

*The*

AMERICAN  
HERITAGE

*dic·tion·ar·y*

*of*

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE





THE  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE  
DICTIONARY

OF THE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

THIRD EDITION



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY



case. [French, from Italian *cartoccio*, paper cornet, from *carta*, card, paper. See **CARTON**.]

**car·tridge** (kär'trij) *n.* **1. a.** A cylindrical, usually metal casing containing the primer and charge of ammunition for firearms. **b.** Such a casing fitted with a bullet. **c.** A similar piece of ammunition, such as a shotgun shell. **2.** A case filled with high explosives, used in blasting. **3.** A small modular unit designed to be inserted into a larger piece of equipment: *an ink cartridge; a disposable cartridge of caulking compound*. **4.** A removable case containing the stylus and electric conversion circuitry in a phonograph pickup. **5. a.** A case containing magnetic tape in a reel; a cassette. **b.** A case containing a ribbon in a spool, for use in printers and electric typewriters. **6.** A lightproof case with photographic film that can be loaded directly into a camera. [Alteration of earlier *cartage*, alteration of French *cartouche*, from Italian *cartuccio*, variant of *cartoccio*, roll of paper. See **CARTOUCHE**.]

**cartridge belt** *n.* A belt with loops or pockets for carrying ammunition or other kinds of equipment.

**cartridge clip** *n.* A metal container or frame for holding cartridges to be loaded into an automatic rifle or pistol.

**car·tu·lar·y** also **char·tu·lar·y** (kär'thə-lər'ē) *n., pl. -ies.* A collection of deeds or charters, especially a register of titles to all the property of an estate or a monastery. [Middle English *cartularie*, collection of documents, from Medieval Latin *cartulārium*, from Latin *cartula*, *chartula*, document. See **CHARTER**.]

**cart·wheel** (kär'thwēl', -wēl') *n.* **1.** A handspring in which the body turns over sideways with the arms and legs spread like the spokes of a wheel. **2. Slang.** A large coin, such as a silver dollar.

**Cart·wright** (kär'trit'), **Edmund.** 1743–1823. British cleric and inventor of the power loom (1785–1790).

**ca·run·cle** (kə-rūng'kəl, kār'ūng'-) *n.* **1. Biology.** A fleshy, naked outgrowth, such as a fowl's wattles. **2. Botany.** An outgrowth or appendage at or near the hilum of certain seeds, as of the castor-oil plant. [Obsolete French *caruncule*, from Latin *caruncula*, diminutive of *carō*, flesh. See **sker-** in Appendix.] —**ca·run·cu·lar** (-kyə-lər) *adj.* —**ca·run·cu·late** (-līt, -lāt'), **ca·run·cu·lat·ed** (-lāt'id) *adj.*

**Ca·ru·so** (kə-rōō'sō, -zō), **Enrico.** 1873–1921. Italian operatic tenor who with his powerful, pure, emotive voice is considered one of the greatest singers ever.

**car·va·rol** (kär'və-krōl', -krōl') *n.* An aromatic phenolic compound, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O, found in plants such as oregano and savory and used in flavorings and fungicides. [New Latin *carvi* (specific epithet of (*Carum*) *carvi*, caraway, from Medieval Latin; see **CARAWAY**) + Latin *acer*, *acr-*, sharp; see **ak-** in Appendix + **-OL**.]

**carve** (kärv) *v.* **carved, carv·ing, carves.** —*tr.* **1. a.** To divide into pieces by cutting; slice: *carve a roast turkey*. **b.** To divide by parceling out: *carve up an estate*. **2.** To cut into a desired shape; fashion by cutting: *carve the wood into a figure*. **3.** To make or form by or as if by cutting: *carve initials in the bark; carved out an empire*. **4.** To decorate by cutting and shaping carefully. —*intr.* **1.** To engrave or cut figures as an art, a hobby, or a trade. **2.** To disjoint, slice, and serve meat or poultry. [Middle English *kerven*, from Old English *ceorfan*. See **gerbh-** in Appendix.] —**carv·er** *n.*

**car·vel** (kär'vəl, -vəl') *n.* Variant of **caravel**.

**car·vel·built** (kär'vəl-bilt', -vəl'-) *adj.* Nautical. Built with the hull planks lying flush or edge to edge rather than overlapping: *a carvel-built ship*.

