

# Webster's II

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## chiffonier • chin

cessories for women's clothing. — *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or like chiffon. 2. Having a light and fluffy consistency.

**chiffo-nier** (shif'ə-nir') *n.* [Fr. < *chiffon*, rag. — see *CHIFFON*.] A narrow, high chest of drawers, often with an attached mirror.

**chiffo-robe** (shif'ə-rōb', shif'rōb') *n.* [*CHIFFONIER* + (WARD)-ROBE.] *Regional.* A tall piece of furniture typically having drawers on one side and space for hanging clothes on the other.

**chig-ger** (chig'ər) *n.* [Var. of *CHIGOR*.] 1. Any of various small six-legged larvae of mites of the family Trombididae, causing intensely irritating itching when lodged on the skin. 2. *CHIGOE* 1.

**chi-gnon** (shēn-yōn', shēn'yōn') *n.* [Fr. < OFr. *chaignon*, chain < Lat. *catena*.] A roll or knot of hair worn at the back of the head or nape of the neck.

**chig-oe** (chig'ō, chē'gō) *n.* [Of Cariban orig.] 1. A small tropical flea, *Tunga penetrans*, of which the fertile female burrows under the skin, causing intense irritation and sores that may become severely infected. 2. *CHIGGER* 1.

**Chi-hua-hua** (chi-wā'wā, -wə) *n.* [After *Chihuahua*, Mexico.] A tiny dog orig. bred in Mexico, with pointed ears and a smooth coat.

**chil-blain** (chil'blān') *n.* [*CHIL*(L) + *BLAIN*.] An inflammation following by itchy irritation on the hands, feet, or ears, caused by exposure to moist cold. — *chil'blained'* *adj.*

**child** (child) *n., pl. chil-dren (chil'dran) [ME < OE *cild*.] 1. A person between birth and puberty. 2. a. An unborn infant: FETUS. b. A baby: infant. 3. A childish or immature person. 4. A son or daughter; OFFSPRING. 5. *often children.* Members of a tribe: DESCENDANTS <children of Abraham>. 6. Figurative offspring <a child of nature> — *with child.* Pregnant. — *child'less* *adj.* — *child'less-ness* *n.**

**Word history:** The plural of *child* is really a double plural, and neither plural suffix belongs to the original declension of the word. The earliest Old English form *cild* was a neuter noun that formed the plural by adding no suffix, like the Modern English words *sheep* and *deer*. Other neuter nouns, however, formed plurals by suffixing *-ru*, and in later Old English times a new plural, *cildru*, was used for *cild*. This form developed into *childer*. In Old English still another class of nouns formed the plural with the suffix *-an*, which survived in Middle English as *-en*. *Oxen* and *brethren* are modern plurals that show this suffix. In some dialects of Middle English *-en* was the usual plural suffix, and it was added to *childer* to make it conform to other nouns. *Childeren* was probably pronounced *children*, which became the modern spelling of the plural of *child*.

**child abuse** *n.* Maltreatment of a child by a parent, guardian, or other adult that includes intentional acts resulting in physical injury, toleration of and complicity in conditions injurious to the child's health, or sexual assault upon the child.

**child-bearing** (child'ber'ing) *n.* Parturition.

**child-bed** (child'béd') *n.* The state of a woman in childbirth.

**childbed fever** *n.* Puerperal fever.

**child-birth** (child'bürth') *n.* Parturition.

**child-care** or **child-care** (child'kār') *adj.* Of or providing care for children, esp. preschoolers. — *child'care'* *n.*

**childe** (child) *n.* [ME *child*, *child*.] Archaic. A child of noble birth.

**child-hood** (child'hood') *n.* The time or state of being a child.

**child-ish** (chil'dish) *adj.* 1. Of, similar to, or for a child. 2. Lacking maturity: PUERILE. — *child'ish-ly* *adv.* — *child'ish-ness* *n.*

★ *syns:* CHILDISH, BABYISH, IMMATURE, INFANTILE, JUVENILE, PUE-  
RILE *adj. core meaning:* of or characteristic of a child, esp. in immat-  
urity <childish temper tantrums> **ant:** ADULT

**child labor** *n.* Full-time employment of children under a minimum legal age.

**child-like** (child'lik') *adj.* Like or befitting a child <a childlike, innocent smile> — *child'like'ness* *n.*

**child neglect** *n.* Failure on the part of a parent or parental substitute to supervise a child and provide requisite care and protection.

