



Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

Merriam-Webster[™] is the name you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 1993 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Philippines Copyright 1993 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

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

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — 10th ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-87779-708-0 (unindexed). — ISBN 0-87779-709-9 (indexed).

— ISBN 0-87779-710-2 (deluxe)

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 1993

423—dc20

93-20206

CIP

COLLEGIATE is a registered trademark of Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

3456RMcN93

ho-meo-path-ic \hō-mē-ə-'pa-thik\ *adj* (1830) 1: of or relating to homeopathy 2: of a diluted or insipid nature (a ~ abolitionist — W. A. White) — **ho-meo-path-i-cal-ly** \-thi-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

ho-meo-pa-thy \hō-mē-'pā-thē, 'hā-\ *n* [G *Homöopathie*, fr. *homöo-homeo-* + *-pathie* -pathy] (1826) : a system of medical practice that treats a disease esp. by the administration of minute doses of a remedy that would in healthy persons produce symptoms similar to those of the disease — **ho-meo-path** \hō-mē-ə-'pā-th\ *n*

ho-meo-sta-sis \hō-mē-ō-'stā-səs\ *n* [NL] (1926) : a relatively stable state of equilibrium or a tendency toward such a state between the different but interdependent elements or groups of elements of an organism, population, or group — **ho-meo-stat-ic** \-'stā-tik\ *adj*

ho-meo-ther-mic \-'thor-mik\ *adj* (1870) : WARM-BLOODED 1 — **homeotherm** *n* — **homeothermy** *n*

ho-meo-tic \hō-mē-'ā-tik, 'hā-\ *adj* [fr. *homeosis*, *homoeosis* a shift in structural development, fr. Gk *homōfōsis* assimilation, resemblance, fr. *hōmōioun* to make like, fr. *hōmōiōs* (ca. 1903) : relating to or being a gene producing a usu. major shift in structural development

home plate *n* (1875) : a 5-sided rubber slab at one corner of a baseball diamond at which a batter stands when batting and which must be touched by a base runner in order to score

home-port \hōm-'pōrt, -'pōrt\ *vt* (1957) : to provide with or assign to a home port

home port *n* (ca. 1891) : the port from which a ship hails or from which it is documented

hō-mer \hō-mər\ *n* [Heb *hōmer*] (1535) : an ancient Hebrew unit of capacity equal to about 10½ or later 11½ bushels or 100 gallons (378 liters)

hō-mēr \hō-mər\ *n* [home] (1868) 1: HOME RUN 2: HOMING PIGEON

hō-mēr *vi* (1940) : to hit a home run

home range *n* (1884) : the area to which an animal usu. confines its daily activities

Ho-mer-ic \hō-'mer-ik\ *adj* (ca. 1771) 1: of, relating to, or characteristic of the Greek poet Homer, his age, or his writings 2: of epic proportions : HEROIC (~ feats of reporting — Stanley Walker) — **Ho-mer-i-cal-ly** \-i-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

home-room \hōm-'rūm, -'rūm\ *n* (1915) : a classroom where pupils report esp. at the beginning of each school day

home rule *n* (1860) : self-government or limited autonomy in internal affairs by a dependent political unit (as a territory or municipality)

home run *n* (1856) : a hit in baseball that enables the batter to make a complete circuit of the bases and score a run

home screen *n* (1968) : TELEVISION 2

home-sick \hōm-'sik\ *adj* (ca. 1798) : longing for home and family while absent from them — **home-sick-ness** *n*

home-site \-'sīt\ *n* (1911) : a location of or suitable for a home

home-spun \-'spon\ *adj* (1591) 1 a : spun or made at home b : made of homespun 2: SIMPLE, HOMEY (~ philosophy)

homespun *n* (1607) : a loosely woven usu. woolen or linen fabric orig. made from homespun yarn

home stand *n* (1965) : a series of baseball games played at a team's home field

home-stay \hōm-'stā\ *n* (1956) : a period during which a visitor in a foreign country lives with a local family

home-stead \hōm-'sted, -'stid\ *n* (bef. 12c) 1 a : the home and adjoining land occupied by a family b : an ancestral home c : HOUSE 2 : a tract of land acquired from U.S. public lands by filing a record and living on and cultivating the tract

home-stead \-'sted\ *vt* (1872) : to acquire or occupy as a homestead ~ *vi* : to acquire or settle on land under a homestead law — **home-stead-er** \-'ste-dər\ *n*

