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Collegiate[®]
Dictionary

—  —
Eleventh Edition

The Words You Need Today

AN ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA[®] COMPANY

Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



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



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b: elevated
dv
fr. fraister to
route: STRAY-
e
ide: astride a
stretched wide
n each side of
lying ~ a riv-
: state of being

strings, prp.
ht — more at
tissues: STYP-
e of an astrin-
~ comments;

LOGY — as-
ed cell of the
ia-ta \mə-tə\
cytes
t dome in the
vigator makes

AF astrelabe,
os, fr. astr- +
ct instrument
lies before the

ces astrology
astrologia, fr.
2: the divts
on human
ts — as-tro-
-ō\lē\ adv
ironomy that
s) of celestial

maut) (1929)
so: a trainee

constr (1928)
s for travel in
-tik\ or as-
-ō\lē\ adv
skilled in as-
na

e \mīk\ adj
s: 2: enor-
as-tro-nom-
onmy equal
at 93 million

fr. AF, fr. L
dy of objects
physical and

1858): pho-
tro-pho-to-
-gra-ri\ n
(1897) (1890)
physical prop-
nomena —
\zī-k(ə)\ē\

icial turf
565): having
er) <~>
re-ly adv —

and Andro-
torn ~> 2

SWARMING
l as loyl)
h, as well as

ylas viola-
place of ref-
s: SANCTU-
: the protec-
tion by a nation
nminity 4
, the insane
ik\ adj [Gk
med, fr. a- +
s asymmet-
r groups —

asym-met-ri-cal-ly \tri-k(ə)\ē\ adv — asym-me-try \ə-ˈsi-mə-trē\ n
asymptom-tom-at-ic \ā-sim(p)-tə-ˈma-tik\ adj (1856): presenting no
symptoms of disease — **asymptom-tom-at-ic-ally** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv
as-ymp-tote \ā-səm(p)-tōt\ n [prob. fr. NL *asymptotus*, fr. Gk
asymptōtos not meeting, fr. *a-* + *symptētein* to meet — more at
SYMPTOM] (1656): a straight line associated with a curve such that as a
point moves along an infinite branch of the curve the distance from the
point to the line approaches zero and the slope of the curve at the point
approaches the slope of the line — **as-ymp-tot-ic** \ā-səm(p)-tā-tik\
adj — **as-ymp-tot-ic-ally** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv

asyn-aps-isis \ā-sə-ˈnāp-səs\ n, pl **-ap-ses** \sēz\ [NL *a-* + *synapsis*
(1930): failure of pairing of homologous chromosomes in meiosis

asyn-chron-ous \jā-ˈsɪp-kro-nəs, -ˈsɪn-ə\ adj (1748) 1: not synchro-
nous 2: of, used in, or being digital communication (as between com-
puters) in which there is no timing requirement for transmission and in
which the start of each character is individually signaled by the trans-
mitting device — **asyn-chron-ous-ly** adv

asyn-chron-y \k-rə-nē\ or **asyn-chron-ism** \k-rə-ni-zəm\ n (1875):
the quality or state of being asynchronous: absence or lack of concu-
rence in time

as-yn-det-ic \ā-sən-ˈde-tik\ adj (ca. 1864): marked by asyndeton —
as-yn-det-ic-ally \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv

asyn-de-ton \ā-sin-də-ˈtān, (jā-ˈsɪn-ə\ n, pl **-tons** or **-ta** \-də-tə\ [LL, fr.
Gk, fr. neut. of *asyndeutos* unconnected, fr. *a-* + *syndetos* bound togeth-
er, fr. *syndein* to bind together, fr. *syn-* + *dein* to bind — more at
DIADEMA] (1555): omission of the conjunctions that ordinarily join co-
ordinate words or clauses (as in "I came, I saw, I conquered")

at \ət, ˈət\ prep [ME, fr. OE *æt*: akin to OHG *az* at, L *ad*] (bef. 12c) 1 —
used as a function word to indicate presence or occurrence in, on, or
near (staying ~ a hotel) (<~> a party) (sick ~ heart) 2 — used as a
function word to indicate the goal of an indicated or implied action or
motion (aim ~ the target) (creditors are ~ him again) 3 — used as a
function word to indicate that with which one is occupied or em-
ployed (<~> work) (<~> the controls) (good ~ chess) 4 — used as a
function word to indicate situation in an active or passive state or con-
dition (<~> liberty) (<~> rest) 5 — used as a function word to indicate
the means, cause, or manner (sold ~ auction) (laughed ~ my joke)
(acted ~ your own discretion) 6 a — used as a function word to in-
dicate the rate, degree, or position in a scale or series (the temperature
~ 90) (<~> first) b — used as a function word to indicate age or pos-
ition in time (will retire ~ 65)

