

Merriam-
Webster's
Collegiate[®]
Dictionary
TENTH EDITION



Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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

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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 : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-709-9 (indexed :
alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-710-2 (deluxe indexed : alk. paper). — ISBN
0-87779-707-2 (laminated cover, unindexed).

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

PE1628.M36 1998

423—dc21

97-41846

CIP

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Made in the United States of America

21222324RMcN98

gills] (1812): any of a sub-
fishes that have five to seven
side and that comprise the
ihes — **elasmobranch** *adj*
se] (1949): an enzyme esp. of

.Gk *elastos* ductile, beaten, fr.
in to Gk *elythe* he went, Oir
covering size and shape after
en particles in which the total
nchanged 2: capable of re-
disappointment 3: capable
and resuming former shape
ge or easy expansion or con-
ceptive to new ideas: **ADAPT-**

E. SUPPLE mean able to endure
e. ELASTIC implies the 16th
:hing (an *elastic* waistband).
shape quickly when the de-
a *resilient* innersole). **SPRINGY**
ing yields to pressure and the
e (the cake is done when the
athing which may or may not
bent or folded without break-
ies to something that can be
it any sign of injury (*supple*

rubber usu. prepared in cords,
t: an elastic fabric usu. made
g made from this fabric
stic smooth yellowish anasto-
stains elastin
n, *pl* -ties (1664): the qual-
ipability of a strained body to
tion: **SPRINGINESS** **b**: **RESIL-**
e
9): made with elastic thread

s that an elastic solid can sus-
tains the stress in a body to the cor-
of particles as the result of an

us] (1875): a protein that is
uent of elastic fibers
-mer] (ca. 1939): any of vari-
r (polyvinyl ~s) — **elas-to-**

us (pp. of *efferre* to carry out,
y — more at **TOLERATE**, **BEAR**)

prints: **EXULTANT** — **elat-ed-**

driver, fr. *elaunein* to drive] the
distribution of spores: as
: the spores in the capsule of a
pendages of the spores in the

. Gk *elatēr*] (1826): a dark
oft flexible masses
ity or state of being elated 2

ere occurring about 65 miles
: during daylight hours that is
s
land), residence of Napoléon
y 14, 1814 to Feb. 26, 1815]

boga, fr. *el-* (akin to *eln* ell) +
12c) 1 a: the joint of the
n the anterior limb of a lower
i or an angular pipe fitting)
: at one's side — **out at el-**
y dressed 2: short of funds
: elbow: **JOSTLE** **b**: to shove
elbow 2: to force (as one's
lbow (~ing our way through
cial circles) ~ *vi* 1: to ad-
make an angle: **TURN**
nd elated; **elated**; **elated**

the Melchizedek priesthood — **el-der-ship** \-ˈshɪp/ n
el-der-ber-ry \-ˈdɛr-(r)-ˈber-ə/ n (1589) 1: the edible black or red
berrylike drupe of any of a genus (*Sambucus*) of shrubs or trees of the
honeysuckle family bearing flat clusters of small white or pink flowers
2: a tree or shrub bearing elderberries

el-der-ly \-ˈdɛr-lē/ *adj* (1611) 1 a: rather old; *esp*: being past
middle age **b**: **OLD-FASHIONED** 2: of, relating to, or characteristic of
later life or elderly persons — **el-der-li-ness** n

elderly n, *pl* -ly or -lies (1865): an elderly person
elder statesman n (1904): an eminent senior member of a group or
organization; *esp*: a retired statesman who unofficially advises current
leaders

el-dest \-ˈdɛst/ *adj* (bef. 12c): of the greatest age or seniority: **OLD-**
EST

eldest hand n (1599): the card player who first receives cards in the
deal

El Do-ra-do \-ˈel-də-ˈrɑː-(d)ō, -ˈrɑː-/ n [Sp. lit., the gilded one] 1: a
city or country of fabulous riches held by 16th century explorers to
exist in So. America 2: a place of fabulous wealth or opportunity

el-dress \-ˈdres-/ n (1640): a woman elder esp. of the Shakers
el-dritch \-ˈdrɪch/ *adj* [perh. fr. (assumed) ME *eltriche* fairyland, fr.
ME *elf* + *riche* kingdom, fr. OE *rice* — more at **RICHT**] (1508): **WEIRD**,
EBERIE

