

Webster's New World Dictionary

Third College Edition

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THIRD COLLEGE EDITION

Webster's New World Dictionary

OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

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*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor
and friend*

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general officer *Mil.* any officer above a colonel in rank
***general of the air force** *U.S. Air Force* an officer of the highest rank, with an insignia of five stars: a World War II rank
***general of the army** *U.S. Army* an officer of the highest rank, with an insignia of five stars: a World War II rank, not used since
general order *Mil.* 1 any of a numbered series of orders under competent authority, including general directives, announcements, etc. 2 any of the permanent orders giving in general the duties of sentries
general paresis (or paralysis) PARESIS (sense 2)
general practitioner a practicing physician who does not specialize in any particular field of medicine
general-purpose (jen'ər əl pur'pəs) *adj.* having a variety of uses; suitable for general use
General Secretary the head of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
***general semantics** a doctrine and educational movement concerned with the employment of an understanding of the relationship between symbols, esp. language, and reality to improve the adjustment of people to each other and to the environment
general-ship (jen'ər əl ship) *n.* [see -SHIP] 1 a) the rank, tenure, or authority of a general b) the military skill of a general 2 highly skillful leadership
general staff *Mil.* a group of officers who assist the commander of a high unit in planning, coordinating, and supervising operations
***general store** a store where many sorts of merchandise are sold, but not in separate departments
general strike a strike by the workers in an entire industry or, esp., throughout an entire community or country
gen-er-ate (jen'ər ət') *vt. -at'ed, -at'ing* [< L *generatus*, pp. of *generare*, to beget, produce < *genus* (gen. *generis*): see GENUS] 1 to produce (offspring); beget; procreate 2 to bring into being; cause to be [to generate hope] 3 to originate or produce by a physical, chemical, or mathematical process [to generate electricity] 4 *Geom.* to trace out or form (a curve, plane, or figure) by the motion of a point, line, or plane
gen-er-ia-tion (jen'ər ə'shən) *n.* [ME *generacioun* < OFr *generacion* < L *generatio* < *generatus*; see prec.] 1 the act or process of producing offspring; procreation 2 the act or process of bringing into being; origination; production 3 a single stage or degree in the succession of natural descent [father, son, and grandson are three generations] 4 the average period (about thirty years) between the birth of one generation and that of the next 5 a) all the people born and living at about the same time b) a group of such people with the same experience, belief, attitude, etc. in common [the computer generation] 6 any of the stages of successive improvement in the development of a product, system, etc. 7 *Geom.* the formation of a curve, plane, or figure by the motion of a point, line, or plane: see GENERAL-TRIX — **genera'tional** *adj.*
gen-er-ia-tive (jen'ər ə'tiv, -ər ə'tiv) *adj.* [ME *generativ*] 1 of the production of offspring; procreative 2 having the power of producing or originating 3 of or characteristic of generative grammar
***generative grammar** a system of grammar consisting of a limited and unchanging set of rules employing a list of symbols and words to generate or describe every possible structure in a language: cf. TRANSFORMATIONAL (GENERATIVE) GRAMMAR
gen-er-ia-tor (jen'ər ə'tər) *n.* [L] 1 a person or thing that generates; specif., a) a machine for producing gas or steam b) a machine for changing mechanical energy into electrical energy; dynamo 2 GENERAL-TRIX
gen-er-ia-trix (jen'ər ə'triks) *n., pl. -er-ia-tri'ces'* (-ər ə'tri'sēz', -ər ə'tri'sēz') [L, fem. of prec.] *Math.* a point, line, or plane whose motion generates a curve, plane, or figure
gen-er-ic (jə ner'ik) *adj.* [ML *genericus*; see GENUS & -IC] 1 of, applied to, or referring to a whole kind, class, or group; inclusive or general 2 without a trademark 3 *Biol.* of or characteristic of a genus — *n.* a product, as a drug or grocery item, without a brand name: often used in pl.: also called **generic term** — **SYN.** UNIVERSAL — **gen-er'i-cally** *adv.*
gen-er-os-ity (jen'ər ə'sə'tē) *n.* [ME *generositas* < L *generositas* < *generosus*] 1 the quality of being generous; specif., a) nobility of mind; magnanimity b) willingness to give or share; unselfishness 2 *pl. -ities* a generous act
gen-er-ous (jen'ər əs) *adj.* [L *generosus*, of noble birth, excellent, generous < *genus*; see GENUS] 1 orig., of noble birth 2 having qualities attributed to people of noble birth; noble-minded; gracious; magnanimous 3 willing to give or share; unselfish 4 large; ample [generous portions] 5 rich in yield; fertile 6 full-flavored and strong; said of wine — **gen-er-ous-ly** *adv.* — **gen-er-ous-ness** *n.*
Gen-e-see (jen'ə sē) [< Iroquoian (Seneca), ? "beautiful valley"] river flowing from N Pa. across W N.Y. into Lake Ontario: c. 150 mi. (242 km)
gen-esis (jen'ə sis) *n., pl. -ses' (-sēz')* [ME < OE & LL(Ec) < L, birth, generation < Gr (used in LXX for Gen.) < base of *gignesthai*, to be born; see GENUS] the way in which something comes to be; beginning; origin — [G-] the first book of the Bible, giving an account of the creation of the universe and a history of the patriarchs: abbrev. *Gen.*, *Gn.*, or *Ge*
-gen-ists (jen'ə sis) [see prec.] *combining form forming nouns* origination, creation, formation, evolution (of something specified) [*psychogenesis*]
gen-et (jen'et', -it; jə net', jə-) *n.* [ME < OFr *genette* < Sp *gineta* < Ar *jarnayt*] 1 any of a genus (*Genetta*) of small, spotted African carnivores in the same family (Viverridae) as the civet 2 its fur
Gen-ēt (zhə nā') 1 Edmond Charles Édouard (ed mōn' shārl ā

