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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

—  —
Eleventh Edition

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ELEVENTH
EDITION



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Nd *symbol* neodymium

ND *abbr* 1 doctor of naturopathy 2 North Dakota
-nd *symbol* — used after the figure 2 to indicate the ordinal number *second* <2nd> <2nd>

NDak *abbr* North Dakota

NDE *abbr* near-death experience

NDP *abbr* New Democratic Party (Canada)

Ne *symbol* neon

NE *abbr* 1 Nebraska 2 New England 3 no effects 4 northeast
né \ˈnā\ *adj* [F, lit., born — more at **NÉE**] (1905) 1 — used to indicate the original, former, or legal name of a man <Robert Roe, ~ John Doe> 2 : originally or formerly called

ne- or **neo-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *neos* new — more at **NEW**] 1 **a** : new : recent <Neogene> 2 : new and different period or form of <Neoplatonism> : in a new and different form or manner <Neoplatonic> 3 : New World <Neotropical> 4 : new and abnormal <neoplasm> 5 : new chemical compound isomeric with or otherwise related to (such) a compound <neostigmine>

NEA *abbr* 1 National Education Association 2 National Endowment for the Arts

Ne-an-der-thal \nē-ˈan-dər-ˌtɒl, -ˌtɒl; nā-ˈan-dər-ˌtāl\ *n* [*Neanderthal*, valley in western Germany] (1863) 1 or **Ne-an-der-tal** \-ˌtɒl, -ˌtāl\ : a hominid (*Homo neanderthalensis* syn. *H. sapiens neanderthalensis*) known from skeletal remains in Europe, northern Africa, and western Asia that lived from about 30,000 to 200,000 years ago — called also *Neanderthal man* 2 : one who suggests a caveman in appearance, mentality, or behavior — **Neanderthal** or **Neanderthal** *adj* — **Ne-an-der-thal-oid** \-ˌtɒ-ˌlɔɪd, -ˌtɒ-, -ˌtā-\ *adj* or *n*

neap \ˈnēp\ *adj* [ME *neep*, fr. OE *nēp* being at the stage of neap tide] (bef. 12c) 1 : of, relating to, or constituting a neap tide

neap *n* (15c) : NEAP TIDE

Ne-a-pol-i-tan \nē-ə-ˈpɔ-lə-tən\ *n* [ME, fr. L *neapolitanus* of Naples, fr. Gk *neapolitēs* citizen of Naples, fr. *Neapolis* Naples] (15c) : a native or inhabitant of Naples, Italy — **Neapolitan** *adj*

Neapolitan ice cream *n* (1895) : a brick of from two to four layers of ice cream of different flavors

neap tide *n* (ca. 1548) : a tide of minimum range occurring at the first and the third quarters of the moon

near \ˈnɪr\ *adv* [ME *ner*, partly fr. *ner* nearer, fr. OE *nēar*, comparative of *nēah* nigh; partly fr. ON *nær* nearer, compar. of *nā*-nigh — more at **NIGH**] (13c) 1 : at, within, or to a short distance or time <sunset was drawing ~> 2 : ALMOST, NEARLY <was ~ dead> 3 : in a close or intimate manner : CLOSELY <~ related> 4 *archaic* : in a frugal manner

near *prep* (13c) : close to <beaches ~ the city> <seemed to be ~ death>

near *adj* (14c) 1 **a** : not far distant in time, place, or degree <in the ~ future> **b** : almost happening : narrowly missed or avoided <a ~ win in the primary> <a ~ midair collision> **c** : nearly not happening <a ~ escape> 2 : closely related or intimately associated <her ~est and dearest friend> 3 **a** : being the closer of two <the ~ side> **b** : being the left-hand one of a pair <the ~ wheel of a cart> 4 : DIRECT, SHORT <the ~est road> 5 : STINGY, CLOSEFISTED 6 **a** : closely resembling the standard or typical <a ~ desert> **b** : approximating the genuine <~ silk> — **near-ness** *n*

near *vb* (1513) : APPROACH

near beer *n* (1909) : any of various malt liquors considered nonalcoholic because they contain less than a specified percentage of alcohol

