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Second College Edition

The
American
Heritage
Dictionary



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came are unacceptable to a large majority of the Usage Panel. As an adverb *whence* is regarded by many as most appropriate to a formal or literary style, though as a conjunction it is still in general use.

whence-so-ever (hwěns'ō-ēv'ər, wěns'-) *adv.* From whatever place or source. —*conj.* From any place or source that.
when-ever (hwēn-ēv'ər, wēn-) *adv.* 1. At whatever time. 2. Also **when ever**. *When*. —*conj.* 1. At whatever time that: *We can leave whenever you're ready.* 2. Every time that: *He smiles whenever he sees her.*

when-so-ever (hwēn'sō-ēv'ər, wēn) *adv.* At whatever time at all; whenever. —*conj.* Whenever.

where (hwār, wār) *adv.* 1. At or in what place: *Where is the telephone?* 2. In what situation or position: *Where would we be without your help?* 3. From what place or source: *Where did you get this idea?* 4. To what place; toward what end: *Where is this argument leading?* —*conj.* 1. At what or which place: *He moved to the city, where jobs are available.* 2. **a.** In a place in which: *He lives where the climate is mild.* **b.** In any place or situation in which; wherever: *Where there's smoke, there's fire.* 3. **a.** To a place in which: *We should go where it is quieter.* **b.** To a place or situation in which: *He will go where he is happy.* —*n.* 1. The place or occasion: *We know the when but not the where of it.* 2. What place, source, or cause: *Where are you from?* [ME < OE *hwær*.]

Usage: When *where* refers to "the place from which," it requires the preposition *from*: *Where did you come from?* When it refers to "the place to which," it requires no preposition: *Where did he go* (better than *where did he go to*). When *where* refers to "the place at which," it also requires no preposition: *Where are they* (not *where are they at*). See also Usage note at **see**.

where-a-bouts (hwār'ə-bouts', wār'-) *adv.* About where; in, at, or near what location: *Whereabouts do you live?* —*n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. verb*). The approximate location of someone or something: *I don't know his whereabouts right now.*

where-as (hwār-əz', wār-) *conj.* 1. It being the fact that; inasmuch as. 2. While at the same time. 3. While on the contrary. —*n.* 1. An introductory statement to a formal document; preamble. 2. A conditional statement.

where-at (hwār-ət', wār-) *conj.* 1. Toward or at which. 2. As a result or consequence of; whereupon.

where-by (hwār-bī', wār-) *conj.* In accordance with which; by or through which.

where-fore (hwār'fōr', -fōr', wār'-) *adv.* 1. For what purpose or reason; why. 2. Therefore. —*n.* A purpose or cause: *wanted to know all the whys and wherefores.* [ME *wherfor*; *wher*, *where* + *fore*, *for*.]

where-from (hwār'frəm', -frəm', wār'-) *conj.* From which.

where-in (hwār-in', wār-) *adv.* In what way; how: *Wherein have we sinned?* —*conj.* 1. In which location: *where: the country wherein those people live.* 2. During which. 3. In what way; how: *showed them wherein they were wrong.*

where-in-to (hwār-in'tō, wār-) *conj.* Into which.

where-of (hwār-ōv', -ūv', wār-) *conj.* 1. Of what: *I know whereof I speak.* 2. **a.** Of which: *ancient pottery whereof many examples are lost.* **b.** Of whom. —*adv.* Archaic. Of what.

where-on (hwār-ōn', -ōn', wār-) *adv.* Archaic. On which or what.

where-so-ever (hwār'sō-ēv'ər, wār'-) *conj.* Archaic. In, to, or from whatever place at all; wherever.

where-through (hwār'thrōō', wār'-) *conj.* Through, because of, or during which.

where-to (hwār'tōō', wār'-) *adv.* To what place; toward what end. —*conj.* To which.

where-un-to (hwār-ūn'tō, wār-) *adv.* & *conj.* Whereto.

