

# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™ COLLEGE DICTIONARY

Fourth Edition

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# E

**e<sup>1</sup>** or **E** (ē) *n.*, *pl.* **e's**, **E's** 1 the fifth letter of the English alphabet: from the Greek *epsilon*, a borrowing from the Phoenician 2 any of the speech sounds that this letter represents, as, in English, the vowel (e) of *bed* or (ē) of *equal*, or, when unstressed, (ə) as in *father* 3 a type or impression for *e* or *E* 4 the fifth in a sequence or group 5 an object shaped like *E* —*adj.* 1 of *e* or *E* 2 fifth in a sequence or group 3 shaped like *E*

**e<sup>2</sup>** (ē) *n.* *Math.* the number used as the base of the system of natural logarithms, approximately 2.71828

**e<sup>3</sup>** *abbrev.* *Physics* electron

**E<sup>1</sup>** (ē) *n.* 1 *Educ.* a) a grade indicating below-average work, often equivalent to *condition b*) sometimes, a grade indicating excellence 2 *Music a*) the third tone or note in the ascending scale of C major b) a key, string, etc. producing this tone c) the scale having this tone as the keynote

**E<sup>2</sup>** *abbrev.* 1 *Earl* 2 *earth* 3 *east* 4 *eastern* 5 *empty* 6 *Football* end 7 *England* 8 *English* 9 *Baseball* error(s) 10 *exa-* 11 *excellent* 12 *Physics a*) energy (see *MATTER, n. 2*) b) the modulus of elasticity c) electromotive force or voltage Also, for 2-6, 9, & 11, **e**

**e-** (ē) *prefix* *EX-<sup>1</sup>*: used before *b, d, g, j, l, m, n, r, or v* [*reject, emit*] **E-** or **e-** [*< E(LECTRONIC)*] *prefix* done, made, purchased, etc. electronically, over the Internet [*E-banking, airline E-tickets*]

**ea** *abbrev.* each

**each** (ēch) *adj.*, *pron.* [*ME ech, etc., each, every < OE ælc < \*agilic, akin to OHG iogilith (Ger jeglich) < PGmc \*aiw-galic; see AYE<sup>1</sup> & ALIKE*] every one of two or more considered separately [*each (one) of you will be notified*] —*adv.* apiece [*give them two apples each*] — **each other** each one the other; one another [*we help each other*] Some speakers use *each other* only of two individuals and *one another* only of more than two, but in common use no distinction is made

**Eads** (ēdz), **James Buchanan** 1820-87; U.S. engineer: noted for bridge construction & river control

**eager<sup>1</sup>** (ē'gər) *adj.* [*ME egre < OFr aigre < L acer, sharp, acute, ardent, eager; see ACID*] 1 feeling or showing keen desire; impatient or anxious to do or get; ardent 2 [Archaic] sharp; keen — **ea'ger-ly** *adv.* — **ea'ger-ness** *n.*

**SYN.**—**eager** implies great enthusiasm, zeal, or sometimes impatience, in the desire for a pursuit of something [*eager to begin work*]; **avid** suggests an intense, sometimes greedy, desire to enjoy or possess something [*avid for power*]; **keen** implies deep interest and a spirited readiness to achieve something [*the team was keen on winning*]; **anxious**, in this connection, suggests eagerness, but with some uneasiness over the outcome [*anxious to excel*]

**eager<sup>2</sup>** (ē'gər, ā'-) *n.* [Brit.] **EAGRE**

\***eager beaver** [Slang] a person characterized by much, or too much, industry, initiative, or enthusiasm

**eagle** (ē'gəl) *n.* [*ME egle < OFr aigle < L aquila, eagle*] 1 any of a number of large, strong, flesh-eating accipitrine birds of prey noted for their sharp vision and powerful wings, as the bald eagle 2 a representation of the eagle, used as a symbol or emblem of a nation, etc.; esp., a) the military standard of the Roman Empire \*b) the national emblem of the U.S. \*c) the military insignia of a colonel in the U.S. armed forces (captain in the U.S. Navy) \*3 a former U.S. gold coin worth \$10 \*4 *Golf* a score of two under par on any hole —*vt.* **eagled, eagling** *Golf* to score an eagle on (a given hole)