Ele-at-ic \-ˈel-ē-ˈa-tɪk/ *adj* [L *Eleaticus*, fr. Gk *Eleatikos*, fr. *Elea*
(Velia), ancient town in southern Italy] (1695): of or relating to a
school of Greek philosophers founded by Parmenides and developed
by Zeno and marked by belief in the unity of being and the unreality
of motion or change — **Eleatic** n — **El-e-at-i-cism** \-ˈa-tə-si-zəm/ n
ele-cam-pa-ne \-ˈe-li-kəm-ˈpæn/ n [ME *elena campana*, fr. ML *enula*
campana, lit., field elecampane, fr. *inula*, *enula* elecampane + *campana*
of the field] (14c): a large coarse European composite herb (*Inula*
helenium) that has yellow ray flowers and is naturalized in the U.S.

elect \-ˈlekt/ *adj* [ME, fr. L *electus*, pp. of *eligere* to select, fr. *e-*
+ *legere* to choose — more at **LEGEND**] (15c) 1: carefully selected
: **CHOSEN** 2: chosen for salvation through divine mercy 3 a
: chosen for office or position but not yet installed (the president-*elect*)
b: chosen for marriage at some future time (the bride-*elect*)

elect n, *pl* **elect** (15c) 1: one chosen or set apart (as by divine favor)
2 *pl*: a select or exclusive group of people
elect *vb* [ME, fr. L *electus*] *vt* (15c) 1: to select by vote for an office,
position, or membership (~ed her class president) 2: to make a
selection of (will ~ an academic program) 3: to choose (as a course
of action) esp. by preference (might ~ to sell the business) ~ *vi*: to
make a selection

elect-able \-ˈlekt-ə-bəl/ *adj* (1879): capable of being elected (as to
public office) — **elect-abil-i-ty** \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈbɪ-lə-tē/ n

elec-tion \-ˈlekt-shən/ n (13c) 1 a: an act or process of electing **b**
: the fact of being elected 2: predestination to eternal life 3: the
right, power, or privilege of making a choice
Election Day n (15c): a day legally established for the election of
public officials; *esp*: the first Tuesday after the first Monday in No-
vember in an even year designated for national elections in the U.S. and
observed as a legal holiday in many states

elec-tion-eer \-ˈlekt-shə-ˈnɪr/ *vi* [*election* + *-eer* (as in *privateer*, *v.*)]
(1789): to take an active part in an election; *specif*: to work for the
election of a candidate or party — **elec-tion-eer-er** n

elec-tive \-ˈlekt-tɪv/ *adj* (1531) 1 a: chosen or filled by popular
election (an ~ official) **b**: of or relating to election **c**: based on the
right or principle of election (the presidency is an ~ office) 2 a
: permitting a choice: **OPTIONAL** (an ~ course in school) **b**: benefi-
cial to the patient but not essential for survival (~ surgery) 3 a
: tending to operate on one substance rather than another (~ absorp-
tion) **b**: favorably inclined to one more than to another: **SYMPA-**
THETIC (an ~ affinity) — **elec-tive-ly** *adv* — **elec-tive-ness** n

elec-tive n (1850): an elective course or subject
elec-tor \-ˈlekt-tər, -ˈtɔr/ n (15c) 1: one qualified to vote in an elec-
tion 2: one entitled to participate in an election: as a: any of the
German princes entitled to take part in choosing the Holy Roman Em-
peror **b**: a member of the electoral college in the U.S.

