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AMERICAN
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THE AMERICAN HERITAGE[®] COLLEGE DICTIONARY

THIRD EDITION

no. 100



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

Boston • New York

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The American heritage college dictionary. —3rd ed.

p. cm.
ISBN 0-395-66917-0 (plain edge). —ISBN 0-395-67161-2
(thumb edge). —ISBN 0-395-66918-9 (deluxe binding).

1. English language—Dictionaries. 2. Americanisms.

PE1628.A6227 1993

423—dc20

92-42124

CIP

Manufactured in the United States of America

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decorative line impressed onto the cover of a book. **5. Her.** A narrow horizontal band placed in the lower fourth area of the chief. **6. Anat.** A loop-shaped band of fibers, such as the lemniscus. — *tr.v.* **-let•ed, -let•ing, -lets.** 1. To bind or decorate with or as if with a fillet. **2. Also fil•let** (fī-lā't, fī-lā't). To slice, bone, or make into fillets. [ME *filet* < OFr., dim. of *fil*, thread < Lat. *filum*. See **g•whi•***.]

fill-in (fīl'in) *n.* **Informal.** 1. One that serves as a substitute for another. 2. A short informative summary.

fill•ing (fīl'ing) *n.* 1. An act or instance of filling. 2. Something used to fill a space, cavity, or container. 3. An edible mixture used to fill pastries, sandwiches, or cakes. 4. The horizontal threads that cross the warp in weaving; weft.

filling station *n.* See **service station** 1.

fil•lip (fīl'əp) *n.* 1. A snap or light blow made by pressing a fingertip against the thumb and suddenly releasing it. 2. A slight goad or incentive; a small stimulus. — *tr.v.* **-lip•ed, -lip•ing, -lips.** To strike, propel, arouse, or stimulate. [Imit.]

Fill•more (fīl'mōr', -mōr'), **Millard.** 1800–74. The 13th President of the U.S. (1850–53), who succeeded to office after the death of Zachary Taylor.

fil•ly (fīl'ē) *n., pl. -lies.* 1. A young female horse. 2. **Informal.** A lively high-spirited girl. [ME *filli* < ON *fylja*. See **pau•***.]

film (fīlm) *n.* 1. A thin skin or membrane. 2. A thin opaque abnormal coating on the cornea of the eye. 3. A thin covering or coating; a *film of dust*. 4. A thin flexible transparent sheet, as of plastic, used in wrapping or packaging. **5.a.** A thin sheet or strip of flexible material, such as a cellulose derivative, coated with a photosensitive emulsion and used to make photographic negatives or transparencies. **b.** A sheet or strip of developed photographic negatives or transparencies. **6.a.** A movie. **b.** Movies considered as a group. 7. A coating of magnetic alloys on glass used in manufacturing computer storage devices. — *v.* **filmed, film•ing, films.** — *tr.* 1. To cover with or as if with a film. 2. To make a movie of or based on: *film a rocket launch*. — *intr.* 1. To become coated or obscured with or as if with a film. 2. To make or shoot scenes for a movie. [ME < OE *filmen*. See **pel•3•***.]

film•card (fīlm'kārd) *n.* A microfiche.

film•dom (fīlm'dəm) *n.* 1. The movie industry. 2. The people employed in the movie industry.

film•go•er (fīlm'gō'ər) *n.* One who frequently goes to see movies. — **film•go•ing** *adj.*

film•ic (fīl'mik) *adj.* Of, relating to, or characteristic of movies; cinematic. — **film•i•cal•ly** *adv.*

film•mak•er (fīlm'mā'kər) *n.* One who directs or produces movies.

film•mak•ing (fīlm'mā'king) *n.* The making of movies.

film•og•ra•phy (fīl-mōg'ə-fē) *n., pl. -phies.* A list of movies, as of a given director or actor. — **film•og•ra•pher** *n.*

film•set•ting (fīlm'sēt'ing) *n.* Photocomposition.

film•strip (fīlm'strīp') *n.* A length of film containing photographs or other graphic matter prepared for still projection.

