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RANDOM HOUSE  
NEW YORK

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#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Random House Webster's college dictionary

p. cm.

ISBN 0-375-42560-8

ISBN 0-375-42561-6 (Deluxe Edition)

I. English language--Dictionaries. I. Random House (Firm)

PE1628.R28 1999

423--DC21

99-12620

CIP

Visit the Random House Reference & Information Publishing  
Web site at [www.randomwords.com](http://www.randomwords.com)

Typeset and Printed in the United States of America  
Typeset by the Random House Reference & Information Publishing Group

2000 Second Revised and Updated Random House Edition

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

April 2000

ISBN: 0-375-42560-8

ISBN: 0-375-42561-6 (Deluxe Edition)

New York Toronto London Sydney Auckland



- without opposition; unanimously: *She won the presidency by acclamation.* [1535-45; < L *acclamatio*] — **ac-clam-a-to-ry** (ə klam'ə tōr'ē, -tōr'ē), *adj.*
- ac-climate** (ak'lə māt', ə klī'mīt); *v.t., v.i.*: -mat-ed, -mat-ing. to accustom or become accustomed to a new climate or environment. [1785-95; < F *acclimater*. See AC-, CLIMATE] — **ac-clī-mat-a-ble**, *n.* — **ac-clī-mat-ion**, *n.*
- ac-clī-ma-tize** (ə klī'ma tīz'), *v.t., v.i.*, -tized, -tiz-ing. to acclimate. [1830-40] — **ac-clī-ma-tiz-a-ble**, *adj.* — **ac-clī-ma-ti-za-tion**, *n.*
- ac-cliv-ity** (ə kliv'ī tē), *n., pl. -ties*. an upward slope, as of ground; an ascent (opposed to *declivity*). [1605-15; < L *acclivitas* < *accliv(is)* steep] — **ac-cliv'i-tous**, **ac-cliv-ous** (ə klī'vəs), *adj.*
- ac-co-lade** (ak'ə lād', -lād'; ak'ə lād', -lād'), *n.* 1. any award, honor, or laudatory notice. 2. a light touch on the shoulder with the flat side of the sword, given in conferring knighthood. 3. *Music*. a brace joining several staves. 4. an ornamental molding over a door, window, or arch, having the form of an ogee arch. [1615-25; < F, der. of *a(c)colée* embrace (with *-ade* -ADE')] — **ac-co-lad-ed**, *adj.*
- ac-com-mo-date** (ə kom'ə dāt'), *v., -dat-ed, -dat-ing.* — *v.t.* 1. to do a kindness or a favor to; oblige. 2. to provide suitably; supply. 3. to lend money to. 4. to provide with a room or other accommodations. 5. to have or make room for: *This elevator accommodates 10 people.* 6. to adjust or make suitable; adapt: *to accommodate oneself to circumstances.* 7. to bring into harmony; reconcile: *to accommodate differences.* — *v.i.* 8. to become adjusted, adapted, or reconciled. [1515-25; < L *accommodatus*, ptp. of *accommodare* to attach, make suitable] — **ac-com-mo-da-tive**, *adj.* — **ac-com-mo-da-tive-ness**, *n.* — **ac-com-mo-da-tor**, *n.* — *Syn.* See CONTAIN.
- ac-com-mo-dat-ing** (ə kom'ə dā'ting), *adj.* easy to deal with; eager to help or please; obliging. [1610-20] — **ac-com-mo-dat-ing-ly**, *adv.*
- ac-com-mo-da-tion** (ə kom'ə dā'shən), *n.* 1. the act of accommodating; the state or process of being accommodated; adaptation. 2. adjustment of differences; reconciliation. 3. a process of mutual adaptation between persons or social groups, usu. achieved by eliminating or reducing hostility. 4. anything that supplies a need, want, convenience, etc. 5. *Usual.* accommodations. a. lodging. b. food and lodging. c. a seat, berth, etc., on a train, plane, or other public vehicle. 6. readiness to aid others; obligingness. 7. a loan. 8. the automatic adjustment by which the eye adapts itself for distinct vision at different distances. [1595-1605; < L] — **ac-com-mo-da-tion-al**, *adj.*