elec-tor-al \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-rəl, -ˈtɔr-əl/ *adj* (1675) 1: of or relating to
an elector (the ~ vote) 2: of or relating to election (an ~ system) —
elec-tor-al-ly \-t(ə)-rəl-ē, -ˈtɔr-əl-ē/ *adv*

elec-toral n (ca. 1691): a body of electors; *esp*: one that elects
the president and vice president of the U.S.

elec-tor-ate \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-rət/ n (1675) 1: the territory, jurisdiction, or
dignity of a German elector 2: a body of people entitled to vote

elec-tr- or **elec-tro-** *comb form* [NL *electricus*] 1 a: electricity (*elec-*
tr-o-meter) **b**: electric (electrode): electric and (electrochemical)
: electrically (electropositive) 2: electrolytic (electroanalysis) 3
: electron (electrophilic)
Elec-tro \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-/ n [L, fr. Gk *Elektra*]: a sister of Orestes who aids
him in killing their mother Clytemnestra
Elect-

penalty of death by electrocution
electric eel n (1794): a large eel-shaped fish (*Electrophorus*)
of the Orinoco and Amazon basins that is capable of giving a severe
shock with its electric organs

electric eye n (1898): **PHOTOELECTRIC CELL**

electric field n (ca. 1889): a region associated with a distribution
electric charge or a varying magnetic field in which forces due to the
charge or field act upon other electric charges

elec-tri-cian \-i-ˈlek-ˈtri-shən, -ē-/ n (1869): one who installs, main-
tains, operates, or repairs electrical equipment
elec-tri-ci-ty \-i-ˈlek-ˈtri-sə-tē, -ē-, -ˈtrɪs-tē/ n, *pl* -ties (1646) 1 a:
fundamental entity of nature consisting of negative and positive kind
observable in the attractions and repulsions of bodies electrified by
friction and in natural phenomena (as lightning or the aurora borealis
and usu. utilized in the form of electric currents) **b**: electric current (a
power 2: a science that deals with the phenomena and laws of elec-
tricity 3: keen contagious excitement

electric organ n (1773): a specialized tract of tissue (as in the electri-
eel) in which electricity is generated

electric ray n (1774): any of various round-bodied short-tailed rays
(family Torpedinidae) of warm seas with a pair of electric organs

elec-tri-fi-ca-tion \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-ˈfɪ-kə-shən, -ē-/ n (1748) 1: an act or
process of electrifying 2: the state of being electrified

elec-tri-fy \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-fɪ, -ē-/ *vt* -fied; -fying (1745) 1 a: to charge
with electricity **b** (1): to equip for use of electric power (2): to
supply with electric power (3): to amplify (music) electronically
: to excite intensely or suddenly as by electric shock

elec-tro-acous-tics \-i-ˈlek-t(ə)-ˈkūs-tiks/ n *pl* but *sing* in *constr* (192-
): a science that deals with the transformation of acoustic energy into
electric energy or vice versa — **elec-tro-acous-tic** \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈkūs-tɪk/ *adj*

elec-tro-anal-y-sis \-ˈe-ˈnə-lə-səs/ n (1903): chemical analysis by elec-
tolytic methods — **elec-tro-an-a-lyt-i-cal** \-ˈli-t-i-kəl/ *adj*

elec-tro-car-dio-gram \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈdɪ-ə-gram/ n (ca. 1904): the tracing
made by an electrocardiograph

elec-tro-car-dio-graph \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈdɪ-ə-ɡraf/ n (1913): an instrument for recording
the changes of electrical potential occurring during the heartbeat use
esp in diagnosing abnormalities of heart action — **elec-tro-car-dio-**
graph-ic \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈdɪ-ə-ˈɡraf-ɪk/ *adj* — **elec-tro-car-dio-graph-i-cal**
-ˈlekt-ə-ˈdɪ-ə-ˈɡraf-ɪ-kəl/ *adv* — **elec-tro-car-dio-graph-y** \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈdɪ-ə-ˈɡraf-ē/ n