where-up-on (hwār'ə-pōn', -pōn') *conj.* 1. On which. 2. In close consequence of which: *The instructor entered the room, whereupon we got to our feet.*

where-ever (hwār-ēv'ər, wār-) *adv.* 1. In or to whatever place: *used red pencil wherever needed.* 2. Also **where ever**. *Where: Where ever have you been so long?* —*conj.* In or to whichever place or situation: *makes enemies wherever he goes.* [ME: *wher*, *where* + *ever*, *ever*.]

where-with (hwār'wīth', -wīth', wār'-) *adv.* With what or which. —*pron.* The thing or things with which. —*conj.* By means of which.

where-with-al (hwār'wīth-əl', -wīth-, wār'-) *conj.* Wherewith. —*pron.* Wherewith. —*n.* The necessary means, esp. financial means: *didn't have the wherewithal to survive a recession.*

wherry (hwēr'ē, wēr'ē) *n., pl. -ries.* 1. A light, swift rowboat built for one person and often used in racing. 2. A sailing barge used in East Anglia. [ME *whery*.]

whet (hwēt, wēt) *tr.v.* **whet-ted**, **whet-ting**, **whets.** 1. To sharpen (a knife or other tool); hone. 2. To make more keen; stimulate: *The frying bacon whetted his appetite.* —*n.* 1. The act of whetting. 2. Something that whets. 3. Informal. An appetizer. [ME *whetten* < OE *hwettan*.]

wheth-er (hwēth'ər, wēth'-) *conj.* 1. Used in indirect questions to introduce one alternative: *We should find out*

less of circumstances. —See Usage note at *if*. [ME < OE *hwēðer*.]

whet-stone (hwēt'stōn', wēt'-) *n.* A stone for honing tools.

whew (hwōō, hwyōō) *interj.* Used to express strong emotion such as relief or amazement.

whew (hwā, wā) *n.* The watery part of milk that separates from the curds, as in the process of making cheese. [ME < OE *hwaeg*.] —**whew'ey** *adj.*

whewy-face (hwā'fās', wā'-) *n.* A person with a pallid face.

which (hwīch, wīch) *pron.* 1. What particular one or ones: *Which of these is yours?* 2. The particular one or ones: *Take those which are yours.* 3. The one or ones previously designated or implied, specifically: **a.** Used as a relative pronoun in a clause that provides additional information about the antecedent: *my house, which is small and old.* **b.** Used as a relative pronoun preceded by *that* or a preposition in a clause that defines or restricts the antecedent: *that which he needed: the subject on which he spoke.* **c.** Used instead of *that* as a relative pronoun in a clause that defines or restricts the antecedent: *The movie which was shown later was better.*

4. Archaic. The person designated or implied. 5. Any of the things, events, or persons designated or implied: *whichever: Choose which you like best.* 6. A thing or circumstance that: *He left early, which was wise.* —*adj.* 1. What particular one or ones of a number of things or persons: *Which part of town?* 2. Any one or any number of; whichever: *Use which door you please.* 3. Being the one or ones previously designated: *It started to rain, at which point we ran.* [ME < OE *hwīc*.]

Usage: *Which* sometimes refers back to an entire preceding statement rather than to a single word: *She ignored him, which proved unwise.* In this example, acceptable to a large majority of the Usage Panel, the reference is clear. But when *which* follows a noun, the antecedent may be in doubt and ambiguity may result: *We learned that Edna had made the complaint, which came as a shock.* If *which* is intended to refer to the entire first clause rather than to *complaint*, the desired sense would be expressed more clearly by this construction: *We learned that Edna had made the complaint, and the discovery came as a shock.* See also Usage note at **that**.

which-ever (hwīch-ēv'ər, wīch-) *pron.* Whatever one or ones. —*adj.* Being any one or any number of a group: *Read whichever books you please. It's a long trip whichever road you take.* —See Usage notes at **everyone** and **whatever**.