- ac-com-mo-da-tion-ist** (ə kom'ə dā'shən-ist), *n.* 1. a person who adapts to the opinions or behavior of the opposition or the majority. — *adj.* 2. of or characteristic of such a person. [1960-65]
- accommoda-tion lad-der**, *n.* a portable flight of steps suspended from a vessel to give access to boats alongside. [1760-70]
- ac-com-pa-ni-ment** (ə kum'pə ni mēnt, ə kump'ni-), *n.* 1. something incidental or added for ornament, symmetry, etc. 2. a musical part supporting and enhancing the principal part. [1725-35]
- ac-com-pa-nist** (ə kum'pə nist, ə kump'nist) also **ac-com-pa-ny-ist** (-pə nē-ist), *n.* a performer of musical accompaniments. [1825]
- ac-com-pa-ny** (ə kum'pə nē), *v., -nied, -ny-ing.* — *v.t.* 1. to go along or in company with. 2. to exist or occur in association with: *Thunder accompanies lightning.* 3. to cause to be associated with or attended by: *He accompanied his speech with gestures.* 4. to perform musical accompaniment for. — *v.i.* 5. to provide the musical accompaniment. [1425-75; late ME < MF *accompanier*. See AC-, COMPANY] — *Syn.* AC-COMPANY, ATTEND, CONVOY, ESCORT mean to go along with. TO ACCOMPANY is to go as an associate or companion, usu. on equal terms: *My daughter accompanied me on the trip.* ATTEND usu. implies going along as a subordinate, as to render service: *to attend the queen.* TO CONVOY is to accompany ships or other vehicles with an armed guard: *to convoy a fleet of merchant vessels.* TO ESCORT is to accompany in order to protect or show courtesy: *to escort a visiting dignitary.*
- ac-com-plice** (ə kom'plis), *n.* a person who knowingly helps another in a crime or wrongdoing. [1475-85; *a(c)*- of unclear orig. + late ME *complice* < MF < ML *complex*, *s. complex*; partner; see COMPLEX]
- ac-com-plish** (ə kom'plish), *v.t.* 1. to bring to a goal or successful conclusion; carry out; finish: *to accomplish one's mission.* 2. to complete (a distance or period of time). [1350-1400; ME, earlier *acomplis* < MF *accompliss*, *s. of complir* = *a-* AC-; + *complir* < L *complere* to fill; see COMPLETE, -ISH'] — **ac-com-plish-a-ble**, *adj.* — **ac-com-plish-er**, *n.*
- ac-com-plished** (ə kom'plisht), *adj.* 1. completed; effected: *an accomplished fact.* 2. highly skilled; expert: *an accomplished pianist.* 3. having the social graces of polite society. [1350-1400]
- ac-com-plish-ment** (ə kom'plish mēnt), *n.* 1. an act or instance of carrying into effect; fulfillment. 2. something done admirably or creditably. 3. anything accomplished; achievement. 4. a grace or skill expected in polite society. 5. any acquired ability or skill. [1425-75]
