

Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

Merriam-Webster™ is the name you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 2005 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — Eleventh ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

- ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-807-1 (Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
- ISBN-10: 0-87779-807-9 (Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
- ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-808-8 (Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
- ISBN-10: 0-87779-808-7 (Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
- ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-809-5 (Jacketed hardcover with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
- ISBN-10: 0-87779-809-5 (Jacketed hardcover with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
- ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-810-1 (Leatherlook with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
- ISBN-10: 0-87779-810-9 (Leatherlook with CD-ROM : alk. paper)
- ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-813-2 (Canadian)
- ISBN-10: 0-87779-813-3 (Canadian)
- ISBN-13: 978-0-87779-814-9 (International)
- ISBN-10: 0-87779-814-1 (International)

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Title: Collegiate dictionary. II. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 2003
423—dc21

2003003674
CIP

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, principal copyright 2003

COLLEGIATE is a registered trademark of Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

567TT:QWV0504

due to loss of blood supply 2 : pervasive decay or corruption : ROT (moral ~) — **gan-gre-nous** \ˈgɑŋ-ɡrə-nəs/ *adj*

gangrene *vb* **gan-gre-ned**; **gan-gren-ing** *vt* (1607) : to make gangrenous ~ *vi* : to become gangrenous

gang-sta \ˈgɑŋ(k)-stə/ *n*, *often attrib* [alter, of *gangster*] (1988) 1 : a member of an urban street gang 2 : a performer of gangsta rap

gangsta rap *n* (1990) : rap music with lyrics explicitly portraying the violence and drug use of urban gang life and typically expressing hostility toward whites, women, and civil authority — **gangsta rapper** *n*

gang-ster \ˈgɑŋ-stər/ *n* (1896) : a member of a gang of criminals : RACKETEER — **gang-ster-dom** \-dəm/ *n* — **gang-ster-ish** \-stə-rish/ *adj* — **gang-ster-ism** \-stə-ri-zəm/ *n*

gang-tackle \ˈgɑŋ-tæk-əl/ *vt* (1951) : to bring down (a ballcarrier in football) with several tacklers

gargue \ˈgɑr/ *n* [F, fr. G *Garg* vein in metal, fr. OHG, act of going] (1809) : the worthless rock or vein matter in which valuable metals or minerals occur

gang up *vi* (1925) 1 : to make a joint assault (*ganged up* on him and beat him up) 2 : to combine for a specific purpose (*ganged up* to raise prices) 3 : to exert group pressure (*ganged up* against the boss)

gang-way \ˈgɑŋ-wə/ *n* (bef. 12c) 1 : PASSAGEWAY; *esp* : a temporary way of planks 2 **a** : either of the sides of the upper deck of a ship **b** : the opening by which a ship is boarded **c** : GANGPLANK 3 *Brit* : AISLE 4 **a** : a cross aisle dividing the front benches from the backbenches in the British House of Commons **b** : an aisle in the British House of Commons that separates government and opposition benches 5 : a clear passage through a crowd — often used as an interjection

gan-is-ter *also* **gan-nis-ter** \ˈgɑ-nə-stər/ *n* [origin unknown] (1811) : a fine-grained quartzite used in the manufacture of refractory brick

gan-ja \ˈgɑŋ-jə, ˈgɑn-/ *n* [Hindi *gāḍā* & Urdu *ganjā*, fr. Skt *ganjā* hemp] (1689) : a potent and selected preparation of marijuana used *esp* for smoking; *broadly* : MARIJUANA

gan-net \ˈgɑ-nət/ *n*, *pl* **gan-nets** *also* **gannet** [ME *ganet*, fr. OE *ganot*; akin to OE *gōs* goose] (bef. 12c) : any of a genus (*Morus* of the family Sulidae, the gannet family) of large fish-eating seabirds that breed in colonies chiefly on offshore islands

gan-old \ˈgɑ-nold/ *adj* [ultim. fr. Gk *ganos* brightness; akin to Gk *gēthēn* to rejoice — more at JOY] (ca. 1847) : of, having, or being fish scales consisting of bone and an outer shiny layer resembling enamel; *also* : relating to or being fish with ganoid scales

