

Second College Edition

The
**American Heritage
Dictionary**

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ploun, to redouble : *ana-*, again + *diplo-*, to double < *diplo-*, double.]

a-nad-ro-mous (ə-nād'ro-məs) *adj.* Migrating up rivers from the sea to breed in fresh water. [Gk. *anadromos*, a running up : *ana-*, up + *dromos*, race.]

a-nae-mi-a (ə-nē'mē-ə) *n.* Variant of *anemia*.

a-nae-mic (ə-nē'mik) *adj.* Variant of *anemic*.

an-aer-obe (än'ə-rōb', ä-när'ōb') *n.* A microorganism, as a bacterium, able to live in the absence of free oxygen. —*an-aer-obic* (än'ə-rō'bik, -är-ō'bik) *adj.* —*an-aer-obic-al-ly adv.*

an-aes-the-sia (än'is-thē'zha) *n.* Variant of *anesthesia*.

an-aes-the-si-ol-o-gy (än'is-thē'zē-ōl'ə-jē) *n.* Variant of *anesthesiology*.

an-aes-thet-ic (än'is-thēt'ik) *adj.* & *n.* Variant of *anesthetic*.

a-naes-the-tist (ə-nēs-thi-tist) *n.* Variant of *anesthetist*.

a-naes-the-tize (ənēs-thi-tīz) *v.* Variant of *anesthetize*.

an-a-glyph (än'ə-glif') *n.* 1. An ornament carved in low relief. 2. A moving or still picture consisting of two slightly different perspectives of the same subject in contrasting colors that are superimposed on each other, and that produces a three-dimensional effect when viewed through two correspondingly colored filters. [Gk. *anaglyphos*, carved in low relief : *ana-*, up + *gluphein*, to carve.] —*an-a-glyph'ic*, *an-a-glyp'tic* (-glif'tik) *adj.*

an-a-go-gy also **an-a-go-gy** (än'ə-gō'jē) *n.* A mystical interpretation of a word, passage, or text, esp. scriptural exegesis that detects allusions to heaven or the afterlife. [LLat. < LGk. *anagōgē* : *ana*, up + *agein*, to lead.] —*an-a-go-g'ic* (-gō'jik), *an-a-go-g'ic-al adj.* —*an-a-go-g'ic-al-ly adv.*

an-a-gram (än'ə-grām) *n.* 1. A word or phrase formed by reordering the letters of another word or phrase. 2. *anagrams* (used with a *sing. verb*). A game whose object is to form words from a group of randomly picked letters. [Fr. *anagramme* : Gk. *ana-*, from bottom to top + Gk. *gramma*, letter < *graphein*, to write.] —*an-a-gram-mat'ic* (-grāmāt'ik) *adj.* —*an-a-gram-mat'ic-al-ly adv.*

an-a-gram-ma-tize (än'ə-grām'ə-tīz) *tr. v.* -tized, -tizing, -tizes. To make an anagram of.

a-nal (ä'nəl) *adj.* 1. Of, pertaining to, or near the anus. 2. *Psychoanal.* a. Of, pertaining to, or denoting the stage of psychosexual development of the infant in which gratification is derived from sensations associated with the anus. b. Of, pertaining to, or denoting personality traits originating during toilet training and distinguished as anal-expulsive or anal-retentive. [NLat. *analis* < Lat. *anus*, anus.]

a-nal-clme (ə-näl'sēm) also **a-nal-clte** (-sīt') *n.* A white or light-colored zeolite, found in diabase and certain basalts. [Fr. < Gk. *analkimos*, weak (from its weak electric power) : *an-*, not + *alkimos*, brave < *alkē*, strength.]

an-a-lects (än'ə-lēkts') also **an-a-lect-ta** (än'ə-lēk'ta) *pl. n.* Selections or parts of a literary work or group of works. [Lat. *analecta* < Gk. *analekta* < *analegein*, to gather : *ana-*, up + *legein*, to gather.] —*an-a-lect'ic adj.*

an-a-lem-ma (än'ə-lēm'mə) *n.* A graduated decline, in the shape of a figure eight, indicating the sun's declination and the equation of time for every day of the year, usually found on sundials and globes. [Lat., sundial < Gk. *analēmma*, support < *analambanein*, to take up. —see ANALEPTIC.]