- ac-cord** (ə kōrd'), *v.t.* 1. to be in agreement or harmony; agree. — *v.t.* 2. to make agree or correspond; adapt. 3. to grant; bestow: *to accord due praise.* 4. *Archaic.* to settle; reconcile. — *n.* 5. agreement; harmony. 6. a harmonious union of sounds, colors, etc. 7. concurrence of opinions or wills; agreement: *to reach an accord.* 8. an international agreement. — *Idiom.* 9. of one's own accord, without external compulsion or suggestion; voluntarily. 10. with one accord, with unanimous agreement. [1100-50; ME; late OE *acordan* < OF *acorder* < VL \**accordare* = L *ac-* AC- + \**cordare*, der. of *cor* HEART, MIND]. — **ac-cord-a-ble**, *adj.* — **ac-cord'er**, *n.*
- ac-cord-ance** (ə kōrd'əns), *n.* 1. agreement; conformity: *in accordance with the rules.* 2. the act of granting. [1275-1325; ME < OF]
- ac-cord-ant** (ə kōr'dnt), *adj.* agreeing; conforming; harmonious: [1275-1325; ME < OF] — **ac-cord-ant-ly**, *adv.*
- accord-ing as**, *conj.* 1. to the extent that; proportionately as. 2. depending on whether; if. 3. depending on how. [1475-1500]
- ac-cord-ing-ly** (ə kōr'ding lē), *adv.* 1. in a way that is suitable or in accordance. 2. therefore; so; in due course. [1400-50]
- accord-ing to**, *prep.* 1. in agreement or accord with: *according to his judgment.* 2. consistent with; contingent on or in proportion to: *to be charged according to one's ability to pay.* 3. on the authority of; as stated or reported by: *According to her, they have gone.* [1350-1400]
- ac-cor-di-on** (ə kōr'dē ən), *n.* 1. a portable wind instrument with a keyboard and a hand-operated bellows for forcing air through small metal reeds. — *adj.* 2. having evenly spaced, parallel folds like the bellows of an accordion: *accordion pleats.* [1831; < G, now sp. *Akkordion*, *Akkordeon*] — **ac-cor-di-on-ist**, *n.*
- ac-cost** (ə kōst', ə kost'), *v.t.* 1. to confront boldly. 2. to approach with a greeting, question, or remark. [1570-80; < LL *accostare* to be or put side by side. See AC-, COAST] — **ac-cost-a-ble**, *adj.*
- ac-cou-che-ment** (ə kōōsh'mənt, ak'ōōsh mən'), *n.* the confinement of childbirth; lying-in. [1800-10; < F, der., with *-ment* -MENT, of *accoucher* to give birth, assist in giving birth]
- ac-cou-cheur** (ak'ōō shūr'), *n.* a person who assists during childbirth, esp. an obstetrician. [1750-60; < F]
- ac-count** (ə kount'), *n., v., -count-ed, -count-ing.* — *n.* 1. an oral or written description of particular events or situations; narrative. 2. an explanatory statement of conduct, as to a superior. 3. a statement of reasons, causes, etc., explaining some event. 4. reason; basis: *On this account I'm refusing your offer.* 5. importance; worth; value; consequence: *things of no account.* 6. estimation; judgment: *In his account it was a miracle.* 7. an amount of money deposited with a bank, as in a checking or savings account. 8. an accommodation extended to a customer permitting the charging of goods or services. 9. a statement of financial transactions. 10. a formal record of the debits and credits relating to a particular person, business, etc. 11. a. a business relation in which credit is used. b. a customer or client, esp. one carried on a regular credit basis. — *v.t.* 12. to give an explanation (usu. fol. by *for*). 13. to answer concerning one's conduct, duties, etc. (usu. fol. by *for*). 14. to provide a report on money received, kept, and spent. 15. to cause (usu. fol. by *for*): *The heat accounts for our discomfort.* — *v.t.* 16. to regard; consider as: *I account myself well paid.* 17. to assign or impute (usu. fol. by *to*). — *Idiom.