

Second College Edition

The
**American Heritage
Dictionary**

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All correspondence and inquiries should be directed to
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f | fact

f or F (ɛf) *n.*, *pl.* f's or F's. 1. The sixth letter of the modern English alphabet. 2. Any of the speech sounds represented by the letter f. 3. F A failing grade in schoolwork. 4. F Mus. a. The fourth tone in the scale of C major or the sixth tone in the relative minor scale. b. The key or a scale in which F is the tonic. c. A written or printed note representing this tone. d. A string, key, or pipe tuned to the pitch of this tone. F The symbol for the element fluorine.

fa (fə) *n.* The fourth tone of the diatonic scale in solmization. [ME < Med. Lat. —see GAMUT.]

Fa-bi-an (fə'bē-ən) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the caution and avoidance of direct confrontation typical of the Roman general Quintus Fabius Maximus, who defeated Hannibal by the use of this strategy. 2. Of, relating to, or being a member of the Fabian Society, which was committed to gradual rather than revolutionary means for spreading socialist principles. —**Fa-bi-an** *n.* —**Fa-bi-an-ism** *n.* —**Fa-bi-an-ist** *n.*

fa-ble (fə'bəl) *n.* 1. A narrative making an edifying or cautionary point and often employing as characters animals that speak and act like human beings. 2. A story about legendary persons and exploits. 3. A falsehood; lie. —*v.* **-bled**, **-bling**, **-bles**. —*tr.* To recount as if true. —*intr.* **Archaic.** To compose fables. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *fabula* < *fari*, to speak.] —**fa-bler** *n.*

fa-bled (fə'bəld) *adj.* 1. Made known or famous by fables; legendary. 2. Existing only in fables; fictitious.

fab-ri-lau (fə'bri-lə-ŭ) *n.*, *pl.* -li-**aux** (-lə-ŭ-, -ŭz-). A medieval verse tale characterized by comic and ribald treatment of themes drawn from life. [Fr. < OFr. *fabliaux*, *pl.* of *fable*, dim. of *fable*, fable.]

fab-ric (fə'brik) *n.* 1. A material structure consisting of connected parts. 2. A complex underlying structure: *the fabric of civilized society*. 3. A method or style of construction. 4. a. A cloth produced esp. by knitting, weaving, or felting fibers. b. The texture or quality of such cloth. [ME *fabryke* < OFr. *fabrique* < Lat. *fabrica* < *faber*, workman, artificer.]

fab-ric-a-ble (fə'bri-kə-bəl) *adj.* Capable of being molded: *a fabricable alloy*. —**fab-ric-a-bil-i-ty** *n.*

fab-ri-cant (fə'bri-kənt) *n.* **Archaic.** A manufacturer. **fab-ri-cate** (fə'bri-kāt) *tr.v.* **-cated**, **-cat-ing**, **-cates**. 1. To make; create. 2. To construct by combining or assembling. 3. To make up in order to deceive. [ME *fabricaten* < Lat. *fabricari*, to make < *fabrica*, fabric.] —**fab-ri-ca-tion** *n.* —**fab-ri-ca-tor** *n.*

Fab-ry's disease (fə'bri-z) *n.* A hereditary disease of fat metabolism characterized by impaired functioning of the kidneys. [After Johannes *Fabry* (1860-1930).]

fab-ry-list (fə'bri-yə-list) *n.* 1. A composer of fables. 2. An inventor or teller of falsehoods. [OFr. *fabuliste* < Lat. *fabula*, fable.]

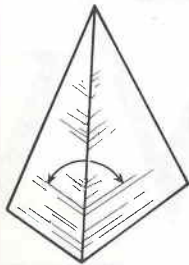
fab-u-lous (fə'bju-ləs) *adj.* 1. Of the nature of a fable or myth; legendary. 2. Told of or celebrated in fables or legends. 3. Barely credible; astonishing: *the fabulous endurance of a marathon runner*. 4. **Informal.** Extremely pleasing or successful: *a fabulous vacation*. [ME < Lat. *fabulosus* < *fabula*, fable.] —**fab-u-lous-ly** *adv.* —**fab-u-lous-ness** *n.*

fa-çade also **fa-cade** (fə-sād) *n.* 1. **Archit.** The face of a building, esp. the principal face. 2. An artificial or deceptive front. [Fr. < Ital. *facciata* < *faccia*, face < Lat. *facies*.]