**carv·en** (kär'vən) *v.* **Archaic.** A past tense and a past participle of **carve**. —**carven** *adj.* That has been wrought or decorated by carving.

**Car·ver** (kär'var), **George Washington.** 1864?–1943. American botanist, agricultural chemist, and educator who developed hundreds of uses for the peanut, soybean, and sweet potato.

**Carver, John.** 1576?–1621. English-born Pilgrim colonist who was the first governor of Plymouth Colony (1620–1621).

**carv·ing** (kär'ving) *n.* **1.** The cutting of material such as stone or wood in order to form a figure or design. **2.** A figure or design formed by this kind of cutting.

**car wash** *n.* An area, place, or business equipped for cleaning and washing motor vehicles such as cars, vans, and small trucks.

**Car·y** (kär'ē). A town of east-central North Carolina, an industrial suburb of Raleigh. Population, 21,763.

**Cary, (Arthur) Joyce (Lunel).** 1888–1957. British writer whose novels, including *The Horse's Mouth* (1944), concern the necessity of personal freedom.

**Cary, Henry Francis.** 1772–1844. British poet and translator (1805–1814) of Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

**car·y·at·id** (kär'ē-ăt'id) *n., pl. -ids or -i-des* (-i-dēz'). **Architecture.** A supporting column sculptured in the form of a draped female figure. [From Latin *Caryatides*, maidens of Caryae, caryatids, from Greek *Karyatides*, from *Karyai*, Caryae, a village of Laconia in southern Greece.] —**car·y·at·i·dal** (-i-dəl), **car·y·at·i·de·an** (-i-dē'an), **car·y·a·tid·ic** (-ə-tid'ik)

melon (*Cucumis melo* var. *Inodorus*) having a yellow rind and sweet, whitish flesh. [After *Kasaba* (Turgutlu), a city of western Turkey.]

**Cas·a·blan·ca** (käs'a-bläng'kə, kās'a-bläng'kə). A city of northwest Morocco on the Atlantic Ocean south-southwest of Tangier. Founded by the Portuguese in the 16th century, it became a center of French influence in Africa after 1907. It is now Morocco's largest city. Population, 2,139,204.

**Ca·sals** (kə-sälz', -sälz'), **Pablo.** 1876–1973. Spanish cellist considered the greatest of his time.

**Cas·a·no·va** (käs'a-nō'və, kās'-) *n.* **1.** A man who is amorously and gallantly attentive to women. **2.** A promiscuous man; a philanderer. [After Giovanni Jacopo CASANOVA DE SEINGALT.]

**Cas·a·no·va de Sein·galt** (käs'a-nō'və də sän-gält', kās'-, kās'a-nō'və), **Giovanni Jacopo.** 1725–1798. Italian adventurer who after his expulsion from a seminary wandered Europe, meeting luminaries, working in a variety of occupations, and establishing a legendary reputation as a lover.

**Cas·bah** also **Kas·bah** (käs'bā', kās'-) *n.* **1.** A castle or palace in northern Africa. **2.** Often **casbah**. The older section of a city in northern Africa or the Middle East. [French, from Arabic dialectal *qasbah*, from Arabic *qasabah*, fortress.]

**cas·cade** (kə-skād') *n.* **1.** A waterfall or a series of small waterfalls over steep rocks. **2.** Something, such as lace, thought to resemble a waterfall or series of small waterfalls, especially an arrangement or fall of material. **3.** A succession of stages, processes, operations, or units. **4. Electronics.** A series of components or networks, the output of each of which serves as the input for the next. —**cascade** *intr. & tr.v.* —**cad·ed, -cad·ing, -cades.** To fall or cause to fall in or as if in a cascade. [French, from Italian *cascata*, from *cascare*, to fall, from Vulgar Latin \**casciare*, from Latin *cadere*. See **kad-** in Appendix.]

