

THIRD EDITION

n·an·y



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

Boston • New York



Words are included in this Dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. The inclusion of any word in this Dictionary is not, however, an expression of the Publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this Dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

American Heritage⁶ and the eagle logo are registered trademarks of Forbes Inc. Their use is pursuant to a license agreement with Forbes Inc.

Copyright © 1997, 1993 by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to Reference Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston MA 02116.

0-395-67161-2 (UPC)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data The American heritage college dictionary. —3rd ed.

p. cm.
ISBN 0-395-66917-0 (plain edge). —ISBN 0-395-44638-4 (thumb edge). —ISBN 0-395-66918-9 (deluxe binding).
1. English language—Dictionaries. 2. Americanisms.
PE1628.A6227 1993
423—dc20 92-42124

Manufactured in the United States of America

For information about this and other Houghton Mifflin trade and reference books and multimedia products, visit The Bookstore at Houghton Mifflin on the World Wide Web at http://www.hmco.com/trade/.



y or a person, b. The writ

ng, -tacks. - tr. 1. To set icize strongly or hostilely and vigor: attack a probp: The disease attacked the strack; launch an assault tracking; an assault. 2. As stile comment: newspaper action in a sport or game. ction. 4. The initial moveonset of a disease, esp. an The experience or begin-.a. Mus. The beginning or ze, or tone. b. Decisiveness [Fr. attaquer < OFr. < -at-tack/er n.

y, tains. — tr. 1. To gain ye at, as by persistence or ach. — intr. To succeed in E atteignen < OFr. atainattangere < Lat. attingere: "tag-".] - at tain'a bil'tain/a-ble adi.

ancient common law, the laced when a sentence for n. 2. Obsolete. Dishonor. OFr. ataindre, to convict,

he act of attaining or the nething that is attaine int ing. taints. 1. To imss a sentence of attainder corrupt, as with illness or . 1. Obsolete. Attainder. IE attainten < OFr. ataint. ot-to (ot/o) n. A fragrant

om flor vers: attar of roses. erfume.] et and mystic best

rsian poet and of the Birds.

). A river, c. 748 km (465 from Attawaplskat Lake

xi, -tempt-ing, -tempts. . To try to perform, make, l. Archaic. To attack with An effort or a try. 2. An < Ofr. attempter < Lat. test.] - at tempt'a ble

!-ing, -tends. - tr. 1. To: circumstance or follow as t upon as a companion or yns at tend². 4. To take Archaic. To wait for; ex-take care; give attention. pay attention. S. To re-ete. To delay or wait. [ME ete. To delay or wait. [ME tendere, to heed : ad-, ad-

e act of attending. 2. The t are present. 3. The fre-

who attends or waits on a accompanying thing or ij. 1. Being present: ships ying or following as a re-tand/ant-ly adv.

one who is present at or · at -- 081.

ng th e principal supervis a on the regular medical

scentration of the mental g. 2. The ability or power ant consideration; notice. tentions. Acts of courter A military posture, with — interi. Used as a comosture. [ME attencious < i, p.part. of attendere, to al adi.

A childhood syndrome short attention span. e that a person can focus

; care or attention; watch-

tenu**ate (:-těn**yōō-āt**) u. -at**ed, -at**ing, -ates, -tr.

1. To make slender, fine, or small. 2. To reduce, as in force
or amount; weaken. 3. To lessen the density of; rarefy.
4. Biol. To make (bacteria or viruses) less virulent.
3. Electron. To reduce (the amplitude of an electrical signal)
with little or no distortion. — intr. To become thin, weak, or
fine. — adj. (-yōō-āt). 1. Reduced or weakened, as in strength,
ralue, or virulence. 2. Bot. Gradually tapering to a point,
[lat. attenuāre, attenuāte: ad., ad- + tenuāre, to make thin
j < tenuis, thin; see ten-*].] — at*-ten**u**a** to make thin
a**ten**u**a**tor (o-těn**yōō-ā*tər) n. A device that attenuates
an electrical signal.

an electrical signal. an electrical signal.

