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# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

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Eleventh Edition

The Words You Need Today

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA<sup>®</sup> COMPANY

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signature is attached **b**: a sum subscribed or pledged **3**: an arrangement for providing, receiving, or making use of something of a continuing or periodic nature on a prepayment plan: as **a**: a purchase by prepayment for a certain number of issues (as of a periodical) **b**: application to purchase securities of a new issue **c**: a method of offering or presenting a series of public performances **d** *Brit*: membership dues

**subscription TV** *n* (1953): pay-TV that broadcasts programs directly over the air to customers provided with a special receiver — called also *subscription television*; compare **PAY-CABLE**, **PAY-TV**

**sub-section** \səb-'sek-shən/ *n* (1621) **1**: a subdivision or a subordinate division of a section **2**: a subordinate part or branch

**sub-sequence** \səb-sə-'kwən(t)s/ *n* (ca. 1500): the quality or state of being subsequent; also: a subsequent event

**sub-sequence** \səb-sə-'kwən(t)s, -'kwən(t)s/ *n* (1908): a mathematical sequence that is part of another sequence

**sub-sequent** \səb-si-'kwənt, -sə-'kwənt/ *adj* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *subsequent-*, *subsequens*, prp. of *subsequi* to follow close, fr. *sub-* near + *sequi* to follow — more at **SUB-**, **SUE**] (15c) **1**: following in time, order, or place (< ~ events) (< a ~ clause in the treaty) — **subsequent** *n* — **sub-sequent-ly** \-'kwənt-lē, -'kwənt-lē/ *adv*

**subsequent** *prep* (1621): at a time later or more recent than: **SINCE** (*subsequent to our discussion*)

**sub-serve** (\səb-'sɜrv/ *v* [L *subservire* to serve, be subservient, fr. *sub-* + *servire* to serve] (1661) **1**: to promote the welfare or purposes of **2**: to serve as an instrument or means in carrying out

**sub-serv-ience** \səb-'sɜrv-ē-ən(t)s/ *n* (ca. 1676) **1**: a subservient or subordinate place or function **2**: obsequious servility

**sub-serv-ient-ly** \-ən(t)-lē/ *adv* (1651): **SUBSERVIENT**

**sub-serv-ient-ly** \-ən(t)-lē/ *adj* [L *subservient-*, *subserviens*, prp. of *subservire*] (ca. 1626) **1**: useful in an inferior capacity: **SUBORDINATE** **2**: serving to promote some end **3**: obsequiously submissive: **TRUCKLING** — **sub-serv-ient-ly** *adv*

**syn** **SUBSERVIENT**, **SERVILE**, **SLAVISH**, **OBSEQUIOUS** mean showing or characterized by extreme compliance or abject obedience. **SUBSERVIENT** implies the cringing manner of one very conscious of a subordinate position (domestic help was expected to be properly *subservient*). **SERVILE** suggests the mean or fawning behavior of a slave (< a political boss and his entourage of *servile* hangers-on). **SLAVISH** suggests abject or debased servility (the *slavish* status of migrant farm workers). **OBSEQUIOUS** implies fawning or sycophantic compliance and exaggerated deference of manner (waiters who are *obsequious* in the presence of celebrities).

**sub-set** \səb-'set/ *n* (1902) **1**: a set each of whose elements is an element of an inclusive set **2**: **DIVISION**, **PORTION** (< a ~ of our community)

**sub-shrub** \-'ʃrəb, esp *Southern* -'srəb/ *n* (1851): a perennial plant having woody stems except for the terminal part of the new growth which is killed back annually; also: a low shrub

**sub-side** \səb-'sɪd/ *vi* **sub-sid-ed**; **sub-sid-ing** [L *subsidere*, fr. *sub-* + *sidere* to sit down, sink; akin to L *sedere* to sit — more at **SIT**] (1607) **1**: to sink or fall to the bottom: **SETTLE** **2**: to tend downward: **DESCEND**; esp: to flatten out so as to form a depression **3**: to let oneself settle down: **SINK** (*subsided into a chair*) **4**: to become quiet or less (< as the fever ~s) (< my anger *subsided*) **syn** see **ABATE** — **sub-sid-ence** \səb-'sɪd-ən(t)s, 'səb-sə-'dɪn(t)s/ *n*

**sub-sid-i-arity** \səb-'sɪd-ē-'er-ə-tē, -səb-'sɪ-ə-/ *n* (1936) **1**: the quality or state of being subsidiary **2**: a principle in social organization: functions which subordinate or local organizations perform effectively belong more properly to them than to a dominant central organization

**sub-sid-i-ary** \səb-'sɪ-dē-'er-ē, -'sɪ-də-'rē/ *adj* [L *subsidiarius*, fr. *subsidium* reserve troops] (1543) **1 a**: furnishing aid or support: **AUXILIARY** (< details) **b**: of secondary importance (< a ~ stream) **2**: of, relating to, or constituting a subsidy (< a ~ payment to an ally) — **sub-sid-i-ari-ly** \-'sɪ-dē-'er-ə-lē/ *adv*