dwār') 1763-1834; Fr. diplomat, in the U.S. after 1793: called *Citizen Genet* 2 Jean 1910-86; Fr. playwright & novelist
ge-net-ic (jə net'ik) *adj.* [< GENESIS] 1 of the genesis, or origin, of something 2 of or having to do with genetics 3 **GENIC** Also **ge-net'i-cal** — **gen-eti-cally** *adv.*
genetic code the order in which four chemical constituents are arranged in huge molecules of DNA: these molecules transmit genetic information to the cells by synthesizing ribonucleic acid in a corresponding order
genetic drift in evolution, a) a random change in gene frequency within a small population, resulting in mutations which, regardless of their adaptive value, become fixed within the group b) any such process
genetic engineering the branch of biology dealing with the splicing and recombining of specific genetic units from the DNA of living organisms: it is used to modify the existing genetic codes to produce new, or improved, species, valuable biochemicals, etc.
gen-eti-cist (jə net'ə sist) *n.* a specialist in genetics
ge-net-ics (jə net'iks) *n., pl.* [GENET(IC) + -ICS] [with sing. v.] 1 the branch of biology that deals with heredity and variation in similar or related animals and plants 2 the genetic features or constitution of an individual, group, or kind
ge-ne-va (jə nē'və) *n.* [Du *Genever* < OFr *genevre*, juniper berry < L *juniperus*, JUNIPER] HOLLANDS
Ge-ne-va (jə nē'və) 1 city in SW Switzerland, on Lake Geneva: pop. 159,500 2 canton of SW Switzerland, largely the city of Geneva & its suburbs: 109 sq. mi. (282 km); pop. 360,500 3 **Lake (of) Lake** in SW Switzerland on the border of France: 224 sq. mi. (580 sq. km); see LEMAN, Lake
Geneva bands [after the clerical garb of GENEVA Calvinists] two white cloth strips hanging from the front of the collar, worn by some Protestant clergymen
Geneva Convention an international agreement signed at Geneva in 1864, establishing a code, later revised, for the care and treatment in wartime of the sick, wounded, and dead, and of prisoners of war, including protection of civilians and of hospitals, etc. having the emblem of the Red Cross
Geneva cross RED CROSS (sense 1)
Geneva gown [see GENEVA BANDS] a long, loose, wide-sleeved black gown, worn by many Protestant clergymen
Ge-ne-van (jə nē'vən) *adj.* 1 of Geneva, Switzerland, esp. at the time of the Reformation 2 of or having to do with Calvinism — *n.* 1 a native or inhabitant of Geneva 2 a follower of John Calvin
Ge-nève (zhə nēv') *Fr. name of GENEVA* (the city & the canton)
Gen-e-vieve (jen'ə vīv') [Fr *Geneviève* < LL *Genovefa* < ? Celt] 1 a feminine name 2 Saint (c. A.D. 422-c. 512); Fr. nun; patron saint of Paris: her day is Jan. 3
Genf (jenf) *Ger. name of GENEVA* (the city & the canton)
Gen-ghis Khan (jen'gis kån', jen'gis) (born Temuchin) c. 1162-1227, Mongol conqueror of central Asia