**streat (a-test*) v. -test* ed., -test* ing. -tests. — tr. 1. To affirm to be correct, true, or genuine. Z. To certify by signature or oath. 3. To supply or be evidence of. 4. To put under oath. — intr. To bear witness; give restimony: attested to their good faith. — n. Archaic. Attestation. [Lat. attestārī: ad-, ad- + istārī, to be witness (< testis, witness; see trel-*).] — at
**hat*/ant n. — at*/tes-ta*/tion [āt*/5-tā*/shan, āt*]-stā*/-) n.

-st-tast'es, at-tas' tor n.

it tis (at'lk) n. 1. A story directly below the roof of a building.

2. A low wall or story above the comics of a classical façade. 2. A low wall or story above the cornice of a classical façade.
(Attic story, story of a building enclosed by one decorative structure placed above another, much taller decorative structure placed above another, much taller decorative structure, usu, involving the Attic order, an architectural order having acquare columns of any of the basic five orders < Fr. strippes (attique, Attic < Lat. Atticus. See Arroc.]

2. **the (2x*f/k) adj. 1. Of or relating to ancient Attica, Athens, or the Athensians. 2. Characterized by purity, simplicity, and degant wit: Atticus = Cak. Attikos < Attike, Attica.]

2. **the call (2x*f/k). An ancient region of E-central Greece sur-

fi-ca (at/1-ks). An ancient region of E-central Greece sur-

rounding Athens Reti-clam (at'l-siz'om) n. 1. A characteristic feature of Attic

Reticism (at 1-siz 2 m) n. 1. A characteristic team to it do., Greek. 2. atticism. A concise and elegant expression.
Reticism (at 1-s, 2-til-s). A.D. 406?—453. King of the Huns
(433?—453) who invaded the Roman Empire.
The tire (2-tir) tr.v. -tired, -tir-ling, -tires. To dress or clothe,
tip, in elaborate garments. — n. 1. Clothing or array; apparael. 2. The antlers of a deer. [ME attire? < Off. attirer: a-, to

. ii. E. The anniers of a over [MAC atten \ Ort. Interest of a over [MAC atten \ Ort. Interest of a over [MAC atten \ Ort. Interest of a over [MAC attender (&t/1-tood/, -tyōod/) n. 1. A position of the body or manner of carrying oneself: stood in a graceful attitude. Z. A state of mind or a feeling; disposition: an attitude of hostility. same or mind or a recurring cusposition; an attitude of Nothing.

3. The orientation of an aircraft's axes relative to a reference line or plane. 4. The orientation of a spacecraft relative to its direction of motion. 5. A position in which a ballet dancer sands on one leg with the other raised and bent at the knee.

[Fr. < Ital. attitudine < LLat. aptitudo, aptitudin., faculty < lat. aptus, fit. See APTITUDE.] — at'ti-tu'di-nai (ät'i-tood'-in-tu'di-nai)

Lat. aptus, fit. See APTRUDE] — at 'th' thir dishail (at' 1-10001) no.l. +y60d1/) adi;

th'th' the dishiza (\frac{3}{2}'1-100d1 n-\frac{1}{2}', -ty60d1/-) intr.v. -nized, intr.\text{ing. -nizes.} To assume an affected attitude; posture. Attels bors of (\frac{1}{2}'1-\frac{1}{2}'0-\frac{1}{2}'). A city of SE MA NE of Providence RI. Pop. 38,383.

Intelso (\frac{1}{2}'1-\frac{1}{2

ttta abor. Attention.

ttta - pref. One quintillionth (10⁻¹⁸): attotesla. [< Dan. or Norw. atten, eighteen < ON ättjän. See okto(u)⁶.]

te torn (a-tim) intr.v. - torned, -torn-ing, -torns. Law. To

sgree to remain as a tenant of property after its ownership has been transferred. [ME attournen < OFr. atorner, to assign to : a, to (< Lat. ad-; see AD-) + tomer, to turn; see TURN.]
-at-tom/ment n.

