

# Webster's II

*New College Dictionary*



Houghton Mifflin Company

*Boston • New York*

# Content

Words are included in this Dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. 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 © 2001, 1999, 1995 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 without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to Reference Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Illustrations **azimuthal equidistant projection** and **sinusoidal projection**  
© 1986 by The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping.

ISBN 0-395-96214-5  
ISBN 0-618-16903-2 (paper-over-boards binding)

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Webster's II new college dictionary.  
p. cm.  
ISBN 0-395-70869-9 (alk. paper)  
1. English language - Dictionaries. I. Webster's II new Riverside University dictionary.  
PE1628.W55164 . . . 1995 . . . . . 95-5833  
423-dc20 . . . . . CIP

For information about this and other Houghton Mifflin trade and reference books and multimedia products, visit the Houghton Mifflin website on the World Wide Web at <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com>.

Printed in the United States

Editorial and Production Credits . . . . .  
Preface . . . . .  
Elements of the Dictionary . . . . .  
Explanatory Notes . . . . .  
Abbreviations Used . . . . .  
Pronunciation Guide . . . . .  
DICTIONARY . . . . .  
Abbreviations . . . . .  
Biographical Names . . . . .  
Geographic Names . . . . .  
Foreign Words and Phrases . . . . .  
Four-Year Colleges . . . . .  
Two-Year Public Community Colleges . . . . .  
A Concise Guide to . . . . .  
Forms of Address . . . . .  
Table of Measurements . . . . .  
Periodic Table of Elements . . . . .  
Signs and Symbols . . . . .



**brown** (braun) *n.* [ME < OE *brūn*.] One of a group of colors between red and yellow in hue that are medium to low in lightness and low to moderate in saturation. — *adj.* — **er**, — **est**. 1. Of the color brown. 2. Deeply suntanned. — *v.* **browned**, **brown-ing**, **browns**. — *vt.* To make brown, esp. to cook until brown. — *vi.* To become brown. — **brown/ish** *adj.* — **brown/ness** *n.*

**brown alga** *n.* A brownish, chiefly marine alga of the division Phaeophyta, including the rockweeds and the kelps.

**brown bagging** *n.* 1. The practice of taking one's own liquor into a public establishment, as a restaurant, where setups are available. 2. The practice of taking one's lunch to work, usu. in a brown paper bag. — **brown bagger** *n.*

**brown bear** *n.* A large bear, *Ursus arctos* of Alaska and northern Eurasia, with brown to yellowish fur.

**brown Betty** (bet'ē) *n.* [Betty, nickname for Elizabeth.] Baked pudding made with apples, bread crumbs, raisins, sugar, and spices.

**brown bread** *n.* 1. A bread made of a dark flour. 2. A steamed bread usu. made of cornmeal, flour, and molasses.

**brown coal** *n.* Lignite.

**brown dwarf** *n.* A celestial body that resembles a star but does not emit light because it is too small to ignite internal nuclear fusion. The planet Jupiter is a small brown dwarf.

**brown fat** *n.* Adipose tissue whose oxidation is a major source of heat in mammals.

**brown-field** (braun'feld') *n.* An abandoned, usu. contaminated property that has the potential for redevelopment.

**Brownian motion** (braun'ne-ən) *n.* [After Robert Brown (1773–1858).] Random motion of microscopic particles suspended in a liquid or gas, caused by collision with molecules of the surrounding medium.

**Brownian movement** *n.* Brownian motion.

**brown-ie** (braun'ne) *n.* 1. A kindly sprite believed to do helpful work at night. 2. **Brownie**. A member of the Girl Scouts from seven to nine years old. 3. A bar of moist, often nut-filled chocolate cake.

**Brownie point** *n.* [From the practice of awarding points for achievement by Brownies in the Girl Scouts.] Credit considered as earned, esp. by impressing a superior favorably.

**Browning automatic rifle** (braun'ning) *n.* [After John M. Browning (1855–1926).] A .30 caliber air-cooled, automatic or semi-automatic, gas-operated, magazine-fed rifle.

**Browning machine gun** *n.* [After John M. Browning (1855–1926).] A .30 or .50 caliber belt-fed, water-cooled machine gun.

