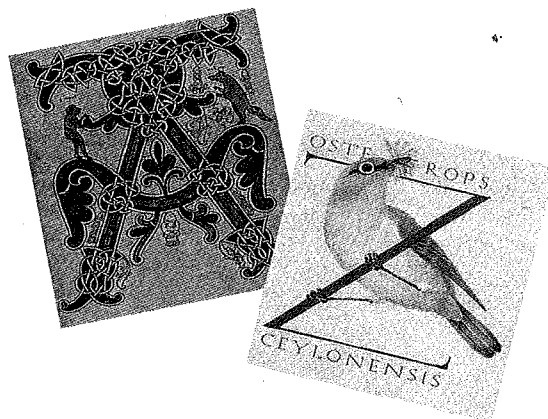


The
**American
Heritage[®] Dictionary**
of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



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em•balm (ēm-bām') *tr.v.* **-balm**, **-balm•ing**, **-balm** 1. To treat (a corpse) with preservatives in order to prevent decay. 2. To protect from change or oblivion; preserve or fix: "A precedent embalms a principle" (Benjamin Disraeli). 3. To impart fragrance to; perfume: *Spicy aromas embalmed the air.* [Middle English *embaumen*, from Old French *embasmer*: *en-*, in; see *EN-1* + *basme*, balm; see *BALM*.] —**em•balm'er** *n.* —**em•balm'ment** *n.*

em•bank (ēm-bāngk') *tr.v.* **-banked**, **-bank•ing**, **-banks** To confine, support, or protect with an embankment.

em•bank•ment (ēm-bāngk'mənt) *n.* 1. The act of embanking. 2. A mound of earth or stone built to hold back water or to support a roadway.

em•bar•ca•de•ro (ēm-bār'kə-dār'ō) *n., pl. -ros* California A pier, wharf, or landing place, especially on a river or inland waterway. [Spanish, from *embarcar*, to embark, from Old Spanish, from Medieval Latin *imbarcare*. See *EMBARK*.]

em•bar•go (ēm-bār'gō) *n., pl. -goes* 1. A government order prohibiting the movement of merchant ships into or out of its ports. 2. A prohibition by a government on certain or all trade with a foreign nation. 3. A prohibition; a ban: *an embargo on criticism.* ♦ *tr.v. -goed, -going, -goes* To impose an embargo on. [Spanish, from *embargar*, to impede, from Vulgar Latin **imbaricare*, to barricade: Latin *in-*, in; see *EN-1* + Vulgar Latin **barricare*, to barricade (from **barrica*, barrel, barrier, from **barra*, bar, barrier).]

em•bark (ēm-bārk') *v.* **-barked**, **-bark•ing**, **-barks** —*tr.* 1. To cause to board a vessel or aircraft: *stopped to embark passengers.* 2. To enlist (a person or persons) or invest (capital) in an enterprise. —*intr.* 1. To go aboard a vessel or aircraft, as at the start of a journey. 2. To set out on a venture; commence: *embark on a world tour.* [French *embarquer*, from Late Old French, probably from Medieval Latin *imbarcare*: Latin *in-*, in- + *barca*, boat.] —**em•bar•ka'tion**, **em•bark'ment** *n.*

Em•barras River also **Em•barras River** (ām'brō) A river rising in eastern Illinois and flowing about 298 km (185 mi) generally south and southeast to the Wabash River in southwest Indiana.

em•bar•rass (ēm-bār'əs) *tr.v.* **-rassed**, **-rass•ing**, **-rass•es** 1. To cause to feel self-conscious or ill at ease; disconcert: *Meeting adults embarrassed the shy child.* 2. To involve in or hamper with financial difficulties. 3. To hinder with obstacles or difficulties; impede. 4. To complicate. 5. To interfere with (a bodily function) or impede the function of (a body part). [French *embarrasser*, to encumber, hamper, from Spanish *embarazar*, from Italian *imbarazzare*, from *imbarazzo*, obstacle, obstruction, from *imbarare*, to block, bar: *in-*, in (from Latin; see *EN-1*) + *barra*, bar (from Vulgar Latin **barra*).] —**em•bar'assed•ly** *adv.* —**em•bar'assing•ly** *adv.*

Synonyms *embarrass, abash, chagrin, discomfit, disconcert, faze, rattle* These verbs mean to cause someone to feel self-conscious and uneasy: *were embarrassed by their child's tantrum; felt abashed at the extravagant praise; will be chagrined if my confident prediction fails; was discomfited by the sudden personal question; was disconcerted by his brother's sarcastic remarks; refuses to be fazed by your objections; isn't easily rattled before an audience.*

em•bar•rass•ment (ēm-bār'əs-mənt) *n.* 1. The act or an instance of embarrassing. 2. The state of being embarrassed. 3. A source or cause of being embarrassed. 4. An overabundance: *an embarrassment of choices at a buffet dinner; an embarrassment of riches.*

Em•barras River (ām'brō) See **Embaras River**.