ganoid *n* (ca. 1839) : a fish (as a sturgeon or gar) with ganoid scales

gante-lope *or* **gant-lope** \ˈgɑnt-lōp/ *n* [modif. of Sw *galopp*, fr. OSw *gatalop*, fr. *gata road + lop* course] (1646) *archaic* : GAUNTLET

gantlet *var of* GAUNTLET

gan-tr'y \ˈgɑn-trē/ *n*, *pl* **gantries** [ME *ganter*, *gauntree*, fr. AF **ganter*, fr. OF dial. (Artois) *gantier*, fr. L *cantherius* horse of poor quality, rafter, trellis] (15c) 1 : a frame for supporting barrels 2 : a frame structure raised on side supports so as to span over or around something; *as* : a platform made to carry a traveling crane and supported by towers or side frames running on parallel tracks; *also* : a movable structure with platforms at different levels used for erecting and servicing rockets before launching **b** : a structure spanning several railroad tracks and displaying signals for each

Gan-y-mede \ˈgɑ-ni-mēd/ *n* [L *Ganymedes*, fr. Gk *Ganymēdēs*] (1565) : a beautiful youth in classical mythology carried off to Olympus to be the cupbearer of the gods

GAO *abbr* General Accounting Office

gaol \ˈjɑl, ˈgɑl-/ *n*, *pl* **gaols** *chiefly Brit var of* JAIL, JAILER

gap \ˈgɑp/ *n* [ME, fr. ON, chasm, hole; akin to ON *gapa* to gape] (14c) 1 **a** : a break in a barrier (as a wall, hedge, or line of military defense) **b** : an assailable position 2 **a** : a mountain pass **b** : RAVINE 3 : SPARK GAP 4 **a** : a separation in space **b** : an incomplete or deficient area (a ~ in her knowledge) 5 : a break in continuity : HIATUS 6 : a break in the vascular cylinder of a plant where a vascular trace departs from the central cylinder 7 : lack of balance : DISPARITY (the ~ between imports and exports) 8 : a wide difference in character or attitude (the generation ~) 9 : a problem caused by some disparity (a communication ~) (credibility ~) — **gap-py** \ˈgɑ-pē/ *adj*

gap *vb* **gapped**; **gap-ping** *vi* (1879) 1 : to make an opening in 2 : to adjust the space between the electrodes of (a spark plug) ~ *vi* : to fall or stand open

gape \ˈgɑp/ *sometimes* **ˈgɑp** *vi* **gaped**; **gap-ing** [ME, fr. ON *gapa*; *perh.* akin to L *hiare* to gape, yawning — more at YAWN] (13c) 1 **a** : to open the mouth wide **b** : to open or part widely (holes *gaped* in the pavement) 2 : to gaze stupidly or in openmouthed surprise or wonder 3 : YAWN — **gap-ing-ly** \ˈgɑ-piŋ-lē, ˈgɑ-piŋ-/ *adv*

gape *n* (1535) 1 : an act of gaping; *as* : YAWN **b** : an openmouthed stare 2 : an unfilled space or extent 3 **a** : the median margin-to-margin length of the open mouth **b** : the line along which the mandibles of a bird close **c** : the width of an opening 4 *pl but sing in constr.* **a** : a disease of birds and *esp.* young birds in which gapeworms invade and irritate the trachea **b** : a fit of yawning

gap-er \ˈgɑ-pər/ *sometimes* **ˈgɑ-pər** *n* (ca. 1637) 1 : one that gapes 2 : any of several large sluggish burrowing clams (families Myacidae and Macridae) including several used for food

gape-worm \ˈgɑp-wɔrm/ *sometimes* **ˈgɑp-wɔrm** *n* (1873) : a nematode worm (*Syngamus trachea*) that causes gaps in birds

gaping *adj* (1588) : wide open (a ~ hole)

gap junction *n* (1967) : an area of contact between adjacent cells characterized by modification of the plasma membranes for intercellular communication or transfer of low molecular-weight substances

gapped scale *n* (1910) : a musical scale derived from a larger system of tones by omitting certain tones

gap-toothed \ˈgɑp-tuht/ *adj* (1567) : having gaps between the teeth

gar \ˈgɑr/ *interj* [euphemism for *God*] (1598) — used as a mild oath in the phrase *by gar*