homestead law *n* (1850) 1 : a law exempting a homestead from attachment or sale under execution for general debts 2 : any of several legislative acts authorizing the sale of public lands in homesteads

home-stretch \hōm-'stretch\ *n* (1841) 1 : the part of a racecourse between the last turn and the winning post 2 : a final stage (as of a project)

home-town \-'taun\ *n*, often *attrib* (1912) : the city or town where one was born or grew up; also : the place of one's principal residence

home truth *n* (1711) 1 : an unpleasant fact that jars the sensibilities 2 : a statement of undisputed fact

home-ward \hōm-'wərd\ or **home-wards** \-'wərdz\ *adv* (bef. 12c) : toward home (look ~, angel — John Milton)

homeward *adj* (1566) : being or going in the direction of home

home-work \hōm-'wərk\ *n* (ca. 1683) 1 : piecework done at home for pay 2 : an assignment given to a student to be completed outside the regular class period 3 : preparatory reading or research (as for a discussion or a debate)

hom-ey \hō-mē\ *adj* **hom-i-er**; -est (1856) : HOMELIKE (a restaurant with a ~ atmosphere) — **hom-ey-ness** or **hom-i-ness** *n*

ho-mi-cid-al \hā-mā-'sī-dəl, 'hō-\ *adj* (1725) : of, relating to, or tending toward homicide — **ho-mi-cid-al-ly** \-dəl-ē\ *adv*

ho-mi-cide \hā-mā-'sīd, 'hō-\ *n* [in sense 1, fr. ME, fr. MF, fr. L *homicida*, fr. *homo* human being + *-cida* -cide; in sense 2, fr. ME, fr. MF, fr. L *homicidium*, fr. *homo* + *-cidium* -cide] (14c) 1 : a person who kills another 2 : a killing of one human being by another

hom-i-let-ic \hā-mā-'le-tik\ or **hom-i-let-i-cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* [LL *homileticus*, fr. Gk *homilētikos* of conversation, fr. *homilein*] (1644) 1 : of, relating to, or resembling a homily 2 : of or relating to homiletics; also : PREACHY

hom-i-let-ics \-'tik-s\ *n pl but sing in constr* (1830) : the art of preaching

hom-i-ly \hā-mā-'lē\ *n pl -lies* [ME *omelie*, fr. MF, fr. LL *homilia*, fr. LGk, fr. Gk, conversation, discourse, fr. *homilein* to consort with, address, fr. *homilos* crowd, assembly; akin to Gk *homos* same — more at SAME] (14c) 1 : a usu. short sermon 2 : a lecture or discourse on or of a moral theme 3 : an inspirational catchphrase; also : PLATITUDE

homing pigeon *n* (1886) : a racing pigeon trained to return home

hom-i-noid \hā-mā-'nōid\ *n* [NL *Hominioidea*, fr. *Homin-*, *Homo* + *-oides*, suffix of higher taxa, fr. L *-oides* ²-oid] (1949) : any of a superfamily (Hominioidea) of primates including recent hominids, gibbons, and pongids together with extinct ancestral and related forms (as of the genera *Proconsul* and *Dryopithecus*) — **hominoid** *adj*

hom-i-ny \hā-mā-'nē\ *n* [Virginia Algonquian *-homen*, lit., that treated (in the way specified)] (1629) : kernels of corn that have been soaked in a caustic solution (as of lye) and then washed in order to remove the hulls

hominy grits *n pl but sing or pl in constr* (1879) : GRITS

hō-mō \hō-(,)mō\ *n pl homos* [NL *Homin-*, *Homo*, fr. L, human being — more at HOMAGE] (1596) : any of a genus (*Homo*) of primate mammals that includes modern humans (*H. sapiens*) and several extinct related species

hō-mō *n pl homos* [by shortening] (1929) : HOMOSEXUAL — often used disparagingly

homo- — see HOMEO-

ho-mo-cer-cal \hō-mā-'sər-kəl, 'hā-\ *adj* (1838) 1 of a fish tail fin : having the upper and lower lobes approximately symmetrical and the vertebral column ending at or near the middle of the base 2 : having or relating to a homocercal tail fin

homoe- — see HOMEO-

ho-mo-er-ot-ic \hō-mō-'i-rā-tik\ *adj* (1916) : HOMOSEXUAL — **ho-mo-er-ot-i-cism** \-'rā-tə-'sī-zəm\ *n*

