

# Webster's II

*New College Dictionary*



Houghton Mifflin Company

*Boston • New York*

Words are included in this Dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. The inclusion of any word in this Dictionary is not, however, an expression of the Publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this Dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

Copyright © 1999, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to Reference Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston MA 02116.

Illustrations **azimuthal equidistant projection** and **sinusoidal projection** © 1986 by The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping.

ISBN 0-395-96214-5

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Webster's II new college dictionary.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-395-70869-9 (alk. paper)

1. English language — Dictionaries. I. Webster's II new

Riverside University dictionary

PE1628.W55164 1995

423 — dc20

95-5833

CIP

For information about this and other Houghton Mifflin trade and reference books and multimedia products, visit The Bookstore at Houghton Mifflin on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hmco.com/trade/>.

Printed in the United States

C  
—  
Edi  
Pre  
Ele  
Exp  
Ab  
Pro  
DI  
Ab  
Bio  
Ge  
For  
Fou  
Tw  
A C  
For  
Tab  
Per  
Sig

**mi-cro-cyte** (mi'krə sīt') *n.* [MICRO + (ERYTHRO)CYTE.] An abnormally small red blood cell, less than five microns in diameter. — **mi-cro-cy-tic** (sīt'fīk) *adj.*

**mi-cro-dot** (mi'krə dōt') *n.* A photographic reproduction of written or printed material reduced to the size of a dot, esp. for secret transmission.

**mi-cro-e-c-o-nom-ics** (mi'krə ěk'ə-nōm'fiks, ěk'ə) *n. (sing. in number)* The study of the operations of the components of a national economy, such as individual firms, households, and consumers. — **mi-cro-e-c-o-nom'ic** *adj.*

**mi-cro-e-lec-trode** (mi'krə ĩlĕk'trōd') *n.* A very small electrode often used in the study of the electrical characteristics of living cells and tissues.

**mi-cro-e-lec-tron-ics** (mi'krə ĩlĕk'trōn'fiks) *n. (sing. in number)* The branch of electronics dealing with miniature components. — **mi-cro-e-lec-tron'ic** *adj.*

**mi-cro-en-vi-ron-ment** (mi'krə ěn vī'nən mēnt) *n.* A microhabitat.

**mi-cro-fiche** (mi'krə fēsh') *n., pl. microfiche or -fich-es.* [Fr. : *micro*, small (< Gk. *mikros*) + *fiche*, card < OFr., peg < *fichier*, to drive in < Lat. *figere*.] A sheet of microfilm containing a large number of pages of printed text, in reduced form.

**mi-cro-fi-lar-i-a** (mi'krə fə lār'ē ə) *n.* A slender larval filaria. — **mi-cro-fi-lar'i-al** (ē əl) *adj.*

**mi-cro-film** (mi'krə fīlm') *n.* 1. A film on which printed materials are photographed greatly reduced in size. 2. A reproduction on microfilm. — **vt. -film-ed, -film-ing, -films.** To reproduce (e.g., documents) on microfilm.

**mi-cro-form** (mi'krə fōrm') *n.* An arrangement of images reduced in size as on microfilm.

**mi-cro-ga-mete** (mi'krə gə mēt', gām'ēt') *n.* The smaller of a pair of conjugating gametes, the male gamete.

**mi-cro-ga-me-to-cyte** (mi'krə gə mē'tə sīt') *n.* A gametocyte that fertilizes microgametes.

**mi-cro-graph-y** (mi'krə grāf'ē) *n.* Study or graphic representation of microscopic objects. — **mi-cro-graph'ic** (mi'krə grāf'fīk) *adj.*

**mi-cro-hab-i-tat** (mi'krə hāb'itāt') *n.* The smallest unit of a habitat, as a clump of grass or space between rocks.

**mi-cro-man-age** (mi'krə mǎn'ij) *vt. -aged, -ag-ing, -ag-es.* To direct or control in a detailed, often meddling manner.