**brown lung disease** *n.* Byssinosis.

**brown-nose** or **brown-nose** (braun'nōz') *vt.* — **no-sed**, — **no-sing**, — **no-s-es**. *Informal*. To curry favor with; fawn on. — **brown'-nose'** *n.* — **brown/nos'er** *n.*

**brown-out** (braun'out') *n.* [BROWN + (BLACK)OUT.] A reduction or cutback in electric power, esp. as a result of a shortage.

**brown patch** *n.* A disease of grasses caused by a fungus, *Pellicularia filamentosa*, that results in circular dying areas.

**brown rat** *n.* The Norway rat.

**brown rice** *n.* Unpolished rice, retaining the germ and the yellowish outer layer containing the bran.

**brown rot** *n.* 1. A disease of fruit, as peaches, caused by fungi of the genus *Monolinia*. 2. A disease of citrus trees, caused by fungi of the genus *Phytophthora*.

**Brown Shirt** *n.* [Transl. of G. Braunhemd.] A storm trooper.

**brown-stone** (braun'stōn') *n.* 1. A brownish-red sandstone used as a building material. 2. A house built or faced with brownstone.

**brown study** *n.* A state of reverie or deep thought.

**brown sugar** *n.* Sugar whose crystals retain a thin coating of dark syrup.

**brown-tail moth** (braun'tāl') *n.* A small white and brown moth, *Euproctis phaeorrhoea*, whose larvae damage shade-tree foliage and cause an irritating skin rash.

**brown thrasher** *n.* A North American bird, *Toxostoma rufum*, with a dark-streaked breast and reddish-brown back.

**brown trout** *n.* A widely naturalized European freshwater game fish, *Salmo trutta*, with speckled sides.

**browse** (brauz) *v.* **browed**, **brows-ing**, **brows-es**. [Perh. < Fr. *broust*, young shoot < Ofr. *brost*, of Germanic orig.] — *vi.* 1. *a.* To inspect leisurely and casually. *b.* To read superficially; skim. 2. To feed on vegetation, as leaves or young shoots. — *vt.* 1. To look over casually. 2. *a.* To nibble; crop. *b.* To graze on. — *n.* 1. Young twigs, leaves, and tender shoots of plants or shrubs that are fit for animals to eat. 2. An act of browsing. — **brows/a-ble** *adj.*

**brows-er** (brauz'ar) *n.* 1. One that browses. 2. *Computer Sci.* A program that accesses and displays files and other data available on the Internet and other networks.

**bru-cel-lo-sis** (brū'zē-lō'sis) *n.* [NLat. *Brucella*, genus name, after Sir David Bruce (1855–1931) + -osis.] 1. Undulant fever. 2. A disease of cattle caused by the bacillus *Brucella abortus* and resulting in abortions in newly infected animals.

**bru-cine** (brū'sēn', -sīn) *n.* [After James Bruce (1730–1794).] A poisonous white crystalline alkaloid, C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O, derived from *nux vomica* seeds.

**bru-in** (brū'in) *n.* [Du., brown.] A bear.

**bruise** (brūz) *v.* **bruised**, **bruis-ing**, **bruises**. [ME *bruisen* < OE

*brýsan*, to crush, and Ofr. *bruisier*, to crush.] — *vt.* 1. To injure without breaking or rupturing. 2. To mar or dent. 3. To pound into fragments; crush. 4. To hurt, esp. psychologically. — *vi.* To experience or undergo bruising. — *n.* 1. An injury in which the skin is not broken; contusion. 2. An injury, esp. to one's feelings.

**bruis-er** (brū'zar) *n.* *Slang*. A large, powerfully built man.

**bruit** (brūt) *vt.* **bruit-ed**, **bruit-ing**, **bruits**. [< ME, noise < Ofr., part. of *bruire*, to roar.] To spread news of; REPEAT. — *n.* 1. *Archaic*. *a.* A rumor. *b.* A clamor. 2. *Med.* An abnormal sound heard during auscultation.

**bru-mal** (brū'mal) *adj.* [Lat. *brumalis* < *bruma*, winter.] Of, relating to, or occurring in winter.

**brume** (brūm) *n.* [Fr., ult. < Lat. *bruma*, winter.] Heavy mist or fog. — **bru'mous** (brū'mas) *adj.*

**brum-ma-gem** (brūm'ə-jəm) *adj.* [Alteration of *Birmingham*, England (from the counterfeit coins made there in the 17th cent.).] Gaudy; tawdry. — *n.* Something cheap and showy.