an-a-lep-tic (än'ə-lēp'tik) *adj.* Restorative or stimulating. —*n.* An analeptic medication. [Gk. *analēptikos* < *analambanein*, to take up : *ana-*, up + *lambanein*, to take.]

an-al-ex-pul-sive (än'al-ēk-spūl'siv) *adj.* *Psychoanal.* Designating personality traits such as conceit, suspicion, ambition, and generosity, originating in habits, attitudes, or values associated with infantile pleasure in the expulsion of feces.

an-al-ge-si-a (än'al-jē'zē-ə, -zha) *n.* *Pathol.* Inability to feel pain while conscious. [NLat. < Gk. *analgesia* : *an-*, without + *algos*, pain.] —*an-al-ge'tic adj.*

an-al-ge-sic (än'al-jē'zīk, -sīk) *n.* A medication that reduces or eliminates pain. —*adj.* Of or causing analgesia.

an-a-log (än'ə-lōg', -lōg') *n.* Variant of *analogue*.

analog computer also **analogue computer** *n.* A computer in which numerical data are represented by analogous physical magnitudes or electrical signals.

analog data *pl. n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. verb*). Data presented or collected in continuous form, as temperature variation or voltage measurement.

an-a-log-i-cal (än'ə-lōj'i-kəl) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, composed of, or based upon an analogy. —*an-a-log'i-cal-ly adv.*

a-nal-o-gist (ə-näl'ə-jīst) *n.* One who looks for or reasons from analogies.

a-nal-o-gize (ə-näl'ə-jīz) *v.* -gized, -giz-ing, -giz-es. —*tr.* To make an analogy to. —*intr.* To think or reason by analogy.

a-nal-o-gous (ə-näl'ə-gəs) *adj.* 1. Similar or alike in a way that permits the drawing of an analogy. 2. *Biol.* Similar in function but not in evolutionary origin. [Lat. *analogus* < Gk. *analogos*, proportionate : *ana-*, according to + *logos*, proportion < *legein*, to speak.] —*a-nal'o-gous-ly adv.* —*a-nal'o-gous-ness n.*

a-nal-o-gue also **a-nal-o-gue** (än'ə-lōg', -lōg') *n.* 1. Something that bears an analogy to something else. 2. *Biol.* An organ or structure that is similar in function to one in another kind of organism, but is of dissimilar evolutionary origin. 3. *Chem.* A structural derivative of a parent compound. [Fr. < Gk. *analogos*, proportionate —see ANALOGOUS.]

a-nal-o-gy (ə-näl'ə-jē) *n., pl. -gies*. 1. Correspondence in some respects between things otherwise dissimilar. 2. *Biol.* Correspondence in function or position between organs of dissimilar evolutionary origin or structure. 3. A form of logical inference, or an instance of it, based on the assumption that if two things are known to be alike in some respects, then they must be alike in other respects. 4. *Ling.* The creation of forms on the basis of a proportion $a : b = c : x$ [Lat. *analogia* < Gk. < *analogos*, proportionate. —see ANALOGOUS.]

an-al-pha-bet-ic (än'al'fə-bēt'ik) *adj.* 1. Not alphabetical. 2. Unable to read; illiterate. —*n.* An illiterate.

a-nal-re-tent-ive (än'al-rī-tēn'tiv) *adj.* *Psychoanal.* Designating personality traits such as meticulousness, avarice, and obstinacy, originating in habits, attitudes, or values associated with infantile pleasure in retention of feces.

an-a-ly-sand (ə-näl'i-sänd') *n.* A person who is being psychoanalyzed. [ANALYZE, by analogy with *multiplacand*.]

an-a-lyse (än'ə-līz') *v.* *Chiefly Brit.* Variant of *analyze*.

