

# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

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**en-cae-nia** \en-'sē-nyā\ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr.*, often *cap* [NL, fr. L. dedication festival, fr. Gk *enkainia*, fr. *en* + *kainos* new — more at RECENT] (1691) : an annual university ceremony (as at Oxford) of commemoration with recital of poems and essays and conferring of degrees

**en-cage** \in-'kāj, en-\ *v* (1592) : CAGE 1

**en-camp** \in-'kæmp, en-\ *v* (1563) : to set up or occupy a camp ~ *vt* : to place or establish in a camp

**en-camp-ment** \-mɒnt\ *n* (1598) **1 a** : the place where a group (as a body of troops) is encamped **b** : the individuals that make up an encampment **2** : the act of encamping : the state of being encamped

**en-cap-su-late** \in-'kæp-sə-'lāt, en-\ *vb* -**lat-ed**; -**lat-ing** *vt* (1872) **1** : to enclose in or as if in a capsule (a pilot *encapsulated* in the cockpit) **2** : EPTOMIZE, SUMMARIZE (< an era in an aphorism) ~ *vi* : to become encapsulated — **en-cap-su-la-tion** \-kæp-sə-'lā-shən\ *n*

**encapsulated** *adj* (1894) **1** : surrounded by a gelatinous or membranous envelope (< water bacteria) **2** : CONDENSED

**en-cap-sule** \in-'kæp-səl, -(s)jəl, en-\ *v* -**suled**; -**sul-ing** (1877) : ENCAPSULATE

**en-case** \in-'kās, en-\ *v* (1633) : to enclose in or as if in a case

**en-case-ment** \in-'kās-smənt, en-\ *n* (1741) : the act or process of enclosing : the state of being enclosed; also : CASE, COVERING

**en-cash** \in-'kæʃ, en-\ *v* (1861) *Brit* : CASH — **en-cash-able** \-'kæʃ-ə-bəl\ *adj*, chiefly *Brit* — **en-cash-ment** \-mənt\ *n*, chiefly *Brit*

**en-caus-tic** \in-'kō-stik\ *n* [*encaustic*, *adj.*, fr. L. *encausticus*, fr. Gk *enkautistikos*, fr. *enkautin* to burn in, fr. *en* + *kautin* to burn] (1601) : a paint made from pigment mixed with melted beeswax and resin and after application fixed by heat; also : the method involving the use of encaustic or a work produced by this method — **encaustic** *adj*

**-ence** *n* suffix [ME, fr. AF, fr. L. *-entia*, fr. *-ent*, *-ens*, *prp.* ending + *-ia* -y] **1** : action or process (< emergence) : instance of an action or process (< reference) **2** : quality or state (< despondence)

**en-ceinte** \ā'n-(n)'sant\ *adj* [F, perh. fr. VL \**incenta*, alter. of L *incient*, *inciens* being with young, modif. of Gk *enkynos* pregnant, fr. *en* + *kynos* to be pregnant — more at CYME] (1602) : PREGNANT 4

**enceinte** *n* [F, fr. OF, enclosing wall, fr. *enceindre* to surround, fr. L. *incingere*, fr. *in* + *cingere* to gird — more at CINCTURE] (ca. 1708) : a line of fortification enclosing a castle or town; also : the area so enclosed

**encephal-** or **encephalo-** *comb form* [F *encephal-*, fr. Gk *enkephal-*, fr. *enkephalos*, fr. *en* + *kephalē* head — more at CEPHALIC] : brain (< *encephalitis*) (< *encephalomyocarditis*)

**en-ceph-a-li-tis** \in-'se-fə-'li-təs\ *n*, *pl* -**li-ti-des** \-'li-tə-'dēz\ (1843) : inflammation of the brain — **en-ceph-a-li-tic** \-'li-tik\ *adj*

**en-ceph-a-li-to-gen-ic** \-'li-tə-'jē-nik\ *adj* (1923) : tending to cause encephalitis (< an ~ virus) — **en-ceph-a-li-to-gen** \-'li-tə-'jən, -jən\ *n*

**en-ceph-a-lo-gram** \in-'se-fə-'lə-'grəm\ *n* (1928) : an X-ray picture of the brain made by encephalography

**en-ceph-a-lo-graph** \-'grəf\ *n* (1928) **1** : ENCEPHALOGRAPH **2** : ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPH

