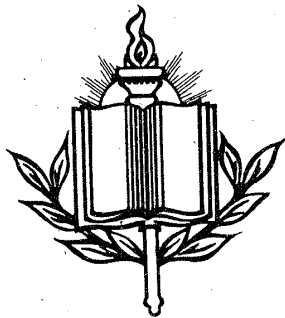


# WEBSTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



The dictionary entries are based on the Second Edition of  
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through Lingua Franca. Also, **parlyaree**, **parlary**. [ult. < It *parlare* to speak, talk; see **PARLE**]

**polarimeter** (pō'lar'īm'ē'tər) (pō'lar'īm'ē'tər), n. **Optics**. 1. an instrument for measuring the amount of light received from a given source as a function of its state of polarization. 2. a form of polariscope for measuring the angular rotation of the plane of polarization. [1860-65; < ML *polaris* POLAR + -METER]

**Polaris** (pō'lar'is, -lar'ē-, pō-), n. 1. **Astron.** the pole star or North Star, a star of the second magnitude situated close to the north pole of the heavens, in the constellation Ursa Minor; the outermost star in the handle of the Little Dipper. 2. a two-stage U.S. ballistic missile, usually fired from a submerged submarine. [1955-60; short for ML *stella polaris* polar star]

**polariscope** (pō'lar'ē'skōp', pō-), n. **Optics**. an instrument for measuring or exhibiting the polarization of light or for examining substances in polarized light, often to determine stress and strain in glass and other substances. [1820-30; < ML *polaris* POLAR + -SCOPE] —**polariscope** (pō'lar'ē'skōp'ik, pō-), **adj.** —**polariscope**/'cal-ly, **adv.**

**polarizability** (pō'lar'īz'ēb'əl-ē-ty), n. 1. **Physics**. a. the property or characteristic that produces unequal physical effects at different points in a body or system, as a magnet or storage battery. b. the positive or negative state in which a body reacts to a magnetic, electric, or other field. 2. the presence or manifestation of two opposite or contrasting principles or tendencies. 3. **Ling.** a. (of words, phrases, or sentences) positive or negative character. b. polar opposition. [1840-50; POLAR + -ITY]

**polarization** (pō'lar'īz'ā'shən), n. 1. a sharp division of a population or group into opposing factions. 2. **Optics**. a state, or the production of a state, in which rays of light or similar radiation exhibit different properties in different directions. Cf. **circular polarization**, **elliptical polarization**, **plane polarization**. 3. **Elect.** a. the deposit of gases, produced during electrolysis, on the electrodes of a cell, increasing the resistance of the cell. b. a vector quantity indicating the electric dipole moment per unit of volume of a dielectric. c. the induction of polarity in a ferromagnetic substance. 4. the production or acquisition of polarity. [1805-15; POLARIZE + -ATION]

**polarization charge**, **Elect.** any electric charge that is bound to an atom or molecule (opposed to free charge). Also called **bound charge**.

**polarize** (pō'lar'īz) **v.**, **divided**, **-izing**. —**v.t.** 1. to cause polarization in. 2. to divide into sharply opposing factions, political groups, etc.: *The controversy has polarized voters into proabortion and antiabortion groups.* 3. to give polarity to. —**v.i.** 4. to become polarized. Also, **esp. Brit.**, **pol'lar-ize**. [1805-15; POLARIZE + -IZE] —**pol'lar-ize**'a-ble, **adj.** —**pol'lar-ize**'a-ble/'ly, **adv.**

**polarized** (pō'lar'īz'd), **adj.** 1. of or pertaining to a medium that exhibits polarization. 2. (of an electric plug or outlet) designed so that the plug and outlet fit together in only one way. [1920-25; POLARIZE + -ED]

**polarizer** (pō'lar'īz'ər), n. 1. a person or thing that polarizes. 2. **Optics**. a device, often a crystal or prism, that polarizes light. [1850-55; POLARIZE + -ER]

**pol'larizing angle**, **Optics**. See under **Brewster's law**. [1820-30]

**pol'larizing filter**, **Photog.** a camera lens filter used to control the plane of polarization of light entering the lens.

**pol'larizing microscope**, a microscope that utilizes polarized light to reveal detail in an object, used esp. to study crystalline and fibrous structures.

**pol'lar lights**, the aurora borealis in the Northern Hemisphere or the aurora australis in the Southern Hemisphere.

**pol'lar molecule**, a molecule in which the centroid of the positive charges is different from the centroid of the negative charges. Also called **dipole**.

