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Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

A Merriam-Webster®

MERRIAM-WEBSTER INC., *Publishers*
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

Webster's ninth new collegiate dictionary.

Based on Webster's third new international dictionary.

Includes index.

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Merriam-Webster Inc.

PE1628.W5638 1987 423 86-23801

ISBN 0-87779-508-8

ISBN 0-87779-509-6 (indexed)

ISBN 0-87779-510-X (deluxe)

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cuss *vb* (1815): CURSE — **cuss-er** *n*
cuss-ed \ˈkʌs-əd/ *adj* (1840) 1: CURSED 2: OBSTINATE, CANTANKEROUS — **cuss-ed-ly** *adv*
cuss-ed-ness *n* (1857): disposition to willful perversity; OBSTINACY
cuss-word \ˈkʌs-wɜrd/ *n* (1872) 1: SWEARWORD 2: a term of abuse: a derogatory term
custard \ˈkʌs-tərd/ *n* [ME, a kind of pie, prob. fr. Prov. *croustado* pie shell — more at CROUSTADE] (1628): a pudding-like usu. sweetened mixture made of eggs and milk
custard apple (1657) 1 a: any of several chiefly tropical American soft-fleshed edible fruits b: any of a genus (*Annona* of the family Annonaceae, the custard-apple family) of trees or shrubs bearing this fruit; esp.: a small West Indian tree (*A. reticulata*) 2: PAPAWA 2
cus-to-di-an \ˌkʌs-tōd-ē-ən/ *adj* (1772): relating to guardianship; *specif*: marked by or given to watching and protecting rather than seeking to cure (~ care)
cus-to-di-an \ˌkʌs-tōd-ē-ən/ *n* (1781): one that guards and protects or maintains; esp.: one entrusted with guarding and keeping property or records or with custody or guardianship of prisoners or inmates — **cus-to-di-an-ship** \-ˌʃɪp/ *n*
cus-to-dy \ˈkʌs-təd-ē/ *n, pl -dies* [ME *custodie*, fr. L *custodia* guarding, fr. *custod-*, *custos* guardian] (15c): immediate charge and control (as over a ward or a suspect) exercised by a person or an authority: SAFEGUARDING
cus-tom \ˈkʌs-təm/ *n* [ME *custume*, fr. OF, fr. L *consuetudin-*, *consuetudo*, fr. *consuetus*, pp. of *consuescere* to accustom, fr. *com-* + *suescere* to accustom; akin to *suus* one's own — more at SUICIDE] (13c) 1 a: a usage or practice common to many or to a particular place or class or habitual with an individual b: long-established practice considered as unwritten law c: repeated practice d: the whole body of usages, practices, or conventions that regulate social life 2 *pl*: a: duties, tolls, or imposts imposed by the sovereign law of a country on imports or exports b *usu sing in constr*: the agency, establishment, or procedure for collecting such customs 3 a: business patronage b: usu. habitual patrons: CUSTOMERS *syn* see HABIT
cus-tom-er (1830) 1: made or performed according to personal order 2: specializing in custom work or operation (a ~ tailor)
cus-tom-ary \ˈkʌs-tə-mer-ē/ *adj* (1600) 1: based on or established by custom 2: commonly practiced, used, or observed *syn* see USUAL
cus-tom-ari-ly \ˌkʌs-tə-mer-ē-lē/ *adv* — **cus-tom-ari-ness** \ˈkʌs-tə-mer-ē-nəs/ *n*
cus-tom-built \ˌkʌs-təm-ˈbɪlt/ *adj* (1925): built to individual specifications
cus-tom-er \ˈkʌs-tə-mər/ *n* [ME *custumer*, fr. *cusume*] (15c) 1: one that purchases a commodity or service 2: an individual usu. having some specified distinctive trait (a real tough ~)
cus-tom-house \ˈkʌs-təm-ˈhaʊs/ *also* **cus-toms-house** \-təmz-/ *n* (15c): a building where customs and duties are paid or collected and where vessels are entered and cleared