an-a-ly-sis (ə-näl'i-sis) *n., pl. -ses* (-sēz'). 1. The separation of an intellectual or substantial whole into its constituent parts for individual study. 2. *Chem.* a. Separation of a substance into its constituent elements to determine either their nature (qualitative analysis) or their proportions (quantitative analysis). b. The stated findings of such separation or determination. 3. *Math.* a. Methodology principally involving algebra and calculus as opposed to synthetic geometry, group theory, and number theory. b. The method of proof in which a known truth is sought as a consequence of reasoning from the thing to be proved. 4. *Ling.* The use of two or more words instead of an inflected form to express a grammatical category. 5. *Psychoanalysis*. 6. *Systems analysis*. [NLat. < Gk. *analysis*, a dissolving < *analuein*, to undo : *ana-*, throughout + *luein*, to loosen.]

an-a-lyst (än'ə-līst) *n.* 1. One who analyzes. 2. A licensed practitioner of psychoanalysis. 3. A systems analyst.

an-a-lyt-ic (än'ə-līt'ik) or **an-a-lyt'i-cal** (-lī-kəl) *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to analysis or analytics. 2. Dividing into elemental parts or basic principles. 3. Reasoning from a perception of the parts and interrelations of a subject. 4. Expert in or using analysis, esp. in thinking: *an analytic mind*; *an analytic approach*. 5. *Logic*. Following necessarily; tautologous: *an analytic truth*. 6. *Math.* a. Using, subjected to, or capable of being subjected to a methodology involving algebra and calculus. b. Proving a known truth by reasoning from the thing to be proved. 7. *Ling.* Expressing a grammatical category by using two or more words instead of an inflected form. 8. *Psychoanalytic*. [LLat. *analyticus* < Gk. *analutikos* < *analuein*, to resolve. —see ANALYSIS.] —*an-a-lyt'i-cal-ly adv.*

analytical balance *n.* A balance for chemical analysis.

analytic geometry *n.* The analysis of geometric structures and properties principally by algebraic operations on variables defined in terms of position coordinates.

an-a-lyt-ics (än'ə-līt'iks) *n.* (used with a *sing. verb*). The branch of logic dealing with analysis.

an-a-lyze (än'ə-līz') *tr. v.* -lyzed, -lyz-ing, -lyz-es. 1. To separate into parts or basic principles so as to determine the nature of the whole; examine methodically. 2. To make a chemical analysis of. 3. To make a mathematical analysis of. 4. To psychoanalyze. [Prob. < Fr. *analyser* < *analyse*, analysis < Gk. *analysis*. —see ANALYSIS.] —*an-a-lyz'ə-ble adj.* —*an-a-lyz'a-tion n.* —*an-a-lyz'er n.*

an-am-ne-sis (än'am-nē'sis) *n., pl. -ses* (-sēz'). 1. *Psychol.* A recalling to memory; recollection. 2. *Med.* The complete case history of a patient. [NLat. < Gk. *anamnēsis* < *anamimnēskein*, to remind : *ana-*, again, *mimnēskein*, to recall.] —*an'am-nes'tic* (-nēs'tik) *adj.* —*an'am-nes'tic-al-ly adv.*

an-a-morph-ic (än'ə-mōr'fik) *adj.* Having, producing, or designating different optical magnification along mutually perpendicular radii: *an amorphous lens*.

an-a-morph-osis (än'ə-mōr'fō-sis) *n., pl. -ses* (-sēz'). An image distorted so that it can be viewed without distortion only from a special angle or with a special instrument. [Gk. *anamorphōsis*, re-formation : *ana-*, again + *morphē*, shape.]

an-an-drous (än-än'drəs) *adj.* *Bot.* Having no stamens.

An-a-ni-as (än'ə-nī'əs) *n.* In the New Testament, a liar who dropped dead when Peter rebuked him.

an-an-thous (än-än'thəs) *adj.* *Bot.* Lacking flowers.

an-a-pest also **an-a-paest** (än'ə-pēst') *n.* 1. A metrical foot composed of two short syllables followed by one long one. 2. A line of verse in anapest. [Lat. *anapestus* < Gk. *anapēstos* : *ana-*, back + *paiein*, to strike (so called because an anapest is a reversed dactyl).] —*an-a-pes'tic adj.*

an-a-phase (än'ə-fāz') *n.* The stage of mitosis in which the daughter chromosomes move toward the poles of the nuclear spindle.

a-naph-o-ra (ə-nāf'ə-rə) *n.* The deliberate repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of several successive verses, clauses, or paragraphs. [LLat. < Gk. < *anapherein*, to repeat : *ana-*, again + *pherein*, to carry.]

