

Webster's
Third
New International
Dictionary
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
UNABRIDGED



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above so as to touch or strike the surface of...
(1) the object of action or motion directed to or against the object (crept up ~ him) (marched ~ the ancient fortress);
(2) the object of action or motion directed toward the object without actual physical contact (smiled ~ her) (blamed it ~ them) (was always bent ~ fighting);
(3) the object of some emotion (had pity ~ them) or formality (served an injunction ~ him) or obligation (a charge ~ an overdue book);
(4) the object in connection with which payment, computation of interest, reduction, or similar settlement is made (paid off a substantial sum of the mortgage) (creditors received about 7 cents of the dollar) (a rebate of 15 cents on a ton) (an invoice ~ supplies);
7 **a**: with regard to + with reference or relation to: ABOUT (agreed ~ a price) (a monopoly ~ wheat) (a satire ~ society) (at variance ~ what to do) **b** chiefly *dial*: of (be not jealous ~ me ~Shak. 8 — used as a function word to indicate means or agency (cut her finger ~ a knife) (playing the latest hits ~ the piano) (heard it ~ the radio) 9 — used as a function word to indicate reduplication or succession in a series (trouble ~ trouble followed his involvement with her) (loss ~ loss) 10 — used as a function word to indicate an object of reference; esp. (1) an object having some advantage or disadvantage (is very talented but has nothing ~ her brother who is a real genius) (his brother has two things ~ him in reach); (2) an object subjected to expense or cost (drinks are ~ the house) (the joke was ~ me); (3) an object that bears some stress or strain (long hours began to tell ~ him); (4) an object subjected to indicated annoyance (the fire went out ~ him) (don't try to put that ~ me) or discomfiture or some other unwanted or detrimental thing

2 **on** \əˈdʌv [ME, prep. & adv., fr. OE *an, on*, prep. & adv.] 1: in or into the position of being in contact with the upper surface of something or of being supported from beneath by the upper surface (the plates are ~) (put a jazz recording ~) 2: in or into the position of being attached to or covering a surface (has suspenders ~) (put a clean shirt ~) (keep your hat ~) 3 **a** (1): toward a point that lies ahead in space or time: FORWARD, ONWARD (spent a day there and then went ~ to the next town) (from here ~ you'll need help) (2): at a more advanced point in space or time (will do it later ~) (did not see her until well ~ in the evening) (was well ~ in years) **b**: with forward movement or action: in constant progression; without break: CONTINUOUSLY (read ~ late into the night) (spoke ~ without hesitation) (slept peacefully ~) **c**: in succession: from one to another + in continuance (a tradition handed ~ through the centuries) (6 **a**: with an indicated part turned toward a point of contact, approach, observation (the two cars smashed together head ~) (the boats collided bows ~) **b**: with direction toward something (didn't want to play but preferred simply to look ~) 7: in a condition of being decided upon or planned for or regarded as something that must be done (has nothing particular ~ for tonight) 8: in or into a state of being aware of something (wasn't ~ to what had happened): in or into a knowledgeable state about something (quickly got ~ to what they were trying to do) — *usu.* used with **to** 9: in a state of being willing to participate in something (told them about the plan and asked if they were ~) 10 *printing*: up (printed eight ~) 11: *on* as in baseball

3 **on** \əˈdʌdʒ *adj* 1 *cricket*: that sends the ball to the on (an ~ hit) (an ~ drive) 2 *cricket*: that is on the side of the wicket (an ~ stroke) 3: permitted to flow by means of an opened valve or closed switch: FLOWING (the water was ~) **on** \əˈn s the side of the wicket on which a batsman stands in the game of cricket or the corresponding side of the field — compare *off*; see *CRICKET* illustration

1 **on** \ən n suffix -s [ISV, alter. of -one]: chemical compound not a ketone or other oxo compound (nervon) — sometimes distinguished from -one

2 **on** \ən n suffix [fr. -on (in *union, cation, & ion*)] 1: elementary particle (neutron) 2 **a**: unit of unit (magneton) (photon) **b**: basic hereditary component (cistron) (operon)

3 **on** \ən n suffix -s [NL, fr. Gk, neut. of -os (nom. sing. masc. ending of many adjectives)]: inert gas (radon)

