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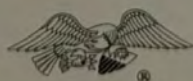
dic·tion·ar·y

of

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



Richly Illustrated in Full Color



fourth edition

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virtues are only apparent) or "obvious" (as in *The effects of the drought are apparent to anyone who sees the parched fields*). One should take care that the intended meaning is clear from the context.

apparent horizon *n.* See **horizon** (sense 1).

apparent magnitude *n.* See **magnitude** (sense 2).

apparent temperature *n.* See **heat index**.

ap·pa·ri·tion (ăp'ă-rish'ən) *n.* 1. A ghostly figure; a specter. 2. A sudden or unusual sight: "[The designer's] indoor-outdoor reversals and juxtapositions call forth a Magritte apparition beneath a Miami moon" (Herbert Muschamp). 3. The act of appearing; appearance. [Middle English *apparicioun*, from Old French *apparition*, from Late Latin *apparitiō*, *apparitiōn-*, an appearance, from Latin *apparitus*, past participle of *apparēre*, to appear. See **APPEAR**.] —**ap'pa·ri'tion·al** *adj.*

ap·par·i·tor (ăp'păr'i-tər) *n.* An official who was formerly sent to carry out the orders of a civil or ecclesiastical court. [Middle English, from Latin *apparitor*, from *apparitus*, past participle of *apparēre*, to appear. See **APPEAR**.]

ap·peal (ăp-pēl') *n.* 1. An earnest or urgent request, entreaty, or supplication. 2. A resort to a higher authority or greater power, as for sanction, corroboration, or a decision: *an appeal to reason; an appeal to her listener's sympathy*. 3. Law **a.** The transfer of a case from a lower to a higher court for a new hearing. **b.** A case so transferred. **c.** A request for a new hearing. 4. The power of attracting or of arousing interest: *a city with special appeal for museumgoers*. ♦ *v.* -**pealed**, -**peal·ing**, -**peals** —*intr.* 1. To make an earnest or urgent request, as for help. 2. To have recourse, as for corroboration; resort: *I appeal to your sense of justice*. 3. Law To make or apply for an appeal. 4. To be attractive or interesting: *The idea didn't appeal to me*. —*tr.* Law To transfer or apply to transfer (a case) to a higher court for rehearing. [Middle English *apel*, from Old French, from *apeler*, to appeal, from Latin *appellāre*, to entreat. See **PEL** in Appendix I.] —**ap·peal'ā·bil'ity** *n.* —**ap·peal'ā·ble** *adj.* —**ap·peal'er** *n.*

ap·peal·ing (ăp-pēl'ing) *adj.* Attractive; inviting: *an appealing manner; an appealing idea*. —**ap·peal'ing·ly** *adv.*

ap·pear (ăp-pīr') *intr.v.* -**peared**, -**pear·ing**, -**pears** 1. To become visible: *a plane appearing in the sky*. 2. To come into existence: *New strains of viruses appear periodically*. 3. To seem or look to be: *appeared unhappy*. See **SYNONYMS** at **seem**. 4. To seem likely: *They will be late, as it appears*. 5. To come before the public: *has appeared in two plays; appears on the nightly news*. 6. Law To present oneself formally before a court as defendant, plaintiff, or counsel. [Middle English *aperen*, from Old French *aparoir*, *aper-*, from Latin *appārēre* : *ad-*, *ad-* + *pārēre*, to show.]

Synonyms *appear, emerge, issue, loom, materialize, show* These verbs mean to come into view: *a ship appearing on the horizon; a star that emerged from behind a cloud; a diver issuing from the water; a peak that loomed through the mist; a job offer that materialized overnight; a shirt sleeve showing at the edge of the jacket*. See also **SYNONYMS** at **seem**.

ap·pear·ance (ăp-pīr'əns) *n.* 1. The act or an instance of coming into sight. 2. The act or an instance of coming into public view: *The author made a rare personal appearance*. 3. Outward aspect: *an untidy appearance*. 4. Something that appears; a phenomenon. 5. A superficial aspect; a semblance: *keeping up an appearance of wealth*. 6. **appearances** Outward indications; circumstances: *a cheerful person, to all appearances*.

ap·pease (ăp-pēz') *tr.v.* -**peased**, -**peas·ing**, -**peas·es** 1. To bring peace, quiet, or calm to; soothe. 2. To satisfy or relieve: *appease one's thirst*. 3. To pacify or attempt to pacify (an enemy) by granting concessions, often at the expense of principle. See **SYNONYMS** at **pacify**. [Middle English *appesen*, from Old French *apesier* : *a-*, to (from Latin *ad-*; see **AD-**) + *pais*, peace (from Latin *pāx*; see **PAG-** in Appendix I).] —**ap·peas'ā·ble** *adj.* —**ap·peas'ā·bly** *adv.* —**ap·peas'er** *n.*

ap·pease·ment (ăp-pēz'mənt) *n.* 1a. An act of appeasing. **b.** The condition of being appeased. 2. The policy of granting concessions to potential enemies to maintain peace.

ap·pel (ăp-pēl') *n.* Sports A quick stamp of the foot used in fencing as a feint to produce an opening. [French, from *appeler*, to call, from Old French *apeler*, to appeal. See **APPEAL**.]

ap·pel·lant (ăp-pēl'ənt) *adj.* Of or relating to a court appeal; appellate. ♦ *n.* One who appeals a court decision. [Middle English, from Old French *apelant*, from present participle of *apeler*, to appeal. See **APPEAL**.]

ap·pel·late (ăp-pēl'it) *adj.* Having the power to hear court appeals and to review court decisions. [Latin *appellātus*, past participle of *appellāre*, to entreat. See **APPEAL**.]

ap·pel·la·tion (ăp'pē-lă'shən) *n.* 1. A name, title, or designation. 2. A protected name under which a wine may be sold, indicating that the grapes used are of a specific kind from a specific district. 3. The act of naming. [Middle English *appelacion*, from Old French *appelation*, from Latin *appellatiō*, *appellatiōn-*, from *appellātus*, past participle of *appellāre*, to entreat; see **APPEAL**.] Sense 2, from French *appellation* (*d'origine contrôlée*), (registered vintage) trade name, from *appellation*, trade name, from Old French *appelation*.]

ap·pel·la·tive (ăp-pēl'ă-tiv) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the assignment of names. 2. Grammar Of or relating to a common noun. ♦ *n.* A name or descriptive epithet. [Middle English, common (noun), from Old French *appellatif*, from Late Latin *appellātivus*, from Latin *appellātus*, past participle of *appellāre*, to call upon, entreat. See **APPEAL**.] —**ap·pel'la·tive·ly** *adv.*

ap·pel·lee (ăp'pē-lē') *n.* Law One against whom an appeal is taken.