ho-mo-ga-met-ic \hō-mō-gə-'me-tik, 'hā-\ *adj* (1910) : forming gametes which all have the same type of sex chromosome

ho-mog-a-my \hō-mā-gə-'mē\ *n* [G *Homogamie*, fr. *hom-* + *-gamie* -gamy] (1897) : the mating of like with like — **ho-mog-a-mous** \-mə\ *adj*

ho-mog-e-nate \hō-'mä-jə-'nāt, hā-\ *n* (1941) : a product of homogenizing

ho-mo-ge-ne-i-ty \hō-mā-jə-'nē-ə-tē, -'nā- also +-'ni-; esp *Brit* 'hā-\ *n* (1625) 1 : the quality or state of being homogeneous 2 : the state of having identical distribution functions or values (a test for ~ of variances) (~ of two statistical populations)

ho-mo-ge-neous \-'jē-nē-əs, -nyəs\ *adj* [ML *homogeneous*, *homogenus*, fr. Gk *homogenēs*, fr. *hom-* + *genos* kind — more at KIN] (1641) 1 : of the same or a similar kind or nature 2 : of uniform structure or composition throughout (a culturally ~ neighborhood) 3 : having the property that if each variable is replaced by a constant times that variable the constant can be factored out : having each term of the same degree if all variables are considered (a ~ equation) — **ho-mo-ge-neous-ly** *adv* — **ho-mo-ge-neous-ness** *n*

ho-mog-e-ni-sa-tion, **ho-mog-e-nise** *Brit var of* HOMOGENIZATION, HOMOGENIZE

ho-mog-e-ni-za-tion \hō-mā-jə-'nə-'zā-shən, hā-\ *n* (1908) 1 : the act or process of homogenizing 2 : the quality or state of being homogenized

ho-mog-e-nize \hō-'mä-jə-'nīz, hā-\ *vb -nized; -niz-ing* *vt* (1886) 1 a : to blend (diverse elements) into a uniform mixture b : to make homogeneous 2 a : to reduce to small particles of uniform size and distribute evenly usu. in a liquid b : to reduce the particles of so that they are uniformly small and evenly distributed; *specif* : to break up the fat globules of (milk) into very fine particles ~ *vi* : to become homogenized — **ho-mog-e-niz-er** *n*

ho-mog-e-nous \-nəs\ *adj* (1919) 1 : HOMOPLASTIC 2 2 : HOMOGENEUS

ho-mo-graft \hō-mā-'grāft, 'hā-\ *n* (1923) : a graft of tissue taken from a donor of the same species as the recipient — compare HETEROGRAFT

ho-mo-graph \hā-mā-'grāf, 'hō-\ *n* (1873) : one of two or more words spelled alike but different in meaning or derivation or pronunciation (as the *bow* of a ship, a *bow* and arrow) — **ho-mo-graph-ic** \hā-mā-'grā-fik, 'hō-\ *adj*

homoio- — see HOMEO-

ho-moi-therm, **ho-moi-ther-mic** *var of* HOMEOTHERM, HOMEOTHERMIC

ho-moi-ou-si-an \hō-'mōi-'ū-zē-ən, hā-, -'ū-sē-\ *n* [LGk *homoiosios* of like substance, fr. Gk *hōmoi-* homeo- + *ousia* essence, substance, fr. *ont-*, *ōn*, prp. of *einai* to be — more at IS] (1732) : an adherent of an ecclesiastical party of the 4th century holding that the Son is essentially like the Father but not of the same substance

ho-mol-o-gate \hō-mā-lə-'gāt, hā-\ *vt -gat-ed; -gat-ing* [ML *homologatus*, pp. of *homologare* to agree, fr. Gk *homologeîn*, fr. *homologos*] (1593) : SANCTION, ALLOW; esp : to approve or confirm officially — **ho-mol-o-ga-tion** \-mə-lə-'gā-shən\ *n*

ho-mo-log-i-cal \hō-mā-'lā-'ji-kəl, 'hā-\ *adj* (ca. 1847) 1 : HOMOLOGOUS 2 : of or relating to topological homology theory (~ algebra) — **ho-mo-log-i-cal-ly** \-ji-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

