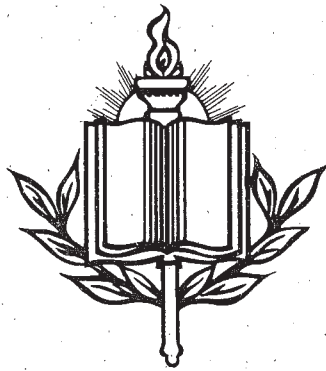


WEBSTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



The dictionary entries are based on the Second Edition of
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hot pota/to, 1. *Informal.* a situation or issue that is difficult, unpleasant, or risky to deal with. 2. *Brit. Informal.* a baked potato. [1840-50]

hot-press (hot/pres/), n. 1. a machine applying heat in conjunction with mechanical pressure, as for producing a smooth surface on paper or for expressing oil. —v.t. 2. to subject to treatment in a hot-press. [1625-35] —hot-press/er, n.

hot pressing, a method of forming alloy steels or specialized ceramics from compound powders by the application of heat and pressure in a mold. [1735-45]

hot rod, *Slang.* an automobile specially built or altered for fast acceleration and increased speed. [1940-45, Amer.]

hot-rod (hot/rod/), v., -rod-ded, -rod-ding. *Slang.* —v.i. 1. to drive a hot rod. 2. to drive very fast. —v.t. 3. to drive (a vehicle) very fast. 4. to adapt (a vehicle or its engine) for increased speed. [1945-50]

hot rod/der, *Slang.* 1. a driver or builder of hot rods. 2. a fast and reckless driver. Also, hot-rod/der. [1945-50, Amer.]

hot-roll (hot/ról/, -ról/), v.t. *Metalworking.* to roll (metal) at a heat high enough to permit recrystallization. [1875-80]

hot sauce, any of several highly spiced, pungent condiments, esp. one containing some type of pepper or chili.

hot seat, *Slang.* 1. See **electric chair**. 2. a highly uncomfortable or embarrassing situation: *I'm in the hot seat because of the contract I lost.* [1915-20]

hot shit, *Slang (vulgar).* 1. a person who behaves in a showy or conceited manner; hotshot. 2. (used to express enthusiasm or approval.) [1970-75]

hot shoe, *Photog.* a bracket on a camera body that provides support and electrical contact for an electronic flash attachment. [1970-75]

hot-short (hot/shórt/), adj. (of steel or wrought iron) brittle when heated, usually due to high sulfur content. [1790-1800; HOT + SHORT, as in RED-SHORT] —hot-short/ness, n.

hot shot (hot/shót/ for 1; hot/shót/ for 2), 1. incandescent shot fired to set enemy ships or buildings on fire. 2. hotshot (def. 4, 6). [1595-1605]

hot-shot (hot/shót/), *Slang.* —adj. 1. highly successful and aggressive: *a hotshot lawyer; a hotshot account exec.* 2. displaying skill flamboyantly: *a hotshot ballplayer.* 3. moving, going, or operating without a stop; fast: *a hotshot express.* —n. 4. an impressively successful or skillful and often vain person. 5. *Railroads.* an express freight train. 6. a firefighter. Also, **hot shot** (for def. 4, 6). [1595-1605; HOT + SHOT¹]

hot spot, 1. a country or region where dangerous or difficult political situations exist or may erupt, esp. where a war, revolution, or a belligerent attitude toward other countries exists or may develop: *In the 1960's, Vietnam became a hot spot.* 2. *Informal.* any area or place of known danger, intrigue, dissension, or instability. 3. *Informal.* a nightclub. 4. *Photog.* an area of a negative or print revealing excessive light on that part of the subject. 5. a section of forest or woods where fires frequently occur. 6. an area hotter than the surrounding surface, as on the shell of a furnace. 7. *Physics.* an area of abnormally high radioactivity. 8. *Geol.* a region of molten rock below and within the lithosphere that persists long enough to leave a record of uplift and volcanic activity at the earth's surface. Cf. **plume** (def. 10). 9. *Genetics.* a chromosome site or a section of DNA having a high frequency of mutation or recombination. 10. *Vet. Pathol.* a moist, raw sore on the skin of a dog or cat caused by constant licking of an irritation from an allergic reaction, tangled coat, fleas, etc. Also, **hot/spot**. [1925-30, Amer.]