**child-proof** (child'prüf') *adj.* Designed to resist tampering by children <a childproof aspirin bottle>

**chil-dren** (chil'dran) *n., pl. of CHILD.*

**child's play** *n.* 1. An easy task. 2. A trivial matter.

**chil-e** (chil'ē) *n., var. of CHILL.*

**chil-e con car-ne** also **chil-i con car-ne** (chil'ē kōn kār'nē) *n.* [Sp.: *chile*, chili + *con*, with + *carne*, meat.] A highly spiced dish of red peppers, meat, and often beans.

**Chile salt-peter** *n.* Sodium nitrate.

**chil-i** also **chil-e** or **chil-li** (chil'i) *n., pl. -ies* also *-es* or *-lies*. [Sp. *chile* < Nahuatl *chilli*.] 1. a. The very pungent fruit of several varieties of a woody plant, *Capsicum frutescens*. b. A condiment made from the dried fruits of the chili. 2. Chile con carne.

**chil-i-ad** (kil'ē-äd', -əd) *n.* [LLat. *chilias*, *chiliad* < Gk. *khilias* < *khilioi*, thousand.] 1. A group containing 1,000 elements. 2. One thousand years.

**chil-i-asm** (kil'ē-əz'am) *n.* [NLat. *chiliasmus* < LLat. *chiliastes*, a chiliast < *chilias*, chiliad.] The belief that Christ will reign on earth for 1,000 years. — *chil'i-ast'* (-äst', -öst) *n.* — *chil'i-as'tic* *adj.*

**chil-i-bur-ger** (chil'ē-bür'gər) *n.* A hamburger covered with chili.

**chil-i con car-ne** (chil'ē kōn kār'nē) *n., var. of CHILE CON CAR-*  
*NE.*

**chil-i-dog** (chil'ē-dōg', -dōg') *n.* A hot dog covered with chili.

**chili pepper** *n.* CHILI 1.

**chili powder** *n.* A condiment consisting of ground chilies mixed with several seasonings, such as cumin, oregano, and garlic.

**chili sauce** *n.* A spiced sauce of chilies and tomatoes.

**chill** (chil) *n.* [ME *chele* < OE *čēle*.] 1. A moderate but penetrating cold. 2. A feeling of coldness, as with a fever. 3. A dampening or en-  
thusiasm, spirit, or joy <bad news that put a chill on the party>. 4. A  
sudden numbing fear or dread. — *adj.* 1. Chilly. 2. Dispiriting: dis-  
couraging. — *v.* **chilled**, **chill-ing**, **chills**. — *vt.* 1. To affect with  
cold. 2. To discourage. 3. To lower in temperature. 4. *Metallurgy.* To  
harden (a metallic surface) by rapid cooling. — *vi.* 1. To be seized with  
cold. 2. To become cold. 3. *Metallurgy.* To become hard by rapid cool-  
ing. — *chill'ing-ly* *adv.* — *chill'ness* *n.*

**chill-er** (chil'er) *n.* One that chills or frightens: THRILLER.

**chill-li** (chil'lē) *n., var. of CHILL.*

**chill-y** (chil'ē) *adj. -i-er, -i-est.* 1. Cold enough to cause shivering.  
2. Seized with cold: SHIVERING. 3. Distant and cool: UNFRIENDLY <a  
chilly greeting>. — *chill'y-ly* *adv.* — *chill'i-ness* *n.*

**chil-lo-pod** (ki'lə-pōd') *n.* [NLat. *Chilopoda*, class name: Gk. *khei-*  
*los*, lip + Gk. *pous*, foot (so called because the foremost pair of legs are  
jawlike appendages).] Any of various arthropods of the class Chilopo-

da, including the centipedes.

