

The

AMERICAN
HERITAGE

dic·tion·ar·y

of

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



Words are included in this Dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. The inclusion of any word in this Dictionary is not, however, an expression of the Publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this Dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

American Heritage and the eagle logo are registered trademarks of Forbes Inc. Their use is pursuant to a license agreement with Forbes Inc.

Houghton Mifflin Company gratefully acknowledges Mead Data Central, Inc., providers of the LEXIS®/NEXIS® services, for its assistance in the preparation of this edition of *The American Heritage Dictionary*.

Copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company.
All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2 Park Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
The American heritage dictionary of the English language.
—3rd ed.

p. cm.
ISBN 0-395-44895-6
1. English language—Dictionaries.
PE1628.A623 1992
423—dc20

92-851
CIP

Manufactured in the United States of America

Ref
423
A513
1992

transition element n. Any of the metallic elements that have an incomplete inner electron shell and that serve as transitional links between the most and the least electropositive in a series of elements. They are characterized by multiple valences, colored compounds, and the ability to form stable complex ions.

transition metal n. A transition element.

transition region n. A zone in a seed plant where the vascular tissue of the root changes into the vascular tissue of the stem.

transitive (tranz'si-tiv, -zI-) adj. 1. Abbr. t., tr., trans. Grammar. Expressing an action that is carried from the subject to the object; requiring a direct object to complete meaning. Used of a verb or verb construction. 2. Characterized by or involving transition. —transitive n. Abbr. t., tr., trans. Grammar. A transitive verb. [Late Latin transitivus, passing over, from transitus, past participle of transire, to go over. See TRANSIENT.] —transitive-ly adv. —transitive-ness, tranz'si-tiv/i-ty n.

transit lounge n. A waiting room in an airport used typically by international travelers on layovers.

transitory (tranz'si-tor'ē, -tōr'ē, tranz'zI-) adj. Existing or lasting only a short time; short-lived or temporary: "the disorder of his life: the succession of cities, of transitory loves" (Carson McCullers). See Synonyms at transient. [Middle English transitorie, from Old French transitoire, from Late Latin transitōrius, from Latin, having a passageway, from transitus, passage. See TRANSIT.] —transitory-ly adv. —transitory-ness, tranz'si-tōr'i-ness n.

Transjordan (tranz'sjōr'dn, tranz'-). See Jordan. —Transjordanian (-jōr-dā'nē-ən) adj. & n.

Transkei (tranz-kā', -kī'). An internally self-governing Black African homeland in southeast South Africa on the Indian Ocean coast. It was designated a semi-autonomous territory in 1963 and granted nominal independence in 1976. Umtata is the capital. Population, 2,400,000. —Transkeian adj. & n.

transl. abbr. 1. Translated. 2. Translation.

translate (tranz-lāt', tranz-, tranz'lāt', tranz'-) v. -lat-ed, -lat-ing, -lates. —tr. 1. To render in another language. 2. a. To put into simpler terms; explain or interpret. b. To express in different words; paraphrase. 3. a. To change from one form, function, or state to another; convert or transform: translate ideas into reality. b. To express in another medium. 4. To transfer from one place or condition to another. 5. To forward or retransmit (a telegraphic message). 6. a. Ecclesiastical. To transfer (a bishop) to another see. b. Theology. To convey to heaven without death. 7. Physics. To subject (a body) to translation. 8. Biology. To subject (messenger RNA) to translation. 9. Archaic. To enrapture. —intr. 1. a. To make a translation. b. To work as a translator. 2. To admit of translation. 3. To be changed or transformed in effect. Often used with into or to: "Today's low inflation and steady growth in household income translate into more purchasing power" (Thomas G. Exter). [Middle English translaten, from Old French translater, from Latin translatūs, past participle of transferre, to transfer: trans-, trans- + lātus, brought; see tele- in Appendix.] —translat'a-bil/i-ty, translat'a-ble-ness n. —translat'a-ble adj.

translation (tranz-lā'shən, tranz-) n. Abbr. tr., trans., transl. 1. a. The act or process of translating, especially from one language into another. b. The state of being translated. 2. A translated version of a text. 3. Physics. Motion of a body in which every point of the body moves parallel to and the same distance as every other point of the body; nonrotational displacement. 4. Biology. The process by which messenger RNA directs the amino acid sequence of a growing polypeptide during protein synthesis. —translation-al adj.

translator (tranz-lā'tōr, tranz-, tranz'lā'tōr, tranz'-) n. Abbr. tr., trans. 1. One that translates, especially one employed to render written works into another language. 2. An interpreter. —translato'ri-al (-lā-tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'-) adj.

transliterate (tranz-lit'ə-rāt', tranz-) tr.v. -at-ed, -at-ing, -ates. To represent (letters or words) in the corresponding characters of another alphabet. [TRANS- + Latin littera, litera, letter + -ATE¹.] —transliterate-ation n.

translocate (tranz-lō'kāt', tranz-) tr.v. -cat-ed, -cat-ing, -cates. 1. To cause to change from one place or position to another; displace. 2. To transfer (a chromosomal segment) to a new position; cause to undergo translocation.

translocation (tranz'lō-kā'shən, tranz'-) n. 1. A change of location. 2. Genetics. a. A transfer of a chromosomal segment to a new position, especially on a nonhomologous chromosome. b. A chromosomal segment that is translocated.

translucent (tranz-lōō'sənt, tranz-) adj. 1. Transmitting light but causing sufficient diffusion to prevent perception of distinct images. 2. Clear; lucid. [Latin translucentēs, translucent-, present participle of translucentēre, to shine through: trans-, trans- + lucēre, to shine; see leuk- in Appendix.] —translucently adv.