cus-tom-ize \ˈkʌs-tə-maɪz/ *vt -ized; -iz-ing* (1926): to build, fit, or alter according to individual specifications — **cus-tom-iz-er** *n*
cus-tom-made \ˌkʌs-təm-ˈmæd/ *adj* (1855): made to individual specifications
cus-tom-tail-or \-ˈtɑ-lər/ *vt* (1895): to alter, plan, or build according to individual specifications or needs
cut \kʌt/ *vb cut; cut-ting* [ME *cutten*] *vt* (13c) 1 a: to penetrate with or as if with an edged instrument b: to hurt the feelings of c: to strike sharply with a cutting effect d: to strike (a ball) with a glancing blow that imparts a reverse spin e: to experience the growth of (a tooth) through the gum 2 a: TRIM, PARE (~ one's nails) b: to shorten by omissions c: DISSOLVE, DILUTE, ADULTERATE d: to reduce in amount (~ costs) 3 a: MOW, REAP b (1): to divide into parts with an edged tool (~ bread) (2): FELL, HEW c (1): to separate or discharge from an organization; DETACH (2): to single out and isolate (~ a calf out from the herd) d: to change the direction of sharply e: to go or pass around or about 4 a: to divide into segments b: INTERSECT, CROSS c: BREAK, INTERRUPT (~ cut supply lines) d (1): to divide (a deck of cards) into two portions (2): to draw (a card) from the deck e: to divide into shares; SPLIT 5 a: STOP, CEASE (~ the nonsense) b: to refuse to recognize (an acquaintance): OSTRACIZE c: to absent oneself from (as a class) d: to stop (a motor) by opening a switch e: to stop the filming of (a motion-picture scene) 6 a: to make by or as if by cutting; as (1): CARVE (~ stone) (2): to shape by grinding (~ a diamond) (3): ENGRAVE (4): to shear or hollow out b: to record sounds (as speech or music) on (a phonograph record) c: to type on a stencil 7 a: to engage in (a frolicsome or mischievous action) (on summer nights strange capers are ~ under the thin guise of a Christian festival — D. C. Peattie) (in his sixty-seventh year with a heart that ~ didoes — H. R. Warfel) b: to give the appearance or impression of (~ a fine figure) 8: to be able to manage or handle a situation — usu. used in negative constructions (can't ~ that kind of work anymore) ~ *vi* 1 a: to function as or as if as an edged tool b: to undergo incision or severance (cheese ~s easily) c: to perform the operation of dividing, severing, incising, or intersecting d: to make a stroke with a whip, sword, or other weapon e: to wound feelings or sensibilities f: to cause constriction or chafing g: to be of effect, influence, or significance (an analysis that ~s deep) 2 a (1): to divide a pack of cards esp. in order to decide the deal or settle a bet (2): to draw a card from the pack b: to divide spoils; SPLIT 3 a: to proceed obliquely from a straight course (~ across the yard) b: to move swiftly (a yacht cutting through the water) c: to describe an oblique or diagonal line d: to change sharply in direction: SWERVE e: to make an abrupt transition from one sound or image to another in motion pictures, radio, or television 4: to stop photographing motion pictures — **cut corners**: to perform some action in the quickest, easiest, or cheapest way — **cut ice**: to be of importance — usu. used in negative constructions — **cut it**: to cut the mustard **cut the mustard**: to achieve the standard of performance necessary for success
cut *n* (14c) 1: something that is cut or cut off; as a: a length of cloth varying from 40 to 100 yards b: the yield of products cut esp. during one harvest c: a segment or section of a meat carcass or a part of one d: a group of animals selected from a herd e: SHARE (took