* 18. call to account, a. to hold accountable; blame. b. to ask for an explanation of. 19. give a good account of oneself, to behave or perform well. 20. hold to account, to consider responsible and answerable. 21. on account, as an installment or a partial payment. 22. on account of, a. by reason of; because of. b. for the sake of. 23. on no account, under no circumstances; absolutely not. 24. on someone's account, for the sake of someone. 25. take account of, a. to consider; make allowance for. b. Also, take into account, to notice. 26. turn to account, to derive profit or use from. [1225-75; ME *ac(c)ount(e)*, *ac(c)ompte* < AF, OF *aco(u)nte*, *acompte*. See AC-, COUNT]
- ac-count-a-bil-ity** (ə koun'tə bil'ī tē), *n.* 1. the state of being accountable, liable, or answerable. 2. a policy of holding public officials or other employees accountable for their actions and results: *a need for greater accountability in the school system.* [1785-95]
- ac-count-a-ble** (ə koun'tə bəl), *adj.* 1. subject to the obligation to report or justify something; responsible; answerable. 2. capable of being explained; explicable. [1375-1425] — **ac-count'a-bly**, *adv.*
- ac-count-an-cy** (ə koun'tn sē), *n.* the work or practice of an accountant. [1850-55]
- ac-count-ant** (ə koun'tnt), *n.* a person skilled or trained in accounting, esp. one in charge of the financial accounts of a company or organization. [1425-75; late ME *accountant* < OF *acuntant*, ptp. of *acunter* to account] — **ac-count-ant-ship**, *n.*
- account/ exec-utive**, *n.* (in an advertising agency or other service business) the manager of a client's account. [1940-45]
- ac-count-ing** (ə koun'ting), *n.* 1. the system or occupation of setting up, maintaining, and auditing the books of a firm and of analyzing its financial status and operating results. 2. a detailed report of the financial state or transactions of a person, company, etc. [1350-1400]
- account/ pay-able**, *n., pl. accounts payable*. a liability to a creditor, usu. for purchases of goods and services. [1935-40]
- account/ receiv-able**, *n., pl. accounts receivable*. a claim against a debtor, usu. for the sale of goods or services. [1935-40]
- ac-cou-ter** or **ac-cou-tre** (ə kōō'tər), *v.t., -tered or -tred, -ter-ing or -tring.* to furnish with clothes or equipment. [1600-10; earlier *accou(s)tre* < F *accouter*, OF *accou(s)trer* to arrange, accommodate]
- ac-cou-ter-ment** or **ac-cou-tre-ment** (ə kōō'trə mēnt, -trə-), *n.* 1. personal clothing, accessories, or equipment. 2. the equipment, excluding weapons and clothing, of a soldier. [1540-50; < MF]
- Ac-cra** (ak'rə, ə krā'), *n.* a seaport in and the capital of Ghana, on the Gulf of Guinea. 867,459.
- accred-**, *acrued*.
- ac-cred-it** (ə kred'it), *v.t.* 1. to ascribe or attribute; credit. 2. to provide or send with credentials; designate officially: *to accredit an envoy.* 3. to certify (a school or college) as meeting official requirements for academic excellence, curriculum, facilities, etc. 4. to make authoritative, creditable, or reputable; sanction. 5. to regard as true; believe. [1610-20; earlier *acredit* < MF *acrediter*. See AC-, CREDIT] — **ac-cred'it-a-ble**, *adj.* — **ac-cred'it-a-tion**, **ac-cred'it-ment**, *n.*



