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WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™ COLLEGE DICTIONARY

Fourth Edition

Michael Agnes
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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dark reaction the second phase of photosynthesis, that does not require the presence of light, during which ATP releases stored energy that is used to convert carbon dioxide molecules into sugars and other nutrients: cf. LIGHT REACTION

dark-room (därk'rōm') *n.* a room from which all actinic rays are excluded, so that photographs can be developed in it

dark-some (-səm) *adj.* [Old Poet.] 1 dark; darkish 2 dismal

darky or **darkie** (där'kē) *n., pl. -ies* [Old Informal] a Negro: a derogatory or contemptuous term: also **dark'ey**

dar-ling (där'lin) *n.* [ME *dereling* < OE *deorling*, dim. of *deore*, DEAR] 1 a person much loved by another: often a term of affectionate address 2 a favorite 3 a sweet, lovable, or gracious person — *adj.* 1 very dear; beloved 2 [Informal] cute; attractive [a *darling* dress]

Dar-ling (där'lin) river in SE Australia, flowing southwest into the Murray River: c. 1,700 mi (2,736 km)

Dar-ling-ton (där'lin tən) city in Durham, N England: county district pop. 99,000

Darm-stadt (därm'stat; Ger *därm'stät*) city in SW Germany, in the state of Hesse: pop. 141,000

darn¹ (därn) *vt., vi.* [< MFr dial. *darnier*, to piece together, mend < Bret *darn*, a piece < IE base **darn-*, to pull off, split apart > TEAR] to mend (cloth) or repair (a hole or tear in cloth) by sewing a network of stitches across the gap — *n.* a darned place in fabric — *SYN.* MEND — **darn'er** *n.*

darn² (därn) *vt., vi., n., adj., adv., interj.* [Informal] euphemism for DAMN (the curse) — **darned** *adj., adv.*

dar-nel (där'nəl) *n.* [ME < Fr dial. *darnelle*, prob. < OFr dial. *darnu*, stupefied (< Frank **darn*) + *niella* < VL *nigella*, black caraway < L *niger*, black: so called from its supposed stupefying qualities] a weedy rye grass (*Lolium temulentum*) with poisonous seeds, often found in grainfields

darn-ing (därn'in) *n.* 1 a mending with interlaced stitches 2 things to be darned

darning needle 1 a large needle for darning 2 DRAGONFLY

Darn-ley (därn'le), Lord *Henry Stewart* or *Stuart* 1545-67; 2d husband of Mary, Queen of Scots: father of James I

Dar-row (dar'ō), *Clarence* (Seward) 1857-1938; U.S. lawyer

dar-shan (där'shan, dar'-) *n.* [Hindi *darśan* < Sans *darśana*, a seeing, akin to *dṛś*, sight < IE base **derk-*, to see > Gr *derkomaí*, I see, OE *torht*, bright] the virtue, uplift, blessing, etc. which, many Hindus believe, one gets in the presence of a great man

dart (därt) *n.* [ME < OFr < Frank **darod* (akin to OE *daroth*), spear] 1 a small, pointed missile, usually with the rear end feathered, used as for throwing at a target in games or for shooting from a blowgun 2 anything resembling this 3 a sudden, quick movement 4 a short, stitched fold that tapers to a point, used to shape a garment 5 [*pl., with sing. v.*] a game in which darts (see sense 1) are thrown at a target (**dart-board**) — *vt., vi.* 1 to throw, shoot, or send out suddenly and fast 2 to move suddenly and fast

darter (-ər) *n.* 1 a thing or animal that darts 2 ANHINGA *3 any of various small, brightly colored freshwater perches of North America

Dart-moor (därt'moor, -môr) a prison in Devon, SW England

Dart-mouth (därt'məth) [named in honor of Sir Wm. Legge, 2d Earl of Dartmouth (1672-1750)] city in Nova Scotia, Canada, near Halifax: pop. 66,000

***Dar-von** (där'vən) trademark for PROPOXYPHENE HYDROCHLORIDE

Dar-win¹ (där'win) 1 *Charles* (Robert) 1809-82; Eng. naturalist: originated theory of evolution by natural selection 2 *Erasmus* 1731-1802; Eng. naturalist, physician, & poet: grandfather of Charles — **Dar-win-ian** (där win'ē ən) *adj., n.*