[French *appelé*, from Old French *apeler*, from past participle of *apeler*, to appeal. See **APPEAL**.]

ap·pend (ăp-pēnd') *tr.v.* -**pend·ed**, -**pend·ing**, -**pend·s** 1. To add as a supplement or appendix: *appended a list of errors to the report*. 2. To fix to; attach: *append a charm to the bracelet*. [Latin *appendere*, to hang upon : *ad-*, *ad-* + *pendere*, to hang; see **(S)PEN-** in Appendix I.] —**ap·pend·age** (ăp-pēnd'ij) *n.* 1. Something added or attached to an entity of greater importance or size; an adjunct. 2. Biology A part or organ, such as an arm, leg, tail, or fin, that is joined to the axis or trunk of a body.

Synonyms *appendage, appurtenance, adjunct, accessory, attachment* These nouns denote subordinate elements added to another entity. An *appendage* supplements without being essential: "... and the complete absence of appendages at the stern decreases hull resistance" (R.J.L. Dicker). An *appurtenance* belongs naturally as a subsidiary attribute, part, or member: "an internationally known first-class hotel... equipped with such member: 'an internationally known first-class hotel... equipped with such appurtenances as computers, word processors, copiers and telex'" (Oscar Millard). An *adjunct* is added as an auxiliary but is often self-sustaining: "Intelligence analysts... believe that of all the countries of the Middle East, none use terrorism more effectively as an adjunct to diplomacy..." (Elaine Sciolino). An *accessory* is usually nonessential but desirable: *Our new car has such accessories as air conditioning and a sunroof*. An *attachment* adds a function to the thing to which it is connected: *The food processor has an attachment for kneading dough*.

ap·pen·dant (ăp-pēnd'ənt) *adj.* 1. Affixed as an appendage. 2. Accompanying; attendant: *faith and its appendant hope*. 3. Belonging to a land grant as a subsidiary right in English law. —**ap·pen·dant** *n.*

ap·pen·dec·to·my (ăp'pēn-dēk'tō-mē) *n., pl. -mies* Surgical removal of the vermiform appendix. [APPEND(IX) + -ECTOMY.]

ap·pen·di·ces (ăp-pēn'dī-sēz') *n.* A plural of **appendix**.

ap·pen·di·ci·tis (ăp-pēn'dī-sī'tis) *n.* Inflammation of the vermiform appendix. [New Latin, from Latin *appendix*, *appendic-*, appendage. See **APPENDIX**.]

Word History Even though the word *appendicitis* was in use in 1885, the year in which the *Oxford English Dictionary* published the section "Anta-Battening" that would have contained the word, the editor, James Murray, omitted this "crack-jaw medical and surgical word" on the advice of Oxford's Regius Professor of Medicine, Sir Henry Wentworth Acland. As K.M. Elisabeth Murray, the granddaughter and biographer of James Murray, points out, "The problem of what scientific words to include was a continuing one, and James Murray was always under pressure—from his advisers... who thought the emphasis should be on words from good literature and from those in the [Oxford University] Press who wanted to save cost and time—not to include scientific words of recent origin." In 1902 no less a person than Edward VII had his appendix removed, and his coronation was postponed because of the operation. *Appendicitis* hence came into widespread use and has remained so, thereby pointing up the lexicographer's difficult task of selecting the new words that people will look for in their dictionaries.

ap·pen·dic·u·lar (ăp'pēn-dīk'yə-lər) *adj.* Of, relating to, or consisting of an appendage or appendages, especially the limbs: *the appendicular skeleton*. [From Latin *appendicula*, diminutive of *appendix*, *appendic-*, appendix. See **APPENDIX**.]

ap·pen·dix (ăp-pēn'dīks) *n., pl. -dix·es* or *-dix·es* (-dī-sēz') 1a. An appendage. **b.** A collection of supplementary material, usually at the end of a book. 2. The vermiform appendix. 3. Anatomy A supplementary or accessory part of a bodily organ or structure. [Latin, from *appendere*, to hang upon. See **APPEND**.]

ap·per·ceive (ăp'pər-sēv') *tr.v.* -**ceived**, -**ceiv·ing**, -**ceives** 1. To perceive (something) while being conscious of perceiving. 2. To perceive (something) in terms of past experience. [Back-formation from *APPERCEPTION*.]

ap·per·cep·tion (ăp'pər-sēp'shən) *n.* 1. Conscious perception with full awareness. 2. The process of understanding by which newly observed qualities of an object are related to past experience. [New Latin *apperceptiō*, *apperceptiōn-* : Latin *ad-*, *ad-* + Latin *perceptiō*, perception; see **PERCEPTION**.] —**ap'per·cep·tive** (-sēp'tiv) *adj.*

ap·per·tain (ăp'pər-tān') *intr.v.* -**tained**, -**tain·ing**, -**tains** To belong as a proper function or part; pertain: *problems appertaining to social reform*. [Middle English *appertenen*, from Old French *apartenir*, from Vulgar Latin **appartenēre*, from Late Latin *appertinēre* : *ad-*, *ad-* + *pertinēre*, to belong; see **PERTAIN**.]

ap·pe·stat (ăp'pē-stăt') *n.* The area in the brain that is believed to regulate appetite and food intake. [APPE(TITE) + -STAT.]

ap·pe·tence (ăp'pē-təns) *n.* 1. A strong craving or desire. 2. A tendency or propensity. 3. A natural attraction or affinity. [Probably French *appétence*, from Latin *appetentia*, from *appetēs*, *appetent-*, present participle of *appetere*, to strive after. See **APPETITE**.] —**ap'pe·tent** *adj.*

ap·pe·ten·cy (ăp'pē-tən-sē) *n., pl. -cies* Appetence. [Latin *appetentia*. See **APPETENCE**.]

