



# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

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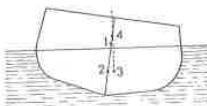
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730 Messrs. • metaphrase



metacenter: 1 center of gravity,  
2 center of buoyancy, 3 new  
center of buoyancy when float-  
ing body is displaced, 4 point  
of intersection

**metall- or metallo-** comb form [*NL, fr. L metallum*] : metal (metal-phone)  
**met-al-lic** *me-ta'lik* *adj* (15c) 1 a : of, relating to, or being a metal  
b : made of or containing a metal c : having properties of a metal  
2 : yielding metal 3 : resembling metal; as a : having iridescent and reflective properties (~ blond hair) b : having an acrid quality like that of metal (the tea has a ~ taste) 4 a : having a harsh resonance; GRATING (a ~ voice) b : having an impersonal or mechanical quality (~ a smile) — **me-tal-li-cal-ly** *me-ta'l-i-kal-ri-adv*  
met-al-ni<sup>m</sup> (n 1952) : a fiber or yarn made of or coated with metal; also : a fabric made with this  
**met-al-li-fer-ous** *me-ta'li-fər-əs* *adj* [*LL metallifer, fr. metallum + fer-ferous* (ca. 1656)] : yielding or containing metal  
**met-al-lize** also **met-al-iz** *me-ta'li-z* *vt* **met-al-lized** also **met-al-lizing**; **met-al-iz-ing** (*met-al-iz-ən*) : to coat, treat, or combine with a metal — **met-al-li-za-tion** *me-ta'li-za'shən* *n*  
**met-al-log-ra-ph** *me-ta'log-gra-fə* *n* [*ISV* (ca. 1864) : a study of the structure of metals esp with the microscope] — **met-al-logra-pher** *me-ta'log-gra-fər* *n* — **met-al-logra-phi-c** *me-ta'log-ri-phi-kəl* *adj* — **met-al-logr-oid** *me-ta'log-roid* *n* (*1832*) 1 : a nonmetal that can combine with a metal to form an alloy 2 : an element intermediate in properties between the typical metals and nonmetals  
**met-alloid** also **met-al-o-loid** *me-ta'l-oi-d* *adj* (ca. 1850) 1 : resembling a metal 2 : of, relating to, or being a metalloid  
**met-al-lo-phone** *me-ta'lo-fon* *n* (*ca. 1883*) : a percussion musical instrument consisting of a series of metal bars of varying pitch struck with hammers  
**met-al-ur-gy** *me-ta'ri-jē*, *pr-je*, esp *Brit ma'-lūr-ē*, *n* [*NL metallurgia, fr. metall- + -urgia (urgyn)* (ca. 1704) : the science and technology of metals — **met-al-ur-gi-al** *me-ta'ri-jē-al* — **met-al-ur-gi-ally** *me-ta'ri-jē-äl* *adv* — **met-al-ur-gist** *me-ta'ri-jist*, *esp Brit ma'-lūr-ist* *n*  
**met-al-mark** *me-ta'l-märk* *n* (ca. 1909) : any of a family (Rhinodiniidae) of small or medium-sized ushers, brightly colored chiefly tropical butterflies that often have metallic coloration on the wings  
**met-al-smith** *me-smith* *n* (*14c*) : a person skilled in metalworking  
**met-al-war** *me-war*, *werl* *n* (*1896*) : ware made of metal; esp : metal utensils for household use  
**met-al-work** *me-wərk* *n* (*ca. 1850*) : the product of metalworking; esp : a metal object of artistic merit — **met-al-worker** *me-war-kər* *n*  
**met-al-work-ing** *me-war-king* *n* (*1882*) : the act or process of shaping things out of metal  
**meta-math-e-mat-ics** *me-ta'ma-thē-ma-tiks*, *ma-thə-kēz* *n* pl but used sing in constr (ca. 1890) : a field of study concerned with the formal structure and properties (as the consistency and completeness of axioms) of mathematical systems — **meta-math-e-mat-i-cal** *me-ta'ma-thē-ma-ti-kəl* *adj*  
**meta-me-tr** *me-ta'mi-tr* *n* [*ISV* (1877)] : any of a linear series of primatively similar segments into which the body of a higher invertebrate or vertebrate is divisible — **meta-me-ter** *me-ta'mi-tr* *n* — **meta-me-ri-cally** *me-ta'mi-tr-ik-lē* *adv*  
**meta-tam-erism** *me-ta'ma-rizm* *n* (*1877*) : the condition of having or the stage of evolutionary development characterized by a body made up of metameres  
**meta-mor-phic** *me-ta'mōr-fik* *adj* (*1816*) 1 : of or relating to metamorphosis 2 : of a rock : of, relating to, or produced by metamorphism — **meta-mor-phic-ally** *me-ta'mōr-fik-äl* *adv*  
**meta-mor-phism** *me-ta'mōr-fizm* *n* (*1845*) : a change in the constitution of rock; specif : a pronounced change effected by pressure, heat, and water that results in a more compact and more highly crystalline condition  
**meta-mor-phose** *me-tōr'-fōs* *vb* **-phosed**; **-phos-ing** [*prob. fr. ME metamorphoser, fr. metamorphose metamorphosis, fr. L metamorphosis* (1576)] 1 a : to change into a different physical form esp, by supernatural means b : to change strikingly the appearance or character of something — **TRANSFORM** (you are so *metamorphosed* I can hardly think you my master — *Shak.*) 2 : to cause (rock) to undergo metamorphism 1 : to undergo metamorphism 2 : to become transformed *syn* **TRANSFORM**  
**meta-mor-phosis** *me-ta'mōr-fōsēs* *n*, *pl* **-pho-ses** *me-sēz* *n* [fr. *Gr. metamorphosis, fr. metamorphou*s to transform, fr. *meta-* + *morphe* form] (*1533*) 1 a : a change of physical form, structure, or substance esp by supernatural means b : a striking alteration in appearance, character, or circumstances 2 : a marked and more or less permanent developmental change in the form or structure of an animal (as a butterfly or a frog) occurring subsequent to birth or hatching  
**met-analy-sis** *me-to'-a-nā-līsəs* *n* (*1914*) : a reanalysis of the division between sounds or words resulting in different constituents (as in the development of an apron from a napron)  
**meta-neph-ros** *me-nefras*, *frās* *n*, *pl* **-roi** *me-nōfrōi* [*NL, fr. meta- + G. nephros kidney* — more at NEPHRITIS] (*1884*) : either member of the final and most caudal pair of the three successive pairs of vertebrate renal organs that functions as permanent adult kidney in reptiles, birds, and mammals but is not present at all in lower forms; comp. MESONEPHROS, PHENOPHROS — **meta-neph-ric** *me-nōfr-ik* *adj*  
**meta-phase** *me-ta'faz* *n* [*ISV* (1887)] : the stage of mitosis at which the chromosomes become arranged in the equatorial plane of the spindle  
**metaphase** *me-ta-faz* *n* (*1939*) : a section in the equatorial plane of the metaphase spindle having the chromosomes oriented upon it  
**met-a-phor** *me-ta'-for* also *far-for* [*MF or L: MF metaphor*, fr. *metaphora*, fr. *Gk. fr. metaphere* to transfer, fr. *meta-* + *pherein* to bear — more at BEAR] (*1533*) 1 : a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them (as in *drain in money*; *broadly* : figurative language — compare SIMILE 2) 2 : a figure of speech literally denoting one kind of object or idea treated as a metaphor; *SIMILE* 2 — **phor-ic** *me-ta'fōr-ik*, *fōr-ik* *adv* or **met-a-phor-ic** *me-ta'fōr-ik* *adj* — **aphor-i-cal-ly** *me-ta'fōr-ik-lē* *adv*  
**meta-phos-phate** *me-ta'-fōs-fāt*, *fāt* *n* [*ISV* (1833)] : a salt or ester of metaphosphoric acid  
**meta-phos-phoric acid** *me-ta'-fōs-fōrik*, *fōr-ik* *n*, *fr-ik* *n*, *fr-ik* *n* [*ISV* (1833)] : a glassy solid acid  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$  (or  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ) formed by heating orthophoric acid  
**meta-phrase** *me-to'-fraz* *n* (*1640*) : a literal translation

