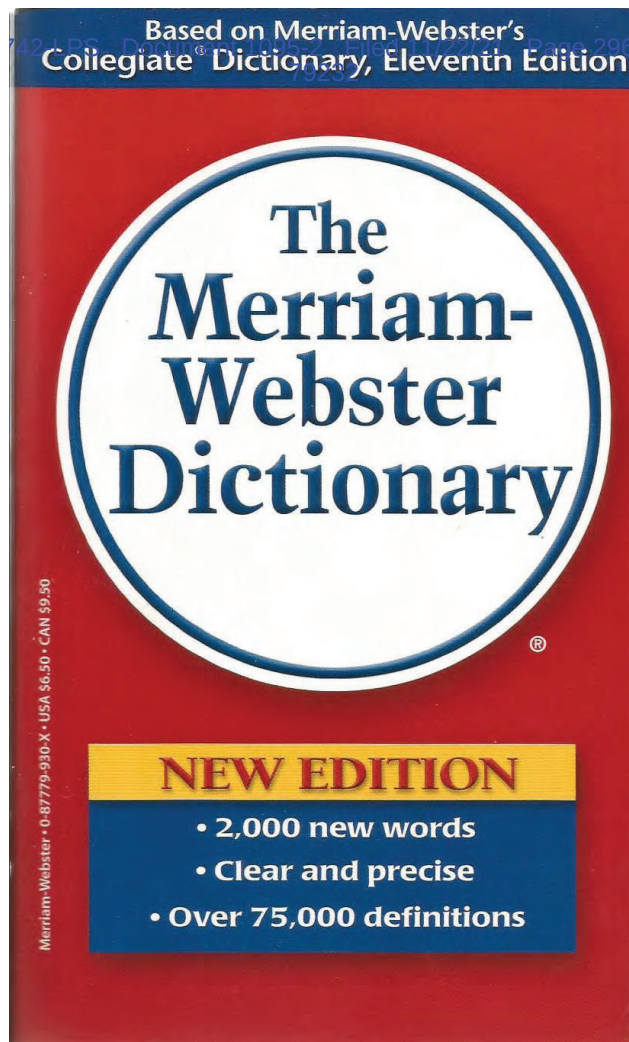
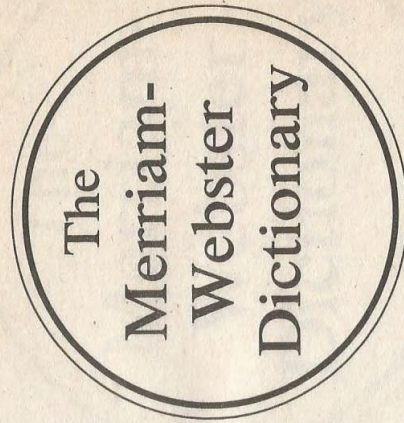




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The Merriam- Webster Dictionary



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts



A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

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PREFACE

This new edition of *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* is the sixth in a line of Merriam-Webster paperback dictionaries which began in 1947. It is based on and preserves the best aspects of preceding editions, but it also offers much that is new, drawing specifically on *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition*. Every entry and every section has been reexamined and revised in light of the most current information available. Definitions have been based on examples of actual use found in the Merriam-Webster citation files, which now contain more than 15,000,000 examples of English words in context from a wide range of printed sources, and more than 75 million words available through electronic searching. The editors of this book have created it with the same careful, serious attention that has gone into every Merriam-Webster dictionary.

The 65,000 entries in this dictionary give coverage to the most frequently used words in the language. The heart of the dictionary is the A-Z vocabulary section, where readers will find information about meaning, spelling, pronunciation, etymology, and synonyms. This section is followed by others that users have long found useful: the section Foreign Words and Phrases covers words and phrases from other languages that often occur in English texts but have not become part of the English vocabulary; the section Biographical Names identifies individuals from history and contemporary culture, as well as biblical, legendary, and mythological characters; the section Geographical Names identifies places of importance in the United States and the world, along with current population figures.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary has been created by a company that has been publishing dictionaries for more than 150 years. It has been edited by an experienced staff of lexicographers, who believe it will serve well those who want a concise and handy guide to the English language of today.

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pitter-patter \ˈpɪ-tər-ˈpɑ-tər, -tər-ˈpɑ-tər/ *adv* or *adj* — **pitter-patter** \ˈpɪ-tər-ˈpɑ-tər/ *adv* or *adj* *same*

pituitary \ˈpɪ-tju-ˈɛr-ē, -ˈtju-ˈɛr-ē/ *n*, *pl* **-itary** *ies* : PITUITARY GLAND — **pituitary** *adj*

pituitary gland *n* : a small oval endocrine gland located at the base of the brain that produces various hormones that affect most basic bodily functions (as growth and reproduction)

pit viper *n* : any of various mostly New World venomous snakes with a sensory pit on each side of the head and hollow perforated fangs

pity \ˈpɪ-tē/ *n*, *pl* **pit-ies** [ME *pite*, fr. AF *pitie*, fr. L *pietas* piety, pity, fr. *pius* pious] 1 : sympathetic sorrow : COMPASSION 2 : something to be regretted

pity *vb* **pit-ied**; **pit-ying** : to feel pity for

piv-ot \ˈpɪ-vət/ *n* : a fixed pin on which something turns — **pivot** *adj*

pivot *vb* : to turn on or as if on a pivot

piv-ot-al \ˈpɪ-və-tl/ *adj* 1 : of or relating to a pivot 2 : vitally important : CRITICAL

pix *pl* of *pic*

pix-el \ˈpɪk-səl, -səl/ *n* 1 : any of the small elements that together make up an image (as on a television screen) 2 : any of the detecting elements of a charge-coupled device used as an optical sensor

