

SECOND COLLEGE EDITION

# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY

OF THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE

DAVID B. GURALNIK, *Editor in Chief*

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Published by New World Dictionaries/Simon and Schuster  
A Simon & Schuster Division of Gulf & Western Corporation  
Simon & Schuster Building  
Rockefeller Center

1230 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10020

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Manufactured in the United States of America

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

CATALOG CARD NO.: 81-85763

Webster's New World Dictionary.

New York: Simon & Schuster

1728 p. College ed.

8201

811119

0-671-41809-2 cl., indexed

0-671-41807-6 cl., plain edge

0-671-41811-4 Pbk.

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**mon-o** (mān'ō) *adj.* *clipped form of* MONOPHONIC (sense 2) — *n.* *clipped form of* MONONUCLEOSIS

**mon-o-** (mān'ō, -ō; *occas.* mō'nō) [Gr. *mono-* < *monos*, single, alone < IE. base \**men-*, small, single, whence OIr. *menb*, small] *a prefix meaning:* 1. one, alone, single [*monoclinic*] 2. containing one atom or one group (of a specified element) [*monochloride*] 3. [*mono-molecular*] having a thickness of one molecule [*monolayer*]

**mon-o-ac-id** (mān'ō ās'id) *adj.* *same as* MONOACIDIC — *n.* an acid having only one replaceable hydrogen atom per molecule

**mon-o-a-cid-ic** (-ə sīd'ik) *adj.* 1. designating a base or alcohol one molecular weight of which can react with only one equivalent weight of an acid, or that has one hydroxyl group capable of replacing one acid hydrogen atom 2. having only one acid hydrogen atom per molecule

**mon-o-a-tom-ic** (-ə tām'ik) *adj.* *same as* MONATOMIC

**mon-o-bas-ic** (mān'ō bās'ik) *adj.* *Chem.* 1. designating an acid the molecule of which contains one hydrogen atom replaceable by a metal or positive radical or capable of reacting with the hydroxyl group 2. designating a compound in which a metal or positive radical has replaced one acid hydrogen atom — **mon'o-ba-sic'i-ty** (-bās'is'ə tē) *n.*

**mon-o-car-box-yl-ic** (-kār'pāk sil'ik) *adj.* having only one carboxylic acid group in the molecule

**mon-o-car-pel-lar-y** (-kār'pə ler'ē) *adj.* consisting of or having only a single carpel

**mon-o-car-pic** (-kār'pik) *adj.* [MONO- + -CARPIC] bearing fruit only once, and then dying: said of annuals, biennials, and some long-lived plants, as the bamboos and century plants: also **mon'o-car'pous**

**Mo-noc-er-os** (mō nās'ər əs) [L., the unicorn] a S constellation east of Orion

**mon-o-cha-si-um** (mān'ō kā'zhē əm, -zē əm) *n.*, *pl.* -sī-a (-ə) [ModL. < MONO- + Gr. *chasis*, division, akin to *chainēin*, to yawn, GAPE] *Bot.* a cymose or determinate inflorescence having only a single main axis — **mon'o-cha-st'al** *adj.*

**mon-o-chla-myd-e-ous** (-klā mid'ē əs) *adj.* [*<* ModL. *m. nochlamydeae*, name of the group < MONO- + Gr. *chlamyd-*, base of *chlamys*, a mantle + -OUS] having only one series of perianth parts, usually designated as sepals, in the flower

**mon-o-chlo-ride** (-klōr'id) *n.* a chloride containing one chlorine atom per molecule

**mon-o-chord** (mān'ō kōrd'ō) *n.* [ME. *monocorde* < MFr. < LL. *monochordon* < Gr. *monochordon*: see MONO- & CHORD] an acoustical instrument consisting of a wooden sounding box with a single string and a movable bridge set on a graduated scale: used for determining musical intervals mathematically by dividing the string into separate parts whose vibrations can be measured

**mon-o-chro-mat** (mān'ō krō'mat) *n.* [*<* L. *monochromatos*, one-colored < Gr. *monochromatos*: see MONO- & CHROMA] a person who has monochromatism

**mon-o-chro-mat-ic** (mān'ō krō'mat'ik) *adj.* [*<* L. *monochromatos* < Gr. *monochromatos*: see MONOCHROME & -IC] 1. of or having one color: also **mon'o-chro'tic** (-krō'tik) 2. of or producing light of one wavelength 3. of, having, or having to do with monochromatism — **mon'o-chro-mat-i-cal-ly** *adv.*

