



RANDOM HOUSE
WEBSTER'S
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dictionary*
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RANDOM HOUSE
REFERENCE

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Random House Webster's College Dictionary
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em-a-na-tion (em'ə nā'shən), *n.* 1. an act or instance of emanating. 2. something that emanates or is emanated. 3. a gaseous product of radioactive disintegration, such as radon. [1560-70; < LL] —**em'a-na-tion-al**, *adj.*

e-man-ci-pate (i man'sə pāt'), *v.t.*, **-pat-ed**, **-pat-ing**. 1. to free from restraint. 2. to free (a slave) from bondage. 3. *Roman and Civil Law*. to end paternal control over; give full legal rights to. [1615-25; < L *emancipatus*, ptp. of *emancipare* = *ē* + *man* + *pāre* to formally alienate, sell] —**e-man-ci-pa-tive**, *adj.* —**e-man-ci-pa-tor**, *n.*

e-man-ci-pa-tion (i man'sə pā'shən), *n.* 1. the act of emancipating. 2. the state or fact of being emancipated. [1625-35; < L]

e-man-ci-pa-tion-ist (i man'sə pā'shə nist), *n.* a person who advocates emancipation, esp. from slavery. [1815-25]

e-mas-cu-late (v. i mas'kyə lāt'; *adj.* -lit, -lāt'), *v.*, **-lat-ed**, **-lat-ing**, *adj.* —*v.t.* 1. to castrate. 2. to deprive of strength or vigor; weaken. —*adj.* 3. deprived of strength or vigor; gelded. [1600-10; < L *emasculation*, ptp. of *emasculare* = *ē* + *mas* + *cul* + *tor*, *n.* —**e-mas-cu-la-tor**, *n.*

em-balm (em bām'), *v.t.* 1. to treat (a dead body) so as to preserve it, as with chemicals, drugs, or balsams. 2. to preserve from oblivion; keep in memory. 3. to keep unchanged. 4. to perfume. [1300-50; < OF *emba(u)mer* = *em* + *ba(u)mer*, *v.* der. of *ba(u)sme* BALM] —**em-balm'er**, *n.* —**em-balm-ment**, *n.*

em-bank (em bangk'), *v.t.*, **-banked**, **-bank-ing**. to enclose or protect with an embankment. [1640-50]

em-bank-ment (em bangk'mənt), *n.* 1. a bank, mound, dike, or the like, raised to hold back water, carry a roadway, etc. 2. the action of embanking. [1780-90]

em-bar-ca-de-ro (em bār'kə dār'ō), *n.*, *pl.* -ros, a pier or wharf. [1840-50, Amer.; < AmerSp, *Sp* pier, docking place]

em-bar-go (em bār'gō), *n.*, *pl.* -goes, *v.*, **-goed**, **-go-ing**. —*n.* 1. an order by a government prohibiting the movement of merchant ships into or out of its ports. 2. an order from a government agency restricting or barring certain freight for shipment. 3. any restriction imposed upon commerce by edict: *an embargo on munitions*. 4. any restraint or prohibition. —*v.t.* 5. to impose an embargo on. [1595-1605; < Sp, der. of *embargar* to hinder, embarrass]

em-bark (em bār'k'), *v.t.* 1. to board a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle, as for a journey. 2. to start or partake in an enterprise: *to embark on a business venture*. —*v.i.* 3. to board (passengers) onto a ship, aircraft, or the like. 4. to start up or invest in an enterprise. [1540-50; < MF *embarquer* < Sp *embarcar*] —**em-bar-ka-tion**, *n.* —**em-bark-ment**, *n.*

em-bar-ras-de-ri-ches (än bā rād'ə rē shes'), *n.* *French*. embarrassment of riches; a disconcerting overabundance.

em-bar-rass (em bār'əs), *v.t.* 1. to make ashamed or self-conscious; disconcert. 2. to make difficult or intricate; complicate. 3. to impede. 4. to burden with debt. —*v.i.* 5. to become disconcerted or abashed. [1665-75; < F *embarrasser* < Sp *embarazar* < Pg *embarçar* = *em* + *barça*, *v.* der. of *baraço*, *baraça* cord, strap, noose]

em-bar-rass-ment (em bār'əs mənt), *n.* 1. the state of being embarrassed; discomposure. 2. an act of embarrassing. 3. one that embarrasses. 4. an excess: *an embarrassment of riches*. 5. financial difficulty. 6. *Med.* impairment of functioning associated with disease: *respiratory embarrassment*. [1670-80; < F] —*Syn.* See SHAME.

