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*The*  
**American  
Heritage<sup>®</sup> Dictionary**  
*of the English Language*

FOURTH EDITION



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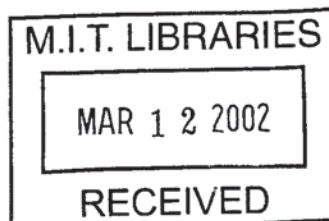
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**advance guard** *n.* A detachment of troops sent ahead of a main force to reconnoiter and provide protection.

**advance man** or **ad·vance·man** (ād-vāns/mān') *n.* A man who travels ahead to arrange the details of scheduling, publicity, security, and other matters connected with a trip or public appearance, especially one to be made by a politician or dignitary: "Spontaneous crowds are... built through days of effort by political advancement" (Timothy G. Smith).

**advancement** (ād-vāns/mənt) *n.* **1.** A forward step; an improvement. **2.** Development; progress: *the advancement of knowledge.* **3.** A promotion, as in rank. **4.** The act of moving forward. See Usage Note at **advance.**

**advantage** (ād-vān/tij) *n.* **1.** A beneficial factor or combination of factors. **2.** Benefit or profit; gain: *It is to your advantage to invest wisely.* **3.** A relatively favorable position; superiority of means: *A better education gave us the advantage.* **4. Sports a.** The first point scored in tennis after deuce. **b.** The resulting score. **tr.v.** **-tagged, -tagging, -tagged** To afford profit or gain to; benefit. **idioms: take advantage of** **1.** To put to good use; avail oneself of: *take advantage of all educational opportunities.* **2.** To profit selfishly by; exploit: *took advantage of the customer.* **to advantage** To good effect; favorably: *The roses were displayed to advantage in a blue vase.* [Middle English *avantage*, from Old French, from *avant*, before, from Latin *abante*, from before. See **ADVANCE.**]

**advantageous** (ād-vān-tā'jəs, -vən-) *adj.* Affording advantage; beneficial. See synonyms at **beneficial.** —**ad·van·ta·geous·ly** *adv.* —**ad·van·ta·geous·ness** *n.*

**advect** (ād-vēkt') *tr.v.* **-vected, -vecting, -vects** **1.** To convey horizontally by advection. **2.** To transport (a substance) by advection. [Back-formation from **ADVECTION.**]

**advection** (ād-vēk/shən) *n.* **1.** The transfer of a property of the atmosphere, such as heat, cold, or humidity, by the horizontal movement of an air mass: *Today's temperatures were higher due to the advection of warm air into the region.* **2.** The rate of change of an atmospheric property caused by the horizontal movement of air. **3.** The horizontal movement of water, as in an ocean current. [Latin *advectio*, *advectiōn-*, act of conveying, from *advectus*, past participle of *advertere*, to carry to: *ad-*, *ad-* + *vertere*, to carry; see **wegh-** in Appendix I.] —**ad·vec·tive** *adj.*

**advent** (ād-vēnt') *n.* **1.** The coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important: *the advent of the computer.* **2. Advent a.** The liturgical period preceding Christmas, beginning in Western churches on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and in Eastern churches in mid-November, and observed by many Christians as a season of prayer, fasting, and penitence. **b. Christianity** The coming of Jesus at the Incarnation. **c. Christianity** See **Second Coming.** [Middle English, the Advent season, from Old French, from Latin *adventus*, arrival, from past participle of *advenire*, to come to: *ad-*, *ad-* + *venire*, to come; see **g<sup>va</sup>** in Appendix I.]

**Adventist** (ād-vēnt'ist, ād-vēnt'-) *n.* A member of any of several Christian denominations that believe Jesus's Second Coming and the end of the world are near. —**Ad·vent'ism** *n.*

**adventitious** (ād-vēn-tī'ʃəs, -vən-) *n.* The membranous outer covering of an organ or a blood vessel. [New Latin, from Latin *adventicius*, foreign. See **ADVENTITIOUS.**] —**ad·ven·ti·tial** *adj.*

**adventitious** (ād-vēn-tī'ʃəs, -vən-) *adj.* **1.** Not inherent but added extrinsically. See synonyms at **accidental.** **2. Biology** Of or belonging to a structure that develops in an unusual place: *adventitious roots.* [From Latin *adventicius*, foreign, from *adventus*, arrival. See **ADVENT.**] —**ad·ven·ti·tious·ly** *adv.* —**ad·ven·ti·tious·ness** *n.*