**pol'lar nucleus**, **Bot.** either of two female haploid nuclei, in the embryo sac of flowers, that fuse to produce a diploid nucleus, which combines with a male nucleus to form the endosperm. [1880-85]

**pol'larogram** (pō'lar'ō'gram), n. the record produced by the action of a Polarograph. [1920-25; POLAR + -O + -GRAM]

**Pol'larograph** (pō'lar'ō'grāf', -grāf', pō-), **Trademark**. a brand name for an instrument that automatically registers the current in electrolysis at a dropping mercury electrode.

**pol'larography** (pō'lar'ō'grə'f'ē), n. **Chem.** the use of a Polarograph to perform qualitative or quantitative analyses. Also called **polarography**/'ic **analysis**. [1935-40; POLAROGRAPH + -GRAPHY] —**pol'lar-ō'graph-ic** (pō'lar'ō'grāf'ik, pō-), **adj.**

**Pol'laroid** (pō'lar'ō'id), **Trademark**. 1. a brand of material for producing polarized light from unpolarized light by dichroism, consisting typically of a stretched sheet of colorless plastic treated with an iodine solution so as to have long, thin, parallel chains of polymeric molecules containing conductive iodine atoms. It is used widely in optical and lighting devices to reduce glare. 2. Also called **Pol'laroid Cam'era**, **Pol'laroid Land' Cam'era**. the first brand of instant camera, developed by Edwin H. Land and marketed since 1948. 3. Also called **Pol'laroid print'**, a print made by such a camera.

**pol'lar opposition**, **Ling.** the relation between a pair of antonyms that denote relatively higher and lower

degrees of a quality with respect to an explicit or implicit norm rather than absolute values, as the relation between *tall* and *short* or *light* and *dark*, but not between *true* and *false*.

**pol'lar orbit**, a spacecraft orbit that passes over, or close to, the geographic poles of the earth or some other celestial body. [1960-65]

**pol'lar out/break**, **Meteorol.** a vigorous thrust of cold, polar air across temperate regions.

**Pol'lar Re'gions**, the regions within the Arctic and Antarctic circles.

**pol'lar va'lence**, **Chem.** electrovalence (def. 1).

**pol'der** (pōl'dər), n. a tract of low land, esp. in the Netherlands, reclaimed from the sea or other body of water and protected by dikes. [1595-1605; < D]

**pole** (pōl), n., **v.**, **poled**, **po'ling**. —**n.** 1. a long, cylindrical, often slender piece of wood, metal, etc.: a *telephone pole*; a *fishing pole*. 2. **Northeastern U.S.** a long, tapering piece of wood or other material that extends from the front axle of a vehicle between the animals drawing it. 3. **Naut.** a. a light spar. b. that part of a mast between the uppermost standing rigging and the truck. 4. the lane of a racetrack nearest to the infield; the inside lane. Cf. **post'** (def. 5). 5. a unit of length equal to 16½ feet (5 m). 6. a square rod, 30¼ square yards (25.3 sq. m). 7. **under bare poles**, **a. Naut.** (of a sailing ship) with no sails set, as during a violent storm. b. stripped; naked; destitute: *The thugs robbed him and left him under bare poles.* —**v.t.** 8. to furnish with poles. 9. to push, strike, or propel with a pole: *to pole a raft*. 10. **Baseball** to make (an extra-base hit) by batting the ball hard and far: *He poled a triple to deep right-center.* 11. **Metall.** to stir (molten metal, as copper, tin, or zinc) with poles of green wood so as to produce carbon, which reacts with the oxygen present to effect deoxidation. —**v.i.** 12. to propel a boat, raft, etc., with a pole: *to pole down the river*. [bef. 1050; ME; OE *pāl* < L *pālus* stake. See **PALE'**] —**pole**'less, **adj.**

**pole** (pōl), n. 1. each of the extremities of the axis of the earth or of any spherical body. 2. **Astron.** See **celestial pole**. 3. one of two opposite or contrasted principles or tendencies: *His behavior ranges between the poles of restraint and abandon.* 4. a point of concentration of interest, attention, etc.: *The beautiful actress was the pole of everyone's curiosity.* 5. **Elect.** Magnetism. either of the two regions or parts of an electric battery, magnet, or the like, that exhibits electrical or magnetic polarity. 6. **Cell Biol.** a. either end of an ideal axis in a nucleus, cell, or ovum, about which parts are more or less symmetrically arranged. b. either end of a spindle-shaped figure formed in a cell during mitosis. c. the place at which a cell extension or process begins, as a nerve cell axon or a flagellum. 7. **Math.** a. a singular point at which a given function of a complex variable can be expanded in a Laurent series beginning with a specified finite, negative power of the variable. b. origin (def. 6b). 8. **Crystal.** a line perpendicular to a crystal face and passing through the crystal center. 9. **poles apart** or **asunder**, having widely divergent or completely opposite attitudes, interests, etc.: *In education and background they were poles apart.* [1350-1400; ME < L *pōlus* < Gk *pōlos* pivot, axis, pole]