gar *n* [short for *garfish*] (1765) : any of various fishes that have an elongate body resembling that of a pike and long narrow jaws; *as* : NEEDLEFISH 1 **b** : any of several predaceous No. American freshwater bony fishes (family Lepisosteidae) with heavy ganoid scales

gar *abbr* garage

GAR *abbr* Grand Army of the Republic

gar-rage \ˈgɑ-rāzh, -rāj/ *Canad also* -rāzh, -rāj; *Brit usu* ˈgɑ-(r)āzh, -rāj; *trij* *n* [F, act of docking, garage, fr. *garer* to dock, fr. MF *garrer*,

prob. ultim. fr. ON *vara* to beware, take care; akin to OHG *biwārōn* to protect — more at WARE] (1902) 1 : a shelter or repair shop for automotive vehicles 2 : a cabinet with a vertical rolling door that is used for storing a small kitchen appliance

garage *vb* **gar-aged**; **gar-aging** (1905) : to keep or put in a garage

garage band *n* (1972) : an amateur rock band typically holding its rehearsals in a garage and usu. having only a local audience

garage-man \-ˈmæn/ *n* (1919) : a person who works in a garage

garage sale *n* (1964) : a sale of used household or personal articles (as furniture, tools, or clothing) held on the seller's own premises

gar-ram ma-sa-lā \gɑ-ˈrām-mə-ˈsā-lə/ *n* [Hindi & Urdu *garām masālā*, lit., hot spices] (1954) : a pungent and aromatic mixture of ground spices used in Indian cooking

Gar-rand rifle \gɑ-ˈrænd-/ *n* [John C. Garand] (1931) : M1 RIFLE

garb \ˈgɑrb/ *n* [MF or OIt; MF *garbe* graceful contour, grace, fr. OIt *garbo* grace] (1599) 1 *obs* : FASHION, MANNER 2 **a** : a style of apparel **b** : outward form : APPEARANCE

garb *vt* (1846) : to cover with or as if with clothing (<~ed in T-shirt and blue jeans)

gar-bage \ˈgɑr-bij/ *n* [ME, *offal*] (15c) 1 **a** : food waste **b** : discarded or useless material 2 **a** : TRASH 1b **b** : inaccurate or useless data

gar-bage-man \-ˈmæn/ *n* (1888) : one who collects and hauls away garbage

gar-ban-zo \gɑr-ˈbän-(z)ō, *also* -ˈbän-/ *n*, *pl* -zōs [Sp] (1759) : CHICKPEA

garbanzo bean *n* (1944) : CHICKPEA

gar-ble \ˈgɑr-bl/ *vt* **gar-bled**; **gar-bling** \-b(ə)-liŋ/ [ME *garbelen*, fr. OIt *garbellare* to sift, fr. Ar *gharbala*, fr. LL *cribellare*, fr. *cribellum* sieve; akin to L *cernere* to sift — more at CERTAIN] (15c) 1 *archaic* : CULL 1 2 : to sift impurities from 3 **a** : to so alter or distort as to create a wrong impression or change the meaning (<~ a story) **b** : to introduce textual error into (a message) by inaccurate encipherment, transmission, or decipherment — **gar-bler** \-b(ə)-lɚ/ *n*

garble *n* (1502) 1 : the impurities removed from spices in sifting 2 : an act or an instance of garbling

gar-board \ˈgɑr-bɔrd/ *n* [obs. D *gaarboord*] (1627) : the strake next to a ship's keel

gar-boil \-ˈbɔi-(ə)/ *n* [MF *garbouil*, fr. OIt *garbuglio*] (1548) *archaic* : a confused disordered state : TURMOIL

gar-bol-o-gy \gɑr-ˈbɔl-ə-jē/ *n* [*garbage* + *-ology* (as in *geology*)] (1975) : the study of modern culture through the analysis of what is thrown away as garbage — **gar-bol-o-gist** \-jɪst/ *n*

gar-çon \gɑr-ˈsɔn/ *n*, *pl* **garçons** \-sɔn(z)/ [F, boy, servant, fr. OF, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *hrechjo* fugitive — more at WRETCH] (1788) : WAITER

gar-da \ˈgɑr-də/ *n*, *pl* **gar-dal** \gɑr-ˈdɛ/ *often cap* [Ir *garda* (pl. *gardaí*), short for *garda síochána*, lit., guardian of the peace] (1934) : a police officer in the Republic of Ireland