ap·pe·tite (ăp'pē-tīt') *n.* 1. An instinctive physical desire, especially one for food or drink. 2. A strong wish or urge: *an appetite for learning*. [Middle English *apetit*, from Old French, from Latin *appetitus*, strong desire, from past participle of *appetere*, to strive after : *ad-*, *ad-* + *petere*, to seek; see **PET-** in Appendix I.] —**ap'pe·ti·tive** (ăp'pē-tī'tiv, ă-pē'tī-tiv) *adj.*

ap·pe·tiz·er (ăp'pē-tī-zər) *n.* A food or drink served usually before a meal to stimulate the appetite.

grief or distress. **2.** Producing a strong emotional reaction: *heartbreaking* loveliness. —**heart/break/ing·ly** *adv.*

heart·bro·ken (hārt'brō'kən) *adj.* Suffering from or exhibiting overwhelming sorrow, grief, or disappointment. —**heart/bro'ken·ly** *adv.* —**heart/bro'ken·ness** *n.*

heart·burn (hārt'būrn') *n.* A burning sensation, usually centered in the middle of the chest near the sternum, caused by the reflux of acidic stomach fluids that enter the lower end of the esophagus. Also called *acid reflux*, *cardalgia*, *pyrosis*.

heart disease *n.* A structural or functional abnormality of the heart, or of the blood vessels supplying the heart, that impairs its normal functioning.

heart·en (hārt'ēn) *tr.v.* **-ened, -en·ing, -ens** To give strength, courage, or hope to; encourage. See synonyms at **encourage**.

heart failure *n.* **1.** Cessation of normal heart function. **2.** The inability of the heart to pump blood at an adequate rate, resulting in congestion in the lungs, shortness of breath, edema in the lower extremities, and enlargement of the liver.

heart·felt (hārt'fēlt') *adj.* Deeply or sincerely felt; earnest.

hearth (hārth) *n.* **1.** The floor of a fireplace, usually extending into a room and paved with brick, flagstone, or cement. **2.** Family life; the home. **3.** Metallurgy **a.** The lowest part of a blast furnace or cupola, from which the molten metal flows. **b.** The bottom of a reverberatory furnace, where ore is exposed to the flame. **4.** The fireplace or brazier of a blacksmith's forge. [Middle English *herth*, from Old English *heorh*. See *ker-* in Appendix I.]

hearth money *n.* Roman Catholic Church See **Peter's pence** (sense 2).

hearth·rug (hārth'rūg') *n.* A rug laid on a floor in front of a fireplace.

hearth·stone (hārth'stōn') *n.* **1.** Stone used in the construction of a hearth. **2.** Family life; the home. **3.** A soft stone or composition of pipe clay and pulverized stone used for scouring and whitening hearths or doorsteps.

heart·ily (hārt'ēl·ē) *adv.* **1.** In a cordial manner; with warmth and sincerity: *She greeted us heartily.* **2.** Thoroughly; completely: *wished heartily that they would leave.* **3.** With zest or enthusiasm. **4.** With great appetite or enjoyment: *eat heartily.*

heart·land (hārt'lānd') *n.* A central region, especially one that is politically, economically, or militarily vital to a nation, region, or culture.

heart·leaf (hārt'lēf') *n.* See **wild ginger**.

heart·less (hārt'lis) *adj.* **1.** Devoid of compassion or feeling; pitiless. **2.** Archaic Devoid of courage or enthusiasm; spiritless. —**heart/less·ly** *adv.* —**heart/less·ness** *n.*

heart-lung machine (hārt'lūng') *n.* An apparatus through which blood is temporarily diverted, especially during heart surgery, to oxygenate it and pump it throughout the body, thus maintaining circulation until the heart and lungs are able to return to normal functioning.

heart massage *n.* See **cardiac massage**.

heart rate *n.* *Abbr.* HR The number of heartbeats per unit of time, usually expressed as beats per minute.

heart-rend·ing or heart-rend·ing (hārt'rēn'dīng) *adj.* Causing anguish or deep distress; arousing deep sympathy.

Heart River (hārt) A river, about 290 km (180 mi) long, of southwest North Dakota flowing eastward to the Missouri River near Bismarck.

heart-search·ing (hārt'sār'ching) *n.* An examination of one's conscience, innermost feelings, and motives. —**heart/-search'ing** *adj.*

heart's·ease also **heart's·ease** (hārts'ēz') *n.* **1.** Peace of mind. **2.** A hybrid plant derived from crossing certain species of the genus *Viola* and having small, spurred, variously colored flowers.

heart·sick (hārt'sīk') *adj.* Profoundly disappointed; despondent. —**heart/sick'ness** *n.*

heart-strick·en (hārt'strīk'ən) also **heart-struck** (-strūk') *adj.* Overwhelmed with grief, dismay, or remorse.

heart·string (hārt'strīng') *n.* **1.** **heartstrings** The deepest feelings or affections: *a tug at the heartstrings.* **2.** One of the nerves or tendons formerly believed to brace and sustain the heart.

heart-struck (hārt'strūk') *adj.* Variant of **heart-stricken**.

heart·throb (hārt'thrōb') *n.* **1.** A pulsation of the heart; a heart-beat. **2a.** Sentimental or tender emotion. **b.** Infatuation. **3a.** A sweetheart. **b.** The object of one's infatuation.

heart-to-heart (hārt'tə-hārt') *adj.* Candid; frank. ♦ *n.* An intimate conversation in private.

heart-warm·ing or heart-warm·ing (hārt'wōr'mīng) *adj.* Causing gladness and tender feelings: *a heartwarming tale.*

heart·wood (hārt'wōd') *n.* The older, nonliving central wood of a tree or woody plant, usually darker and harder than the younger sapwood. Also called *duramen*.

heart·worm (hārt'wōrm') *n.* **1.** A filarial worm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) transmitted by mosquitoes and parasitic in the heart and associated blood vessels of dogs and other canids. **2.** The condition resulting from infestation with the heartworm.