**eagle-eyed** (-id') *adj.* having keen vision

**eagle ray** any of a family (Myliobatidae, order Myliobatiformes) of sharp-headed rays with flat teeth and a notched spine on the tail

\***Eagle Scout** 1 the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts 2 a Scout having this rank

**eaglet** (ē'glit) *n.* [*Fr aiglette, dim. of aigle*] a young eagle

**eagle-wood** (ē'gəl wōd') *n.* **LIGNALOES**

**ea<sup>g</sup>** (ē'gər, ā'-) *n.* [Brit dial. form, prob. ult. < OE *eagor*, flood, high tide, akin to ON *ægir*, ocean < IE \**akw-*, var. of base \**akwa-*, water > L *aqua*] [Brit.] a high tidal wave in an estuary; bore

**Eakins** (ā'kinz), **Thomas** 1844-1916; U.S. painter & sculptor

**eal-dor-man** (ēl'dər mən, al'-) *n.* *Anglo-Saxon History* the chief officer in a shire; alderman

**Ealing** (ē'lin) borough of Greater London, England: pop. 275,000

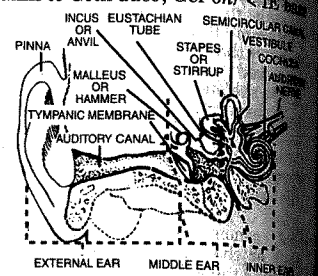
\***Eames chair** (ēmz) [*< Eames, a trademark for such a chair; after C. Eames (1907-78), its U.S. designer*] an upholstered swivel chair on rubber mounts, shaped to fit the body

**-ean** (ē'an) [*< L -ae-, -e-, -i- & Gr -ai-, -ei- (stem endings of nouns*

and adjectives) + **-AN**] *suffix* of, belonging to, like [*European, Aegean*]

**E & OE** *abbrev.* errors and omissions excepted

**ear<sup>1</sup>** (ir) *n.* [*ME ere < OE ēare* akin to Goth *ausō*, Ger *ohr* < IE base \**ous-*, ear > L *auris*, Gr *ous*, OIr *au*] 1 the part of the body specialized for the perception of sound; organ of hearing: the human ear consists of the external ear, the middle ear (tympanum), and the inner ear (labyrinth), which also senses one's state of equilibrium 2 the visible, external part of the ear 3 the sense of hearing 4 the ability to recognize slight differences in sound, esp. in the pitch, rhythm, etc. of musical tones 5 anything shaped or placed like an ear, as the handle of a pitcher or a small box in the upper corner of a newspaper page —**be all ears** to be listening attentively or eagerly —**bend someone's ear** [Slang] to talk excessively to someone —**fall on deaf ears** to be ignored or unheeded —**give (or lend) ear** to give attention, esp. favorable attention; listen; heed —**have (or keep) an ear to the ground** to give careful attention to the trends of public opinion —**have the ear of** to be in a favorable position to talk to and influence —**be heard by** —**in one ear and out the other** heard but without effect —**play by ear** to play (a musical instrument or piece) without the use of notation, improvising an arrangement —**play it by ear** [Informal] to act as the situation demands, without a preconceived plan; improvise —**set on its ear** [Informal] to cause excitement or upheaval, etc. in —**turn a deaf ear** to be unwilling to listen or heed



HUMAN EAR

**ear<sup>2</sup>** (ir) *n.* [*ME er < OE ēar*, akin to Ger *ähre*, Goth *ahs* < IE base \**ak-*, sharp] > L *acus*, chaff] the grain-bearing spike of a cereal plant, esp. of corn —*vi.* to sprout ears; form ears

**ear-ache** (ir'āk') *n.* an ache or pain in the ear; otalgia

**ear-drop** (-drāp') *n.* 1 an earring or hanging ornament for the ear 2 [*pl.*] any of various liquid medicines put into the ear in drops

**ear-drum** (-drum') *n.* **TYMPANUM** (sense 1)

**eared** (ir) *adj.* 1 having ears 2 having (a specified kind of) ears used in hyphenated compounds [*long-eared*]

**eared seal** any of various seals (family Otariidae) with distinct external ears and hind limbs used in locomotion, including the seals and sea lions

