

0001

Second College Edition

---

The  
American  
Heritage  
Dictionary

---



Words that are believed to be registered trademarks have been checked with authoritative sources. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. Words that are known to have current registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. 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.

Copyright © 1982, 1985 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, except as may be expressly permitted by the 1976 Copyright Act or in writing by the Publisher.

All correspondence and inquiries should be directed to  
Reference Division, Houghton Mifflin Company  
One Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data**

Main entry under title:

American Heritage dictionary.

Rev. ed. of: American Heritage dictionary of the English language. New college ed. c1976.

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Morris, William, 1913—

PE1625.A54 1982 423 82-9346

ISBN 0-395-32943-4

ISBN 0-395-32944-2 (thumb index)

ISBN 0-395-33959-6 (deluxe edition)

Manufactured in the United States of America

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	6
STAFF .....	9
USAGE PANEL .....	11
CONSULTANTS .....	15
<b>SPECIAL ARTICLES</b>	
Language, Culture, and the American Heritage .....	17
Lee Pederson	
Usage and Acceptability in Language	
Dwight Bolinger .....	30
William F. Buckley, Jr. ....	32
English and Good English .....	34
Geoffrey Nunberg	
The Mathematics of Language .....	37
Henry Kučera	
GUIDE TO THE DICTIONARY .....	42
STYLE MANUAL .....	55
PRONUNCIATION KEY .....	64
DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE .....	65
BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRIES .....	1409
GEOGRAPHIC ENTRIES .....	1466
ABBREVIATIONS .....	1536
FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES .....	1546
TWO-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES .....	1556
PICTURE CREDITS .....	1565

came are unacceptable to a large majority of the Usage Panel. As an adverb *whence* is regarded by many as most appropriate to a formal or literary style, though as a conjunction it is still in general use.

**whence-so-ever** (hwěns'ō-ēv'ər, wěns'-) *adv.* From whatever place or source. —*conj.* From any place or source that.

**when-ever** (hwēn-ēv'ər, wēn-) *adv.* 1. At whatever time. 2. Also **when ever**. *When*. —*conj.* 1. At whatever time that: *We can leave whenever you're ready.* 2. Every time that: *He smiles whenever he sees her.*

**when-so-ever** (hwēn'sō-ēv'ər, wēn) *adv.* At whatever time at all; whenever. —*conj.* Whenever.

**where** (hwār, wār) *adv.* 1. At or in what place: *Where is the telephone?* 2. In what situation or position: *Where would we be without your help?* 3. From what place or source: *Where did you get this idea?* 4. To what place; toward what end: *Where is this argument leading?* —*conj.* 1. At what or which place: *He moved to the city, where jobs are available.* 2. **a.** In a place in which: *He lives where the climate is mild.* **b.** In any place or situation in which; wherever: *Where there's smoke, there's fire.* 3. **a.** To a place in which: *We should go where it is quieter.* **b.** To a place or situation in which: *He will go where he is happy.* —*n.* 1. The place or occasion: *We know the when but not the where of it.* 2. What place, source, or cause: *Where are you from?* [ME < OE *hwær*.]

**Usage:** When *where* refers to "the place from which," it requires the preposition *from*: *Where did you come from?* When it refers to "the place to which," it requires no preposition: *Where did he go* (better than *where did he go to*). When *where* refers to "the place at which," it also requires no preposition: *Where are they* (not *where are they at*). See also Usage note at **see**.

**where-a-bouts** (hwār'ə-bouts', wār'-) *adv.* About where; in, at, or near what location: *Whereabouts do you live?* —*n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. verb*). The approximate location of someone or something: *I don't know his whereabouts right now.*

**where-as** (hwār-əz', wār-) *conj.* 1. It being the fact that; inasmuch as. 2. While at the same time. 3. While on the contrary. —*n.* 1. An introductory statement to a formal document; preamble. 2. A conditional statement.

**where-at** (hwār-ət', wār-) *conj.* 1. Toward or at which. 2. As a result or consequence of; whereupon.

**where-by** (hwār-bī', wār-) *conj.* In accordance with which; by or through which.

**where-fore** (hwār'fōr', -fōr', wār'-) *adv.* 1. For what purpose or reason; why. 2. Therefore. —*n.* A purpose or cause: *wanted to know all the whys and wherefores.* [ME *wherfor*; *wher*, *where* + *fore*, *for*.]