heart·y (hārt'ē) *adj.* **-i·er, -i·est** **1.** Expressed warmly, exuberantly, and unrestrainedly: *a hearty welcome.* **2.** Complete or thorough; unequivocal: *hearty support.* **3.** Vigorous; robust: *a hearty glow of health.* **4a.** Enjoying or requiring much food: *a hearty appetite.* **b.** Providing abundant nourishment; substantial: *a hearty meal.* ♦ *n., pl. -ies* **1.** A good fellow; a comrade. **2.** A sailor. —**heart/i·ness** *n.*

heat (hēt) *n.* **Physics** **1a.** A form of energy associated with the motion of atoms or molecules and capable of being transmitted through solid and fluid media by conduction, through fluid media by convection, and

through empty space by radiation. **b.** The transfer of energy from one body to another as a result of a difference in temperature of a change of phase. **2.** The sensation or perception of such energy as warmth or hotness. **3.** An abnormally high bodily temperature, as from a fever. **4.** The condition of being hot. **b.** A degree of warmth or hotness. **5a.** The warming of a room or building by a furnace or another source of energy: *The house was cheap to rent, but the heat was expensive.* **b.** A furnace or other source of warmth in a room: *The heat was on when we returned from work.* **6.** A hot season. **Intensity, as of passion, emotion, color, appearance, or effect.** **b.** The most intense or active stage: *the heat of battle.* **c.** A burning sensation. **7.** The mouth produced by spicy flavoring in food. **8.** Estrus. **9.** One of a series of efforts or attempts. **10a.** Sports & Games One round of several mine finalists. **11.** Informal Pressure; stress. **12.** Slang **a.** An intensification of police activity in pursuing criminals. **b.** The police. **Used with forced the senator to resign.** **14.** Slang A firearm, especially a pistol. **heat·ed, heat·ing, heats** —*tr.* **1.** To make warm or hot. **2.** To excite the feelings of; inflame. **3.** To increase the molecular or kinetic energy of (an object). —*intr.* **1.** To become warm or hot. **2.** To become emotionally or intellectually. —**phrasal verb:** **heat up** (informal) "to become acute or intense: 'If inflation heats up, interest rates could increase'" (Christian Science Monitor). [Middle English *hete*, from Old English *hætu*. See *kai-* in Appendix I.]

heat capacity *n.* The amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one mole or one gram of a substance by one degree Celsius without change of phase.

heat·ed (hē'tēd) *adj.* Angry; vehement; impassioned: *a heated argument.* —**heat/ed·ly** *adv.*

heat engine *n.* A device that converts heat energy into work.

heat·er (hē'tər) *n.* **1.** An apparatus that heats or provides heat. **2.** One who heats something or tends a heating apparatus. **3.** Slang A player. **4.** Baseball A fastball.

heat exchanger *n.* A device, such as an automobile radiator, used to transfer heat from a fluid on one side of a barrier to a fluid on the other side without bringing the fluids into direct contact.

heat exhaustion *n.* A condition caused by exposure to heat, resulting in the depletion of body fluids and causing weakness, dizziness, nausea, and often collapse. The condition can be alleviated by rest and by administration of fluids and electrolytes to compensate for those lost through excessive sweating. Also called *heat prostration*.

heath (hēth) *n.* **1.** Any of various usually low-growing shrubs of the genus *Erica* and related genera, native to Europe and South Africa and having small evergreen leaves and small, colorful, urn-shaped flowers. Also called *heather*. **2.** An extensive tract of uncultivated open land covered with herbage and low shrubs; a moor. [Middle English *hæth*, from Old English *hæth*. See *kaito-* in Appendix I.]

Heath (hēth), Edward Richard George 1916–2005. British politician who as prime minister (1970–1974) secured his country's entry into the Common Market (1973) and sought to offset high inflation by controlling wages, which led to a crippling miner's strike (1973–1974).

hea·then (hē'thən) *n., pl. -thens or heathen* **1.** Offensive & One who adheres to the religion of a people or nation that does not acknowledge the God of Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. **b.** Such persons considered as a group; the unconverted. **2a.** One who is regarded as irreligious, uncivilized, or unenlightened. **b.** Such persons considered as a group. [Middle English *hethen*, from Old English *hæthen*. See *kaito-* in Appendix I.] —**hea'then** *adj.* —**hea'then·dom, hea'then·ry** *n.*

hea·then·ish (hē'thə-nīsh) *adj.* **1.** Of or having to do with heathens. **2.** Uncouth; barbarous. —**hea'then·ish·ly** *adv.*

heath·er (hēth'ər) *n.* **1.** A low-growing Eurasian shrub (*Calluna vulgaris*) growing in dense masses and having small evergreen leaves and clusters of small, bell-shaped pinkish-purple flowers. Also called *heather*. See **heath** (sense 1). **3.** A grayish purple to purplish red. [Alteration (influenced by HEATH) of Middle English *hather*, probably from Old English **hæddre*.] —**heath'er** *adj.*

heath·ered (hēth'ərd) *adj.* Flecked with various colors; speckled: *heathered yarn.*

heath·er·y (hēth'ə-rē) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or resembling heath. **2.** Flecked with various colors.

heath hen *n.* A subspecies of the prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido* subsp. *cupido*) that became extinct in eastern North America during the first part of the 20th century.

heat index *n.* A measurement of the air temperature in relation to the relative humidity, used as an indicator of the perceived temperature. Also called *apparent temperature*, *humiture*.

heat island *n.* An area, such as a city or industrial site, having consistently higher temperatures than surrounding areas because of a greater retention of heat, as by buildings, concrete, and asphalt.

heat lightning *n.* Intermittent flashes of light near the horizon usually seen on a hot summer evening, unaccompanied by thunder and thought to be cloud reflections of distant lightning.

heat of combustion *n.* The amount of heat released per unit mass or unit volume of a substance when the substance is completely burned.