near-by \ˈnɪr-ˈbi, -ˈnɪr-\ *adv* or *adj* (14c) : close at hand

Ne-arctic \ˈnē-ˈɑrkt-ɪk, -ˈɑr-ˌtɪk\ *adj* (1858) : of, relating to, or being the biogeographic subregion that includes Greenland and No. America north of tropical Mexico

near gale *n* (ca. 1975) : MODERATE GALE — see **BEAUFORT SCALE** table

near-in-fra-red \ˈnɪr-ɪn-ˈfrə-ˈred, -(ɪ)ˈfrā-\ *adj* (1950) : of or relating to the shorter wavelengths of radiation in the infrared spectrum and esp. to those between 0.7 and 2.5 micrometers

near-ly \ˈnɪr-lē\ *adv* (1561) 1 : in a close manner or relationship <~ related> 2 : almost but not quite <~ identical> <~ a year later> **b** : to the least extent <not ~ as good as we expected>

near miss *n* (1940) 1 **a** : a miss (as with a bomb) close enough to cause damage **b** : something that falls just short of success 2 **a** : a near collision (as between aircraft) **b** : CLOSE CALL

near money *n* (1942) : assets (as savings accounts or government bonds) quickly and easily converted to cash

near point *n* (1876) : the point nearest the eye at which an object is accurately focused on the retina at full accommodation

near-shore \ˈnɪr-ˈʃɔr, -ˈnɪr-\ *adj* (1896) : extending outward an indefinite but usu. short distance from shore <~ sediments>

near-side \ˈnɪr-saɪd\ *adj* (1825) *Brit* : LEFT-HAND 1 — **nearside** *n*

near-sight-ed \ˈnɪr-saɪt-əd\ *adj* (1686) : able to see near things more clearly than distant ones : MYOPIC — **near-sight-ed-ly** *adv*

near-sight-ed-ness \ˈnɪr-saɪt-əd-nəs\ *n* (1811) : MYOPIA

near-ul-tra-vi-o-let \ˈnɪr-ʊl-trə-ˈvɪ-(ə)-lət\ *adj* (1951) : of, relating to, or being the longest wavelengths of radiation in the ultraviolet spectrum esp. between 300 and 400 nanometers

neat \ˈnē\ *n*, *pl* **neat** or **neats** [ME *neet*, fr. OE *nēat*; akin to OHG *nōz* head of cattle, OE *nēotan* to make use of, Lith *nauda* use] (bef. 12c) : the common domestic bovine (*Bos taurus*)

neat *adj* [ME *net*, fr. L *nitidus* bright, neat, fr. *nitēre* to shine; prob. akin to MLr *niam* luster] (1542) 1 : free from dirt and disorder : habitually clean and orderly 2 **a** : free from admixture or dilution : STRAIGHT <~ brandy> <~ cement> **b** : free from irregularity : SMOOTH <~ silk> 3 : marked by tasteful simplicity <a ~ outfit> 4 **a** : PRECISE, SYSTEMATIC **b** : marked by skill or ingenuity : ADROIT 5 : NET <~ profit> 6 : FINE, ADMIRABLE — **neat-ly** *adv* — **neat-ness** *n*

neat *adv* (1649) 1 : in a neat manner <his hair combed back ~> — J. M. Cain 2 : without admixture or dilution : STRAIGHT

neat-en \ˈnē-ˈɪn\ *vt* **neat-ened**; **neat-en-ing** \ˈnē-ɪn-ɪŋ, -ˈnē-ˈɪn-ɪŋ\ (1898) 1 : to set in order : make neat 2 : to finish (as a piece of sewing) carefully

neath \ˈnēθ\ *prep* (1600) *dial* : BENEATH

neat-herd \ˈnē-ˈhɜrd\ *n* (14c) : HERDSMAN

neat-nik \ˈnē-ˈnɪk\ *n* (1959) : a person who is compulsively neat

neb \ˈneb\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to ON *nef* beak] (bef. 12c) 1 **a** : the beak of a bird or tortoise : BILL **b** *chiefly dial* : a person's mouth **c** : NOSE 1, SNOUT 2 : NTB, TIP

