



Webster's II

New College Dictionary

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

perihelion • peristalsis

2. Designating perigynous flower parts < perigynous petals and sta-

mens> — pe·rig'y·ny (pə·rīj'ə·nē) n.
per·i·he·li·on (pĕr'ə·hē'lē-ən, -hēl'yən) n., pl. -he·li·a (-hê'lē-ə, -hel'yə) [PERI- + Gk. hēlios, sun.] The point nearest the sun in the orbit of a celestial body, as a planet. - per'i-he'li-al adj.

per-i-kar-y-on (pěr'i-kăr'ē-on', -ən) n., pl. -kar-y-a (kăr'ē-ə). The cell body of a neuron containing the nucleus. - per'i-kar'y-al

per-il (per'al) n. [ME < OFr. < Lat. periculum.] 1. Exposure to the risk of harm or loss: DANGER. 2. Something that endangers: HAZARD. -vt. -iled, -il-ing, -ils also -illed, -il-ling, -ils. To expose to danger or the chance of injury. -per'il-ous adj. -per'il-ous-ly adv.

per-i-lymph (per'a-limf') n. The fluid in the space between the membranous and bony labyrinths of the internal ear.

pe-rim-e-ter (pə-rim'i-tər) n. [Fr. périmètre < Lat. perimetros < Gk. : peri, around + metron, measure.] 1. a. Math. A closed curve bounding a plane area. b. The length of such a boundary. 2. A fortified strip or boundary usu. protecting a military position. 3. The outer limits of an area. - per'i-met'ric (per'a-met'rik), per'i-met'ri-cal adj. - per'i-met'ri-cal-ly adv.

per-i-morph (per'a-morf') n. A mineral enclosing another mineral. -per'i-mor'phic, per'i-mor'phous adj. -per'i-mor'-

per-i-my-si-um (pěr'ə-mizh'ē-əm, -miz'ē-əm) n., pl. -my-si-a (-mizh'ē-ə, -miz'ē-ə) [NLat.: peri- + Gk. mus, muscle.] A sheath of connective tissue enveloping bundles of muscle fibers.

per-i-na-tal (per'a-nat'l) adj. Occurring near the time of birth <perinatal mortality> - per'i.na'tal.ly adv.

per-i-neph-ri-um (per -nef re-am) n., pl. -ri-a (-re-a) [NLat. < Gk. perinephros, fat around the kidneys: peri, around + nephros, kidney.] The connective and fatty tissue surrounding the kidney. -per'i-neph'ral, per'i-neph'ri-al, per'i-neph'ric adj.

per-i-ne-um (pěr'ə-ne'əm) n., pl. -ne-a (-ne'ə) [NLat. < LLat. perinaion < Gk.: peri, around + inan, to excrete.] 1. The portion of the body in the pelvis occupied by urogenital passages and the rectum, bounded in front by the pubic arch, in the back by the coccyx, and laterally by part of the hipbone. 2. The region between the scrotum and the anus in males and between the posterior vulva junction and the anus in females. - per'i ne'al adj.

per-i-neu-ri-um (per'a-noor'e-am, -nyoor'-) n., pl. -neu-ri-a (-noor'e-a, -nyoor'-). A sheath of connective tissue enclosing a primary bundle of nerve fibers. - per'i-neu'ri-al adj.

pe-ri-od (pĭr'ē-əd) n. [ME paryode < OFr. periode < Med. Lat. periodus < Lat., cycle < Gk. periodos, circuit : peri, around + hodos, way.] 1. An interval of time marked by the occurrence of certain conditions or events <a period of six weeks> 2. An interval of time marked by the prevalence of a specified culture, ideology, or technology <the period of the industrial revolution> 3. A unit of geologic time longer than an epoch and shorter than an era. 4. A distinct evolutionary or developmental phase: STAGE < Shakespeare's early comic period> 5. An arbitrary temporal unit, esp.: a. A division of an academic day <history class during first period> b. A division of the playing time of a game. 6. Physics & Astron. The time interval between two successive occurrences of a recurrent event : CYCLE. 7. An instance or occurrence of menstruation. 8. A point or portion of time at which something is ended. 9. The full pause at the end of a spoken sentence. 10. A punctuation mark (.) indicating a full stop, placed at the end of declarative sentences and other statements thought to be

per-i-o-don-tics (per'e-o-don'tiks) n. (sing in number). tal specialty of periodontal disease. - per'i-o-don'tic, per

period piece n. An artistic, literary, or other work that

given historical period.