ON abbr 1 octane number 2 order notify

ona \ˈɒnə n pl **ona** or **onas** *usu cap* 1 **a**: a Chonan people of Tierra del Fuego off the southern tip of So. America — compare *FUEGIAN* **b**: a member of such people 2: the language of the Ona people

on-again-off-again \ˌɒn-ə-ɡeɪn-ɒf-ə-ɡeɪn *adj* [fr. the phrase *on again, off again*]: occurring suddenly and irregularly and vanishing quickly; becoming briefly existent and then disappearing in an intermittent unpredictable way: FITFUL, SPASMODIC (*on-again-off-again* fads) (troubled with *on-again-off-again* headaches) (months of *on-again-off-again* negotiations — Kennett Love)

on-a-ger \ˈɒn-ə-ɡeɪn n -s [ME, wulf ass, fr. L *onager, onagrus*, fr. Gk *onagros*, fr. *onos* ass + *-agros* (fr. *agros* field) — more at *ASS, ACRE*] 1: a small pale-colored kiang having a broad dorsal stripe and being *usu.* treated as a natural variety but sometimes considered to constitute a distinct species (*Equus onager*) 2 [LL, fr. L]: an ancient and medieval heavy catapult used for hurling heavy stones and made up basically of a strong lever with a receptacle at one end for the stones and of ropes twisted so as to pull the lever back under great strain until suddenly released

onagra \ˈɒn-ə-ɡrə n [NL, fr. Gk, *oleander*] *syn* of *OLENTHERA*

on-a-gra-ce-ae \ˌɒn-ə-ɡr-ə-ʃeɪ *n pl cap* [NL, fr. *Onagra* + *-ae*] **a**: large widely distributed family of plants of the order Myrtales, having an inferior ovary, 2 to 4 petals, 1 to 8 stamens, and a simple style — **on-a-gra-ce-ous** \ˌɒn-ə-ɡr-ə-ʃeɪ *adj*

on and off *adv* (or *adj*): off and on (we've been living together on and off — Paul Scott)

on and on *adv* (or *adj*): at great often tedious length (talked on and on)

onan-ism \ˈɒn-ə-nɪzəm n -s [prob. fr. (assumed) NL *onanismus*, fr. *Onan*, son of Judah described in Gen 38: 9 as practicing coitus interruptus + L *-ismus* -ism] 1: *CONTR. INTERRUPTUS* 2: *WASTURATION* 3: SELF-CRATIFICATION (the kind of intellectual ~ to which he was dedicated — Esther P. Shilverick) — **onan-is-tic** \ˈɒn-ə-nɪstɪk *adj*

onan-ist \ˈɒn-ə-nɪst n -s [ISV *onanism* + *-ist*]: one that practices *onan-ism*

onc- or onco- also onch- or oncho- or onci- comb form [NL, fr. Gk *onkos* barbed hook — more at *ANGLE*] 1: barb; hook (*oncology*) 2: mass (*oncosphere*) (*oncometer*)

and many... once and for all (in 1841... resolved the... once and for all... in a word; by way of summing up 5: by one degree of relationship (is a cousin ~ removed) (lives a life only ~ removed from that of animals) 6 *dial* — used as a vague sentence expletive esp. in imperative constructions (come here ~) (hand me that hammer ~) — **once and a while** [by *alter.*]: once in a while (*once and a while* to think of my first love — R. D. Blackmore) — **once and for all** or **once for all** 1: once and finally: once and decisively: once and be done with it (make up your mind *once and for all*) 2: DEFINITELY: with such finality as to preclude reservation or modification (deciding to settle the matter *once for all*) 3: once and for all time: one time to end all times (I'm telling you *once and for all*) — **once in a way** also **once and a way** chiefly *Brit*: once in a while: one time by way of exception (were permitted to hear, for *once in a way*, the pizzicato accompaniment — *Manchester Guardian Weekly*) — **once in a while**: now and then: occasionally but not often: from time to time: at infrequent intervals: SOMETIMES (spend most of their time at home and go out *once in a while*) — **once upon a time**: once at some indefinite time in the past *usu.* long ago (had *once upon a time* known them well) (*once upon a time* there was a beautiful princess)