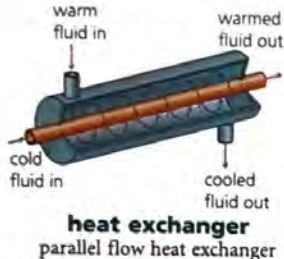
heat of fusion *n.* The amount of heat required to convert a unit mass of a solid at its melting point into a liquid without an increase in temperature.

heat of transformation *n.* See **latent heat**.

heat of vaporization *n.* The amount of heat required to convert



hearth



heat exchanger
parallel flow heat exchanger



heather
Calluna vulgaris

which, by international agreement, the calendar date is one day earlier than to the west.

inter-national-ism (in'tar-nash'ə-nā-lē'am) *n.* 1. The condition or quality of being international in character, principles, concern, or attitude. 2. A policy or practice of cooperation among nations, especially in politics and economic matters. —**in'ter-na'tion-al-ist** *n.*

inter-national-ize (in'tar-nash'ə-nā-līz') *tr.v.* -ized, -izing, -izes 1. To make international. 2. To put under international control. —**in'ter-na'tion-al-iza'tion** (-lī-zā'shan) *n.*

international law *n.* A set of rules generally regarded and accepted as binding in relations between states and nations. Also called *law of nations*.

International Morse code *n.* A form of Morse code having no spaces between the dot and dash elements, commonly used for telegraphic communication outside the United States and Canada. Also called *continental code*.

International Phonetic Alphabet *n.* Abbr. IPA A phonetic alphabet and diacritic modifiers sponsored by the International Phonetic Association to provide a uniform and universally understood system for transcribing the speech sounds of all languages.

international pitch *n.* A sound wave frequency of 440 cycles per second, assigned to the A above middle C. Also called *concert pitch*.

international relations *pl.n.* 1. (used with a *sing. verb*) The branch of political science that is concerned with the foreign affairs of and relations among countries. 2. (used with a *pl. verb*) Foreign affairs; relations among countries.

International style or **International Style** *n.* An influential modernist style in architecture that developed in Europe and the United States in the 1920s and 1930s, characterized chiefly by regular, unadorned geometric forms, open interiors, and the use of glass, steel, and reinforced concrete.

International System *n.* A complete, coherent system of units used for scientific work, in which the fundamental quantities are length, time, electric current, temperature, luminous intensity, amount of substance, and mass.

international unit *n.* Abbr. IU 1. The quantity of a biologically active substance, such as a hormone or vitamin, required to produce a specific response. 2. A unit of potency for similarly active substances, based on this quantity and accepted as an international standard.

interne (in'tūrn', in-tūrn') *n., v. & adj.* Variant of *intern*.

internecine (in'tar-nēs'en', -in, -nēs'in') *adj.* 1. Of or relating to struggle within a nation, organization, or group. 2. Mutually destructive; ruinous or fatal to both sides. 3. Characterized by bloodshed or carnage. [Latin *internecinus*, destructive, variant of *internecivus*, from *internecare*, to slaughter: *inter-*, intensive pref.; see *INTER-* + *nec-*, death; see *nek-* in Appendix I.]

Word History When is a mistake not a mistake? In language at least, the answer to this question is "When everyone adopts it," and on rare occasions, "When it's in the dictionary." The word *internecine* presents a case in point. Today, it usually has the meaning "relating to internal struggle," but in its first recorded use in English, in 1663, it meant "fought to the death." How it got from one sense to another is an interesting story in the history of English. The Latin source of the word, spelled both *internecinus* and *internecivus*, meant "fought to the death, murderous." It is a derivative of the verb *necare*, "to kill." The prefix *inter-* was here used not in the usual sense "between, mutual" but rather as an intensifier meaning "all the way, to the death." This piece of knowledge was unknown to Samuel Johnson, however, when he was working on his great dictionary in the 18th century. He included *internecine* in his dictionary but misunderstood the prefix and defined the word as "endeavoring mutual destruction." Johnson was not taken to task for this error. On the contrary, his dictionary was so popular and considered so authoritative that this error became widely adopted as correct usage. The error was further compounded when *internecine* acquired the sense "relating to internal struggle." This story thus illustrates how dictionaries are often viewed as providing norms and how the ultimate arbiter in language, even for the dictionary itself, is popular usage.

intern-ee (in'tūr-nē') *n.* One who is interned or confined, especially in wartime.

inter-net (in'tar-nēt') *n.* An interconnected system of networks that connects computers around the world via the TCP/IP protocol.

inter-net-work (in'tar-nēt'wūrk') *n.* An interconnected system of networks, especially computer networks.

inter-neu-ron (in'tar-nōō'rōn', -nyōōr-) *n.* A nerve cell found entirely within the central nervous system that acts as a link between sensory neurons and motor neurons. —**in'ter-neu-ro-nal** (-nōōr'ə-nāl, -nyōōr'ə-, -nōō-rō-, -nyōō-) *adj.*

intern-ist (in-tūr'nist) *n.* A physician specializing in internal medicine. [INTERNAL MEDICINE] + *-IST*.

intern-ment (in-tūr'nment) *n.* 1. The act of interning or confining, especially in wartime. 2. The state of being interned; confinement.

inter-node (in'tar-nōd') *n.* A section or part between two nodes, as of a nerve or stem. —**in'ter-nod'al** (-nōd'əl) *adj.*

inter-nos (in'tar-nōs') *adv. & adj.* Between ourselves. [Latin *inter nos*: *inter*, among + *nos*, us.]

inter-nucle-ar (in'tar-nōō'klē-ər, -nyōōr-) *adj.* Located or occurring between nuclei.

inter-nun-cial (in'tar-nūn'shəl, -sē-əl) *adj.* Linking two neurons in a neuronal pathway. [INTERNUNCIAL(O) + *-AL*.] —**in'ter-nun-cial-ly** *adv.*

inter-nun-ci-o (in'tar-nūn'sē-ō', -nōōn't-) *n., pl. -os* 1. A Vatican diplomatic envoy or representative ranking just beneath a nuncio. 2. A messenger or an agent; a go-between. [Italian *internunzio*, from Latin *internūntius*, mediator: *inter-*, *inter-* + *nūntius*, messenger; see *NUNCIO*.]

inter-o-cep-tor (in'tar-ō-sēptər) *n.* A specialized sensory nerve receptor that receives and responds to stimuli originating from within the body. [INTERIOR] + (RE)CEPTOR.] —**in'ter-o-cep-tive** *adj.*

inter-of-fice (in'tar-ō'fīs, -ōf'īs) *adj.* Transmitted or taking place between offices, especially those of a single organization: *an interoffice memo; interoffice conferences*.

