

THE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE[®]
COLLEGE

dic·tion·ar·y

100,000 definitions – over 200,000
1,000 photographs and illustrations – over 2,500
100 usage guidance – over 400 notes

THIRD EDITION

IVILLC 2001

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 Heritage® 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

CIP

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/>.



shuttlecock



Siamese cat

ing several stems arising from the base and lacking a single trunk; a bush. [ME *shrubbe* < OE *scrybb*. See *skur*.¹⁰]

shrub* (shrub) *n.* A beverage made from fruit juice, sugar, and a liquor such as rum or brandy. [< Ar. *shrub*, a drink < *shriba*, to drink.]

shrub•ber•y (shrub'ə-ri) *n., pl.* -ies. A group or planting of shrubs.

shrub•by (shrub'ē) *adj.* -bi'er. -bi'est. 1. Consisting of, planted with, or covered with shrubs. 2. Of or resembling a shrub. — *shrub'bi'nass n.*

shrug (shrug) *v.* shrugged, shrug•ging, shrugs. — *tr.* To raise (the shoulders), esp. as a gesture of doubt, disdain, or indifference. — *intr.* To shrug the shoulders. — *n.* 1. An expressive gesture of raising the shoulders. 2. A woman's short jacket or sweater open down the front. — *phrasal verb.* shrug off. 1. To minimize the importance of. 2. To get rid of. [ME *shruggen*.]

shrunk (shringk) *v.* A p.t. and p.part. of shrink.

shrink•on (shring'kən) *v.* A p.part. of shrink.

shk. *abbr.* Short.

shkētl (shkē'tl, shkē'tl) *n.* A small Eastern European Jewish community of former times. [Yiddish < MHGer. *shkētl*, dim. of *shet*, town < OHGer. *shēta*, place. See *stā*.⁹]

shkētk also *schētk* or *shētk* (shkē'tk) *n.* Slang. 1. A characteristic attribute, talent, or trait that is helpful in securing recognition or attention. 2. An entertainment routine or gimmick. [Yiddish *shkētk*, piece, routine < MHGer. *stēcke*, piece < OHGer. *stūck*, crust, fragment.]

shuck (shūk) *n.* 1.a. A husk, pod, or shell, as of an ear of corn, a pea, or a hickory nut. b. The shell of an oyster or a clam. 2. Informal. Something worthless. Often used in the plural: *didn't amount to shucks*. — *tr.v.* shucked, shuck•ing, shucks. 1. To remove the husk or shell from. 2. Informal. To cast off: *shucked their coats*. — *interj.* shucks. (shūks). Used to express mild disappointment, disgust, or annoyance. [?] — *shuck'ar n.*

shud•der (shūd'ər) *intr.v.* -dered, -der•ing, -ders. 1. To shiver convulsively, as from fear or revulsion. 2. To vibrate; quiver. — *n.* A convulsive shiver, as from fear or revulsion; a tremor. [ME *shodderen*, perh. of MDu. or MLGer. orig.]

shuf•fle (shūf'lē) *v.* -fled, -fling, -flies. — *tr.* 1. To slide (the feet) along the floor or ground while walking. 2. To move (something) from one place to another; transfer or shift. 3. To put aside or under cover quickly; shunt. 4. To mix together; jumble. 5. Games. To mix together (playing cards, tiles, or dominoes) so as to make a random order of arrangement. — *intr.* 1. To move with short sliding steps, without or barely lifting the feet. 2. To dance with sliding and tapping steps. 3. To move about from place to place; shift. 4. To act in a shifty or deceitful manner; equivocate. 5. Games. To shuffle playing cards, tiles, or dominoes. — *n.* 1. A short sliding step or movement or a walk characterized by such steps. 2. A dance in which the feet slide along or move close to the floor. 3. An evasive or deceitful action; an equivocation. 4. A confused mixture; a jumble. 5. Games. a. An act of shuffling cards, dominoes, or tiles. b. A player's right or turn to do this. [ME *shoufelen*, prob. of MDu. or MLGer. orig.] — *shuf'fler n.*

shuf•fle•board (shūf'əl-bōrd', -bōrd') *n.* Games. 1. A game in which disks are slid along a smooth surface toward one of two targets painted on the surface and divided into numbered scoring areas. 2. A surface on which this game is played. [Alteration of obsolete *shove-board*: *shove* + *board*.]

