



Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

Merriam-Webster™ is the name you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 2001 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Philippines Copyright 2001 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

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

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — 10th ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-87779-708-0 (unindexed : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-709-9

(indexed : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-710-2 (deluxe indexed : alk. paper).

— ISBN 0-87779-707-2 (laminated cover, unindexed).

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

PE1628.M36 1998

423—dc21

97-41846

CIP

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, Tenth Edition principal copyright 1993

COLLEGIATE is a registered trademark of Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

313233RT:WC01

rotary \rō-tō-rē\ *adj* [ML *rotarius*, fr. L *rota* wheel] (ca. 1731) **1 a**: turning on an axis like a wheel **b**: taking place about an axis (< motion) **2**: having an important part that turns on an axis (< cutter) **3**: characterized by rotation **4**: of, relating to, or being a press in which paper is printed by rotation in contact with a curved printing surface attached to a cylinder
rotary n, pl -ries (ca. 1888) **1**: a rotary machine **2**: a road junction formed around a central circle about which traffic moves in one direction only — called also *circle*, *traffic circle*
rotary cultivator n (1926): ROTOTILLER
rotary engine n (1837) **1**: any of various engines (as a turbine) in which power is applied to vanes or similar parts constrained to move in a circular path **2**: a radial engine in which the cylinders revolve about a stationary crankshaft
rotary-wing aircraft n (1935): ROTORCRAFT; *specif*: HELICOPTER — usu. used in pl.
rotate \rō-tāt\ *adj* [L *rota*] (1785): having the parts flat and spreading or radiating like the spokes of a wheel (< blue flowers)
rotate \rō-tāt\ *esp Brit* \rō-tā\ *vb* **ro-tat-ed**; **ro-tat-ing** [L *rotatus*, pp. of *rotare*, fr. *rota* wheel — more at ROLL] **1**: to turn about an axis or a center: REVOLVE; *esp*: to move in such a way that all particles follow circles with a common angular velocity about a common axis **2 a**: to perform an act, function, or operation in turn **b**: to pass or alternate in a series ~ *vt* **1 a**: to cause to turn or move about an axis or a center **b**: to cause (a plane region or line) to sweep out a volume or surface by moving around an axis so that each of its points remains at a constant distance from the axis (< generate a torus by rotating a circle about an external line) **2**: to cause to grow in rotation (< crops) **3**: to cause to pass or act in a series: ALTERNATE **4**: to exchange (individuals or units) with others — **ro-tat-a-ble** \rō-tā-tā-bal\ *also* \rō-tā\ *adj*
rotation \rō-tā-shən\ *n* (1555) **1 a** (1): the action or process of rotating on or as if on an axis or center (2): the act or an instance of rotating something **b**: one complete turn: the angular displacement required to return a rotating body or figure to its original orientation **2 a**: return or succession in a series (< of the seasons) **b**: the growing of different crops in succession in one field usu. in a regular sequence **3**: the turning of a body part about its long axis as if on a pivot **4**: a game of pool in which all 15 object balls are shot in numerical order **5**: the series of pitchers on a baseball team who regularly start successive games in turn — **ro-ta-tion-al** \rō-tā-ti-vəl\ *adj*
rotative \rō-tā-tiv\ *also* \rō-tā\ *adj* (1778) **1**: turning like a wheel: ROTARY **2**: to rotate, occurring in, or characterized by rotation — **ro-ta-tive-ly** *adv*