ho-mol-o-gize \hō-mā-lə-'jīz, hā-\ *vt -gized; -giz-ing* (1811) 1 : to make homologous 2 : to demonstrate the homology of — **ho-mol-o-giz-er** *n*

ho-mol-o-gous \hō-'mä-lə-'gəs, hā-\ *adj* [Gk *homologos* agreeing, fr. *hom-* + *legein* to say — more at LEGEND] (1660) 1 a : having the same relative position, value, or structure; as (1) : exhibiting biological homology (2) : having the same or allelic genes with genetic loci usu. arranged in the same order (~ chromosomes) b : belonging to or consisting of a chemical series whose successive members have a regular difference in composition esp. of one methylene group 2 : derived from or developed in response to organisms of the same species (~ tissue graft)

ho-mol-og-ue or **ho-mo-log** \hō-mā-'lög, 'hā-, -'läg\ *n* (1848) : something (as a chemical compound or a chromosome) homologous

ho-mol-o-gy \hō-'mä-lə-'jē, hā-\ *n pl -gies* (ca. 1656) 1 : a similarity often attributable to common origin 2 a : likeness in structure between parts of different organisms due to evolutionary differentiation from the same or a corresponding part of a remote ancestor — compare ANALOGY b : correspondence in structure between different parts

- world : UNIVERSE 2 : a complex that is a large-scale reproduction of one of its constituents — **mac-ro-cos-mic** \,ma-kro-'káz-mik\ *adj* — **mac-ro-cos-mi-cal-ly** \-mi-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*
- mac-ro-cy-clic** \,ma-kro-'si-klik, -'si-\ *adj* (1936) : containing or being a chemical ring that consists usu. of 15 or more atoms
- mac-ro-cyte** \,ma-kro-'sit\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1889) : an exceptionally large red blood cell occurring chiefly in anemias — **mac-ro-cyt-ic** \,ma-kro-'si-tik\ *adj*
- mac-ro-cy-to-sis** \,ma-kro-'si-'tō-səs, -kro-sə-\ *n*, *pl* -to-ses \-,sēz\ [NL] (ca. 1893) : the occurrence of macrocytes in the blood
- mac-ro-eco-nom-ics** \,ma-kro-'e-kə-'nā-miks, -'ē-kə-\ *n pl* but *usu* *sing* in *constr* (1948) : a study of economics in terms of whole systems esp. with reference to general levels of output and income and to the interrelations among sectors of the economy — compare MICROECONOMICS — **mac-ro-eco-nom-ic** \-mik\ *adj*
- mac-ro-evo-lu-tion** \,ma-kro-'e-və-'lū-shən *also* -'ē-və-\ *n* (1939) : evolution that results in relatively large and complex changes (as in species formation) — **mac-ro-evo-lu-tion-ary** \-shə-'ner-ē\ *adj*
- mac-ro-fos-sil** \,ma-kro-'fā-səl\ *n* (1937) : a fossil large enough to be observed by direct inspection
- mac-ro-ga-mete** \,ma-kro-'gə-'mēt *also* -gə-'mēt\ *n* [ISV] (1899) : the larger and usu. female gamete of a heterogamous organism
- mac-ro-glob-u-lin** \-'glā-byə-lən\ *n* [ISV] (1952) : a highly polymerized globulin (as IgM) of high molecular weight
- mac-ro-glob-u-li-ne-mia** \-'glā-byə-lə-'nē-mē-ə\ *n* [NL] (1949) : a disorder characterized by increased blood serum viscosity and the presence of macroglobulins in the serum — **mac-ro-glob-u-li-ne-mic** \-mik\ *adj*
- mac-ro-in-struc-tion** \,ma-kro-'in-'strək-shən\ *n* (1959) : MACRO
- macro lens** *n* [*macr.*, fr. the fact that the focal length is greater than normal] (1961) : a camera lens designed to focus at very short distances with up to life-size magnification of the image
- mac-ro-lep-i-dop-tera** \,ma-kro-'le-pə-'dāp-tə-rə\ *n pl* [NL] (1882) : lepidoptera (as butterflies, skippers, saturniids, noctuids, and geometrids) that include most of the large forms and none of the minute ones