**meta-phys-i-c** (*lde*) *f* : the system; *PHILOSOPHY*  
**meta-physics** *n* 2 a : of or relating to the early 1<sup>st</sup> century  
and marked by *speculation* and *metaphysical* inquiry  
**Metaphysical** *adj* *metaphysical*  
**meta-physi-ci** *n* 1st in metaphysics  
**meta-physi-les** Aristotle's works (the works) after  
works (1569)  
with the **meta-fundamental** *adjective*, *cosm*  
experience 2 : *metaphysical*  
**meta-pla-sia** *n* tissue into another  
cell of another  
**meta-psych-o-logy** *n* psychology considered  
and processed as an object  
**meta-se-ni-o-lia** (*quadra*) of fossil a family that have  
left leaves resembling  
**meta-so-ma-tin** *n* involves changes  
of rock — **meta-**  
**meta-sta-bi-le** *adj* only a slight  
**meta-tas-i-sis** *n* (metastasis) in motion, fr. Gr. *metastasis*,  
more at **STAND** 2 : transfer of a part  
of another part of the body to a different part of the body  
**meta-tumor** — *al-*  
**meta-tu-ta-ti-vi-ty** *n* by or as if by metastasis  
**meta-tur-sal** *n* part of the human  
tarsus and the phalanges  
**meta-tar-saf-sis** *n* (18) **meta-tar-sus** *n* human foot or of  
an animal *meta-ti-ti-*  
cup-shaped upper part  
and esp. maize  
**meta-thesis** (*metathesis*) 1 : *metathesis* to transform  
(1577) ; a change  
phenomenon in a word  
or sentence  
2 : *metathesis* Vp  
different kinds of molecules — *met-*  
**meta-tho-ri-ac** *adj* *meta-*  
located in or on the  
**meta-thor-a-x** *n* the  
part of the thorax  
containing the heart  
that differentiates it  
especially by broader tracheal  
**meta-zoa** *n* *Zo-* + *zo-* (2d)  
**meta-zo-an** *n* *Zo-* + *zo-* (2d)  
group (*Metazoa*)  
of cells differ  
widely fitted with spines  
Vmeñé *v me-*  
**metron** to measure,  
(12c) 1 *orchid*  
used with *out* [ME, fr. AF  
**meta-psych-o-psy** *n* *meta-*  
*psychosis*, fr. Gk. *meta-*  
*psychos* (*empeches*,  
391) : the passing  
of an animal  
**meta-cep-ha-lon**  
longitudinal segment of the  
developing brain of the  
**meta-cen-tral** *adj* *meta-*  
*central* *meta-cen-tric*, *fr.* *meta-*  
to lift (15c)  
2 a : an action that is directly  
produced on an object  
by the pass-  
ing of an animal  
from the earth;  
b : resembling  
something *meta-*  
rise to