**adventive** (ād-vēn'tiv) *adj.* Not native to and not fully established in a new habitat or environment; locally or temporarily naturalized: *an adventive weed.* **tr.v.** **-adventive** An adventive organism. [From Latin *adventus*, arrival. See **ADVENT.**] —**ad·ven·tive·ly** *adv.*

**Advent Sunday** *n.* The first Sunday of Advent in Western Christianity.

**adventure** (ād-vēn'chər) *n.* **1a.** An undertaking or enterprise of a hazardous nature. **b.** An undertaking of a questionable nature, especially one involving intervention in another state's affairs. **2.** An unusual or exciting experience: *an adventure in dining.* **3.** Participation in hazardous or exciting experiences: *the love of adventure.* **4.** A financial speculation or business venture. **tr.v.** **-tured, -turing, -tures** —*tr.* **1.** To venture upon; undertake or try. **2.** To expose to danger or risk; hazard. —*intr.* **1.** To take a risk; dare. **2.** To proceed despite risks. [Middle English *aventure*, from Old French, from Latin *adventūrus*, future participle of *advenire*, to arrive. See **ADVENT.**]

**adventurer** (ād-vēn'chər-ər) *n.* **1.** One that seeks adventure. **2.** A soldier of fortune. **3.** A heavy speculator in stocks, business, or trade. **4.** One that attempts to gain wealth and social position by unscrupulous means.

**adventure·some** (ād-vēn'chər-səm) *adj.* Disposed to engage in risky activities or enterprises. See synonyms at **adventurous.** —**ad·ven·ture·some·ly** *adv.* —**ad·ven·ture·some·ness** *n.*

**adventur·ess** (ād-vēn'chər-ēs) *n.* A woman who seeks social and financial advancement by unscrupulous means. See Usage Note at **-ess.**

**adventur·ism** (ād-vēn'chər-riz'əm) *n.* Involvement in risky enterprises without regard to proper procedures and possible consequences, especially the reckless intervention by a nation in the affairs of another nation or region: "American strategic interests would... be even more jeopardized by Soviet adventurism in the Middle East" (Christopher T. Rand). —**ad·ven·tur·ist** *adj.* & *n.* —**ad·ven·tur·is'tic** *adj.*

**adventurous** (ād-vēn'chər-əs) *adj.* **1.** Inclined to undertake new and daring enterprises. **2.** Hazardous; risky. —**ad·ven·turous·ly** *adv.* —**ad·ven·turous·ness** *n.*

**Synonyms** *adventurous, adventuresome, audacious, daredevil, daring, venturesome* These adjectives mean inclined to undertake risks: *adventurous pioneers; an adventuresome prospector; an audacious explorer; a daredevil test pilot; daring acrobats; a venturesome investor.*

**adverb** (ād-vûrb) *n.* **Abbr. adv. 1a.** The part of speech that modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb. **2.** Any of the words belonging to this part of speech, such as *so, very,* and *rapidly.* [Middle English *adverbe*, from Old French, from Latin *adverbium* (translation of Greek *epirrhēma*): *ad-*, in relation to; see **AD-** + *verbum*, word, verb; see **wer-** in Appendix I.]

**adverbial** (ād-vûrb'ē-əl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or being an adverb. **tr.v.** **-adverbial** An adverbial element or phrase. —**ad·ver·bi·al·ly** *adv.*

**ad ver·bum** (ād vûrb'bəm) *adv.* Word for word; verbatim. [Latin: *ad*, in accordance with + *verbum*, word.]

**adversarial** (ād'vər-sār'ē-əl) *adj.* Relating to or characteristic of an adversary; involving antagonistic elements: "the chasm between management and labor in this country, an often needlessly adversarial... atmosphere" (Steve Lohr).

**adversary** (ād'vər-sēr'ē) *n., pl. -ies* **1.** An opponent; an enemy. **2. Adversary** The Devil; Satan. Often used with *the*. [Middle English *adversarie*, from Latin *adversarius*, enemy, from *adversus*, against. See **ADVERSE.**]

**adversative** (ād-vûr'sa-tiv) *adj.* Expressing antithesis or opposition: *the adversative conjunction but.* **tr.v.** **-adversative** A word that expresses antithesis or opposition. [Latin *adversativus*, from *adversatus*, past participle of *adversari*, to oppose, from *adversus*, against. See **ADVERSE.**] —**ad·ver·sa·tive·ly** *adv.*

