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First Printing 1993

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

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Made in the United States of America

123456RMcN93

late **b**: a straight line with respect to which a body or figure is symmetrical — called also *axis of symmetry* **c**: a straight line that bisects at right angles a system of parallel chords of a curve and divides the curve into two symmetrical parts **d**: one of the reference lines of a coordinate system **2 a**: the second vertebra of the neck on which the head and first vertebra turn as on a pivot **b**: any of various central, fundamental, or axial parts **3**: a plant stem **4**: one of several imaginary lines assumed in describing the positions of the planes by which a crystal is bounded and the positions of atoms in the structure of the crystal **5**: a main line of direction, motion, growth, or extension **6 a**: an implied line in painting or sculpture through a composition to which elements in the composition are referred **b**: a line actually drawn and used as the basis of measurements in an architectural or other working drawing **7**: any of three fixed lines of reference in an aircraft that run in the longitudinal, lateral, and vertical directions, are mutually perpendicular, and usu. pass through the aircraft's center of gravity **8**: PARTNERSHIP, ALLIANCE
Axis *adj* (1938): of or relating to the three powers Germany, Italy, and Japan engaged against the Allied nations in World War II
axi-sym-met-ric \ˈak-si-sə-met-ri-kəl/ *n* [Gk *axōn* axis + *metri-kos* metric] also **axi-sym-met-ri-cal** \ˈak-si-sə-met-ri-kəl/ *adj* [axis + *symmetric*] (1893): symmetric in respect to an axis — **axi-sym-met-ric** \ˈak-si-sə-met-ri-kəl/ *n* [ME *axel* (as in *axeltre*) (14c) **1 a**: a pin or shaft on or with which a wheel or pair of wheels revolves **b** (1): a fixed bar or beam with bearings at its ends on which wheels (as of a cart) revolve (2): the spindle of such a beam **2 archaic**: AXIS
axle-tree \ˈak-səl-tre/ *n* [ME *axeltre*, fr. ON *axaltre*, fr. *oxull* axle + *trē* tree] (14c): AXLE 1b(1)
ax-man \ˈak-smən/ *n* (1671): one who wields an ax
Ax-min-ster \ˈak-smɪn(t)-stər/ *n* [Axminster, town in England] (1818): a machine-woven carpet with pile tufts inserted mechanically in a variety of textures and patterns
ax-o-lotl \ˈak-sə-lō-tl/ *n* [Nahuatl *axōlotl*] (ca. 1768): any of several salamanders (genus *Ambystoma* esp. *A. mexicanum* and *A. tigrinum*) of mountain lakes of Mexico and the western U.S. that ordinarily live and breed without metamorphosing
ax-on \ˈak-sən/ also **ax-one** \-sən/ *n* [NL *axon*, fr. Gk *axōn*] (ca. 1899): a usu. long and single nerve-cell process that usu. conducts impulses away from the cell body — see NEURON illustration — **ax-on-al** \ˈak-sə-nəl/; **ak-sā-**, **-sō-** *adj*
ax-o-neme \ˈak-sə-nēm/ *n* [Gk *axōn* axis + *nēma* thread, fr. *nēn* to spin — more at NEEDLE] (1901): the fibrillar bundle of a flagellum or cilium that usu. consists of nine pairs of microtubules arranged in a ring around a single central pair — **ax-o-ne-mal** \ˈak-sə-nēm-əl/ *adj*
ax-o-no-met-ric \ˈak-sə-nō-met-ri-kəl/ *adj* [Gk *axōn* axis + *E-metric*] (1908): being or prepared by the projection of objects on the drawing surface so that they appear inclined with three sides showing and with horizontal and vertical distances drawn to scale but diagonal and curved lines distorted (as in drawing)
axo-plasm \ˈak-sə-plə-zəm/ *n* [axon + *-plasm*] (1900): the protoplasm of an axon — **axo-plas-mic** \ˈak-sə-pləz-mik/ *adj*
ay \aɪ/ *interj* [MF *aymī* ay me] (14c) — usu. used with following *me* to express sorrow or regret
ayah \ˈi-ə-ˈā-yə- / *n* [Hindi *āyā*, fr. Pg *āia*, fr. L *avia* grandmother] (1779): a nurse or maid native to India
aya-huā-sca \ˈi-ya-ˈhwā-skə- / *n* [AmerSp] (1949): an hallucinogenic beverage prepared from the bark of a So. American vine (*Banisteriopsis caapi* of the family Malpighiaceae)
aya-tol-lah \ˈi-ə-ˈtō-lə- / *n* [Per, lit., sign of God, fr. Ar *āya* sign, miracle + *allāh* God] (1953): a religious leader among Shiite Muslims — used as a title of respect esp. for one who is not an imam
aye also **ay** \aɪ/ *adv* [ME, fr. ON *ei*; akin to OE *ē* always, L *aevum* age, lifetime, Gk *aion* age] (13c): ALWAYS, CONTINUALLY, EVER (love that will ~ endure — W. S. Gilbert)
aye also **ay** \aɪ/ *adv* [perh. fr. ME *ye*, *ye* — more at YEA] (1576): YES (~, ~, ~, sir)
aye also **ay** \aɪ/ *n*, *pl* **ayes** (1589): an affirmative vote or voter (the ~s have it)
aye-aye \ˈi-ˈeɪ/ *n* [F, fr. Malagasy *aiay*] (ca. 1781): a small primitive nocturnal forest-dwelling primate (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) of northern Madagascar that has a round head, large eyes and ears, and long thin fingers
ayin \ˈi-ən/ *n* [Heb *ʾayin*, lit., eye] (1823): the 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet — see ALPHABET table
Ay-ma-ra \ˈi-mə-ˈrɑ- / *n*, *pl* **Aymara** or **Aymarás** [Sp *aymara*] (1860) **1**: a member of an Indian people of Bolivia and Peru **2**: the language of the Aymara people
Ayr-shire \ˈaɪr-ʃɪr- / *n*, *pl* **Ayrshire** or **Ayrshires** [Ayrshire, Scotland] (1856): any of a breed of hardy dairy cattle originated in Ayr and usu. marked with blotches of red or brown with white
az- or **azo-** *comb form* [ISV, fr. F *azote* nitrogen, fr. *a-* *2a-* + *-zote*, prob. fr. Gk *zōtikos* maintaining life, fr. *zōē* life — more at QUICK]: containing nitrogen esp. as the bivalent group N=N (azine)
aza- or **az-** *comb form [ISV *az-* + *-a-*]: containing nitrogen in place of carbon and usu. the bivalent group NH for the group CH₂ or a single trivalent nitrogen atom for the group CH (azathioprine)
aza-lea \ˈə-zəl-ˈyə- / *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk. fem. of *azaleos* dry, fr. *azein* to parch, dry; akin to Hitt *har-* to dry up and prob. to L *ador emmer*] (1767): any of a subgenus (*Azalea*) of rhododendrons with funnel-shaped corollas and usu. deciduous leaves including many species and hybrid forms cultivated as ornamentals
aza-thio-prine \ˈə-zə-ˈthi-ə-ˈprɛn/ *n* [aza- + *thi-* + *purine*] (1962): a purine antimetabolite C₈H₇N₅O₂S used esp. as an immunosuppressant
Aza-zel \ˈə-zə-ˈzɛl- / *n* [Heb *ʾāzāzēl*] (ca. 1938): an evil spirit of the wilderness to which a scapegoat was sent by the ancient Hebrews in a ritual of atonement
azeo-trope \ˈə-zē-ə-ˈtrɒp/ *n* [*2a-* + *zeo-* (fr. Gk *zein* to boil) + *-trope* something changed, fr. Gk *tropos* turn — more at YEAST, TROPE] (1938): a liquid mixture that is characterized by a constant minimum or maximum boiling point which is lower or higher than that of any of the components
azide \ˈə-zɪd- / *n* (ca. 1904): a compound containing the group N₃ combined with an element or radical*

