ML *assimilatus*, pp. of *assimilare*, fr. L *assimilare* to make similar, fr. *ad-* + *simulare* to make similar, simulate] *vt* (15c) 1 a: to take in and appropriate as nourishment: absorb into the system b: to take into the mind and thoroughly comprehend 2 a: to make similar b: to alter by assimilation c: to absorb into the culture or mores of a population or group 3: COMPARE, LIKEN *syn* *vi*: to become assimilated — **as-sim-i-la-tor** \ə-ˈlā-tər\ *n*

usage When *assimilate* is followed by a preposition, transitive senses 2a and 2c commonly take *to* and *into* and less frequently *with*; 2b regularly takes *to*; sense 3 most often takes *to* and sometimes *with*. The most frequent prepositions used with the intransitive sense are *to* and *into*.

as-sim-i-late \ə-ˈlāt, -ˈlāt\ *n* (1935): something that is assimilated

as-sim-i-la-tion \ə-ˈsi-mə-lā-shən\ *n* (15c) 1 a: an act, process, or

\ə\ about \kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar
\aʊ\ out \ch\ chin \ə\ bet \ē\ easy \ə\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job
\ŋ\ sing \ə\ go \ə\ law \ə\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot
\y\ yet \zh\ vision \ā, k, ʰ, æ, ē, ū, ē, ʰ\ see Guide to Pronunciation

nation as to characteristics (as weight, measure, or quality) 3: analysis (as of an ore or drug) to determine the presence, absence, or quantity of one or more components 4: a substance to be assayed; also the tabulated result of assaying
as-say \a-'sā, 'a-'sā\ vt (14c) 1: TRY, ATTEMPT 2 a: to analyze (as an ore) for one or more specific components b: to judge the worth of; ESTIMATE ~ vi: to prove up in an assay — **as-say-er** n
assed \ast\ adv (1932): ³ASS — used in combination (<smart-*assed*); often considered vulgar
as-se-gai or **as-sa-gai** \a-'si-'gā\ n [ultim. fr. Ar *az-zaghāya* the assegai, fr. *al-* the + *zaghāya* assegai] (1600): a slender hardwood spear or light javelin usu. tipped with iron and used in southern Africa
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as-sem-blag-ist \-bli-'jist, -'blā-'zhist\ n (1965): an artist who specializes in assemblages
as-sem-ble \ə-'sem-'bəl\ vb **as-sem-bled**; **as-sem-bling** \-b(ə-)liŋ\ [ME, fr. OF *assembler*, fr. (assumed) VL *assimulare*, fr. L *ad-* + *simul* together — more at SAME] vt (13c) 1: to bring together (as in a particular place or for a particular purpose) 2: to fit together the parts of ~ vi: to meet together: CONVENE **syn** see GATHER
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as-sem-bly-wom-an \-,wū-'mən\ n (1969): a woman who is a member of an assembly
as-sent \ə-'sent, a-\ vi [ME, fr. OF *assenter*, fr. L *assentari*, fr. *assentire*, fr. *ad-* + *sentire* to feel] (14c): to agree to something

universal joint

one person **b cap** : a member of a denomination that stresses individual freedom of belief, the free use of reason in religion, a united world community, and liberal social action **2** : an advocate of unity or a unitary system — **unitarian** *adj*, often *cap* — **uni-tar-i-an-ism** \-ē-ə-ni-zəm\ *n*, often *cap*

uni-tary \'yü-nə-,ter-ē\ *adj* (1861) **1 a** : of or relating to a unit **b** : based on or characterized by unity or units **2** : having the character of a unit : UNDIVIDED, WHOLE — **uni-tar-i-ly** \,yü-nə-'ter-ə-lē\ *adv*

unit cell *n* (1915) : the simplest polyhedron that embodies all the structural characteristics of and by indefinite repetition makes up the lattice of a crystal

unit character *n* (1902) : a natural character inherited on an all-or-none basis; *esp* : one dependent on the presence or absence of a single gene