rotator \rō-tā-tōr\ *also* \rō-tā\ *n* (1676): one that rotates or causes rotation; *esp*, *pl -tors or -tores* \rō-tā-tōr-ēz, -tōr-\: a muscle that partially rotates a part on its axis
rotator cuff n (1961): a supporting and strengthening structure of the shoulder joint that is made up of the capsule of the shoulder joint blended with tendons and muscles as they pass to the capsule or across it to insert on the head of the humerus
rotatory \rō-tā-tōr-ē-, -tōr-\ *Brit* \-(ə)-ri\ *also* \rō-tā-tā-ri\ *adj* (1755) **1**: of, relating to, or producing rotation **2**: occurring in rotation
rotavirus \rō-tā-vī-rəs\ *n* [NL, fr. L *rota* wheel + NL *virus*] (1974): any of a genus (*Rotavirus*) of reoviruses that have a capsid composed of two layers and that cause diarrhea in vertebrates including humans
rote \rōt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *hrozza* crowd] (14c): *CROWD **1**
rote n [ME] (14c) **1**: the use of memory usu. with little intelligence (< learn by ~) **2**: routine or repetition carried out mechanically or unthinkingly (< a joyless sense of order, ~, and commercial hustle — L. L. King)
rote adj (1641) **1**: learned or memorized by rote **2**: MECHANICAL **3a** **rote n** [perh. of Scand origin; akin to ON *rauta* to roar — more at ROUR] (1610): the noise of surf on the shore
rote-none \rō-tə-nōn\ *n* [SV, fr. Jp *roten derris* plant] (1924): a crystalline insecticide C₂₃H₂₂O₆ that is obtained from the roots of several tropical plants (as a derris) and is of low toxicity for warm-blooded animals and is used esp. in home gardens
rot-gut \rōt-gət\ *n* (1633): cheap or inferior liquor
roti \rō-tē\ *n* [Hind *rotī* bread; akin to Skt *rotika*, kind of bread] (1920): a round soft flat unleavened bread; *also*: such a bread wrapped around a filling and eaten as a sandwich
rotifer \rō-tī-fər\ *n* [ultim. fr. L *rota* + *-fer*] (1793): any of a class (*Rotifera* of the phylum Aschelminthes) of minute usu. microscopic but many-celled chiefly freshwater aquatic invertebrates having the anterior end modified into a retractile disk bearing circles of strong cilia that often give the appearance of rapidly revolving wheels
rotisserie \rō-tī-sē-ri-, -tī-sā-\ *n* [F *rotisserie*, fr. MF *rotisserie*, fr. *rostr* to roast — more at ROAST] (ca. 1920) **1**: a restaurant specializing in broiled and barbecued meats **2**: an appliance fitted with a spit on which food is rotated before or over a source of heat
roto \rō-tō\, *n, pl rotos* (1926): ROTOGRAVURE
rotogravure \rō-tō-grāv-yū-rē\ *n* [G *Rotogravur*, blend of L *rota* wheel and G *Photogravur* photogravure] (1913) **1**: PHOTOGRAVURE **2**: a section of a newspaper devoted to rotogravure pictures
rotor \rō-tər\ *n* [contr. of *rotator*] (1903) **1 a**: a part that revolves in a stationary part **b**: the rotating member of an electrical machine **2**: a complete system of horizontal rotating blades that supplies lift for a rotorcraft
rotorcraft \-krɑft\ *n, pl rotorcraft* (1940): an aircraft (as a helicopter) whose lift is derived principally from rotating airfoils
roto-till \rō-tō-tīl\ *vt* [back-formation fr. *rototiller*] (1939): to till or plow (soil) with a rototiller
roto-tiller \rō-tō-tī-lər\ *n* [fr. *Rototiller*, a trademark] (1923): a landscaping implement with engine-powered rotating blades used to lift and turn over soil
rotten \rō-tən\ *adj* [ME *rotten*, fr. ON *rotinn*; akin to OE *rotian* to rot] (13c) **1**: having rotted: PUTRID **2**: morally corrupt **3**: extremely unpleasant or inferior (a ~ day) (a ~ job) **4**: very uncomfortable (feeling ~) **5**: of very poor quality: LOUSY, AROMINABLE (a ~ show) (what ~ luck) — **rot-ten-ly** *adv* — **rot-ten-ness** \-tən-nəs\ *n*
rotten adv (1880): to an extreme degree (spotted ~)
rotten borough n (1812): an election district that has many fewer inhabitants than other election districts with the same voting power