See HISPANIA, -IC] —**His·pan·i·cal·ly**, *adv.* —**Usage.** The terms HISPANIC and LATINO have the same meaning, though LATINO is more informal. Both terms more commonly refer to a person from Latin America rather than one from Spain.

**his·pa·ni·dad** (ēs pä'nē thāh'), *n.* Spanish. HISPANISM (def. 1).

**His·pan·io·la** (his'pän yō'lə), *n.* an island in the West Indies, comprising Haiti and the Dominican Republic. 30,285 sq. mi. (78,460 sq. km).

**his·pa·nism** (his'pə niz'əm), *n.* (often *cap.*) 1. a movement in Latin America for the promotion of Spanish or of native culture and influence. 2. a word, phrase, feature, etc., associated with Spain or Latin America.

**His·pa·nist** (his'pə nist), *n.* a specialist in the Spanish or Portuguese language or in Spanish or Latin-American literature or culture.

**His·pa·no** (hi span'ō, -spā'nō), *n., pl. -nos.* 1. HISPANIC (def. 3). 2. SPANISH AMERICAN (def. 2). [1945-50; independent use of HISPANO-]

**Hispāno-**, a combining form representing SPAIN or SPANISH. [*<* L *Hispān(us)* pertaining to *Hispānia* the Iberian Peninsula + *-o-*]

**his·pid** (his'pid), *adj. Bot., Zool.* rough with stiff hairs, bristles, or minute spines. [1640-50; *<* L *hispidus* rough, shaggy; akin to *HIRSUTE*]

**hiss** (his), *v., hissed, hissing, n.* —*v.i.* 1. to make or emit a sharp sound like that of the letter *s* when prolonged. 2. to express disapproval or contempt by making this sound. —*v.t.* 3. to express disapproval of by hissing. 4. to silence or drive away by hissing (usu. fol. by *away, down, etc.*). 5. to utter with a hiss. —*n.* 6. a hissing sound, esp. one made in disapproval. [1350-1400; prob. imit.] —**hiss'er, n.**

**Hiss** (his), *n. Alger.* 1904-96, U.S. public official, accused of espionage 1948 and imprisoned for perjury 1950-54.

**his·sy** (his'ē), *n., pl. -sies.* Slang. a fit of anger; temper tantrum. Also called **his'sy fit'**. [1930-35, Amer.]

**hist.** 1. historian. 2. historical. 3. history.

**his·tam·i·nase** (hi stām'ē nās', -nāz'), *n.* an enzyme that catalyzes the decomposition of histamine, used in treating allergies. [1925-30]

**his·ta·mine** (his'tə mēn', -min), *n.* a histidine-derived amine compound that is released mainly by damaged mast cells in allergic reactions, causing dilation and permeability of blood vessels and lowering blood pressure. [1910-15; HIST(IDINE) + AMINE] —**his·ta·min'ic** (-min'ik), *adj.*

**his·ti·dine** (his'ti dēn', -din), *n.* an essential amino acid, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(NH<sub>2</sub>)COOH, that is a constituent of proteins and is important as the iron-binding site in hemoglobin. Symbol: H [*<* G *Histidin* (1896) *<* Gk *hist(ōs)* web, tissue (cf. HISTO-) + *-idin* -IDINE]

**histo-**, a combining form meaning "tissue": *histology*. [*<* Gk, comb. form of *histōs* web (of a loom), tissue]

**his·to·chem·is·try** (his'tə kem'ə strē), *n.* the study of the chemical components of cellular and subcellular tissue. [1860-65]

**his·to·com·pat·i·bil·i·ty** (his'tō kəm pat'ə bil'i tē), *n.* the condition of being similar antigenic types such that cells or tissues transplanted from a donor to a recipient are not rejected. [1945-50]

**histocompatibil·ity an·tigen**, *n.* any antigen on the surface of tissue or blood cells that provokes an immune response and subsequent rejection of the tissue or cell when transplanted to an individual of a different antigenic type. [1965-70]

**his·to·gen** (his'tə jən, -jen'), *n.* a region in a plant in which tissues differentiate. [1920-25]

**his·to·gen·e·sis** (his'tə jen'ə sis), *n.* the origin and development of living tissues. [1850-55] —**his·to·ge·net'ic** (-jə net'ik), *adj.* —**his·to·ge·net'ic·ly**, *adv.*

**his·to·gram** (his'tə gram'), *n.* a bar graph of a frequency distribution in which the bars are displayed proportionate to the corresponding frequencies. [1890-95; *<* Gk *histō(s)* mast, beam, web + *-GRAM'*]

**his·tol·o·gy** (hi stol'ə jē), *n.* 1. the branch of biology dealing with the study of tissues. 2. the structure, esp. the microscopic structure, of organic tissues. [1840-50] —**his·to·log·i·cal** (his'tō lōj'ikəl), **his·to·log'ic**, *adj.* —**his·to·log'ic·ly**, *adv.* —**his·tol'og·ist**, *n.*