az-i-do \ˈə-zə-(ˌ)dō/ *adj* [ISV *azide* + *-o-*] (ca. 1926): relating to or containing the univalent group N₃ — often used in combination
az-i-do-thy-mi-dine \ə-zɪ-dō-ˈthɪ-mə-ˈdɪn- / *n* (1974): an antiviral drug C₁₀H₁₃N₃O₄ that inhibits replication of some retroviruses (as HIV) and is used to treat AIDS — called also **AZT**, **zidovudine**
az-i-muth \ˈə-zɪ-ˈmʊθ- / *n* [ME, fr. (assumed) ML, fr. Ar *as-sūmūt* the azimuth, pl. of *as-samūt* the way] (14c) **1**: an arc of the horizon measured between a fixed point (as true north) and the vertical circle passing through the center of an object usu. in astronomy and navigation clockwise from the north point through 360 degrees **2**: horizontal direction expressed as the angular distance between the direction of a fixed point (as the observer's heading) and the direction of the object — **az-i-muth-al** \ˈə-zɪ-ˈmʊθ-əl/ *adj* — **az-i-muth-al-ly** \-ˈmʊθ-əl-ˈli- / *adv*
azimuthal equidistant projection *n* (1942): a map projection of the surface of the earth so centered at any given point that a straight line radiating from the center to any other point represents the shortest distance and can be measured to scale