elec-tro-chem-is-try \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈkem-ɪ-strē/ n (1814): a science that deals with
the relation of electricity to chemical changes and with the intercon-
version of chemical and electrical energy — **elec-tro-chem-i-cal** \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈkem-
i-kəl/ *adj* — **elec-tro-chem-i-cal-ly** \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈkem-i-kəl-ē/ *adv*

elec-tro-con-vul-sive \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈkɒn-ˈvʌl-sɪv/ *adj* (1947): of, relating
to, or involving convulsive response to electroshock (~ shocks)

electroconvulsive therapy n (1948): **ELECTROSHOCK THERAPY**

elec-tro-cor-ti-co-gram \-ˈlekt-ə-ˈkɔr-ti-kə-gram/ n (1939): an elec-
troencephalogram made with the electrodes in direct contact with the
brain

elec-tro-cute \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-ˈkyūt/ *vt* -cut-ed; -cut-ing [*elec-tr-* + *-cute* (as
in *execute*)] (1889) 1: to execute (a criminal) by electricity 2: to kill
by electric shock — **elec-tro-cu-tion** \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-ˈkyū-shən/ n

elec-trode \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-d/ n (1834) 1: a conductor used to establish
electrical contact with a nonmetallic part of a circuit 2: an element in
a semiconductor device (as a transistor) that emits or collects electron
or holes or controls their movements

elec-tro-de-pos-it \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-dɪ-ˈpə-zət/ n (1864): a deposit formed in
or at an electrode by electrolysis

electrodeposit *vt* (1882): to deposit (as a metal or rubber) by elec-
trolysis — **elec-tro-de-po-si-tion** \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-dɪ-ˈpə-zɪ-shən, -ˈdɛ-pə-
zɪ-ʃən/ n

elec-tro-der-mal \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-ˈdər-məl/ *adj* (1946): of or relating to elec-
trical activity in or electrical properties of the skin

elec-tro-des-ic-ca-tion \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-dɛ-sɪ-ˈkə-shən/ n (1919): the drying
up of tissue by a high-frequency electric current applied with a needle-
shaped electrode — called also *fulguration*

elec-tro-di-al-y-sis \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-dɪ-ˈa-lə-səs/ n (1921): dialysis acce-
lerated by an electromotive force applied to electrodes adjacent to the
membranes — **elec-tro-di-alyt-ic** \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-dɪ-ˈa-lɪ-tɪk/ *adj*

elec-tro-dy-nam-ics \-ˈdi-ˈna-miks/ n *pl* but *sing* in *constr* (1827):
branch of physics that deals with the effects arising from the interac-
tions of electric currents with magnets, with other currents, or with
themselves — **elec-tro-dy-nam-ic** \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-ˈna-mɪk/ *adj*

elec-tro-dy-na-mo-met-er \-ˈdi-ˈna-ˈmə-mə-tər/ n [ISV] (1876): a
instrument that measures current by indicating the strength of the
forces between a current flowing in fixed coils and one flowing in mov-
able coils

elec-tro-en-ceph-a-lo-gram \-ˈi-n-ˈse-f(ə)-lə-gram/ n [ISV] (1934): the
tracing of brain waves made by an electroencephalograph

elec-tro-en-ceph-a-lo-graph \-ˈlekt-t(ə)-ˈen-ˈse-f(ə)-lə-gram/ n [ISV] (1936): an apparatus for
detecting and recording brain waves — **elec-tro-en-ceph-a-log-raph**

\ə/ about \ə/ kitten. F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ə/ ace \ə/ mon. mar