**his·tol·y·sis** (hi stol'ə sis), *n.* disintegration or dissolution of organic tissues. [1855-60] —**his·to·lyt·ic** (his'tō lit'ik), *adj.*

**his·tone** (his'tōn), *n.* any of a group of five small basic proteins, occurring in the nucleus of eukaryotic cells, that organize DNA strands into nucleosomes by forming molecular complexes around which the DNA winds. [*<* G *Histon* (1884) = *hist-* of uncert. orig. + *-on*, perh. after *Pepton* PEPTONE]

**his·to·pa·thol·o·gy** (his'tō pə thol'ə jē), *n.* the branch of pathology dealing with the structure of abnormal or diseased tissue. [1895-1900] —**his·to·path'ol·og'ic** (-tə path'ə lōj'ik), **his·to·path'ol·og'ic·al**, *adj.* —**his·to·pa·thol'og·ist**, *n.*

**his·to·phys·i·ol·o·gy** (his'tə fiz'ē ol'ə jē), *n.* the branch of physiology dealing with tissues. —**his·to·phys'iol·og'ic·al** (-ə lōj'ikəl), *adj.*

**his·to·plas·mo·sis** (his'tō plaz mō'sis), *n.* an infectious disease of the reticuloendothelial system caused by the fungus *Histoplasma capsulatum* and characterized by fever, anemia, and emaciation. [1940-45; *<* NL *Histoplasma*(a) (see HISTO-, PLASM-) + *-osis*]

**his·to·ri·an** (hi stōr'ē ən, -stōr'ē), *n.* 1. an expert in or authority on history. 2. a writer of history; chronicler. [1400-50]

**his·tor·ic** (hi stōr'ik, -stōr'ē), *adj.* 1. well-known or important in history: a historic building. 2. HISTORICAL. [1605-15; *<* L *<* Gk]

ing or pertaining to analysis based on a comparison among several periods of development of a phenomenon, as in language or economics. 6. HISTORIC (def. 1). [1375-1425] —**his·tor'ic·al·ly**, *adv.* —**his·tor'ic·al·ness**, *n.*

**his·tor'ic·al·mate·rialism**, *n.* the part of dialectical materialism dealing with historical process and social causation; the doctrine that social thought and institutions develop as a superstructure on an economic base. [1920-25]

**his·tor'ic·al·pres·ent**, *n.* the present tense used in narrating a past event. [1960-65]

**his·tor·ic·ism** (hi stōr'ə siz'əm, -stōr'ē-), *n.* 1. a theory that history is determined by immutable laws and not by human agency. 2. a theory that all cultural phenomena are historically determined and that historians must study each period without imposing any personal or absolute value system. 3. a profound or excessive respect for historical institutions, as laws or traditions. [1890-95] —**his·tor'ic·ist**, *n., adj.*

**his·to·ric·i·ty** (his'tə ris'i tē), *n.* historical authenticity. [1875-80]

**his·tor·ic·ize** (hi stōr'ə siz', -stōr'ē-), *v.t., -cized, -ciz·ing.* to narrate as history; render historical. [1840-50]

**his·to·ried** (his'tə rēd, his'trēd), *adj.* having an illustrious past; storied: Italy is a richly storied land. [1810-20]

**his·to·ri·og·ra·pher** (hi stōr'ē og'rə fər, -stōr'ē-), *n.* 1. HISTORIAN. 2. an official historian, as of a court, institution, or society. [1485-95; *<* L *historiographus* *<* Gk *historiographos*; see HISTORY, -O-, -GRAPHER]

**his·to·ri·og·ra·phy** (hi stōr'ē og'rə fē, -stōr'ē-), *n., pl. -phies.* 1. the body of literature dealing with historical matters; histories collectively. 2. the body of techniques and principles of historical research and presentation. 3. the narrative presentation of history based on a critical examination, evaluation, and selection of material from primary and secondary sources and subject to scholarly criteria. 4. an official history. [1560-70; *<* MF *<* Gk] —**his·to·ri·og·raph'ic** (-ə graf'ik), **his·to·ri·og·raph'ic·al**, *adj.* —**his·to·ri·og·raph'ic·al·ly**, *adv.*