- mac-ro-mere** \,ma-kro-'mir\ *n* (1877) : a large blastomere — see BLASTULA illustration
- mac-ro-mole-cule** \,ma-kro-'mā-li-,kyū(ə)\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1929) : a very large molecule (as of a protein or rubber) — **mac-ro-mole-cu-lar** \-mə-'le-kyə-lər\ *adj*
- ma-cron** \,mā-'krän, 'ma-, -krän\ *n* [Gk *makron*, neut. of *makros* long] (1851) : a mark ~ placed over a vowel to indicate that the vowel is long or placed over a syllable or used alone to indicate a stressed or long syllable in a metrical foot
- mac-ro-nu-cle-us** \,ma-kro-'nü-klē-əs, -'nyü-\ *n* [NL] (1892) : a relatively large densely staining nucleus of most ciliate protozoans that is derived from micronuclei and controls various nonreproductive functions — **mac-ro-nu-cle-ar** \,mak-rō-'nü-klē-ər, -'nyü-, -'kyə-lər\ *adj*
- mac-ro-nu-tri-ent** \-'nü-trē-ənt, -'nyü-\ *n* (1942) : a chemical element (as nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium) of which relatively large quantities are essential to the growth and health of a plant
- mac-ro-phage** \,ma-kro-'faj\ *n* [ISV] (1890) : a phagocytic tissue cell of the reticuloendothelial system that may be fixed or freely motile, is derived from a monocyte, and functions in the protection of the body against infection and noxious substances — called also *histiocyte* — **mac-ro-phag-ic** \,ma-kro-'fa-jik\ *adj*
- mac-ro-pho-to-gra-phy** \,ma-kro-'fə-'tā-grə-fē\ *n* (1889) : the making of photographs in which the object is either unmagnified or slightly magnified up to a limit often of about 10 diameters — **mac-ro-pho-to-graph** \-'fō-tə-'graf\ *n*
- mac-ro-phyte** \,ma-kro-'fit\ *n* (ca. 1909) : a member of the macroscopic plant life esp. of a body of water — **mac-ro-phyt-ic** \,ma-kro-'fi-tik\ *adj*
- mac-ro-pter-ous** \,ma-'kröp-tə-rəs\ *adj* [Gk *makropteros*, fr. *makr-* + *pteron* wing — more at FEATHER] (ca. 1836) : having long or large wings
- mac-ro-scale** \,ma-kro-'skāl\ *n* (1931) : a large often macroscopic scale
- mac-ro-scop-ic** \,ma-kro-'skā-pik\ *adj* [ISV *macr-* + *-scopic* (as in *microscopic*)] (1872) 1 : large enough to be observed by the naked eye 2 : considered in terms of large units or elements — **mac-ro-scop-i-cal-ly** \-pi-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*
- mac-ro-struc-ture** \,ma-kro-'strək-chər\ *n* (ca. 1899) : the structure (as of metal, a body part, or the soil) revealed by visual examination with little or no magnification — **mac-ro-struc-tur-al** \,ma-kro-'strək-chə-rəl, -'strək-shə-rəl\ *adj*
- mac-u-la** \,ma-kyə-lə\ *n*, *pl* -læ \-,lē, -lī\ *also* -las [ME, fr. L] (14c) 1 : SPOT, BLOTCH; *esp* : MACULE 2 : an anatomical structure (as the macula lutea) having the form of a spot differentiated from surrounding tissues — **mac-u-lar** \-lər\ *adj*
- macu-la lu-tea** \-'lū-tē-ə\ *n*, *pl* **maculae lu-te-ae** \-tē-,ē, -tē-,ī\ [NL, lit., yellow spot] (1848) : a small yellowish area lying slightly lateral to the center of the retina that constitutes the region of maximum visual acuity — called also *yellow spot*
- mac-u-late** \,ma-kyə-lət\ *or* **mac-u-lat-ed** \-'lā-təd\ *adj* [L *maculatus*, pp. of *maculare* to stain, fr. *macula*] (15c) 1 : marked with spots : BLOTCHED 2 : IMPURE, BESMIRCHED
- mac-u-la-tion** \,ma-kyə-'lā-shən\ *n* (15c) 1 *archaic* : the state of being spotted 2 *a* : a blemish in the form of a discrete spot (acne scars and ~s) *b* : the arrangement of spots and markings on an animal or plant