**mon-o-chro-ma-tism** (-krō'mə tiz'm) *n.* [MONOCHROMAT-IC] + -ISM] total colorblindness in which all objects appear as shades of gray

**mon-o-chrome** (mān'ō krōm') *n.* [ML. *monochroma* < Gr. *monochromos*, of one color < *monos*, single + *chrōma*, color] 1. a painting, drawing, or photograph in one color or shades of one color 2. the art or process of making these — **mon'o-chro'mic** *adj.* — **mon'o-chro'mist** *n.*

**mon-o-cle** (mān'ō klē) *n.* [Fr. < LL. *monoculus*, one-eyed < Gr. *monos*, single (see MONO-) + L. *oculus*, EYE] an eyeglass for one eye only — **mon'o-cled** *adj.*

**mon-o-cli-nal** (mān'ō klī'n'l) *adj.* *Geol.* 1. dipping in one direction: said of strata, or rock layers 2. of strata dipping in the same direction — *n.* *same as* MONOCLINE

**mon-o-cline** (mān'ō klīn') *n.* [*<* MONO- + Gr. *klīnein*, to incline: see LEAN] a monoclinical rock fold or structure

**mon-o-clin-ic** (mān'ō klīn'ik) *adj.* [see prec. & -IC] designating or of a system of crystallization characterized by three axes of unequal length, two of which intersect obliquely and are perpendicular to the third

**mon-o-cli-nous** (klī'nəs) *adj.* [ModL. *monoclinus* < MONO- + Gr. *klīnē*, a bed, couch: see CLINIC] having stamens and pistils in the same flower

**mon-o-coque** (mān'ō kōk', -kāk') *adj.* [Fr. < *monos*, MONO- + *coque*, a shell < L. *coccum*, scarlet berry < Gr. *kōkkos*, a seed, gall of kermes oak] 1. designating or of a kind of construction, as of an airplane fuselage, in which the skin or outer shell bears all or most of the stresses 2. designating or of a kind of construction, as of an automobile, in which the body and chassis are one unit

**mon-o-cot-y-le-don** (mān'ō kāt'lē'd'n) *n.* *Bot.* any of a subclass (Monocotyledoneae) of flowering plants having an embryo containing only one seed leaf, and usually having parallel-veined leaves, flower parts in multiples of three, and no secondary growth in stems and roots, as lilies, orchids, grasses, etc.: sometimes clipped to **mon'o-cot'** — **mon'o-cot'y-le'don-ous** *adj.*

**mo-noc-ra-cy** (mō nāk'rə sē) *n.*, *pl.* -cies [MONO- + -CRACY] government by one person; autocracy — **mon'o-cratic** *adj.*

**mon-o-crāt** (mān'ō krāt') *n.* a person who favors monarchy, esp. monarchy: term applied by Thomas Jefferson c. 1790 to pro-English Federalists in the war between England and France

**mo-noc-u-lar** (mō nāk'və lər) *adj.* [*<* LL. *monoculus* (see MONOCLE) + -AR] 1. having only one eye 2. of, or for use by, only one eye — *n.* a field glass or telescopic device with a single eyepiece

**mon-o-cul-ture** (mān'ō kul'chər) *n.* [MONO- + CULTURE] the raising of only one crop or product without using the land for other purposes

**mon-o-cy-cle** (sī'k'l) *n.* *same as* UNICYCLE

**mon-o-cy-lic** (mān'ō sī'klik) *adj.* 1. of or forming one cycle, circle, whorl, etc. 2. *Chem.* containing one ring of atoms in the molecule

**mon-o-cyte** (mān'ō sit') *n.* [MONO- + -CYTE] a large, nongranular white blood cell with a relatively small, kidney-shaped nucleus — **mon'o-cyt'ic** (-sit'ik) *adj.*

**mon-o-dist** (mān'ō dist) *n.* a writer or singer of monody

**mon-o-dra-ma** (mān'ō drā'mə, -dram'ə) *n.* drama acted, or written to be acted, by only one performer — **mon'o-dra-matic** (-drə mat'ik) *adj.*

**mon-o-dy** (mān'ō dē) *n.*, *pl.* -dies [LL. *monodia* < Gr. *monōidia* < *monōidos*, singing alone < *monos*, alone (see MONO-) + *aidein*, to sing: see OPE] 1. in ancient Greek literature, an ode sung by a single voice, as in a tragedy; lyric solo, generally a lament or dirge 2. a poem in which the poet mourns another's death 3. a monotonous sound or tone, as of waves 4. *Music* a) a style of composition in which one part, or voice, predominates, and the others serve as accompaniment; homophony, as distinguished from polyphony b) a composition in this style — **mo-nod'ic** (mō nād'ik), **mo-nod'i-cal** *adj.* — **mo-nod'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