**where-from** (hwār'frōm', -frōm', wār'-) *conj.* From which.

**where-in** (hwār-in', wār-) *adv.* In what way; how: *Wherein have we sinned?* —*conj.* 1. In which location: *where: the country wherein those people live.* 2. During which. 3. In what way; how: *showed them wherein they were wrong.*

**where-in-to** (hwār-in'tō, wār-) *conj.* Into which.

**where-of** (hwār-ōv', -ūv', wār-) *conj.* 1. Of what: *I know whereof I speak.* 2. **a.** Of which: *ancient pottery whereof many examples are lost.* **b.** Of whom. —*adv.* Archaic. Of what.

**where-on** (hwār-ōn', -ōn', wār-) *adv.* Archaic. On which or what.

**where-so-ever** (hwār'sō-ēv'ər, wār'-) *conj.* Archaic. In, to, or from whatever place at all; wherever.

**where-through** (hwār'thrō, wār'-) *conj.* Through, because of, or during which.

**where-to** (hwār'tō, wār'-) *adv.* To what place; toward what end. —*conj.* To which.

**where-un-to** (hwār-ūn'tō, wār-) *adv.* & *conj.* Whereto.

**where-up-on** (hwār'ə-pōn', -pōn') *conj.* 1. On which. 2. In close consequence of which: *The instructor entered the room, whereupon we got to our feet.*

**where-ever** (hwār-ēv'ər, wār-) *adv.* 1. In or to whatever place: *used red pencil wherever needed.* 2. Also **where ever**. *Where: Where ever have you been so long?* —*conj.* In or to whichever place or situation: *makes enemies wherever he goes.* [ME: *wher*, *where* + *ever*, *ever*.]

**where-with** (hwār'wīth', -wīth', wār'-) *adv.* With what or which. —*pron.* The thing or things with which. —*conj.* By means of which.

**where-with-al** (hwār'wīth-əl', -wīth-, wār'-) *conj.* Wherewith. —*pron.* Wherewith. —*n.* The necessary means, esp. financial means: *didn't have the wherewithal to survive a recession.*

**wherry** (hwēr'ē, wēr'ē) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. A light, swift rowboat built for one person and often used in racing. 2. A sailing barge used in East Anglia. [ME *whery*.]

**whet** (hwēt, wēt) *tr.v.* **whet-ted**, **whet-ting**, **whets.** 1. To sharpen (a knife or other tool); hone. 2. To make more keen; stimulate: *The frying bacon whetted his appetite.* —*n.* 1. The act of whetting. 2. Something that whets. 3. Informal. An appetizer. [ME *whetten* < OE *hwettan*.]

**wheth-er** (hwēth'ər, wēth'-) *conj.* 1. Used in indirect questions to introduce one alternative: *We should find out*

less of circumstances. —See Usage note at *if*. [ME < OE *hwēðer*.]

**whet-stone** (hwēt'stōn', wēt'-) *n.* A stone for honing tools.

**whew** (hwō, hwyō) *interj.* Used to express strong emotion such as relief or amazement.

**whew** (hwā, wā) *n.* The watery part of milk that separates from the curds, as in the process of making cheese. [ME < OE *hwaeg*.] —**whew'ey** *adj.*

**whew-face** (hwā'fās', wā'-) *n.* A person with a pallid face.

**which** (hwīch, wīch) *pron.* 1. What particular one or ones: *Which of these is yours?* 2. The particular one or ones: *Take those which are yours.* 3. The one or ones previously designated or implied, specifically: **a.** Used as a relative pronoun in a clause that provides additional information about the antecedent: *my house, which is small and old.* **b.** Used as a relative pronoun preceded by *that* or a preposition in a clause that defines or restricts the antecedent: *that which he needed: the subject on which he spoke.* **c.** Used instead of *that* as a relative pronoun in a clause that defines or restricts the antecedent: *The movie which was shown later was better.* 4. Archaic. The person designated or implied. 5. Any of the things, events, or persons designated or implied: *whichever: Choose which you like best.* 6. A thing or circumstance that: *He left early, which was wise.* —*adj.* 1. What particular one or ones of a number of things or persons: *Which part of town?* 2. Any one or any number of; whichever: *Use which door you please.* 3. Being the one or ones previously designated: *It started to rain, at which point we ran.* [ME < OE *hwīc*.]

