

WEBSTER'S
NEW WORLD™
DICTIONARY
AND
THESAURUS

SECOND EDITION

*Compiled by the Editors of
Webster's New World Dictionaries*

Michael Agnes
Editor in Chief

*With Principal Thesaurus Text by
Charlton Laird*



Snap 1028

Webster's New World™ Dictionary and Thesaurus, Second Edition

Published by
Hungry Minds, Inc.
909 Third Avenue
New York NY 10022
www.hungryminds.com
www.hungryminds.com/wnw/wnw_index.html

Copyright © 2002 Hungry Minds, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this book, including interior design, cover design, and icons, may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, by any means (electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the publisher.

This book is based on and includes material from *Webster's New World™ College Dictionary, Fourth Edition*, copyright © 2001 Hungry Minds, Inc.; and *Webster's New World™ Roget's A-Z Thesaurus*, copyright © 1999 Hungry Minds, Inc. All rights reserved.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Webster's New World dictionary and thesaurus / compiled by the staff of Webster's New World Dictionary ; Michael Agnes, editor in chief ; with principal thesaurus text by Charlton Laird.—2nd ed.
p. cm.

ISBN 0-7645-6339-4 (hardcover). — ISBN 0-7645-6545-1 (paperback).

1. English language—Dictionaries. 2. English language—Synonyms and antonyms. I. Agnes, Michael. II. Laird, Charlton Grant, 1901-1984.

PE1628.W56314 2002
423—dc21

00-051364

Manufactured in the United States of America
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 02 03 04 05

Dictionary Editorial Offices:
New World Dictionaries
850 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland OH 44114

Trademarks: Webster's New World, the Webster's New World logo, and We Define Your World are trademarks or registered trademarks of Hungry Minds, Inc. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.

tallic compounds, synthetically produced, which can be molded and hardened for commercial use 2 [Inf.] a credit card or credit cards, or credit based on their use —*plasticity* (-tis'ə tē) *n.*

plasticize (-tə siz'z) *vt.*, *vi.* -cized', -ciz'ing to make or become plastic

plastic surgery surgery dealing with the repair of deformed or destroyed parts of the body, as by transferring skin, bone, etc. from other parts —*plastic surgeon*

plat (plat) *n.* [var. of *PLAT*] 1 a small piece of ground 2 a map or plan, as of a subdivision —*vt.* *platted*, *platt'ing* to make a map or plan of

plate (plāt) *n.* [Fr *platys*, broad] 1 a smooth, flat, thin piece of metal, etc., specif. one on which an engraving is cut 2 an impression taken from an engraved surface 3 dishes, utensils, etc. of, or plated with, silver or gold 4 a shallow dish 5 the food in a dish; a course 6 a denture, specif. that part of it which fits to the mouth 7 *Baseball* short for HOME PLATE 8 *Photog.* a sheet of glass, metal, etc. coated with a film sensitive to light 9 *Printing* a cast to be printed from —*vt.* *plated*, *platt'ing* 1 to coat with gold, silver, etc. 2 to cover with metal plates

plateau (plā tō') *n.* [Fr: see prec.] 1 an elevated tract of level land 2 a period of relative stability or little change

plate glass polished, clear glass in thick sheets, for windows, mirrors, etc.

platelet (plāt'lit) *n.* a small blood cell involved in clotting

platen (plāt'n) *n.* [Fr *plat*, flat] 1 in a printing press, a flat metal plate which presses the paper against the type 2 a typewriter roller on which the keys strike

plate tectonics (tek tăn'iks) *Geol.* the theory that the earth's surface consists of plates whose constant motion explains continental drift, etc.

platform (plāt'fōrm) *n.* [Fr *plate-forme*, lit., flat form] 1 a raised horizontal surface, as a stage for speakers, etc. 2 a statement of policy, esp. of a political party

plat-in-um (plāt'n əm) *n.* [Fr *plata*, silver] a silvery, metallic chemical element, resistant to corrosion: used for jewelry, etc.

latitude (plāt'ə tōd') *n.* [Fr < *plat*, flat, after *latitude*, etc.] a commonplace or trite remark

Plato (plāt'ō) 427?-347? B.C.; Gr. philosopher

Platon-ic (plā tăn'ik) *adj.* 1 of Plato or his philosophy 2 [usually *p-*] not sexual but purely spiritual: said of a relationship, etc.

platoon (plā tōon') *n.* [Fr *peloton*, a ball, group] 1 a military unit composed of two or more squads 2 *Sports* any of the specialized squads making up a team —*vt.* *Sports* to alternate (players) at a position

platter (plāt'ər) *n.* [Fr *plat*, flat] a large, shallow dish, usually oval, for serving food

platy (plāt'ē) *n.*, *pl.* *plat'y*, *plat'y's*, or *plat'ies* [clipped < ModL *Platyocellus*, genus named a brightly colored, freshwater fish of Central America: used in aquariums] **platy-pus** (plāt'ē pəs) *n.*, *pl.* -pus-es or -pi' (-pi') [Fr *platys*, flat + *pous*, foot] a small, egg-laying water mam-

mal of Australia, with webbed feet and a ducklike bill; duckbill

plau-dit (plō'dit) *n.* [Fr *plaudere*, applaud] [usually *pl.*] applause

plau-si-ble (plō'zə bəl) *adj.* [Fr *plaudere*, applaud] seemingly true, trustworthy, honest, etc. —*plausi-bil'i-ty* *n.*