**brunch** (brunch) *n.* [BR(EAKFAST) + (L)UNCH.] A meal eaten as a combination of breakfast and lunch.

**bru-net** (brū-nēt') *adj.* [Fr. < Ofr. < *brun*, brown, of Germanic orig.] 1. Of a dark coloring or complexion. 2. Having dark brown or black hair or eyes. — *n.* A person with brown hair.

**bru-nette** (brū-nēt') *adj.* Having dark or brown hair. — *n.* A girl or woman with dark or brown hair.

**Brun-hild** (brūn'hilt') *n.* [G.] A queen of Iceland in Germanic legend who is won as a bride by Gunther.

**brunt** (brunt) *n.* [ME.] 1. The main impact, force, or burden, as of a blow. 2. *Obs.* A violent attack.

**brush** (brush) *n.* [ME *brushe* < Ofr. *brosse*, perh. < *brosse*, brushwood.] 1. A device consisting of bristles fastened into a handle, for scrubbing, polishing, or painting. 2. The act of using a brush. 3. A light touch in passing; GRAZE. 4. A brief encounter < a brush with the law>. 5. A bushy tail. 6. A sliding connection completing a circuit between a fixed and a moving conductor. — *v.* **brushed**, **brush-ing**, **brush-es**. — *vt.* 1. To use a brush on so as to clean, polish, or groom. 2. To apply with or as if with motions of a brush. 3. To remove with or as if with motions of a brush. 4. To dismiss abruptly. 5. To touch lightly in passing. — *vi.* 1. To use or apply a brush. 2. To move past something so as to touch it lightly. — **brush up**. To refresh one's memory. — **brush'er** *n.* — **brush'y** *adj.*

★ *syns*: BRUSH, FLICK, GLANCE, GRAZE, SKIM *n.* *core meaning*: light and momentary contact with another < the brush of a bird's wing against a leaf>

**brush<sup>2</sup>** (brush) *n.* [ME *brushe* < Ofr. *brosse*, brushwood.] 1. *a.* A thicket of shrubs or bushes. *b.* Land covered by brush. 2. Cut or broken branches. — **brush'y** *adj.*

**brush discharge** *n.* A faintly visible, relatively slow crackling discharge of electricity without sparking.

**brushed** (brūsh't) *adj.* Of or designating fabrics that have a nap produced by brushing.

**brush-fire** (brūsh'fir') *n.* A fire in low-growing scrubby trees and brush.

**brushfire war** *n.* A relatively insignificant and limited military action, usu. for harassment.

**brush-off** (brūsh'ōf', -ōf') *n.* *Slang*. An abrupt dismissal.

**brush-wood** (brūsh'wūd') *n.* BRUSH<sup>2</sup>.

**brush-work** (brūsh'wōrk') *n.* 1. Work done with a brush. 2. The way in which an artist applies paint.

**brusque** also **brusk** (brusk) *adj.* [Fr. < Ital. *brusco*.] Rudely abrupt; BLUNT. — **brusque/ly** *adv.* — **brusque/ness** *n.*

**brus-que-rie** (brūsk'ka-riē') *n.* [Fr. < *brusque*, brusque.] Curtness; brusqueness.

**Brus-sels carpet** (brūs'zēlz) *n.* [After Brussels, Belgium.] A machine-made carpet consisting of small colored woolen loops that form a heavy patterned pile.

**Brussels sprout** *n.* 1. A variety of cabbage, *Brassica oleracea gemmifera*, having a stout stem studded with budlike heads. 2. **Brussels sprouts**. The small edible heads of the Brussels sprout.

**brut** (brūt) *adj.* [Fr. < Ofr., rough < Lat. *brutus*, heavy.] Very dry, as champagne.

**bru-tal** (brūt'əl) *adj.* 1. Characteristic of a brute; MEAN < a brutal attack>. 2. Disconcertingly accurate < the brutal statistics>. 3. Harsh < a brutal wind>. 4. Cruelly insensitive < a brutal lie>. — **bru-tal/i-ty** *n.* — **bru-tal/ly** *adv.*

**bru-tal-ize** (brūt'ə-līz') *vt.* — **ized**, — **iz-ing**, — **iz-es**. 1. To make brutal. 2. To treat brutally. — **bru-tal-i-za-tion** *n.*