-st-torn/ment n.

it-tor-ney (a-tûr'nc) n., pl. -neys. Law. A person legally appropriate by another to act as an agent in the transaction of business, esp. one licensed to act in legal proceedings. [ME attourney < OFt. atome < p.part. of atomer, to appoint. See atroops.]—attourney at taw or at-tor-neys-at-law (a-tûr'nō-a-tô') n., pl. attorneys at law or at-tor-neys-at-law (-nōz-). Law. An attorneys at law or at-tor-neys-at-law (-nōz-). Law. An attorneys at law or at-tor-neys-at-law (-nōz-).

torney.

consy.

strongy general n., pl. attorneys general or attorney generals. Law. 1. The chief law officer and legal counsel of a sovernment. 2. Attorney General. The head of the U.S. Department of Justice and a member of the President's cabinet.

struct (a-trakt') v. -tract-ed, -tract-ing, -tracts. - r. 1. To require the covered itself or cause to draw near or adhere; direct to or toward itself or oneself. 2. To arouse or compel the admiration or attention

oneseit. L. 10 arouse or compel the admiration or attention of ... intr. To possess or use the power of attraction. [ME stracter < Lat. attrabere, attract: ad-, ad- + trabere, pull.] ... attract: at bis adj. ... at-tract: er, at-tract: or n. attract: don (3-trak: aban) n. 1. The set or capability of attracting. 2. The quality of attracting; charm. 3. Something that attracts or is intended to attract.

Littuactive (3-trik): bis adj. 1. Having the nower to attract.

**trac-tive (>-trak-tiv) adj. 1. Having the power to attract.

2. Pleasing to the eye or mind; charming. — at-trac/tive-ly adv. — at-trac/tive-ness n.

of a specified agent or creator. —n. (āt/ro-byōot/). 1. A quality or characteristic inherent in or ascribed to someone or something. 2. An object associated with and serving to identify a character, a personage, or an office. 3. Gram. A word or phrase syntactically subordinate to another word or phrase that it modifies; for example, my sister's and brown in my sister's brown dog. [Lat. attributes, attributes, to allot; see Theorem.]—at 'tribute a blo add;—at tribute, at 'trib'ute's and brown in my sister's brown dog. [Lat. attributes, attributes, to allot; see Theorem.]—at 'tribute a blo add;—at tributes, to allot; see Theorem.]—at 'tribute a blo add;—at tributes, to allot; see Theorem.]—at 'tribute add;—at tributes, attributes, attributes,

at-trik (a-trik') also at-trike (a-trik') is.u. trik-ted. -trik-ting.

-trik also -trik-ed. -trik-ing. -trikes. 1. To lose (personnel, for example) by attrition. 2. To destroy or kill (troops, for example) by firepower. [Back-formation < ATTRION.]

at-trik-tion (a-trish'an) n. 1. A rubbing away or wearing down by friction. 2. A gradual diminution in number or strength.

3. A gradual reduction in membership or personnel, as through retirement or death. 4. Theol. Repentance for sin motivated by fear of punishment. [ME attriction, regret, breaking < OFr. attrition, abrasion < LLat. attritio, attrition, act of rubbing against < Lat. attritus, p.part. of attrition, act of rubbing against < Lat. attritus, p.part. of atterers, to rub against : ad-, against; see Ab- + terers, to rub; see tere-1*.]

At-tu (āt/tōo'). An island of SW AK in the Alcutian Is. At-tucks (āt/əks), Crispus. 1723? – 70. Amer. patriot killed in the Boston Massacre.

1. To bring into a harmonious or responsive relationship.

2. Mus. To put (an instrument) into correct tune.

2. must. to put (an instrument) into object that atty, abs. Law. Attorney.