Dar-win² (där'win) capital of Northern Territory, Australia: seaport on the Timor Sea: pop. 69,000

Darwinian theory Darwin's theory of evolution, which holds that all species of plants and animals developed from earlier forms by hereditary transmission of slight variations in successive generations, and that natural selection determines which forms will survive

Dar-win-ism (där'win iz'm) *n.* 1 the Darwinian theory 2 adherence to the Darwinian theory — **Dar-win-ist** *adj., n.* — **Dar-win-ist-ic** *adj.*

dash¹ (dash) *vt.* [ME *dashen*, to strike, rush < Scand., as in Swed *daska*, Dan *daske*, slap; prob. of echoic orig.] 1 to throw so as to break; smash 2 to strike with violence 3 to throw, knock, or thrust: with *away, down, against*, etc. 4 to splash or spatter

(liquid) on (someone or something) 5 to mix with a little of another substance 6 to destroy; frustrate [to *dash* one's hopes/ 7 to depress; discourage 8 to put to shame; abash 9 [euphemism for DAMN] [Old Informal] to damn: usually in the imperative as a mild curse — *vi.* 1 to strike violently (*against* or *on*) 2 to move swiftly or impetuously; rush — *n.* 1 the effect or sound of smashing or splashing 2 a bit of something added [a *dash* of salt/ 3 a sudden, swift movement; rush *4 a short, fast run or race 5 spirited quality; vigor; verve 6 striking or showy appearance or display 7 DASHBOARD (sense 2) 8 a hasty stroke with pen or brush 9 either of two marks (— or —), used in printing and writing to indicate a break in sentence structure, a parenthetical element, or to connect numbers showing a range of dates, times, etc.: see also EM DASH 10 *Telegraphy* a long sound or signal, as in Morse code: cf. DOT¹ — **cut a dash** [Informal] to make a striking appearance or impression — **dash off** 1 to do or write hastily 2 to rush away

dash² (dash) *n.* in W Africa, a) a gift or tip offered to get better service b) a bribe c) bribery

dash-board (dash'bōrd) *n.* 1 [Historical] a screen at the front or side of a carriage, boat, etc. for protection against splashing 2 a panel below the windshield with controls and gauges on it, as in an automobile

da-sheen (da shen') *n.* [?] TARO

dasher (dash'ər) *n.* 1 a person or thing that dashes 2 a device for agitating milk or cream in a churn or ice-cream freezer 3 [Informal] a person full of dash or spirit

***da-shiki** (dä shē'kē, də-) *n.* [said to be of Yoruba orig., but prob. coined (1967) by J. Benning, its U.S. manufacturer] a loosefitting, usually brightly colored, robe or tunic modeled after an African tribal garment

dash-ing (dash'in) *adj.* 1 full of dash or spirit; bold and lively 2 showy; striking; stylish — **dash-ingly** *adv.*

Dash light a light to illuminate a dashboard in a motor vehicle

Dasht-e-Kavir (dash'tē kə vir') large salt-desert plateau in NW Iran: c. 18,000 sq mi (46,620 sq km)

Dasht-e-Lut (dash'tē lūt') vast desert region of central and SE Iran, extending southward from the Dasht-e-Kavir

das-sie (das'ē, däs'ē) *n.* [Afrik] HYRAX

das-tard (das'tərd) *n.* [ME, a craven, prob. < Scand base, as in ON *dasast*, to become exhausted (see DAZE) + ME -ard, -ARD] a sneaky, cowardly evildoer

das-tardily (-lē) *adj.* of or like a dastard; mean and cowardly — *SYN.* COWARDLY — **das'tard-li-ness** *n.*

da-sym-eter (də sim'ə tar, də-) *n.* [< Gr *dasys*, dense (? akin to L *densus*, DENSE) + -METER] a device for measuring the density of gases

dasy-ure (das'ē yūr') *n.* [ModL *dasyurus* < Gr *dasy*, thick, hairy + *oura*, tail; see URO-²] any of a family (Dasyuridae) of small, mostly Australian marsupials that feed on flesh or insects

dat *abbrev.* DATIVE

DAT (dat) *n.* DATIVE AUDIO TAPE: also treated as an abbreviation

data (dāt'ə, dat'ə; Brit also dā'tə) *pl. n.* [pl. of DATUM: still often so used by scientists] [now usually with *sing. v.*] 1 facts or figures to be processed; evidence, records, statistics, etc. from which conclusions can be inferred; information 2 information in a form suitable for storing and processing by a computer

