

THIRD COLLEGE EDITION

# Webster's New World Dictionary®

OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

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*Dedicated  
to David B. Guralnik  
lexicographical mentor  
and friend*

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CIP

**ob-verse** (əb vər'shan, əb-, -zhən) *n.* [LL *obversio* < L *obversus*: see prec.] 1 the act of obverting 2 Logic the act of inferring the obverse

**ob-vert** (əb vər't, əb-) *vt.* [L *obvertere*: see **OBVERSE**] 1 to turn so that the main surface or a different surface is shown 2 Logic to state the obverse of (a proposition)

**ob-viate** (əb've ət') *vt.* -at'ed, -at'ing [L *obviatus*, pp. of *obviare*, to prevent < *obvius*: see fol.] to do away with or prevent by effective measures; make unnecessary —**ob'via'tion** *n.*

**ob-vi-ous** (əb've əs) *adj.* [L *obvius*, in the way, lying open: see **OB-** & **VIA**] 1 easy to see or understand; plain; evident 2 [Obs.] being in the way —**SYN.** **EVIDENT** —**ob'vi-ously** *adv.* —**ob'vi-ous-ness** *n.*

**ob-vo-lute** (əb've lōōt') *adj.* [L *obvolutus*, pp. of *obvolvere*, to wrap around < *ob-* (see **OB-**) + *volvere*, to roll: see **WALK**] having overlapping margins: said of leaves or petals Also **ob'vo-lu'tive** —**ob'vo-lu'tion** *n.*

**Ob-wal-den** (əp'vəl'dən) canton of central Switzerland: 189 sq. mi. (491 sq. km); pop. 26,000

**oc-** prefix **OB-**: used before *c* [occur]

**o/c** overcharge

**O.C.** [L *opere citato*] in the work cited

**OC** 1 Officer Commanding 2 Old Catholic

**OC** or **oc** ocean

**oc-a-ri-na** (ək'ə rē'nə) *n.* [It, dim. of *oca*, a goose < LL *avca*, a goose (< *avica*, back-form. < L *avicola*, dim. of *avis*, bird): from its fancied resemblance in shape] a small, simple wind instrument shaped like a sweet potato, with finger holes and a mouthpiece: it produces soft, hollow tones

**O'Ca-sey** (ə kə'se), **Sean** (shōn) 1880-1964; Ir. playwright

**Occam**, **William** of see **Ockham**, William of

**Oc-cam's razor** (ək'əmz) [after prec., who used it often in analyzing problems] a philosophical or scientific principle according to which the best explanation of an event is the one that is the simplest, using the fewest assumptions or hypotheses Also sp. **Ock'ham's razor**

**oc-cas** 1 occasion 2 occasional 3 occasionally

**oc-ca-sion** (ək'kəzhən; often ə kə's-) *n.* [ME *occasioun* < OFr < L *occasio*, accidental opportunity, fit time < *occurus*, pp. of *occidere*, to fall < *ob-* (see **OB-**) + *cadere*, to fall: see **CASE**!] 1 a favorable time or juncture; opportunity 2 a fact, event, or state of affairs that makes something else possible [a chance meeting was the occasion of the renewal of their friendship] 3 a) a happening; occurrence b) the time at which something happens; particular time [on the occasion of our last meeting] 4 a special time or event, suitable for celebration 5 need arising from circumstances 6 [pl.] a) [Obs.] needs; requirements b) [Archaic] affairs; business —*vt.* to be the occasion of; give occasion to; cause —**on occasion** once in a while; sometimes; occasionally —**rise to the occasion** to do whatever suddenly becomes necessary; meet an emergency —**take (the) occasion** to use the opportunity (to do something)

**oc-ca-sion-al** (ək'kəzhə nəl; often ə kə's-) *adj.* 1 occurring on a particular occasion 2 of or for a special occasion [occasional verse] 3 acting only on special occasions 4 of irregular occurrence; happening now and then; infrequent 5 designating chairs, tables, etc. intended for occasional or auxiliary use 6 being an **OCCASION** (*n.*) 2

**oc-ca-sion-al-ism** (-nəl iz'm) *n.* in post-Cartesian philosophy, the doctrine that, since mind and matter cannot interact, the intervention of God is required to synchronize corresponding acts of mind and movements of the body

**oc-ca-sion-al-ly** (ək'kəzhən əl ē; often ə-) *adv.* now and then; sometimes; on occasion

**oc-cid-ent** (ək'kə dnt, -dent') *n.* [Ofr < L *occidens*, direction of the setting sun < pp. of *occidere*, to fall: see **OCCASION**] [Old Poet.] the west —[O-] the part of the world west of Asia, esp. Europe and the Americas

**oc-cid-en-tal** (ək'kə dent'əl) *adj.* [ME *occidentale*] 1 [Old Poet.] western 2 [O-] of the Occident, its people, or their culture; Western —*n.* [usually O-] a native of the Occident, or a member of a people native to that region

**oc-cid-en-tal-ism** (ək'kə dent'əl iz'm) *n.* the character, culture, customs, etc. of the Occident —**Oc-cid-en'tal-ist** *n.*

**oc-cid-en-tal-ize** (-iz') *vt., vi.* -ized', -iz'ing to make or become Occidental in character, culture, customs, etc.