Atty, Gen. abbr. Law. Attorney General.

At-was-ter (at-wo'rzr, -wo'rzr). A city of central CA WNW of Merced. Pop. 22,282.

a-twite-ter (a-twit at) adj. Being in a state of nervous excitement; twittering: a crowd atwitter with expectation.

wt abbr. Atomic weight. at with and a typ-i-cal (a-tip-i-cal) also a-typ-i-c (-ik) adj. Not conforming to type; unusual or irregular. — a'typ-i-cal'i-ty (-kal'-i-tè) n. — a -typ'i-cal-iy adv.

iti) n. — a *typ' | *cal *y adv.

au n. Author.

Au The symbol for the element gold 1a. [< Lat. aurum, gold.]

a.u. or A.u. abbr. Angatron unit.

All abbr. Astronomical unit.

au-bade (ô-bād!) n. 1. Mus. A song or instrumental composition concerning or evoking daybreak. Z. A poem or song of or about lovers separating at dawn. [Fr. < OFr. albade < OProv. albada < alba, dawn, aubade < Lat., fem. of albus, white See albha.*

Orrov. atoma < atom, cawle, and cawle, and cawle, and cawle, white. See albho.*.]

Aube (öb). A river of NE France flowing c. 225 km (140 mi) to the Seine R. NNW of Troyes.

Au ber (ö-ber'), Daniel François Esprit. 1782–1871. French composer whose operas include Fra Diavolo (1829).

au ber gins (ö'ber-zhen', ö'bar-jen) n. See aggplant 1. [Fr. < Catalan albergina < Ar. al-bādimjān, the eggplant < Pers.

bādingān.]
Au-ber-vil-liers (ō'bɔr-vēl-yā'). A town of N-central France

Au-brer-vil-ihers (o'ba-wil-yā'). A town of N-central France NE of Paris. Pop. 67,719.

Nu-brey (o'bre), John. 1626-97. English antiquarian best known for his Brief Lines, published posthumously.

sur-burn (o'barn). To Color. A moderate reddish brown to brown. [ME < OFr. aborne, blond < Lat. alburnus, whitish < albus, white. See albho-"]. - au'burn adj.

Au-burn (o'barn). I. A city of E AL ENE of Montgomery. Pop. 33,830. Z. A city of S ME on the Androscoggin R.; settled in 1765. Pop. 24,309. 3. A city of W-central NY in the Finger Lakes region WSW of Syracuse; founded 1793. Pop. 31,258.

4. A city of W WA ENE of Tacoma. Pop. 33,102.

Au-burs-son (o'b>-son., -son') n. A tapestry or carpet woven in

Au-buse-son (o'bo-son, -son') n. A tapestry or carpet woven in Aubusson, a city of central France, or similar to the ones

made there.

A.U.C. abbr. Lat. 1. Ab urbe condita (from the founding of the A.U.C. abbr. Lat. 1. Ab urbe condita (from the founding of the city [of Rome in 753? B.C.]). 2. Anno urbis conditae (in the year from the founding of the city [of Rome in 753? B.C.]). Auch. land (ôk'land). A city of New Zealand on an isthmus of NW North I. Met. area pop. 860,000.

But cone rant (ô' kôr-tik') adj. Fully informed on current affairs; up-to-date. [Fr.: au, in the + convant, current.] aucetion (ôk'shan) n. 1. A public sale in which property or goods are sold to the highest bidder. 2. Games. The bidding in bridge. — tr.v. -tioned, -tion-ing. -tions. To sell at or by an auction: auctioned off the inventory. [Lat. auctio.] auction.

attenuate auction bridge

ă pat ou out oo took 50 boot ä father ě pet ě be ă cut år urge i pit i cie th thin îr pler ŏ pot ō toe hw which zh vision about, item

Stress marks: (secondary), as in