at also att \ət\ n, pl **at** also att [Lao] (1955) — see *kīp* at MONEY table

at abbr 1 airtight 2 atmosphere 3 atomic

At symbol astatine

AT abbr 1 air temperature 2 ampere-turn 3 automatic transmission

at — see AD-

at-a-brine \ā-tə-brīn\ n [fr. *Atabrine*, a trademark] (1933): QUINA-
CRINE

atac-tic \ə-ˈtāk-tik\ adj [ISV *a-* + *-tactic*] (1957): of, relating to, or
being a polymer exhibiting no stereochemical regularity of structure
(<~> polypropylene) — compare ISOTACTIC

At-a-lan-ta \ā-tə-lan-tə\ n [L, fr. Gk *Atalante*] (14c): a fleet-footed
huntress in Greek mythology who challenges her suitors to a race and
is defeated by Hippomenes when she stops to pick up three golden ap-
ples he has dropped

at all adv (14c): in any way or respect: to the least extent or degree
: under any circumstances (doesn't smoke at all)

at-a-man \ā-tə-ˈmān\ n [RUSS] (1835): HETMAN

at-a-mas-co lily \ā-tə-ˈmās-(j)kō-\ n [Virginia Algonquian *attamusco*]
(1743): any of a genus (*Zephyranthes*) of American bulbous herbs of
the amaryllis family with pink, white, or yellowish flowers; esp.: one
(*Z. atamasco*) of the southeastern U.S. with white flowers usu. tinged
with purple

at-a-vism \ā-tə-ˈvɪ-zəm\ n [F *atavisme*, fr. L *atavus* ancestor, fr. *at-*
(prob. akin to *ate* daddy) + *avus* grandfather — more at UNSCLE] (1835)

1 a: recurrence in an organism of a trait or character typical of an an-
cestral form and usu. due to genetic recombination b: recurrence of
or reversion to a past style, manner, outlook, approach, or activity (ar-
chitectural ~) 2: one that manifests atavism: THROBBACK — **at-a-
vis-tic** \ā-tə-ˈvɪs-tik\ adj — **at-a-vis-tic-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv

atax-ia \ə-ˈtāk-sē-ə, -i-\ n [Gk, fr. *a-* + *tassin* to put in order] (1670):
an inability to coordinate voluntary muscular movements that is
symptomatic of some central nervous system disorders and injuries
and not due to muscle weakness — called also *incoordination* — **atax-
ic** \-sɪk\ adj

atax-ia-tel-an-gi-o-cl-e-ta-sia \tə-lan-jē-ˈek-tā-zh(ē)-jə, -tē-, -tə-\ n
(1961): an inherited systemic disorder marked esp. by progressive
pathological changes in the nervous system resulting in loss of motor
coordination and by increased susceptibility to cancer esp. of lymphoid
tissue

at bat n (1941): an official turn at batting charged to a baseball player
except when the player walks, sacrifices, is hit by a pitched ball, or is
interfered with by the catcher (three hits in five at bats)

ATC abbr air traffic control

ate past of EAT

Ate \ā-tē, ˈā-(j)ē, ˈā-(j)ā\ n [Gk *Atē*] (1583): a Greek goddess personify-
ing foohardly and ruinous impulse

-ate n suffix [ME *-at*, fr. AF, fr. L *-atus*, *-atum*, masc. & neut. of *-atus*,
pp. ending] 1: one acted upon (in a specified way) (distillate) 2 [NL
-atum, fr. L]: chemical compound or complex anion derived from a
(specified) compound or element (phenolate); esp: salt or ester of an
acid with a name ending in *-ic* and not beginning with *hydro-* (borate)

2. ate n suffix [ME *-at*, fr. AF, fr. L *-atus*, fr. *-as-* stem vowel of 1st conj., +
-tus, suffix of verbal nouns] 1: office: function: rank: group of per-
sons holding a (specified) office or rank or having a (specified) func-
tion (vicariate) 2: state: dominion: jurisdiction (emirate) (khan-
ate)