- mac-u-le** \,ma-(,kyū(ə))\ *n* [F, fr. L *macula*] (1863) : a patch of skin that is altered in color but not, not elevated and that is a characteristic feature of various diseases (as smallpox)
- ma-cum-ba** \,mə-'kūm-bə\ *n* [BrazPg] (1939) : a polytheistic religion of African origin involving syncretistic elements and practiced mainly by Brazilian blacks in urban areas
- mad** \,mad\ *adj* **mad-der**; **mad-dest** [ME *medd*, *madd*, fr. OE *gemæd*, pp. of (assumed) *gemædan* to madden, fr. *gemād* silly, mad; akin to OHG *gimeit* foolish, crazy] (bef. 12c) 1 : disordered in mind : INSANE 2 *a* : completely unrestrained by reason and judgment (driven ~ by the pain) *b* : incapable of being explained or accounted for (a ~ deci-
- excited : FRANTIC (~ with jealousy) 8 : marked by intense and often chaotic activity : WILD (a ~ scramble) — **mad-dish** \,ma-'dish\ *adj*
- mad** *vb* **mad-ded**; **mad-ding** (14c) : MADDEN
- mad** *n* (1834) 1 : a fit or mood of bad temper 2 : ANGER, FURY
- Mad-a-gas-car peri-winkle** \,ma-də-'gas-kər-\ *n* [*Madagascar*, Africa] (1821) 1 : PERIWINKLE 1b
- mad-am** \,ma-'dəm\ *n*, *pl* **madams** [ME, fr. MF *ma dame*, lit., my lady] (14c) 1 *pl* **mes-dames** \mā-'dām, -'dām\ : LADY — used without a name as a form of respectful or polite address to a woman 2 : MISTRESS 1 — used as a title formerly with the given name but now with the surname or esp. with a designation of rank or office (*Madam* Chairman) (*Madam* President) 3 : the female head of a house of prostitution 4 : the female head of a household : WIFE
- ma-dame** \mā-'dam, ma-', *before a surname also* \ma-'dəm\ *n* [F, fr. OF *ma dame*] (1674) 1 *pl* **mes-dames** \mā-'dām, -'dām\ — used as a title equivalent to *Mrs.* for a married woman not of English-speaking nationality 2 *pl* **madames** : MADAM 3
- mad-brained** \,mad-'brānd\ *adj* (1562) : RASH, HOTHEADED
- mad-cap** \,mad-'kap\ *adj* (1588) : marked by capriciousness, recklessness, or foolishness — **madcap** *n*
- mad-den** \,ma-'d'n\ *vb* **mad-dened**; **mad-den-ing** \,mad-'niŋ, 'ma-'d'n-ŋ\ *vi* (1735) : to become or act as if mad ~ *vt* 1 : to drive mad : CRAZE 2 : to make intensely angry : ENRAGE
- maddening** *adj* (1822) 1 : tending to craze 2 *a* : tending to infuriate *b* : tending to vex : IRRITATING — **mad-den-ing-ly** \-lē\ *adv*
- mad-der** \,ma-'dər\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *mædere*; akin to OHG *matar* madder] (bef. 12c) 1 : a Eurasian herb (*Rubia tinctorum* of the family Rubiaceae, the madder family) with whorled leaves and small yellowish panicked flowers succeeded by berries; *broadly* : any of several related herbs (genus *Rubia*) 2 *a* : the root of the Eurasian madder used formerly in dyeing; *also* : an alizarin dye prepared from it *b* : a moderate to strong red
- mad-ding** \,ma-'diŋ\ *adj* (1579) : acting in a frenzied manner (the ~ crowd)
- made** \,mād\ *adj* [ME, fr. pp. of *maken* to make] (14c) 1 *a* : FICTITIOUS, INVENTED (a ~ excuse) *b* : artificially produced *c* : put together of various ingredients (a ~ dish) 2 : assured of success (a ~ man) — *usu.* used in the phrase *he made it*
- Ma-dei-ra** \mə-'dir-ə, -'der-\ *n* [Pg, fr. *Madeira* Islands] (1596) : an amber-colored fortified wine from Madeira; *also* : a similar wine made elsewhere
- mad-e-leine** \,ma-'d'l-ēn, 'ma-'d'l-'ān\ *n* [F, perh. fr. *Madeleine* Paumier, 19th cent. Fr. pastry cook] (1845) 1 : a small rich shell-shaped cake 2 : one that evokes a memory
