

# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™ COLLEGE DICTIONARY

THIRD EDITION

**Victoria Neufeldt**

Editor in Chief

**David B. Guralnik**

Editor in Chief Emeritus

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*Dedicated  
to David B. Guralnik  
lexicographical mentor and friend*

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L portentous < portentus: see us: 2 arousing awe or amazement; ominous; self-important — SYN. outen-tous-ness n.

Porter < LL portarius < L portia, gatekeeper 2 R.C.Ch. a member

OFr porteur < LL portator < L rson who carries luggage, etc. for road station, hotel, etc. #2 an errands, etc. as in a bank, store, ee who waits on passengers in a porter's ale | a dark brown beer and produced by rapid ferment

1964; U.S. composer of popular al officer & diplomat 3 David ntral in the Civil War: son of emist 5 Katherine Anne 1890- & novelist 6 Rodney Robert Sydney see Henry, O.

2 the charge for this torical) a place where beer and ps) are served #2 (said to be a ot through, in the wall of a omewhat like this, as in a

rior porto folio < It portafog- ry + folio (< L folium: see usually of leather, for carrying drawings; briefcase 2 such a f a minister of state or mem- held for investment as by an etc. b) a list of such securi- ship's side, esp. a round one h thick glass and, often, a ot through, in the wall of a omewhat like this, as in a

us, name of a Roman gen- ine name 2 the heroine of

os | It < L porticus: see

PORTICO

part of a man's money or t the part of experience t lot; destiny 5 the part -son; serving; helping — to divide into portions ve a portion to; endow: portion-less adj.

South Wales, Australia:

aine | city and port in a & Willamette rivers: the town and island in : pop. 64,000

ance of the concrete of Portland, England] us under water, made similar materials the NW coast: pop.

1 large and heavy in -port'li-ness n.

pl. -teaus or -teaux manteau, cloak: see stiff leather suitcase

ination of two other or from smoke and fog) Guinea: capital of

al of Rio Grande do

ps, esp. cargo ships stationed to check

rainad: capital of ain

l of Benin: seaport

Porto Rico (pôr'to rê'kô) old name of PUERTO RICO — Porto Ri'can

Pôrto Ve-lho (pôr too vâ'lyô) city in W Brazil: capital of Rondonia state: pop. 150,000

Port Phillip Bay inlet of Bass Strait, in S Victoria, Australia: harbor of Melbourne: 762 sq. mi. (1,973 sq. km)

portrait (pôr'trit, -trât) n. [MFr, pp. of portraire: see PORTRAY] 1 orig., a drawn, painted, or carved picture of something 2 a representation of a person, esp. of the face, drawn, painted, photographed, or sculptured 3 a description or dramatic portrayal of a person

portraiture (pôr'tri char) n. [ME portreiture < MFr: see fol.] 1 the process, practice, or art of portraying 2 a portrait 3 portraits collectively

portray (pôr trâ) vt. [ME portreien < MFr portraire < L pro-trahere, to draw forth < pro-, forth + trahere, to draw] 1 to make a picture or portrait of; depict; delineate 2 to make a word picture of; describe 3 to play the part of as in a play or movie —portray'able adj. —portray'er n.

portrayal (pôr trâ'al) n. 1 the act of portraying 2 a portrait; description; representation

portress (pôr'tris) n. a woman porter (doorkeeper)

Port Royal town in Jamaica, at the entrance to Kingston harbor: the original town, former capital, was destroyed by an earthquake in 1692

Port Said (sâ'âd, sâ'id) seaport in NE Egypt, at the Mediterranean end of the Suez Canal: pop. 263,000

Port-Salut (pôr'sâ lut', Fr pôr sâ lut') n. PORT DU SALUT

Ports-mouth (pôr'tsmâth) 1 seaport in Hampshire, S England, on the English Channel: pop. 179,000 2 [after the city in England] seaport in SE Va., on Hampton Roads: pop. 104,000

Portugal (pôr'cha gal; Port pôr'too gâl') country in SW Europe, on the Atlantic: a kingdom until 1910, now a republic: 34,340 sq. mi. (88,941 sq. km); pop. 9,336,000; with the Azores & Madeira, 35,553 sq. mi. (92,082 sq. km); pop. 9,834,000; cap. Lisbon

Portuguese (pôr'cho gèz', -gès; pôr'cha gèz', -gès') adj. of Portugal, its people, their language, or culture — n. 1 pl. -guese' a native or inhabitant of Portugal 2 a Romance language spoken chiefly in Portugal and Brazil

Portuguese East Africa old alt. name of MOZAMBIQUE

Portuguese Guinea old name of GUINEA-BISSAU

Portuguese India former Portuguese overseas territory consisting of three enclaves in India: see GOA

Portuguese man-of-war any of a genus (Physalia) of large, colonial, warm-sea siphonophores having a large, bladderlike sac, with a sail-like structure on top, which enables them to float on the water, and long, dangling tentacles that have powerful stinging cells

Portuguese Timor former Portuguese territory in the Malay Archipelago, consisting principally of the E half of Timor: since 1976, a province of Indonesia

Portuguese water dog any of a breed of medium-sized dog once found along the coast of Portugal, where it was trained to assist fishermen: characterized by a profuse, curly or wavy coat of black, brown, or white

Portuguese West Africa old alt. name of ANGOLA

portulaca (pôr'cha lak'a; -lâ'ka, -lâ'') n. [ModL < L, purslane < portula, dim. of porta, door (see PORT)] from the doorkill opening of the seed capsule | a fleshy annual plant (Portulaca grandiflora) of the purslane family usually with yellow, pink, or purple flowers

pos 1 position 2 positive

po-sada (pô sâ'thâ) n. [Sp < fem. of posado, pp. of posar, to lodge < L posare, to stop < pausa, a PAUSE] in Spanish-speaking countries, a) an inn b) a Christmas festival marked by a candlelight procession