data-base (-bās') *n.* 1 a large collection of data in a computer, organized so that it can be expanded, updated, and retrieved rapidly for various uses 2 any large or extensive collection of information Also **data base** or **dat'a-bank** (-bank')

data processing the rapid recording and handling of large amounts of information, as business data, by means of mechanical or, esp., computer equipment

data processor a machine, esp. a computer, that performs data processing

da-tary (dāt'ər ē) *n., pl. -ries* [ML *datarius*, official of the Roman chancery < L, to be given away < *datus*: see fol.] R.C.Ch. a former office of the Curia, in charge of papal benefices

date¹ (dāt) *n.* [ME < OFr < L *data*, fem. of *datus*, pp. of *dare*, to give (the first word in Roman letters, giving the place and time of writing, as *data Romae*, lit., given at Rome) < IE base **dō-*, to give > Gr *dōron*, gift, *didonai*, to give, Russ *dat'*, to give] 1 a statement as on a writing or coin specifying when it was made 2 the time at which a thing happens or is done 3 the time that anything lasts or goes on 4 [*pl.*] a person's birth and death dates, usually expressed in years 5 the day of the month *6 a) an appointment for a set time, esp. one for a social engagement with a person of the opposite sex b) such an engagement c) a person of the opposite sex with whom one has such an engagement — *vt.* **dat'ed**, **dat'ing** 1 to mark (a letter, etc.) with a date 2 to find out, determine, set, or record the date of 3 to assign a date to 4 a) to show or reveal as typical of a certain period or age b) to make seem old-fashioned or out-of-date 5 to reckon by dates 6 to have a social engagement or engagements with — *vi.* 1 to belong to, or have origin in, a definite period in the past: usually with *from* *2 to have social engagements with persons of the opposite sex — **to date** until now; as yet — **up to date** in or into agreement with the latest facts, ideas, styles, etc. — **dat'-able** *adj.* or **date'-able** — **dat'er** *n.*

date² (dāt) *n.* [ME < OFr < L *dactylus* < Gr *daktylos*, a date, prob. < Sem, as in Ar *dāqal*, date palm] 1 the sweet, fleshy fruit of the date palm, having a large, hard seed 2 DATE PALM

date-book (dāt'book') *n.* a notebook for entering upcoming social or business appointments, birthdays and anniversaries, etc.

dat-ed (dāt'əd) *adj.* 1 marked with a date [contains dated material/ 2 out-of-date or old-fashioned

date-less (dāt'lis) *adj.* too old for its date to be

date-line (-lin') *n.* *1 1 given in a line in a letter

INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE — *vt.* line

date palm INTERNATIONAL/ **date palm** a cultivated date has a stout trunk and li

***date rape** rape commit ally during a date or otl

da-tive (dāt'iv) *adj.* [M (see DATE¹); its gramma translates Gr *datikē*] G indirect object of a finit this case may be expr (Ex.: I gave the book to phrase in this case — *di*

dat-ive bond COORDINA **dato** or **datto** (dāt'ō) r **datōg**] the chief of a M

da-tum (dāt'əm, dat'-; tums [LL, what is given known or assumed; inf inferred: see also DATA for calculations or mea from which elevations *

da-tura (dā toor'ə, -tyc *dhattūra*) 1 any of a gc the nightshade family, ant odor 2 the flower o

dau *abbrev.* daughter

daub (dōb, dāb) *vt., vi.* whitewash < L *dealba*: *albus*, white: see ALBU matter, such as plaster on 3 to paint coarsely 2 a daubing stroke or s)

daube (dōb) *n.* [Fr] a s wine, vegetables, and h

Dau-bi-gny (dō bé nyé' 78 Fr. landscape painte

Dau-det (dō dā') 1 AL on (lá or') 1867-1942; 1

Dau-guv-pils (dou'guv Dvina (Daugava) River

daugh-ter (dōt'ər) *n.* | *dauhter*, Ger *tochter* < *thugater*] 1 a girl or v parents: sometimes also a) a stepdaughter b) a female thought of as a child is by a parent (a as like a daughter in r *daughters* of the m results immediately f element