**mi-cro-ma-nip-u-la-tor** (mi'krə mǎn'ip'yə lā'tər) *n.* A device for manipulating minute instruments and needles under a microscope in order to perform microsurgery. — **mi-cro-ma-nip-u-la-tion** *n.*

**mi-cro-mer-e** (mi'krə mīr') *n.* [MICRO + (BLASTO)MERE.] A tiny blastomere.

**mi-cro-me-te-or-ite** (mi'krə mē'tē ə rīt') *n.* A micrometeoroid, esp. one found on the earth or the moon.

**mi-cro-me-te-or-oid** (mi'krə mē'tē ə rōid') *n.* One of numerous relatively small meteoroids distinguished by increasing occurrence as meteors with decreasing meteoric mass.

**mi-cro-me-te-or-ol-o-gy** (mi'krə mē'tē ə rōl'ə jē) *n.* The study of meteorologic conditions in a small region, usu. a shallow layer up to a few hundred feet above ground in which temperature and humidity extremes are found. — **mi-cro-me-te-or-ol'o-gist** *n.*

**mi-cro-met-er** (mi'krə mē'tēr) *n.* [Fr. *micromètre* : *micro*, small (< Gk. *mikros*) + *mètre*, meter < Gk. *metron*, measure.] A device for measuring minute distances, esp. one based on the rotation of a finely threaded screw, as in relation to a microscope.

**mi-cro-met-er-y** (mi'krə mē'tēr-ē) *n.* Measurement with a micrometer. — **mi-cro-met'ric** (mi'krə mē'tr'fīk), **mi-cro-met'ri-cal** *adj.* — **mi-cro-met'ri-cal-ly** *adv.*

**mi-cro-met'ric** (mi'krə mē'tr'fīk), **mi-cro-met'ri-cal** *adj.* *n.* Also **mi-kron** (mi'krōn') *n., pl. -crons or -cra* (krə) *n.* also **kr** [Gk., neuter of *mikros*, small.] A unit of length equal to one millionth (10<sup>-6</sup>) of a meter.

**mi-cro-ne-sian** (mi'krə nē'shan, shān) *adj.* Of or relating to Micronesia, its inhabitants, their languages, or their culture. — *n.* 1. A native or resident of Micronesia. 2. A subfamily of the Austronesian language family that includes the languages of Micronesia.

**mi-cro-ni-z-e** (mi'krə nīz') *vt. -ized, -iz-ing, -iz-es.* To reduce to particles that are only a few microns in diameter.

**mi-cro-nu-cle-us** (mi'krə nōo'klē əs, nyoō') *n., pl. -cle-i (-klē-i) or -cle-us-es.* The smaller nuclear mass in ciliated and sustentacular protozoans as opposed to the macronucleus.

**mi-cro-nu-tri-ent** (mi'krə nōo'trē ənt, nyōō') *n.* A substance that in minute amounts is essential to life.

**mi-cro-or-gan-ism** (mi'krə ōr'gə nīz'əm) *n.* An animal or plant of microscopic size, esp. a bacterium or protozoan.

**mi-cro-pa-le-on-tol-o-gy** (mi'krə pāl'ē ōn tōl'ə jē, ən) *n.* The study of microscopic fossils. — **mi-cro-pa-le-on'tol'o-gic** (-tōl'ōj'fīk), **mi-cro-pa-le-on'tol'o-gic-ally** *adv.* — **mi-cro-pa-le-on'tol'o-gist** *n.*

**mi-cro-phage** (mi'krə fāj') *n.* A small phagocyte.

**mi-cro-phon** (mi'krə fōn') *n.* An instrument that converts acoustic waves into an electric current, usu. fed into an amplifier, recorder, or broadcast transmitter. — **mi-cro-phon'ic** (fōn'fīk) *adj.*

**mi-cro-pho-to-graph** (mi'krə fō'tə grāf') *n.* 1. A photograph requiring magnification for viewing. 2. A photograph on microfilm. 3. A

photomicrograph. — **mi-cro-pho'to-graph'** *v. (-graph-ed, -graph-ing, -graphs). — **mi-cro-pho-tog'ra-pher** (fə tōg'rə fər) *n.* — **mi-cro-pho'to-graph'ic** (grāf'fīk) *adj.* — **mi-cro-pho-tog'ra-phy** (rə fē) *n.**

**mi-cro-phys-ics** (mi'krə fīz'fīks) *n. (sing. in number).* The physics of molecular, atomic, nuclear, and subnuclear systems. — **mi-cro-phys'ic-al** (ī kəl) *adj.* — **mi-cro-phys'ic-al-ly** *adv. — **mi-cro-phys'ic-ist** (ī sīst) *n.**