**ear-flap** (ir'flap') *n.* either of a pair of cloth or fur flaps on a cap, turned down to protect the ears from cold

\***ear-ful** (-fool') *n.* [Informal] 1 enough or too much of what is heard 2 important or startling news or gossip 3 a scolding

**Earhart** (er'härt'), **Amelia** 1897-1937; U.S. pioneer aviator

**ear-ling** (ir'in) *n.* [*< EAR<sup>1</sup>, sense 5*] a small rope passed through a cringle and used to attach the corner of a sail to a yard, gaff, or boom or to reef a sail

**earl** (ər) *n.* [*ME erl, nobleman, count < OE eorl, warrior, akin to ON jarl, leader, noble*] a British nobleman ranking above a viscount and below a marquess: the wife or widow of an earl is called a *countess* —**earl'-dom** *n.*

**Earl** (ər) *n.* [see prec.] a masculine name

**ear-lap** (ir'lāp') *n.* 1 **EARFLAP** 2 the ear lobe 3 the external ear

**ear-less seal** (ir'lis) any of a family (Phocidae) of seals with inconspicuous ears and rudimentary hind limbs

**Earl Marshal** a high officer of state in England, marshal of state ceremonies and head of the Herald's College

**ear-lobe** (ir'lōb') *n.* the fleshy, lower part of the external ear: often written **ear lobe**

**early** (ər'li) *adv.*, *adj.* --**lier**, --**li-est** [*ME erli < OE ærlīc, adv. ærlīc, adj. < ær, before (see ERE) + -lice, adv. suffix (see LIKE<sup>1</sup>)*] 1 near the beginning of a given period of time or series, as *early in the morning* or *early in the year* 2 expected or customary time 3 in the far distant past; in ancient or



AMELIA EARHART



another or each other [sound-alike names] Also written sound'-alike'

sound barrier SONIC BARRIER

sound bite a brief, quotable remark, or excerpt from a speech, made as by a politician and suitable for use on TV or radio news-casts: often a dismissive term implying superficiality

sound-board (sound'bôrd') n. 1 a thin plate, as of wood, built into a musical instrument to increase its resonance or serve as a resonator 2 SOUNDING BOARD (sense 1b)

sound effects sounds, as of thunder, blows, animals, traffic, etc., produced artificially or by recording to supply sounds called for in the script of a radio, stage, film, or TV production

sounder¹ (soun'dar) n. 1 a person or thing that makes a sound or sounds 2 a telegraphic device that converts electric code impulses into sound

sounder² (soun'dar) n. a person or thing that sounds the depth of water, etc.

sound-ing¹ (-dîj) adj. 1 making or giving forth sound 2 resonant; sonorous 3 high-sounding; bombastic

sound-ing² (-dîj) n. 1 a) the act of measuring the depth or examining the bottom of a body of water, etc. with or as with a weighted line b) depth so measured c) [pl.] a place, usually less than 100 fathoms (c. 180 m) in depth, where a sounding line will touch bottom 2 a) an examination of the atmosphere at or to a given height, as with a radiosonde b) a probe of space, as with a rocket 3 [pl.] measurements learned or data acquired by sounding 4 [often pl.] an exploratory sampling, as of public opinion

sounding board 1 a) SOUNDBOARD (sense 1) b) a structure over or behind a rostrum, stage, etc. designed to reflect sound toward the audience 2 a) a person or thing used for spreading ideas around b) a person on whom one tests one's ideas, opinions, etc.

sounding line LEAD LINE

sound-less¹ (soun'dlis) adj. without sound; quiet; noiseless — sound'-lessly adv. — sound'-less-ness n.

sound-less² (-lis) adj. so deep as to be incapable of being sounded; unfathomable

sound-proof (-prôf) adj. that keeps sound from coming through —vt. to make soundproof

sound spectrograph an electronic instrument that graphically displays a sound wave or voiceprint on a monitor or makes a record (sound spectrogram) of it on graph paper

sound-stage (soun'stâj) n. an enclosed soundproof area, esp. one in a STUDIO (n. 3b), equipped for producing films or TV shows

sound-track (-trak) n. 1 the area along one side of a film, carrying its recorded sound portion 2 a) the sound portion of a film b) a recording of this, esp. of the music, on disc, tape, etc. Also written sound track

