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Eleventh Edition

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Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



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house-keep-er \ˈhau-keɪ-pər/ *n* (1607) **1**: one employed to manage the domestic duties involved in maintaining a house **2**: HOUSEWIFE **1**
housekeeping *n* (1550) **1**: the management of a house and home affairs **2**: the care and management of property and the provision of equipment and services (as for an industrial organization) **3**: the routine tasks that must be done in order for a system to function or to function efficiently
house-sel \ˈhau-zəl/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *hūs* sacrifice, Eucharist; akin to Goth *hūs* sacrifice] (bef. 12c) *archaic*: the Eucharist or the act of administering or receiving it
house-plant \ˈhauz-plɑnt/ *n* (14c) *archaic*: to administer communion to a pink-flowered thick-leaved European plant (*Sempervivum tectorum*) of the orpine family that tends to form clusters of rosettes and is often grown in rock gardens; *broadly*: SEMPERVIVUM
house-lights \ˈhauz-lɪts/ *n* *pl* (1920): the lights that illuminate the auditorium of a theater
house-maid \ˈhauz-mād/ *n* (ca. 1694): a girl or woman who is a servant employed to do housework
housemaid's knee *n* [fr. its occurrence among women who work a great deal on their knees] (1831): a swelling over the knee due to an enlargement of the bursa in the front of the patella
house-man \ˈhauz-mən, -mæn/ *n* (1920): a person who performs general work about a house or hotel
house-master \-ˈmas-tər/ *n* (1884): a master in charge of a house in a boy's boarding school
house-mate \ˈhauz-māt/ *n* (ca. 1810): a person who lives in the same house with another
house-moist-er \ˈhauz-mɔɪst-ər/ *n* (1882): a woman acting as hostess, chaperone, and often housekeeper in a group residence
house mouse *n* (1577): a common nearly cosmopolitan grayish-brown mouse (*Mus musculus*) that usu. lives and breeds about buildings, may act as a vector of diseases, and is an important laboratory animal
house of assembly (1653): a legislative body or the lower house of a legislature (as in various British colonies, protectorates, and countries of the Commonwealth of Nations)
House of Burgesses (1658): the colonial representative assembly of Virginia
house of cards (1645): a structure, situation, or institution that is insubstantial, shaky, or in constant danger of collapse
House of Commons (1621): the lower house of the British and Canadian parliaments
house of correction (ca. 1576): a penal institution for persons convicted of a minor offense and considered capable of reformation
house of delegates (1783): HOUSE 6a; *esp*: the lower house of the state legislature in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia
House of Lords (1643): the upper house of the British Parliament composed of the lords temporal and spiritual
house of representatives (1716): the lower house of a legislative body (as the U.S. Congress)
house of studies (1929): an educational institution serving scholars of a religious order — called also *house of study*
house organ *n* (1907): a periodical distributed by a business concern among its employees, sales personnel, or customers
house-paint-er \ˈhauz-pānt-ər/ *n* (1688): one whose business or occupation is painting houses
house-par-ent \ˈper-ənt/ *n* (1944): an adult in charge of a dormitory, hall, hostel, or group residence
house party *n* (1876): a party lasting over one or more nights at a residence (as a home or fraternity house)
house-per-son \ˈhauz-pərs-ən/ *n* (1974): a person who does house-keeping
house-plant \ˈhauz-plɑnt/ *n* (1871): a plant grown or kept indoors
house-proud \ˈhauz-praʊd/ *adj* (1849) *chiefly Brit*: proud of one's house or housekeeping
house-er \ˈhau-zər/ *n* (1940): one that promotes or administers housing projects
house-rais-ing \ˈhauz-rāz-ɪŋ/ *n* (1704): the joint erection of a house or its framework by a gathering of neighbors
house-room \-rʊm, -rʊm/ *n* (1582): space for accommodation in or as if in a house (given ~ by a family all too eager to have a celebrity in their midst — Walter Kerr)
house rule *n* (1947): a rule (as in a game) that applies only among a certain group or in a certain place
house seat *n* (1948): a theater seat reserved by the management for a special guest
house sitter *n* (1966): a person who occupies a dwelling to provide security and maintenance while the tenant is away — **house-sit** \ˈhau(s)-sɪt/ *vi* — **house-sit-ting** \-sɪ-tɪŋ/ *n*
house sparrow *n* (1674): a sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) native to Eurasia that has been introduced worldwide and is found esp. in urban and agricultural areas — called also *English sparrow*
house-to-house \ˈhauz-tə-ˈhauz/ *adj* (1859): going or done by going from one building to the next (~ fighting)
house-top \ˈhauz-tɒp/ *n* (1526) *ROOF*; *esp*: the level surface of a flat roof — **from the housetops**: for all to hear; **OPENLY** (shouting their grievances from the housetops)
house trailer *n* (1937): MOBILE HOME
house-train \ˈhauz-trān/ *vi* (1924) *chiefly Brit*: HOUSEBREAK
house-wares \ˈhauz-werz/ *n* *pl* (1898): furnishings for a house; *esp*: small articles of household equipment (as cooking utensils)
house-warm-ing \ˈhauz-wɔrm-ɪŋ/ *n* (1577): a party to celebrate the taking possession of a house or premises
house-wife \ˈhauz-wɪf/ *esp* **2** & in *early poetry* \ˈhə-zɪf or -sɪf/ *n*, *pl* **house-wives** \ˈhauz-wɪvz/ *also* \ˈhauz-wɪvz; -zɪvz, -sɪvz, -sɪvz/ (13c) **1**: a married woman in charge of a household **2**: a pocket-size container for small articles (as thread) — **house-wife-li-ness** \-lɪ-nəs/ *n* — **house-wife-ly** \-lɪ/ *adv* — **house-wif-ery** \-wɪ-f(ə)-rɪ/; *Brit* \-wɪ-f(ə)-rɪ/ *also* \-zə-rɪ/ *n* — **house-wif-ey** \ˈhauz-wɪ-f(ə)-i/ *adj*
house-work \ˈhauz-wɜrk/ *n* (1835): the work of housekeeping
housing *n* (14c) **1 a**: SHELTER, LODGING **b**: dwellings provided for people **2 a**: a niche for a sculpture **b**: the space taken out of a structural member (as a timber) to admit the insertion of part of another