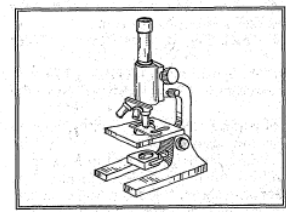
**mi-cro-phyte** (mi'krə fīt') *n.* A plant of microscopic size. — **mi-cro-phyt'ic** (fīt'fīk) *adj.*

**mi-cro-print** (mi'krə prīnt') *n.* The positive or printed reproduction of a microphotograph.

**mi-cro-proc-ess-er** (mi'krə prōs'ēs ər) *n.* [*Computer Sci.*] A semiconductor central processing unit usu. contained on a single integrated circuit chip.

**mi-cro-pyle** (mi'krə pil') *n.* [MICRO + Gk. *pulē*, gate] 1. *Bot.* A minute opening in the ovule of a plant through which the pollen tube usu. enters. 2. *Zool.* A pore in the membrane of the ova of some animals through which the spermatozoon enters.

**mi-cro-scope** (mi'krə skōp') *n.* [NLat. *microscopium* : MICRO- + *scopium*, scope.] An optical instrument that uses a combination of lenses to produce magnified images of small objects, esp. of objects too small to be seen by the unaided eye.



microscope

**mi-cro-scop-ic** (mi'krə skōp'fīk) *also mi-cro-scop-i-cal* (-ī kəl) *adj.* 1. Too small to be seen by the unaided eye but large enough to be studied under a microscope. 2. Exceptionally small : MINUTE. 3. Marked by or done with extreme attention to detail. 4. Of, relating to, or concerned with a microscope. 5. Suggesting or resembling a microscope in having the ability to observe very small objects. — **mi-cro-scop'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

**mi-cro-sco-pi-um** (mi'krə skōp'ē əm) *n.* [NLat., *microscope*.] A constellation in the Southern Hemisphere.

**mi-cro-sco-py** (mi'krōs'kə pē) *n.* 1. The study or use of microscopes. 2. Investigation using a microscope. — **mi-cro-scop-ist** *n.*

**mi-cro-seism** (mi'krə sē'zəm) *n.* A faint, recurrent tremor of the earth's crust. — **mi-cro-seis'mic** (sēz'mīk, sīs') *adj.*

**mi-cro-some** (mi'krə sōm') *n.* [G. *mikrosom* : Gk. *mikros*, small + Gk. *sōma*, body.] A ribosome. — **mi-cro-so-mi-al** (sō'mē-əl), **mi-cro-so'mic** (sō'mīk) *adj.*

**mi-cro-spo-ran-gi-um** (mi'krə spō rǎn'jē əm) *n., pl. -gi-a* (-jē ə) *n.* A structure or receptacle in which microspores are formed. — **mi-cro-spo-ran'gi-ate** (jē it) *adj.*

**mi-cro-spo-re** (mi'krə spōr', spōr') *n.* 1. *Bot.* The smaller of two types of spores produced by heterosporous plants, as ferns, giving rise to the male gametophyte. 2. The smaller of two spores formed by Radiolaria and certain other protozoans. — **mi-cro-spo'ric**, **mi-cro-spo'rous** (mi'krə spōr'əs, spōr' , mī krōs'pōr əs) *adj.*

**mi-cro-spo-ro-cyte** (mi'krə spōr'ə sīt', spōr'ə) *n.* A cell that generates microspores.

**mi-cro-spo-ro-gen-e-sis** (mi'krə spōr'ə jēn'fī sīs, spōr'ē) *n.* Production or formation of microspores.

**mi-cro-spo-ro-phyll** (mi'krə spōr'ə fīl', -spōr') *n.* A structure that produces microsporangia.

**mi-cro-state** (mi'krə stāt') *n.* An independent country having a small area and population.

**mi-cro-sur-gery** (mi'krə sūr'jə-rē) *n.* Surgery on minute living structures or cells by means of a micromanipulator. — **mi-cro-sur'gi-cal** (jī kəl) *adj.*

**mi-cro-teach-ing** (mi'krə tē'chīng) *n.* A method of practice teaching in which a videotape of a small segment of a student's classroom teaching is made and later evaluated.