garde-man-ger \gɑrd-mā-ˈzhā/ *n*, *pl* **garde-mangers** \-ˈzhā(z)/ [F, lit., one who keeps food] (1928) : a cook who specializes in the preparation of cold foods (as meats, fish, and salads)

gar-den \ˈgɑr-dən/ *n* [ME *gārdin*, fr. AF *gārdin*, *jardin*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *gart* enclosure — more at YARD] (13c) 1 **a** : a plot of ground where herbs, fruits, flowers, or vegetables are cultivated **b** : a rich well-cultivated region **c** : a container (as a window box) planted with usu. a variety of small plants 2 **a** : a public recreation area or park usu. ornamented with plants and trees (a botanical ~) **b** : an open-air eating or drinking place **c** : a large hall for public entertainment — **gar-den-ful** \-fʊl/ *n*

garden *vb* **gar-dened**; **gar-den-ing** \ˈgɑr-də-niŋ, ˈgɑrd-niŋ/ *vi* (1577) : to lay out or work in a garden ~ *vt* 1 : to make into a garden 2 : to ornament with gardens — **gar-den-er** \ˈgɑr-də-nɚ, ˈgɑrd-nɚ/ *n*

garden *adj* (15c) 1 : of, relating to, used in, or frequenting a garden 2 **a** : of a kind grown in the open as distinguished from one more delicate (<~ plant) **b** : commonly found : GARDEN-VARIETY

garden apartment *n* (1946) : a multiple-unit low-rise dwelling having considerable lawn or garden space

garden city *n* (1898) : a planned residential community with park and planted areas

garden cress *n* (1577) : an annual herb (*Lepidium sativum*) of the mustard family sometimes cultivated for its pungent basal leaves

garden heliotrope *n* (ca. 1902) : a tall rhizomatous Old World valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) widely cultivated for its fragrant tiny flowers and for its roots which yield the drug valerian

gar-de-nia \gɑr-ˈdē-ni-ə/ *n* [NL, fr. Alexander *Garden* 1791 Scot. naturalist] (1760) : any of a large genus (*Gardenia*) of Old World tropical trees and shrubs of the madder family with showy fragrant white or yellow flowers

Garden of Eden (1535) : EDEN

garden rocket *n* (1597) : ARUGULA

garden-variety *adj* (1928) : ORDINARY, COMMONPLACE

garde-robe \ˈgɑr-drɔb/ *n* [ME, fr. OF, from *garder* to watch, guard + *robe* clothing] (15c) 1 : a wardrobe or its contents 2 : a private room : BEDROOM 3 : PRIVY 1

gar-dy-loo \gɑr-dē-ˈlu/ *interj* [perh. fr. F *garde à l'eau!* look out for the water!] (1622) — used in Edinburgh as a warning cry when it was customary to throw slops from the windows into the streets

Gar-eth \ˈgɑ-rɛθ/ *n* (15c) : a knight of the Round Table and nephew of King Arthur

gar-fish \ˈgɑr-fɪsh/ *n* [ME *garfysse*] (15c) : GAR

Gar-gan-tua \gɑr-ˈgɑn(t)-sh(ə)-ˈtwə/ *n* [F] (1571) : a gigantic king in Rabelais's *Gargantua* having a great capacity for food and drink

gar-gan-tuan \-wən/ *adj*, *often cap* [*Gargantua*] (1596) : tremendous in size, volume, or degree : GIGANTIC, COLOSSAL (<~ waterfalls)

gar-gle \ˈgɑr-gəl/ *vb* **gar-gled**; **gar-gling** \-g(ə)-liŋ/ [MF *gargouiller*, of imit. origin] *vt* (1527) 1 **a** : to hold (a liquid) in the mouth or throat

\ə/ about \ʌ/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ā/ ace \ä/ mop, mar \aʊ/ out \ch/ chin \e/ bet \e/ easy \g/ go \i/ hit \i/ ice \j/ job \iŋ/ sing \ō/ go \ó/ law \ó/ boy \th/ thin \th/ the \ü/ loot \ù/ foot \y/ yet \zh/ vision, beige \k, ʰ, œ, u, ʷ/ see Guide to Pronunciation