Neb or **Nebr** *abbr* Nebraska

NEB *abbr* New English Bible

neb-bish \ˈnē-bɪʃ\ *n* [Yiddish *nebekh* poor, unfortunate, fr. Czech *nebohy*] (1951) : a timid, meek, or ineffectual person — **neb-bishy** \-bɪ-ʃē\ *adj*

ne-ben-kern \ˈnā-bən-ˌkɜrn, -ˌkɜrn\ *n* [G, lit., subsidiary nucleus] (1895) : a 2-stranded helical structure of the proximal tail region of a spermatozoon that is derived from mitochondria

neb-u-la \ˈnē-byə-lə\ *n*, *pl* **-lae** \-lē, -lī\ *also* **-las** [NL, fr. L, mist, cloud; akin to OHG *nebul* fog, Gk *nephelē*, *nephos* cloud] (ca. 1738) 1 : any of numerous clouds of gas or dust in interstellar space 2 : GALAXY 1b; *esp* : a galaxy other than the Milky Way galaxy — not used technically — **neb-u-lar** \-lə\ *adj*

nebular hypothesis *n* (1837) : a hypothesis in astronomy: the solar system has evolved from a hot gaseous nebula

neb-u-lize \ˈnē-byə-ˌlɪz\ *vt* **-lized**; **-lizing** [L *nebula*] (1872) : to reduce to a fine spray — **neb-u-li-zation** \ˈnē-byə-lə-ˈzā-shən\ *n* — **neb-u-lize** \ˈnē-byə-ˌlɪ-zər\ *n*

neb-u-los-i-ty \ˈnē-byə-ˌlɔs-ə-tē\ *n*, *pl* **-ties** (1833) 1 : the quality or state of being nebulous 2 : nebulous matter; *also* : NEBULA 1

neb-u-lous \ˈnē-byə-ˌlɔs\ *adj* [L *nebulosus* misty, fr. *nebula*] (1784) 1 : of, relating to, or resembling a nebula : NEBULAR 2 : INDISTINCT, VAGUE — **neb-u-lous-ly** *adv* — **neb-u-lous-ness** *n*

ne-c-es-sar-i-ly \ˈnē-sə-ˈser-ə-lē\ *adv* (15c) 1 : of necessity : UNAVOIDABLY 2 : as a logical result or consequence

ne-c-es-sary \ˈnē-sə-ˈser-ē\ *adj* [ME *necessarie*, fr. L *necessarius*, fr. *necesse* necessary, prob. fr. *ne*-not + *cedere* to withdraw — more at **NO**] (14c) 1 **a** : of an inevitable nature : INESCAPABLE **b** (1) : logically unavoidable (2) : that cannot be denied without contradiction **c** : determined or produced by the previous condition of things **d** : COMPULSORY 2 : absolutely needed : REQUIRED

necessary *n*, *pl* **-sar-ies** (14c) : an indispensable item : ESSENTIAL

necessary condition *n* (1696) 1 : a state of affairs that must prevail if another is to occur : PREREQUISITE 2 : a proposition whose falsity assures the falsity of another

ne-c-es-si-tar-i-an-ism \ˈnē-sə-ˈsɪ-ˌtər-ē-ə-ni-zəm\ *n* (1854) : the theory that results follow by invariable sequence from causes — **ne-c-es-si-tar-i-an** \-ˌtər-ē-ən\ *adj* or *n*

ne-c-es-si-tate \ˈnē-sə-ˈsɪ-tāt\ *vt* **-tated**; **-tating** (1628) 1 : to make necessary : REQUIRE 2 : FORCE, COMPEL — **ne-c-es-si-tation** \-sə-ˈsɪ-tā-shən\ *n*

ne-c-es-si-tous \ˈnē-sə-ˈsɪ-təs\ *adj* (1611) 1 : NEEDY, IMPOVERISHED 2 : URGENT, PRESSING 3 : NECESSARY — **ne-c-es-si-tous-ly** *adv* — **ne-c-es-si-tous-ness** *n*