**brute** (brūt) *n.* [< ME, nonhuman < Ofr. *brut* < Lat. *brutus*, stupid.] 1. An animal other than a human being; BEAST. 2. A brutal person. — *adj.* 1. Of or relating to beasts; ANIMAL. 2. Typical of a brute, esp. *a.* Completely instinctive or physical < brute strength>. *b.* Displaying a lack of reason or intelligence. *c.* Savage; cruel. — **brut/ism** *n.* — **bru-ti-fy** (brūt'ə-tīf') *vt.* — **fi-ed**, — **fy-ing**, — **fi-es**. To brutalize or become brutalized.

**bru-tish** (brūt'ish) *adj.* 1. Of or befitting a brute. 2. Showing a lack

of reason or intelligence. 3. — **brut/ish-ly** *adv.* — **brut**

**Bryn-hild** (brīn'hild') *n.* [ON from an enchanted sleep by Sig bryo-] *pref.* [NLat. < Gk. *bry* bry-ol-o-gy (brī-ō-l'ō-jē) *n.* log'i-cal (-ə-lōj'i-kəl) *adj.*

**bry-o-ny** (brī'ō-nē) *n.*, *pl.* -r The black bryony. 2. The white bry-o-phyte (brī'ō-fīt') *n.* *pl.* Bryophyta, including the true bry-o-phytic (-fīt'ik) *ac*

**bry-o-zo-an** (brī'ō-zō'ən) *n.* *pl.* bryozoa, *pl.* o aquatic animals of the phylum form mosslike or branching *ac* Bryozoa.

**Bryth-on** (brīth'ən, -ən) *n.* | Cornwall, Wales, or Cumbria. 2 guage.

**Bry-thon-ic** (brī-thōn'ik) *n.* Brythons or their language. — that includes Welsh, Breton, and B-school (bē'skool') *n.* A Scotch (būb) *n.* [Prob. short for *bu* of familiar address for a man.]

**bub-bly** (būb'əl) *n.* [< ME walled sphere of liquid contain trapped in a liquid or solid, as in something bubbling. 4. Som ephemeral, as an abortive scetic dome. — *v.* — **bled**, — **bling** bubbles. 2. To move or flow with animation or movement < bub bubbles>. — **bub/bly** *adj.*

**bubble and squeak** *n.* [It. *Chieffly Brit.* Cabbage and potato] *bubble bath* *n.* 1. A perfume make it foam. 2. A bath conta

**bubble chamber** *n.* An apparatus or inferring the paths animation of trails of bubbles heated liquid.

**bubble gum** *n.* Chewing gum

**bubble memory** *n.* A computer represented by the presence of

**bub-bler** (būb'lor) *n.* A drink upward through a small nozzle

**bub-bly** (būb'lē) *n.*, *pl.* -bly

**bub-by** (būb'ē, būb'ē) *n.*, woman's breast.

**bu-bo** (bū'bo, byō'ō) *n.*, *pl.* bōn.] An inflated swelling of groin. — **bu-hon'ic** (-bōn'ik)

**hubonic plague** *n.* A core caused by bacteria of the genus infected rats and marked by c

**bu-cal** (būk'al) *adj.* [< Lat. cheeks or mouth cavity.

**bu-ca-neer** (būk'ə-nēr') *n.* meat < *boucan*, barbecue fran

**ca-neer'** *v.* — **neered**, — **nee**

**buck** (būk) *n.* [ME *bukke* < animals, as the deer or rabbit. young man. *b.* A top. — *v.* *bu* rear up or leap forward sudden ward with the head lowered; lerts; JOLT. 4. To resist stubbo

To strive doggedly < bucking li burden) by bucking. 2. To but charge into (an opponent's lin

bornly and directly; struggle summon one's courage. — *adj* itary category < a buck privac

**buck** (būk) *n.* [Short for SA covered frame for vaulting in

**buck** (būk) *n.* [Short for buc

**buck** (būk) *n.* [Short for buc

fore a poker player next in lin

accountability or blame to an

**buck and wing** *n.* A fast so

legs and heel clicking.

à pat à pay à care à father è per è be hw which i pit  
i tie ir pier ò pot ò toe ò paw, for oi noise òò took

oo boot ou out th thin  
yo abuse zh vision z abo