daughter cell Biol. ei division of a cell, as in

daughter-in-law (-in one's son

daugh-terly (-lē) *adj.* ter-li-ness *n.*

Dau-mier (dō myā'), lithographer, & caricat

daunt (dōnt, dānt) *vt.* *domitare*, to tame, frec

daunt-less (-lis) *adj.* t less — **daunt'-lessly** *adv.*

dau-phin (dō'fīn, dā'fīn) proper name by the co oldest son of the king a the crown] the eldest s 1349 to 1830

dau-phine (dō'fēn', dō wife of a dauphin: also

Dau-phi-né (dō fē nā') border, north of Proven

daut (dōt, dāt) *vt.* [Sco Da-vao (dā vō) seap Mindanao: pop. 1,191, (

da-ven (dā'vən, dō'-) recite the prayers of t swaying motion

D'A-venant or **Dav-** Eng. poet & playwright

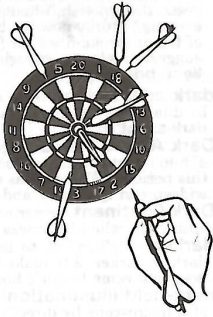
dav-en-port (dāv'ən p times convertible into hinged lid

Dav-en-port (dāv'ən p fur trader] city in E C

Da-vid¹ (dā'vid) *n.* [F name: dim. *Dave*, *Dav*



CLARENCE DARROW



DARTS AND DARTBOARD

ny bubbles; said of glass 4 shabby, run-
ning physically bad or low in spirits —
5 n.

nse or power of sight; vision 2 the act of
dj. having the sense of sight —conj. in;
ing; inasmuch as

ing Eye, a trademark] [also s- e- d-] a

ing [ME *sehen* < OE *secan*, akin to OS
sekan < IE base **sag-*, to track down, trace
receive] 1 to try to find; search for; look
seek the woods for peace/ 3 a) to try to
or searching [to seek the answer to a
k for 4 to bend one's efforts toward; aim
tion/ 5 to try; attempt; used with an
someone/ 6 [Archaic] to explore —vt. 1
mething 2) to make a search or investi-
gation] [Archaic] to resort (to) —seek'er

Of riller < cil < L *cilium*, lower eyelid
the eyelids of (a young hawk) 2 [Obs.],
blind

prob. < ON *sæma*, to conform to (akin
reement) < IE base **sem-* > SAME] 1 a)
: look of being (to seem happy) b) to
1 (usually followed by an infinitive) (he
to have the impression; think (followed
have lost it) 2 to appear to exist (there
to be apparently true /it seems) was

t seems real, true, etc. without neces-
sarily seeming anger/ —n. outward appear-
ing adv.

—liest [ME *semlich* < ON *sæmligr* <
SEEM] 1 pleasing in appearance; fair;
r; fitting, or becoming, esp. as regards
conduct or good taste; decorous —adv.
ing; properly, fittingly, etc. —seem'li-

OE *siþian*, to soak, akin to MLowG
-, to run out, drip > SOAP] to leak, drip,
small openings or pores; ooze —n. 1 a
oozes from the ground to form a pool 2

process of seeping; leakage; oozing 2

ually, sir) n. 1 a person who sees 2 a
ower to foretell events or a person's

aring unit of weight used in certain
of weight of India equal to 1/4 maund

woman with the supposed power to
destiny; prophetic

findi *shirshaher* < Pers *shir u shahar*,
kind of striped linen cloth] a light, n,
etc., usually with a striped pattern
SAW]: from the action of sawing] 1 a
; at the middle, used by children at
at when one goes up, the other comes
lank in this way 3 any up-and-down
r change, as in the lead in a competi-
on or back and forth —vt., vi. to move

eth'ing [ME *sethen* < OE *sēthan*,
**sew-*, to cook, boil > Sans *hāvayan*,
ling 2 to soak, steep, or saturate in
ge, bubble, or foam as if boiling 2 to
ge —n. the act or condition of seeth-

at can be seen through; more or less
e-through fabric, see-through pack-

seud, of Georgios Stylianos Sepher-
, & diplomat

ONIST

ment) n. [L *segmentum* < *secare*, to
cut into which a body is separated or
Geom. a) a part of a figure, esp. of a
made separate by a line or plane, as
ned by an arc and its chord (see
a nite sections of a line 3 *Linguis*, a
stream of speech 4 *Zool.* a) META-
od appendage between joints —vt.,
YN. PART] —seg'men-tar'y adj.