unit circle *n* (1955) : a circle having a radius of 1

unite \yü-'nīt\ *vb* **unit-ed**; **unit-ing** [ME, fr. L *unire*, fr. *unus* one — more at ONE] *vt* (15c) **1 a** : to put together to form a single unit **b** : to cause to adhere **c** : to link by a legal or moral bond **2** : to possess (as qualities) in combination ~ *vi* **1 a** : to become one or as if one **b** : to become combined by or as if by adhesion or mixture **2** : to act in concert *syn* see JOIN — **unit-er** *n*

unite \'yü-,nīt\ *n* [obs. *unite* united, fr. ME *unit*, fr. LL *unitus*, pp.] (1604) : an old British gold 20-shilling piece issued first by James I in 1604 for the newly united England and Scotland — called also *Jacobus*

unit-ed \yü-'nī-təd\ *adj* (1552) **1** : made one : COMBINED **2** : relating to or produced by joint action **3** : being in agreement : HARMONIOUS — **unit-ed-ly** *adv*

United Nations Day *n* (1947) : October 24 observed in commemoration of the founding of the United Nations

Unit-ed States \yü-'nī-təd-, *esp* Southern 'yü-,\ *n pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* (1617) : a federation of states *esp*. when forming a nation in a usu. specified territory <advocating a *United States* of Europe>

uni-tive \'yü-nə-tiv, yü-'nī-\ *adj* (1526) : characterized by or tending to produce union

unit-ize \'yü-nə-,tīz\ *vt* **-ized**; **-iz-ing** (1860) **1** : to form or convert into a unit **2** : to divide into units <the added cost of *unitizing* bulk products> — **unit-i-za-tion** \,yü-nə-tə-'zā-shən\ *n*

unit membrane *n* [fr. its being the basic structural unit of the cell] (1959) : a 3-layered membrane that consists of an inner lipid layer surrounded by a protein layer on each side

unit rule *n* (1884) : a rule under which a delegation to a national political convention casts its entire vote as a unit as determined by a majority vote

uni-trust \'yü-ni-,trəst\ *n* (1970) : a trust from which the beneficiary receives annually a fixed percentage of the fair market value of its assets

units place *n* (1937) : the place just to the left of the decimal point in a number expressed in the Arabic system of writing numbers

unit train *n* (1964) : a railway train that transports a single commodity directly from producer to consumer

unit trust *n* (1936) **1 Brit** : MUTUAL FUND **2** : an investment company of long-term bonds that are held to maturity

end-stopped (en-d-*stöp*) *adj* (1877): marked by a logical or rhetorical stop at the end (as a line of verse) — compare **RUN-ON**

en-fold (en-föld, en-*f*) *vi* (ca. 1674) 1 a: to cover with or as if with folds: **ENVELOP** b: to surround with a covering: **CONTAIN** 2: to clasp within the arms: **EMBRACE**

en-force (en-fors, -förs, en-*f*) [ME, fr. MF *enforcier*, fr. OF, fr. *en- + force* force] (14c) 1: to give force to: **STRENGTHEN** 2: to urge with energy 3: **CONSTRAIN**, **COMPEL** 4 *obs*: to effect or gain by force 5: to carry out effectively (~ laws) — **en-force-abil-ity** \-förs-ä-bil-ä-ti, -förs-ä-*n* — **en-force-able** \-förs-ä-bol, -förs-ä-*adj* — **en-force-ment** \-förs-mänt, -förs-ä-*n*

en-force-er (en-för-sär, -förs-ä-*n*) (1580) 1: one that enforces 2 a: a violent criminal employed by a crime syndicate; *esp*: **HIT MAN** 1 b: an aggressive player (as in ice hockey) known for rough play and fighting

en-frame (en-främ, -frä-*n*) *vi* (1848): **FRAME** 6 — **en-frame-ment** \-främ-mänt, -frä-*n*

en-franchise (en-frän-*chiz*, en-*f*) *vi* — **-chised**, **-chis-ing** [ME, fr. MF *enfranchiser*, stem of *enfranchir*, fr. OF, fr. *en- + franc* free — more at **FRANK**] (15c) 1: to set free (as from slavery) 2: to endow with franchise: *as* a: to admit to the privileges of a citizen and *esp*: to the right of suffrage b: to admit (a municipality) to political privileges or rights — **en-franchise-ment** \-chiz-mänt, -chiz-ä-*n*