em-bas-sage (em'bā sāj), *n.* *Archaic*. EMBASSY. [1525-35; *alter* of *ambassage* < OF *ambasse* (< ML *ambactia* office; see EMBASSY)]

em-bas-sy (em'bā sē), *n.*, *pl.* -sies. 1. the official headquarters of an ambassador. 2. the function or office of an ambassador. 3. a mission headed by an ambassador. 4. a body of persons sent on a diplomatic mission. [1570-80; var. of *ambassy* < MF *ambassee* < OPr *ambats-sada*, ult. der., via Gmc of Gallo-L *ambactus* retainer, servant]

em-bat-tle (em bat'tl), *v.t.*, **-tled**, **-tling**. 1. to arm or array for battle. 2. to fortify (a town, camp, etc.). [1350-1400; ME *embataillen* < MF *embataillier*. See EM-¹, BATTLE¹]

em-bat-tle² (em bat'tl), *v.t.*, **-tled**, **-tling**. to furnish with battlements. [1350-1400; ME *embataillen*. See EM-¹, BATTLE¹]

em-bat-tled (em bat'tld), *adj.* 1. disposed or prepared for battle. 2. engaged in or beset by conflict or struggle. [1350-1400]

em-bay (em bā'), *v.t.* 1. to enclose in or as if in a bay; surround or envelop. 2. to form into a bay. [1575-85]

em-bay-ment (em bā'mənt), *n.* a bay or baylike formation. [1805-15]

Em-b-den (em'dən), *n.* one of a breed of domestic geese with white plumage, an orange bill, and orange feet. [1900-05; after *Emden*, town in NW Germany]

em-bed (em bed'), *v.*, **-bed-ded**, **-bed-ding**. —*v.t.* 1. to fix into a surrounding mass: *to embed stones in cement*. 2. to envelop or enclose. 3. to contain or implant as an essential or characteristic part. 4. to insert (a grammatical construction, as a phrase or clause) into a larger construction, as a clause or sentence. —*v.i.* 5. to be fixed or incorporated into a surrounding mass. [1770-80] —**em-bed-ment**, *n.*

em-bel-ish (em bel'ish), *v.t.* 1. to beautify by or as if by ornamentation; adorn. 2. to enhance with elaborate additions. [1300-50; ME < AF, MF *embelliss-*] —**em-bel-ish-er**, *n.*

em-bel-ish-ment (em bel'ish mənt), *n.* 1. an ornament or decoration. 2. an elaborate addition, as to a statement. 3. ORNAMENT (def. 6). 4. the act of embellishing, or the state of being embellished. [1615-25]

em-ber (em'bar), *n.* 1. a small live piece of coal, wood, etc., as in a dying fire. 2. *embers*, the smoldering remains of a fire. [bef. 1000; ME *eemer*, *emert*, OE *æmurge*]

Em'ber day', *n.* any of the days in the quarterly three-day period of prayer and fasting (the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the first Sunday in Lent, after Whitsunday, after Sept. 14, and after Dec. 13) observed in some Western churches. [bef. 1050; ME; OE *ymbrendæg* = *ymbryne* recurrence (*ymb(e)* around + *ryne* a running) + *dæg* DAY]

em-bez-zle (em bez'əl), *v.t.*, **-zled**, **-zling**. to appropriate fraudulently to one's own use, as money entrusted to one's care. [1375-1425; late ME < AF *embeseller* to destroy, make away with = *em* + *em* + *beseller*, OF: to destroy] —**em-bez-zle-ment**, *n.* —**em-bez-zler**, *n.*

em-bit-ter (em bit'ər), *v.t.* 1. to make bitter; cause to feel bitterness. 2. to make bitter or more bitter in taste. [1595-1605] —**em-bit-ter-er**, *n.* —**em-bit-ter-ment**, *n.*

em-blaze (em blāz'), *v.t.*, **-blazed**, **-blaz-ing**. 1. to illuminate, as by a blaze. 2. to cause to blaze; kindle. [1515-25] —**em-blaz'er**, *n.*

em-blaze² (em blāz'), *v.t.*, **-blazed**, **-blaz-ing**. *Archaic*. 1. to emblazon. 2. to embellish lavishly. [1625-35] —**em-blaz'er**, *n.*

em-bla-zon (em blā'zən), *v.t.* 1. to adorn with heraldic devices or emblems. 2. to decorate brilliantly. 3. to proclaim in celebration. [1585-95] —**em-bla-zon-er**, *n.* —**em-bla-zon-ment**, *n.*

em-bla-zon-ry (em blā'zən rē), *n.* 1. the act or art of emblazoning. 2. brilliant decoration or embellishment. [1660-70]

em-blem (em'bləm), *n.* 1. an object symbolizing a quality, state, etc.; symbol: *The olive branch is an emblem of peace*. 2. a figure or design that identifies something. 3. an allegorical picture that embodies a moral principle. [1400-50; late ME < L *emblemā* inlaid or mosaic work < Gk *emblēma*, s. *emblēmat* -lit., insertion]

em-blem-at-ic (em'blə mat'ik) also **em-blem-at'i-cal**, *adj.* pertaining to or serving as an emblem; symbolic. [1635-45] —**em-blem-at'i-cal-ly**, *adv.*