inter-pen-e-trate (in'tar-pēn'fī-trāt') *v.* -trat-ed, -trat-ing, -trates —*intr.* To become mixed or united by penetration: *planes that interpenetrate in a painting.* —*tr.* 1. To penetrate reciprocally: *The streams interpenetrate each other at the rapids.* 2. To penetrate thoroughly; permeate or pervade.

inter-per-son-al (in'tar-pūr'sā-nəl) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the interactions between individuals: *interpersonal skills.* 2. Existing or occurring between individuals: *interpersonal communication or conflict.* —**in'ter-per-son-al-ly** *adv.*

inter-phase (in'tar-fāz') *n.* The stage of a cell between two successive mitotic or meiotic divisions. —**in'ter-phase'** *v.*

inter-phone (in'tar-fōn') *n.* A telephone used in a small closed system of telephones: *"The sergeant lifted the interphone and told the pilot that the door was properly sealed"* (Tom Clancy).

inter-plan-e-tary (in'tar-plān'fī-tēr'ē) *adj.* Existing or occurring between planets.

inter-play (in'tar-plā') *n.* Reciprocal action and reaction; interaction. —*intr.v.* -played, -play-ing, -plays To act or react on each other; interact.

inter-plead (in'tar-plēd') *intr.v.* -plead-ed, -plead-ing, -pleads *Law* To submit one's claim to the process of interpleader. [Middle English *enterpleden*, from Anglo-Norman *enterpleder*; *enter-*, between (from Latin *inter*; see *INTER-*) + *pleder*, to plead (variant of Old French *plaidier*; see *PLEAD*).]

inter-plead-er (in'tar-plēd'ər) *n.* *Law* A procedure to determine which of two parties making the same claim against a third party is the rightful claimant. [Anglo-Norman *enterpleder*, to interplead, interpleader. See *INTERPLEAD*.]

inter-po-late (in-tūr'pā-lāt') *v.* -lat-ed, -lat-ing, -lates —*tr.* 1. To insert or introduce between other elements or parts. 2a. To insert (material) into a text. b. To insert into a conversation. See synonyms at *introduce*. 3. To change or falsify (a text) by introducing new or incorrect material. 4. *Mathematics* To estimate a value of (a function or series) between two known values. —*intr.* To make insertions or additions. [Latin *interpolare*, *interpolat-*, to touch up, refurbish, from *interpolis*, refurbished. See *pel-* in Appendix I.] —**in'ter-po-la'tion** *n.* —**in'ter-po-la'tive** *adj.* —**in'ter-po-la'tor** *n.*

inter-pose (in'tar-pōz') *v.* -posed, -pos-ing, -pos-es —*tr.* 1a. To insert or introduce between parts. b. To place (oneself) between others or things. 2. To introduce or interject (a comment, for example) during discourse or a conversation. See synonyms at *introduce*. 3. To exert (influence or authority) in order to interfere or intervene: *interpose one's veto.* —*intr.* 1. To come between things; assume an intervening position. 2. To come between the parties in a dispute; intervene. 3. To insert a remark, question, or argument. [French, from Old French *interposer*, to intervene, alteration (influenced by *poser*, to put, place) of Latin *interpōnere*, to put between: *inter-*, *inter-* + *pōnere*, to put; see *apo-* in Appendix I.] —**in'ter-pos'al** *n.* —**in'ter-pos'er** *n.* —**in'ter-po-si-tion** (-pō-zish'ən) *n.*

inter-pret (in-tūr'prīt) *v.* -pret-ed, -pret-ing, -prets —*tr.* 1. To explain the meaning of: *interpreted the ambassador's remarks.* See synonyms at *explain*. 2. To conceive the significance of; construe: *interpreted his smile to be an agreement; interpreted the open door as an invitation.* 3. To present or conceptualize the meaning of by means of art or criticism. 4. To translate orally. —*intr.* 1. To offer an explanation. 2. To serve as an interpreter for speakers of different languages. [Middle English *interpreten*, from Old French *interpréter*, from Latin *interpretari*, from *interpres*, interpreter, negotiator, explainer. See *per-* in Appendix I.] —**in'ter-pret-a-bil'i-ty**, **in'ter-pret-a-ble-ness** *n.* —**in'ter-pret-a-ble** *adj.*

inter-pre-ta-tion (in-tūr'prī-tā'shən) *n.* 1. The act or process of interpreting. 2. A result of interpreting. 3a. An explanation or conceptualization by a critic of a work of literature, painting, music, or other art form; an exegesis. b. A performer's distinctive personal version of a song, dance, piece of music, or role; a rendering. —**in'ter-pre-ta-tion-al** *adj.*

inter-pre-ta-tive (in-tūr'prī-tā'tiv) *adj.* Variant of *interpretive*. —**in'ter-pre-ta-tive-ly** *adv.*

inter-pret-er (in-tūr'prī-tər) *n.* 1. One who translates orally from one language into another. 2. One who gives or expounds an interpretation: *"An actor is an interpreter of other men's words, often a soul which wishes to reveal itself to the world"* (Alec Guinness). 3. *Computer Science* A program that translates an instruction into a machine language and executes it before proceeding to the next instruction.

inter-pre-tive (in-tūr'prī-tiv) also **in'ter-pre-ta-tive** (-tā'tiv) *adj.* Relating to or marked by interpretation; explanatory. —**in'ter-pre-tive-ly** *adv.*

inter-pup-il-lar-y (in'tar-pyōō'pō-lēr'ē) *adj.* Occurring between the pupils of the eyes: *interpupillary distance*.

inter-ra-cial (in'tar-rā'shəl) *adj.* Relating to, involving, or representing different races: *inter-racial fellowship; an inter-racial neighborhood*.

inter-re-gion-al (in'tar-rē'jō-nəl) *adj.* Of, involving, or connect-



International style

the Villa Savoye,
Poissy, France,
1928–1931,
by Le Corbusier

a pat	oi boy
a pay	ou out
ar care	oo took
a father	oo boot
e pet	ū cut
e be	ū urge
i pit	th thin
i pie	th this
ir pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	a about, item
ō paw	★ regionalism

Stress marks: * (primary);
° (secondary), as in
dictionary (dīk'shā-nēr'ē)

Washington Island An island of northeast Wisconsin in northwest Lake Michigan off the northern tip of the Door Peninsula.

