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ISBN-13: 978-0-618-83595-9
ISBN-10: 0-618-83595-4

Visit our website: www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com

The American Heritage college dictionary.-- 4th ed.
p.cm.

Based on the fourth ed. of the American Heritage dictionary.

ISBN 0-618-09848-8 (thumb edge) --

ISBN 0-618-19604-8 (deluxe binding)

1. English language--Dictionaries. 2. Americanisms. I
Houghton Mifflin Company. II. American Heritage
dictionary.

PE1628 .A6227 2002
423--dc21

2001039826

Manufactured in the United States of America

stewing, often served with horseradish. [Yiddish < Ger., pl. of *Flanke*, flank, side < Fr. *flanc* < OFr. See FLANK.]

flank•er (flāng'kər) *n.* 1. One that flanks, esp. a soldier positioned to protect the flank of a column of troops. 2. *Football* A flankerback.

flank•er•back (flāng'kər-bāk') *n.* *Football* A halfback stationed just behind the line of scrimmage and slightly wide of the formation, used chiefly as a pass receiver.

flan•nel (flān'əl) *n.* 1. A soft woven cloth of wool or a blend of wool and cotton or synthetics. 2. **flannels** *a.* Outer clothing, esp. trousers, made of this cloth. *b.* Underclothing made of this cloth. 3. Flannelette. [ME, a woolen cloth or garment, perh. var. of *flannyn*, sackcloth, prob. < OFr. *flaine*, a coarse wool.]

flannel cake *n.* See pancake.

flan•nel•ette (flān'ə-lēt') *n.* A soft cotton fabric with a nap.

flannel leaf *n.* See mullein.

Flan•ner (flān'ər), **Janet** Pen name GenEt. 1892–1978. Amer. journalist who was Paris correspondent for *The New Yorker* (1925–75).

flap (flāp) *n.* 1. A flat, usu. thin piece attached at one side. 2. A projecting or hanging piece usu. intended to double over and protect or cover: the flap of an envelope. 3a. The act of waving or fluttering. *b.* The sound produced by this motion. 4. A blow given with something flat; a slap. 5. A control surface on the trailing edge of an aircraft wing, used primarily to increase lift or drag. 6. Either of the folded ends of a book jacket that fit inside the front and back covers. 7. *Medicine* Partially detached tissue used in surgical grafting or in covering the end of a bone after amputation. 8. *Linguistics* A sound articulated by a single, quick touch of the tongue against the teeth or alveolar ridge, as (t) in *water*. 9. *Informal* A commotion or disturbance. ♦ *v.* **flapped**, **flap•ping**, **flaps** —*tr.* 1. To wave (the arms, for example) up and down. 2. To cause to move or sway with a fluttering or waving motion. 3. To hit with something broad and flat; slap. 4. *Informal* To fling down; toss. —*intr.* 1. To move or sway while fixed at one edge or corner; flutter. 2. To wave arms or wings up and down. 3. To fly by beating the air with the wings. 4. *Informal* To become upset or flustered. [ME *flappe*, slap.]

flap•doo•dle also **flap•doo•dle** (flāp'dōō'dl) *n.* *Slang* Foolish talk; nonsense. [?]

flap•er•on (flāp'ə-rōn') *n.* A control surface on an aircraft wing functioning both as a flap and as an aileron. [FLAP + (AIL)ERON.]

flap•jack (flāp'jāk') *n.* See pancake.

flap•pa•ble (flāp'ə-bal) *adj.* *Informal* Easily excited or upset.

flap•per (flāp'ər) *n.* 1. A broad flexible part, such as a flipper. 2. A young woman, esp. one in the 1920s who showed disdain for convention. [Sense 2, Brit. slang, very young female prostitute, flapper, poss. < *flapper*, fledgling partridge or duck (< FLAP), or < dialectal *flap*, loose or flighty girl.]