em-blem-a-tize (em'blə'mə tīz'), *v.t.*, **-tized**, **-tiz-ing**. to serve as an emblem of. [1605-15]

em-ble-ments (em'blə ments), *n.pl.* (in law) the products or profits of cultivated land. [1485-95; *pl.* of *emblemment* < AF, MF *emblemment*, der. of *emblaer* (< ML *imblādare* to sow with grain)]

em-bod-i-ment (em bod'ē mənt), *n.* 1. something or someone that embodies a spirit, principle, etc.; incarnation. 2. something embodied. 3. the act of embodying or the state of being embodied. [1820-30]

em-bod-y (em bod'ē), *v.t.*, **-bod-ied**, **-bod-y-ing**. 1. to give a concrete form to; personify or exemplify: *works that embodied the spirit of the age*. 2. to provide with a body; incarnate. 3. to collect into a body; organize. 4. to comprise. [1540-50] —**em-bod-y-er**, *n.*

em-bold-en (em bōl'dən), *v.t.* to make bold; encourage. [1495-1505]

em-bol-ic (em bōl'ik), *adj.* pertaining to an embolus or to embolism. [1865-70]

em-bo-lism (em'bō liz'əm), *n.* 1. the occlusion of a blood vessel by an embolus. 2. intercalation, as of a day into a year. [1350-1400; ME < ML *embolismus* intercalation] —**em-bo-lis-mic**, *adj.*

em-bo-lus (em'bō las), *n.*, *pl.* -li (-lī'), a formerly circulating clump of tissue, gas bubble, fat globule, etc., that has lodged in a blood vessel. [1660-70; < Gk *ēmbolos* plug, stopper, *n.* der. of *embolein*]

em-bon-point (Fr. än bōn pwan'), *n.* excessive plumpness; stoutness. [1655-65; < F, lit., in good condition]

em-bos-om (em bōz'əm, -bōz'əm), *v.t.* 1. to enfold or envelop. 2. to take into or hold in the bosom; embrace. 3. to cherish; foster. [1580-90]

em-boss (em bōs', -bos'), *v.t.* 1. to raise (designs) from a surface; represent in relief. 2. to decorate (a surface) with raised ornament. 3. to raise a design on (a blank) with dies of similar pattern, one the negative of the other. [1350-1400; ME < MF *embocier* = *em* + *bo-cier*, der. of *boce* boss²] —**em-boss-a-ble**, *adj.* —**em-boss'er**, *n.* —**em-boss-ment**, *n.*

em-bou-chure (äm'bōō shōōr'), *n.* 1. a. the mouthpiece of a wind instrument. b. the adjustment of a player's mouth to such a mouthpiece. 2. the mouth of a river. 3. the opening out of a valley into a plain. [1750-60; < F, = *embouch(er)* to put (an instrument) to one's mouth (em-¹ + *boucher*, der. of *bouche* mouth < L *bucca* cheek)]

em-bour-geoise-ment (än bōōr'zhwāz māw', em'bōōr'zhwāz-mənt), *n.* the adoption of middle-class values. [1935-40; < F equiv. to *s'embourgeois(er)* to become bourgeois]

em-bowed (em bōd'), *adj.* bent; arched. [1475-85]

em-bow-el (em bou'al, -boul'), *v.t.*, **-eled**, **-el-ing** or (*esp. Brit.*) **-elled**, **-el-ling**. 1. to disembowel. 2. Obs. to enclose. [1515-25]

em-bow-er (em bou'ər), *v.t.* to shelter in or as if in a bower; cover with foliage. [1570-80]

em-brace (em brās'), *v.*, **-braced**, **-brac-ing**, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to clasp in the arms; hug. 2. to accept willingly: *to embrace an idea*. 3. to adopt: *to embrace a religion*. 4. to include or contain. —*v.i.* 5. to join in an embrace. —*n.* 6. an encircling hug with the arms. [1300-50; ME < AF, OF *embracer* = *em* + *em* + *bracer* to embrace] —**em-brace-a-ble**, *adj.* —**em-brace-ment**, *n.* —**em-brac'er**, *n.* —*Syn.* See INCLUDE.

em-brace-or (em brās'ər), *n.* a person guilty of embracery. [1400-50; late ME < AF, MF *embraseor* instigator]

em-brac-er-y (em brās'ər ē), *n.*, *pl.* -er-ies. an attempt to influence a judge or jury by corrupt means, as bribery or intimidation. [1400-50; late ME *embracerie*, der. of *embracen* to bribe]

em-branch-ment (em branch'mənt, -brānch'), *n.* 1. a branching off. 2. a branch. [1820-30; < F *embranchement*]

em-bran-gle (em brang'gəl), *v.t.*, **-gled**, **-gling**. to embroil. [1655-65; EM-¹ + *brangle* (b. BRAWL and WRANGLE)] —**em-bran-gle-ment**, *n.*