face (fās) *n.* 1. The surface of the front of the head from the top of the forehead to the base of the chin and from ear to ear. 2. The arrangement or expression of the features of the face; countenance. 3. A contorted facial expression; grimace. 4. The outward appearance: *the face of the city*. 5. Value or standing in the eyes of others; prestige: *lose face*. 6. Effrontery; impudence. 7. The most significant or prominent surface of an object, esp.: a. The surface presented to view; front. b. A façade. c. The outer surface: *the face of the earth*. d. A marked side: *the face of a clock*. e. The right side, as of fabric. 8. **Geom.** A planar surface bounding a solid. 9. Any of the surfaces of a rock or crystal. 10. The end, as of a mine or tunnel, at which work is advancing. 11. The appearance and geological surface features of an area of land; topography. 12. **Printing.** Typeface. —*v.* **fac-ed**, **fac-ing**, **fac-es**. —*tr.* 1. To occupy a position with the face toward. 2. To front upon: *a window facing the south*. 3. a. To confront with complete awareness: *facing facts*. b. To overcome by confronting boldly or bravely: "*What this generation must do is face its problems*" (John F. Kennedy). 4. To be certain to encounter; have in store: *The unskilled youth faces a difficult life*. 5. To cause (troops) to change direction by giving a command. 6. To turn (a playing card) so that the face is up. 7. To furnish with a surface or cover of a different material: *bronze faced with gold foil*. 8. To line or trim the edge of, esp. with contrasting material. 9. To treat the surface of so as to smooth. —*intr.* 1. To be turned or placed with the front toward a specified direction. 2. To turn the face in a specified direction. —**phrasal verbs.** **face down.** To overcome or prevail over by a stare or a resolute manner. **face off.** To start play in hockey, lacrosse, and other games by releasing the puck or ball between two opposing players. **face out.** To endure to the end. **face up to.** 1. To recognize the existence or importance of. 2. To confront bravely. —**Idioms.** **face the music.** *Slang.* To accept the unpleasant consequences esp. of one's own actions. **face to face.** 1. In each other's presence; in direct communica-



façade
Façade of the Alamo,
San Antonio, Texas



face angle

tion: *spoke face to face*. 2. Directly confronting: *face to face withstanding*. **on the face of it.** Despite the opposition of; notwithstanding. **show (one's) face.** To make an appearance alone; (one's) *face*. In the view or hearing of: *accused the offender to his face*. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *facies*.] —**face'a-ble** *adj.* —**face'less** *adj.*

face angle *n.* The angle formed between two edges of a polyhedral angle.

face card *n.* A king, queen, or jack of a deck of playing cards.

face cloth *n.* A washcloth.

face-hard-en (fās'hār'dn) *tr.v.* **-ened**, **-en-ing**, **-ens**. To harden the surface of (a metal).

face-lift-ing (fās'lif'ting) also **face-lift** (-lift) *n.* 1. Plastic surgery for tightening facial tissues and improving the appearance of facial skin. 2. A restyling or modernization, as of a building.

face-off (fās'ɔf-, -ɔf) *n.* 1. A method of starting play in ice hockey in which an official drops the puck between two opposing players who contend for its control. 2. A confrontation.

face-plate (fās'plāt) *n.* 1. A disk attached to the mandrel of a lathe to hold flat or irregularly shaped work. 2. The glass front of a cathode-ray tube upon which the image is projected.

fac-er (fās'ər) *n.* 1. One that faces. 2. A device used in smoothing or dressing a surface. 3. **Chiefly Brit.** An unexpected blow or defeat.

face-sav-er (fās'sāv'ər) *n.* Something that prevents loss of dignity or self-esteem: *The compromise was a face-saver for the boss*. —**face-sav-ing** *n.*

fac-et (fās'it) *n.* 1. Any of the flat polished surfaces cut on a gemstone. 2. A small planar or rounded smooth surface on a bone or tooth. 3. One of the lenslike divisions of a compound eye, as of an insect. 4. An aspect; phase. [Fr. *facette*, dim. of *face*, face < OFr.] —**fac-et-ed**, **fac-et-ted** *adj.*

fac-ete (fə-sēt) *adj.* **Archaic.** Facetious; witty. [Lat. *facetus*.]