hot-spot (hot/spót/), v.t., -spot-ted, -spot-ting. to stop (a forest fire) at a hot spot. [1950-55; v. use of HOT SPOT]

hot spring, a thermal spring having water warmer than 98°F (37°C); the water is usually heated by emanation from or passage near hot or molten rock. Cf. **warm spring**. [1660-70]

Hot Springs, 1. a city in central Arkansas: adjoins a national park (**Hot Springs National Park**) noted for its thermal mineral springs. 35,166. 2. a resort village in W Virginia: site of international conference (forerunner of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) in 1943 to aid agricultural and food supply adjustments after World War II.

hot-spur (hot/spúr/), n. an impetuous or reckless person; a hothead. [1425-75; late ME; after Sir Henry Percy, to whom it was applied as a nickname] —hot-spurred/adj.

hot-stove league (hot/stóv/), devotees of a sport, esp. baseball, who meet for off-season talks. [1950-55]

hot stuff, *Slang.* 1. a person or thing of exceptional interest or merit. 2. something unconventional, sensational, or daring: *This movie is hot stuff.* 3. a person who is erotically stimulating or is easily aroused sexually. [1750-60]

hot switch, *Radio and Television.* a rapid transfer from one point of origin to another during a broadcast.

hot-sy-tot-sy (hot/sé tot/sé), adj. *Slang.* about as right as can be; perfect: *Everything is just hot-sy-totsy.* [1925-30; allegedly coined by Billie De Beck (d. 1942), U.S. cartoonist]

hot tear (tár), a crack formed in hot metal during

cooling, caused by an improper pouring temperature or undue restraint. [1930-35]

hot-tempered (hot/tem/pərd), adj. easily angered; short-tempered.

Hot-ten-tot (hot/n tot/), n. Khoikhoi. [1670-80; < Afrik; orig. uncert.] —Hot-ten-tot/ic, adj.

Hot-tentot's bread, 1. elephant's-foot. 2. the edible rhizome of this plant. [1725-35]

hot-ter (hot/ər), v.i. *Scot. and North Eng.* 1. to vibrate up and down; shake, totter, or rattle, as a plate on a shelf. 2. to stammer. [1790-1800; < early D dial. *hot-teren*, freq. with -er- of MD *hotten* to shake; akin to HATCH]

hot-ter² (hot/ər), adj. comp. of hot.

hot tod/dy, toddy (def. 1).

hot tub, a wooden tub, usually large enough to accommodate several persons, that is filled with hot aerated water and often equipped with a thermostat and whirlpool: used for recreation or physical therapy and often placed out of doors, as on a porch. [1970-75, Amer.] —hot-tub/ber, n. —hot-tub/bing, n.

hot type, *Print.* See **hot metal**.

hot war, open military conflict; an armed conflict between nations: *The increasing tension in the Middle East could lead to a hot war.* [1945-50; by analogy with COLD WAR]

hot wa/ter, *Informal.* trouble; a predicament: *His skipping classes will get him into real hot water when exam time comes.* [1530-40]

hot-wa/ter bag (hot/wó/ter, -wot/ər), a bag, usually of rubber, for holding hot water to apply warmth to some part of the body, as the feet. Also called **hot-wa/ter bot/tle**.

hot well, a tank or reservoir in which hot water is collected before being recirculated, esp. condensed steam about to be returned to a boiler. [1350-1400; ME]

hot-wire (v. hot/wír/; adj. hot/wír/), v., -wired, -wiring, adj. —v.t. 1. *Slang.* to start the engine of (a motor vehicle) by short-circuiting the ignition. —adj. 2. *Elect., Engin.* depending for its operation on the lengthening or increasing resistance of a wire when it is heated: *hot-wire anemometer; hot-wire microphone.* [1950-55]

hot-work (hot/wúrk/), v.t. to work (metal) at a temperature high enough to permit recrystallization. [1895-1900]

hou-ba-ra (hō bār/ə), n. a bustard, *Chlamydotis undulata*, of northern Africa and western Asia, having long black and white plumes on each side of the neck. [1820-30; < Ar *hubārā*]

hou-dah (hou/də), n. howdah.