**mi-cro-tome** (mī'krə tōm') *n.* An instrument used to cut tissue into thin sections for microscopic examination.

**mi-cro-tom-y** (mī'krōtə mē) *n.* Preparation of specimens with a microtome. — **mi-cro-tom'ic** (mī'krōtōm'fīk) *adj.*

**mi-cro-tone** (mi'krə tōn') *n.* *Mus.* An interval smaller than a half tone. — **mi-cro-ton'al** (tō'nəl) *adj.* — **mi-cro-ton'al-ist** (-tō'nəl'īst) *n.* — **mi-cro-ton'al-ly** *adv.*

ā pat ā pay ār care ā father ē pet ē be hw which ī pit  
ī tie īr pier ō pot ō toe ō paw, for oi noise ōō too

**porter**<sup>2</sup> (pôr'tar, pôr'-) *n.* [ME < OFr. *portier* < LLat. *portarius* < Lat. *porta*, gate.] Chiefly Brit. A gatekeeper; doorman.

**porter**<sup>3</sup> (pôr'tar, pôr'-) *n.* [Short for *porter's beer*.] A dark beer resembling light stout, made from browned or charred malt.

**porter-age** (pôr'tar-ij, pôr'-) *n.* 1. The carrying of parcels or goods by porters. 2. The charge for such service.

**porter-ess** (pôr'tar-îs, pôr'-) *n.* var. of **PORTRESS**.

**porter-house** (pôr'tar-hous', pôr'-) *n.* 1. A 19th-cent. American clubhouse or chophouse. 2. A cut of beef from the thick end of the short rib, having a T-bone and a sizable piece of tenderloin.

**porterhouse steak** *n.* PORTERHOUSE 2.

**port-fo-li-o** (pôr'tô'fô'lî-ô', pôrt'-) *n., pl. -os.* [Ital. *portafoglio*: *portare*, to carry (< Lat.) + *foglio*, sheet < Lat. *folium*, leaf.] 1. a. A portable case for holding papers, drawings, or photographs. b. The materials included in such a case, esp. when representative of one's work <a designer's *portfolio*>. 2. The office or post of a cabinet member or minister of state. 3. A list of investments, securities, and commercial paper owned, as by a bank or individual investor.

**port-hole** (pôr't'hôl', pôrt'-) *n.* 1. A small, usu. circular window in a ship's side. 2. An embrasure.

**portico** (pôr'tî-kô', pôrt'-) *n., pl. -coses or -cos.* [Ital. < Lat. *porticus* < *porta*, gate.] A walkway or porch with a roof supported by columns, often at the entrance of a building. — **por'ti-coed'** *adj.*

**portière or por-tiere** (pôr'tyâr', pôr'-) *n.* [Fr. < OFr., fem. of *porteur*, porter < LLat. *portarius* < Lat. *porta*, gate.] A heavy curtain hung across a doorway.

**portion** (pôr'shon, pôr'-) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *portio*.] 1. A part of a whole. 2. A part separated from a whole. 3. A part allotted to a person or group, as: a. A helping of food. b. The part of an estate received by an heir. c. A woman's dowry. 4. One's destiny or fate. — *vt.* 1. To divide into parts or shares for distribution. 2. To provide with a share, inheritance, or dowry. — **por'tion-a-ble** *adj.* — **por'tion-er** *n.* — **por'tion-less** *adj.*

**port-land cement** (pôr't'land, pôrt'-) *n.* [After *Portland*, England, from its resemblance to limestone quarried there.] A hydraulic cement made by heating a mixture of limestone and clay, containing oxides of calcium, aluminum, iron, and silicon, in a kiln and pulverizing the resultant clinker.

**port-ly** (pôr'tlî, pôrt'-) *adj. -li-er, -li-est.* [< PORT<sup>3</sup>.] 1. Compu- tation: stout. 2. Archaic. Stately; imposing. — **por't-li-ness** *n.*

**port-man-teau** (pôr'tmân'tô, pôrt-, pôrt'mân-tô', pôrt'-) *n., pl. -teaus or -teaux* (-tôz) [Fr. *portemanteau* < OFr.: *porter*, to carry < Lat. *portare* + *manteau*, cloak < Lat. *mantellum*.] Chiefly Brit. A large leather suitcase that opens into two hinged compartments.