er 3: something that covers or protects; as **a**: a case or enclosure (as for a mechanical part or an instrument) **b**: a casing (as an enclosed bearing) in which a shaft revolves **c**: a support (as a frame) for mechanical parts
2 housing *n* [ME, fr. *house* housing (fr. AF *huce*, *houce*, of Gmc origin) + *-ing*; akin to MHG *hulft* covering] (15c): CAPARISON **1**
housing development *n* (1951): a group of individual dwellings or apartment houses typically of similar design that are usu. built and sold or leased by one management
housing estate *n* (1920) *Brit*: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
housing project *n* (ca. 1937): a publicly supported and administered housing development planned usu. for low-income families
Hou-yhn-hnm \ˈhwi-nəm, hū-ˈnəm/ *n* (1726): a member of a race of horses endowed with reason in Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*
HOV *abbr* high-occupancy vehicle
hove past and past part of HEAVE
hov-el \ˈhə-vəl, ˈhā-əl/ *n* [ME] (15c) **1**: an open shed or shelter **2**: TABERNACLE **3**: a small, wretched, and often dirty house; **HUT**
hov-er \ˈhə-vər, ˈhā-ər/ *vi* **hov-ered**; **hov-er-ing** \-v(ə)-rɪŋ/ [ME *hovern*, freq. of *hoven* to hover] (15c) **1 a**: to hang fluttering in the air or to move to and fro near a place; fluctuate around a given point (unemployment ~ed around 10 percent) **b**: to be in a state of uncertainty, irresolution, or suspense — **hover** *n* — **hov-er-er** \-vər-ər/ *n*
hov-er-craft \-vər-kraft/ *n* (1959): a vehicle that is supported above the surface of land or water by a cushion of air produced by downwardly directed fans
hov-er-fly \ˈhə-vər-ˌflɪ, ˈhā-əl/ *n* (1881): any of a family (Syrphidae) of dipteran flies that are noted for frequenting flowers and hovering at one place in the air and include some whose larvae prey on plant lice — called also *syrphid fly*
1 how \ˈhau/ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *hū*; akin to OHG *hwa* how, OE *hwa* who — more at WHO] (bef. 12c) **1 a**: in what manner or way **b**: for what reason; **WHY** **c**: with what meaning; to what effect **d**: by what name or title **2**: to what degree or extent **3**: in what state or condition (~ are you) **4**: at what price (~ a score of ewes now — Shak.) — **how about**: what do you say to or think of (*how about it, are you going?*) — **how come**: how does it happen that; **WHY**
2 how *conj* (bef. 12c) **1 a**: the way or manner in which (remember ~ they fought); **also**: the state or condition in which **b**: THAT (told them ~ he had a situation — Charles Dickens) **2**: **HOWEVER**, AS (a reader can shift his attention ~ he likes — William Empson)
3 how *n* (1533) **1**: a question about manner or method **2**: MANNER, METHOD
4 how-be-it \ˈhau-ˈbɛ-ət/ *conj* (14c): ALTHOUGH
5 howbelt *adv* (15c): NEVERTHELESS
how-dah \ˈhau-də/ *n* [Hindi & Urdu *hauda*, fr. Ar *hawdaj*] (1774): a seat or covered pavilion on the back of an elephant or camel