azimuthal equidistant projection, centered on Washington, D.C.: 1 London, 2 Algiers, 3 Moscow, 4 Rio de Janeiro, 5 Tokyo, 6 Auckland

azine \ˈə-zēn-, ˈə- / *n* (1887): a compound of the general formula RCH=NH=CHR or R₂C=NN=CR₂ formed by the action of hydrazine on aldehydes or ketones
azo \ˈə-zo-, ˈə- / *adj* [uz-] (ca. 1879): relating to or containing the bivalent group N=N united at both ends to carbon
azo dye *n* (1884): any of numerous dyes containing azo groups
azo-ic \ˈə-zo-ˈɪk- / *adj* [*2a-* + Gk *zōē* life — more at QUICK] (ca. 1847): having no life; esp.: of or relating to the part of geologic time that antedates life — compare ARCHEOZOIC
azole \ˈə-zōl-, ˈə- / *n* (ca. 1899): any of numerous compounds characterized by a 5-membered ring containing at least one nitrogen atom
azonal \ˈə-zō-nəl/ *adj* (1938): of, relating to, or being a soil or a major group of soils lacking well-developed horizons often because of immaturity — compare INTRAZONAL, ZONAL
azo-o-sper-mia \ˈə-zo-ˈsper-mē-ə- / *n* [NL, fr. Gk *azōos* lifeless (fr. *o-* *2a-* *zōē* life) + *sperma* semen, seed — more at SPERM] (ca. 1881): absence of spermatozoa from the seminal fluid
azo-te-mia \ˈə-zo-ˈtē-mē-ə- / *n* [ISV *azote* nitrogen + NL *-emia* — more at AZ-] (ca. 1900): an excess of nitrogenous bodies in the blood as a result of kidney insufficiency — compare UREMIA — **azo-te-mic** \-ˈmɪk- / *adj*
az-oth \ˈə-zōth- / *n* [Ar *az-zūʾūq* the mercury] (15c) **1**: mercury regarded by alchemists as the first principle of metals **2**: the universal remedy of Paracelsus
azo-to-bac-ter \ˈə-zō-tə-, ˈbək-tər- / *n* [NL, genus name, fr. ISV *azote* + NL *bacterium*] (1910): any of a genus (*Azotobacter*) of large rod-shaped or spherical bacteria occurring in soil and sewage and fixing atmospheric nitrogen
azo-tu-ria \ˈə-zo-ˈtūr-ē-ə-, ˈtyūr- / *n* [ISV *azote* + NL *-uria*] (ca. 1838): an abnormal condition of horses characterized by an excess of urea or other nitrogenous substances in the urine and muscle damage esp. to the hindquarters
AZT \ˈə-zɪ-ˈtɛ- / *n* (1985): AZIDOTHYMIDINE
Az-tec \ˈəz-ˈtek- / *n* [Sp *azteca*, fr. Nahuatl *aztēcāh*, pl. of *aztēcatl*] (1787) **1 a**: a member of a Nahuatl-speaking people that founded the Mexican empire conquered by Cortes in 1519 **b**: an evil spirit of any people under Aztec influence **2**: NAHUATL — **Az-tec-an** \ˈəz-ˈte-kən- / *adj*
azure \ˈə-zhər- / *n* [ME *azur*, fr. OF *azur*, prob. fr. OSP, modif. of Ar *lāzaward*, fr. Per *lāzward*] (14c) **1 archaic**: LAPIS LAZULI **2 a**: the blue color of the clear sky **b**: the heraldic color blue **3**: the unclouded sky — **azure** *adj*
azur-ite \ˈə-zhə-ˈrɪt- / *n* [F, fr. *azur* azure] (ca. 1868) **1**: a mineral that consists of blue basic carbonate of copper and is a copper ore **2**: a semiprecious stone derived from azurite
azy-gos \ˈə-zɪ-gəs- / *n* [NL, fr. Gk, unyoked, fr. *a-* + *zygon* yoke — more at YOKE] (1646): an azygos anatomical part
azy-gos also **azy-gous** \ˈə-zɪ-gəs- / *adj* (1681): not being one of a pair: SINGLE (an ~ vein)

ture 3: to confer the rights of a national citizenship 4: to cause (as a plant) to become established as if native

any of the sciences (as physics, chemistry, or matter, energy, and their interrelations and objectively measurable phenomena — natural)