**en-ceph-a-log-ra-phy** \in-'se-fə-'lā-'grə-fē\ *n* (1922) : radiography of the brain after the cerebrospinal fluid has been replaced by a gas (as air)

**en-ceph-a-lo-my-eli-tis** \in-'se-fə-'lō-'mi-'li-təs\ *n*, *pl* -**eli-ti-des** \-'li-tə-'dēz\ [NL] (1908) : concurrent inflammation of the brain and spinal cord; *specif* : EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS

**en-ceph-a-lo-my-o-car-di-tis** \-'mi-'ō-'kār-'di-təs\ *n* [NL] (1947) : an acute febrile disease esp. of swine and some nonhuman primates caused by a picornavirus (species *Encephalomyocarditis virus* of the genus *Cardiovirus*) and marked by degeneration and inflammation of skeletal and cardiac muscle and lesions of the central nervous system

**en-ceph-a-lon** \in-'se-fə-'lān, -lən\ *n*, *pl* -**la** \-'lā\ [NL, fr. Gk *enkephalos*] (1741) : the vertebrate brain

**en-ceph-a-lo-p-a-thy** \in-'se-fə-'lā-'pə-'thē\ *n*, *pl* -**thies** (1866) : a disease of the brain; *esp* : one involving alterations of brain structure — **en-ceph-a-lo-path-ic** \-'lā-'pə-'thik\ *adj*

**en-chain** \in-'tʃān\ *v* [ME *encheynen*, fr. AF *enchaener*, fr. *en* + *chaene* chain] (14c) : to bind or hold with or as if with chains — **en-chain-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

**en-chant** \in-'tʃənt, en-\ *v* [ME, fr. AF *enchanter*, fr. L. *incantare*, fr. *in* + *cantare* to sing — more at CHANT] (14c) **1** : to influence by or as if by charms and incantation : BEWITCH **2** : to attract and move deeply : rouse to ecstatic admiration (< the scene ~ed her to the point of tears — Elinor Wylie) *syn* see ATTRACT

**en-chant-er** *n* (13c) : one that enchants; *esp* : SORCERER

**en-chant-ing** *adj* (1593) : CHARMING (< an ~ smile) — **en-chant-ing-ly** *adv*

**en-chant-ment** \in-'tʃənt-mənt, en-\ *n* (13c) **1 a** : the act or art of enchanting **b** : the quality or state of being enchanted **2** : something that enchants (< the ~s of sailing)

**en-chant-ress** \in-'tʃən-trəs, en-\ *n* (14c) **1** : a woman who practices magic : SORCERESS **2** : a fascinating or beautiful woman

**en-chase** \in-'tʃās\ *v* [ME, to emboss, fr. AF *enchaeser* to set (gems), fr. *en* + *case*, *chase* case, box, shrine, fr. L. *capsa* case — more at CASE] (15c) **1** : ORNAMENT; as **a** : to cut or carve in relief **b** : INLAY **2** : SET (< a gem)

**en-chi-la-da** \en-'tʃə-'lā-də\ *n* [AmerSp, fr. fem. of *enchilado*, *pp.* of *enchilar* to season with chili, fr. Sp *en* + *chile* chili] (1887) **1** : a usu. corn tortilla rolled around a savory mixture, covered with chili sauce, and usu. baked **2** : SCHMEAR, BALL OF WAX (< the whole ~)

**en-chi-rid-i-on** \en-'ki-'ri-'dē-ən, -ki-'i\ *n*, *pl* -**rid-ia** \-'dē-ə\ [LL, fr. Gk *encheiridion*, fr. *en* + *cheir* hand — more at IN, CHIR-] (15c) : HANDBOOK, MANUAL

**-enchyma** *n* *comb form*, *pl* -**enchymata** or -**enchymas** [NL, fr. *parenchyma*] : cellular tissue (< *collenchyma*)

**en-ci-pher** \in-'si-fər, en-\ *v* (1577) : to convert (a message) into cipher

**en-ci-pher-er** \-fər-ər\ *n* — **en-ci-pher-ment** \-fər-mənt\ *n*

**en-cir-cle** \in-'sɜr-'kəl, en-\ *v* [ME *enserclen*] (15c) **1** : to form a circle around : SURROUND **2** : to pass completely around — **en-cir-cle-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