once \wɒns *adj* 1: that once was: FORMER (the ~ province of Britain) [NL *Pomeroy*] 2: *once* *n* -s: one single time: one sole time (thought it was only the ~ — Anne D. Sedgwick) (please listen to me just this ~) — one time at least: one time by way of exception (for ~ you seem to know what I'm talking about) — **all at once** *adv* 1: all at the same time (seemed happy and sad all at once) 2: with great suddenness; suddenly and unexpectedly (all at once there was a clatter of dishes) — **to once** *adv, dial*: at once 4 **once** \wɒns *adv* also **once that conj**: when once; if once; if one at the moment when; as soon as (the job is finished, we'll have nothing to worry about) (*once that he finds out, you'll have to be careful*)

once-accented octave *n*: ONE-LINE OCTAVE

once and again *adv* 1 **a**: once and one more (spoke to her *once and again*) **b**: two or more times (have heard it said *once and again*) 2: now and again: from time to time: OCCASIONALLY, SOMETIMES (*once and again* this sort of thing will happen)

once-born \wɒns-ɔːn *adj*: not having been or not needing to be regenerated spiritually

once more or once again *adv* [once more fr. ME *ones more*, fr. *ones* once + *more*; *once again* fr. *twies* + *again*]: one more time (decided to try *once more*)

once or twice *adv* [ME *ones or twies*, fr. *ones* once + *or* + *twies* twice]: a couple of times: a few times: OCCASIONALLY (have seen her *once or twice* during the past month)

once-over \wɒns-ə-ɔːv *n* -s [fr. the phrase *once over*]: a single swift examination or consideration or treatment of something; rapid survey; esp.: a swift comprehensive appraising glance (gave every new applicant the *once-over*) (as she walked in she got the *once-over*)

once-over-lightly \wɒns-ə-ɔːv-ɪtli *n* -ES [fr. the phrase *once over lightly*]: ONCE-OVER; esp.: an esp. casual or cursory or gingerly *once-over* (had given political problems the *once-over-lightly* — Sigrid Arne)

once-overlightly \wɒns-ə-ɔːv-ɪtli *adj*: swift and *usu.* casual or cursory or gingerly (gets the *once-over-lightly* treatment — Sidney Hyman)

onc-er \wɒn(ɪ)s(ɪ)r n -s [ˈɒnce + -er]: one that does or has done something only once

oncet \ˈɒnset -n(t)st *substand var* of ONCE

onch- or oncho- or onci- — see ONC-

on-chi-di-idae \ˌɒŋkɪˈdɪə, dɪə *n pl cap* [NL, fr. *Onchidium*, type genus + *-idae*]: a family of slugs (suborder Stylommatophora) — see ONCHIDIUM

on-chi-di-um \ˌɒŋkɪˈdɪəm, ɪn-ə *n cap* [NL, fr. *onc-* + *-idium*] a genus (the type of the family Onchidiidae) of chiefly Indo-Pacific marine air-breathing slugs that live chiefly on rocky shores between tide levels or in mangrove swamps

on-chi-um \ˌɒŋkɪˈtʃiəm, n pl on-chia \-tʃiə [NL, fr. *onc-* + *-ium*]: one of the hooks or rasps located in the buccal cavity of various nematode worms and serving to grasp and break up prey

on-cho-cer-ca \ˌɒŋkəˈsɜːkə *n cap* [NL, fr. *onc-* + *-cerca* (fr. Gk *kerkos* tail)] a genus of long slender filarial worms (family Dipetalonematidae) that are parasites of subcutaneous and connective tissues of mammals with their adults enclosed in fibrous nodules and their larvae free in the tissues — see ONCHOCERCIASIS — **on-cho-cer-ca-al** \-səl *adj*

on-cho-cer-ci-a-sis also on-co-cer-ci-a-sis \ˌɒŋkəˈsɜːr-ki-əsɪs *n pl onchocerciasis* \-sɪz [NL, fr. *Onchocerca* + *-iasis*]: infestation with or disease caused by filarial worms of the genus *Onchocerca*; esp.: a disease of man caused by a worm (*O. volvulus*) native to Africa but now present in parts of tropical America, transmitted by several biting flies, and marked by subcutaneous nodules containing adult worms and migration of larvae through the tissues causing local irritation and itching and when the eyes are involved sometimes blindness — compare *ONCHOCERCIASIS*