Washing-ton's Birthday (wōsh'ing-tanz, wō'shīng-) *n.* February 22, formerly observed to commemorate the birth of George Washington in 1732. This holiday is now included in the observances of Presidents' Day.

Wash-i-ta (wōsh'ī-tō', wō'shī-) A river rising in northwest Texas and flowing about 724 km (450 mi) generally east-southeast across Oklahoma to the Red River.

wash-out (wōsh'out', wōsh'-) *n.* **1a.** Erosion of a relatively soft surface, such as a roadbed, by a sudden gush of water, as from a downpour or floods. **b.** A channel produced by such erosion. **2a.** A total failure or disappointment. **b.** One who fails to measure up to a standard, especially one who fails a course of training or study.

wash-rag (wōsh'rāg', wōsh'-) *n.* See **washcloth**.

wash-room (wōsh'rōom', -rōom', wōsh'-) *n.* A bathroom, especially one in a public place.

wash sale *n.* The illegal buying of stock by a seller's agents to give the impression of an active market.

wash-stand (wōsh'stānd', wōsh'-) *n.* **1.** A stand that is designed to hold a basin and pitcher of water for washing. **2.** A stationary bathroom sink.

wash-tub (wōsh'tüb', wōsh'-) *n.* A tub used for washing clothes.

wash-up (wōsh'üp', wōsh'-) *n.* The act or action of washing clean.

wash-woman (wōsh'wōm'an, wōsh'-) *n.* Variant of **washerwoman**.

wash-y (wōsh'ē, wō'shē) *adj.* **-i-er, -i-est** **1.** Watery; diluted: *washy tea*. **2.** Lacking strength or intensity: *a washy handshake; washy prose*. —**wash/i-ness** *n.*

was-n't (wūz'ənt, wōz'-) Contraction of *was not*.

wasp (wōsp, wōsp) *n.* Any of numerous social or solitary insects, chiefly of the superfamilies Vespidae and Sphecoidea, having a slender body with a constricted abdomen, two pairs of membranous wings, mouths adapted for biting or sucking, and in the females an ovipositor often modified as a sting. [Middle English *waspe*, from Old English *wæps*, *wæsp*.] —**wasp/y** *adj.*

WASP¹ or **Wasp** (wōsp, wōsp) *n.* **1.** A white Protestant of Anglo-Saxon ancestry. **2.** A white, usually Protestant member of the American upper social class. [*W(hite) A(nglo)-S(axon) P(rotestant)*.] —**WASP/i-ness**, **WASP/ish-ness** *n.* —**WASP/y**, **WASP/ish** *adj.*

WASP² or **Wasp** (wāsp) *n.* A member of Women's Airforce Service Pilots, organized during World War II as part of the U.S. Army Air Forces to ferry aircraft and to test new aircraft. The organization was disbanded in 1944. [From *W(omen's) A(irforce) S(ervice) P(ilots)*.]

WASP³ *abbr.* Women's Airforce Service Pilots

wasp-ish (wōs'pish) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or suggestive of a wasp. **2.** Easily irritated or annoyed; irascible. **3.** Indicative of irritation, annoyance, or spite: *a waspish remark*. —**wasp/ish-ly** *adv.* —**wasp/ish-ness** *n.*

wasp waist *n.* A very slender waist or one that is tightly corseted. —**wasp/waist'ed** (wōsp'wāst'id, wōsp'-) *adj.*

was-sail (wōs'al, wō-sāl') *n.* **1a.** A salutation or toast given in drinking someone's health or as an expression of goodwill at a festivity. **b.** The drink used in such toasting, commonly ale or wine spiced with roasted apples and sugar. **2.** A festivity characterized by much drinking. ♦ *v.* **-sailed, -sail-ing, -sails** —*tr.* To drink to the health of; toast. —*intr.* To engage in or drink a wassail. [Middle English, contraction of *wæshæl*, be healthy, from Old Norse *ves heill*: *ves*, imperative sing. of *vera*, to be; see **wes-¹** in Appendix I + *heill*, healthy; see **kailo-** in Appendix I.] —**was/sail-er** *n.*

Was-ser-mann reaction (wā'sər-mən) *n.* A complement-fixing reaction to the Wassermann test.

Wassermann test *n.* A diagnostic test for syphilis involving the fixation or inactivation of a complement by an antibody in a blood serum sample. [After August von Wassermann (1866–1925), German bacteriologist.]

Was-ser-stein (wā'sər-stēn'), **Wendy** 1950–2006. American playwright noted for her comedies, such as *The Heidi Chronicles* (1988), for which she won a Pulitzer Prize.

wast (wōst; *wast when unstressed*) *v.* Archaic A second person singular past tense of **be**.

wast-age (wā'stij) *n.* **1.** Loss by deterioration, wear, or destruction: "Disease and desertion still caused much greater wastage than battle" (Theodore Ropp). **2.** The gradual process of wasting. **3.** An amount that is wasted or lost by wear.

waste (wāst) *v.* **wast-ed, wast-ing, wastes** —*tr.* **1.** To use, consume, spend, or expend thoughtlessly or carelessly. **2.** To cause to lose energy, strength, or vigor; exhaust, tire, or enfeeble: *Disease wasted his body*. **3.** To fail to take advantage of or use for profit; lose: *waste an opportunity*. **4a.** To destroy completely. **b.** Slang To kill; murder. —*intr.* **1.** To lose energy, strength, weight, or vigor; become weak or enfeebled: *wasting away from an illness*. **2.** To pass without being put to use: *Time is wasting*. ♦ *n.* **1.** The act or an instance of wasting or the condition of being wasted: *a waste of talent; gone to waste*. **2.** A place, region, or land that is uninhabited or uncultivated; a desert or wilderness. **3.** A devastated or destroyed region, town, or building; a ruin. **4a.** An unusable or unwanted substance or material, such as a waste product. **b.** Something, such as steam, that escapes without being used. **5.** Garbage; trash. **6.** The undigested residue of food eliminated from the body; excrement. ♦ *adj.* **1.** Regarded or discarded as worthless or useless: *waste trimmings*. **2.** Used as a conveyance or container for refuse: *a waste bin*. **3.** Excreted

from the body: *waste matter*. —**idiom: waste (one's) breath** To gain or accomplish nothing by speaking. [Middle English *wasten*, from Old North French *waster*, from Latin *vāstāre*, to make empty, from *vāstus*, empty. See **eu-** in Appendix I.]

