

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, Publishers
Springfield, Massachusetts



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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

The Merriam-Webster dictionary.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-87779-606-8 (alk. paper)

1. English language — Dictionaries. I. Merriam-Webster Inc.
PE1628.M353 1998
423—dc21

97-39927
CIP

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Made in the United States of America

2425RRD0302

bier \ˈbɪr/ *n*: a stand bearing a coffin or corpse
bi-focal \ˈbi-fo-kəl/ *adj*: having two focal lengths
bifocals \-kəlz/ *n pl*: eyeglasses with lenses that have one part that corrects for near vision and one for distant vision
bi-furcate \ˈbi-fər-əkət, bɪ-ˈfər-əkət/ *vb -cat-ed; -cat-ing*: to divide into two branches or parts — **bi-fur-cation** \bi-fər-ˈkə-shən/ *n*
big \ˈbɪg/ *adj* **big-ger; big-gest** 1: large in size, amount, or scope 2: PREGNANT; *also*: SWELLING 3: IMPORTANT, IMPOSING 4: POPULAR — **big-ness** *n*
big-am-y \ˈbi-gə-mē/ *n*: the act of marrying one person while still legally married to another — **big-amist** \-mɪst/ *n* — **big-a-mous** \-məs/ *adj*
big bang theory *n*: a theory in astronomy: the universe originated in an explosion (**big bang**) from a single point of nearly infinite energy density
big brother 1: an older brother 2: a man who befriends a delinquent or friendless boy 3 *cap both Bs*: the leader of an authoritarian state or movement
Big Dipper *n*: the seven principal stars of Ursa Major in a form resembling a dipper
big-foot \ˈbɪg-foʊt/ *n*: SASQUATCH
big-horn \ˈbɪg-hɔrn/ *n, pl* **bighorn** or **bighorns**: a wild sheep of mountainous western No. America



bighorn

bight \ˈbɪt/ *n* 1: a curve in a coast; *also*: the bay formed by such a curve 2: a slack part in a rope
big-name \ˈbɪg-nām/ *adj*: widely popular (a ~ performer) — **big name** *n*
big-ot \ˈbɪ-gət/ *n*: one intolerantly devoted to his or her own prejudices or opinions *syn* fanatic, enthusiast, zealot — **big-ot-ed** \-gət-əd/ *adj* — **big-ot-ry** \-trē/ *n*
big shot \ˈbɪg-ʃhət/ *n*: an important person
big time \-tīm/ *n* 1: a high-paying vaudeville circuit requiring only two performances a day 2: the top rank of an activity or enterprise — **big-time** *n*
big top *n* 1: the main tent of a circus 2: CIRCUS
big-wig \ˈbɪg-wɪg/ *n*: BIG SHOT
bike \ˈbɪk/ *n* 1: BICYCLE 2: MOTORCYCLE
biker *n*: MOTORCYCLIST; *esp*: one who is a member of an organized gang
bike-way \ˈbɪk-wā/ *n*: a thoroughfare for bicycles
bi-ki-ni \bi-ˈki-nē/ *n*: a woman's brief 2-piece bathing suit
bi-lat-er-al \bi-ˈlɑ-tə-rəl/ *adj* 1: having or involving two sides 2: affecting reciprocally two sides or parties — **bi-lat-er-al-ly** *adv*
bile \ˈbɪl/ *n* 1: a bitter greenish fluid secreted by the liver that aids in the digestion of fats 2: an ill-humored mood
bilge \ˈbɪlj/ *n* 1: the part of a ship that lies between the bottom and the point where the sides go straight up 2: stale or worthless remarks or ideas
bi-ling-u-al \bi-ˈlɪŋ-gwəl/ *adj*: expressed in, knowing, or using two languages