ne-c-es-si-ty \ˈnē-sə-ˈsɪ-tē, -ˈsɪs-tē\ *n*, *pl* **-ties** [ME *necessite*, fr. AF *necessité*, fr. L *necessitas*, *necessitas*, fr. *necesse*] (14c) 1 : the quality or state of being necessary 2 **a** : pressure of circumstance **b** : physical or moral compulsion **c** : impossibility of a contrary order or condition 3 : the quality or state of being in need; *esp* : POVERTY 4 **a** : something that is necessary : REQUIREMENT **b** : an urgent need or desire — **of necessity** : in such a way that it cannot be otherwise; *also* : as a necessary consequence <further changes will occur of necessity>

neck \ˈnek\ *n* [ME *nekke*, fr. OE *necca*; akin to OHG *hnac* nape] (bef. 12c) 1 **a** (1) : the part of an animal that connects the head with the body (2) : the siphon of a bivalve mollusk (as a clam) **b** : the part of a garment that covers or is next to the neck 2 : a relatively narrow part suggestive of a neck; as **a** (1) : the constricted end of a bottle (2) : the slender proximal end of a fruit **b** : CERVIX 2 **c** : the part of a stringed musical instrument extending from the body and supporting the fingerboard and strings **d** : a narrow stretch of land **e** : STRAIT 1b **f** : the part of a tooth between the crown and the root — see **TOOTH** illustration **g** : a column of solidified magma of a volcanic pipe or laccolith **3** : a narrow margin <won by a ~> 4 : REGION, PART <my ~ of the woods>

neck *vt* (1842) 1 : to kiss and caress amorously 2 : to reduce in diameter ~ *vi* 1 : to engage in amorous kissing and caressing 2 : to become constricted : NARROW

neck and neck *adv* or *adj* (1799) : very close (as in a race)

necked \ˈnek\ *adj* (14c) : having a neck esp. of a specified kind — often used in combination <long-necked>

neck-er-chief \ˈnē-kər-ˌtʃɪf, -(ɪ)ˌtʃɪf, -ˌtʃɛf\ *n*, *pl* **-chiefs** *also* **-chieves** *see* **HANDKERCHIEF** *n* [ME *nekkerchef*, fr. *nekke* + *kerchef* kerchief] (14c) : a kerchief for the neck

neck-ing \ˈnē-kiŋ\ *n* (1804) 1 : a narrow molding near the top of a column or plaster 2 : the act or practice of kissing and caressing amorously

neck-lace \ˈnē-kləs\ *n* (ca. 1590) 1 : an ornament worn around the neck 2 : something likened to a necklace esp. in forming a linked series or a circular pattern <a ~ of islands>

neck-line \ˈnē-kiːn\ *n* (1904) : the line of the neck opening of a garment

neck-rein \ˈnē-rān\ *vi* (1940) *of a saddle horse* : to respond to the pressure of a rein on one side of the neck by turning in the opposite direction ~ *vt* : to direct (a horse) by pressures of the rein on the neck

neck-tie \ˈnē-ti\ *n* (1838) : a narrow length of material worn about the neck and tied in front; *esp* : FOUR-IN-HAND

neck-wear \ˈnē-wer\ *n* (ca. 1879) : articles of clothing (as ties and scarves) worn about the neck

ne-cr- or **ne-cro-** *comb form* [LL, fr. Gk *nekr-*, *nekrō-*, fr. *nekros* dead body — more at **NOXIOUS**] 1 : those that are dead <necrophilia> 2 : one that is dead <necropsy>

ne-cro-i-o-gy \ˈnē-ˌkrɔ-ˌlɔ-ˌjē, -ˌnē-\ *n*, *pl* **-gies** [NL *necrologium*, fr. *ne-cr-* + *-logium* (as in ML *eulogium* eulogy)] (1799) 1 : OBITUARY 2 : a list of the recently dead — **ne-cro-log-i-cal** \ˈnē-krɔ-ˌlɔ-ˌjɪ-kəl\ *adj* — **ne-cro-l-o-gist** \ˈnē-ˌkrɔ-ˌlɔ-ˌjɪst, -ˌnē-\ *n*

ne-cro-man-cy \ˈnē-krə-ˌmən(t)-sē\ *n* [alter. of ME *nigromancie*, fr. AF, fr. ML *nigromantia*, by folk etymology fr. LL *necromantia*, fr. LGk *necromantētia*, fr. Gk *nekr-* + *mantēia* -mancy] (1522) 1 : conjuration of the spirits of the dead for purposes of magically predicting the future