\*sound truck a truck or van with amplifiers, loudspeakers, etc., used on the streets for disseminating political statements or appeals, advertising announcements, etc.

sound wave Physics a longitudinal pressure wave stimulated by a mechanical disturbance of an elastic medium, as air, at some source and propagated by the action of disturbed particles on adjacent particles; esp., any of such waves within the range of those audible to the human ear (c. 15 cycles to 20,000 cycles per second)

soup (sûp) n. [Fr soupe < OFr, soup: see SUP²] 1 a liquid food, with or without solid particles, made by cooking meat, vegetables, fish, etc. in water, milk, or the like 2 [Slang] a heavy fog \*3 [Slang] nitrogenizer —\*from soup to nuts [Informal] from beginning to end; completely or exhaustively —in the soup [Slang] in trouble —soup up [Slang] to increase the power, capacity for speed, etc. of (an engine, etc.)

soup-çon (sûp sôn', sûp'sôn') n. [Fr < OFr sospeçon < VL suspicio, for L suspicio: see SUSPICION] 1 literally, a suspicion 2 a slight trace, as of a flavor; hint; suggestion 3 a tiny amount; bit

soupe du jour (sûp dû zhôor'; E sûp'dû zhoor') [Fr, soup of the day] the special, sometimes the only, soup served in a restaurant on any particular day: also, Eng. sp., soup du jour

soup kitchen a place where hot soup or the like is given to people in dire need

soup-spoon (sûp'spûn') n. a large-bowled spoon for eating soup \*soup-to-nuts (sûp'tû nuts') adj. [Informal] complete or exhaustive [a soup-to-nuts instruction manual]

soupy (sûp'pè) adj. soup'y-er, soup'y-est 1 watery like soup 2 [Informal] a) thick and dank [a soupy fog] b) quite foggy [soupy weather] \*3 [Slang] sloppily sentimental; mawkish

sour (sour) adj. [ME soure < OE sur, akin to Ger sauer, ON sarr < IE \*suro-, sour, salty > Latvian surs, salty, bitter] 1 having the sharp, acid taste of lemon juice, vinegar, green fruit, etc. 2 made acid or rank by or as by fermentation [sour milk] 3 a) cross, bad-tempered, peevish, morose, etc. [a sour mood] b) ill-disposed and bitter [sour toward former associates] 4 below what is usual or normal; poor; bad [his game has gone sour] 5 distasteful or unpleasant 6 gratefully wrong or off pitch [a sour note] 7 excessively acid: said of soil 8 tainted with sulfur compounds: said of gasoline, etc. —n. 1 that which is sour; something sour \*2 a cocktail made with lemon or lime juice, sugar, and, usually, soda water [a whiskey sour] —vt., vi. to make or become sour [the milk will sour, soured on life] —sour'ly adv. —sour'-ness n.

SYN —sour usually implies an unpleasant sharpness of taste and often connotes fermentation or rancidity [sour milk]; acid suggests a sourness that is normal or natural [a lemon is an acid fruit]; acidulous suggests a slightly sour or acid quality [acidulous

lous spring water]; tart suggests a slightly stinging sharpness or sourness and usually connotes that this is pleasant to the taste [a tart cherry pie] —ANT. sweet

sour-ball (sour'bôl') n. a small ball of tart, hard candy

source (sôrs) n. [ME sours < OFr source < pp. of sourdre, to rise < L surgere: see SURGE] 1 a spring, fountain, etc. that is the starting point of a stream 2 that from which something comes into existence, develops, or derives [the sun is our source of energy, the source of a difficulty] 3 a) any person, place, or thing by which something is supplied [a source of pleasure] b) a person, bank, document, etc. that provides information [to consult various sources] 4 the point or thing from which light rays, sound waves, etc. emanate —vt., vi. sourced, sourc'-ing [Informal] \*1 to obtain (parts, materials, etc.) from a source of supply \*2 to identify the source of (information, quotations, etc.) —5YN. ORIGIN