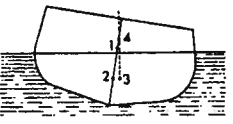
b : situated behind or beyond (metencephalon) 2 or more highly organized or specialized form of (metaxylem) 2 : change ; transformation 3 [metaphysics] : more comprehensive ; transcending (metapsychology) — used with the name of a discipline to designate a new but related discipline designed to deal critically with the original one (metamathematics) 4 a : involving substitution at or characterized by two positions in the benzene ring that are separated by one carbon atom (meta-xylene) b : derived from by loss of water (metaphosphoric acid)

meta-bol-ic \me-tə-'bō-lik\ *adj* (1845) : of, relating to, or based on metabolism — **meta-bol-i-cal-ly** \-li-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*
me-tab-o-lism \mə-'tā-bə-'lī-zəm\ *n* [ISV, fr. Gk *metabolē* change, fr. *metaballein* to change, fr. *meta-* + *ballein* to throw — more at DEVI.] (1872) 1 a : the sum of the processes in the buildup and destruction of protoplasm; *specif* : the chemical changes in living cells by which energy is provided for vital processes and activities and new material is assimilated b : the sum of the processes by which a particular substance is handled in the living body c : the sum of the metabolic activities taking place in a particular environment (the ~ of a lake) 2 : METAMORPHOSIS 2 — usu. used in combination (holometabolism)
me-tab-o-lite \-līt\ *n* (1884) 1 : a product of metabolism 2 : a substance essential to the metabolism of a particular organism or to a particular metabolic process

me-tab-o-lize \-līz\ *vb* -lized; -lizing *vt* (1887) : to subject to metabolism ~ *vi* : to perform metabolism — **me-tab-o-liz-able** \mə-'tā-bə-'lī-zə-bəl\ *adj*

meta-car-pal \me-tə-'kär-pəl\ *adj* (1739) : of, relating to, or being the metacarpus or a metacarpal
metacarpal *n* (1854) : a bone of the part of the hand or forefoot between the carpus and the phalanges that typically contains five more or less elongated bones when all the digits are present
meta-car-pus \me-tə-'kär-pəs\ *n* [NL] (1676) : the part of the hand or forefoot that contains the metacarpals

meta-cen-ter \me-tə-'sen-tər\ *n* [F *metacentre*, fr. *meta-* + *centre* center] (1794) : the point of intersection of the vertical through the center of buoyancy of a floating body with the vertical through the new center of buoyancy when the body is displaced
meta-cen-tric \me-tə-'sen-trik\ *adj* (1798) 1 : of or relating to a metacenter 2 : having the centromere medially situated so that the two chromosomal arms are of roughly equal length — **metacentric** *n*



metacenter. 1 center of gravity, 2 center of buoyancy, 3 new center of buoyancy when floating body is displaced, 4 point of intersection

meta-cer-car-la \me-tə-'sər-'kär-ə-'lə\ *n* [NL] (1928) : a tailless encysted late larva of a digenetic trematode that is usu. the form which is infective for the definitive host — **meta-cer-car-lal** \-ə-'lə\ *adj*
meta-chro-mat-ic \-krō-'mā-tik\ *adj* (1876) 1 : staining or characterized by staining in a different color or shade from what is typical (~ granules in a bacterium) 2 : having the capacity to stain different elements of a cell or tissue in different colors or shades (~ stains)

meta-eth-ics \-e-'thiks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* (1949) : the study of the meanings of ethical terms, the nature of ethical judgments, and the types of ethical arguments — **meta-eth-i-cal** \-thi-kəl\ *adj*

meta-fic-tion \-'fik-shən\ *n* (1978) : fiction which refers to or takes as its subject fictional writing and its conventions — **meta-fic-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-'nəl\ *adj* — **meta-fic-tion-ist** \-sh(ə)'nist\ *n*

meta-gal-axy \-'gä-lək-sē\ *n* [ISV] (1930) : the entire system of galaxies ; UNIVERSE — **meta-gal-act-ic** \-'gä-'lak-tik\ *adj*

