

# Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

ELEVENTH EDITION



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**cousin-german** \kə-zən-'jər-mən\ *n.* *pl* **cous-ins-ger-man** *vzoz:* [ME *cousin german*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *cosin + german* german] (14c) : COUSIN 1a  
**Cousin Jack** \kə-zən-'jak\ *n.* (1890) : CORNISHMAN; *esp* : a Cornish miner  
**couth** \k'uth\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *uncouth*] (1896) : SOPHISTICATED, POLISHED  
**couth** *n.* (1947) : POLISH, REFINEMENT (I expected kindness and gentility... but there is such a thing as too much ~ — S. J. Perelman)  
**couth-ly** \k'ü-thē\ *adj* [ME *couth* familiar, fr. OE *cūth* — more at UNCOUTH] (1719) chiefly Scot : PLEASANT, KINDLY  
**couture** \kū-'tūr, -'tūr\ *n.* [F, fr. OF *cousture* sewing, fr. VL \**consutura*, fr. L *consutus*, pp. of *consuere* to sew together, fr. *com-* + *suere* to sew — more at SEW] (1908) 1 : the business of designing, making, and selling fashionable custom-made women's clothing 2 : the designers and establishments engaged in couture 3 : the clothes created by couture  
**couturier** \kū-'tūr-ē-ər, -ē-ā\ *n.* [F, dressmaker, fr. OF *cousturier* tailor's assistant, fr. *cousture*] (1899) : an establishment engaged in couture; also : the proprietor or designer for such an establishment  
**couturier-erie** \kū-'tūr-ē-ər, -ē-ər\ *n.* [F *couturière*, fr. OF *cousturiere*, fem. of *cousturier*] (1818) : a woman who is a couturier  
**cou-va-de** \kū-'vād\ *n.* [F, fr. MF, cowardly inactivity, fr. *cover* to sit on, brood over — more at COVEY] (1865) : a custom in some cultures in which when a child is born the father takes to bed as if bearing the child and submits himself to fasting, purification, or taboos  
**co-val-ence** \kə-'vā-lən(t)s, 'kə-'\ *n.* (1919) : valence characterized by the sharing of electrons  
**co-val-ency** \-lən(t)-sē\ *n.* (1919) : COVALENCE  
**co-val-ent** \kə-'vā-lənt, 'kə-'\ *adj* (ca. 1926) : of, relating to, or characterized by covalent bonds — **co-val-ent-ly** \-lē\ *adv*  
**covalent bond** *n.* (1939) : a chemical bond formed between atoms by the sharing of electrons  
**co-var-i-ance** \kə-'vər-ē-ə-n(t)s, 'kə-'\ *n.* (1931) 1 : the expected value of the product of the deviations of two random variables from their respective means 2 : the arithmetic mean of the products of the deviations of corresponding values of two quantitative variables from their respective means  
**co-var-i-ant** \-ənt\ *adj* [ISV] (1893) : varying with something else so as to preserve certain mathematical interrelations  
**co-var-i-ate** \-āt, -ət\ *n.* (1965) : any of two or more random variables exhibiting correlated variation  
**co-var-i-ation** \kə-'vər-ē-'ā-shən\ *n.* (1906) : correlated variation of two or more variables  
**co-vary** \-'vər-ē\ *vi* -**var-ied**; -**vary-ing** (1950) : to exhibit covariation  
**cove** \kəv\ *n.* [ME, den. fr. OE *cofa*; akin to OHG *chubisi* hut] (bef. 12c) 1 : a recessed place : CONCAVITY; as a : an architectural member with a concave cross section b : a trough for concealed lighting at the upper part of a wall 2 : a small sheltered inlet or bay 3 a : a deep recess or small valley in the side of a mountain b : a level area sheltered by hills or mountains  
**cove** *vt* covered; **cov-ing** (1756) : to make in a hollow concave form  
**cove** *n* [Roman *kova* thing, person] (1567) *Brit* : MAN, FELLOW  
**co-vel-ite** \kə-'vè-, -līt, 'kə-'vā-\ *also* **co-vel-line** \-līn\ *n.* [F *covellite*, fr. Niccolò Covelli 1829 Ital. chemist] (1850) : a usu. blue mineral consisting of a sulfide of copper  
**co-ven** \kə-'vən *also* 'kə-'\ *n.* [ME *covin* agreement, confederacy, fr. AF *covine*, fr. ML *convenium* agreement, fr. L *convenire* to agree — more at CONVENIENT] (ca. 1520) 1 : a collection of individuals with similar interests or activities (a ~ of intellectuals) 2 : an assembly or band of usu. 13 witches  
**cov-er-nant** \kə-'vər-nənt, 'kə-'vā-\ *n.* [ME, fr. AF, fr. pp. of *coverin* to be fitting, fr. L *convenire*] (14c) 1 : a usu. formal, solemn, and binding agreement : COMPACT 2 a : a written agreement or promise usu. under seal between two or more parties esp. for the performance of some action b : the common-law action to recover damages for breach of such a contract — **cov-er-nan-tal** \kə-'vā-'nən-tl\ *adj*  
**cov-er-nant** \-nənt, -nənt\ *vt* (14c) : to promise by a covenant : PLEDGE ~ *vi* : to enter into a covenant : CONTRACT  
**cov-er-nan-tee** \kə-'vā-'nən-tē, -nən-\ *n.