translunar (tranz'lōō'nər, tranz'-, tranz-lōō'-, tranz-) adj. Extending beyond the moon or the moon's orbit around Earth.

transmarine (tranz'mā-rēn', tranz'-) adj. 1. Crossing the sea. 2. Beyond or coming from across the sea. [Latin transmarinus: trans-, trans- + marinus, of the sea; see MARINE.]

transmembrane (tranz-mēm'brān, tranz-) adj. Passing or

transmigrates. 2. One in transit through a country on the way to the country in which one intends to settle.

transmigrate (tranz-mī'grāt', tranz-) intr.v. -grat-ed, -grat-ing, -grates. 1. To migrate. 2. To pass into another body after death. Used of the soul. [Latin transmigrāre, transmigrāt-: trans-, trans- + migrāre, to migrate; see MIGRATE.] —transmigrator n. —transmigratory (-mī'grā-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) adj.

transmigration (tranz'mī-grā'shən, tranz'-) n. 1. The act or process of transmigrating. 2. The passing of a soul into another body after death; reincarnation. —transmigration-ism n.

transmissible (tranz-mis'ə-bəl, tranz-) adj. That can be transmitted: transmissible messages; transmissible signals. —transmissibility n.

transmission (tranz-mish'ən, tranz-) n. 1. a. The act or process of transmitting. b. The fact of being transmitted. 2. Something, such as a message, that is transmitted. 3. An automotive assembly of gears and associated parts by which power is transmitted from the engine to a driving axle. Also called gearbox. 4. The sending of a signal, picture, or other information from a transmitter. [Latin transmissiō, transmissiōn-, a sending across, from transmissus, past participle of transmittere, to transmit. See TRANSMIT.] —transmissive (-mīs'iv) adj.

transmissometer (tranz'mis-sōm'ē-tər, tranz'-) n. A device used to measure transmission of light through a medium. [TRANSMISS(ION) + -METER.] —transmissometry n.

transmit (tranz-mīt', tranz-) v. -mit-ted, -mit-ting, -mits, —tr. 1. To send from one person, thing, or place to another; convey. See Synonyms at send¹. 2. To cause to spread; pass on: transmit an infection. 3. To impart or convey to others by heredity or inheritance; hand down. 4. To pass along (news or information); communicate. 5. a. Electronics. To send (a signal), as by wire or radio. b. Physics. To cause (a disturbance) to propagate through a medium. 6. To convey (force or energy) from one part of a mechanism to another. —intr. To send out a signal. [Middle English transmitten, from Latin transmittere: trans-, trans- + mittere, to send.] —transmittable adj.

transmittal (tranz-mīt'l, tranz-) n. The act or process of transmitting; a transmission.

transmittance (tranz-mīt'nans, tranz-) n. 1. A transmission. 2. Physics. The ratio of the radiant energy transmitted to the total radiant energy incident on a given body.

transmitter (tranz-mīt'tər, tranz-) n. 1. One that transmits: a transmitter of disease; a transmitter of tall tales. 2. a. An electronic device that generates and amplifies a carrier wave, modulates it with a meaningful signal derived from speech or other sources, and radiates the resulting signal from an antenna. b. The portion of a telephone that converts the incident sounds into electrical impulses that are conveyed to a remote receiver. c. A telegraphic sending instrument.

transmitter-receiver (tranz-mīt'tər-rē-sē'vər, tranz-) n. An electronic device that both transmits and receives communications signals.

transmogri-fy (tranz-mōg'rī-fī', tranz-) tr.v. -fied (-fid'), -fy-ing, -fies (-fiz'). To change into a different shape or form, especially one that is fantastic or bizarre. See Synonyms at convert. [Origin unknown.] —transmogri-fication (-fī-kā'shən) n.

transmontane (tranz-mōn'tān', tranz-, tranz'mōn-tān', tranz'-) adj. Tramontane. [Latin transmontānus. See TRAMONTANE.]

transmundane (tranz'mūn-dān', tranz'-, tranz'mūn-dān', tranz-) adj. Existing or extending beyond the physical world.

transmutation (tranz-myōō-tā'shən, tranz'-) n. 1. a. The act or an instance of transmuting; transformation. b. The state of being transmuted. 2. Physics. Transformation of one element into another by one or a series of nuclear reactions. 3. The supposed conversion of base metals into gold or silver in alchemy. —transmutation-al, transmutive (-myōō'tā-tiv) adj.

transmute (tranz-myōō't', tranz-) v. -mut-ed, -mut-ing, -mutes. —tr. To change from one form, nature, substance, or state into another; transform: "the tendency to transmute what has become customary into what has been divinely ordained" (Suzanne LaFollette). See Synonyms at convert. —intr. To undergo transmutation. [Middle English transmūten, from Latin transmūtāre: trans-, trans- + mūtāre, to change; see mut-¹ in Appendix.] —transmutability, transmutive-ness n. —transmutably adv. —transmuter n.

transnational (tranz-nāsh'ə-nəl, tranz-) adj. 1. Reaching beyond or transcending national boundaries: "the transnational ramifications of terror networks" (Emanuel Litvinoff). 2. Relating to or involving several nations or nationalities: transnational organizations.

transoceanic (tranz'ō-shē-ān'ik, tranz'-) adj. 1. Situated beyond or on the other side of the ocean. 2. Spanning or crossing the ocean.

transom (tranz'səm) n. 1. a. A horizontal crosspiece over a door or between a door and a window above it. b. A small hinge window above a door or another window. 2. A horizontal dividing bar of wood or stone in a window. 3. A lintel. 4. Nautical. A bar of wood or stone in a window. 5. The sternpost of a



transom