3. ate adj suffix [ME *-at*, fr. L *-atus*, fr. pp. ending of 1st conj., verbs, fr. *-a-*,
stem vowel of 1st conj. + *-tus*, pp. suffix — more at -ED]: marked by
having (craniate)

4. ate vb suffix [ME *-aten*, fr. L *-atus*, pp. ending]: act on (in a specified
way) (insulate): cause to be modified or affected by (camphorate):
cause to become (activate): furnish with (capacitate)

-ated adj suffix: 3. ATE (plicated)

at-el-ec-ta-sis \ā-tə-ˈlek-tə-səs\ n, pl **-ta-ses** \sēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *atelēs*
incomplete, defective (fr. *a-* + *telos* end) + *ektasis* extension, fr. *ek-*
teinein to stretch out, fr. *ex-* + *teinein* to stretch — more at TELOS,
THIN] (1859): collapse of the expanded lung; also: defective expansion
of the pulmonary alveoli at birth

ate-lier \ā-ˈtī-lyā\ n [F, fr. MF *atelier* woodpile, fr. *astele* splinter, fr.
L *astella*, dim. of L *astula*] (1699) 1: an artist's or designer's studio or
workroom 2: WORKSHOP

ate-moya \ā-tə-ˈmōi-ə, -i-\ n [ates sweetsop (fr. Tag) + *cherimoya*]
(1914): a white-pulped tropical fruit of a tree that is a hybrid of the
sweetsop and the cherimoya

a tem-po \ā-ˈtēm-(j)pō\ adv or adj [It] (1834): in time — used as a di-
rection in music to return to the original tempo

atem-po-ral \ə-ˈtēm-p(ə)-rəl\ adj (1870): independent of or unaffected
by time: TIMELESS

aten-o-lol \ə-ˈtē-nə-ˈlōl, -lōl\ n [perh. fr. antihypertensive + *-olol* (as in
propranolol)] (1972): a beta blocker C₁₄H₂₂N₂O₃ used in the treatment
of hypertension

ATF abbr [Bureau of] Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

Ath-a-bas-can \ā-thə-ˈbas-kən\ or **Ath-a-bas-kan** \-bas\ also **Ath-a-
pas-can** \-pas\ or **Ath-a-pas-can** \-pas\ n [Athabasca, a Cree band,
fr. Cree dial. *āpāskaw*, name for the area east of Lake Athabasca,
lit., (where) there are reeds one after another] (1846) 1: a family of
American Indian languages spoken primarily in western Canada, Alas-
ka, and the U.S. Southwest 2: a member of a people speaking an
Athabaskan language

Ath-a-na-sian \ā-thə-ˈnā-zhən, -shən\ adj (1586): of or relating to
Athanasius or his advocacy of the homoousian doctrine against Arian-
ism

Athanasian Creed n (1586): a Christian creed originating in Europe
about A.D. 400 and relating esp. to the Trinity and Incarnation

athe-ism \ā-thē-ˈi-zəm\ n [MF *athéisme*, fr. *athée* atheist, fr. Gk *atheos*
godless, fr. *a-* + *theos* god] (1546) 1 **archaic**: UNGODLINESS, WICKED-
NESS 2 a: a disbelief in the existence of deity b: the doctrine that
there is no deity

athe-ist \ā-thē-ist\ n (1551): one who believes that there is no deity —
athe-ist-ic \ā-thē-ˈis-tik\ or **athe-ist-ic-ally** \ā-thē-ˈis-tik-ə\ adj —
athe-ist-ic-ally \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv

ath-e-ling \ā-thə-ˈlɪŋ, -thə-\ n [ME, fr. OE *ætheling*, fr. *æthelu* nobility,
akin to OHG *adal* nobility] (bef. 12c): an Anglo-Saxon prince or noble-
man; esp: the heir apparent or a prince of the royal family