em•bas•sage (ēm'bə-sij) *n.* Archaic An embassy. [Middle English *ambassage*, office or function of an ambassador, possibly variant of *ambassade*, from Old French *ambassade*, *ambaxade*, from Old Spanish *ambaxada* or Old Provençal *ambaissada*, both from Medieval Latin *ambactiāta*, from *ambactia*. See *AMBASSADOR*.]

em•bas•sy (ēm'bə-sē) *n., pl. -sies* 1. A building containing the offices of an ambassador and staff. 2. The position, function, or assignment of an ambassador. 3. A mission to a foreign government headed by an ambassador. 4. A staff of diplomatic representatives headed by an ambassador. [Variant of *ambassy*, office or function of an ambassador, from obsolete French *ambassée*, from Medieval Latin *ambactiāta*. See *EMBASSAGE*.]

em•bat•tle (ēm-bāt'l) *tr.v.* **-tled**, **-tling**, **-tles** 1. To prepare for battle; array. 2. To furnish with battlements for defense. [Middle English *embataillen*, from Old French *embataillier*: *en-*, in; see *EN-1* + *bataillier*, to battle (from *bataille*, battle; see *BATTLE*).]

em•bat•tled (ēm-bāt'ld) *adj.* 1. Prepared or fortified for battle or engaged in battle: *embattled troops; an embattled city.* 2. Beset with attackers, criticism, or controversy: *an embattled legislative minority.*

em•bat•tle•ment (ēm-bāt'l-mənt, ĩm-) *n.* See **battlement**.

em•bay (ēm-bā') *tr.v.* **-bayed**, **-bay•ing**, **-bays** To put, shelter, or detain in or as if in a bay.

em•bay•ment (ēm-bā'mənt) *n.* 1. A bay or baylike shape. 2. The formation of a bay.

em•bed (ēm-bēd') also **im•bed** (ĩm-) *v.* **-bed•ded**, **-bed•ding**, **-beds** —*tr.* 1. To fix firmly in a surrounding mass: *embed a post in concrete; fossils embedded in shale.* 2. To enclose snugly or firmly. 3. To cause to be an integral part of a surrounding whole: "a minor accuracy embedded in a larger untruth" (Ian Jack). 4. *Biology* To enclose (a specimen) in a supporting material before sectioning for microscopic examination. —*intr.* To become embedded: *The harpoon struck but did not embed.* —**em•bed'ment** *n.*

em•bel•lish (ēm-bēl'ish) *tr.v.* **-lished**, **-lish•ing**, **-lish•es** 1. To make beautiful, as by ornamentation; decorate. 2. To add ornamental or

fictitious details to: *a fanciful account that embellishes the true story.* [Middle English *embellishen*, from Old French *embellir*, *embelliss-*: *en-*, causative pref.; see *EN-1* + *bel*, beautiful (from Latin *bellus*; see *deu-2* in Appendix I).] —**em•bel'lish•er** *n.*

em•bel'lish•ment (ēm-bēl'ish-mənt) *n.* 1. The act of embellishing or the state of being embellished. 2. Something that embellishes; a decoration. 3. *Music* A note that embellishes a melody.

em•ber (ēm'bər) *n.* 1. A small, glowing piece of coal or wood, as in a dying fire. 2. **embers** The smoldering coal or ash of a dying fire. [Middle English *embre*, from Old English *æmerge*.]

Em•ber Day (ēm'bər) *n.* A day reserved for prayer and fasting by some Christian churches, observed on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the first Sunday of Lent, after Whitsunday, after September 14, and after December 13. [Middle English *ymmer daye*, from Old English *ymbrendæg*: *ymbryne*, recurrence, course of time (*ymbe*, around; see *ambhi* in Appendix I + *ryne*, a running; see *rei-* in Appendix I) + *dæg*, day; see *DAY*.]

em•bez•zle (ēm-bēz'əl) *tr.v.* **-zled**, **-zling**, **-zles** To take (money, for example) for one's own use in violation of a trust. [Middle English *embesilen*, from Anglo-Norman *enbesiler*: Old French *en-*, intensive pref.; see *EN-1* + Old French *besillier*, to ravage.] —**em•bez'zle•ment** *n.* —**em•bez'zler** *n.*

em•bit•ter (ēm-bīt'ər) *tr.v.* **-tered**, **-ter•ing**, **-ters** 1. To make bitter in flavor. 2. To arouse bitter feelings in: *was embittered by years of unrewarded labor.* —**em•bit'ter•ment** *n.*

em•blaze¹ (ēm-blāz') *tr.v.* **-blazed**, **-blaz•ing**, **-blaz•es** 1. To set on fire. 2. To cause to glow; light up.

em•blaze² (ēm-blāz') *tr.v.* **-blazed**, **-blaz•ing**, **-blaz•es** Archaic 1. To emblazon. 2. To decorate lavishly.

em•bla•zon (ēm-blā'zən) *tr.v.* **-zoned**, **-zon•ing**, **-zons** 1a. To adorn (a surface) richly with prominent markings: *emblazon a doorway with a coat of arms.* b. To inscribe (a prominent marking) on a surface: *emblazon a cross on a banner.* 2. To make resplendent with brilliant colors. 3. To make illustrious; celebrate: *emblazoning a heroine's deeds in song.* —**em•bla'zon•er** *n.* —**em•bla'zon•ment** *n.*

em•bla•zon•ry (ēm-blāz'ən-rē) *n., pl. -ries* 1. The act or art of emblazoning. 2. Colorful or prominent decoration, especially heraldic decoration.