**Pole** (pōl), n. a native or inhabitant of Poland.

**Pole** (pōl), n. **Reginald**, 1500-58, English cardinal and last Roman Catholic archbishop of Canterbury.

**pole-ax** (pōl'aks'), n., **pl.** **-ax-es** (-ak'siz), **v.**, **-axed**, **-ax-ing**. —**n.** 1. a medieval shafted weapon with blade combining ax, hammer, and apical spike, used for fighting on foot. 2. an ax, usually with a hammer opposite the cutting edge, used in stunning and slaughtering animals. 3. an ax with both a blade and a hook, formerly used in naval warfare to assist sailors in boarding vessels. —**v.t.** 4. to strike down or kill with or as if with a poleax. [1300-50; ME *polace* battle-ax, lit., head-ax (see **POL'**, **AX**); akin to MLG *polax*]

**pole-axe** (pōl'aks'), n., **pl.** **-ax-es** (-ak'siz), **v.t.**, **-axed**, **-ax-ing**. poleax.

**pole' bean'**, any vinelike variety of bean that is trained to grow upright on a pole, trellis, fence, etc. [1760-70; Amer.]

**pole-cat** (pōl'kat'), n., **pl.** **-cats**, (**esp. collectively**) **-cat**. 1. a European mammal, *Mustela putorius*, of the weasel family, having a blackish fur and ejecting a fetid fluid when attacked or disturbed. Cf. **ferret'** (def. 1). 2. any of various North American skunks. [1275-1325; ME *polcat*, perh. equiv. to MF *pol*, *poul* chicken (< L *pullus*) + *cat'*]

**pole' com'pass**, (formerly) a ship's compass elevated on a wooden pole to isolate it as much as possible from local magnetism.

**Pol. Econ.**, political economy. Also, **pol. econ.**

**pole' ham/mer**, a shafted weapon having a spiked hammer head. Also called **war hammer**. [1870-75]

**pole' horse'**, a horse harnessed to the tongue of a vehicle; polor; wheeler. [1815-25, Amer.]

**pole' jump'**, See **pole vault**. [1895-1900]

**pole-jump** (pōl'jʌmp'), **v.i.** pole-vault. [1895-1900] —**pole-jump'**, **er**, **n.**

**pole' mast'**, **Naut.** a mast on a sailing vessel, consisting of a single piece without separate upper masts. [1760-70]

**pole-mic** (pō lem'ik, pō-), n. 1. a controversial argument, as one against some opinion, doctrine, etc. 2. a person who argues in opposition to another; controversialist. —**adj.** 3. Also, **pole-mic**/'cal. of or pertaining to a polemic; controversial. [1630-40; < Gk *polemikos* of or for war, equiv. to *pōlemos* war + -*ikos* -ic] —**pole-mic**/'cal-ly, **adv.**

**pole-mi-cize** (pō lem'ē'siz, pō-), **v.t.**, **-cized**, **-ciz-ing**. to practice the art of disputation; to engage in polemics

or controversy. Also, **esp. Brit.**, **po-lem'ic-ize**. [1845-50; POLEMIC + -IZE]

**pole-mics** (pō lem'iks, pō-), n. (used with a singular verb) 1. the art or practice of disputation or controversy: a *master of polemics*. 2. the branch of theology dealing with the history or conduct of ecclesiastical disputation and controversy. Cf. **irenic**. [1630-40; see **POLEMIC** -ics]

**pole-mist** (pō lem'ist, pō lem'ist, pō-), n. a person who is engaged or versed in polemics. Also, **po-lem'ic-ist** (pō lem'ē'sist, pō-). [1815-25; < Gk *polemistēs* warrior equiv. to *pōlemos* war + -*istēs* -ist]

**pole-mize** (pō lem'iz'), **v.t.**, **-mized**, **-miz-ing**. polemize. Also, **esp. Brit.**, **pol'e-mise**. [ < Gk *pōlemō* m(os) war + -ize]

**pole-mol-o-gy** (pō lem'ol'ōj'ē), n. the analysis of human conflict and war, particularly international war [1935-40; < Gk *pōlemos* war + -*logos* -logy] —**pole-mol-og-ic** (pō lem'ol'ōj'ē'k), **adj.** —**po'le-mol-og-ist**, **n.**