meta-gen-e-sis \-'je-nə-səs\ *n* [NL] (ca. 1864) : alternation of generations in animals; *esp* : regular alteration of a sexual and an asexual generation — **meta-ge-net-ic** \-'jə-'ne-tik\ *adj*

met-al \me-'təl\ *n*, *often attrib* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *metallum* mine, metal, fr. Gk *metallon*] (14c) 1 : any of various opaque, fusible, ductile, and typically lustrous substances that are good conductors of electricity and heat, form cations by loss of electrons, and yield basic oxides and hydroxides; *esp* : one that is a chemical element as distinguished from an alloy 2 a : METTLE 1a b : the material or substance out of which a person or thing is made 3 : glass in its molten state 4 a : printing type metal b : matter set in metal type 5 : ROAD METAL 6 : HEAVY METAL

metal *vt* -aled or -alled; -al-ing or -al-ling (1610) : to cover or furnish with metal
meta-lan-guage \me-tə-'län-'gwīj\ *n* (1936) : a language used to talk about language

meta-ling-uist-ic \me-tə-'līŋ-'gwīst-ik\ *adj* (1944) : of or relating to a metalanguage or to metallinguistics

meta-ling-uist-ics \-tik-s\ *n pl but sing in constr* (1949) : a branch of linguistics that deals with the relation between language and other cultural factors in a society

metals among the typical metals and metalloids

metal-oid \me-'tāl-'ōi-dəl\ *n* [ME-'tāl-'ōi-dəl\ *adj* (ca. 1850) 1 : resembling a metal 2 : of, relating to, or being a metalloid

met-al-lo-phon-e \mə-'tā-lə-'fōn\ *n* (ca. 1883) : a percussion musical instrument consisting of a series of metal bars of varying pitch struck with hammers

met-al-lur-gy \me-'təl-'ər-jē, *esp Brit* mə-'tā-lər-\ *n* [NL *metallurgia*, fr. *metall-* + *-urgia* -urgy] (ca. 1704) : the science and technology of metals — **met-al-lur-gi-cal** \me-'təl-'ər-jī-kəl\ *adj* — **met-al-lur-gi-cal-ly** \-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **met-al-lur-gist** \me-'təl-'ər-jīst, *esp Brit* mə-'tā-lər-\ *n*
met-al-mark \me-'təl-'mārk\ *n* (ca. 1909) : any of a family (Riodinidae) of small or medium-sized usu. brightly colored chiefly tropical butterflies that often have metallic coloration on the wings

met-al-smith \-smit'h\ *n* (14c) : a person skilled in metalworking
met-al-ware \-war, -wer\ *n* (1896) : ware made of metal; *esp* : metal utensils for household use

met-al-work \-wərk\ *n* (ca. 1850) : the product of metalworking; *esp* : a metal object of artistic merit — **met-al-work-er** \-wərk-ər\ *n*
met-al-work-ing \-wərk-īŋ\ *n* (1882) : the act or process of shaping things out of metal

meta-math-e-mat-ics \me-'tə-'māth-'mā-tiks, -mā-thə-\ *n pl but usu 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-ly** \-ti-kəl\ *adj*
meta-mer-e \me-'tə-'mīr\ *n* [ISV] (1877) : any of a linear series of primitively similar segments into which the body of a higher invertebrate or vertebrate is divisible — **meta-mer-ic** \me-'tə-'mer-ik, -'mīr-\ *adj* — **meta-mer-i-cal-ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

me-tam-er-ism \mə-'tā-mə-'rī-zəm\ *n* (1877) : the condition of having or the stage of evolutionary development characterized by a body made up of metameres

meta-mor-phic \me-tə-'mōr-fik\ *adj* (1816) 1 : of or relating to metamorphosis 2 of a rock; of, relating to, or produced by metamorphism — **meta-mor-ph-i-cal-ly** \-fi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

