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DICTIONARY

Fourth Edition

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E

e¹ 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*

e² (ē) *n.* *Math.* the number used as the base of the system of natural logarithms, approximately 2.71828

e³ *abbrev.* *Physics* electron

E¹ (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

E² *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-¹*: 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 AYE¹ & 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

eager¹ (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*]

eager² (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'gre (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

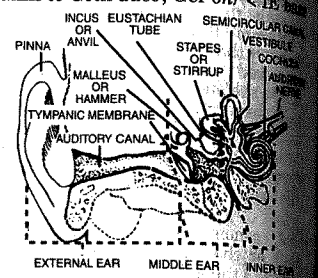
***Eames chair** (ēmz) [*< Eames, a trademark for such a chair; after C. Eames (1907-78), its U.S. designer*] an upholstered swivel chair on rubber mounts, shaped to fit the body

-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

ear¹ (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] 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

ear² (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.* [*< EAR¹, 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'lap') *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 LIKE¹)*] 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 (-din) *adj.* 1 making or giving forth sound 2 resonant; sonorous 3 high-sounding; bombastic

sound-ing² (-din) *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 (-prôof') *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'dstaj') *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 (soop) *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 (soop sôn', sôop'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 (soop dü zhôor'; E sôop'doo 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 (soop'spôon') *n.* a large-bowled spoon for eating soup

***soup-to-nuts** (soop'tə nuts') *adj.* [Informal] complete or exhaustive [*a soup-to-nuts* instruction manual]

soupy (soop'pē) *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 *surr* < IE **suro-*, sour, salty > Latvian *sūrs*, 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 [*this 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*] — **sourly** *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 spring water*]; **tart** suggests a slightly stinging sharpness 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**, **source'-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 (soor den') *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'pooz') *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'sap') *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 (soo'zə, -sə), John Philip 1854-1932; U.S. bandmaster & composer of marches

***sousa-phone** (soo'zə fôn', soo'sə-) *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 (soo'shef') *n.* [Fr, lit., under-chef] a chef's assistant

souse¹ (sous) *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.* **soused**, **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 (sous) *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.* **soused**, **sous'-ing** [Obs.] *Falconry* to swoop down (on)

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

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

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

south (south) *n.* [ME < OE *suth*, akin to OHG *sund-*, ON *súthr* < Gmc **suntha-* (understood as sun side < IE **sun-*, SUN¹), prob. < **suwintha-*, 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