**portmanteau word** *n.* A word formed by merging the sounds and meanings of two different words; e.g., *chortle*, from *chuckle* and *snort*.

**port of call** *n.* A port where ships dock in the course of voyages to load or unload cargo, obtain supplies, or undergo repairs.

**port of entry** *n.* A place where travelers or goods may enter or leave a country under official supervision.

**portrait** (pôr'trît, -trât', pôr'-) *n.* [Fr. < OFr. < *portraire*, to por- tray.] 1. A likeness of a person, as a painting or photograph, esp. one showing the face. 2. A verbal picture or description, esp. of a person. — **por'trait-ist** (pôr'trâ-tîst, pôr'-) *n.* One who makes portraits, esp. a painter or photographer.

**por-trait-ist** (pôr'trâ-tîst, pôr'-) *n.* One who makes portraits, esp. a painter or photographer.

**por-trait-ure** (pôr'trî-chôor', pôr'-) *n.* 1. The art or practice of making portraits. 2. A portrait. 3. A group of portraits.

**por-tray** (pôr'trâ', pôr'-) *vt. -trayed, -traying, -trays.* [ME *portrayen* < OFr. *portraire* < Lat. *protrahere*, to reveal: *pro-*, forth + *trahere*, to draw.] 1. To make a picture of. 2. To depict or describe in words. 3. To represent dramatically, as on the stage. — **por-tray'a-ble** *adj.* — **por-tray'al** (-trâ'al, pôr'-) *n.* — **por-tray'er** *n.*

**por-ter-ess** (pôr'tar-îs, pôr'-) *n.* Also **por-ter-ess** (pôr'tar-îs, pôr'-) *n.* A woman porter or doorkeeper, esp. in a convent. 2. A charwoman.

**Port du Sa-lut** (pôr' dû sâ-lôo') *n.* Also **Port du Sa-lut** (pôr' dû sâ-lôo') *n.* [Port du Salut, Trappist abbey in France.] A semihard fermented cheese made orig. by Trappist monks in France.

**Por-tu-guese** (pôr'cha-gêz', -gês', pôr'-) *adj.* Of or relating to Portugal or its people, or their language. — *n., pl. Portuguese.* 1. a. A native or resident of Portugal. b. One of Portuguese descent. 2. The language of Portugal and Brazil.

**Portuguese man-of-war** *n.* A complex colonial organism of the phylum Cnidaria, with a bluish bladderlike float from which are suspended numerous long stinging tentacles capable of inflicting severe injury.

**por-tu-lac** (pôr'cha-lâk', pôr'-) *n.* [NLat. *Portulaca*, genus name of purslane < *portula*, dim. of *porta*, gate.] A plant of

assume or hold a position or posture, as in sitting for a portrait. 2. To affect a particular mental attitude. 3. To pretend to be other than what one is. — *vt.* 1. To place (e.g., a model) in a specific position. 2. To advance or put forward <pose a problem>. — *n.* 1. A bodily posture or position, esp. one assumed for an artist or photographer. 2. An affected physical or mental attitude.

**pose**<sup>2</sup> (pôz) *vt. posed, pos-ing, pos-es.* [ME *aposen*, alteration of *oposen* < OFr. *opposer*, to oppose. — see **OPPOSE**.] To puzzle or confuse with a difficult question or problem.

**Pos-ei-don** (pô-sîd'n) *n.* [Lat. < Gk. *Poseidôn*.] Gk. Myth. The god of the waters, earthquakes, and horses.

**pos-er**<sup>1</sup> (pô'zër) *n.* One who poses.

**pos-er**<sup>2</sup> (pô'zër) *n.* A baffling question or problem.

**pos-seur** (pô-zœr') *n.* [Fr. < OFr. *poser*, to pose. — see **POSE**<sup>1</sup>.] One who assumes an attitude, character, or manner to impress others.

**posh** (pôsh) *adj.* [Orig. unknown.] Fashionable and expensive.

**pos-i-grade** (pôz'i-grâd') *adj.* [POSITIVE + (RETRO)GRADE.] Of, pertaining to, or being an auxiliary rocket on a spacecraft that provides additional thrust in the direction of the spacecraft's motion.