an-aph-ro-dis-i-a (än'äf'rə-dīz'ē-ə, -dīzh'ə) *n.* Absence or decline of sexual desire. [Gk. : *an*, without + *aphrodisia*, sexual desire. —see APHRODISIAC.] —*an-aph-ro-dis'i-ae* (än'äf'rə-dīz'ē-äk') *adj. & n.*

an-a-phy-lac-toid (än'ə-fä-läkt'oid) *adj.* *Pathol.* 1. Of or pertaining to an anaphylactic reaction that occurs without

ä pat / ä pay / äf care / ä father / b bib / ch church / d deed / è pet / è be / f fife / g gag / h hat / hw which / i pit / i pie / ir pier / j judge / k kick / l lid, needle / m mum / n no, sudden / ng thing / ö pot / ö toe / ð paw, for / oi noise / ou out / öo took / öo boot /



potbelly stove



potter¹



potter's wheel

potbelly stove *n.* A short rounded stove in which wood or coal is burned.

pot-boiler (pŏt'boi'lər) *n.* A sensational literary or artistic work of poor quality, produced quickly for profit.

pot-boy (pŏt'boi') *n.* Chiefly Brit. A boy or man who works in an inn or a public house serving customers and doing chores.

pot cheese *n.* Cottage cheese.
pot-teen (pŏ-tĕn') *n.* Irish whiskey that is distilled unlawfully. [Ir. Gael. *poitín* < *potá, pot*.]

po-tence (pŏt'ns) *n.* Potency.

po-ten-ty (pŏt'n-sĕ) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. The quality or state of being potent. 2. Inherent capacity for growth and development; potentiality.

po-tent (pŏt'nt) *adj.* 1. Possessing inner or physical strength; powerful. 2. Having a strong effect or influence; cogent: *potent arguments.* 3. Having great control or authority: "The police were potent only so long as they were feared" (Thomas Burke). 4. Capable of causing strong physiological or chemical effects, as medicines or alcoholic beverages do. 5. Able to perform sexually. Used of a male. [ME < Lat. *potens*, pr.part. of *posse*, to be able.] —**po-tent-ly** *adv.* —**po-tent-ness** *n.*

po-ten-tate (pŏt'n-tāt') *n.* 1. One who has the power and position to rule over others; monarch. 2. One who dominates or leads a group or endeavor: *industrial potentates.* [ME *potentat* < OFr. < LLat. *potentatus* < Lat., power < *potens*, pr.part. of *posse*, to be able.]

po-ten-tial (pŏ-tĕn'shəl) *adj.* 1. Capable of being but not yet in existence; latent: *a potential problem.* 2. *Gram.* Denoting possibility, capability, or power; designating a verb form with auxiliaries such as *may* or *can*; for example, *It may snow.* —*n.* 1. The inherent ability or capacity for growth, development, or coming into being. 2. Something possessing the capacity for growth or development. 3. *Gram.* A potential verb form. 4. *Physics.* The work required to bring a unit electric charge, magnetic pole, or mass from an infinitely distant position to a designated point in a static electric, magnetic, or gravitational field, respectively. 5. *Elect.* The potential energy of a unit charge at any point in an electric circuit measured with respect to a specified reference point in the circuit or to ground; voltage. [ME *potencial* < OFr. < LLat. *potentialis*, powerful < Lat. *potentia*, power < *potens*, pr.part. of *posse*, to be able.] —**po-ten-tial-ly** *adv.*

potential energy *n.* The energy of a particle or system of particles derived from position, rather than motion, with respect to a specified datum in a field of force.
po-ten-tial-ty (pŏ-tĕn'shĕ-āl'ī-tĕ) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. Inherent capacity for growth, development, or coming into existence. 2. Something possessing potentiality.

po-ten-till'a (pŏt'n-til'ə) *n.* Any of numerous plants or shrubs of the genus *Potentilla*, of the North Temperate Zone. [Med. Lat., garden valerian < Lat. *potens*, pr.part. of *posse*, to be able.]