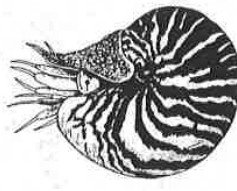
naught, fr. OE nauht, fr. na no + wih (NO, WIGHT) (bef. 12c): NOTHING (emphatic)

nausea or esp. disgust usage see adv (1612) 1: causing nausea or disgust with nausea or disgust — nau-seous-

[L. nautilus, fr. Gk nautikos, fr. nauis (NAVE) (1552): of, relating to, or associated with ships — nau-ti-cal-ly -k(ə)-lēv adv

international unit equal to 6076.115 feet (1852 meters) used officially in the U.S. since July 1, 1959.

nautilus n (ca. 1847): any of a subclass (Nautiloidea) of shell-bearing cephalopods that were abundant in the Ordovician and esp. the Silurian but are represented in the recent fauna only by the nautilus — nau-ti-lid -oid -oid, -nā- (ca. 1847)



nautilus

naval architect n (ca. 1885): one who designs ships

naval stores n pl [fr. their former use in the construction and maintenance of wooden sailing vessels] (1678): products (as turpentine, pitch, and rosin) obtained from resinous conifers and esp. pines

navel n [ML. navis, fr. L. ship; akin to OE nēwend sailor, Gk nauis ship, Skt. nau] (1673): the main part of the interior of a church; esp. the long narrow central hall in a cruciform church that rises higher than the aisles flanking it to form a clerestory

navicular n [NL. (os) navicularis navicular bone] (1816): a navicular bone; esp. one situated on the big-toe side of the tarsus

navy n [Fr. navire, fr. Lat. navis, fr. Gk nauis ship] (1590): a group of ships; FLEET 2: a nation's ships of war and of logistic support 3 often cap: the complete naval establishment of a nation including yards, stations, ships, and personnel 4: a dark grayish purplish blue

navy bean n (1856): a white-seeded kidney bean grown esp. for its nutritious seeds

navy cross n (1919): a U.S. Navy decoration awarded for extraordinary heroism in operations against an armed enemy

nazarite, fr. Heb nazir, lit., consecrated (1560): a Jew of biblical times consecrated to God by a vow to avoid drinking wine, cutting the hair, and being defiled by the presence of a corpse — Naz-i-rite -ism -i-rit-ism

Nazism 'nāt-sī-zəm, 'nat- or Na-zī-zīm -sē-jī-zəm) n [Nazi + -ism] (1934): the body of political and economic doctrines held and put into effect by the National Socialist German Workers' party in the Third German Reich including the totalitarian principle of government, state control of all industry, predominance of groups assumed to be racially superior, and supremacy of the führer

ne-nē- or neo- comb form [Gk. fr. neos new — more at NEW] 1 a: new; recent (Neogene) b: new and different period or form of (Neoplatonism); in a new and different form or manner (Neoplatonic) c: New World (Neotropical) d: new and abnormal (neoplasm) 2: new chemical compound isomeric with or otherwise related to (such) a compound (neostigmine)

Neanderthal 'nē-an-dər-tōl, -tōl; nā-'ān-dər-tāl) adj (1861) 1 also Ne-an-der-tal -tōl, -tāl): being, relating to, or resembling Neanderthal man 2: suggesting a caveman in appearance, mentality, or behavior — Neanderthal n

Neanderthal man n [Neanderthal, valley in western Germany] (1863): a Middle Paleolithic hominid (Homo sapiens neanderthalensis) known from skeletal remains in Europe, northern Africa, and western Asia — Ne-an-der-thal-oid -tōl, -tāl, -tā) adj or n

neap 'nēp) adj [ME. neap, fr. OE nēp being at the stage of neap tide] (bef. 12c): of, relating to, or constituting a neap tide

Neapolitan 'nē-pōl-i-tən -pōl-i-tēn) n [ME. fr. L. neapolitanus of Naples, fr. Gk Neapolis citizen of Naples, fr. Neapolis Naples] (15c): a native or inhabitant of Naples, Italy — Neapolitan adj