pix-le *also* **pixty** \ˈpɪk-səl/ *n*, *pl* **pix-les** : FAIRY; *esp* : a mischievous sprite

piz-za \ˈpɪt-sə/ *n* [It] : an open pie made of rolled bread dough spread with a spiced mixture (as of tomatoes, cheese, and ground meat) and baked

piz-zazz or **pi-zazz** \ˈpɪ-zəz/ *n* 1 : GLAMOUR 2 : VITALITY

piz-ze-ria \ˈpɪt-sə-ˈrɪ-ə/ *n* : an establishment where pizzas are made and sold

piz-zi-ca-to \ˈpɪt-si-ˈkɑ-tə/ *adv* or *adj* [It] : by means of plucking instead of bowing — used as a direction in music

pl's \ˈpɛ-jāz/ *n* *pl* : PAJAMAS

pk *abbr* 1 park 2 peak 3 peck 4 pike

pkg *abbr* package

pkt *abbr* 1 packet 2 pocket

pkwy *abbr* parkway

pl *abbr* 1 place 2 plate 3 plural

plac-ard \ˈplɑ-kɑrd, -kɑrd/ *n* : a notice posted in a public place : POSTER

plac-ard \ˈplɑ-kɑrd, -kɑrd/ *vb* 1 : to cover with or as if with placards 2 : to announce by or as if by posting

plac-ate \ˈplɑ-kæt, -plɑ-/ *vb* **plac-at-ed**; **plac-at-ing** : to soothe *esp*. by concessions : APPEASE — **plac-a-ble** \ˈplɑ-kə-bəl, -plɑ-/ *adj*

place \ˈplæs/ *n* [ME, fr. AF, open space, fr. L *platea* broad street, fr. Gk *plateia* (*hodos*), fr. fem. of *platys* broad, flat] 1 : SPACE, ROOM 2 : an indefinite region : AREA 3 : a building or locality used for a special purpose 4 : a center of population 5 : a particular part of a surface : SPOT 6 : relative position in a scale or sequence; *also* : position at the end of a competition <last ~> 7 : ACCOMMODATION; *esp* : SEAT 8 : the position of a figure within a numeral <12 is a two ~ number> 9 : JOB; *esp* : public office 10 : a public square 11 : 2d place at the finish (as of a horse race) — **in place** of : INSTEAD OF — **out of place** : not in the proper location : INAPPROPRIATE

place *vb* **placed**; **plac-ing** 1 : to put in a particular place : SET 2 : to distribute in an orderly manner : ARRANGE 3 : IDENTIFY 4 : to give an order for <~ a bet> 5 : to earn a given spot in a competition; *esp* : to come in 2d

plac-e-bo \ˈplɑ-ˈsɛ-bō/ *n*, *pl* **-bos** [L, I shall please] : an inert medication used for its psychological effect or for purposes of comparison in an experiment

place-holder \ˈplæs-ˈhōl-dər/ *n* : a symbol in a mathematical or logical expression that may be replaced by the name of any element of a set

place-kick \ˈplæk-ˈkɪk/ *n* : the kicking of a ball placed or held on the ground — **place-kick** *vb* — **place-kick-er** *n*

place-ment \ˈplæs-mənt/ *n* : an act or instance of placing

place-name \ˈplæs-nām/ *n* : the name of a geographical locality

plac-en-ta \ˈplɑ-sen-tə/ *n*, *pl* **-tas** or **-tae** \ˈtɛ/ [NL, fr. L, flat cake] : the organ in most mammals by which the fetus is joined to the maternal uterus and is nourished — **plac-en-tal** \ˈsen-tl/ *adj* or *n*

plac-er \ˈplɑ-sər/ *n* : a deposit of sand or gravel containing particles of valuable mineral (as gold)

plac-id \ˈplɑ-sɪd/ *adj* : UNDISTURBED, PEACEFUL • **Synonyms** TRANQUIL, SERENE, CALM — **plac-id-ly** \ˈplɑ-sɪd-ē/ *adv*

plack-et \ˈplæk-ət/ *n* : a slit in a garment

plac-gia-rise *Brit var* of **PLAGIARIZE**

plac-gia-rize \ˈplɑ-jə-ˈrɪz/ *vb* **-rized**; **-riz-ing** : to present the ideas or words of another as one's own — **plac-gia-rism** \ˈrɪ-zɪzəm/ *n* — **plac-gia-rist** \ˈrɪst/ *n*

plague \ˈplæg/ *n* 1 : a disastrous evil or influx; *also* : NUISANCE 2 : PESTILENCE; *esp* : a destructive contagious bacterial disease (as bubonic plague)

plague *vb* **plagued**; **plagu-ing** 1 : to afflict with or as if with disease or disaster 2 : TEASE, TORMENT, HARASS

plaid \ˈplɑd/ *n* [ScGael *plaidie*] 1 : a rectangular length of tartan worn *esp*. over the left shoulder as part of the Scottish national costume 2 : a twilled woolen fabric with a tartan pattern 3 : a pattern of unevenly spaced repeated stripes crossing at right angles — **plaid** *adj*

plain \ˈplæn/ *n* : an extensive area of level or rolling treeless country

plain *adj* 1 : lacking ornament <a ~ dress> 2 : free of extraneous matter 3 : OPEN, UNOBTSTRUCTED <~ view> 4 : EVIDENT, OBVIOUS 5 : easily understood : CLEAR 6 : CANDID, BLUNT 7 : SIMPLE, UNCOMPLICATED <~ cooking> 8 : lacking beauty or ugliness — **plain-ly** *adv* — **plain-ness** *n*

plain-clothes-man \ˈplæn-ˈklōðɪz-mən, -ˈklōz-, -ˈmən/ *n* : a police officer who