po-ten-ti-om-e-ter (pŏ-tĕn'shĕ-ŏm'ĭ-tĕr) *n.* 1. An instrument for measuring an unknown voltage or potential difference by comparison to a standard voltage. 2. A three-terminal resistor with an adjustable center connection, widely used for volume control in radio and television receivers. [POTENTIAL + -METER.] —**po-ten-ti-om-e-tric** *adj.*

pot-ful (pŏt'fŏol') *n.* 1. The amount that a pot will hold. 2. *Informal.* A large amount: *made a potful of money on the horses.*

pot-head (pŏt'hĕd') *n.* *Slang.* One who habitually smokes marijuana.

pot-her (pŏt'hĕr) *n.* 1. A commotion; disturbance. 2. A state of nervous activity; fuss. 3. A cloud of smoke or dust that chokes or smothers. —*v.* -ered, -er-ing, -ers. —*tr.* To make confused; trouble; worry. —*intr.* To take too much concern with trifles; fuss. [Orig. unknown.]

pot-herb (pŏt'ĕrb', -hĕrb') *n.* A plant whose leaves, stems, or flowers are cooked and eaten or used as seasoning.

pot-hold-er (pŏt'hŏl'dĕr) *n.* A small fabric pad used to handle hot cooking utensils.

pot-hole (pŏt'hŏl') *n.* 1. A deep hole or pit, esp. one in a road surface. 2. A deep, round hole worn in rock by loose stones whirling in strong rapids or waterfalls. 3. *Western U.S.* A place filled with mud or quicksand that is a hazard to cattle.

pot-hook (pŏt'hŏok') *n.* 1. A bent or hooked piece of iron for hanging a pot or kettle over a fire. 2. A curved iron rod with a hooked end used for lifting hot pots, irons, or stove lids. 3. A curved, S-shaped mark made in writing. 4. Often **pot-hooks.** a. Illegible handwriting or aimless scribbling. b. *Informal.* Stenographic writing.

pot-house (pŏt'hous') *n.* Chiefly Brit. A tavern.

pot-hunter (pŏt'hūn'tĕr) *n.* 1. One who hunts game for food, ignoring the rules of sport. 2. One who participates in contests simply to win prizes. 3. A nonprofessional archaeologist. —**pot-hunt-ing** *n.*

po-tiche (pŏ-tĕsh') *n.* A vase or jar with a round or polygonal body tapering at the neck and having a removable cover. [Fr. < *pot*, pot < OFr.]

po-tion (pŏ'shən) *n.* A liquid dose, esp. one of medicinal,

magic, or poisonous content: *a love potion.* [ME *poçion* < OFr. < Lat. *potio* < *potare*, to drink.]

pot-latch (pŏt'lach') *n.* A ceremonial feast among Indian tribes living on the northwest Pacific coast in which the host distributes gifts requiring reciprocation. [Chinook < Nootka *patshat*, gift.]

pot-luck (pŏt'lŭk') *n.* Whatever food happens to be available for a meal, esp. when offered to a guest.

pot marigold *n.* A plant, *Calendula officinalis*, often grown for its showy yellow or orange flowers, the dried florets of which were formerly used for seasoning.

pot marjoram *n.* Marjoram (sense 2).

pot-pourri (pŏt'pŏr'i) *n., pl. -ris.* 1. A mixture of various incongruous elements. 2. A miscellaneous anthology or collection. 3. A mixture of dried flower petals and spices kept in a jar and used to scent the air. [Fr. *pot pourri*, transl. of Sp. *olla podrida*. —see OLLA PODRIDA.]

pot roast *n.* A cut of beef that is browned and then cooked until tender, often with vegetables, in a covered pot.

pot-sherd (pŏt'shĕrd') also **pot-shard** (-shārd') *n.* A fragment of broken pottery, esp. one found in an archaeological excavation. [ME *poischord* : *pot*, pot + *schoord*, var. of *shard*, shard < OE *sceard*.]

pot shot *n.* 1. A shot fired without taking careful aim or fired at a target within easy range. 2. A criticism made without careful thought and aimed at a handy target for attack: *reporters taking pot shots at the mayor.* [So called because such a shot is fired by a hunter whose main purpose is to get food for his pot.]

pot-stone (pŏt'stŏn') *n.* An impure variety of steatite once used to make cooking vessels.

