

Merriam
Webster's
Collegiate
Dictionary

TENTH EDITION



Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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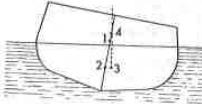
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Messrs. Vme-sərз pl of MR. (≈ Jones, Brown, and Robinson)
mess-usage Vme-wij\ n [ME, fr. AF, prob. alter. of OF *message* — more at MENAGE] (14c) : PREMISE 3b
messy Vme-séy adj mess-i-er; -est (1843) 1 : marked by confusion, disorder, or dirt: UNTIDY (a ~ room) 2 : lacking neatness or precision: CARELESS, SLOWENLY (≈ thinking) 3 : extremely unpleasant or trying (≈ lawsuits) — **mess-i-ly** Vme-sa-lé\ adv — **mess-i-ness** Vme-sé-néz\ za \me-sé-té-zá\ n [Sp, fem. of *mestizo*] (ca. 1582) : a woman who is a mestizo
mestizo V-(o)zó\ n, pl -zos [Sp, fr. *mestizo*, adj., mixed, fr. LL *mixtus*, fr. L *mixtus*, pp. of *mixere* to mix — more at MIX] (1582) : a person of mixed blood; specif: a person of mixed European and American Indian ancestry
mestra-nol Vme-trá-nól\ ,nól\ n [meth- + estrogen + pregnane (C_3H_{18})₃ + -ol] (1962) : a synthetic estrogen $C_3H_{20}O_2$ used in oral contraceptives
met past and past part of MEET
met- or met- prefix [NL & ML, fr. L or Gk; L, fr. Gk, among, with, after; fr. meta among, with; after; akin to OE mid, mith with, OHG mid] 1 : occurring later or than to: after (metestrus) b : situated behind or beyond (metencephalon) (metacarpus) c : later or more highly organized or specialized form of (metaxylum) 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 origins 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-hol-ic \me-tó-hík\ adj (1845) : of, relating to, or based on metabolism — **meta-hol-ic-al-y** \me-hóh-lik\ adv
meta-bol-ism \me-tá-ból-izm\ ,ázm\ n [ISV, fr. Gk *metabolé* change, fr. (1872) 1 : 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 2 : the sum of the processes by which a particular substance is handled in the living body 3 : 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 Vme-tá-lít\ ,lít\ n (1884) 1 : a product of metabolism. 2 : related to the metabolism of a particular organism or to a particular metabolic process
me-tab-o-lizm \me-tá-líz\ ,bz\ -lized; -lizing vt (1887) : to subject to metabolism — **me-tab-o-liz-able** \me-tá-líz-ábil\ adj
meta-car-pal Vme-tá-kár-pál\ adj (1739) : of, relating to, or being the metacarpal or a metacarpal
metacarpal n (1854) : a bone of the part of the hand or foot between the carpus and the phalanges that typically contains five or more less elongated bones when all the digits are present
meta-car-pus \me-tá-kár-püs\ n [NL] (1676) : the part of the hand or footprint that contains the metacarpals
meta-cen-ter Vme-tá-sén-tér\ ,n\ [F *metacentre*, fr. *meta-* meta- + *centre*] (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-té-sén-trík\ adj (1798) 1 : of or relating to a metacenter 2 : having the centroid medially situated so that the two chromosomal arms are of roughly equal length — **metaacentric**
meta-car-er-ia Vme-tá-kár-é-ri-á\ (1928) : a tailless encysted larva of a digenetic trematode that is usu. the form which is infective for the definitive host — **meta-car-er-ial** \é-ál\ adj
meta-chro-mat-ic \me-kró-má-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 \é-thi-kiks\ n pl 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** \é-thi-kál\ adj
meta-fiction \é-fikshón\ n (1978) : fiction which refers to or takes as its subject fictional writing and its conventions — **meta-fic-tional**
meta-gal-a-xy \é-gá-lák-sé\ n [ISV] (1930) : the entire system of galaxies: UNIVERSE — **meta-ga-lac-tic** \é-gá-lák-tík\ adj
meta-gen-e-sis \é-jé-nó-séz\ n [L] (ca. 1864) : alternation of generations — **meta-gen-e-tic** \é-jé-né-tík\ adj
metal Vme-tál\ 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 : METTE 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; -aling or -al-ling (1610) : to cover or furnish with metal
meta-lan-guage Vme-tá-lán-gwáj\ n (1936) : language used to talk about language
meta-lin-guis-tic Vme-tá-lín-gwís-tík\ adj (1944) : of or relating to a metalanguage or to metalinguistics
meta-lin-guis-tics \tiks\ 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