which-so-ever (hwīch'sō-ēv'ər, wīch'-) *pron.* & *adj.* Whichever.

whick-er (hwīk'ər, wīk'-) *intr.v.* -ered, -er-ing, -ers. To whinny. —*n.* A whinny. [Imit.]

whid-ah (hwīd'ə, wīd'ə) *n.* Variant of **whydah**.

whiff (hwīf, wīf) *n.* 1. A slight, gentle gust of air: *waft: a whiff of cool air.* 2. A brief, passing odor carried in the air: *a whiff of her perfume.* 3. An inhalation, as of air or smoke: *Take a whiff of this pipe.* —*v.* **whiffed**, **whiffing**, **whiffs.** —*intr.* To be carried in brief gusts; *waft: puffs of smoke whiffing from the chimney.* —*tr.* 1. To blow or convey in whiffs. 2. To inhale through the nose; *sniff: a dog whiffing the air.* [ME *weffe*, offensive smell.] —**whiff'er** *n.*

whiff-er (hwīf'ər, wīf'-) *v.* -fled, -fing, -fles. —*intr.* 1. To move or think erratically; vacillate. 2. To blow in fitful gusts; *puff: The wind whiffled through the trees.* 3. To whistle lightly. —*tr.* To blow, displace, or scatter with gusts of air. [**< WHIFF.**]

whiffle (hwīf'əl, wīf'-) *v.* -fled, -fing, -fles. —*intr.* 1. To move or think erratically; vacillate. 2. To blow in fitful gusts; *puff: The wind whiffled through the trees.* 3. To whistle lightly. —*tr.* To blow, displace, or scatter with gusts of air. [**< WHIFF.**]

whiffle-tree (hwīf'əl-trē, wīf'-) *n.* The pivoted horizontal crossbar to which the harness traces of a draft animal are attached and which is in turn attached to a vehicle or an implement. [Var. of **WHIPPLETREE.**]

Whig (hwīg, wīg) *n.* 1. A member of an 18th- and 19th-century English political party that was opposed to the Tories. 2. A supporter of the war against England during the American Revolution. 3. A 19th-century American political party formed to oppose the Democratic Party, and favoring high tariffs and a loose interpretation of the Constitution. [Prob. short for *Whiggamore*, a member of a body of 17th-cent. Scottish insurgents.] —**Whig'ger-y** *n.* —**Whig'gish** *adj.* —**Whig'gism** *n.*

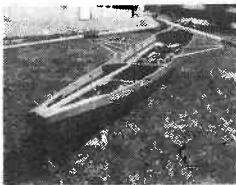
while (hwīl, wīl) *n.* 1. A period of time: *stay for a while: sang (all) the while.* 2. The time, effort, or trouble taken in doing something: *wasn't worth my while.* —*conj.* 1. As long as; during the time that: *It was lovely while it lasted.* 2. Although: at the same time that: *While he loves his children, he is strict with them.* 3. Whereas; and: *The soles are leather, while the uppers are canvas.* —*tr.v.* **whiled**, **whiling**, **whiles.** To spend (time) idly or pleasantly: *while the hours away.* —See Usage note at **awhile**. [ME < OE *hwīl*.]

whiles (hwīlz, wīlz) *conj.* Archaic. While. [ME, genitive of *while*, *while*.]

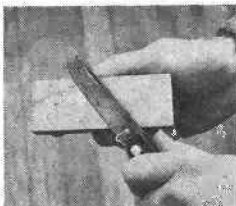
whi-lom (hwī'ləm, wī'-) *adj.* Former; having once been: *She is the whilom Miss Smith.* —*adv.* Archaic. Formerly. [ME < OE *hwīlum*.]

whilst (hwīlst, wīlst) *conj.* Chiefly Brit. While. [ME *whylist* < *whiles*, *whiles*.]

whim (hwīm, wīm) *n.* 1. A sudden or capricious idea; a pass-



wherry



whetstone