on-cho-cer-ci-a-oma \ˌɒŋkəˈsɜːr-ki-ə-ɒmə *n* -s [NL, fr. *Onchocerca* + *-oma*]: the subcutaneous nodule of onchocerciasis that contains encysted parasites

on-cho-cer-co-sis \ˌɒŋkəˈsɜːr-ki-əsɪs *n pl onchocercosis* \-sɪz [NL, fr. *Onchocerca* + *-osis*]: ONCHOCERCIASIS

on-co-sphere also on-co-sphere \ˌɒŋkəˈsfiːə(r) *n* [ISV 'onco- + *-sphere*]: the hexacanth embryo that is the earliest differentiated stage of a cyclophyllidean tapeworm

on-cic-o-la \ˌɒn-sɪkəˈlə *n cap* [NL, fr. *onc-* + *-cola*]: a genus of small acanthocephalan worms having the adults parasitic in the intestines of dogs and coyotes and the infective larvae encysted in turkeys and armadillos

on-cid-i-um \ˌɒn-sɪdɪ-əm *n* [NL, fr. *onc-* + *-idium*; fr. the shape of the labelium] 1 *cap*: a genus of showy tropical American epiphytic or terrestrial orchids with the column short and winged and the labelium *usu.* at right angles to it 2 -s: any plant of the genus *Oncidium* — called also *butterfly plant*

1 **onco-** or **oncho-** comb form [NL, fr. Gk *onkos* bulk, mass; akin to Gk *enenkein* to carry — more at *ENOUGH*] 1: tumor (*oncology*) 2: bulk; mass (*oncosphere*) (*oncometer*)

2 **onco-** — see ONC-

on-co-chaeta \ˌɒŋkəˈtʃeɪtə *n pl oncochaeta* or *oncochaetas* [NL, fr. *onc-* + *-chaeta*]: a hair or bristle with a hooked tip (*oncochaetae* on the thorax of a fly)

on-co-cyte \ˌɒŋkəˈsɪt *n* -s [ˈonco- + *-cyte*] 1: an acidophilic granular cell esp. of the parotid gland 2: a tumor cell

on-co-gen-ic \ˌɒŋkəˈdʒenɪk also on-cog-e-nous (ˈɒŋ-ki-ʒə-nəs) *adj* [ˈonco- + *-genic* or *-genous*]: relating to tumor formation; tending to cause tumors (~ tars)

on-cog-e-my \ˌɒŋkəˈdʒeɪni, ɪn-ə *n* -ES [ˈonco- + *-geny*]: the process of tumor formation

on-co-graph \ˌɒŋkəˈɡrɑːf -rɑːf *n* [ISV 'onco- + *-graph*]: a recording device attached to an oncometer — **on-co-graphy** \ˌɒŋkəˈɡrɑːfi *n*

on-co-log-ic-al \ˌɒŋkəˈlɒɡɪkəl also on-co-log-ic \-jɪk *adj* of or relating to oncology

on-co-log-ist \ˌɒŋkəˈlɒɡɪst, ɪn-ə *n* -s a specialist in oncology

on-col-o-gy \ˌɒŋkəˈlɒɡɪ *n* -ES [ISV 'onco- + *-logy*]: the study of tumors

on-col-y-sis \ˌɒŋkəˈlɒsɪs *n* [NL, fr. 'onco- + *-lysis*]: the destruction of tumor cells — *on-co-ly-tic* \ˌɒŋkəˈlɒtɪk *adj*

of the internal organs or of the body

on-coming \ˌɒn-ə-ˈkɪŋ *adj* [from *come*, *adj.* (after *come on*, v.)] 1 **a**: coming near in space or time: moving forward (was an *on-coming*) **b**: approaching (blinded by the lights of an *on-coming* during the year) **b**: that is to be: FUTURE (not for just a few of our *on-coming* citizens, but also for all present citizens — L. L. Medsker) (discussed the *on-coming*) 2: RISING, EMERGENT (~ generations began to seek new goals — Hunter Mead)