**adverse** (ād-vûrs', ād'vûrs') *adj.* **1.** Acting or serving to oppose; antagonistic: *adverse criticism.* **2.** Contrary to one's interests or welfare; harmful or unfavorable: *adverse circumstances.* **3.** Moving in an opposite or opposing direction: *adverse currents.* **4. Archaic** Placed opposite. [Middle English, from Old French *advers*, from Latin *adversus*, past participle of *advertere*, to turn toward: *ad-*, *ad-* + *vertere*, to turn; see **wer-** in Appendix I.] —**ad·verse·ly** *adv.* —**ad·verse·ness** *n.*

**adversity** (ād-vûr'si-tē) *n., pl. -ties* **1.** A state of hardship or affliction; misfortune. **2.** A calamitous event.

**advert** (ād-vûrt') *intr.v.* **-verted, -verting, -verts** **1.** To turn attention. Used with *to*: *The board next adverted to compensation issues.* **2.** To call attention; refer. Used with *to*: *He adverted to the problem in the opening paragraph.* See synonyms at **refer.** [Middle English *adverten*, from Old French *advertir*, to notice, from Latin *advertere*, to turn toward. See **ADVERSE.**]

**advert<sup>2</sup>** (ād'vûrt) *n.* Chiefly British An advertisement.

**advertence** (ād-vûr'tns) *n.* **1.** The quality or practice of being advertent; heedfulness. **2.** The action of being attentive; attention or consideration. [Middle English, from Old French *advertance*, from Medieval Latin *advertentia*, from Latin *advertens*, *advertent-*, present participle of *advertere*, to turn toward. See **ADVERSE.**]

**advertency** (ād-vûr'tn-sē) *n., pl. -cies* The quality or practice of being attentive or heedful; heedfulness.

**advertent** (ād-vûr'tnt) *adj.* Paying attention; attentive; heedful.

**advertise** (ād'vər-tiz') *v.* **-tised, -tising, -tises** —*tr.* **1.** To make public announcement of, especially to proclaim the qualities or advantages of (a product or business) so as to increase sales. See synonyms at **announce.** **2.** To make known; call attention to: *advertised my intention to resign.* **3.** To warn or notify: "This event advertises me that there is such a fact as death" (Henry David Thoreau). —*intr.* **1.** To call the attention of the public to a product or business. **2.** To inquire or seek in a public notice, as in a newspaper: *advertise for an apartment.* [Middle English *advertisen*, to notify, from Old French *advertir*, *advertiss-*, to notice. See **ADVERT<sup>1</sup>.**] —**ad·ver·tis·er** *n.*

**advertisement** (ād'vər-tiz'mənt, ād-vûr'tis-, -tiz-) *n.* **1.** The act of advertising. **2.** A notice, such as a poster or a paid announcement in the print, broadcast, or electronic media, designed to attract public attention or patronage.

**advertising** (ād'vər-tiz'zɪŋ) *n.* **1.** The activity of attracting public attention to a product or business, as by paid announcements in the print, broadcast, or electronic media. **2.** The business of designing and writing advertisements. **3.** Advertisements considered as a group: *This paper takes no advertising.*

**advertorial** (ād'vər-tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'-) *n.* An advertisement promoting the interests or opinions of a corporate sponsor, often presented in such a way as to resemble an editorial. [**ADVERT(ISEMENT)** + (**EDI**)/**TORIAL**.]

**advice** (ād-vis') *n.* **1.** Opinion about what could or should be done about a situation or problem; counsel. **2.** Information communicated; news. Often used in the plural: *advice from an ambassador.* [Middle English *avis*, *advice*, from Old French *avis*, from (*ester*) *a vis*, to seem: *a*, to (from Latin *ad*; see **AD-**) + *vis*, seen (from Latin *visum*, what seems (good), from neuter past participle of *videre*, to see; see **weid-** in Appendix I).]

**Synonyms** *advice, counsel, recommendation* These nouns denote an opinion as to a decision or course of action: *sound advice for the unemployed; accepted my attorney's counsel; will follow your recommendation.* See also synonyms at **news.**

**advisable** (ād-vī'zə-bəl) *adj.* Worthy of being recommended or suggested; prudent. —**ad·vis'a·bil·ity**, **ad·vis'a·ble·ness** *n.* —**ad·vis'a·bly** *adv.*

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār car	ōo took
ā father	ōo boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ō paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: ' (primary); ' (secondary), as in dictionary (dik'shə-nēr'ē)