en-gage (en-gä, -gä-*n*) *vi* **en-gaged**; **en-gag-ing** [ME, fr. MF *engagier*, fr. OF, fr. *en- + gage* token, *gage*] *vi* (15c) 1: to offer (as one's word) as security for a debt or cause 2 a *obs*: to entangle or entrap in or as if in a snare or bog b: to attract and hold by influence or power c: to interlock with: **MESH**; *also*: to cause (mechanical parts) to mesh 3: to bind (as oneself) to do something; *esp*: to bind by a pledge to marry 4 a: to provide occupation for: **INVOLVE** (~ him in a new project) b: to arrange to obtain the use or services of: **HIRE** 5 a: to induce the attention of: **ENGROSS** (her work ~ her completely) b: to induce to participate (engaged the shy boy in conversation) 6 a: to enter into contest with b: to bring together or interlock (weapons) 7: to deal with *esp*. at length ~ vi 1 a: to pledge oneself: **PROMISE** b: **GUARANTEE** (he ~s for the honesty of his brother) 2 a: to begin and carry on an enterprise or activity (engaged in trade for a number of years) b: to take part: **PARTICIPATE** (at college she engaged in gymnastics) 3: to enter into conflict 4: to come together and interlock (as of machinery parts): *be or become in gear*

en-gag-e \-gä-*zhä* *adj* [F, pp. of *engager* to engage, fr. MF *engagier*] (1946): committed to or supportive of a cause

en-gaged (en-gäjd, en-*gä*) *adj* (1665) 1: involved in activity: **OCCUPIED** 2: pledged to be married: **BETROTHED** 3: greatly interested: **COMMITTED** 4: involved *esp*. in a hostile encounter 5: partly embedded in a wall (an ~ column) 6: being in gear: **MESHED**

en-gage-ment (en-gäj-mänt, en-*gä*) *n* (1601) 1 a: an arrangement to meet or be present at a specified time and place (a dinner ~) b: a job or period of employment *esp*. as a performer 2: something that engages: **PLEDGE** 3 a: the act of engaging: the state of being engaged b: emotional involvement or commitment (seesaws between obsessive ~ and ambiguous detachment — Gary Taylor) c: **BETROTHAL** 4: the state of being in gear 5: a hostile encounter between military forces

en-gag-ing *adj* (1673): tending to draw favorable attention: **ATTRACTIVE**

en-gag-ing-ly \-gä-jin-lä-*adv*

en-gar-land (en-gär-länd, en-*gä*) *vi* (1581): to adorn with or as if with a garland

Engel-mann spruce \en-gäl-man-*n* *n* [George Engelmann †1884 Am. botanist] (1908): a large spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) of the Rocky mountain region and British Columbia that yields a light-colored wood

en-gen-der (en-jen-där, en-*j*) *vb* **en-gen-dered**; **en-gen-der-ing** \-där-ä-*rin* [ME *engendren*, fr. MF *engenderer*, fr. L *engenerare*, fr. *in- + generare* to generate] *vt* (14c) 1: **BEGET**, **PROCREATE** 2: to cause to exist or to develop: **PRODUCE** (angry words ~ strife) ~ *vi*: to assume form: **ORIGINATE**

en-gild (en-gild, en-*gä*) *vi* (15c): to make bright with or as if with light

en-gine (en-jän, -jän-*n*) [ME *engin*, fr. MF, fr. L *ingenium* natural disposition, talent, fr. *in- + gignere* to beget — more at **KIN**] (13c) 1 *obs* a: **INGENUITY** b: evil contrivance: **WILE** 2: something used to effect a purpose: **AGENT**, **INSTRUMENT** (mournful and terrible ~ of horror and of crime — E. A. Poe) 3 a: a mechanical tool: as (1) an instrument or machine of war (2) *obs*: a torture implement b: **MACHINERY** c: any of various mechanical appliances — often used in combination (fire ~) 4: a machine for converting any of various forms of energy into mechanical force and motion; *also*: a mechanism or object that serves as an energy source (black holes may be the ~s for quasars) 5: a railroad locomotive