1053

Porto Rico / posse

to place < \*posinere < po-, away (< IE base \*apo- > L ab, from, away) + sinere, to put, lay; see SITE] 1 the act of posting, or placing 2 a posting of a proposition; affirmation 3 the manner in which a person or thing is placed or arranged; attitude; posture; disposition 4 one's attitude toward or opinion on a subject; stand [his position on foreign aid] 5 the place where a person or thing is, esp. in relation to others; location; situation; site [the ship's position] 6 the usual or proper place of a person or thing; station [the players are in position] 7 a location or condition in which one has the advantage [to jockey for position] 8 a strategic military site 9 a person's relative place, as in society; rank; status 10 a place high in society, business, etc. [a man of position] 11 a post of employment; office; job [to apply for a teaching position] 12 Finance the long or short commitment of a market trader in securities or commodities 13 Music a) the arrangement of the notes of a chord with respect to their relative closeness or distance apart [open position] b) any of the fixed locations on the fingerboard of a violin, etc., that the left hand assumes for fingering a particular series of notes c) any of the various points to which a trombone slide may be moved to change the pitch — vt. 1 to put in a particular position; place or station 2 [Rare] to locate —pos'itional adj. —pos'itioner n.

SYN.—position applies to any specific employment for salary or wages, but often connotes white-collar or professional employment; situation now usually refers to a position that is open or to one that is desired [situation wanted as instructor]; office refers to a position of authority or trust, especially in government or a corporation; a post is a position or office that carries heavy responsibilities, esp. one to which a person is appointed; job is now the common, comprehensive equivalent for any of the preceding terms

positive (pâz'a tiv) adj. [ME positif < OFr < L positivus < positus: see prec.] 1 formally or arbitrarily set; conventional; artificial [a positive law] 2 definitely set; explicitly laid down; admitting of no question or modification; express; precise; specific [positive instructions] 3 a) having the mind set or settled; confident; assured [a positive person] b) overconfident or dogmatic 4 showing resolution or agreement; affirmative; certain [a positive answer] 5 tending in the direction regarded as that of increase, progress, etc. [clockwise motion is positive] 6 making a definite contribution; constructive [positive criticism] 7 unrelated to anything else; independent of circumstances; absolute; unqualified 8 that has, or is considered as having, real existence in itself, not just in the absence of other attributes [a positive good] 9 based, or asserted as based, on reality or facts [positive proof] 10 concerned only with real things and experience; empirical; practical 11 [Colloq.] complete; absolute; out-and-out [a positive fool] 12 Biol. directed toward the source of a stimulus [positive tropism] \*13 Elec. a) of, generating, or charged with positive electricity b) having a deficiency of electrons 14 Gram. a) of an adjective or adverb in its simple, uninflected or unmodified form or degree; neither comparative nor superlative b) of this degree 15 Math. designating a quantity greater than zero, or one to be added; plus 16 Med. demonstrating or proving the presence or existence of a condition, symptoms, bacterium, etc. 17 Photog. with the light and shade corresponding to those of the subject — n. something positive, as a degree, quality, condition, etc.; specif., a) the plate in a voltaic battery where the higher potential is b) Gram. the positive degree; also, a word or form in this degree c) Math. a quantity greater than zero, or one to be added; plus quantity d) Photog. a photographic print, or a film for use in a projector, on which light and shadow correspond to what they were in the subject — SYN. SURE —pos'itively adv. —pos'itiveness n.

\*positive electricity the kind of electricity that predominates in a glass body after it has been rubbed with silk and has a deficiency of electrons

positive sign Math. the sign (+), used to indicate a positive quantity

posi-tiv-ism (pâz'a tiv iz am) n. [Fr positivisme < positif] 1 the quality or state of being positive; certainty; assurance 2 overconfidence or dogmatism 3 a system of philosophy basing knowledge solely on data of sense experience; esp., a system of philosophy, originated by Auguste Comte, based solely on observable, scientific facts and their relations to each other; it rejects speculation or search for ultimate origins —pos'itivist n., adj. —pos'itivist-ic adj.

\*posi-tron (pâz'i trân) n. [POSITIVE] + (ELEC)TRON] the positive antiparticle of an electron, having approximately the same mass and magnitude of charge

\*posi-tro-nium (pâz'i trô'nè am) n. [prec. + -IUM] a short-lived atomic system formed of an electron and a positron before they interact to annihilate each other

po-sol-ogy (pô sil'ô jè) n. [Fr posologie < Gr posos, how much (< IE \*kwoti < interrogative base \*kwo- > WHO, WHAT) + Fr -logie, -LOGY] Med. the scientific study of drug dosages

poss 1 possession 2 possessive 3 possibly

posse (pâs'tè) n. [ML, short for posse comitatus, power of the county < L posse, to be able (see POTENT) + comitatus, county < comes, a COUNT] 1 [Historical] a) the body of men required, upon being summoned, to assist the sheriff in keeping the peace, pursuing felons, etc. b) a band of men, usually armed, so summoned: in full posse co-mi-tatus (kâm'â tât'as) 2 any body of persons armed with legal authority

at, ât; cîr; ten, êve; is, ice; gô, hórñ, look, too; oil, out; up, fûr; ð for unstressed vowels, as a in ago, u in focus; ' as in Latin [lat'n]; chin; sh; zh as in azure (azh'ar); thin; the; ð as in ring (rîŋ) In etymologies: \* = unattested; < = derived from; > = from which