Synonyms *waste, blow, consume, dissipate, fritter, squander* These verbs mean to spend or expend without restraint and often to no avail: *wasted my inheritance; blew a fortune at the casino; time and money that was consumed in litigation; dissipated their energies in pointless argument; frittering away her entire allowance; squandered his talent on writing ad-vertising jingles.*

Antonym *save*

waste-bas-ket (wāst'bās'kit) *n.* A relatively small, open-topped container for discarding trash. Also called *wastepaper basket*.

wast-ed (wā'stīd) *adj.* **1.** Not profitably used or maintained: *a wasted inheritance*. **2.** Needless or superfluous: *These are wasted words*. **3.** Deteriorated; ravaged: *a wasted landscape*. **4.** Frail and enfeebled, as from prolonged illness; emaciated. **5.** Slang Drunk or intoxicated. **6.** Archaic Having elapsed.

waste-ful (wāst'fəl) *adj.* Marked by or inclined to waste; extravagant. —**waste/ful-ly** *adv.* —**waste/ful-ness** *n.*

waste-land (wāst'lānd') *n.* **1.** Land that is desolate, barren, or ravaged. **2.** A place, era, or aspect of life considered as lacking in spiritual, aesthetic, or other humanizing qualities; a vacuum: *a cultural wasteland*.

waste-pa-per (wāst'pā'pər) *n.* Discarded paper.

wastepaper basket *n.* See **wastebasket**.

waste pipe *n.* A pipe that carries off liquid waste.

waste product *n.* An unusable or unwanted substance or material produced during or as a result of a process, such as metabolism or manufacturing.

wast-er (wā'stər) *n.* **1.** One that wastes: *a waster of time; a waster of money*. **2.** One that lays waste; a destroyer: *a waster of enemy cities*.

waste-wa-ter (wāst'wō'tər, -wōt'ər) *n.* Water that has been used, as for washing, flushing, or in a manufacturing process, and so contains waste products; sewage.

wast-ing (wā'sting) *adj.* **1.** Gradually deteriorating; declining: *the wasting process of erosion*. **2.** Sapping the strength, energy, or substance of the body; emaciating: *a wasting disease*. —**wast-ing-ly** *adv.*

wasting asset *n.* A fixed asset, such as a mine or an oil well, that diminishes in value over time.

wast-rel (wā'strəl) *n.* **1.** One who wastes, especially one who wastes money; a profligate. **2.** An idler or a loafer. [WAST(E) + *-rel* (as in SCOUNDREL).]

wat (wät) *n.* A Buddhist temple in Thailand or Cambodia. [Thai, from Sanskrit *vāṭa*, enclosure.]

wa-tap (wā-tāp', wā-) also **wa-ta-pe** (-tā'pē) *n.* A stringy thread made from the roots of various conifers and used by certain Native American peoples in sewing and weaving. [Ojibwa *wadab*.]

watch (wōch) *v.* **watched, watch-ing, watch-es** —*intr.* **1.** To look or observe attentively or carefully; be closely observant: *watching for trail markers*. **2.** To look and wait expectantly or in anticipation: *watch for an opportunity*. **3.** To act as a spectator; look on: *stood by the road and watched*. **4.** To stay awake at night while serving as a guard, sentinel, or watcher. **5.** To stay alert as a devotional or religious exercise; keep vigil. —*tr.* **1.** To look at steadily; observe carefully or continuously: *watch a parade*. **2.** To keep a watchful eye on; guard: *watched the prisoner all day*. **3.** To observe the course of mentally; keep up on or informed about: *watch the price of gold*. **4.** To tend (a flock, for example). See **synonyms** at **tend²**. ♦ *n.* **1.** The act or process of keeping awake or mentally alert, especially for the purpose of guarding. **2a.** The act of observing closely or the condition of being closely observed; surveillance. **b.** A period of close observation, often in order to discover something: *a watch during the child's illness*. **3.** A person or group of people serving, especially at night, to guard or protect. **4.** The post or period of duty of a guard, sentinel, or watcher. **5.** Any of the periods into which the night is divided: a part of the night. **6.** Nautical **a.** Any of the periods of time, usually four hours, into which the day aboard ship is divided and during which a part of the crew is assigned to duty. **b.** The members of a ship's crew on duty during a specific watch. **c.** A chronometer on a ship. **7a.** A period of wakefulness, especially one observed as a religious vigil. **b.** A funeral wake. **8.** A small portable timepiece, especially one worn on the wrist or carried in the pocket. **9.** A flock of nightingales. See **synonyms** at **flock¹**. —**phrasal verbs: watch out** To be careful or on the alert; take care. **watch over** To be in charge of; superintend. —**idioms: watch it** To be careful: *had to watch it when I stepped onto the ice*. **watch (one's) step** **1.** To act or proceed with care and caution. **2.** To behave as is demanded, required, or appropriate. [Middle English *watchen*, from Old English *wæccan*, to watch, be awake. See **weg-** in Appendix I.]

watch-a-ble (wōch'ə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being watched; viewable: *watchable wildlife*. **2.** Good enough to watch: "The fastest modern ... delivers jerky real-time video that is watchable but not for long periods of time" (David Colker).

watch-band (wōch'bānd') *n.* A band of leather, cloth, metal, or plastic that holds a wristwatch in place.

watch cap *n.* A dark blue knitted cap worn in cold weather, especially by enlisted naval personnel.

watch-case (wōch'kās') *n.* The casing for the mechanism of a watch.

watch-dog (wōch'dōg', -dōg') *n.* **1.** A dog trained to guard people or property. **2.** One who serves as a guardian or protector against waste, loss, or illegal practices. —**watch/dog'** *v.*



wasp
paper wasp