his ~ of the profits) 2: a product of cutting; as a: a creek, channel, or inlet made by excavation or worn by natural action b (1): an opening made with an edged instrument (2): a wound made by something sharp: GASH c: a surface or outline left by cutting d: a passage cut as a roadway e: a grade or step esp. in a social scale (a ~ above the ordinary) f: a subset of a set such that when it is subtracted from the set the remainder is not connected g: a pictorial illustration h: BAND 7 3: the act or an instance of cutting; as a: a gesture or expression that hurts the feelings (made an unkind ~) b: a straight passage or course c: a stroke or blow with the edge of a knife or other edged tool d: a lash with or as if with a whip e: the act of reducing or removing a part (a ~ in pay) f: an act or turn of cutting cards; also: the result of cutting 4: a voluntary absence from a class 5 a: a stroke that cuts a ball; also: the spin imparted by such a stroke b: a swing by a batter at a pitched baseball c: an exchange of captures in checkers 6: an abrupt transition from one sound or image to another in motion pictures, radio, or television 7 a: the shape and style in which a thing is cut, formed, or made (clothes of the latest ~) b: PATTERN, TYPE c: HAIRCUT — **cut of one's job**: APPEARANCE, STYLE
cut-a-bil-i-ty \kət-ə-ˈbɪl-ətē/ *n* (1965): the proportion of lean salable meat yielded by a carcass
cut-and-dried \kət-ə-ˈdriəd/ *also* **cut-and-dry** \-ˈdri/ *adj* (1710): being or done according to a plan, set procedure, or formula: ROUTINE
cut-and-try \kət-ə-ˈtri/ *adj* (1903): marked by experimental procedure: EMPIRICAL
cu-ta-ne-ous \kyū-tā-ne-əs/ *adj* [NL *cutaneus*, fr. L *cutis* skin — more at HIDE] (1578): of, relating to, or affecting the skin — **cu-ta-ne-ous-ly** *adv*
cut-away \kət-ə-ˈwaɪ/ *adj* (1841): having or showing parts cut away
cut-away (1849) 1: a coat with skirts tapering from the front waistline to form tails at the back 2 a: a cutaway picture or representation b: a shot that interrupts the main action of a film or television program to take up a related subject or to depict action supposed to be going on at the same time as the main action 3: a back dive in which the head is lowered toward the board after the takeoff
cut-back \kət-ˈbæk/ *n* (1897) 1: something cut back 2: REDUCTION
cut-back \kət-ˈbæk/ *vt* (1871): to shorten by cutting: PRUNE ~ *vi*: to interrupt the sequence of a plot (as of a movie) by introducing events prior to those last presented
cutch \kʌtʃ/ *n* [modif. of Malay *kachu*] (1617): CAIECHUA
cut-down *vt* (1821) 1 a: to remodel by removing extras or unwanted furnishings and fittings b: to remake in a smaller size 2 a: to strike down and kill or incapacitate b: KNOCK DOWN ~ *vi*: to reduce or curtail volume or activity (**cut down** on his smoking) — **cut down to size**: to reduce from an inflated or exaggerated importance to true or suitable stature
cute \kyüt/ *adj cut-er; cut-est* [short for *acute*] (1731) 1: CLEVER, SHREWD 2: attractive or pretty esp. in a dainty or delicate way 3: obviously straining for effect — **cute-ly** *adv* — **cute-ness** *n*
cute-sy \kyüt-sē/ *adj* **cute-si-er; -est** [cute + -sy (as in *folksy*)] (1914): self-consciously cute: MANNERED
cut glass (1800): glass ornamented with patterns cut into its surface by an abrasive wheel and polished
cut-grass \kət-ˈgras/ *n* (1840): a grass (esp. genus *Leersia*) with minute hooked bristles along the edges of the leaf blade
cut-i-cle \kyüt-ikəl/ *n* [L *cuticula*, dim. of *cutis* skin — more at HIDE] (1615) 1: SKIN, PELLEICIA as a: an external investment secreted usu. by epidermal cells b: the outermost layer of animal integument (as in man) when composed of epidermis c: a thin continuous fatty film on the external surface of many higher plants 2: dead or horny epidermis — **cut-i-cu-lar** \kyüt-ik-ya-lər/ *adj*
cut-ie or cut-ey \kyüt-ē/ *n, pl cut-ies or cut-eyes* [cute + -ie] (1768): an attractive person; esp.: a pretty girl
cut-in \kyüt-ən/ *n* [ISV, fr. L *cutis*] (ca. 1863): an insoluble mixture containing waxes, fatty acids, soaps, and resinous material that forms a continuous layer on the outer epidermal wall of a plant
cut-in \kət-ɪn/ *n* (1883): something cut in — **cut-in** *adj*
cut in \kət-ɪn/ *vt* (1612) 1: to thrust oneself into a position between others or belonging to another 2: to join in something suddenly (**cut in** on the conversation) 3: to interrupt a dancing couple and take one as one's partner 4: to become automatically connected or started in operation ~ *vt* 1: to mix with cutting motions (after sifting the flour into a mixing bowl, **cut the lard in**) 2: to introduce into a number, group, or sequence 3: to connect into an electrical circuit to a mechanical apparatus so as to permit operation 4: to include esp. among those benefiting or favored (**cut them in** on the profits)
cut-in-ized \kyüt-ɪn-ɪzd/ *adj* (1901): infiltrated with cutin (~ epidermal cells)
cut-is \kyüt-əs/ *n, pl cut-tes \kyüt-tēz/ *or* **cut-tis-es** [L] (1603): DERMIS
cut-las *also* **cut-las** \kət-las/ *n* [MF *couleas*, aug. of *couel* knife, fr. L *cutellus*, dim. of *cutler* knife, plowshare] (1594) 1: a short curving sword formerly used by sailors on warships 2: MACHETE
cut-ler \kət-lər/ *n* [ME, fr. MF *coutelier*, fr. LL *cutellarius*, fr. L *cutellus*] (15c): one who makes, deals in, or repairs cutlery
cut-ler-y \kət-lər-ē/ *n* (15c) 1: the business of a cutler 2: edged or cutting tools; *specif*: implements for cutting and eating food
cut-let \kət-lət/ *n* [F *côtelette*, fr. OF *costelette*, dim. of *coste* rib, side, fr. L *costa* — more at COAST] (ca. 1706) 1: a small slice of meat for broiling or frying (a veal ~) 2: a flat croquette of chopped meat or fish
cut-line \kət-ˈlɪn/ *n* (1943): CAPTION, LEGEND
cut-off \kət-ɔf/ *n* (1741) 1: the act or action of cutting off 2 a: the new and relatively short channel formed when a stream cuts through the neck of an oxbow b: SHORTCUT c: a channel made to straighten a stream 3: a device for cutting off 4 a: something cut off b *pl*: shorts orig. made from jeans with the legs cut off at the knees or higher 5: the point, date, or period for a cutoff — **cutoff** *adj*
cut off \kət-ɔf/ *vt* (14c) 1: to bring to an untimely end 2: to stop the passage of 3: SHUT OFF, BAR 4: DISCONTINUE, TERMINATE 5: SEPARATE, ISOLATE 6: DISINHIBIT 7 a: to stop the operation of: TURN OFF b: to stop or interrupt while in communication (the operator **cut me off**) ~ *vi*: to cease operating
cut-out \kət-ˈaʊt/ *n* (1851) 1: something cut out or off from something else 2: one that cuts out — **cutout** *adj**

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