**Usage:** *Which* sometimes refers back to an entire preceding statement rather than to a single word: *She ignored him, which proved unwise.* In this example, acceptable to a large majority of the Usage Panel, the reference is clear. But when *which* follows a noun, the antecedent may be in doubt and ambiguity may result: *We learned that Edna had made the complaint, which came as a shock.* If *which* is intended to refer to the entire first clause rather than to *complaint*, the desired sense would be expressed more clearly by this construction: *We learned that Edna had made the complaint, and the discovery came as a shock.* See also Usage note at **that**.

**which-ever** (hwīch-ēv'ər, wīch-) *pron.* Whatever one or ones. —*adj.* Being any one or any number of a group: *Read whichever books you please. It's a long trip whichever road you take.* —See Usage notes at **everyone** and **whatever**.

**which-so-ever** (hwīch'sō-ēv'ər, wīch'-) *pron.* & *adj.* Whichever.

**whick-er** (hwīk'ər, wīk'-) *intr.v.* -ered, -er-ing, -ers. To whinny. —*n.* A whinny. [Imit.]

**whid-ah** (hwīd'ə, wīd'ə) *n.* Variant of **whydah**.

**whiff** (hwīf, wīf) *n.* 1. A slight, gentle gust of air: *waft: a whiff of cool air.* 2. A brief, passing odor carried in the air: *a whiff of her perfume.* 3. An inhalation, as of air or smoke: *Take a whiff of this pipe.* —*v.* **whiffed**, **whiffing**, **whiffs.** —*intr.* To be carried in brief gusts; *waft: puffs of smoke whiffing from the chimney.* —*tr.* 1. To blow or convey in whiffs. 2. To inhale through the nose; *sniff: a dog whiffing the air.* [ME *weffe*, offensive smell.] —**whiff'er** *n.*

**whiff-er** (hwīf'ər, wīf'-) *v.* -fled, -fing, -fles. —*intr.* 1. To move or think erratically; vacillate. 2. To blow in fitful gusts; *puff: The wind whiffled through the trees.* 3. To whistle lightly. —*tr.* To blow, displace, or scatter with gusts of air. [**< WHIFF.**]

**whiff-er** (hwīf'ər, wīf'-) *n.* The pivoted horizontal crossbar to which the harness traces of a draft animal are attached and which is in turn attached to a vehicle or an implement. [Var. of **WHIPPLETREE**.]

**Whig** (hwīg, wīg) *n.* 1. A member of an 18th- and 19th-century English political party that was opposed to the Tories. 2. A supporter of the war against England during the American Revolution. 3. A 19th-century American political party formed to oppose the Democratic Party, and favoring high tariffs and a loose interpretation of the Constitution. [Prob. short for *Whiggamore*, a member of a body of 17th-cent. Scottish insurgents.] —**Whig'ger-y** *n.* —**Whig'gish** *adj.* —**Whig'gism** *n.*

**while** (hwīl, wīl) *n.* 1. A period of time: *stay for a while: sang (all) the while.* 2. The time, effort, or trouble taken in doing something: *wasn't worth my while.* —*conj.* 1. As long as; during the time that: *It was lovely while it lasted.* 2. Although: at the same time that: *While he loves his children, he is strict with them.* 3. Whereas; and: *The soles are leather, while the uppers are canvas.* —*tr.v.* **whiled**, **whiling**, **whiles.** To spend (time) idly or pleasantly: *while the hours away.* —See Usage note at **awhile**. [ME < OE *hwīl*.]

**whiles** (hwīlz, wīlz) *conj.* Archaic. While. [ME, genitive of *while*, *while*.]

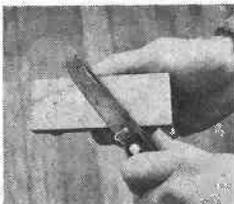
**whi-lom** (hwī'ləm, wī'-) *adj.* Former; having once been: *She is the whilom Miss Smith.* —*adv.* Archaic. Formerly. [ME < OE *hwīlum*.]

**whilst** (hwīlst, wīlst) *conj.* Chiefly Brit. While. [ME *whylist* < *whiles*, *whiles*.]

**whim** (hwīm, wīm) *n.* 1. A sudden or capricious idea; a pass-



wherry



whetstone