play (plā) *vi.* [OE *plegan*] 1 to move lightly, rapidly, etc. [sunlight played on the water] 2 to engage in recreation 3 to take part in a game or sport 4 to trifle (with a thing or person) 5 to perform on a musical instrument 6 to give out sounds 7 to act in a specified way (to play dumb) 8 to act in a drama 9 to impose unscrupulously (on another's feelings) —*vt.* 1 to take part in (a game or sport) 2 to oppose (a person, team, etc.) in a game 3 to do, as in fun (to play tricks) 4 to bet on 5 to cause to move, etc.; wield 6 to cause (to play havoc) 7 to perform (music, a drama, etc.) 8 to perform on (an instrument) 9 to act the part of (to play Hamlet) —*n.* 1 motion or activity, esp. when free or rapid 2 freedom for motion or action 3 recreation; sport 4 fun; joking 5 the playing of a game 6 a move or act in a game 7 a dramatic composition or performance; drama —in (or out of) *play Sports* in (or not in) the condition for continuing play: said of a ball, etc. —play down to attach little importance to —played out exhausted —play up [Inf.] to give prominence to —play up to [Inf.] to try to please by flattery

play'act *vi.* 1 to pretend 2 to behave in an affected or dramatic manner —*play'act'ing* *n.*

play'back *n.* 1 reproduction of sounds, images, etc. from a recorded disc, tape, etc. 2 the control or device for such reproduction

play'bill *n.* 1 a poster advertising a play 2 a program of a play, listing the cast, etc.

play'boy *n.* a man of means who is given to pleasure-seeking

play'er *n.* 1 one who plays a specified game, instrument, etc. 2 an actor

play'ful *adj.* 1 fond of play or fun 2 jocular —*play'ful-ly* *adv.* —*play'ful-ness* *n.*

play'go'er (-gō'ər) *n.* one who goes to the theater frequently or regularly

play'ground *n.* a place, often near a school, for outdoor recreation

play'house *n.* 1 a theater for live dramatic productions 2 a small house for children to play in

playing cards cards used in playing various games, arranged in four suits

play'mate *n.* a companion in games and recreation

play'off *n.* a contest to break a tie or to decide a championship

play on words a pun or punning

play'pen *n.* a portable enclosure for an infant to play or crawl in safely

play'thing *n.* a toy

play'wright (-rit') *n.* one who writes plays

pla-za (plā'zə, plaz'ə) *n.* [Sp < L *platea*, street] 1 a public square in a city or town 2 a shopping center 3 a service area along a superhighway

THESAURUS

plate *n.* 1 [A flat surface] lamina, slice, stratum; see PLANE 1. 2 [A full-page illustration] photograph, lithograph, etching; see ILLUSTRATION, PICTURE 3. 3 [A flattish dish] dinner plate, soup plate, salad plate, casserole, dessert plate, platter, trencher, china, serving dish; see also DISH 1. 4 [Food served on a plate] helping, serving, course; see MEAL 2. 5 [In baseball, the base immediately in front of the catcher] home base, home plate, home; see BASE 4.

plate *v.* laminate, stratify, layer, scale, flake, overlay, gild, nickel, bronze, chrome, silver, enamel, encrust, cover.

plateau *n.* tableland, mesa, elevation; see HILL, PLAIN.

platform *n.* 1 [A stage] dais, pulpit, speaker's platform, rostrum, stand, floor, staging, terrace. 2 [A program] principles, policies, the party planks*; see PROGRAM 2.

platoon *n.* detachment, military unit, company; see ARMY 2.

platter *n.* tray, serving dish, meat

platter; see DISH 1, PLATE 3.

plausible *a.* probable, credible, believable; see LIKELY 1.

play *n.* 1 [Amusement] enjoyment, diversion, pleasure; see ENTERTAINMENT. 2 [Recreation] relaxation, game, sport; see ENTERTAINMENT 3. 3 [Fun] frolic, happiness, sportiveness; see FUN. 4 [A drama] performance, musical, show; see DRAMA. 5 [Sport] exhibition, match, competition; see SPORT 1, 3. 6 [Action] activity, movement, working; see ACTION 1. —*make a play for** make advances to, court, try to attract; see TRY 1.

play *v.* 1 [To amuse oneself] entertain oneself, revel, make merry, carouse, play games, rejoice, have a good time, idle away, horse around*. —*Ant.* MOURN, grieve, sulk. 2 [To frolic] frisk, sport, cavort, joke, dance, play games, make jokes, be a practical joker, show off, jump about, skip, gambol, caper. —*Ant.* DRAG, mope, droop. 3 [To produce music] perform, execute, work, cause to sound, finger, pedal, bow, plunk, tin-

kle, pipe, toot, blow, pump, fiddle, sound, strike, scrape, twang, pound, thump, shake, beat, pluck, clash. 4 [To engage in sport] participate, engage, practice; see COMPETE. 5 [To pretend] imagine, suppose, think; see PRETEND 1. —*play down* belittle, hold back, minimize; see RESTRAIN.

player *n.* 1 [One who takes part in a game] team member, athlete, sportsman, sportswoman, amateur, professional, gymnast, acrobat, swimmer, diver, trackman, champ*, pro*, semipro*, jock*; see also CONTESTANT. 2 [An actor] performer, entertainer, thespian; see ACTOR, ACTRESS.

playful *a.* joking, whimsical, comical; see FUNNY 1.

playground *n.* playing field, park, school ground, municipal playground, yard, schoolyard, diamond, gridiron.

playmate *n.* schoolmate, neighbor, companion; see FRIEND.

plaything *n.* gadget, amusement, trinket; see DOLL, GAME 1, TOY 1.

playwright *n.* scriptwriter, dramatist, tragedian; see AUTHOR, WRITER.