* (1649) : the person to whom a promise in the form of a covenant is made  
**cov-er-nant-er** \kə-'vā-'nən-tər, *also* 'kə-'vā-\ *n.* (1638) 1 *cap* : a signer or adherent of the Scottish National Covenant of 1638 2 : one that makes a covenant  
**cov-er-nan-tor** \kə-'vā-'nən-tər, 'kə-'vā-'nən-tór, -nən-\ *n.* (1649) : a party bound by a covenant  
**Cov-en-try** \kə-'vān-trē *also* 'kā-\ *n.* [Coventry, England] (1765) : a state of ostracism or exclusion (sent to ~)  
**cov-er** \kə-'vər\ *vb* **cov-ered**; **cov-er-ing** \kə-'vər-ɪŋ, 'kə-'vā-\ [ME, fr. AF *coverit*, *covrir*, fr. L *cooperire*, fr. *co-* + *operire* to close, cover] *vt* (13c) 1 a : to guard from attack b (1) : to have within the range of one's guns : COMMAND (2) : to hold within range of an aimed firearm c (1) : to afford protection or security to : INSURE (2) : to afford protection against or compensation for (a policy ~ing loss by fire) d (1) : to guard (an opponent) in order to obstruct a play (a linebacker assigned to ~ the tight end) (2) : to be in position to receive a throw (a base in baseball) (the shortstop was ~ing second) e (1) : to make provision for (a demand or charge) by means of a reserve or deposit (your balance is insufficient to ~ the check) (2) : to maintain a check on esp. by patrolling (3) : to protect by contrivance or expedient 2 a : to hide from sight or knowledge : CONCEAL (~ up a scandal) b : to lie over : ENVELOP (a blanket ~ing her legs) 3 : to lay or spread something over : OVERLAY (~ the seed bed with straw) 4 a : to spread over (snow ~ed the hills) b : to appear here and there on the surface of (a region ~ed with lakes) 5 : to place or set a cover or covering over (~ the pot) 6 a : to copulate with (a female animal) (a horse ~s a mare) b : to sit on and incubate (eggs) 7 : to invest with a large or excessive amount of something (~ed herself with glory) 8 : to play a higher-ranking card on (a previously played card) 9 : to have sufficient scope to include or take into account (an examination ~ing a full year's work) 10 : to deal with : TREAT (material ~ed in the first chapter) 11 a : to have as one's territory or field of activity (one sales rep ~s the whole state) b : to report news about (reporters ~ing the campaign) 12 : to pass over : TRAVERSE (the hikers ~ed 12 miles that day) 13 : to defray the cost of (~ expenses) 14

: to place one's stake in equal jeopardy with in a bet 15 : to buy securities or commodities for delivery against (an earlier short sale) 16 : to record or perform a cover of (a song) ~ *vi* 1 : to conceal something illicit, blameworthy, or embarrassing from notice — usu. used with *up* 2 : to act as a substitute or replacement during an absence — **cov-er-able** \kə-'vər-ə-bəl, 'kə-'vā-\ *adj* — **cov-er-er** \kə-'vər-ər\ *n.* — **cov-er one's tracks** : to conceal traces in order to elude pursuers or escape detection — **cov-er the ground or cov-er ground** : to deal with a subject or assignment in a particular manner (the new book cov-ers a lot of ground)  
**cover** *n.*, often attrib (14c) 1 : something that protects, shelters, or guards; as a : natural shelter for an animal; also : the factors that provide such shelter b (1) : a position or situation affording protection from enemy fire (2) : the protection offered by airplanes in tactical support of a military operation c *Brit* : COVERAGE 1a, b, 2a 2 : something that is placed over or about another thing; a : LID, TOP b : a binding or case for a book or the analogous part of a magazine; also : the front or back of such a binding c : an overlay or outer layer; esp. for protection (a mattress ~) d : a tablecloth and the other table accessories e : COVER CHARGE f : ROOF g : a cloth used on a bed for warmth or for decoration — usu. used in pl. (lying under the ~) h : something (as vegetation or snow) that covers the ground i : the extent to which clouds obscure the sky 3 a : something that conceals or obscures (under ~ of darkness) b : a masking device : PRETEXT (the project was a ~ for intelligence operations) 4 : an envelope or wrapper for mail 5 : one who substitutes for another during an absence 6 : a recording or performance of a song previously recorded by another performer — **cov-er-less** \kə-'vər-ləs\ *adj* — **under cov-er** 1 : in an envelope or wrapper 2 : under concealment : in secret  
**cov-er-age** \kə-'vər-ɪj, 'kə-'vā-\ *n.