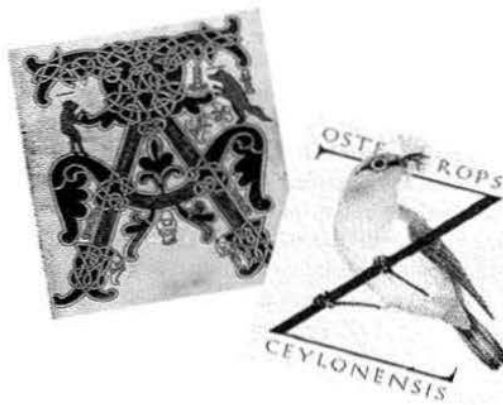


The
**American
Heritage[®] Dictionary**
of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



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Manufactured in the United States of America



suspender
pair of suspenders



suspension
Fugue No. 4 from J.S. Bach's
Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I



suspension bridge
San Francisco-Oakland Bay
Bridge

port or keep from falling without apparent attachment, as by buoyancy: *suspend oneself in the water*. —*intr.* **1.** To cease for a period; delay. **2.** To fail to make payments or meet obligations. [Middle English *suspenden*, from Old French *suspendre*, from Latin *suspendere*: *sub-*, from below; see *SUB-* + *pendere*, to hang; see **(s)pen-** in Appendix I.]

sus•pend•ed animation (sə-spēn'ēdīd) *n.* A temporary state of interrupted breathing and loss of consciousness resembling death, caused especially by asphyxia.

sus•pend•er (sə-spēn'dər) *n.* **1.** One, such as a hook, that suspends something else. **2.** An often elastic strap worn over the shoulders to support trousers. Often used in the plural. **3.** Chiefly British A garter.

sus•pense (sə-spēns') *n.* **1.** The condition of being physically suspended. **2a.** The state or quality of being undecided, uncertain, or doubtful. **b.** Pleasurable excitement and anticipation regarding an outcome, such as the ending of a mystery novel. **3.** Anxiety or apprehension resulting from an uncertain, undecided, or mysterious situation. [Middle English, from Old French *suspens*, from Latin *suspēnsus*, past participle of *suspendere*, to suspend. See *SUSPEND*.] —**sus•pense'ful** *adj.*

suspense account *n.* A temporary account in which entries of credits or charges are made until their proper disposition can be determined.

sus•pen•sion (sə-spēn'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of suspending or the condition of being suspended, especially: **a.** A temporary abrogation or cessation, as of a law or rule. **b.** A temporary debarment, as from school or a privilege, especially as a punishment. **c.** A postponement, as of a judgment, opinion, or decision. See synonyms at **pause**. **2. Music a.** The prolongation of one or more tones of a chord into a following chord to create a temporary dissonance. **b.** The tone so prolonged. **3.** A device from which a mechanical part is suspended. **4.** The system of springs and other devices that insulates the chassis of a vehicle from shocks transmitted through the wheels. **5. Chemistry** A system in which microscopically visible particles are dispersed throughout a less dense liquid or gas from which they are easily filtered but not easily settled because of system viscosity or molecular interactions.

suspension bridge *n.* A bridge having the roadway suspended from cables that are anchored at either end and usually supported at intervals by towers.

suspension point *n.* One of a series of dots, usually three, used to indicate an incomplete statement or the omission of a word or words from a written text.

sus•pen•sive (sə-spēn'siv) *adj.* **1.** Serving or tending to suspend or temporarily stop something. **2.** Characterized by or causing suspense. —**sus•pen'sive•ly** *adv.* —**sus•pen'sive•ness** *n.*

sus•pen•sor (sə-spēn'sər) *n.* **1. Botany** A multicellular filamentous structure developed from a zygote in seed-bearing plants and connecting the embryo to the endosperm. **2.** An athletic supporter. [New Latin *suspēnsor*, one that suspends, from Latin *suspēnsus*, past participle of *suspendere*, to suspend. See *SUSPEND*.]

sus•pen•so•ry (sə-spēn'sə-rē) *adj.* **1.** Supporting or suspending: *a suspensory bandage*. **2.** Delaying completion. ♦ *n., pl. -ries* **1.** A support or truss. **2.** An athletic supporter.

suspensory ligament *n.* A ligament that supports an organ or body part, especially a fibrous membrane that holds the lens of the eye in place.