2 **oncoming** \ˌɒn-ə-ˈkɪŋ *n* -s [on + *coming*, n. (after *come on*, v.)] *archaic*: APPROACH

on-co-pel-tus \ˌɒŋkəˈpeltəs *n cap* [NL, perh. fr. *onc-* + *-peltus* (fr. Gk *peltē* small shield)] — more at *PELTA*]: a genus of lygid bugs including the common milkweed bug (*O. fasciatus*)

on-co-peta \ˌɒŋkəˈpɛtə, ɪn-ə *n cap* [NL, perh. fr. *onc-* + *Gk pēra* pouch]: a genus of moths (family Hepialidae) whose caterpillars are serious pests on grass in Australia and Tasmania

on-co-rhyn-chus \ˌɒŋkəˈrɪŋkəs *n cap* [NL, fr. *onc-* + *-rhynchus*]: a genus of salmon that are related to those of the genus *Salmo* but have a greater number of anal rays, branchiostegals, pyloric caeca, and gill rakers that include commercially important fishes of the north Pacific and of the coastal streams of both America and Asia

oncosphere *var* of ONCHOSPHERE

oncost \ˈɒn-ɒst *n* -s [ME *oncost*, *uncost*, fr. MD *oncost* extra charge fr. *on* *un-* (akin to *OE un-* cost expense, charge, prob. fr. *OF* — more at *UN-*, *COST*) *Brit*: indirect expense: OVERHEAD

on-cof-ic pressure \ˌɒŋkəˈfɪk-ɪk-, (ˈɒŋ) *n* [oncotic prob. ISV 'onco- + *-tic* (as in *osmotic*)]: the pressure exerted by plasma proteins on the capillary wall and made up of the osmotic and imbibition pressures of the hydrophilic colloid systems in which these proteins exist

on-cof-o-my \ˌɒŋkəˈkɒdəm, ɪn-ə *n* -ES [NL *oncotomia*, fr. 'onco- + *-tomia* -tomy]: surgical incision of a swelling (as an abscess or tumor)

on-co-mi-cus *substand var* of ONCE

on-dat-ra \ˌɒn-ˈdɑːtrə *n cap* [NL, fr. F, *muskrat*, fr. Huron] a genus of rodents (family Cricetidae) comprising the muskrats

ondé *var* of ONDES

ondes mu-si-cales \ˌɒndmʊˈziːkəl-ɪs, ɒndes martenet \ˌɒndmɑːrtənɒt *n pl ondes musicales* \like sing/ or *ondes martenet* \like sing/ often *cap O&M* [NL *ondes musicales* fr. F, lit., musical waves; *ondes martenet* fr. F, lit., Martenet waves, after Maurice Martenet b1898 Fr. musician, its inventor] a melodic electrophone capable of producing quarter tones and eighth tones

on-dine \ˈɒn-ɪn, ɒn-ɪn, ɒn-ɪn *n* -s [F, fr. NL *undina* — more at *UNDINE*]: *UNDINE* 2: a pale green that is bluer, lighter, and slightly less strong than celadon gray and duller than spray green

on-ding \ˈɒn-dɪŋ, ɒn-dɪŋ *n* -s [ˈɒn + *ding*, v. (to beat) (after the verb phrase *ding on*)] chiefly *Scot*: a heavy fall of rain or snow (the rain was such an ~ by now — Maristam Chapman)

on-dit \ˈɒn-dɪt, ɒn-dɪt *n pl on-dits* \-ɛt-ɪz [F, fr. *on dit* they say, it is said]: a piece of gossip; a vague rumor: REPORT (the *on-dits* and surreptitious tales that float about — *Saturday Rev.*) (there were incredible *on-dits* — Clare Sheridan)

on-di-um mar-tle-not \ˌɒndɪəmˈmɑːrtlənɒt *n often cap O&M* [on-di-um fr. *ondes musicales*] + *-ium* (as in *harmonium*)] ONDES MUSICALES