1 having the form of a segment of a
a segment or segments —seg'men't-

emes consisting of sound segments;
id semivowel sounds of a language;

han, -mon-) n. 1 a dividing or being
he progressive growth and cleavage
s to form a new organism

COELE

egno (sán'yō; It se'nyō) n., pl. se'gni (-yē; It, -nyē) [It < L
agnum, a SIGN] Music a sign; esp., the sign (♯ or :S) used at the
beginning or end of a repeat

ego (sé'gō) n., pl. -gos [← Amlnd (Shoshonean), as in Ute *sigo*] 1
a perennial bulb plant (*Calochortus nuttallii*) of the lily family,
with trumpet-shaped flowers, found in W North America: in full
sigo lily 2 its edible bulb

ego-via¹ (se gō'vyā; E se gō'və ə), Andrés (än dres') 1893?-1987;
guitarist & composer

ego-via² (se gō'vyā) city in central
Spain: pop. 54,000

ego-re-gate (seg'rā gāt; for adj. & n.,
usually, -git) adj. [ME *segregat* < L *segre-*
gatus, pp. of *segregare*, to set apart, lit.,
to set apart from the flock < *se-*, apart
see SECURE] + *grex* (gen. *gregis*), a flock:
see GREGARIOUS] separate; set apart; seg-
regated —vt. -gat'ed, -gat'ing to set
apart from others or from the main mass
or group; isolate; specif., to impose a sys-
tem of segregation on (racial groups,
social facilities, etc.) —vi. 1 to separate
from the main mass and collect together
in a new body: said of crystals 2 to separ-
ate from others; be segregated 3 *Genet-*
ics to undergo segregation —n. a segregated person, thing, group,
etc. —seg'-re-gat'ive adj.

segregated (seg'rā gāt'id) adj. conforming to a system that
segregates racial groups

segregation (seg'rā gā'shən) n. [LL *segregatio*] 1 a segregating
or being segregated; specif., the policy or practice of compelling
racial groups to live apart from each other, go to separate schools,
use separate social facilities, etc. 2 *Genetics*, the separation of
allelic genes into different gametes during meiosis so that a par-
ticular gamete receives only one member of a pair of characters:
see MENDEL'S LAWS

segregation-ist (-ist) n. a person who favors or practices segrega-
tion, esp. racial segregation —adj. of, like, or favoring segrega-
tion or segregationists

segue (seg'wā, sā'gwā) vi. --gued, --gue-ing [It, 3d pers. sing.,
pres. indic., of *sequire*, to follow < VL *sequere*, for L *sequi*: see
SEQUENT] to continue without break (to or into the next part) —n.
an immediate transition from one part to another, as in music

segul-dilla (seg'ə del'yā, sā'gā; -dē'yā) n. [Sp < *seguida*, a follow-
ing < *seguir*, to follow < VL *sequere*: see prec.] 1 a fast Spanish
dance, to the accompaniment of castanets 2 the music for this
dance, in 3/4 time 3 a stanza of four to seven short lines, partly
rhymant, with a distinctive rhythm, orig. sung to this music

seicento (sā chen'tō) n. [It, short for *mil seicento*, one thousand
six hundred] the 17th cent. as a period in Italian art and literature
seiche (sāsh) n. [← Swiss-Fr] a natural, standing wave in the water
of a lake, bay, etc., caused by changes in atmospheric pressure,
seismic disturbances, winds, waves, tides, etc.: it continues after
the generating force stops

seidel (zid'l, sid'-) n., pl. -dels or -del [Ger < MHG *sidelin* < L
sidula, bucket, dim. < *sinum*, large drinking vessel with bulging
sides] a large beer mug, sometimes with a hinged lid

Seidlitz powders (sed'lits) [so named because their properties
are said to resemble those of natural waters from the spring at
Seidlitz (Ger *Seidlitz*), Czech Republic] a laxative composed of
two powders, one of sodium bicarbonate and Rochelle salt, the
other of tartaric acid: the two are separately dissolved in water,
combined, and drunk while effervescent; also Seidlitz powder

seif (sāf, sif) n. an immense, long, curving, ridge-like sand dune, as
of the Sahara

seigneur (sān yur', sen-) n. [Fr < MFr: see SEIGNIOR] 1 SEIGNIOR
sense 1) 2 in French Canada, through the mid-19th cent., the
owner of an estate orig. granted by royal decree to 17th-cent.
French settlers —sei-neur'-ial (-ē əl) adj.