sus•pi•cion (sə-spī'ʃən) *n.* **1.** The act of suspecting something, especially something wrong, on little evidence or without proof. **2.** The condition of being suspected, especially of wrongdoing. **3.** A state of uncertainty; doubt. See synonyms at **uncertainty**. **4.** A minute amount or slight indication; a trace. ♦ *tr.v. -cioned, -cioning, -cions* *Nonstandard* To suspect. [Middle English, alteration (influenced by Old French *suspicion*) of *suspicioun*, from Anglo-Norman, variant of Old French *sopeçon*, from Latin *suspectiō, suspectiōn-*, from *suspectus*, past participle of *suspiciere*, to watch. See *SUSPECT*.] —**sus•pi'cion•al** *adj.*

sus•pi•cious (sə-spī'ʃəs) *adj.* **1.** Arousing or apt to arouse suspicion; questionable: *suspicious behavior*. **2.** Tending to suspect; distrustful: *a suspicious nature*. **3.** Expressing suspicion: *a suspicious look*. —**sus•pi'cious•ly** *adv.* —**sus•pi'cious•ness** *n.*

sus•pire (sə-spīr') *intr.v. -pired, -pir•ing, -pires* **1.** To breathe: "*And from that one intake of fire/All creatures still warmly suspire*" (Robert Frost). **2.** To sigh. [Middle English *suspīren*, to sigh, from Old French, from Latin *suspīrāre*: *sub-*, from below; see *SUB-* + *spīrāre*, to breathe.] —**sus•pi'ra'tion** (sūs'pə-rā'shən) *n.*

Sus•que•han•na (sūs'kwə-hān'nə) *n., pl. Susquehanna* or *-nas* See *Susquehannock* (sense 1).

Susquehanna River A river of the northeast United States rising in central New York and flowing about 714 km (444 mi) south through eastern Pennsylvania and northeast Maryland to Chesapeake Bay.

Sus•que•han•nock (sūs'kwə-hān'ək) *n., pl. Susquehannock* or *-nocks* **1a.** A Native American people formerly located along the Susquehanna River in New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The Susquehannock were extinct by 1763. **b.** A member of this people. Also called *Conestoga, Susquehanna*. **2.** The Iroquoian language of this people.

suss (sūs) *tr.v. sussed, suss•ing, suss•es* *Slang* **1.** To infer or discover; figure out: "*I think I'm good at sussing out what's going on*" (Ry Cooder). **2.** To size up; study: "*Suss out the designers in whom you are interested*" (Lucia van der Post). [Probably short for *SUSPECT*.]

Sus•sex (sūs'seks). An Anglo-Saxon kingdom of southern England bor-

sus•tain (sə-stān') *tr.v. -tained, -tain•ing, -tains* **1.** To keep in existence; maintain. **2.** To supply with necessities or nourishment; provide support the spirits, vitality, or resolution of; encourage. **5.** To bear up under; withstand: *can't sustain the blistering heat*. **6.** To experience or suffer: *sustained a fatal injury*. **7.** To affirm the validity of: *The judge has sustained the prosecutor's objection*. **8.** To prove or corroborate; confirm. **9.** To keep up (a joke or assumed role, for example) competently. [Middle English *sustenen*, from Old French *sustēnir*, from Latin *sustinēre*: *sub-*, from below; see *SUB-* + *tēnere*, to hold; see *TEN-* in Appendix I.] —**sus•tain'a•bil'i•ty** *n.* —**sus•tain'a•ble** *adj.* —**sus•tain'er** *n.* —**sus•tain'ment** *n.*

sustainable agriculture *n.* A method of agriculture that attempts to ensure the profitability of farms while preserving the environment.

sus•tained yield (sə-stānd'ē) *n.* **1.** The continuing yield of a biological resource, such as timber from a forest, by controlled periodic harvesting. **2.** The quantity of a resource harvested in this manner.

sus•tain•ing pedal (sə-stā'nīŋ) *n.* The right pedal of a piano, which stops the action of the dampers and allows the strings to vibrate freely. Also called *loud pedal, reverberation pedal*.

sus•te•nance (sūs'tə-nəns) *n.* **1a.** The act of sustaining. **b.** The condition of being sustained. **2.** The supporting of life or health; maintenance: "*to deliver in every morning six beeves, forty sheep, and other victuals for my sustenance*" (Jonathan Swift). **3.** Something, especially food, that sustains life or health. **4.** Means of livelihood. [Middle English, from Old French, from *sustēnir*, to sustain. See *SUSTAIN*.]