- ma-de-moi-selle** \,mad-'mwə-'zəl, 'ma-də-, -mə-'zəl, *sometimes* mam-'zəl\ *n*, *pl* **ma-de-moi-selles** \-'zēl\ *or* **mes-de-moi-selles** \,mā-'mwə-'zəl, 'mā-də-, -mə-'zəl\ [ME *madamoiselle*, fr. MF, fr. OF *damoisele*, lit., my (young) lady] (15c) 1 : an unmarried French girl or woman — used as a title equivalent to *Miss* for an unmarried woman not of English-speaking nationality 2 : a French governess 3 : SILVER PERCH *a*
- made-to-order** *adj* (ca. 1908) 1 : produced to supply a special or an individual demand : CUSTOM-MADE 2 : ideally suited (as to a particular purpose) (a ground ball ~ for a double play)
- made-up** \,mā-'dɒp\ *adj* (1607) 1 : fancifully conceived or falsely devised 2 : fully manufactured 3 : marked by the use of makeup
- mad-house** \,mad-'hauz\ *n* (1687) 1 : a place where insane persons are detained and treated 2 : a place of uproar or confusion
- Mad-ison Avenue** \,ma-'dā-sən-\ *n* [*Madison Avenue*, New York City, former center of the American advertising business] (1952) : the American advertising industry
- mad-ly** \,mad-'lē\ *adv* (13c) 1 : in a mad manner 2 : to an extreme or excessive degree (~ in love)
- mad-man** \,mad-'mæn, -mən\ *n* (14c) : a man who is or acts as if insane
- mad money** *n* (1922) : money that a woman carries to pay her fare home in case a date ends in a quarrel; *also* : money set aside for an emergency or personal use
- mad-ness** \,mad-'nəs\ *n* (14c) 1 : the quality or state of being mad : as *a* : RAGE *b* : INSANITY *c* : extreme folly *d* : ECSTASY, ENTHUSIASM 2 : any of several ailments of animals marked by frenzied behavior; *specif* : RABIES
- Ma-don-na** \mə-'dā-nə\ *n* [It, fr. OIt *ma donna*, lit., my lady] (1584) 1 *archaic* : LADY — used as a form of respectful address 2 *obs* : an Italian lady 3 *a* : VIRGIN MARY *b* : an artistic depiction (as a painting or statue) of the Virgin Mary
- Madonna lily** *n* (1877) : a widely cultivated lily (*Lilium candidum*) with bell-shaped to broad funnel-shaped white flowers
- ma-dras** \,ma-'dræs; mə-'dras, -'drās\ *n* [*Madras*, India] (ca. 1830) 1 : a large silk or cotton kerchief usu. of bright colors that is often worn as a turban 2 *a* : a fine plain-woven shirting and dress fabric usu. of cotton with varied designs (as plaid) in bright colors or in white *b* : a light open usu. cotton fabric with a heavy design used for curtains
- mad-re-pore** \,ma-'drə-'pōr, -'pōr\ *n* [F *madrepore*, fr. It *madrepore*, fr. *madre* mother (fr. L *mater*) + *poro* pore (fr. L *porus*) — more at MOTHER] (1751) : any of various stony reef-building corals (order Madreporaria) of tropical seas that assume a variety of branching, encrusting, or massive forms — **mad-re-po-ri-an** \,ma-'drə-'pōr-ē-ən, -'pōr-\ *adj* *or* *n* — **mad-re-por-ic** \-'pōr-ik, -'pōr-\ *adj*
- mad-re-por-ite** \,ma-'drə-'pōr-īt, -'pōr-\ *n* [ISV *madrepore* + *-ite* (segment), fr. the resemblances of the perforations to those of a madrepore] (1877) : a perforated or porous body that is situated at the distal end of the stone canal in echinoderms
- mad-ri-gal** \,ma-'dri-gəl\ *n* [It *madrigale*, prob. fr. ML *matricale*, fr. neut. of (assumed) *matricalis* simple, fr. LL, of the womb, fr. L *matric-*, *matrix* womb, fr. *mater* mother] (1588) 1 : a medieval short lyrical poem in a strict poetic form 2 *a* : a complex polyphonic unaccompanied vocal piece on a secular text developed esp. in the 16th and 17th centuries *b* : PART-SONG; *esp* : GLEE — **mad-ri-gal-ian** \,ma-'drə-'gāl-ē-ən, -'gā-\ *adj* — **mad-ri-gal-ist** \,ma-'dri-gəl-ist\ *n*