on-do-graph \ˌɒn-də-ɡrɑːf, -rɑːf *n* [F *Ondographe*, fr. *onde* wave (fr. L *unda*) + *-o-* + *-graphie* -graph — more at *WATER*]: an instrument for autographically recording the wave forms of varying electrical currents and *esp.* rapidly varying alternating currents

on-du-lé \ˌɒn-dʊˈleɪ, -nɪə *n* -s [F *ondulé* wavy, fr. past part. of *onduler* to wave, ripple, back-form from *fr. ondulation* wave, concentric wave-motion in a liquid or gas, prob. fr. (assumed) NL *undulation*, *undulatio* concentric wave motion in a liquid or gas] 1: more at *UNDULATE*]: a wavy weaving pattern produced by a special reed that alternately spreads and converges a small group of warp threads

ondy *var* of UNDE

1 **one** \wʌn *adj* [ME *oon, on*, fr. OE *ān*; akin to OHG *ein* one, ON *ein*, Goth *ains*, L *unus* one, Gk *oinē* ace on dice, Skt *eka* one, and perh. to L *is* he, that — more at *ITERATE*] 1 **a**: being a single unit or entire being or thing and no more — see NUMBER table **b**: existing alone in a specified sphere (there is ~ apple in the basket) 2 **a** (1): being a particular unit or entire being or thing singled out (as by way of contrast, difference) from two or more identical or similar units or beings or things (spent ~ day of our vacation exploring the forest) (have mentioned ~ important point out of the several that will have to be considered) (went from ~ side to the other) (2): being an individual that is preeminently what is indicated (is really ~ fine person) **b**: existing as at least a single unit or being or thing; that is at least something: one at any rate: one in any case (well, that's ~ thing you can be proud of) (that's ~ consolation, anyway) 3 **a** (1): existing as something actually or virtually the same as something else; that is identical with or substantially the same as something else (the writer and his principal character are ~) (2) and EQUAL (are of ~ age) (3): that is not marked by any notable differences from something else; that amounts to the same thing (it's all ~ to me what you do) (4): that is commonly shared by two or more individuals (~ plague was on you all — I Sam 6:4 (AV)) **b** (1): constituting a unified entity made up of or formed from or produced by two or more components or sources (combined the elements in such a way as to form ~ substance) (cried out with ~ voice) (2): that is so united to or merged with something else as to form a single harmonious whole with it: that is at one; that is in agreement + UNITE (is ~ with you in all you do) 4: existing or occurring as something not definitely fixed or placed (are in time) (will see you again ~ day) or as something merely mentioned with little or no specifying description: a certain (~ John Doe got up and made a speech) — compare 2A 4 **d** 5: that is the only individual of an indicated or implied kind (was the ~ person she wanted to marry)

2 **one** \wɒn *pron* [ME *oon, on*, fr. OE *ān*, fr. *ān*, *adj.*] 1 **a**: a certain indefinitely indicated person or thing *usu.* of a kind mentioned or under consideration (saw ~ of his classmates) (had several current novels and let her borrow ~) **b** (1): an individual of a vaguely indicated group; anyone at all; anyone in a general way (wouldn't like to see that happen) (2) — sometimes used as a 3d-person substitute for a pronoun of the first person (as *I, we*) (~ supposes you will come) 2: something of an indicated or implied kind (as a **2** JOKE, LAUGH (that's ~ on you)) **b**: BLOW, SOCK (got ~ on the jaw which he remembered for a long time — John Masfield) 3 chiefly *Midland*: one or the other — used after the second of two alternatives to indicate the necessity of a choice between the two (stay in bed or go to school, ~) — **by one and one** *archaic*: one by one — **in one** *adv*: in or into a single whole; TOGETHER (is a source of information and pleasure, *in one*) — **one by one** *adv* also *one after one* *adv*: with one following the other one after another: one at a time: SINGLY, SUCCESSIVELY (came into the room one by one)

3 **one** \wɒn, in sense 1c(2) *won* *n* -s [ME *oon, on*, fr. OE *ān*, fr. *ān*, *adj.* & *pron.*] 1 **a**: the first whole number above zero and below two: the number denoting unity **b**: a single unit or entire being or thing and no more (has the ~ but will need another) 2 (1): a particular unit or entire being or thing