fac-et-i-ous (fə-sēsh'əs) *pl.n.* Witty or humorous sayings and sayings. [Lat., *pl.* of *facetta*, jest < *facetus*, witty.]

fac-et-i-ous-ly (fə-sēsh'əs-ē-ē-ē) *adv.* Playfully jocular; humorous: *a facetious remark*. [OFr. *facetieux* < *facette*, jest < Lat. *facetta* < *facetus*, witty.] —**fac-et-i-ous-ly** *adv.* —**fac-et-i-ous-ness** *n.*

face value *n.* 1. The value printed or written on the face, as of a bill or bond. 2. The apparent value or significance: *took their compliments at face value*.

fac-ial (fās'shal) *adj.* Of or concerning the face. —*n.* A treatment for the face, usually consisting of a massage and the application of cosmetic creams. —**fac-ial-ly** *adv.*

fac-ial index *n.* The ratio of facial length to facial width multiplied by 100.

fac-ial nerve *n.* Either of the seventh pair of cranial nerves that supply motor fibers to the facial muscles and sensory fibers to the taste buds of the anterior portion of the tongue.

fac-ient *diff.* 1. Causing; bringing about: *somnifacient*. 2. Something that causes or brings about: *abortifacient*. [Lat. *faciens*, *facient-*, *p.p.* of *facere*, to do.]

fac-i-tes (fās'shē-z', -shēz) *n.*, *pl.* **fac-ies**. 1. The general aspect or outward appearance, as of a given growth of flora. 2. **Geol.** A part differentiated from other parts in a rock by appearance or composition. b. A rock distinguished from related or similar rocks. c. A stratigraphic body distinguished from others by appearance or composition. [Lat. *facies*, form, appearance.]

fac-ile (fās'əl) *adj.* 1. Done or achieved with little effort or difficulty; easy. 2. Working, acting, or speaking effortlessly; fluent: *a facile speaker*. 3. Arrived at without due care, effort, or examination; superficial. 4. Easy and relaxed in manner. 5. Yielding; compliant. [OFr. < Lat. *facilis* < *facere*, to do.] —**fac-ile-ly** *adv.* —**fac-ile-ness** *n.*

fac-il-i-tate (fə-sil'i-tāt) *tr.v.* **-tated**, **-tat-ing**, **-tates**. To make easier. [Fr. *faciliter* < Ital. *facilitare* < *facile*, facile < Lat. *facilis*.] —**fac-il-i-ta-tion** *n.*

fac-il-i-ty (fə-sil'i-tē) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. Ease in moving, acting, or doing; aptitude: "*an extreme facility in acquiring new dialects*" (W.H. Hudson). 2. Readiness to be persuaded; pliability. 3. Often *facilities*. Something that facilitates an action or process. 4. The quality of being easy to perform. 5. Something created to serve a particular function.

fac-ing (fās'ing) *n.* 1. a. A piece of material sewn to the edge of a dress, coat, or other garment as lining or decoration. b. Material used for this. 2. An outer layer or coating applied to a surface for protection or decoration.

fac-sim-i-le (fāk-sim'ə-lē) *n.* 1. An exact copy or reproduction, as of a document. 2. a. A method of transmitting images or printed matter by electronic means. b. An image so transmitted. —*adj.* 1. Of or used to produce facsimiles. 2. Exactly reproduced; duplicate. [Lat. *fac simile*, make (it) similar.]

fac-sim-ile modulation *n.* A method for varying in time the physical properties of a wave in facsimile transmission.

fact (fākt) *n.* 1. Something done: *an accessory before the fact*. 2. Something presented as objectively real. 3. Something that has been objectively verified. 4. a. Something having real, demonstrable existence. b. The quality of being real or actual. 5. Something that has been done or performed.

ā pat / ā pay / ār care / ā father / b bib / ch church / d deed / ē pet / ē be / f fife / g gag / h hat / hw which / i pit / i pie / ir pier / j judge / k kick / l lid, needle / m mum / n no, sudden / ng thing / ō pot / ō toe / ō paw, for / oi noise / ou out / ōō took / ōō boot /