

# Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary®

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**cous-in-ger-man** \kə-zən-'jər-mən\ *n.* *pl* **cous-ins-ger-man** *vzoz:* [ME *cousin german*, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *coisin + german* German] (14c) : COUSIN 1a  
**Cousin Jack** \kə-zən-'jæk\ *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  
**cou-ture** \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  
**cou-tu-ri-er** \kū-'tūr-ē-ər, -ē-ər\ *n.* [F, dressmaker, fr. OF *couturier* tailor's assistant, fr. *couture*] (1899) : an establishment engaged in couture; also : the proprietor or designer for such an establishment  
**cou-tu-ri-ere** \kū-'tūr-ē-ər, -ē-ər\ *n.* [F *couturière*, fr. OF *couturiere*, fem. of *couturier*] (1818) : a woman who is a couturier  
**cou-vade** \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-va-lence** \kə-'vā-lən(t)s, 'kə-'\ *n.* (1919) : valence characterized by the sharing of electrons  
**co-va-len-cy** \-lən(t)-sē\ *n.* (1919) : COVALENCE  
**co-va-lent** \kə-'vā-lənt, 'kə-'\ *adj* (ca. 1926) : of, relating to, or characterized by covalent bonds — **co-va-lent-ly** \-lē\ *adv*  
**covalent bond** *n.* (1939) : a chemical bond formed between atoms by the sharing of electrons  
**co-vari-ance** \kə-'vēr-ē-ən(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-vari-ation** \kə-'vēr-ē-'ā-shən\ *n.* (1906) : correlated variation of two or more variables  
**co-vary** \-'vēr-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-lite** \kə-'vél-, -līt, 'kə-'vā-\ *also* **co-vel-line** \-līn\ *n.* [F *covellite*, fr. Niccolò Covelli 1829 Ital. chemist] (1850) : a 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  
**co-ven-nant** \kə-'vən-nənt, 'kə-'vā-\ *n.* [ME, fr. AF, fr. pp. of *convenir* 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 — **co-ven-nan-tial** \kə-'vā-'nən-ʃəl\ *adj*  
**co-ven-nant** \-nənt, -nənt\ *vt* (14c) : to promise by a covenant : PLEDGE ~ *vi* : to enter into a covenant : CONTRACT  
**co-ven-nan-tee** \kə-'vən-'nən-'tē, -nən-\ *n.* (1649) : the person to whom a promise in the form of a covenant is made  
**co-ven-nant-er** \kə-'vən-'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  
**co-ven-nan-tor** \kə-'vən-'nən-'tər, 'kə-'vā-'nən-'tər, -nən-\ *n.* (1649) : a party bound by a covenant  
**Cov-en-try** \kə-'vən-'trē *also* 'kə-\ *n.* [Coventry, England] (1765) : a state of ostracism or exclusion (sent to ~)  
**cover** \kə-'vər\ *vb* **cover-ed**; **cover-ing** \kə-'vər-, '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 — **cover-able** \kə-'vər-ə-bəl, 'kə-'vā-\ *adj* — **cover-er** \kə-'vər-ər\ *n.* — **cover one's tracks** : to conceal traces in order to elude pursuers or escape detection — **cover the ground** or **cover ground** : to deal with a subject or assignment in a particular manner (the new book covers 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 — **cover-less** \kə-'vər-ləs\ *adj* — **under cover** 1 : in an envelope or wrapper 2 : under concealment : in secret  
**cover-age** \kə-'vər-, '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  
**cover-all** \kə-'vər-, -əl\ *n.* (1824) : a one-piece outer garment worn to protect other garments — usu. used in pl. — **cover-alled** \-əld\ *adj*  
**cover-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  
**cover-ing** \kə-'vər-, 'kə-'vā-\ *n.* (14c) : something that covers or conceals  
**covering** *adj* (1887) : containing explanation of or additional information about an accompanying communication (a ~ letter)  
**cover-let** \kə-'vər-'lēt-, -lēt\ *n.* [ME, alter. of *coverlite*, fr. AF *coverlit*, fr. *cove* (it) covers + *lit* bed, fr. L *lectus* — more at LIE] (14c) : BED-SPREAD  
**cover-slip** \kə-'vər-'slīp\ *n.* (1875) : COVER GLASS  
**cover story** *n.* (1948) : a story accompanying a magazine-cover illustration  
**co-vert** \kə-'(v)ɔrt, kə-'\ *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 — **co-vert-ly** *adv* — **co-vert-ness** *n.*  
**co-vert** \kə-'vɔrt, '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  
**cover-ture** \kə-'vər-'chūr, -chūr, -'tūr\ *n.* (13c) 1 a : COVERING b : SHELTER 2 : the status a woman acquires upon marriage under common law  
**cover-up** \kə-'vər-'əp\ *n.* (1927) 1 a : a device or stratagem for masking or concealing (his garrulousness is a ~ for insecurity) b : a concerted effort to keep an illegal or unethical act or situation from being made public 2 : a loose outer garment  
**cov-et** \kə-'vət, 'kə-'vā-\ *vb* [ME *coveiten*, fr. AF *coveiter*, fr. VL \**cupidiatere*, fr. L *cupidiatus*, *cupiditas* desire, fr. *cupidus* desirous, fr. *cupere* to desire] *vt* (14c) 1 : to wish for earnestly (~ an award) 2 : to desire (what belongs to another) inordinately or culpably ~ *vi* : to feel inordinate desire for what belongs to another *syn* see DESIRE — **cov-et-able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **cov-et-er** \-tər\ *n.* — **cov-et-ing-ly** \-tīŋ-lē\ *adv*  
**cov-et-ous** \kə-'və-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-et-ous-ly** *adv* — **cov-et-ous-ness** *n.*  
*syn* COVETOUS, GREEDY, ACQUISITIVE, GRASPING, AVARICIOUS mean having or showing a strong desire for esp. material possessions. COVETOUS implies inordinate desire often for another's possessions (covetous of his brother's country estate). GREEDY stresses lack of restraint and often of discrimination in desire (greedy for status symbols). ACQUISITIVE implies both eagerness to possess and ability to acquire and keep (an eagerly acquisitive mind). GRASPING adds to COVETOUS and GREEDY an implication of selfishness and often suggests unfair or ruthless means (a hard grasping trader who cheated the natives). AVARICIOUS implies obsessive acquisitiveness esp. of money and strongly suggests stinginess (an avaricious miser).  
**cov-ey** \kə-'vē-\ *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