seignury (sān'yōr ē) n., pl. --neur-ies 1 SEIGNIORY (sense 1) 2
in French Canada, through the mid-19th cent., the estate or manor
of a seigneur

seignior (sān'yōr, sān yōr') n. [ME *seignour* < Anglo-Fr < OFr
seignor < L *senior*: see SENIOR] 1 a lord or noble; specif., the lord of
a fee or manor 2 SEIGNEUR (sense 2)

seignior-age (sān'yōr ij) n. [ME *seignorage* < OFr < *seignior*: see
prec.] 1 something claimed or taken by a sovereign or other super-
ior as his or her just right or due 2 a government revenue that is
the difference between the face value of coins and the costs of their
mintage

seignior-ial or sei-gno-ri-al (sān yōr'ē əl) adj. of, relating to, or
characteristic of a seignior

seignior-y (sān'yōr ē) n., pl. --gnior-ies [ME *seignorie* < OFr] 1
the dominion or estate of a seignior 2 the rights or authority of a
feudal lord 3 a body of lords, esp. those of a medieval Italian
republic 4 SEIGNEURY (sense 2)

seine (sān) n. [ME *seyne* < OE *segne* < early WGmc borrowing < L
seguina < Gr *sagēnē* < IE base **tuak-*, to enclose tightly] a large
fishing net with floats along the top edge and weights along the
bottom —vt., vi. seined, sein'ing to fish with a seine —sein'er n.

Seine (sān; Fr *sen*) river in N France, flowing northwest through
Paris into the English Channel: 482 mi (776 km)

seize (sez) vt. seized, seis'-ing alt. sp. of SEIZE (sense 1)

seismic (sē'zīk, sis'-) adj. [← Gr *seismos*, earthquake < *seiein*, to
shake < IE base **twēi-*, to excite, shake, shock > Sans *twiṣ-*, to be

1299

seigno / selection

excited, sparkle] 1 of, having to do with, or caused by an earth-
quake or earthquakes or by man-made earth tremors 2 subject to
earthquakes —seis'-mi-cally adv.

seis-mic-ity (siz mis'ə tē, sis-) n. 1 the property or state of being
seismic 2 the frequency, intensity, etc. of earthquake activity in a
given region: also seismic activity

seismo- (siz'mā, -mō, sis'-) [← Gr *seismos*: see SEISMIC] combining
form earthquake [*seismogram*]

seis-mo-gram (siz'mə gram', sis'-) n. [prec. + -GRAM] the chart of
an earthquake as recorded by a seismograph

seis-mo-graph (-graf', -grāf') n. [SEISMO- + -GRAPH] an instru-
ment that records the intensity and duration of earthquakes and
similar tremors —seis-mog'-ra-pher (-māgrə for) n. —seis'-mo-
graph'ic adj. —seis-mog'-ra-phy n.

seis-mol-ogy (siz māl'ə jē, sis-) n. [SEISMO- + -LOGY] a geophysical
science dealing with earthquakes and related phenomena —seis'-
mo-log'ic (-mō lāj'ik) adj. or seis'-mo-log'ic-al —seis'-mo-log'ic-ally
adv. —seis-mol'o-gist n.

seis-mom-eter (-mām'ə tər) n. [SEISMO- + -METER] a seismograph,
esp. one that records actual earth movements —seis'-mo-met'-ric
(-mō me'trik) adj. or seis'-mo-met'-ric-al

seis-mo-scope (siz'mə skōp', sis'-) n. [SEISMO- + -SCOPE] an
instrument indicating only the occurrence and time of earthquakes
—seis'-mo-scop'ic (-skāp'ik) adj.