film•y (fīl'mē) *adj. -i•er, -i•est.* 1. Of, resembling, or consisting of film; gauzy. See **Syns** at **airy**. 2. Covered by or as if by a film; hazy. — **film•i•ly** *adv.* — **film•i•ness** *n.*

fil•o•plume (fīl'ə-plōm', fī'lə-) *n.* A hairlike feather having few or no barbs, usu. located between contour feathers. [Lat. *filum*, thread; see **g•whi•*** + **PLUME**.]

fi•lose (fī'lōs') *adj.* 1. Threadlike. 2. Having or ending in a threadlike part or process. [Lat. *filum*, thread; see **g•whi•*** + **-OSE** 1.]

fi•ls (fēs) *n.* Used to distinguish a son from his father when they have the same given name. [Fr. < Lat. *filius*, son. See **dhē(i)•***.]

fi•ls (fīls) *n., pl. fi•ls.* See **table** at **currency**. [Ar. *fals*, *fi•ls* < Lat. *foliis*, bellows, purse, piece of money. See **bhel•2•***.]

fil•ter (fīl'tər) *n.* **1.a.** A porous material through which a liquid or gas is passed to separate the fluid from suspended particles. **b.** A device containing such a substance. 2. Any of various electric, electronic, acoustic, or optical devices that reject signals, vibrations, or radiations of certain frequencies but pass others. — *v.* **-tered, -ter•ing, -ters.** — *tr.* 1. To pass (a liquid or gas) through a filter. 2. To remove by passing through a filter: *filters out sand*. — *intr.* 1. To pass through or as if through a filter. 2. To come or go gradually and in small groups. [ME *filtrē* < OFr. < Med.Lat. *filtrum*, of Gmc. orig. See **pel•5•***.] — **fil'ter•er** *n.* — **fil'ter•less** *adj.*

fil•ter•a•ble (fīl'tər-ə-bəl, fīl'trə-) also **fil•tra•ble** (fīl'trə-bəl) *adj.* 1. That can be filtered or separated by filtering. 2. That can pass through a given pore size. — **fil'ter•a•bil'i•ty** *n.*

filterable virus *n.* A virus that is small enough to pass through a fine-pored filter, as of diatomite or porcelain.

filter bed *n.* A layer of sand or gravel on the bottom of a reservoir or tank, used to filter water or sewage.

filter feeder *n.* An aquatic animal, such as a clam or sponge, that feeds by filtering particulate organic material from water.

filter paper *n.* Porous paper suitable for use as a filter.

filth•y (fīl'thē) *adj. -i•er, -i•est.* 1. Covered or smeared with filth; disgustingly dirty. 2. Obscene; scatological. 3. Vile; nasty: a *filthy traitor*. — **filth•i•ly** *adv.* — **filth•i•ness** *n.*

fil•trate (fīl'trāt') *tr. & intr.v. -trat•ed, -trat•ing, -trates.* To put or go through a filter. — *n.* Material, esp. liquid, passed through a filter. [NLat. *filtrāre*, *filtrāt-*, to filter < Med.Lat. *filtrum*, filter. See **FILTER**.]

fil•tra•tion (fīl'trā'shən) *n.* The act or process of filtering.

fil•um (fī'ləm) *n., pl. -la* (-lə). A threadlike anatomical structure; a filament. [Lat. *filum*, thread. See **g•whi•***.]

fim•bri•a (fīm'brē-ə) *n., pl. -bri•ae* (-brē-ē'). A fringed part or structure, as at the opening of the fallopian tubes. [LLat. *fimbria*, fringe, fem. sing. of Lat. *fimbriae*, threads, fringe.] — **fim'brī•al** *adj.*

fim•bri•ate (fīm'brē-īt, -āt') also **fim•bri•at•ed** (-ā'tid) *adj.* Having fimbriae; fringed, as the edge of a petal. [Lat. *fimbriatus* < *fimbriae*, fringe.] — **fim'brī•a'tion** *n.*

fin (fīn) *n.* 1. A membranous appendage extending from the body of a fish or other aquatic animal, for propelling, steering, or balancing the body in the water. 2. Something resembling a fin, as: **a.** An airfoil used to stabilize an aircraft, a missile, or a projectile in flight. **b.** A projecting vane for cooling, as on a radiator or an engine cylinder. **c.** See **tall fin** 2. 3. See **flipper** 2. — *v.* **finned, fin•ning, fins.** — *tr.* To equip with fins. — *intr.* 1. To emerge with the fins above water. 2. To swim, as a fish. 3. To lash the water with the fins. Used of a dying whale. [ME < OE *finn*.]

fin² (fīn) *n.* **Slang.** A five-dollar bill. [Yiddish *finf*, five < OHGer. *funf*, *finf*. See **penk•w•e•***.]

fin. *abbr.* 1. Finance; financial. 2. Finish.