Athe-na \ā-ˈthē-nə\ or **Athe-ne** \-nē\ n [L *Athena*, fr. Gk *Athēnē*] (14c):
the Greek goddess of wisdom — compare MINERVA

ath-e-nae-um or **ath-e-ne-um** \ā-thə-ˈnē-əm\ n [L *Athenaeum*, a
school in ancient Rome for the study of arts, fr. Gk *Athēnaion*, a temple
of Athena, fr. *Athēnē*] (1799) 1: a building or room in which books,
periodicals, and newspapers are kept for use 2: a literary or scientific
association

athe-o-ret-ic-ally \ā-thē-ˈrē-tik-ə\, -thir-ˈe-\ adj (1969): not based on
or concerned with theory

athero- comb form [Gk *athērā*]: atheroma (atherogenic)

ath-ero-gen-e-sis \ā-thə-rō-ˈjē-nə-səs\ n (1953): the formation of
atheroma

ath-ero-gen-ic \-jē-nik\ adj (1954): relating to or causing atherogene-
sis (an ~ diet)

ath-er-o-ma \ā-thə-ˈrō-mə\ n, pl **-mas** also **-ma-ta** \mə-tə\ [NL
atheroma, *atheroma*, fr. L, a tumor containing matter resembling gruel,
fr. Gk *athērōma*, fr. *athērā* gruel] (1875) 1: fatty degeneration of
the inner coat of the arteries 2: an abnormal fatty deposit in an ar-
tery — **ath-er-o-ma-tous** \-rō-mə-təs\ adj

ath-ero-scle-ro-sis \ā-thə-rō-sklē-ˈrō-səs\ n [NL] (1910): an arterio-
sclerosis characterized by atheromatous deposits in and fibrosis of the
inner layer of the arteries — **ath-ero-scle-ro-tic** \-sklē-ˈrā-tik\ adj

athirst \ə-ˈθɪrst\ adj [IME, fr. OE *athyrst*, pp. of *athyrstan* to suffer
from thirst, fr. *of*, from + *thyrstan* to thirst — more at OF] (bef. 12c)
1 **archaic**: THIRSTY 2: having a strong eager desire (that for ever
feel ~ for glory — John Keats) **syn** see EAGER

ath-lete \ˈæθ-lēt, ˈæ-thə-lēt\ n [ME, fr. L *athleta*, fr. Gk *athlētēs*, fr.
athlein to contend for a prize, fr. *athlon* prize, contest] (15c): a person
who is trained or skilled in exercises, sports, or games requiring phys-
ical strength, agility, or stamina

athlete's foot n (1928): ringworm of the feet

ath-let-ic \ˈæθ-lē-tik, ˈæ-thə-lē-\ adj (1636) 1: of or relating to ath-
letes or athletics 2: characteristic of an athlete; esp: VIGOROUS, AC-
TIVE 3: MESOMORPHIC 4: used by athletes — **ath-let-ic-ally**
\-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv — **ath-let-ic-ism** \-lē-tə-si-zəm\ n

ath-let-ics \ˈæθ-lē-tiks, ˈæ-thə-lē-\ n pl but sing or pl in constr (1749)
1: exercises, sports, or games engaged in by athletes 2: the practice
or principles of athletic activities

athletic supporter n (1927): a supporter for the genitals worn by men
participating in sports or strenuous activities

at-home \ət-ˈhōm, ˈat-ˈhōm\ adj (1951) 1: intended or suitable for
one's home (an ~ dress) 2: being or occurring at one's home (<~>
entertainment)

at home n (1745): a reception given at one's home

-athon n comb form [*marathon*]: event or activity lasting a long time or
involving a great deal of something (ulkaathon)

1. athwart \ə-ˈθwɔrt, naut often -ˈθɔrt\ prep (15c) 1: ACROSS 2: in
opposition to (a procedure directly ~ the New England prejudices
— R. G. Cole)

2. athwart adv (ca. 1500) 1: across esp. in an oblique direction 2: in
opposition to the right or expected course (and quite ~ goes all decur-
rum — Shak.)

athwart-ship \-ˈʃɪp\ adj (1775): being across the ship from side to side
(<~> and longitudinal framing)

athwart-ships \-ˈʃɪps\ adv (1718): across the ship from side to side

\ə\ abut \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar
\ə\ out \ə\ chin \ə\ bet \ē\ easy \ə\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job
\j\ sing \ə\ go \ə\ law \ə\ boy \ə\ thin \ə\ the \ə\ loot \ə\ foot
\j\ yet \ə\ vision, beige \k, ˈ, ə, ɛ, ʌ\ see Guide to Pronunciation