sei (whale) (sā) [Norw *seihval* < *sei*, coalfish + *hval*, whale: from
its arrival at fishing grounds with the coalfish] a porpoise (*Balaen-
optera borealis*) with a light-gray or bluish back, found in all seas

seize (sez) vt. seized, seiz'-ing [ME *saisen* < OFr *saisir* < ML
sacire, prob. < Frank **sahjan*, to lay claim to one's rights < IE base
**sag-* > SAKE!] 1 a) [Historical] to put in legal possession of a
feudal holding b) to put in legal possession of a particular thing;
assign ownership to (in the passive voice) [seized of the lands/ 2 a)
to take forcible legal possession of; confiscate /to seize contraband/
b) to capture and put into custody; arrest; apprehend /to seize a
criminal suspect/ 3 to take forcibly and quickly; grab /to seize
power/ 4 to take hold of suddenly or forcibly, with or as with the
hand; clutch 5 a) to suddenly penetrate, illumine, or fill the mind
of [an idea seized him/ b) to grasp with the mind, esp. in a sudden
or intuitive way [seized their intent/ 6 to take quick advantage of
(an opportunity, etc.) 7 to attack or afflict suddenly or severely
[seized with a fit of sneezing/ 8 *Naut.* to fasten together (ropes,
etc.), as by lashings; bind; lash —vi. to stick or jam, esp. because of
excessive heat or friction: said of a machine or its moving parts:
often with up —SYN. TAKE —seize on (or upon) 1 to take hold of
suddenly and forcibly 2 to take possession of 3 to turn eagerly to
(an idea, etc.) —seiz'-able adj. —seiz'er n.

sei-zin (sē'zin) n. [ME *seisine* < OFr *saisine* < *saisir*: see prec.] *Law*
legal possession, esp. of a freehold estate

seiz-ing (sez'ing) n. 1 SEIZURE (sense 1) 2 *Naut.* a) the act of bind-
ing or fastening together, as with lashings b) lashings used for
this c) a fastening made in this way

sei-zor (sē'zər, -zōr') n. [SEIZE] + -OR] *Law* a person who takes
possession of a freehold estate

sei-zure (sē'zhər) n. 1 a) the act of one who seizes, or an instance
of this b) the state or an instance of being seized 2 a sudden
attack, esp. of a disease such as epilepsy

se-jeant or se-jeant (sē'jənt) adj. [Anglo-Fr *seiant*, prp. of *seier*
(OFr *seoir*), to sit < L *sedere*, to SIT] *Heraldry* sitting erect with the
forepaws resting on the ground [a lion sejeant]

se-la-chian (si lā'kē ən) n. [← ModL *Selachii* < Gr *selachos*, carti-
laginous fish, akin to *selas*, light, gleam: from its phosphorescent
appearance: see SELENE] + -AN] any shark or ray —adj. of the
selachians

sela-gi-nella (sel'ə jī nel'ə) n. [ModL, dim. < L *selago* (gen.
selaginis), kind of plant] any of a genus (*Selaginella*) of small-
leaved lycopods, having two kinds of spores borne in cones at the
tips of the branches

se-lah (sē'lā, -lā; se lā') n. [Heb *selā*] a Hebrew word of unknown
meaning at the end of verses in the Psalms: perhaps a musical
direction, but traditionally interpreted as a blessing meaning "for-
ever"

Se-lan-gor (se lān'gōr) state of Malaysia, in SW Peninsular Malay-
sia: 3,072 sq mi (7,956 sq km); pop. 1,981,000

Selassie see HAILE SELASSIE

sel-dom (sel'dəm) adv. [ME *selden* < OE *seldan*, strange, rare,
often to Ger *selten* < Gmc base **selda-* < ? IE **selo-*: see SELF] not
often; rarely; infrequently —adj. rare; infrequently —self-dom-ness
n.

se-lect (sə lekt') adj. [L *selectus*, pp. of *seligere*, to choose, pick out
< *se-*, apart + *legere*, to choose: see LOGIC] 1 chosen in preference
to another or others; picked out, esp. for excellence or some special
quality; picked 2 choice; excellent; outstanding 3 careful in choos-
ing or selecting; fastidious 4 limited to certain people or groups;
exclusive —vt. to choose or pick out from among others, as for
excellence, desirability, etc. —vi. to make a selection; choose —sel-
ect'-ness n.

se-lectee (sə lekt'ē) n. a person inducted into the armed forces
under selective service

se-lec-tion (sə lek'tshən) n. [L *selectio*] 1 a selecting or being
selected 2 a) a person or thing chosen b) a group or collection of
these c) a variety from which to choose [a selection of colors/ 3
Biol. any process, natural or artificial, by which certain organisms

See the inside front cover for pronunciation information.
The symbol * is used to mark terms of American origin.