**subsidiary** *n*, *pl* -**ar-ies** (1603): one that is subsidiary; esp: a company wholly controlled by another

**sub-sid-ize** *Brit var* of **SUBSIDIZE**

**sub-sid-ize** \səb-'sɪd-ə-'dɪz, -zə-/ *vi* **-dized**; **-diz-ing** (1769): to furnish with a subsidy; as **a**: to purchase the assistance of by payment of a subsidy **b**: to aid or promote (as a private enterprise) with public money (< soybean farmers) (< public transportation) — **sub-sid-i-za-tion** \səb-'sɪd-ə-'zā-shən, -zə-/ *n* — **sub-sid-iz-er** *n*

**sub-sid-y** \səb-'sɪd-ē, -zə-/ *n*, *pl* **-dies** [ME *subsidius*, fr. AF, fr. L *subsidium* reserve troops, support, assistance, fr. *sub-* near + *sedere* to sit — more at **SUB-**, **SIT**] (14c): a grant or gift of money; as **a**: a sum of money formerly granted by the British Parliament to the crown and raised by special taxation **b**: money granted by one state to another **c**: a grant by a government to a private person or company to assist an enterprise deemed advantageous to the public

**sub-sist** \səb-'sɪst/ *vb* [LL *subsistere* to exist, fr. L, to come to a halt, remain, fr. *sub-* + *sistere* to come to a stand; akin to L *stare* to stand — more at **STAND**] *vi* (1549) **1 a**: to have existence: **BE** **b**: **PERSIST**, **CONTINUE** **2**: to have or acquire the necessities of life (as food and clothing); esp: to nourish oneself (< ~ing on roots, berries and grubs) **3 a**: to hold true **b**: to be logically conceivable as the subject of true statements ~ *vt*: to support with provisions

**sub-sis-tence** \səb-'sɪs-tən(t)s/ *n* [ME, fr. LL *subsistentia*, fr. *subsistent-*, *subsistens*; prp. of *subsistere*] (15c) **1 a** (1): real being: **EXISTENCE** (2): the condition of remaining in existence: **CONTINUATION**, **PERSISTENCE** **b**: an essential characteristic quality of something that exists **c**: the character possessed by whatever is logically conceivable **2**: means of subsisting; as **a**: the minimum (as of food and shelter) necessary to support life **b**: a source or means of obtaining the necessities of life — **sub-sis-tent** \-tən(t)-t/ *adj*

**subsistence farming** *n* (1938) **1**: farming or a system of farming that provides all or almost all the goods required by the farm family usu. without any significant surplus for sale **2**: farming or a system of farming

**1 sub-soil** \səb-'sɔɪ(-ə)/ *n* (1796): the stratum of weathered material that underlies the surface soil

**2 sub-soil** *vt* (1840): to turn, break, or stir the subsoil of — **sub-soil-er** *n*

**sub-so-lar point** \səb-'sɔ-lər-/ *n* (ca. 1908): the point on the surface of the earth or a planet at which the sun is at the zenith

**sub-son-ic** \səb-'sɔ-nɪk/ *adj* [ISV] (1937) **1**: of, relating to, or being a speed less than that of sound in air **2**: moving, capable of moving, or utilizing air currents moving at a subsonic speed **3**: **INFRASONIC** **1** — **sub-son-ic-al-ly** \-nɪ-k(ə)-lē/ *adv*

**sub-space** \səb-'spās/ *n* (1926): a subset of a space; esp: one that has the essential properties (as those of a vector space or topological space) of the including space

**sub-spe-cie æ-ter-ni-tatis** \səb-'spe-kē-'ā-ī-,ter-nə-'tā-təs/ *adv* [NL, lit., under the aspect of eternity] (1895): in its essential or universal form or nature

**sub-spe-cies** \səb-'spē-shēz, -sēz/ *n* [NL] (1699): a subdivision of a species; as **a**: a category in biological classification that ranks immediately below a species and designates a population of a particular geographic region genetically distinguishable from other such populations of the same species and capable of interbreeding successfully with them where its range overlaps theirs **b**: a named subdivision (as a race or variety) of a taxonomic species **c**: **SUBGROUP** **1** (< a political ~) — **sub-spe-cif-ic** \səb-'spi-'sɪ-fɪk/ *adj*

**sub-stage** \səb-'stāj/ *n* (1888): an attachment to a microscope by means of which accessories (as mirrors, diaphragms, or condensers) are held in place beneath the stage of the instrument