\*source-book (sôrs'book') n. a collection of documents or a diary, journal, etc. used as basic information in studying, evaluating, and writing about a person, period, etc.

source language 1 the language from which a text is to be translated into another language: compare TARGET LANGUAGE (sense 1) 2 Comput. the language, as COBOL or FORTRAN, in which a program is originally written

sour cherry 1 a cherry tree (Prunus cerasus) bearing acid fruits that are usually used in cooking, preserves, etc. 2 this fruit

sour cream cream soured and thickened naturally or by adding a lactobacillus culture, for use in cooking, dressings, dips, etc.

sour-dine (sour dên') n. [Fr < It sordina < sordo, deaf: see SORDINO] SORDINO

sour-dough (sour'dô') n. 1 [Dial.] leaven 2 a) fermenting dough saved from one baking to be used for producing fermentation in a later one, thus avoiding the need for fresh yeast b) bread made with such dough (in full sourdough bread) 3 a prospector or settler in the W. U.S. or Canada, esp. one living alone: so called because their staple was sourdough bread

sour gourd 1 an Australian tree (Adansonia gregorii) of the bombax family with a gourdlike fruit 2 its woody fruit, with acid pulp and large seeds 3 BAOBAB

sour grapes [from Aesop's fable in which the fox, after futile efforts to reach some grapes, scorns them as being sour] a scolding or belittling of something only because it cannot be had or done

\*sour-gum (sour'gum') adj. designating a family (Nyssaceae, order Cornales) of dicotyledonous trees and shrubs, including the tupelos

\*sour mash a grain mash made with some mash from an earlier run, used in distilling some whiskeys

sour orange 1 an orange tree (Citrus aurantium) widely grown as a rootstock for grafting other citrus trees 2 its fruit, used in making marmalade

\*sour-puss (sour'pûs') n. [Slang] a person who has a gloomy or disagreeable expression or nature

\*sour salt crystals of citric acid or tartaric acid, used in flavoring foods, in pharmaceuticals, etc.

sour-sop (sour'sâp') n. 1 a tropical American tree (Annona muricata) of the custard-apple family, with large, pulpy, acid fruit 2 this fruit

\*sour-wood (-wood') n. a North American tree (Oxydendrum arboreum) of the heath family, with thick, fissured bark, small, white flowers, grayish fruit, and sour leaves

Souza (sûz'zâ, -sô), John Philip 1854-1932; U.S. bandmaster & composer of marches

\*sousa-phone (sûs'zâ fôn', sûs'sâ-) n. [after prec., who suggested its form] a brass instrument of the tuba family, with a large, movable bell: it was developed from the helicon and is used esp. in military bands

sous-chef (sûs'shef') n. [Fr, lit., under-chef] a chef's assistant

souse¹ (sôs) n. [ME sows < OFr souz < OHG sulza, brine, akin to salz, SALT] 1 a pickled food, esp. the feet, ears, and head of a pig 2 liquid used for pickling; brine 3 the act of plunging into a liquid, esp. into brine for pickling \*4 [Slang] a drunkard —vt., vi. sousted, sous'-ing 1 to pickle 2 to plunge or steep in a liquid 3 to make or become soaking wet \*4 [Slang] to make or become intoxicated

souse² (sôs) n. [altered < ME source < OFr sors, source, in the same sense: see SOURCE] [Obs.] Falconry the act of swooping down on prey by a hawk, falcon, etc. —vt., vi. sousted, sous'-ing [Obs.] Falconry to swoop down (on)

sou-tache (sû tash') n. [Fr < Hung súttás, pendant] a narrow, flat braid used for trimming

sou-tane (sû tan', -tân') n. [Fr < It sottana < sotto, under < L subtus, under, beneath < sub, under] CASSOCK

Souter (sût'ar), David 1939-; U.S. jurist: associate justice, Supreme Court (1990-)

south (south) n. [ME < OE suth, akin to OHG sund-, ON suthr < Gmc \*suntha- (understood as sun side < IE \*sun-, SUN¹), prob. < \*suintha-, strong, SOUND², to the right side, in reference to the east-facing position during prayer] 1 the direction to the left of a person facing the sunset; direction of the South Pole from any other point on the blackberry's exhibit no compass at 180° direction



SOUSAPHONE