shul (shōl, shōbl) *n.* Judaism. A synagogue. [Yiddish < MHGer. *schul*, school < OHGer. *scuola* < Lat. *schola*. See *school*.¹]

Shu•men (shōō'mēn'). A city of NE Bulgaria W of Varna; founded 927. Pop. 107,000.

shun (shūn) *tr.v.* shunned, shun•ning, shuns. To avoid deliberately; keep away from. [ME *shunnen* < OE *scunian*, to abhor.] — *shun'ner n.*

shun•pike (shūn'pik') *n.* A side road taken to avoid the tolls or traffic of a turnpike. — *intr.v.* -piked, -pik•ing, -pikes. To travel on side roads, avoiding turnpikes. — *shun'pik'er n.*

shunt (shūnt) *n.* 1. The act or process of turning aside or moving to an alternate course. 2. A railroad switch. 3. *Elect.* A low-resistance connection between two points in an electric circuit that forms an alternative path for a portion of the current. 4. *Medic.* A passage between two natural body channels, such as blood vessels, esp. one created surgically to divert or permit flow from one pathway or region to another; a bypass. — *v.* shunt•ed, shunt•ing, shunts. — *tr.* 1. To turn or move aside or onto another course. 2. To evade by putting aside or ignoring. 3. To switch (a train or car) from one track to another. 4. *Elect.* To provide or divert (current) by means of a shunt. — *intr.* 1. To move or turn aside. 2. *Elect.* To become diverted by means of a shunt. Used of a circuit. [ME *shunten*, to flinch.] — *shunt'er n.*

shush (shūsh) *interj.* Used to express a demand for silence. — *tr.v.* shushed, shush•ing, shush•es. To demand silence from by saying "shush."

shut (shūt) *v.* shut, shut•ting, shuts. — *tr.* 1. To move (a door

or lid, for example) so as to block passage through it. 2. To block entrance to or exit from; close with a lock, catch, or latch. 4. To confine in a closed space. 5. To exclude from or as if from a group. 6. To cause to stop operating: *shut down a machine*. 1. To move or become moved so as to block passage. 2. To stop operating, esp. automatically: *The shut off at midnight*. — *n.* 1. The act or time of shutting (someone) to stop speaking; silence. 2. To shut — *idiom.* shut (one's) eyes to. To refuse to acknowledge. [ME *shutten* < OE *scytian*. See *shut•down* (shūt'daun') *n.* A cessation of operativity, as at a factory.

Shute (shōōt), Nevil Shute Norway, 1899–1960, English writer whose novels include *A Town Like Alice* and *On the Beach* (1957), both set in Australia.

shut•eye (shūt'ī) *n.* Slang. Sleep.

shut•in (shūt'in') *n.* A person confined indoors by disability. — *adj.* (shūt-in'). 1. Confined to a hospital, as by illness. 2. Disposed to avoid social contact.

shut•off (shūt'ōf', -ōf') *n.* 1. A device that shuts off. 2. A stoppage; a cessation.

shut•out (shūt'out') *n.* 1. See *lockout*. 2. Sports. A game in which one side does not score.

shut•ter (shūt'tər) *n.* 1. One that shuts, as: a. A lens or screen for a window, usu. fitted with louvers. b. A mechanical device of a camera that opens and closes the duration of exposure of a plate or film to light. 2. A movable shutter on a pipe or hose, operated by pedals, that open and close the swell box. — *ter•ing, -ters.* 1. To furnish or close with shutters to cease operations; close down.

shut•ter•bug (shūt'tər-būg') *n.* Informal. An amateur photographer.