**sub-stance** \səb-'stæn(t)s/ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *substantia*, fr. *substant-*, *substans*, prp. of *substare* to stand under, fr. *sub-* + *stare* to stand — more at **STAND**] (14c) **1 a**: essential nature: **ESSENCE** **b**: a fundamental or characteristic part or quality **c** *Christian Science*: **GOD** **1b** **2 a**: ultimate reality that underlies all outward manifestations and change **b**: practical importance: **MEANING**, **USEFULNESS** (< the ... bill—which will be without ~ in the sense that it will authorize nothing more than a set of ideas —Richard Reeves) **3 a**: physical material from which something is made or which has discrete existence **b**: matter of particular or definite chemical constitution **c**: something (as drugs or alcoholic beverages) deemed harmful and usu. subject to legal restriction (< possession of a controlled ~) (< ~ abuse) **4**: material possessions: **PROPERTY** (< a family of ~) — **sub-stance-less** \-'ləs/ *adj* — **in substance**: in respect to essentials: **FUNDAMENTALLY**

**substance P** *n* (1934): a neuropeptide that consists of 11 amino acid residues, that is present in the nervous system and gastrointestinal tract, that causes the contraction of smooth muscle and dilation of blood vessels, and that acts as a potent neurotransmitter esp. in the transmission of signals from pain receptors

**sub-stan-dard** \səb-'stæn-'dɑrd/ *adj* (1897): deviating from or falling short of a standard or norm; as **a**: of a quality lower than that prescribed by law (< ~ housing) **b**: conforming to a pattern of linguistic usage existing within a speech community but not that of the prestige group in that community **c**: constituting a greater than normal risk to an insurer

**sub-stan-tial** \səb-'stæn(t)-tʃəl/ *adj* (14c) **1 a**: consisting of or relating to substance **b**: not imaginary or illusory: **REAL**, **TRUE** **c**: **IMPORTANT**, **ESSENTIAL** **2**: ample to satisfy and nourish: **FULL** (< a ~ meal) **3 a**: possessed of means: **WELL-TO-DO** **b**: considerable in quantity: significantly great (< earned a ~ wage) **4**: firmly constructed: **STURDY** (< a ~ house) **5**: being largely but not wholly that which is specified (< a ~ lie) — **sub-stan-tial-ly** \-'stæn(t)-tʃəl-ē-/ *adv* — **sub-stan-tial-ness** \-'stæn(t)-tʃəl-nəs/ *n*

**sub-stan-tia ni-gra** \səb-'stæn(t)-tʃə-'nɪ-'grə, -'ni-/ *n*, *pl* **sub-stan-ti-ae ni-grae** \-'tʃē-'ē-'ni-(ə)'grē, -'ni-/ [NL, lit., black substance] (ca. 1882): a layer of deeply pigmented gray matter situated in the mid-brain and containing the cell bodies of a tract of dopamine-producing nerve cells whose secretion tends to be deficient in Parkinson's disease

**sub-stan-ti-ate** \səb-'stæn(t)-tʃē-'æt/ *vt* **-at-ed**; **-at-ing** (1657) **1**: to give substance or form to: **EMBODY** **2**: to establish by proof or competent evidence: **VERIFY** (< ~ a charge) **syn** see **CONFIRM** — **sub-stan-ti-a-tion** \-'stæn(t)-tʃē-'ā-shən/ *n* — **sub-stan-ti-a-tive** \-'stæn(t)-tʃē-'ā-tɪv/ *adj*

**sub-stan-ti-val** \səb-'stæn-'tɪ-vəl/ *adj* (ca. 1832): of, relating to, or serving as a substantive — **sub-stan-ti-val-ly** \-'və-lē/ *adv*

**sub-stan-tive** \səb-'stæn-tɪv/ *n* [ME *substantif*, fr. AF *sustentif*, fr. *sustentif*, *adj.*, having or expressing substance, fr. LL *substantivus*, fr. L *substantia*] (14c): **NOUN**; **broadly**: a word or word group functioning syntactically as a noun — **sub-stan-tiv-ize** \-'tɪ-vɪz/ *v*

**sub-stan-tive** \səb-'stæn-tɪv; 2c & 3 also səb-'stæn-tɪv/ *adj* [ME, fr. AF *sustentif*] (14c) **1**: being a totally independent entity **2 a**: real rather than apparent: **FIRM** (< need ~ evidence to prove her guilt); also: **PERMANENT**, **ENDURING** **b**: belonging to the substance of a thing: **ESSENTIAL** **c**: expressing existence (< the ~ verb is the verb *to be*) **d**: requiring or involving no mordant (< a ~ dyeing process) **3 a**: having the nature or function of a grammatical substantive (< a ~ phrase) **b**: relating to or having the character of a noun or pronominal term in logic **4**: considerable in amount or numbers: **SUBSTANTIAL** (< made ~ progress) **5**: creating and defining rights and duties (< ~ law) — compare **PROCEDURAL** **6**: having substance: involving matters of major or practical importance to all concerned (< ~ discussions among world leaders) — **sub-stan-tive-ly** *adv* — **sub-stan-tive-ness** *n*

**substantive due process** *n* (1954): **DUE PROCESS** **2**

**substantive right** *n* (1939): a right (as of life, liberty, property, or reputation) held to exist for its own sake and to constitute part of the normal legal order of society

**sub-sta-tion** \səb-'stā-shən/ *n* (1881): a subordinate or subsidiary station; as **a**: a branch post office **b**: a subsidiary station in which