**en-clear** \ā'n-'klier\ *adv* or *adj* [F, in clear] (ca. 1897) : in plain language (< a message sent *en clair*)

**en-clasp** \in-'klæsp, en-\ *v* (1584) : to seize and hold : EMBRACE

**en-clave** \en-'klāv, 'ān-'klāv\ *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *enclaver* to enclose, fr. VL \**inclavare* to lock up, fr. L *in* + *clavis* key — more at CLAVICLE] (1868) : a distinct territorial, cultural, or social unit enclosed within or as if within foreign territory (< ethnic ~s)

**en-clit-ic** \en-'kli-tik\ *n* [LL *encliticus*, fr. Gk *enklitikos*, fr. *enklīnēsthai* to lean on, fr. *en* + *klīnēin* to lean — more at LEAN] (ca. 1663) : a clitic that is associated with a preceding word — **enclitic** *adj*

**en-close** \in-'klōz, en-\ *also* **in-close** \in-\ *v* [ME, prob. fr. *enclos* enclosed, fr. AF, *pp.* of *enclore* to enclose, fr. VL \**includere*, alter. of L *includere* — more at INCLUDE] (14c) **1 a** (1) : to close in : SURROUND (< a porch with glass) (2) : to fence off (common land) for individual use **b** : to hold in : CONFINE **2** : to include along with something else in a parcel or envelope (< a check is *enclosed* herewith)

**en-clo-sure** \in-'klō-zhər, en-\ *also* **in-clo-sure** \in-\ *n* (15c) **1** : the act or action of enclosing : the quality or state of being enclosed **2** : something that encloses **3** : something enclosed (< a letter with two ~s)

**en-code** \in-'kōd, en-\ *v* (ca. 1919) **1 a** : to convert (as a body of information) from one system of communication into another; *esp* : to convert (a message) into code **b** : to convey symbolically (< the capacity of poetry to ~ ideology — J. D. Niles) **2** : to specify the genetic code for — **en-cod-er** *n*

**en-co-mi-ast** \en-'kō-mē-'ast, -mē-'ast\ *n* [Gk *enkōmiastēs*, fr. *enkōmiazēin* to praise, fr. *enkōmion*] (1599) : one that praises : ENCOMI-AST — **en-co-mi-as-tic** \-'kō-mē-'as-tik\ *adj*

**en-co-mi-um** \en-'kō-mē-'əm\ *n*, *pl* -**mi-ums** *also* -**mia** \-mē-'ə\ [L, fr. Gk *enkōmion*, fr. *en* in + *kōmos* revel, celebration] (1567) : glowing and warmly enthusiastic praise; also : an expression of this

*syn* ENCOMIUM, EULOGY, PANEGRYIC, TRIBUTE, CITATION mean a formal expression of praise. ENCOMIUM implies enthusiasm and warmth in praising a person or a thing (< received *encomiums* from literary critics). EULOGY applies to a prepared speech or writing extolling the virtues and services of a person (< delivered the *eulogy* at the funeral service). PANEGRYIC suggests an elaborate often poetic compliment (< her lyrical memoir was a *panegyric* to her mentor). TRIBUTE implies deeply felt praise conveyed either through words or through a significant act (< the concert was a musical *tribute* to the early jazz masters). CITATION applies to the formal praise of a person offered in a military dispatch or in awarding an honorary degree (< earned a *citation* for bravery).

**en-com-pass** \in-'kəm-pəs, en-\ *also* -'kām-\ *v* [ME] (14c) **1 a** : to form a circle about : ENCLOSE **b obs** : to go completely around **2 a** : ENVELOP **b** : INCLUDE, COMPREHEND (a plan that ~es a number of aims) **3** : BRING ABOUT, ACCOMPLISH (< a task) — **en-com-pass-ment** \-pə-smənt\ *n*

**en-core** \ān-'kōr\ *n* [F, still, again] (1712) **1** : a demand for repetition or reappearance made by an audience **2 a** : a reappearance or additional performance demanded by an audience **b** : a second achievement that surpasses the first — **en-core** *vb*