Neapolitan ice cream n (1895): a brick of from two to four layers of ice cream of different flavors

neap tide n (ca. 1548): a tide of minimum range occurring at the first and the third quarters of the moon

near 'nīr) adv [ME. near, partly fr. ner nearer, fr. OE nēar, comparative of nēah nigh; partly fr. ON nēar nearer, compar. of nā- nigh — more at NIGH] (13c): at, within, or to a short distance or time 2: ALMOST, NEARLY (~ dead) 3: in a close or intimate manner: CLOSELY (~ related) 4 archaic: in a frugal manner

near prep (13c): close to

near adj (14c): 1 a: not far distant in time, place, or degree (in the ~ future) b: almost happening; narrowly missed or avoided (a ~ win in the primary) (a ~ midair collision) c: nearly not happening (a ~ escape) 2: closely related or intimately associated 3 a: being the closer of two (the ~ side) b: being the left-hand one of a pair (the ~ wheel of a cart) 4: DIRECT, SHORT (the ~est road) 5: STINGY, CLOSEFISTED 6 a: closely resembling the standard or typical (a ~ desert) b: approximating the genuine (~ silk) — near-ness n

near vb (1513): APPROACH

near beer n (1909): any of various malt liquors considered non-alcoholic because they contain less than a specified percentage of alcohol

near-by 'nīr-bī, 'nīr-ə) adv or adj (14c): close at hand

Ne-arctic 'nē-ārkt-ik, -ār-tīk) adj (1858): of, relating to, or being the biogeographic subregion that includes Greenland and No. America north of tropical Mexico

near gale n (ca. 1975): MODERATE GALE — see BEAUFORT SCALE table

near-infrared 'nīr-in-frā-red, -(f)frā-) adj (1950): of or relating to the shorter wavelengths of radiation in the infrared spectrum and esp. to those between 0.7 and 2.5 micrometers

near-ly 'nīr-lē) adv (1661) 1: in a close manner or relationship (~ related) 2 a: almost but not quite (~ identical) (~ a year later) b: to the least extent (not ~ as good as we expected)

near miss n (1940) 1 a: a miss (as with a bomb) close enough to cause damage b: something that falls just short of success 2 a: a near collision (as between aircraft) b: CLOSE CALL

near money n (1942): assets (as savings accounts or government bonds) quickly and easily converted to cash

near point n (1876): the point nearest the eye at which an object is accurately focused on the retina at full accommodation

near-shore 'nīr-shōr, -shōr, 'nīr-) adj (1896): extending outward an indefinite but usu. short distance from shore (~ sediments)

near-side 'nīr-sīd) adj (ca. 1840) Brit.: LEFT-HAND 1 — NEAR-SIDE n

near-sight-ed 'nīr-sīt-əd) adj (1686): able to see near things more clearly than distant ones: MYOPIC — near-sight-ed-ly adv — near-sight-ed-ness n

near-ultra-violet 'nīr-əl-trā-'vī-ō-lē) adj (1951): of, relating to, or being the longest wavelengths of radiation esp. between 300 and 400 nanometers

neat 'nēat) n, pl neat or neats [ME. neat, fr. OE nēat; akin to OHG nōz head of cattle, OE nēotan to make use of, Lith nāuta use] (bef. 12c): the common domestic bovine (Bos taurus)

neat adj [MF. net, fr. L. nitidus bright, neat, fr. nitēre to shine; prob. akin to Mir niam luster] (1542) 1: free from dirt and disorder: habitually clean and orderly 2 a: free from admixture or dilution: STRAIGHT (~ brandy) (~ cement) b: free from irregularity: SMOOTH (~ silk) 3: marked by tasteful simplicity (a ~ outfit) 4 a: PRECISE, SYSTEMATIC b: marked by skill or ingenuity: ADROIT 5: NET (~ profuse) 6: FINE, ADMIRABLE — neat-ly adv — neat-ness n

na\ abut \v kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ə\ chin \e\ bet \e\ easy \ə\ go \ə\ hit \i\ ice \i\ job \ə\ sing \ə\ go \ə\ law \ə\ boy \ə\ th\ thin \i\ the \i\ loot \u\ foot \ə\ yet \ə\ vision \ə\ k, p, œ, œ, u, e, \ə\ see Guide to Pronunciation