gen-i-al (jen'yāl; also jē'nē əl) *adj.* [L *genialis*, of generation or birth < *genius*, guardian deity; see GENIUS] 1 orig., of marriage or procreation 2 promoting life and growth; pleasantly warm, mild, and healthful [a genial climate] 3 cheerful, friendly, and sympathetic; amiable 4 [Rare] of or characterized by genius — **SYN.** AMIABLE — **gen-i-al-ity** (jē'nē əl'ə-tē; also jēn yāl'-) *n.* — **gen-i-al-ly** *adv.*
gen-i-al (jē nī'əl) *adj.* [< Gr *genion*, a chin < *genys*, a jaw; see CHIN] + **-AL**] having to do with the chin
gen-ic (jen'ik) *adj.* of, having the nature of, or caused by a gene or genes; genetic
-genic (jen'ik) *combining form forming adjectives* 1 pertaining to production or generation [*phylogenetic*] 2 suitable to [*photogenic*]
gen-ic-u-late (jə nīk'yoo lit, -lāt') *adj.* [L *geniculatus* < *geniculum*, dim. of *genus*, KNEE] 1 having a kneelike joint 2 bent sharply Also **ge-nic'u-lat'ed** (-lāt'id)
gen-ie (jē'nē) *n.* [Fr *génie* < L *genius*; see GENIUS], used to transl. Ar *jinni*, a demon < *jinn*, demons] JINNI
gen-ij (jē'nē r') *n., pl.* of GENIUS (senses 1 & 2)
gen-i-pap (jen'ə pap) *n.* [Port *genipapo* < the Wind (Tupi) name] 1 the brown, edible fruit, about the size of an orange, of a tropical American tree (*Genipa americana*) of the madder family 2 the tree itself
gen-i-tal (jen'ə täl, -it'l) *adj.* [ME < OFr < L *genitalis* < *genitus*, pp. of *genere*, to beget; see GENUS] 1 of reproduction or the sexual organs 2 *Psychoanalysis* a) designating or of the third stage of infantile psychosexual development in which interest centers around the genital organs b) designating or of the adult or final stage of psychosexual development in which conflicts have been resolved, libidinal drives regulated, and character structure integrated [genital characters]; cf. ANAL, ORAL
gen-i-tal-ia (jen'ə tā'lē ə, -tāl'yə) *n., pl.* [L, short for *genitalia* (*membra*)] GENITALS
gen-i-tals (jen'ə tälz, -it'lz) *n., pl.* [< GENITAL] the reproductive organs, esp. the external sex organs
gen-i-tiv-al (jen'ə tī'vəl) *adj.* of or in the genitive case
gen-i-tive (jen'ə tiv) *adj.* [ME *genitif* < OFr < L (*casus*) *genitivus*, lit. (case) of orig. < *genitus* (see GENITAL); mistransl. < Gr *genitō*, generic (case), (case) of genus < Gr *genos*, GENUS] *Gram.* designating, of, or in a relational case typically expressing possession, source, or a partitive concept: cf. POSSESSIVE — *n.* 1 the genitive case; this case is expressed by inflection in languages such as Latin and either by an analytical construction or by inflection in English (Ex. the children of the queen; the queen's children) 2 a word or phrase in this case
gen-i-to- (jen'ə tō) *combining form* genitital and [genitourinary]
gen-i-to-ur-i-nar-y (jen'ə tō yoor'ə ner'ē) *adj.* designating or of the genitital and urinary organs together