engine *vi* **en-gined**; **en-gin-ing** (1868): to equip with engines

engine driver *n* (1828) *Brit*: **ENGINEER** 4

en-gi-neer (en-jä-nir, -nir-*n*) [alter. of earlier *engineer*, fr. ME, alter. of *enginour*, fr. MF *engineur*, fr. OF *enginier* to contrive, fr. *engin*] (14c) 1: a member of a military group devoted to engineering work 2 *obs*: a crafty schemer: **PLOTTER** 3 a: a designer or builder of engines b: a person who is trained in or follows as a profession a branch of engineering c: a person who carries through an enterprise by skillful or artful contrivance 4: a person who runs or supervises an engine or an apparatus

engineer *vt* (1843) 1: to lay out, construct, or manage as an engineer 2 a: to contrive or plan out *usu.* with more or less subtle skill and craft b: to guide the course of 3: to modify or produce by genetic engineering (grain crops ~ed to require fewer nutrients and produce higher yields) *syn* see **GUIDE**

en-gi-neer-ing *n* (1720) 1: the activities or function of an engineer 2 a: the application of science and mathematics by which the properties of matter and the sources of energy in nature are made useful to people b: the design and manufacture of complex products (software ~) 3

\ə\ abut \ʌ\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ä\ ace \ä\ mop, mar
 \ä\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job
 \ŋ\ sing \ō\ go \ó\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ü\ loot \ù\ foot
 \y\ yet \zh\ vision \ä, k, p, æ, œ, u, ū, see Guide to Pronunciation

en-force-er \in-'fɔr-sər, -'fɔr-\ *n* (1580) 1 : one that enforces 2 *a* : a violent criminal employed by a crime syndicate; *esp* : HIT MAN 1 *b* : an aggressive player (as in ice hockey) known for rough play and fighting
en-frame \in-'frām\ *vt* (1848) : FRAME 6 — **en-frame-ment** \-'frām-mənt\ *n*

en-fran-chise \in-'fran-,chīz, en-\ *vt* -chised; -chis-ing [ME, fr. MF *enfranchiss-*, stem of *enfranchir*, fr. OF, fr. *en-* + *franc* free — more at FRANK] (15c) 1 : to set free (as from slavery) 2 : to endow with a franchise: as *a* : to admit to the privileges of a citizen and *esp.* to the right of suffrage *b* : to admit (a municipality) to political privileges or rights — **en-fran-chise-ment** \-,chīz-mənt, -chəz-\ *n*

en-gage \in-'gāj, en-\ *vb* **en-gaged**; **en-gag-ing** [ME, fr. MF *engagier*, fr. OF, fr. *en-* + *gage* token, *gage*] *vt* (15c) 1 : to offer (as one's word) as security for a debt or cause 2 *a obs* : to entangle or entrap in or as if in a snare or bog *b* : to attract and hold by influence or power *c* : to interlock with : MESH; *also* : to cause (mechanical parts) to mesh 3 : to bind (as oneself) to do something; *esp* : to bind by a pledge to marry 4 *a* : to provide occupation for : INVOLVE (<~ him in a new project> *b* : to arrange to obtain the use or services of : HIRE 5 *a* : to hold the attention of : ENGROSS (<her work ~s her completely> *b* : to induce to participate (<engaged the shy boy in conversation> 6 *a* : to enter into contest with *b* : to bring together or interlock (weapons) 7 : to deal with *esp.* at length ~ *vi* 1 *a* : to pledge oneself : PROMISE *b* : GUARANTEE (<he ~s for the honesty of his brother> 2 *a* : to begin and carry on an enterprise or activity (<engaged in trade for a number of years> *b* : to take part : PARTICIPATE (<at college she engaged in gymnastics> 3 : to enter into conflict 4 : to come together and interlock (as of machinery parts) : be or become in gear

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