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The
Merriam-
Webster
Dictionary



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts



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This new edition of *The* seventh in a line of Merriam which began in 1947. It is aspects of preceding editions important recent vocabulary *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* past decade. Throughout examples, including 1,000 tion, illustrate meanings a the new material has been found in the Merriam-Webster texts online.

The nearly 65,000 entries in this dictionary give coverage words in the language. The vocabulary section, whether about meaning, spelling, pronunciation. This section is found useful: the section covers words and phrases occur in English texts but English vocabulary; the section individuals from history; as biblical, legendary, and Geographical Names the United States and the tion figures.

The Merriam-Webster company that has been than 150 years and continues of experienced lexicographers editing of the main A-Z Words and Phrases was Lowe. Daniel J. Hopkins and Michael G. Belanger Specialist editors include reference, Joshua S. Gunder Rader for etymology, and Data entry and data-file: B. Brandon. Susan L. F guiding the book through Emily A. Vezina. Producers Bigelow, Serenity H. Cas DeJordy, Joanne M. Desj

amoeba • an

watery fluid in which the embryo or fetus is immersed
amoeba also ame-ba \ə-ˈmē-bə\ n, pl -bas or -bae \-(j)bē\ : any of various tiny one-celled protozoans that lack permanent cell organs and occur esp. in water and soil — amoebic \-bik\ adj
amoeboid also ame-boid \-,bōid\ adj : resembling an amoeba esp. in moving or readily changing shape
amok \ə-ˈmæk, -ˈmāk\ or amuck \-ˈmæk\ adv : in a violent, frenzied, or uncontrolled manner (run ~)
among \ə-ˈmɒŋ\ also amongst \-ˈmɒŋst\ prep 1 : in or through the midst of 2 : in the number, class, or company of 3 : in shares to each of 4 : by common action of
amon-ti-la-do \ə-ˈmæn-tə-ˈlā-dō\ n, pl -dos [Sp] : a medium dry sherry
amor-al \ə-ˈmɔr-əl\ adj 1 : neither moral nor immoral; esp : being outside the sphere to which moral judgments apply 2 : lacking moral sensibility — amor-ally adv
am-orous \ə-ˈmə-rəs\ adj 1 : inclined to love 2 : being in love 3 : of or indicative of love — am-orous-ly adv — am-orous-ness n
amor-phous \ə-ˈmɔr-fəs\ adj 1 : SHAPELESS, FORMLESS 2 : not crystallized
am-or-tize \ə-ˈmɔr-,fɪz, ə-ˈmɔr-\ vb -tized; -tizing : to extinguish (as a mortgage) usu. by payment on the principal at the time of each periodic interest payment — amor-ti-za-tion \ə-ˈmɔr-tə-ˈzā-shən, ə-ˈmɔr-\ n
Amos \ˈā-məs\ — see BIBLE table
amount \ə-ˈmaʊnt\ vb 1 : to be equivalent 2 : to reach a total : add up
amount n 1 : the total number or quantity 2 : a principal sum plus the interest on it
amour \ə-ˈmʊr, ă-, ə-\ n 1 : a love affair esp. when illicit 2 : LOVER
amour pro-pre \ə-ˈmʊr-ˈprɔpr, ˈā-, -ˈprɔpr\ n [F] : SELF-ESTEEM
amp \ˈæmp\ n 1 : AMPERE 2 : AMPLIFIER; also : a unit consisting of an electronic amplifier and a loudspeaker
amp vb : EXCITE, ENERGIZE (tried to ~ up the crowd)
am-per-age \ˈæm-p(ə-)rɪj\ n : the strength of a current of electricity expressed in amperes
am-phere \ˈæm-pɪr\ n : a unit of electric current equivalent to a steady current produced by one volt applied across a resistance of one ohm
am-per-sand \ˈæm-pər-ˈsænd\ n [alter. of and per se and, spoken form of the phrase & per se and, lit., (the character) & by itself (stands for the word) and] : a character & used for the word and
am-phet-amine \ˈæm-ˈfɛ-tə-,mɛn-,mən\ n : a compound or one of its derivatives that stimulates the central nervous system and is used esp. to treat hyperactive