Hou-dan (hō/dan), n. one of a French breed of chickens having a V-shaped comb, five toes, and mottled or black plumage. [1870-75; after *Houdan*, village near Paris where these hens were bred]

Hou-di-ni (hō dē/nē), n. **Harry** (Erich Weiss), 1874-1926, U.S. magician.

Hou-don (ō dón/), n. **Jean An-toine** (zhān ān-tōn/), 1741-1828, French sculptor.

hough (hok; Scot. hokh), n. 1. *Scot. hock* (def. 1, 2). —v.t. 2. *Scot.* to hamstring. —v.i. 3. *Brit. Dial. Obs.* to clear the throat; hack. [1300-50; ME; see HOCK¹]

Hough (huf), n. **Emerson**, 1857-1923, U.S. novelist.

Hou-ma (hōō/mə), n. a city in S Louisiana. 32,602.

hound¹ (hound), n. 1. one of any of several breeds of dogs trained to pursue game either by sight or by scent; esp. one with a long face and large drooping ears. 2. *Informal.* any dog. 3. a mean, despicable person. 4. *Informal.* an addict or devotee: *an autograph hound.* 5. one of the pursuers in the game of hare and hounds. 6. **follow the hounds**, *Fox Hunting.* to participate in a hunt, esp. as a member of the field. 7. **ride to hounds**, *Fox Hunting.* to participate in a hunt, whether as a member of the field or of the hunt staff. —v.t. 8. to hunt or track with hounds, or as a hound does; pursue. 9. to pursue or harass without respite: *Her little brother wouldn't stop hounding her.* 10. to incite (a hound) to pursuit or attack; urge on. 11. *Informal.* to incite or urge (a person) to do something (usually fol. by on). [bef. 900; ME *h(o)und*, OE *hund*; c. D *hund*, ON *hundr*, Dan, Sw *hund*, G *Hund*, Goth *hunds*; akin to L *canis*, Gk *kyōn* (gen. *kyōnōs*), Skt *śvan* (gen. *śvanas*), OIr *cú* (gen. *con*), Welsh *ci* (pl. *cwn*), Tocharian A *kū*, Lith *šuo*] —hound/er, n. —hound/ish, hound/y, adj. —hound/like/, adj. —Syn. 8. dog, follow, chase, trail; tail. 9. pester, annoy, persecute, bully.

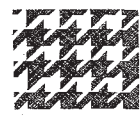
hound² (hound), n. 1. *Naut.* either of a pair of fore-and-aft members at the lower end of the head of a mast, for supporting the trestletrees, that support an upper mast at its heel. Cf. **cheek** (def. 12). 2. a horizontal bar or brace, usually one of a pair, for strengthening the running gear of a horse-drawn wagon or the like. [1175-1225; ME *hūn* < ON *hūnn* knob at the masthead]

hound dog, 1. *Chiefly Southern U.S. Dial.* hound¹ (def. 1). 2. (cap.) *Mil.* a jet-propelled air-to-ground missile designed to be launched from B-52 aircraft and having nuclear capability. [1640-50, Amer.]

hounding (houn/ding), n. *Naut.* 1. the portion of a lower-mast between the cheeks or hounds and the deck. 2. the portion of an upper mast between the cap of the mast below and the hounds above. 3. the part of a bowsprit projecting beyond the stem. [1850-55; HOUND² + -ING¹]

hound's-tongue (houndz/tung/), n. any of various plants belonging to the genus *Cynoglossum*, of the boraginaceae family, esp. *C. officinale*, having coarse, tongue-shaped leaves, dull purple flowers and prickly nuzzles

hound's tooth



hound's-tooth (houndz/tóoth/), adj. woven or printed with a pattern of broken or jagged checks: *a hound's-tooth jacket.* [1955-60]

houn-skull (houn/skul/), n. *Armor.* a snoutlike, usually conical, visor attached to a basinet of the 14th century. [HOUND¹ + SKULL]

Houns-low (hounz/lō), n. a borough of Greater London, England. 203,300.

Hou-phouet-Boi-gny (Fr. *ō fwa'bwā nyē*), n. **Félix** (Fr. *fā lēks*), born 1905, Ivory Coast political leader; president since 1960.