flare (flār) *v.* **flared**, **flar•ing**, **flares** —*intr.* 1. To flame up with a bright wavering light. 2. To burst into intense sudden flame. 3a. To erupt or intensify suddenly: *Tempers flared*. *b.* To become suddenly angry. Used with *up*. *c.* To make a sudden angry verbal attack. Used with *out*. 4. To expand or open outward in shape: *with nostrils flaring*. —*tr.* 1. To cause to flame up. 2. To signal with a blaze of light. ♦ *n.* 1. A brief wavering blaze of light. 2. A device that produces a bright light for signaling, illumination, or identification. 3. An outbreak, as of emotion or activity. 4. An expanding or opening outward. 5. An unwanted reflection within an optical system or the resultant fogging of the image. 6. A solar flare. 7a. *Football* A quick pass to a back running toward the sideline. *b.* *Baseball* A fly ball hit a short distance into the outfield. 8. *Medicine* An area of redness on the skin surrounding the primary site of infection or irritation. [?]

flare•back (flār'bāk') *n.* 1. A flame produced in the breech of a gun by ignition of residual gases. 2. A burst of something aimed back at its origin; a backfire.

flare•up (flār'ŭp') *n.* 1. A sudden outbreak of flame or light. 2. An outburst or eruption: a flare-up of anger. 3. A recurrence or an intensification: a flare-up of rheumatism.

flash (flāsh) *v.* **flashed**, **flash•ing**, **flash•es** —*intr.* 1. To burst forth into or as if into flame. 2. To give off light or be lighted in sudden or intermittent bursts. 3. To appear or occur suddenly. 4. To move or proceed rapidly. 5. To hang up a phone line momentarily, as when using call waiting. 6. *Slang* To think of or remember something suddenly. 7. *Slang* To expose oneself in an indecent manner. —*tr.* 1a. To cause (light) to appear suddenly or in intermittent bursts. *b.* To cause to burst into flame. *c.* To reflect (light). *d.* To cause to reflect light from (a surface). 2. To make known or signal by flashing lights. 3. To communicate or display at great speed. 4. To exhibit briefly. 5. To hang up (a phone line) momentarily, as when using call waiting. 6. To display ostentatiously; flaunt. 7. To fill suddenly with water. 8. To cover with a thin protective layer. ♦ *n.* 1. A sudden, brief, intense display of light. 2. A sudden perception. 3. A split second; an instant. 4. A brief news dispatch or transmission. 5. *Slang* Gaudy or ostenta-

tiously or very quickly: *flash freezing*. 2. *Slang* Ostentatious; showy. 3. Of or relating to figures of quarterly economic growth released by the government and subject to later revision. 4. Of or relating to photography using instantaneous illumination. 5. Of or relating to thieves, swindlers, and underworld figures. —*idiom*: **flash in the pan** One that promises great success but fails. [ME *flashen*, to splash, var. of *flasken*, of imit. orig.]

flash•back (flāsh'bāk') *n.* 1a. A literary or cinematic device in which an earlier event is inserted into a narrative. *b.* The episode or scene depicted by means of this device. 2. An unexpected recurrence of the effects of a hallucinogenic drug after its original use. 3. *Psychology* A recurring, intensely vivid mental image of a past traumatic experience.

flash•board (flāsh'bōrd', -bōrd') *n.* A board or structure of boards extending above a dam to increase its capacity.

flash•bulb or **flash bulb** (flāsh'bŭlb') *n.* A glass bulb filled with aluminum or magnesium foil that is ignited to produce a short-duration high-intensity light flash for photography.

flash burn *n.* A burn resulting from brief exposure to intense radiation.

flash butt welding *n.* A technique for joining metal rail or pipe in which an electric current melts and welds the ends of the metal, yielding a strong smooth joint.

flash•card also **flash•card** (flāsh'kārd') *n.* A card printed with words or numbers and briefly displayed in a learning drill.

flash•cube (flāsh'kyŭb') *n.* A cube with four flashbulbs that attaches to a camera and rotates to an unused bulb when a picture is taken.

flash•er (flāsh'ər) *n.* 1. A device that automatically switches an electric lamp off and on, as in a commercial display sign. 2. *Slang* One who engages in indecent exposure.

flash flood also **flash•flood** (flāsh'flŭd') *n.* A sudden flood of great volume, usu. caused by a heavy rain.