shut•tle (shūt'lē) *n.* 1. A device used in weaving to weave thread back and forth between the warp threads. 2. A device for holding the thread in tanning and finishing. 3. A regular travel back and forth between two points established route by a vehicle. b. A vehicle used to take a shuttle across town. c. A route used by a space shuttle. — *v.* -tled, -tling, -tles. 1. To move, or travel back and forth by or as if by a shuttle. 2. To cause to move back and forth frequently; port by or as if by a shuttle. [ME *shuttle* < OE *shutla*. See *skaud*.⁹] — *shut'tler n.*

shut•tle•cock (shūt'lē-kōk') *n.* Sports. A small ball of cork or rubber with a conical crown of feathers used in badminton. — *tr.v.* -cocked, -cock•ing, -throws or -sent back and forth like a shuttlecock.

shuttle diplomacy *n.* Diplomatic negotiations conducted through an official intermediary who travels frequently between the parties involved. — *shuttle diplomat n.*

shy (shī) *adj.* shy'er (shī'ər), shy'est (shī'ēst) or shy•est. 1. Easily startled; timid. 2.a. Drawing back from contact or familiarity with others; retiring. b. Marked by reserve or diffidence. 3. Disappointed. 4. Not having paid an amount due, as in parking a car. — *intr.v.* shied (shīd), shy•ing, shies. To move suddenly, as if startled; start. 2. To draw back from fear or caution; recoil. — *n., pl.* shies (shī). A withdrawal, as from fright; a start. [ME *shy* < OE *schy* or *n.* — *shy'ly adv.* — *shy'ness n.*

Syns: shy, bashful, diffident, modest, coy, reserved, reticent, or a reserve of manner. One who is shy of others, either because of a withdrawn nature or timidity: "The poor man was shy and hated notice" (Bernard Shaw). *Bashful* suggests self-consciousness or shyness in the presence of others: "I never knew bashful/Lowering my head, I looked at the ground" (John Donne). *Diffident* implies lack of self-confidence: "diffident to express his opinion. Modest is associated with an unassertive nature and absence of vanity or pretense: "In spite her fame she remained a modest, unassuming woman" (John Milton). *Demure* implies an affected shyness or modesty: *assented with a demure*.

shy (shī) *v.* shied (shīd), shy•ing, shies (shī). — (something) with a swift motion; fling. — *intr.* To do something with a swift motion. — *n., pl.* shies (shī). A quick throw; a fling. 2. Informal. A gibe; a sneer. 3. An attempt; a try. [Perh. < *swy*.¹]

shy•lock (shī'lōk') *n.* 1. *Offensive.* A ruthless money-lender shark. 2. *Stylock.* The ruthless usurer in *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice*.

shy•ster (shī'stər) *n.* Slang. An unethical negotiator, extortioner, esp. of law. [Prob. alteration of Ger. *Schäster*, a bitch, bastard < *scheissen*, to defecate < MHGer.

shizen. See *skel*.⁹] — *shy'ter n.*

Sib (sī) [Ital. < Med.Lat. *Siberia* for the element *sibilon*.] *Systeme International* [d'Unité].

Sil (sī) *n.* Rock rich in silicon and oxygen, a layer of the earth's crust beneath the soil. [From *silicium* + *silicium*.]

Silence (sī'ləns) *n.* 1. The absence of sound. 2. The absence of speech or conversation. 3. The absence of activity or movement. 4. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 5. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 6. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 7. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 8. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 9. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 10. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 11. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 12. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 13. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 14. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 15. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 16. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 17. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 18. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 19. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 20. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 21. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 22. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 23. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 24. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 25. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 26. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 27. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 28. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 29. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 30. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 31. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 32. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 33. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 34. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 35. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 36. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 37. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 38. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 39. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 40. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 41. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 42. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 43. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 44. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 45. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 46. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 47. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 48. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 49. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 50. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 51. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 52. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 53. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 54. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 55. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 56. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 57. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 58. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 59. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 60. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 61. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 62. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 63. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 64. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 65. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 66. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 67. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 68. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 69. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 70. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 71. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 72. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 73. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 74. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 75. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 76. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 77. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 78. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 79. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 80. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 81. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 82. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 83. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 84. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 85. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 86. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 87. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 88. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 89. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 90. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 91. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 92. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 93. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 94. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 95. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 96. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 97. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 98. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 99. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room. 100. The absence of sound or activity, as in a room.