rot-ten-stone \rō-tən-stōn\ *n* (1677): a decomposed siliceous limestone used for polishing
rot-ter \rō-tər\ *n* (1894): a thoroughly objectionable person
rottweiler \rōt-wī-lər, -rōt-wī-\ *n*, *of-ten cap* [G, fr. *Rottweil*, city in Germany] (1907): any of a breed of tall powerful black-and-tan short-haired dogs of German origin that are commonly used as guard dogs
rotund \rō-tənd-, rō-ā\ *adj* [L *rotundus*, prob. alter. of (assumed) OL *rotundus*; akin to L *rota* wheel — more at ROLL] (1705) **1**: marked by roundness: ROUNDED **2**: marked by fullness of sound or cadence: OROTUND, SONOROUS (a master of ~ phrase) **3**: notably plump: CHUBBY — **ro-tund-ly** \rō-tənd-lē\ *adv* — **ro-tund-ness** \rō-tənd(n)-nəs, -rō-\ *n*
rotunda \rō-tənd-ədə\ *n* [It *rotonda*, fr. L *rotunda*, fem. of *rotundus*] (ca. 1700) **1**: a round building; *esp*: one covered by a dome **2 a**: a large round room **b**: a large central area (as in a hotel)
rotu-ri-er \rō-tūr-ē-ā-, -tūr-\ *n* [MF] (1586): a person not of noble birth
rouble *var* of RUBLE
roué \rō-ā\ *n* [F, lit., broken on the wheel, fr. pp. of *rouer* to break on the wheel, fr. ML *rotare*, fr. L, to rotate; fr. the feeling that such a person deserves this punishment] (1800): a man devoted to a life of sensual pleasure: RAKE
rouge \rōzh-, *esp Southern* \rōj-\ *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *rouge* red, fr. L *rufescere* to be red, fr. *rufus* (1753) **1**: any of various cosmetics for coloring the cheeks or lips red **2**: a red powder consisting essentially of ferric oxide used in polishing glass, metal, or gems and as a pigment
rouge vb **rouged**; **roug-ing** *vt* (1777) **1**: to apply rouge to **2**: to cause to redden ~ *vi*: to use rouge
rough \rɑf\ *adj* **rough-er**; **rough-est** [ME, fr. OE *rih*; akin to OHG *rih* rough, Lith *rukus* wrinkle] (bef. 12c) **1 a**: marked by inequalities, ridges, or projections on the surface: COARSE **b**: covered with or made up of coarse and often shaggy hair (*rough-coated* collier) — compare SMOOTH, WIREHAIRD *e* (1): having a broken, uneven, or bumpy surface (< terrain) (2) difficult to travel through or penetrate: WILD (< into the woods — B. B. Shelley) **2 a**: TURBULENT, TEMPESTUOUS (< seas) **b (1): characterized by harshness, violence, or force (2): presenting a challenge: DIFFICULT (< to deal with — M. McAlmon) **3**: coarse or rugged in character or appearance: *esp*: harsh to the ear **b**: crude in style or expression *e*: INDELICATE **4**: marked by a lack of refinement or grace: UNCOULTED **4 a**: CRUDE, UNFINISHED (< carpentry) **b**: executed or ventured hastily, tentatively, or imperfectly (a ~ draft) (< estimate); *also*: APPROXIMATE (< this gives a ~ idea) — **rough-ish** \rō-fī-sh\ *adj* — **rough-ness** \rōf-nəs\ *n*
syn ROUGH, HARSH, UNEVEN, RUGGED, SCABROUS (mean not smooth or even. ROUGH implies points, bristles, ridges, or projections on the surface (< a rough wooden board). HARSH implies a surface or texture distinctly unpleasant to the touch (< a harsh fabric that chafes the skin). UNEVEN implies a lack of uniformity in height, breadth, or quality (an old house with uneven floors). RUGGED implies irregularity or roughness of land surface and connotes difficulty of travel (< a rugged landscape). SCABROUS implies sealiness or prickliness of surface (< scabrous leaf). *syn* see in addition RUDE
rough adv (14c): ROUGHLY **1**
rough n (15c) **1**: uneven ground covered with high grass, brush, and stones; *specif*: such ground bordering a golf fairway **2**: the rugged or disagreeable side or aspect (hiking-camping admirers of nature in the ~ — Eleanor Stirling) **3 a**: something in a crude, unfinished, or preliminary state **b**: broad outline: general terms (< the question ~ has been discussed in ~ — *Manchester Guardian Weekly*) *e*: a loose preliminary drawing or layout **4**: ROWDY
rough vt (1763) **1**: ROUGHEN **2 a**: to subject to abuse: MANAGE, DLE, BEAT — usu. used with *up* **b**: to subject to unnecessary and intentional violence in a sport **3**: to talk or otherwise roughen up (a horse's shoes) to prevent slipping **4 a**: to shape, make, or draw up the rough or preliminary way **b**: to indicate the chief lines of the structure of a building) — **rough-er** *n* — **rough it**: to live under harsh or primitive conditions
roughage \rō-fij-\ *n* (ca. 1900): FIBER *ld*; *also*: food containing much indigestible material acting as fiber
rough-and-ready \rō-fən-rē-dē\ *adj* (1810): crude in nature, method, or manner but effective in action or use
rough-and-tumble \-təm-bəl\ *n* (1792): rough disorderly unstrained fighting or struggling; *also*: INFIGHTING
rough-and-tumble adj (1832) **1**: marked by rough-and-tumble (grew up in a ~ atmosphere — E. J. Kahn); *also*: ROUGH-AND-READY **2**: put together haphazardly: MAKESHIFT (a ~ fence)
rough bluegrass n (ca. 1925): a forage grass (*Poa trivialis*) of Europe and northern Africa that is naturalized in No. America
rough breathing n (1899) **1**: a mark used in Greek over some vowels to show that they are aspirated or over *ρ* to show that it is aspirated **2**: the sound indicated by a mark over a Greek vowel or *ρ* less **3**: the sound indicated by a mark over a Greek vowel or *ρ* less
rough-cast \rɑf-kɑst, for 2 *also* -kɑst\ *vt* -*cast*; -*cast-ing* (1565) **1**: plaster (as a wall) with roughcast **2**: to shape or form roughly
rough-cast \-kɑst\ *n* (1579) **1**: a rough mode of covering buildings **2**: a rough surface finish (as of a plaster wall)
rough cut n (1937): a print of an incompletely edited motion picture
rough-dry \rɑf-dri-\ *vt* (1837): to dry (laundry) without smoothing or ironing
rough-dry adj (1856): being dry after laundering but not smoothed or ironed
rough-en \rō-fən-\ *vb* **rough-ened**; **rough-en-ing** \rō-fən-ŋ-\ *n* (1582) **1**: to make rough or rougher (her hands were ~) — Ellen Glasgow) ~ *vt*: to become rough**



rottweiler