sus•ten•ta•cu•lar (sūs'tən-tāk'yə-lər, -tēn-) *adj.* *Anatomy* Serving as a supporting structure. [From Late Latin *sustentaculum*, support, from Latin *sustentāre*, to support, frequentative of *sustinēre*, to sustain. See *SUSTAIN*.]

sustentacular cell *n.* One of the supporting cells of an epithelial membrane or tissue.

sus•ten•ta•tion (sūs'tən-tā'shən, -tēn-) *n.* **1.** Something that sustains; a support. **2.** Sustenance. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *sustentātiō, sustentātiōn-*, from *sustentātus*, past participle of *sustentāre*, to support. See *SUSTENTACULAR*.] —**sus'ten'ta'tive** (-tā'tiv) *adj.*

Sus•ti•va (sə-stē'və) A trademark used for the drug efavirenz.

Su•su (sū'sū) *n., pl. Susu* or *Su•sus* **1.** A member of a West African people inhabiting parts of Guinea and Sierra Leone. **2.** The Mande language of the Susu.

sus•sur•ra•tion (sū'sə-rā'shən) also **su•sur•rus** (sū-sūr'əs, -sūr'-) *n.* A soft, whispering or rustling sound; a murmur. [Middle English *sururacioun*, from Late Latin *sururratiō, sururratiōn-*, from Latin *sururrātus*, past participle of *sururrāre*, to whisper, from *sururrus*, whisper, ultimately of imitative origin.] —**sus•sur'rant** (sū-sūr'ənt, -sūr'-) *adj.* —**sus•sur'rous** (-sūr'əs, -sūr'-) *adj.*

Suth•er•land (sūth'ər-lənd), **George** 1862–1942. British-born American jurist and politician. He served as a U.S. representative (1901–1903) and senator (1905–1917) from Utah and was an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1922–1938).

Sutherland, Joan Born 1926. Australian operatic soprano noted especially for her interpretations of Gaetano Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma*.

Sutherland Falls A waterfall, 581 m (1,904 ft) high, of southwest South Island, New Zealand.

Sut•lej (sūt'lēj') A river, about 1,448 km (900 mi) long, flowing from southwest Xizang (Tibet) through northern India and eastern Pakistan, where it is joined by the Chenab River. It is one of the five rivers of the Punjab.

sut•ler (sūt'lər) *n.* A follower of an army camp who peddled provisions to the soldiers. [Obsolete Dutch *soeteler*, from Low German *sudeler, suteler*, from German *sudeln*, to dirty, from Middle High German *sudelen*.]

su•tra (sū'trə) *n.* **1. Hinduism** Any of various aphoristic doctrinal summaries produced for memorization generally between 500 and 200 B.C. and later incorporated into Hindu literature. **2.** also **sut•ta** (sū'tə) *Buddhism* A scriptural narrative, especially a text traditionally regarded as a discourse of the Buddha. [Sanskrit *sūtram*, thread, sutra. See *SYU-* in Appendix I.]

sut•tee also **sa•ti** (sū-tē', sūt'ē') *n.* **1.** The now illegal act or practice of a Hindu widow's cremating herself on her husband's funeral pyre in order to fulfill her true role as wife. **2. pl. -tees** also **-tis** A widow who commits such an act. [Sanskrit *sati*, virtuous woman, suttee, from feminine present participle of *asti, s-*, she is, is true. See *ES-* in Appendix I.]

Sut•ter (sūt'ər), **John Augustus** 1803–1880. American pioneer, raised in Switzerland. The discovery of gold on his land led to the California gold rush (1848–1849).

Sutt•ner (zū't'nər, sū't'-), **Bertha von** 1843–1914. Austrian pacifist who wrote the novel *Lay Down Your Arms* (1889). She was the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize (1905).

su•ture (sū'tʃər) *n.* **1a.** The process of joining two surfaces or edges together along a line by or as if by sewing. **b.** The material, such as thread, gut, or wire, that is used in this procedure. **c.** The line or stitch so formed. **2. Medicine a.** The fine thread or other material used surgically to close a wound or join tissues. **b.** The stitch so formed. **3. Anat-**