pot-tage (pŏt'ij) *n.* 1. A thick soup or stew of vegetables and sometimes meat. 2. *Archaic.* Porridge. [ME *potage* < OFr. < *pot*, pot.]

pot-ter (pŏt'ĕd) *adj.* 1. a. Placed in a pot. b. Grown in a pot, as a plant. 2. Preserved in a pot, can, or jar. 3. *Slang.* a. Intoxicated. b. Stoned (sense 2).

pot-ter (pŏt'ĕr) *n.* One who makes earthenware pots, dishes, or other vessels. [ME *pottere* < OE < *pot*, pot.]

pot-ter (pŏt'ĕr) *v.* Chiefly Brit. Variant of *putter*.

potter's clay *n.* A clay low in iron content that is suitable for making pottery or for modeling.

potter's earth *n.* Potter's clay.

potter's field *n.* A place for the burial of indigent or unknown persons. [From the potter's field mentioned in the Gospel according to St. Matthew.]

potter's wheel *n.* A device composed of a revolving, often treadle-operated horizontal disk upon which clay is shaped manually.

potter wasp *n.* Any of various wasps of the genus *Eumenes*, characteristically building pot-shaped nests of clay.

pot-tery (pŏt'ĕrĕ) *n., pl. -ies.* 1. Ware, such as vases, pots, bowls, or plates, shaped from moist clay and hardened by heat. 2. The craft or occupation of a potter. 3. The place where a potter works. [OFr. *poterie* < *potter*, potter, prob. < *pot*, pot.]

pot-tle (pŏt'lĕ) *n.* 1. A pot or drinking vessel with a two-quart capacity. 2. The liquid contained in a pottle. 3. An old liquid measure equal to about two quarts. [ME *potel* < OFr. < *pot*, pot.]

pot-to (pŏt'tŏ) *n., pl. -tos.* Any of several small African primates of the genera *Perodicticus* and *Arctocebus*, having woolly fur and hands and feet adapted for grasping. [Of Niger-Congo orig.]

Pott's disease (pŏts) *n.* Partial destruction of the bones of the vertebrae, usually caused by a tuberculous infection and often producing deformity and curvature of the spine. [After Percival Pott (1714-1788).]

pot-ty (pŏt'tĭ) *adj.* -*ti-er*, -*ti-est.* Chiefly Brit. 1. Of little importance; trivial. 2. Slightly intoxicated. 3. Somewhat silly or crazy; addlebrained. [Poss. < POT.]

pot-ty (pŏt'tĭ) *n., pl. -ties.* A small pot for use as a toilet by an infant or young child.

pot-ty-chair (pŏt'tĕ-čĕr') *n.* A small chair with an opening in the seat and a receptacle beneath, used for toilet-training young children.

pouch (pouch) *n.* 1. A small bag closed with a drawstring and used esp. for carrying loose pipe tobacco in one's pocket. 2. A small or medium-sized bag of flexible material used for holding or carrying various things, esp. one used to carry mail or diplomatic dispatches. 3. *Archaic.* A purse for small coins. 4. A leather bag for carrying powder or small-arms ammunition. 5. Something resembling a bag in shape: *He had pouches under his eyes.* 6. *Zool.* A saclike structure, such as the cheek pockets of the gopher or the external abdominal pocket in which marsupials carry their young.

7. Scot. A pocket. —*v.* **pouched**, **pouch-ing**, **pouch-es.** —*tr.*

1. To place in or as if in a pouch; pocket: *He pouched all the money.* 2. To cause to resemble a pouch in shape. 3. To swallow. Used of certain birds or fishes. —*intr.* To assume the form of a pouch or pouchlike cavity. [ME *pouche* < OFr., of Germanic orig.] —**pouch'y** *adj.*

pouf (pŏof) *n.* 1. A woman's hair style popular in the 18th

ă pat / ă pay / ăr care / ă father / b bib / ch church / d deed / ẽ pet / ẽ be / f fife / g gag / h hat / hw which / i pit / i pie / tr pier / j judge / k kick / l lid, needle / m mum / n no, sudden / ng thing / ò pot / ò toe / ò paw, for / oi noise / ou out / òò took / òò boot