**mo-noe-cious** (mō nē'shəs, mō-) *adj.* [*<* MON- + Gr. *oikos*, a house + -IOUS] 1. *Bot.* having separate male flowers and female flowers on the same plant, as in maize 2. *Zool.* having both male and female reproductive organs in the same individual; hermaphroditic — **mo-noe'cism** (-siz'm) *n.*

**mon-o-fil-a-ment** (mān'ō fil'ə mēnt) *n.* a single, untwisted strand, of synthetic material: also **mon'o-fil'**

**mo-nog-a-my** (mō nāg'ə mē) *n.* [Fr. *monogamie* < LL. (Ec.) *monogamia* < Gr. *monogamia*: see MONO- & -GAMY] 1. the practice or state of being married to only one person at a time 2. [Rare] the practice of marrying only once during life 3. *Zool.* the practice of having only one mate — **mo-nog'a-mist** *n.* — **mo-nog'a-mous**, **mon-o-gam-ic** (mān'ə gam'ik) *adj.*

**mon-o-gen-e-sis** (mān'ə jen'ə sis) *n.* [ModL.: see MONO- & GENESIS] 1. *Biol.* the hypothetical descent of all living organisms from a single original organism or cell 2. *Zool.* asexual reproduction, as by budding or spore formation

**mon-o-ge-net-ic** (-ji net'ik) *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to monogenesis 2. designating or of animals without alternating asexual and sexual generations

**mon-o-gen-ic** (-jen'ik) *adj.* 1. [MONO- + GEN(ē) + -IC] *Biol.* designating or of a mode of inheritance in which a character is controlled by one pair of genes 2. [MONO- + -GEN + -IC] *Zool.* producing offspring of one sex only, as females only in some species of aphids — **mo-nog'e-ny** (mō nāj'ə nē) *n.*

**mo-nog-e-nism** (mō nāj'ə niz'm) *n.* [MONO- + -GEN + -ISM] the doctrine that all human beings are descended from a single pair of ancestors

**mon-o-glot** (mān'ə glät') *adj.* [Gr. *monoglōttos*: cf. MONO- & (POLY)GLOT] speaking or writing only one language — *n.* a monoglot person

**mon-o-gram** (mān'ə gram') *n.* [LL. *monogramma* < Gr. *mono-*, MONO- + *gramma*, letter: see GRAM'] a character or figure made up of two or more letters, often initials of a name, combined in a single design: used on writing paper, ornaments, clothing, etc. — *vt.* -grammed', -gram'ming to put a monogram on — **mon'o-gram-mat'ic** (-grə mat'ik) *adj.*

**mon-o-graph** (mān'ə graf', -gräf') *n.* [MONO- + -GRAPH] 1. orig., a treatise on a single genus, species, etc. of plant or animal 2. a book, article, or paper written about a particular subject; esp., a scholarly writing on some detailed aspect of a subject — **mon'o-graph'ic** *adj.*

**mo-nog-y-nous** (mō nāj'ə nəs) *adj.* 1. of or characterized by monogyny 2. *Bot.* having one style or pistil

**mo-nog-y-ny** (-nē) *n.* [MONO- + -GYN] the practice or state of being married to only one woman at a time

**mon-o-hy-drate** (mān'ə hi'drāt) *n.* a hydrate containing one molecule of water per molecule of combining compound

**mon-o-hy-dric** (-hi'drik) *adj.* [MONO- + -HYDRIC] 1. *same as* MONOHYDROXY 2. [Rare] having one atom of replaceable hydrogen

**mon-o-hy-drox-y** (-hi drāk'sē) *adj.* [MONO- + HYDROXY] having one hydroxyl group in the molecule

**mo-nol-a-try** (mō nāl'ə trē) *n.* [MONO- + -LATRY] the worship of only one god, where several are believed to exist: distinguished from MONOTHEISM — **mo-nol'a-ter** *n.*

**mon-o-lay-er** (mān'ə lā'ər) *n.* a layer or film one molecule thick

**mon-o-ling-ual** (mān'ə lin'gwəl) *adj.* [MONO- + LINGUAL] using or knowing only one language