**en-coun-ter** \in-'kaun-tər, en-\ *vb* **en-coun-tered**; **en-coun-ter-ing** \-'kaun-tə-'rɪŋ\ [ME *encountren*, fr. AF *encunter*, fr. ML *incontrare*, fr. LL *incontra* toward, fr. L *in* + *contra* against — more at COUNTER] *v* (14c) **1 a** : to meet as an adversary or enemy **b** : to engage in conflict with **2** : to come upon face-to-face **3** : to come upon or experience esp. unexpectedly (< ~ difficulties) ~ *vi* : to meet esp. by chance

**2 encounter** *n* (14c) **1** : a meeting between hostile factions or persons : a sudden often violent clash (< an ~ between the police and demonstrators) **2 a** : a chance meeting (< an accidental ~) **b** : a particular kind of meeting or experience with another person (< a romantic ~) **3** : a coming into the vicinity of a celestial body (< the Martian ~ of a spacecraft)

**encounter group** *n* (1967) : a usu. unstructured group that seeks to develop the capacity of the individual to express feelings and to form emotional ties by unrestrained confrontation of individuals

**en-cour-age** \in-'kər-ij, -'kə-rɪj, en-\ *v* -**aged**; -**ag-ing** [ME *encouragen*, fr. AF *encorager*, fr. *en* + *curage* courage] (15c) **1 a** : to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope : HEARTEN (< she was *encouraged* to continue by her early success) **b** : to attempt to persuade : URGE (< *encouraged* him to go back to school) **2** : to spur on : STIMULATE (< warm weather ~s plant growth) **3** : to give help or patronage to : FOSTER (< government grants designed to ~ conservation) — **en-cour-age-er** *n*

*syn* ENCOURAGE, INSPIRIT, HEARTEN, EMBOLDEN mean to fill with courage or strength of purpose. ENCOURAGE suggests the raising of one's confidence esp. by an external agency (< the teacher's praise *encouraged* the students to greater efforts). INSPIRIT, somewhat literary, implies instilling life, energy, courage, or vigor into something (< patriots *inspired* the people to resist). HEARTEN implies the lifting of dispiritedness or despondency by an infusion of fresh courage or zeal (< a hospital patient *heartened* by good news). EMBOLDEN implies the giving of courage sufficient to overcome timidity or reluctance (< *emboldened* by her first success, she tried an even more difficult climb).

**en-cour-age-ment** \-ij-mənt, -rɪj-\ *n* (1549) **1** : the act of encouraging : the state of being encouraged **2** : something that encourages

**en-cour-ag-ing** \-i-jɪŋ, -rɪ-jɪŋ\ *adj* (1593) : giving hope or promise (< news) — **en-cour-ag-ing-ly** \-jɪŋ-lē\ *adv*

**en-crim-son** \in-'krɪm-zən\ *v* (1597) : to make or dye crimson

**en-croach** \in-'krōch, en-\ *v* [ME *encrochen* to get, seize, fr. AF *encrocher*, fr. *en* + *croc*, *croche* hook — more at CROCHET] (1528) **1** : to enter by gradual steps or by stealth into the possessions or rights of another **2** : to advance beyond the usual or proper limits (< the gradually ~ing sea) *syn* see TRESPASS — **en-croach-er** *n* — **en-croach-ment** \-'krōch-mənt\ *n*

**en-crust** *also* **in-crust** \in-'krast, in-\ *vb* [prob. fr. L. *incrustare*, fr. *in* + *crusta* crust] *v* (1596) : to cover, line, or overlay with or as if with a crust ~ *vi* : to form a crust

**encrustation** *var* of INCRUSTATION

**en-crypt** \in-'kript, en-\ *v* [*en* + *crypt-* (as in *cryptogram*)] (1944) **1** : ENCRYPTER **2** : ENCODE 1a — **en-crypt-tion** \-'krip-shən\ *n*

**en-cul-tur-a-tion** \in-'kəl-'tʃə-'rā-shən, -(j)en-\ *n* (1948) : the process by which an individual learns the traditional content of a culture and assimilates its practices and values — **en-cul-tur-ate** \-'kəl-'tʃə-'rāt\ *vb*

**en-cum-ber** \in-'kəm-bər\ *v* -**cum-bered**; -**cum-ber-ing** \-b(ə)-rɪŋ\ [ME *encumbren*, fr. AF *encumbren*, fr. *en* + MF *combre* dam, weir] (14c) **1** : WEIGH DOWN, BURDEN (< tourists ~ed by heavy luggage) **2**