**pole-mo-ni-a-ceous** (pō lem'ōn'ē ā'shəs), **adj.** belonging to the Polemoniaceae, the phlox family of plants. Cf. **phlox family**. [1855-60; < NL *Polemoniacae* (ad) family name (see **POLEMONIUM**, -ACEAE) + -ous]

**pol-en-ta** (pō lem'ta), n. (esp. in Italian cooking) a thick mush of cornmeal. [1555-65; < It < L *hullus* and crushed grain, esp. barley]

**pole' of cold'**. See **cold pole**.

**pole' piece'**, **Elect.** a piece of magnetic material at a pole of a permanent magnet or of an electromagnet, shaped to control the magnetic flux distribution in the vicinity of the pole. [1880-85]

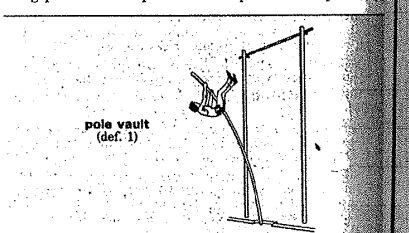
**pole' plate'**, **Carpentry**. (in a trussed roof) a plate resting upon the beams and supporting common rafters near their lower ends. [1815-25]

**pole' position**, 1. a position on the inside of the track in any race. 2. (in auto racing) a starting position on the inside of the front row. 3. an advantageous position.

**po-ler** (pō'lar), n. 1. a person or thing that poles. 2. See **pole horse**. [1680-90; **po-ler'** + -er]

**pole-star** (pōl'stār), n. 1. **Polaris**. 2. something that serves as a guiding principle. 3. something that is the center of attention or attraction. [1545-55; **POL'** + **STAR**]

**pole' vault'**, **Track**. 1. a field event in which a pole or vault over a crossbar is performed with the aid of a long pole. 2. a leap or vault so performed. [1890-95]



**pole-vault** (pōl'vōlt'), **v.i.** to execute a pole vault. [1890-95] —**pole-vault'**, **er**, **n.**

**pole-ward** (pōl'wārd), **adv.** 1. Also, **pole'wards**. toward a pole of the earth; toward the North or South Pole. —**adj.** 2. facing or moving toward the North or South Pole. [1870-75; **POLE'** + -ward]

**po-ley'n** (pō'lē'n), n. **Armor**. a piece for the knee, made of plate or leather. Also called **knee cop**. See **cuir** under **armor**. [1350-1400; ME *polayn*, *polayne* < *pol* (cf. *pol'lain*) < ?]

**po-li-a-nite** (pō'li-ā'nit'), n. **Mineral**. a variety of polarsite, MnO<sub>2</sub>, having well-developed crystals. [1840-50; < G *Polianit*, irreg. < Gk *polianēshai* to grow white (with sea foam), deriv. of *polios* gray; see -*ite*]

**pol-ice** (pō les'), n., **v.**, **-liced**, **-lic-ing**. —**n.** 1. a body of people officially maintained or employed to maintain order, preventing and detecting crime, and enforcing the laws. 2. (used with a plural v.) members of such a force: *Several police are patrolling the neighborhood.* 3. the regulation and control of a community, esp. for the maintenance of public order, safety, health, etc. 4. the department of the government concerned with this, esp. with the maintenance of order. 5. a body of people officially maintained or employed to maintain order, enforce regulations, etc. 6. **Mil.** (in the U.S. Army) a. the cleaning and keeping clean of a camp, station, etc. b. the condition of a camp, post, station, etc. with reference to cleanliness. —**v.t.** 7. to regulate, control, or keep in order by or as if by means of police: *Mil. to clean and keep clean (a camp, post, etc.)* [1300-50; < MF: government, civil administration, police] —**Pronunciation**. Many English words exemplify the original stress rule of Old English and other early Germanic languages, according to which all parts of a word except unprefixes were stressed on the first syllable, and prefixed verbs were stressed on the syllable immediately following the prefix. Although the scope of this rule has been greatly restricted by the incorporation into English of loanwords that exhibit other stress patterns, the rule has always remained operative to a degree, and many loanwords have been conforming throughout the history of English. For South Midland and Midland U.S. speakers in particular, shifting the stress in borrowed nouns from a noninitial syllable to the first syllable is still an active process, yielding (pō-les')

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: < descended or borrowed from; > whence; b, blend of; blended; c, cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s, stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ?, origin unknown; †, unattested; †, probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.