**his·to·ry** (his'tə rē, his'trē), *n., pl. -ries.* 1. the branch of knowledge dealing with past events. 2. a continuous, systematic narrative of past events as relating to a particular people, country, period, person, etc., usu. written as a chronological account. 3. the aggregate of past events. 4. the record of past events and times, esp. in connection with the human race. 5. a past notable for its important, unusual, or interesting events: a ship with a history. 6. acts, ideas, or events that will or can shape the course of the future. 7. a systematic account of any set of natural phenomena without reference to time. 8. a drama representing historical events. —**Idiom.** 9. **be history**, to be no longer present, participating, or relevant: *If they lose this game, they're history.* [1350-1400; ME *<* L *historia* *<* Gk *historia* learning or knowing by inquiry, history, der. of *hístōr* one who knows or sees (akin to *wit'*)]

**his·tri·on·ic** (his'trē on'ik), *adj.* 1. deliberately affected or self-consciously emotional; overly dramatic in behavior or speech. 2. of or pertaining to actors or acting. [1640-50; *<* LL *histrōnicus* of actors] —**his·tri·on'ic·al·ly**, *adv.*

**his·tri·on·ics** (his'trē on'iks), *n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. v.*) 1. artificial behavior or speech for effect, as insincere or exaggerated expression of an emotion. 2. dramatic representation; theatricals. [1860-65]

**hit** (hit), *v., hit, hit·ting, n.* —*v.t.* 1. to deal a blow or stroke to: *Hit the nail with the hammer.* 2. to come against with an impact: *The wheel hit the curb.* 3. to reach with a missile, a weapon, a blow, or the like, as one throwing, shooting, or striking: *Did the arrow hit the target?* 4. Baseball. a. to make (a base hit). b. *BAT'* (def. 10). 5. to drive or propel by a stroke: *to hit a ball onto the green.* 6. to affect severely; *to be hit hard by inflation.* 7. to request or demand of: *He hit me for a loan.* 8. to reach or attain (a specified level or amount): *Prices hit a new high.* 9. to be appear in: *The story hit the front page.* 10. to land on or arrive in: *The troops hit the beach at dawn.* 11. to give (someone) another playing card, drink, portion, etc. 12. to come or light upon; meet with; find: *to hit the right answer.* 13. to succeed in representing or producing exactly: *to hit the right tone.* 14. Informal. to begin to travel on: *Let's hit the road.* —*v.i.* 15. to strike with a missile, a weapon, or the like; deal a blow or blows. 16. to come into collision (often fol. by *against, on, or upon*). 17. (of an internal-combustion engine) to ignite a mixture of air and fuel as intended. 18. to come or light (usu. fol. by *upon or on*): *to hit on a new way.* 19. **hit off**, a. to represent or describe precisely or aptly. b. to imitate, esp. in order to satirize. 20. **hit on**, Slang. to make persistent sexual advances to. 21. **hit out**, a. to deal a blow aimlessly. b. to make a violent verbal attack: *to hit out angrily at one's critics.* 22. **hit up**, Slang. a. to ask to borrow money from. b. to inject a narcotic drug into a vein. —*n.* 23. an impact or collision, as of one thing against another. 24. a stroke that reaches an object; blow. 25. a stroke of satire, censure, etc. 26. BASE HIT. 27. **Backgammon**. a. a game won by a player after the opponent has thrown off one or more men from the board. b. any winning game. 28. a successful stroke, performance, or production; success: *The play is a hit.* 29. Slang. a dose of a narcotic drug. 30. a. **Computers**. (in information retrieval) an instance of successfully locating an item of data in the memory bank of a computer. b. an instance of accessing a Web site. 31. Slang. a murder, esp. one carried out by criminal prearrangement. —**Idiom.** 32. **hit it off**, to