salamanders) intermediate between fishes and reptiles 2 : an airplane that can land on and take off from either land or water
am-phi-bi-ous \ˈæm-ˈfɪ-bē-əs\ adj [Gk amphibios, lit., living a double life, fr. amphi- + bios mode of life] 1 : able to live both on land and in water 2 : adapted for both land and water 3 : made by joint action of land, sea, and air forces invading from the sea; also : trained for such action
am-phi-bole \ˈæm-fə-ˈbōl\ n : any of a group of rock-forming minerals of similar crystal structure
am-phi-the-ater \ˈæm-fə-ˈthē-ə-ˈtɛr\ n 1 : an oval or circular structure with rising tiers of seats around an arena 2 : a very large auditorium
am-pho-ra \ˈæm-fə-rə\ n, pl -rae \-,rē\ or -ras : an ancient Greek jar or vase with two handles that rise almost to the level of the mouth
am-ple \ˈæm-pəl\ adj am-pler \-plɔr\; am-plest \-plɛst\ 1 : LARGE, CAPACIOUS 2 : enough to satisfy : ABUNDANT — am-ply \-plē\ adv
am-pli-fy \ˈæm-plə-ˈfɪ\ vb -fied; -fy-ing 1 : to expand by extended treatment 2 : to increase in magnitude or strength; esp : to make louder — am-pli-fi-ca-tion \ˈæm-plə-ˈfɪ-kā-shən\ n — am-pli-fi-er \ˈæm-plə-ˈfɪ-ɛr\ n
am-pli-tude \-,ˈtɪd, -ˈtɪtʊd\ n 1 : ample extent : FULLNESS 2 : the extent of a vibratory movement (as of a pendulum) 3 : the height or depth of an oscillation (as of an alternating current or a radio wave) compared to its average value
amplitude modulation n : modulation of the amplitude of a radio carrier wave in accordance with the strength of the signal; also : a broadcasting system using such modulation
am-poule or am-pule also am-pul \ˈæm-pyūl, -pül\ n : a small sealed bulbous glass vessel used to hold a solution for hypodermic injection
am-pu-tate \ˈæm-pyʊ-ˈtāt\ vb -tated; -tating : to cut off (<~ a leg) — am-pu-tation \ˈæm-pyʊ-ˈtā-shən\ n
am-pu-tee \ˈæm-pyʊ-ˈtē\ n : one who has had a limb amputated
AMSLAN abbr American Sign Language
amt abbr amount
amuck var of AMOK
am-u-let \ˈæm-yə-lət\ n : an ornament worn as a charm against evil
amuse \ə-ˈmyʊz\ vb amused; amus-ing : to entertain in a light or playful manner : DIVERT — amuse-ment n — amus-ing adj — amus-ing-ly adv
amusement park n : a commercially operated park having various devices (as a roller coaster) for entertainment and booths for selling refreshments
AM-VETS \ˈæm-vets\ abbr American Veterans (of World War II)

before words beginning with a vowel sound
an or -ian also -ean n suffix 1 : one that belongs to (American) (crustacean) 2 : one skilled in or specializing in (phonetician)
an or -ian also -ean adj suffix 1 : of or belonging to (American) 2 : characteristic of : resembling (Mozartean)
AN abbr airman (Navy)
an-a-bol-ic steroid \ə-ˈnə-ˈbā-lik-\ n : any of a group of synthetic steroid hormones sometimes abused by athletes in training to increase the size and strength of their muscles
anach-ro-nism \ə-ˈnə-krə-ni-zəm\ n 1 : the error of placing a person or thing in the wrong period 2 : one that is chronologically out of place — anach-ro-nis-tic \ə-ˈnə-krə-nis-tik\ adj — anach-ro-nous \-ˈnə-krə-nəs\ adj
an-a-con-da \ə-ˈnə-ˈkän-də\ n : a large So. American snake that suffocates and kills its prey by constriction
anad-ro-mous \ə-ˈnə-drə-məs\ adj : ascending rivers from the sea for breeding (shad are ~)
anae-mia, anae-mic chiefly Brit var of ANEMIA, ANEMIC
an-aer-obe \ə-ˈnə-,rōb\ n : an anaerobic organism
an-aer-o-bic \ə-ˈnə-ˈrō-bik\ adj : living, active, occurring, or existing in the absence of free oxygen
an-aes-the-sia, an-aes-thet-ic chiefly Brit var of ANESTHESIA, ANESTHETIC
ana-gram \ˈə-nə-ˈgrəm\ n : a word or phrase made by transposing the letters of another word or phrase
anal \ˈā-nəl\ adj 1 : of, relating to, situated near, or involving the anus 2 : of, relating to, or characterized by the stage of psychosexual development in psychoanalytic theory during which one is concerned esp. with feces 3 : of, relating to, or characterized by personality traits (as frugality and neatness) considered typical of fixation at the anal stage of development — anal-ly adv
anal abbr 1 analogy 2 analysis; analytic
an-al-ge-sia \ə-ˈnəl-ˈjɛ-zhə\ n : insensibility to pain — an-al-ge-sic \-ˈjɛ-zik, -sɪk\ adj
an-al-ge-sic \-ˈjɛ-zik, -sɪk\ n : an agent for producing analgesia
analog computer n : a computer that operates with numbers represented by directly measurable quantities (as voltages)
anal-o-gous \ə-ˈnə-lə-gəs\ adj : similar in one or more respects — anal-o-gous-ly adv
an-a-log-ue or an-a-log \ə-ˈnə-ˈlɒg, -ˈlɑg\ n 1 : something that is analogous to something else 2 : an organ similar in function to one of another animal or plant but different in structure or origin
anal-o-gy \ə-ˈnə-lə-ˈjɛ\ n, pl -gies 1 : inference that if two or more things agree

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