flash•for•ward (flāsh'fōr'wōrd') *n.* 1. A literary or cinematic device in which a future event is inserted into the narrative. 2. The episode or scene depicted by means of this device.

flash•gun (flāsh'gŭn') *n.* A dry-cell powered photographic apparatus that holds and electrically triggers a flashbulb.

flash•ing (flāsh'ing) *n.* Sheet metal used to reinforce and weatherproof the joints and angles of a roof.

flash lamp *n.* An electric lamp for producing a high-intensity light of very short duration for use in photography.

flash•light (flāsh'līt') *n.* 1. A small portable lamp usu. powered by batteries. 2. A brief brilliant flood of light from a photographic lamp. 3. A bright light that flashes regularly.

flash memory *n.* A type of computer memory that retains its data when the power is turned off.

flash•o•ver (flāsh'ō'vər) *n.* 1. An unintended electric arc, as between two conductors. 2. The temperature at which all flammable material in an area will ignite simultaneously.

flash point also **flash•point** (flāsh'pōint') *n.* 1. The lowest temperature at which the vapor of a combustible liquid can be made to ignite momentarily. 2. The point at which eruption into significant action, creation, or violence occurs.

flash•tube also **flash tube** (flāsh'tŭb') *n.* A gas discharge tube that emits a brief intense flash of light.

flash unit *n.* 1. An electronic flash system containing both a power supply and a flashtube in a single compact unit. 2a. See flashgun. *b.* A flashgun and reflector.

flash welding *n.* See flash butt welding.

flash•y (flāsh'ē) *adj.* -i•er, -i•est 1. Cheap and showy; gaudy. 2. Giving a momentary or superficial impression of brilliance. —**flash'i•ly** *adv.* —**flash'i•ness** *n.*

flask (flāsk) *n.* 1. A small container having a narrow neck and usu. a cap, esp.: *a.* A flat, relatively thin container for liquor. *b.* A container for carrying gunpowder or shot. *c.* A vial or round long-necked vessel for laboratory use. 2. A frame for holding a sand mold in a foundry. [ME, cask, keg < OFr. *flasque* < LLat. *flascō*, of Gmc. orig.]

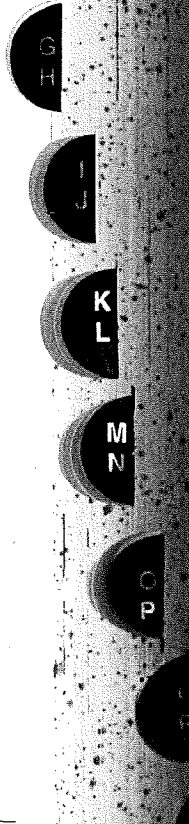
flat (flāt) *adj.* **flat•ter**, **flat•test** 1. Having a horizontal surface without a slope, tilt, or curvature. 2. Having a smooth, even, level surface: *flat seams in the skirt*. 3. Having a relatively broad surface in relation to thickness or depth. 4. Stretched out or lying at full length along the ground; prone. 5. Free of qualification; absolute. 6. Fixed; unvarying: *a flat rate*. 7. Lacking interest or excitement; dull. 8a. Lacking in flavor. *b.* Having lost effervescence or sparkle. 9a. Deflated. Used of a tire. *b.* Electrically discharged. Used of a storage battery. 10. Of or relating to a horizontal line that displays no ups or downs and signifies the absence of physiological activity. 11. Commercially inactive; sluggish. 12. Unmodulated; monotonous: *a flat voice*. 13. Lacking variety in tint or shading; uniform. 14. Not glossy; mat: *flat paint*. 15. *Music* *a.* Being below the correct pitch. *b.* Being one half step lower than the corresponding natural key: *the key of B flat*. 16. Being the vowel *a* as pronounced in *bad* or *cat*. 17. *Nautical* Having the edges pulled tight. Used of a sail. ♦ *adv.* 1a. Level with the

flanker

flat¹



flamingo
Phoenicopterus ruber



ă pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about,
ō paw	item