* (1912) 1 : something that covers; as a : inclusion within the scope of an insurance policy or protective plan : INSURANCE b : the amount available to meet liabilities c : inclusion within the scope of discussion or reporting (the news ~ of the trial) 2 : the total group covered : SCOPE; as a : all the risks covered by the terms of an insurance contract b : the number or percentage of persons reached by a communications medium 3 : the act or fact of covering  
**cov-er-all** \kə-'vər-əl\ *n.* (1824) : a one-piece outer garment worn to protect other garments — usu. used in pl. — **cov-er-alled** \-əld\ *adj*  
**cov-er-all** \kə-'vər-əl\ *adj* (1895) : COMPREHENSIVE (~ provisions)  
**cover charge** *n.* (1921) : a charge made by a restaurant or nightclub in addition to the charge for food and drink  
**cover crop** *n.* (1899) : a crop planted to prevent soil erosion and to provide humus  
**covered bridge** *n.* (1809) : a bridge that has its roadway protected by a roof and enclosing sides  
**covered smut** *n.* (1900) : a smut disease of grains in which the spore masses are held together by the persistent grain membrane and glumes  
**covered wagon** *n.* (1719) : a wagon with a canvas top supported by bowed strips of wood or metal  
**cover girl** *n.* (1915) : an attractive young woman whose picture appears on a magazine cover  
**cover glass** *n.* (1881) : a piece of very thin glass or plastic used to cover material on a microscope slide  
**cov-er-ing** \kə-'vər-ɪŋ, 'kə-'vā-\ *n.* (14c) : something that covers or conceals  
**covering** *adj* (1887) : containing explanation of or additional information about an accompanying communication (a ~ letter)  
**cov-er-let** \kə-'vər-lət-, -lēt\ *n.* [ME, alter. of *coverlite*, fr. AF *coverlit*, fr. *cover* (it) covers + *lit* bed, fr. L *lectus* — more at LIE] (14c) : BED-SPREAD  
**cov-er-slip** \kə-'vər-'slɪp\ *n.* (1875) : COVER GLASS  
**cover story** *n.* (1948) : a story accompanying a magazine-cover illustration  
**cov-ert** \kə-'(v)ɜrt, kə-'\, 'kə-'vərt\ *adj* [ME, fr. AF, pp. of *coverit* to cover] (14c) 1 : not openly shown, engaged in, or avowed : VEILED (a ~ alliance) 2 : covered over : SHELTERED *syn* see SECRET — **cov-ert-ly** *adv* — **cov-ert-ness** *n.*  
**cov-ert** \kə-'vərt, 'kə-'vā-\ *n.* (14c) 1 a : hiding place : SHELTER b : a thicket affording cover for game c : a masking or concealing device 2 : a feather covering the bases of the quills of the wings and tail of a bird — see WING illustration 3 : a firm durable twilled sometimes waterproofed cloth usu. of mixed-color yarns  
**cov-er-ture** \kə-'vər-'chūr, -chər, -'tūr\ *n.* (13c) 1 a : COVERING b : SHELTER 2 : the status a woman acquires upon marriage under common law  
**cov-er-up** \kə-'vər-'əp\ *n.* (1927) 1 a : a device or stratagem for masking or concealing (his garrulousness is a ~ for insecurity) b : a usu. concerted effort to keep an illegal or unethical act or situation from being made public 2 : a loose outer garment  
**cov-er** \kə-'vər\ *vb* [ME *coveiten*, fr. AF *coveiter*, fr. VL \**cupidiatere*, fr. L *cupidiat-*, *cupiditas* desire, fr. *cupidus* desirous, fr. *cupere* to desire] *vt* (14c) 1 : to wish for earnestly (~ an award) 2 : to desire (what be- longs to another) inordinately or culpably ~ *vi* : to feel inordinate de- sire for what belongs to another *syn* see DESIRE — **cov-er-able** \-ə- bəl\ *adj* — **cov-er-er** \-ər\ *n.* — **cov-er-ing-ly** \-ɪŋ-lē\ *adv*  
**cov-er-ous** \kə-'vər-'təs\ *adj* (13c) 1 : marked by inordinate desire for wealth or possessions or for another's possessions 2 : having a craving for possession (~ of power) — **cov-er-ous-ly** *adv* — **cov-er-ous- ness** *n.*  
*syn* COVETOUS, GREEDY, ACQUISITIVE, GRASPING, AVARICIOUS mean having or showing a strong desire for esp. material possessions. COV- ETOUS implies inordinate desire often for another's possessions (*covet- ous* of his brother's country estate). GREEDY stresses lack of restraint and often of discrimination in desire (*greedy* for status symbols). AC- QUISITIVE implies both eagerness to possess and ability to acquire un- fair or GREEDY an implication of selfishness and often suggests unfair or ruthless means (a hard *grasping* trader who cheated the natives). AVAR- ICIOUS implies obsessive acquisitiveness esp. of money and strongly suggests stinginess (an *avaricious* miser).  
**cov-ey** \kə-'vè-\ *n.*, *pl* **coveys** [ME, fr. AF *covee* sitting (of hen), fr. *cover* to sit on, brood over, fr. L *covere* to lie] (14c) 1 : a mature bird or pair