bil-ious \ˈbɪl-yəs/ *adj* 1: marked by or suffering from disordered liver function 2: IRRITABLE, ILL-TEMPERED — **bil-ious-ness** *n*
bilk \ˈbɪlk/ *vb*: CHEAT, SWINDLE
bill \ˈbɪl/ *n*: the jaws of a bird together with their horny covering; *also*: a mouth structure (as of a turtle) resembling these — **billed** \ˈbɪld/ *adj*
bill *vb*: to caress fondly
bill *n* 1: an itemized statement of particulars; *also*: INVOICE 2: a written document or note 3: a printed advertisement (as a poster) announcing an event 4: a draft of a law presented to a legislature for enactment 5: a written statement of a legal wrong suffered or of some breach of law 6: a piece of paper money
bill *vb* 1: to enter in or prepare a bill; *also*: to submit a bill or account to 2: to advertise by bills or posters
bill-board \-bɔrd/ *n*: a flat surface on which advertising bills are posted
bill-let \ˈbɪ-lət/ *n* 1: an order requiring a person to provide lodging for a soldier; *also*: quarters assigned by or as if by such an order 2: POSITION, APPOINTMENT
billet *vb*: to assign lodging to by billet
bil-let-doux \bi-lä-ˈdü/ *n, pl* **billets-doux** \same or -ˈdüz/ [F *billet doux*, lit., sweet letter]: a love letter
bill-fold \ˈbɪl-fəld/ *n*: WALLET
bill-iards \ˈbɪl-yərdz/ *n*: any of several games played on an oblong table by driving balls against each other or into pockets with a cue
bill-ings-gate \ˈbɪ-lɪŋz-gāt, Brit usu -gɪt/ *n* [*Billings-gate*, old gate and fish market, London, England]: coarsely abusive language
bil-lion \ˈbɪl-yən/ *n* 1: a thousand millions 2 *Brit*: a million millions — **billion** *adj* — **bil-lionth** \-yənth/ *adj* or *n*
bill of health: a usu. favorable report following an examination
bill of sale: a legal document transferring ownership of goods
bil-low \ˈbɪ-lə/ *n* 1: WAVE; *esp*: a great wave 2: a rolling mass (as of fog or flame) like a great wave — **bil-low-y** \-lə-wē/ *adj*
billow *vb*: to rise and roll in waves; *also*: to swell out (~ing sails)
bil-ly \ˈbɪ-lē/ *n, pl* **billies**: BILLY CLUB
billy club *n*: a heavy usu. wooden club; *esp*: a police officer's club
billy goat \ˈbɪ-lē/ *n*: a male goat
bi-met-al \ˈbi-met-əl/ *adj*: BIMETALLIC — **bimetal** *n*
bi-met-al-lic \bi-mə-ˈtɑ-lɪk/ *adj*: made of two different metals — often used of devices having a bonded expansive part — **bimetallic** *n*
bi-met-al-lism \bi-ˈmet-əl-ɪ-zəm/ *n*: the use of two metals at fixed ratios to form a standard of value for a monetary system
bi-month-ly \bi-ˈmʌnth-lē/ *adj* 1: occurring every two months 2: occurring twice a month: SEMIMONTHLY — **bimonthly** *adv*
bimonthly *n*: a bimonthly publication
bin \ˈbɪn/ *n*: a box, crib, or enclosure used for storage
bi-nar-y \ˈbi-nə-rē, -ner-ē/ *adj* 1: consisting of two things or parts 2: relating to, being, or belonging to a system of numbers having 2 as its base (the ~ digits 0 and 1) 3: involving a choice between or condition of two alternatives only (as on-off, yes-no) — **binary** *n*
binary star *n*: a system of two stars revolving around each other
bin-au-ral \bi-ˈnɔr-əl/ *adj*: of or relating to sound reproduction involving the use of two separated microphones and two transmission channels to achieve a stereophonic effect
bind \ˈbɪnd/ *vb* **bound** \ˈbaʊnd/; **bind-ing** 1: TIE; *also*: to restrain as if by tying 2: to put under an obligation; *also*: to constrain with legal authority 3: BANDAGE 4: to unite into a mass 5: to compel as if by a pledge (a handshake ~s the deal) 6: to strengthen or