**oc-cip-i-tal** (ək'kə sip'i təl, -it'l) *adj.* [ML *occipitalis*] of the occiput or the occipital bone —*n.* **OCCIPITAL BONE** —**oc-cip'i-tally** *adv.*

**oc-cip-ital bone** the bone that forms the back part of the skull: see **SKULL**, **ILLUS.**

**oc-cip-ut** (ək'kə sip'ut, -pət) *n., pl.* **oc-cip'i-ta** (-sip'i tə) or **-puts** [ME *oc'cip'it* < L < *ob-* (see **OB-**) + *caput*, **HEAD**] the back part of the skull of head

**oc-clude** (ək'klōd, -ā) *vt.* -clud'ed, -clud'ing [L *occludere* < *ob-* (see **OB-**) + *cludere*, to close] 1 to close, shut, or block (a passage) 2 to prevent the passage of; shut in or out 3 to conceal, hide, or secure 4 Chem. to retain or absorb (a gas, liquid, or solid) —*vi.* to meet with the cusps fitting close together: said of the upper and lower teeth —**oc-clud'ent** *adj.*

**oc-cluded front** **Meteorol.** the front formed when a warm front is overtaken by a cold front and an air mass is forced aloft up the warm front or cold-front surface

**oc-clusion** (ək'klōz'hən) *n.* 1 an occluding or being occluded 2 the fitting together of the upper and lower teeth, or the way in which these fit together when the jaws are closed 3 **Meteorol.** **OCCLUDED FRONT** 4 **Phonet.** the complete closing of the air passages in pronunciation, as of a stop —**oc-clu'sive** *adj.*

**oc-cult** (for *adj.* ə kʌlt'; also ə'kʌlt'; for *v.* ə kʌlt') *adj.* [L *occultus*, concealed, pp. of *occulere*, to cover over < *ob-* (see **OB-**) + *celare*, to hide (see **HAL-**)] 1 hidden; concealed 2 secret; esoteric 3 beyond ordinary understanding; mysterious 4 designating or of certain

alleged mystic arts, such as magic, alchemy, astrology, etc. —*vt., vi.* 1 to hide or become hidden from view 2 **Astron.** to hide by occultation —**the occult** the occult arts or studies —**oc-cult'ly** *adv.* —**oc-cult'ness** *n.*

**oc-cul-ta-tion** (ək'kʌl tə'shən) *n.* [ME *occultacioun* < L *occultatio*, a hiding < *occultus*: see prec.] 1 the state of becoming hidden or of disappearing from view 2 **Astron.** the disappearance of a celestial body behind a closer, apparently larger celestial body, as when a star or planet is hidden by the moon

**oc-cul-ting light** an intermittent light in a lighthouse, lightship, etc., characterized by a period of light that equals or exceeds the period of darkness

**oc-cult-ism** (ək'kʌlt'iz'm) *n.* 1 belief in occult forces and powers' 2 preoccupation with occult arts —**oc-cult'ist** *n.*

**oc-cu-pancy** (ək'kʌp əns, -yə-) *n., pl. -cies* [L *occupatio*] 1 a) an occupying; a taking or keeping in possession b) the period during which a house, etc. is occupied 2 the condition of being occupied 3 Law the taking possession of a previously unowned object, thus establishing ownership

**oc-cu-pant** (ək'kʌp ənt, -yə-) *n.* [L *occupans*, pp. of *occupare*, **OCCUPY**] 1 a person who occupies a house, post, etc. 2 a person who acquires title to anything by occupancy

**oc-cu-pa-tion** (ək'kʌp ə'shən, -yə-) *n.* [Ofr < L *occupatio*] 1 an occupying or being occupied; specif., the seizure and control of a country or area by military forces 2 that which chiefly engages one's time; (one's) trade, profession, or business —**oc-cu-pa'tional** *adj.* —**oc-cu-pa'tion-ally** *adv.*

★**occupational disease** a disease commonly acquired by people in a particular occupation, as silicosis among miners

★**occupational therapy** therapy by means of work, as arts and crafts, designed to divert the mind, to correct a particular physical defect, or to equip a handicapped patient with new job skills