em•blem (ēm'bləm) *n.* 1. An object or a representation that functions as a symbol. See synonyms at **sign**. 2. A distinctive badge, design, or device: *trucks marked with the company emblem; the emblem of the air force.* 3. An allegorical picture usually inscribed with a verse or motto presenting a moral lesson. [Middle English, pictorial fable, from Latin *emblemā*, raised ornament, from Greek, embossed design, from *emballēin*, to insert, set in: *en-*, in; see *EN-2* + *ballēin*, to throw; see *g^velo-* in Appendix I.]

em•blem•at•ic (ēm'blə-māt'ik) or **em•blem•at•i•cal** (-i-kəl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or serving as an emblem; symbolic. [French *emblématique*, from Medieval Latin *emblematicus*, of an emblem, from Latin *emblemā*, *emblemat-*, emblem. See *EMBLEM*.] —**em'blem•at'i•cal•ly** *adv.*

em•blem•a•tize (ēm-blēm'a-tīz') also **em•blem•ize** (ēm'blə-mīz') *tr.v.* **-tized**, **-tiz•ing**, **-tiz•es** also **-ized**, **-iz•ing**, **-iz•es** To represent with or as if with an emblem; symbolize.

em•ble•ments (ēm'blə-mənts) *pl.n.* The crops or products of the land legally belonging to a tenant. [From Middle English *emblaiment*, from Old French *emblaement*, from *emblaer*, to sow with grain, from Medieval Latin *imblādāre*: Latin *in-*, in; see *EN-1* + Medieval Latin *blādum*, *blādium*, grain (of Germanic origin; see *bhel-3* in Appendix I).]

em•blem•ize (ēm'blə-mīz') *v.* Variant of **emblematize**.

em•bod•i•ment (ēm-bōd'ē-mənt, ĩm-) *n.* 1. The act of embodying or the state of being embodied. 2. One that embodies: "The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history" (Woodrow Wilson).

em•bod•y (ēm-bōd'ē) *tr.v.* **-bod•ied**, **-bod•y•ing**, **-bod•ies** 1. To give a bodily form to; incarnate. 2. To represent in bodily or material form: "As John Adams embodied the old style, Andrew Jackson embodied the new" (Richard Hofstadter). 3. To make part of a system or whole; incorporate: *laws that embody a people's values.*

em•bold•en (ēm-bōl'dən) *tr.v.* **-ened**, **-en•ing**, **-ens** To foster boldness or courage in; encourage. See synonyms at **encourage**.

em•bo•lec•to•my (ēm'bə-lēk'tə-mē) *n., pl. -mies* Surgical removal of an embolus. [*EMBOL(US)* + *-ECTOMY*.]

em•bo•li (ēm'bə-lī') *n.* Plural of **embolus**.

em•bol•ic (ēm-bōl'ik) *adj.* 1. *Pathology* Of, relating to, or caused by an embolus or embolism. 2. *Embryology* Of or relating to embryo.

em•bo•lism (ēm'bə-līz'əm) *n.* 1. Obstruction or occlusion of a blood vessel by an embolus. 2. An embolus. [Middle English *embolesme*, insertion of one or more days in a calendar, from Late Latin *embolesmus*, from Greek *embolesmos*, from *emballēin*, to insert. See *EMBLEM*.] —**em'bo•lis'mic** *adj.*

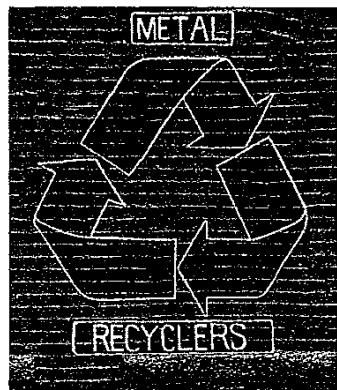
em•bo•lus (ēm'bə-ləs) *n., pl. -li* (-lī') A mass, such as an air bubble, a detached blood clot, or a foreign body, that travels through the bloodstream and lodges so as to obstruct or occlude a blood vessel. [Latin, piston of a pump, from Greek *emboles*, stopper, plug, from *emballēin*, to insert. See *EMBLEM*.]

em•bo•ly (ēm'bə-lē) *n., pl. -lies* The formation of a gastrula from a blastula by invagination. [Greek *embole*, insertion, from *emballēin*, to insert. See *EMBLEM*.]

em•bon•point (än'bōn-pwān') *n.* The condition of being plump; stoutness. [French, from *en bon point*, in good condition: *en*, in (from Latin *in*; see *IN-2*) + *bon*, good (from Old French; see *BOON*²) + *point*, situation, condition; see *POINT*.]



embark



emblem

universal recycling emblem

ă pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
âr care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ô paw	♦ regionalism

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