decorate with a band 7: to fasten together and enclose in a cover (~ books) 8: to exert a tying, restraining, or compelling effect — **bind-er** *n*
bind-ing \ˈbɪn-dɪŋ/ *n*: something (as a ski fastening, a cover, or an edging fabric) used to bind
binge \ˈbɪŋj/ *n*: SPREE
binge *vb* **binged**; **binge-ing** or **bing-ing**: to go on a binge and esp. an eating binge — **bing-er** *n*
bin-go \ˈbɪŋ-gə/ *n, pl* **bingos**: a game of chance played with cards having numbered squares corresponding to numbered balls drawn at random and won by covering five squares in a row
bin-na-cle \ˈbɪ-nɪ-kəl/ *n* [alter. of ME *bitakle*, fr. Pg or Sp; Pg *bitacola* & Sp *bitácula*, fr. L *habitaculum* dwelling place, fr. *habitare* to inhabit]: a container holding a ship's compass
bin-oc-u-lar \bi-ˈnə-kyə-lər, bə-ˈlɑdʒ/ *adj*: of, relating to, or adapted to the use of both eyes — **bin-oc-u-lar-ly** *adv*
bin-oc-u-lar \bə-ˈnə-kyə-lər, bɪ-ˈnɔ/ *n* 1: a binocular optical instrument (as a microscope) 2: a hand-held optical instrument composed of two telescopes and a focusing device — usu. used in pl.
bi-no-mi-al \bi-ˈnə-mē-əl/ *n* 1: a mathematical expression consisting of two terms connected by the sign plus (+) or minus (-) 2: a biological species name consisting of two terms — **binomial** *adj*
bio-chem-is-try \bi-ō-ˈke-mə-strē/ *n*: chemistry that deals with the chemical compounds and processes occurring in living things — **bio-chem-i-cal** \-mi-kəl/ *adj* or *n* — **bio-chem-ist** \-mɪst/ *n*
bio-de-grad-able \di-ˈgrɑ-də-bəl/ *adj*: capable of being broken down esp. into innocuous products by the actions of living things (as microorganisms) (a ~ detergent) — **bio-de-grad-a-bil-i-ty** \-grɑ-də-ˈbi-lə-tē/ *n* — **bio-de-gra-da-tion** \-de-grɑ-ˈdɑ-shən/ *n* — **bio-de-grad-e** \-di-ˈgrɑd/ *vb*
bio-di-vers-ity \dɪ-ˈvər-sə-tē, -dɪ-ˈvər-sə-tē/ *n*: biological diversity in an environment as indicated by numbers of different species of plants and animals
bio-eth-ics \-e-thɪks/ *n*: the ethics of biological research and its applications esp. in medicine — **bio-eth-i-cal** \-e-thi-kəl/ *adj* — **bio-eth-i-cist** \-e-thə-sɪst/ *n*
bio-feed-back \-fēd-ˈbæk/ *n*: the technique of making unconscious or involuntary bodily processes (as heartbeats or brain waves) objectively perceptible to the senses (as by use of an oscilloscope) in order to manipulate them by conscious mental control
biog *abbr* biographer; biographical; biography
bio-ge-og-ra-phy \bi-ō-jē-ˈɑ-grə-fē/ *n*: a branch of biology that deals with the distribution of plants and animals — **bio-ge-og-ra-pher** *n*
bi-og-ra-phy \bi-ˈɑ-grə-fē, bē-ˈlɑ/ *n, pl -phies*: a written history of a person's life; *also*: such writings in general — **bi-og-ra-pher** *n* — **bi-og-raph-i-cal** \bi-ɑ-ˈgrɑ-fi-kəl/ *also* **bi-og-raph-ic** \-fɪk/ *adj*
biol *abbr* biologic; biological; biologist; biology
bi-ol-og-i-cal \bi-ɑ-ˈlɑ-jɪ-kəl/ *also* **bi-ol-og-ic** \-jɪk/ *adj* 1: of, relating to, or produced by biology or life and living processes 2: related by direct genetic relationship rather than by adoption or marriage (~ parents) — **bi-ol-og-i-cal-ly** \-jɪ-k(ə)-lɪ/ *adv*
biological clock *n*: an inherent timing mechanism inferred to exist in some living systems (as a cell) in order to explain various cyclic physiological and behavioral responses
biological warfare *n*: warfare in which living organisms (as bacteria) are used as weapons
bi-ol-o-gy \bi-ˈɑ-lə-jē/ *n* [G *Biologie*, fr. Gk *bios* mode of life + *logos* word] 1: a science that deals with living beings and life processes 2: the life processes of an organism or group — **bi-ol-o-gist** \bi-ˈɑ-lə-jɪst/ *n*
bio-med-i-cal \bi-ō-ˈme-di-kəl/ *adj*: of, relating to, or involving biological, medical, and physical science
bi-on-ic \bi-ˈɑ-nɪk/ *adj*: having normal biological ca-