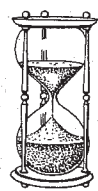
houppe-lande (hōōp/länd, -land), n. (in the Middle Ages) a robe or long tunic, belted or with a fitted bodice, usually having full trailing sleeves and often trimmed or lined with fur. Also, **houpe/lande**. [1350-1400; ME *hopeland* < MF < ?]

hour (ou'r, ou'ər), n. 1. a period of time equal to one twenty-fourth of a mean solar or civil day and equivalent to 60 minutes: *He slept for an hour.* 2. any specific one of these 24 periods, usually reckoned in two series of 12, one series from midnight to noon and the second from noon to midnight, but sometimes reckoned in one series of 24, from midnight to midnight: *He slept for the hour between 2 and 3 A.M. The hour for the bombardment was between 1300 and 1400.* 3. any specific time of day; the time indicated by a timepiece: *What is the hour?* 4. a short or limited period of time: *He savored his hour of glory.* 5. a particular or appointed time: *What was the hour of death? At what hour do you open?* 6. a customary or usual time: *When is your dinner hour?* 7. the present time: *the man of the hour.* 8. **hours**, a time spent in an office, factory, or the like, or for work, study, etc.: *The doctor's hours were from 10 to 4. What an employee does after hours is his or her own business.* 9. customary time of going to bed and getting up: *to keep late hours.* c. (in the Christian church) the seven stated times of the day for prayer and devotion. d. the offices or services prescribed for these times. e. a book containing them. 9. distance normally covered in an hour's traveling: *We live about an hour from the city.* 10. *Astron.* a unit of measure of right ascension representing 15', or the twenty-fourth part of a great circle. 11. a single period, as of class instruction or therapeutic consultation, usually lasting from 40 to 55 minutes. Cf. **clock-hour**. 12. *Educ.* Also called **credit hour**, one unit of academic credit, usually representing attendance at one scheduled period of instruction per week throughout a semester, quarter, or term. 13. **the Hours**, *Class. Myth.* the Horae. 14. **one's hour**, a. Also, **one's last hour**, the instant of death: *The sick man knew that his hour had come.* b. any crucial moment. —adj. 15. of, pertaining to, or noting an hour. [1175-1225; ME (*houre* < AF, OP (*hōre* < L *hōra* < Gk *hōra* time, season) —hour/less, adj.]

hour/ an/gle, *Astron.* the angle, measured westward through 360°, between the celestial meridian of an observer and the hour circle of a celestial body. Cf. **side-real hour angle**. [1830-40]

hour/ cir/cle, *Astron.* a great circle on the celestial sphere passing through the celestial poles and containing a point on the celestial sphere, as a star or the vernal equinox. Also called **circle of declination**. [1665-75]

hour-glass (ou'r/glas/, -glās/, ou'ər/), n. 1. an instrument for measuring time, consisting of two bulbs of glass joined by a narrow passage through which a quantity of sand or mercury runs in just an hour. —adj. 2. having a notably slim or narrow waist, midsection, or joining segment: *She has an hourglass figure.* [1505-15; HOUR + GLASS]



hourglass (def. 1)

hour/ hand, the hand that indicates the hours on a clock or watch. [1660-70]

hou-ri (hōōr'ē, hou'r'ē, hou'ər'ē), n., pl. -ris, one of the beautiful virgins provided in paradise for all faithful Muslims. [1730-40; < F < Pers *hūrī* < Ar *hūr* pl. of *haurā* gazelle-eyed (woman)]

hour-long (ou'r/lóng/, -long/, ou'ər/), adj. lasting an hour: *an hourlong interview.* Also, **hour-long**. [1790-1805; HOUR + LONG¹ (def. 37)]

hourly (ou'r/lē, ou'ər/), adj. 1. of, pertaining to, occurring, or done each successive hour: *hourly news reports.* 2. computed or totaled in terms of an hour; using an hour as a basic unit of reckoning: *hourly wages.* 3. hired to work for wages by the hour: *hourly workers.* 4. frequent; continual. —adv. 5. every hour; hour by hour. 6. at each hour or during every hour. 7. frequently; continually. [1425-75; late ME; see HOUR, -LY]

Hou-sa-ton-ic (hōō/sə ton'ik), n. a river flowing S

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: < descended or borrowed from >