how-dy \ˈhau-dɪ/ *interj* [alter. of *how do ye*] (1712) — used to express greeting — **howdy** *vb*
howe \ˈhəʊ/ *n* [ME (northern) *holl* hollow place, fr. OE *hol*, fr. *hol*, *adj*, hollow — more at HOLE] (bef. 12c) *Scot*: HOLLOW, VALLEY
how-ev-er \ˈhau-ˈe-vər/ *conj* (14c) **1**: in whatever manner or way that (~ will help ~ I can) **2** *archaic*: ALTHOUGH
2 however *adv* (14c) **1 a**: in whatever manner or way (shall serve you, sir, truly, ~ else — Shak.) **b**: to whatever degree or extent (has done this for ~ many thousands of years — Emma Hawkrige) **2**: in spite of that; on the other hand (still seems possible, ~, that conditions will improve) (would like to go; ~, I think I'd better not) **3**: how in the world (~ did you manage to do it)
howff or howf \ˈhəʊf, ˈhɒf/ *n* [D *hof* enclosure; akin to OE *hof* enclosure, and perh. to *hufil* hill] (1711) *Scot*: HAUNT, RESORT
how-it-zer \ˈhau-ɪt-sər/ *n* [D *houwtiser*, ultim. fr. Czech *houfnice* ballista] (1695): a short cannon used to fire projectiles at medium muzzle velocities and with relatively high trajectories
howl \ˈhəʊl/ *vb* [ME *houlen*; akin to MHG *hulden* to howl] *vi* (14c) **1**: to emit a loud sustained doleful sound characteristic of members of the dog family **2**: to cry out loudly and without restraint under strong impulse (as pain, grief, or amusement) **3**: to go on a spree or rampage ~ *vt* **1**: to utter with unrestrained outcry **2**: to drown out or cause to fail by adverse outcry — used esp. with *down* — **howl** *n*
howl-er \ˈhəʊl-ər/ *n* (1800) **1 a**: HOWLER MONKEY **b**: one that howls **2**: a humorous and ridiculous blunder
howler monkey *n* (1932): any of a genus (*Alouatta*) of So. and Central American monkeys that have a long prehensile tail and enlargement of the hyoid and laryngeal apparatus enabling them to make loud howling noises
how-ing \ˈhəʊ-ɪŋ/ *adj* (1599) **1**: producing or marked by a sound resembling a howl (a ~ storm) **2**: DESOLATE, WILD (a ~ wilderness) **3**: very great; PRONOUNCED (a ~ success) — **how-ing-ly** *adv*
how-so-ev-er \ˈhəʊ-sə-ˈwe-vər, -sə-ˈe-əl/ *adv* (14c) **1**: in whatever manner **2**: to whatever degree or extent
1 how-to \ˈhəʊ-ˈtu/ *adj* (1926): giving practical instruction and advice (as on a craft) (~ books on all sorts of hobbies — Harry Mill)
2 how-to *n* (1954): a practical method or instruction (the ~s of balancing a checkbook); **also**: something (as a book) that provides such instruction
1 hoy \ˈhɔɪ/ *interj* [ME] (14c) — used in attracting attention or in driving animals
2 hoy *n* [ME, fr. MD *hoer*] (15c) **1**: a small u.s. sloop-rigged coasting ship **2**: a heavy barge for bulky cargo



howdah

\ə/ abut \ˈkɪt/ kitten, F table \ɔr/ further \ə/ ash \ə/ acc \ə/ mop, mar
 \ə/ out \tʃ/ chin \e/ bet \e/ easy \g/ go \h/ hit \i/ ice \j/ job
 \j/ sing \l/ go \l/ law \dɪ/ boy \θ/ thin \tʃ/ the \l/ loot \l/ foot
 \j/ yet \z/ vision, beige \k, ɔ, e, w, ʌ/ see Guide to Pronunciation