**Cas·cade Range** (käs-kād'). A mountain chain of western Canada and the United States extending about 1,126 km (700 mi) south from British Columbia through western Washington and Oregon to northern California, where it joins the Sierra Nevada. Mount Rainier, 4,395.1 m (14,410 ft), is the highest peak.

**cas·car·a** (kə-skär'ə) *n.* A buckthorn (*Rhamnus purshiana*) native to northwest North America, the bark of which is the source of cascara sagrada. [Spanish *cascara*, bark, from *cascar*, to break off, from Vulgar Latin \**quassicare*, from Latin *quassare*, frequentative of *quater*, to shake. See **kwēt-** in Appendix.]

**cascara sa·gra·da** (sə-grä'də) *n.* The dried bark of the cascara buckthorn, used as a laxative. [American Spanish *cascara sagrada*: Spanish *cascara*, bark + Spanish *sagrada*, sacred.]

**cas·ca·ril·la** (käs'ka-ril'ə) *n.* **1.** A tropical shrub or tree (*Croton eluteria*) native to the West Indies and northern South America, having a bark that yields an aromatic, spicy oil used as a flavoring and fragrance. **2.** The bark of this plant. [Spanish, diminutive of *cascara*, bark. See **CASCARA**.]

**Cas·co Bay** (käs'kō). A deep inlet of the Atlantic Ocean in southwest Maine. The bay, with its wooded, hilly islands, is a popular vacation area.

**case** (käs) *n.* **1.** An instance of something; an occurrence; an example: *a case of mistaken identity*. See **Synonyms** at **example**. **2.** An occurrence of a disease or disorder: *a mild case of flu*. **3.** A set of circumstances or a state of affairs; a situation: *It may rain, in which case the hike will be canceled*. **4.** Actual fact; reality: *We suspected the walls were hollow, and this proved to be the case*. **5.** A question or problem; a matter: *It is simply a case of honor*. **6.** A situation that requires investigation, especially by a formal or official body. **7. Law.** **a.** An action or a suit or just grounds for an action. **b.** The facts or evidence offered in support of a claim. **8.** A set of reasons or supporting facts; an argument: *presented a good case for changing the law*. **9.** A person or group of persons being assisted, treated, or studied, as by a physician, lawyer, or social worker. **10. Informal.** A peculiar or eccentric person; a character. **11. Linguistics.** **a.** The syntactic relationship of a noun, a pronoun or a determiner to the other words of a sentence, indicated by declensional endings, by the position of the words within the sentence, by prepositions, or by postpositions. **b.** The form or position of a word that indicates this relationship. **c.** Such forms, positions, and relationships considered as a group. **d.** A pattern of inflection of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives to express different syntactic functions in a sentence. **e.** The form of such an inflected word. —**case** *tr.v.* **cased, cas·ing, cas·es.** **Informal.** To examine carefully, as in planning a crime: *cased the bank before robbing it*. —**idioms.** in any case. Regardless of what has occurred or will occur. **in case.** **1.** If it happens that; if. **2.** As a precaution: *took along an umbrella, just in case*. **in case of.** If there should happen to be: *a number to call in case of emergency*. [Middle English *cas*, from Old French, from Latin *casus*, from past participle of *cadere*, to fall. See **kad-** in Appendix.]

**case** (käs) *n.* **1.** A container; a receptacle: *a jewelry case; meat-filled cases of dough*. **2. Abbr. c., C., cs.** A container with its contents. **3.** A decorative or protective covering or cover. **4.** A set or pair: *a case of pistols*. **5.** The frame or framework of a machine. **6.** The surface or outer layer of a



Enrico Caruso



George Washington Carver



caryatid  
Detail of  
Porch of the Maidens  
at the Erechtheum,  
Athens, Greece