**pos-it-ion** (pôz'it) *vt. -it-ed, -it-ing, -its.* [< Lat. *positus*, p.part. of *ponere*, to place.] 1. To place in position. 2. To present as a fact or assumption: **POSTULATE**.

**pos-i-tion** (pô-zîsh'ən) *n.* [Ofr. < Lat. *positio* < *ponere*, to place.] 1. A place or location. 2. The right or appropriate place <The contestants were in *position*>. 3. a. The way in which one is placed <in an inconspicuous *position*>. b. The arrangement of bodily parts: **POSTURE** <a prone *position*>. 4. An advantageous place or location <race cars jockeying for *position*>. 5. A situation as it relates to the surrounding circumstances <not in a *position* to quibble>. 6. An attitude or point of view on a certain question. 7. Social status. 8. A post of employment: **JOB**. 9. The area for which a particular player is responsible in a sport. 10. a. The act or process of positing. b. The principle or proposition posited. — *vt.* **-tioned, -tion-ing, -tions.** To place in proper position. — **po-si'tion-al** *adj.* — **po-si'tion-er** *n.*

**position paper** *n.* 1. A detailed policy report that usu. explains, justifies, or recommends a course of action. 2. An aide-memoire.

**pos-i-tive** (pôz'î-tiv) *adj.* [ME < OFr. *positif* < Lat. *positivus*, formally laid down < *ponere*, to place.] 1. Marked by exhibiting certainty, acceptance, or affirmation <a *positive* reply>. 2. Measured or moving in a direction of increase, progress, or forward motion. 3. Openly or explicitly laid down or expressed <a *positive* claim>. 4. Admitting of no doubt: **IRREFUTABLE**. 5. a. Determined or settled in opinion or assertion: **CONFIDENT** <a *positive* attitude>. b. Overconfident: **DOG-MATIC**. 6. Formally or arbitrarily determined: **PRESCRIBED**. 7. Concerned with practical rather than theoretical matters. 8. Composed of or marked by the presence of distinctive qualities or attributes: **REAL**. 9. *Philos.* Of or relating to positivism. 10. *Informal.* Complete: utter <a *positive* angel>. 11. *Math.* Relating to or designating: a. A quantity greater than zero. b. The sign (+). c. A quantity, number, angle, or direction opposite to another designated as negative. 12. *Physics.* Relating to or designating electric charge of a sign opposite to that of an electron. 13. *Med.* Indicating the presence of a particular disease, condition, or organism <a *positive* TB test>. 14. *Biol.* Indicating or marked by response or motion toward the source of a stimulus. 15. Having the areas of light and dark in their original and normal relationship, as in a photographic print made from a negative. 16. Of, relating to, or denoting the simple uncomparative degree of an adjective or adverb. 17. Driven by or generating power directly through intermediate machine parts having little or no play. — *n.* 1. Something positive. 2. *Philos.* Something perceptible to the senses. 3. *Math.* A quantity greater than zero. 4. *Physics.* A positive electric charge. 5. A photographic image in which the lights and darks appear as they do naturally. 6. a. The uncomparative degree of an adjective or adverb. b. A word in this degree. — **pos'i-tive-ly** *adv.* — **pos'i-tive-ness** *n.*

**positive prescription** *n.* Law **PRESCRIPTION** 4a.

**pos-i-tiv-ism** (pôz'î-tî-vîz'əm) *n.* 1. a. A philosophical doctrine contending that sense perceptions are the only admissible basis of human knowledge and precise thought. b. The application of this doctrine in logic, epistemology, and ethics. 2. The system of Auguste Comte designed to supersede theology and metaphysics and depending on a hierarchy of the sciences, beginning with mathematics and culminating in sociology. 3. The quality or state of being positive. — **pos'i-tiv-ist** *n.* — **pos'i-tiv-is'tic** *adj.*

**pos-i-tro-n** (pôz'î-trôn') *n.* [POSITIVE + (ELEC)TRON.] The antiparticle of the electron.

**pos-i-tro-ni-um** (pôz'î-trô-nî-əm) *n.* [NLat. < **POSITRON**.] A short-lived association of an electron and a positron bound together in a configuration resembling the hydrogen atom.

**pos-se** (pôs'è) *n.* [Short for *Med. Lat. posse comitatus*, power of the