meta-mor-phism \-'mōr-'fī-zəm\ *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 \-fōz, -fōs\ *vb* -phosed; -phos-ing [prob. fr. MF *metamorphoser*, fr. *metamorphose* metamorphosis, fr. L *metamorphosis*] *vt* (1576) 1 a : to change into a different physical form esp. by supernatural means b : to change strikingly the appearance or character of : TRANSFORM (you are so *metamorphosed* I can hardly think you my master — Shak.) 2 : to cause (rock) to undergo metamorphism ~ *vi* 1 : to undergo metamorphosis 2 : to become transformed *syn* see TRANSFORM

meta-mor-pho-sis \me-tə-'mōr-fə-səs\ *n*, *pl* -pho-ses \-sēz\ [L, fr. Gk *metamorphōsis*, fr. *metamorphō* to transform, fr. *meta-* + *morphē* form] (1533) 1 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 abrupt developmental change in the form or structure of an animal (as a butterfly or a frog) occurring subsequent to birth or hatching

met-anal-y-sis \me-tə-'nā-lə-səs\ *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 \-'ne-frəs, -frās\ *n*, *pl* -roi \-'frōi\ [NL, fr. *meta-* + Gk *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 a permanent adult kidney in reptiles, birds, and mammals but is not present at all in lower forms — compare MESONEPHROS, PRONEPHROS — **meta-neph-ric** \-frīk\ *adj*

meta-neph-ros \me-tə-'fāz\ *n* [ISV] (1887) : the stage of mitosis and meiosis in which the chromosomes become arranged in the equatorial plane of the spindle

metaphase plate *n* (1939) : a section in the equatorial plane of the metaphase spindle having the chromosomes oriented upon it

met-a-phor \me-tə-'fōr *also* -fər\ *n* [MF or L; MF *metaphora*, fr. L *metaphora*, fr. Gk, fr. *metapherein* 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 *drowning in money*), *broadly* : figurative language — compare SIMILE 2 : an object, activity, or idea treated as a metaphor : SYMBOL 2 — **met-a-phor-ic** \me-tə-'fōr-ik, -fār-*or* met-a-phor-i-cal \-i-kəl\ *adj* — **met-a-phor-i-cal-ly** \-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

meta-phos-phate \me-tə-'fās-'fāt\ *n* [ISV] (1833) : a salt or ester of a metaphosphoric acid

meta-phos-pho-ric acid \-'fās-'fōr-ik-, -fār-; -fās-(ə)'rīk\ *n* (1833) : a glassy solid acid HPO₃ or (HPO₃)₂, formed by heating orthophosphoric acid

meta-phrase \me-tə-'frāz\ *n* (1640) : a literal translation

meta-pla-si
tissue into
cells of ano
meta-psy-ci
psychology
id) and pro
onstrated o
meta-se-que
quota) of fo
family that
flat leaves r
meta-so-ma
involves ch
of rock — n
meta-sta-bl
only a sligh
-stə-'bi-lə-
me-tas-ta-si
tion, fr. Gk
more at ST
: transfer o
another par
lignant tum
cal-ly \-ti-k
me-tas-ta-si
by or as if b
meta-tar-si
part of the
tarsus and t
meta-tarsal
meta-tar-su
human foot
me-ta-te \m
concave up)
and esp. ma
me-tath-e-si
metathenai
(1577) : a c
phonemes i
pronunciati
different ki
molecules -
\-tik\ *adj* —
meta-tho-ra
situated in o
meta-tho-ra
ment of the
meta-xy-len
that differ
cally by bro
meta-zo-al
metazoans
meta-zo-an
a group (M
posed of cell
cavity lined
mete \ME
mezzan to m
(bef. 12c) 1
usu. used wi
mete n [ME
me-tem-psy-
metempsych
meta- + em
(1591) : the
man or anim
met-en-ceph
anterior seg
sponding pa
— met-en-c
me-te-or \m
Gk *meteoron*
acrein to lift
snowfall) 2
tem that are
tional heatin
produced by
me-te-or-ic \
rived from th
brilliance (a