**chi-mae-ra** (ki-mir'ə, ki-) *n.* [NLat. *Chimæra*, type genus < Lat.,  
*chimera*.] 1. One of the noncommercial fish of the family Chimae-  
ridae. 2. *var. of CHIMERA.*

**chime**<sup>1</sup> (chim) *n.* [ME *chimbe* < OFr., var. of *cimble*, cymbal < Lat.  
*cymbalum*. — see *CYMBAL*.] 1. An apparatus for striking a bell or bells  
to make a musical sound. 2. *often chimés.* A set of bells tuned to the  
musical scale and used as an orchestral instrument. 3. A single bell. 4.  
The musical sound made by a bell or bells. 5. Agreement: accord  
<Their views are in chime with mine>. — *v.* **chimed**, **chim-ing**,  
<Their views are in chime when struck>. — *vi.* 1. To produce (music) by  
striking bells. 2. To strike (a bell) to produce music. 3. To make  
known (the hour) by ringing bells. 4. To call, send, or welcome by ring-  
ing bells. — *chime in.* 1. To break into, as a conversation: INTER-  
RUPT <chimed in with an extraneous comment>. 2. To join in  
harmoniously. — *chim'er* *n.*

**chime**<sup>2</sup> (chim) *n.* [ME *chimb*.] The rim of a cask.

**chi-me-ra** also **chi-mae-ra** (ki-mir'ə, ki-) *n.* [ME *chimere* < OFr.  
< Lat. *chimæra* < Gk. *khimaira*.] 1. **Chimera.** Gk. Myth. A fire-  
breathing she-monster usu. depicted as a composite of a lion, a goat,  
and a serpent. 2. A foolish fancy. 3. *Biol.* An organism, esp. a plant,  
with tissues from at least two genetically distinct parents.



Chimera

**chi-mer-i-cal** (ki-mēr'ī-kəl, -mīr'-, ki-) also **chi-mer-ic**  
(-mēr'ik, -mīr'ē) *adj.* 1. Like a chimera: IMAGINARY. 2. Given to un-  
realistic fantasies; FANCIFUL. — *chi-mer'ī-cal-ly* *adv.*

**chim-ney** (chīm'nē) *n., pl. -neys*. [ME *chimene* < OFr. *cheminee* < LLat. *caminata*, fireplace < Lat. *caminus*, furnace < Gk. *kaminos*.

1. a. A structural passage through which smoke and gases escape from a fire or furnace: FLUE. b. The usu. vertical structure containing a chimney. c. The part of such a structure rising above a roof. 2. *Chimney* Brit. A smokestack, as of a locomotive. 3. A glass tube for enclosing a lamp's flame. 4. Something, as a narrow cleft in a cliff, resembling a chimney.

**chim-ney-piece** (chīm'nē-pēs') *n.* 1. The mantel of a fireplace. 2. A decoration over a fireplace.

**chimney pot** *n.* A pipe put on top of a chimney to improve draft.

**chimney sweep** *n.* One who cleans soot from chimneys.

**chimney swift** *n.* A small, dark, swallowlike New World bird, *Chaetura pelagica*, that frequently nests in chimneys.

**chimp** (chimp) *n.* Informal. A chimpanzee.

**chim-pan-zee** (chīm'pān-zē', -pān-, chīm'pān'zē) *n.* [Of Bantu orig.] An anthropoid ape, *Pan troglodytes* of tropical Africa, having un-  
usual habits and a high degree of intelligence.

**chin** (chin) *n.* [ME < OE *cin*.] The central forward portion of the lower jaw. — *v.* **chined**, **chin-ning**, **chins**. — *vt.* 1. To pull (oneself) up  
er jaw. — *chined* *adj.* *hw* which  
ā pat ā pay ā care ā father ē pet ē be hw which  
ī tie īr pier ō pot ō toe ō paw, for oi noise ōō tool