Fin. *abbr.* Finland; Finnish.

fi•na•gle (fē-nā'gəl) *v. -gled, -gling, -gles.* — *tr.* 1. To obtain or achieve by indirect, usu. deceitful methods: *finagle a day off*. 2. To cheat; swindle. — *intr.* To use crafty, deceitful methods. [Prob. < dial. *famaigue*, to cheat.] — **fi•na'gler** *n.*

fi•nal (fī'nəl) *adj.* 1. Forming or occurring at the end; last. 2. Of or constituting the end result of a succession or process; ultimate. 3. Not to be changed or reconsidered; unalterable. See **Syns** at **last**¹. — *n.* Something that comes at or forms the end, esp.: **a.** The last or one of the last of a series of contests. **b.** The last examination of an academic course. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *finalis* < *finis*, end.] — **fi'nal•ly** *adv.*

fi•nal•e (fē-nāl'ē, -nāl'ē) *n.* The concluding part, esp. of a musical composition. [Ital. < Lat. *finalis*, final. See **FINAL**.]

fi•nal•ist (fī'nəl-ist) *n.* A contestant in the final session of a competition.

fi•nal•i•ty (fī-nāl'i-tē, fē-) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. The condition or fact of being final. 2. A final, conclusive, or decisive act.

fi•nal•ize (fī'nəl-īz') *tr.v. -ized, -iz•ing, -iz•es.* **Usage Problem.** To put into final form; complete or conclude. — **fi'nal'i•za'tion** (-nəl-ī-zā'shən) *n.* — **fi'nal'iz'er** *n.*

Usage Note: *Finalize* is frequently associated with the language of bureaucracy and so is objected to by many writers. The sentence *We will finalize plans for a class reunion* was unacceptable to 71 percent of the Usage Panel. A substitute can always be found from among *complete*, *conclude*, *make final*, and *put into final form*. See **Usage Note** at **-ize**.

fi•nance (fē-nāns', fī-, fī'nāns') *n.* 1. The science of the management of money and other assets. 2. The management of money, banking, investments, and credit. 3. **finances.** Monetary resources; funds, esp. those of a government or corporate body. 4. The supplying of funds or capital. — *tr.v. -nanced, -nanc•ing, -nanc•es.* 1. To provide or raise the funds or capital for. 2. To supply funds to: *financing her through law school*. 3. To furnish credit to. [ME *finauce*, settlement, money supply < OFr. *finance*, payment < *finer*, to pay ransom < *fin*, end < Lat. *finis*.] — **fi•nance/a•ble** *adj.*

finance company *n.* A company that makes loans to clients.

fi•nan•cial (fē-nān'shəl, fī-) *adj.* Of, relating to, or involving finance, finances, or financiers. — **fi•nan'cial•ly** *adv.*

Syns: *financial, pecuniary, fiscal, monetary.* These adjectives mean of or relating to money. *Financial* frequently refers to transactions involving money on a large scale: *corporations with financial reverses*. *Pecuniary* is more appropriate to the private small-scale dealings of individuals: *pecuniary compensation*. *Fiscal* applies especially to a nation's financial practices and policies: *chief fiscal officer of our government*. *Monetary* has special reference to the coinage, printing, or circulation of currency: *The dollar is a monetary unit*.

fin•an•cier (fīn'an-sīr', fē-nān'-, fī'nān-) *n.* One who is occupied with or expert in large-scale financial affairs. [Fr. < OFr. < *finance*, payment. See **FINANCE**.]

fin•back (fīn'bāk') *n.* A roquai, esp. *Balaenoptera physalus* of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, that attains a length of about 21 meters (70 feet).

fin•ca (fīng'kə, fēng'kə) *n.* A rural property, esp. a large farm or ranch, in Spanish America. [Am.Sp. < Sp., real estate < OSp. *fincar*, to pitch tents, reside < VLat. **fingicāre* < Lat.



Millard Fillmore