per-i-o-nych-i-um (pĕr'ē-ō-nĭk'ē-əm) n., pl. -i-a (-ē-ə) [N]

The horder tissue surrounding the nail persisting the sound of the persistence of the pers periosteon < Gk. < periosteos, around the bone : peri, around periosteon < Gk. < periosteos around the bone : peri, around periosteon < Gk. < periosteos around the bone : peri, around periosteon < Gk. < periosteos around the bone : periosteos periosteos around the bone : periosteos periosteos periosteos around the bone : periosteos perios periosteos perios perios periosteos perios peri periosteon < Gk. < periosteos, alcuma all bones, except at posteon, bone. A fibrous membrane covering all bones, except at posteon, bone adj. of articulation. — per 1000 technique per-1000 ties (per'e-0s-ti-tis) n. Inflammation of the periostern

-per'i·os·tit'ıc (-tr'ık) auj.
per-i·o·tic (per'e-ō'tik) adj. 1. Located around the ear. 2. Of or de

ignating the bones immediately round in [OFr. peripatetique | per-i-pa-tet-ic (per'a-pa-tet-ik) adj. [OFr. peripatetique | let periopatetoic (pèr' o-po-ter' 1k) auj. Non peripatein que < la peripateicus < Gk. peripateikos < peripatein, to walk about around + patein, to walk.] 1. Of or relating to walking. 2. peripatein to walking. 2. peripatein to walking to Ariestotle's philosophy or methods of teach. tetic. Of or relating to Aristotle's philosophy or methods of teach -n. 1. A person who walks from place to place: ITINERANT, 2. Pen ipatetic. A follower of the philosophy of Aristotle.

per-i-pe-te-ia (per'a-pa-te'a, -ti'a) n. [Gk. < peripiptein, to change suddenly: peri, around + piptein, to fall.] An unexpected or about change in a situation or course of events esp. in a literary work

pe-rip-e-ty (pa-rif'or-al) adj. 1. Relating to, situated on, or compe-riph-er-al (pa-rif'or-al) adj. 1. Relating to, situated on, or compe-riph-er-al (pa-rif'or-al) adj. 1. prising the periphery. 2. Auxiliary. 3. Of, relating to, or being the outer area of the visual field. —n. An auxiliary device, as a printer or mo dem, that works in conjunction with a computer. -pe-riph/er-al. Iv adv

peripheral nervous system n. The part of the nervous system comprising the cranial nerves, the spinal nerves, and the sympathetic

nervous system.

pe-riph-er-y (po-rif' o-rē) n., pl. -ies. [ME peripherie < LLat. pe ripheria < Gk. periphereia < peripheres, carrying around : peri, around + pherein, to carry.] 1. a. The outermost region or part within a precise boundary. b. The area or region immediately beyond a precise boundary. c. A zone constituting an imprecise boundary. 2. Math. a. PERIMETER la. b. The surface of a solid. 3. Anat. A region in which

pe-riph-ra-sis (pa-rif'ra-sis) n., pl. -ses (-sez') [Lat. < Gk. < periphrazein, to express periphrastically : peri, around + phrazein, to say.] 1. The use of circumlocution. 2. A circumlocution.

per-i-phras-tic (per'a-fras'tik) adj. 1. Having the nature of or marked by periphrasis. 2. Constructed by using an auxiliary word rather than an inflected form; e.g., the phrases the word of my teacher and my teacher did say are periphrastic, while my teacher's word and my teacher said are inflected. - per'i-phras'ti-cal-ly adv.

pe-riph-y-ton (pa-rif' I-ton') n. [NLat. < Gk. periphutos, planted all over : peri, around + phuein, to grow.] Sessile organisms that live attached to surfaces projecting from the bottom in a freshwater aquatic environment.

pe-rip-ter-al (pa-rip' tar-al) adj. [Lat. peripteros < Gk. : peri, around + pteron, wing.] Erected with a row of columns on all sides. -n. A structure with rows of columns on all sides.

pe•rique (pə-rēk') n. [Louisiana Fr.] A black, strongly flavored aromatic tobacco grown in Louisiana and used in various blends. per-i-sarc (per'i-sark') n. [PERI- + Gk. sarx, flesh.] A horny external