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

metall- or **metallo-** comb form [NL, fr. L *metallum*] : metal (metallophone)
me-tallic \me-tálik\ adj (15c) 1 a : of, relating to, or being of 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** \li-kó-lé\ adv
metallitic n (1952) : a fiber or yarn made of or coated with metal, also: a fabric made with such fibers
metallifer \me-tál-fí-rəs\ adj [L, metallifer, fr. *metallum* + -fer-ferous] (ca. 1656) : yielding or containing metal
metallize also **met-al-ize** Vme-tál-iz\ ,v\ -lized; **met-al-ized** also **met-al-iz-ing** (1594) : to coat, treat, or combine with a metal — **met-al-iz-a-tion** Vme-tál-iz-á-shón\ n [ISV] (ca. 1864) : study of the structure of metals esp. with the microscope — **met-al-lo-grapher** Vme-tál-ó-gráf-er\ n — **met-al-lo-graphy** Vme-tál-ó-gráf-é\ adj
met-al-to-graph-i-al \me-tál-tógráf-é-ál\ adj [L *metallum* + -graphia] (ca. 1569) 1 : a nomental that can combine with a metal to form an alloy 2 : an element intermediate in properties between the typical metals and nonmetals
metalloid also **met-al-oi-dal** \me-tál-oid\ ,dál\ adj (ca. 1850) 1 : resembling a metal 2 : of, relating to, or being a metalloid
met-al-lo-phone Vme-tál-la-fón\ n (ca. 1883) : a percussion musical instrument consisting of a series of metal bars of varying pitch struck by hammers
met-al-lur-gy Vme-tál-lúr-je\ ,jé\ exp Brit Vme-tál-lúr-je\ ,jé\ n [NL *metallurgia*, fr. *metallum* + *urgia*-urgyl] (ca. 1704) : the science and technology of metals — **met-al-lur-gi-al** \me-tál-lúr-je-ál\ adj — **met-al-lur-gi-cal** \me-tál-lúr-je-kál\ adj — **met-al-lur-gist** Vme-tál-lúr-jist\ ,jist\ exp Brit Vme-tál-lúr-jist\ ,jist\ n (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 Vme-tál-smíth\ n (14c) : a person skilled in metalworking
met-al-smith Vme-tál-smíth\ n (1896) : ware made of metal; esp: metal utensils for household use
met-al-work Vme-tál-wórk\ n (ca. 1850) : the product of metalworking; esp: a metal object of artistic merit — **met-al-work-er** Vme-wár-kér\ n
met-al-work-ing Vme-wár-kíng\ n (1882) : the act or process of shaping things out of metal
meta-mathe-mati-ics Vme-tá-máth-émá-tíks, -máth-á-ks\ 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-mati-cal** \é-máth-é-kál\ adj
meta-mere Vme-tá-míré\ ,míré\ n [ISV] (1877) : any of a linear series of primively similar segments into which the body of a higher invertebrate or vertebrate is divisible — **meta-mer-ic** Vme-tá-mérik\ ,mírik\ adj — **meta-mer-ism** Vme-tá-márl-izm\ n (1877) : the condition of having or the stage of evolutionary development characterized by a body made up of metameres
meta-mor-phic \me-tá-mór-fík\ adj (1816) 1 : of or relating to metamorphosis 2 of a rock: of, relating to, or produced by metamorphism — **meta-mor-phic-al** \é-márf-ík-ál\ adj
meta-mor-phism \mór-fíz'm\ 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 \fóz, -fós\ 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, structure, or substance esp. by supernatural means b : to change strikingly the appearance or character of, or circumstances 2 a : 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
meta-mor-phos-is \fóz, -fós\ 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 \fóz, -frás\ ,frás\ n, pl -roi \fró\ -fró\ n [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 vertebral 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-ri-al** \é-néf-rí-kál\ adj
meta-phase Vme-tá-fáz\ ,fáz\ n [ISV] (1887) : the stage of mitosis and meiosis in which the chromosomes become arranged in the equatorial plane of the spindle
meta-phase plate n (1939) : a section in the equatorial plane of the metaphase spindle having the chromosomes oriented upon it
meta-phor Vme-tá-for\ also -fár\ n [MF or L; MF *metaphore*, 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 *drawing in money*; broadly: figurative language — compare SIMILE 2 : an object, activity, or idea treated as a metaphor: SYMBOL 2 — **meta-phor-e** \fór-é, -fár-é\ or **meta-phor-i-cal** \é-fórik\ adj — **meta-phor-i-cal-ly** \é-fórik-ál\ adj
meta-phos-phate Vme-tá-fí-sát\ ,fítat\ n [ISV] (1833) : a salt or ester of a metaphosphoric acid
meta-phos-pho-ric acid \fás-fó-rík-, -fár-; -fás-fó-rík-ál\ n (1833) : a glassy solid acid HPO_3 or $(HPO_3)_2$ formed by heating orthophosphoric acid
meta-phrase Vme-tá-fráz\ n (1640) : a literal translation