**oc-cu-py** (ək'kʌp i, -yə-) *vt. -pied', -py'ing* [ME *occupien* < OFr *occupier* < L *occupare*, to take possession of, possess < *ob-* (see **OB-**) + *capere*, to seize: see **HAVE**] 1 to take possession of by settlement or seizure 2 to hold possession of by tenure; specif., a) to dwell in b) to hold (a position or office) 3 to take up or fill up (space, time, etc.) 4 to employ, busy, or engage (oneself, one's attention, mind, etc.) —**oc-cu-py'er** *n.*

**oc-cur** (ək'kʌr') *vi. -curred', -cur'ring* [L *occurrere*, to run, come up to, meet < *ob-* (see **OB-**) + *currere*, to run: see **CURRENT**] 1 to be found; exist [fish occur in most waters] 2 to present itself; come to mind [an idea occurred to him] 3 to take place; happen —**SYN.** **HAPPEN**

**oc-cur-rence** (ək'kʌr əns) *n.* 1 the act or fact of occurring 2 something that occurs; event; incident —**oc-cur'rent** *adj.*

**SYN.** —**occurrence** is the general word for anything that happens or takes place [an unforeseen occurrence]; an **event** is an occurrence of relative significance, especially one growing out of earlier happenings or conditions [the events that followed the surrender]; an **incident** is an occurrence of relatively minor significance, often one connected with a more important event [the award was just another incident in his career]; an **episode** is a distinct event that is complete in itself but forms part of a larger event or is one of a series of events [an episode of his childhood]; a **circumstance** is an event that is either incidental to, or a determining factor of, another event [the circumstances surrounding my decision]

**OC** Office of Civil Defense

**oc-cean** (ə'shən) *n.* [ME *occean* < OFr < L *Oceanus* < Gr *Ōkeanos*, the outer sea (in contrast to the Mediterranean), orig. thought of as a great river flowing around the earth] 1 the great body of salt water that covers approximately 71% of the surface of the earth 2 any of its four principal geographical divisions: the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, or Arctic Ocean 3 any great expanse or quantity

★**oc-cean-ar-i-um** (ə'shə nər'ē əm) *n., pl. -iums* or **-ia** [ə'shə nər'ē ə] [prec. + (AQU)ARIUM] a large salt-water aquarium for ocean fish and animals

★**oc-cean-a-ut** (ə'shə nōt') *n.* [L *OCEAN* + (AQU)NAUT] AQUANAUT

**oc-cean-go-ing** (ə'shən gō'ing) *adj.* of, or made for, travel on the ocean

**Oce-an-ia** (ə'shə ən'ē ə) islands in the Pacific, including Melanesia, Micronesia, & Polynesia (incl. New Zealand) & sometimes, Australia, & the Malay Archipelago Also **Oce-an-i-ca** (-i kə) —**Oce-an-i-an** *adj., n.*

**oc-cean-ic** (ə'shə ən'ik) *adj.* 1 of, living in, or produced by the ocean 2 like the ocean; vast 3 designating or of the ecological zone (**oceanic zone**) beyond the neritic zone in the ocean

**Oce-an-id** (ə se'ə nid') *n., pl.* **Oce-an'i-des** (-ən'i dēz') [Gr *Ōkeanios* (gen. *Ōkeanidos*)] Gr. Myth. any of three thousand ocean nymphs, daughters of Oceanus and Tethys

**oc-cean-og-ra-phy** (ə'shə nōg'rə fē, ə'shə ə-) *n.* [L *oceanographia* < Fr *oceanographie*: see **OCEAN** & **-GRAPHY**] the study of the environment in the oceans, including the waters, depths, beds, animals, plants, etc. —**o'cean-og'ra-pher** *n.* —**o'cean-og'ra-phy** (-nōgrə'fik) or **o'cean-og'ra-phy-cal** *adj.*

★**oc-cean-ol-ogy** (-nəl'ə jē) *n.* [OCEAN + **O-** + **-LOGY**] 1 the study of the sea in all its aspects, including oceanography, geophysical phenomena, undersea exploration, economic and military uses, etc. 2 **OCEANOGRAPHY** —**o'cean-ol'o-gist** *n.*

**Ocean-side** (ə'shən sid') [descriptive] city in SW Calif., near San Diego: pop. 77,000

**ocean sunfish** any of a family (Molidae, order Tetraodontiformes) of marine bony fishes with an abruptly truncated body; esp., any of a large, sluggish species (*Mola mola*)

at, ate, cār, ten, ēve; is, ice; gō, hōrn, look, tōōl; oil, out; up, fār; ə for unstressed vowels, as a in ago, u in focus; ' as in Latin (lat'n); chin; she; zh as in azure (az'hər); thin, the; ŋ as in ring (rɪŋ)

In etymologies: \* = unattested; < = derived from; > = from which

★ = Americanism

See inside front and back covers