



Second College Edition

THE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE
DICTIONARY

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**merican Heritage
Dictionary**

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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

American Heritage dictionary.

Rev. ed. of: American Heritage dictionary of the English language. New college ed. c1976.

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Morris, William, 1913—

PE1625.A54 1982 423 82-9346

ISBN 0-395-32943-4

ISBN 0-395-32944-2 (thumb index)

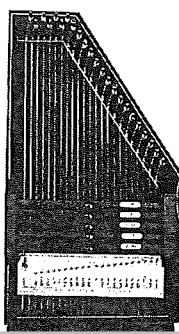
ISBN 0-395-33959-6 (deluxe edition)

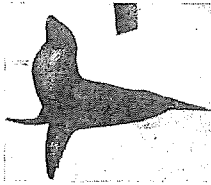
Manufactured in the United States of America

-toed, -toing, -tos. *Informal.* To go by or ride in an automobile. [Short for AUTOMOBILE.]
auto- *pref.* 1. Self; same: *autogamy*. 2. Automatic: *autopilot*. [Gk. < *autos*, self.]
au-to-an-ti-bod-y (ô'tô-ân'tî-bôd'ë) *n.* An antibody thought to act against cells of the organism in which it is formed.
au-to-bahn (ou'tô-bân') *n.* A superhighway in Germany. [G. : *auto*, automobile + *Bahn*, road.]
au-to-bi-og-ra-phy (ô'tô-bî-ôg'râ-fë) *n., pl. -phies.* The biography of a person written by himself. —**au-to-bi-og-ra-pher** *n.* —**au-to-bi-ô-graph'ic** (-bî'ô-grâf'ik), **au-to-bi-ô-graph'ic-al** *adj.* —**au-to-bi-ô-graph'ic-al-ly** *adv.*
au-to-bus (ô'tô-büs') *n., pl. -buses* or *-buses.* A bus.
au-to-ca-tal-y-sis (ô'tô-kâ-tâl'tî-sis) *n., pl. -ses* (-sëz'). Catalysis of a chemical reaction by one of the products of the reaction. —**au-to-cat'a-lyt'ic** *adj.*
au-toch'thon (ô-tôk'thôn) *n., pl. -thons* or *-thones* (-thô-nëz'). 1. The earliest known or aboriginal inhabitant of a particular place. 2. *Ecol.* An indigenous plant or animal. [Gk. *autochthôn* : *autos*, self + *chthôn*, earth.]
au-toch'tho-nous (ô-tôk'thô-nôs) also **au-toch'tho-nal** (-thô-nâl) or **au-toch'tho-nic** (-thôn'ik) *adj.* Native to a particular place; indigenous. —**au-toch'tho-nism**, **au-toch'tho-ny** *n.* —**au-toch'tho-nous-ly** *adv.*
au-to-clave (ô'tô-kläv') *n.* A strong, pressurized, steam-heated vessel, as for sterilization and for cooking. [Fr. : *auto*, auto- + Lat. *clavis*, key.]
au-to-coid (ô'tô-koid') *n.* Variant of *autacoid*.
au-to-cra-cy (ô-tôk'râ-së) *n., pl. -cies.* 1. Government by a single person having unlimited power; despotism. 2. A country or state that is governed by autocracy.
au-to-crat (ô'tô-krät') *n.* 1. A ruler having absolute or unrestricted power; despot. 2. A person with unlimited power or authority. [Fr. *autocrate* < Gk. *autokratês*, ruling by oneself : *auto*, self + *kratos*, authority.] —**au-to-crat'ic**, **au-to-crat'ic-al** *adj.* —**au-to-crat'ic-al-ly** *adv.*
au-to-cross (ô'tô-kros', -kros') *n.* A competition for automobiles that tests driving skill and speed.
au-to-da-fé (ou'tô-dô-fâ', ô'tô-) *n., pl. au-tos-da-fé* (ou'tôz-, ô'tôz-). 1. The public announcement of the sentences imposed on persons tried by the Inquisition and the public execution of these sentences by the secular authorities. 2. The burning of heretics at the stake. [Port. *auto da fé*, act of the faith.]
au-to-di-dact (ô'tô-dî'däkt') *n.* A person who is self-taught. [*<* Gk. *autodidaktos*, self-taught : *autos*, self + *didaktos*, taught. —see DIDACTIC.] —**au-to-di-dact'ic** *adj.*
au-to-dyne (ô'tô-dîn') *n.* A heterodyne in which one tube serves simultaneously as oscillator and detector. —**au-to-dyne'** *adj.*
au-toe-cious (ô-të'shas) *adj. Biol.* Having all stages of a life cycle occur on the same host. [AUTO- + Gk. *oikos*, house.] —**au-toe-cism'** *n.*
au-to-er-otism (ô'tô-ër'ô-tîz'm) also **au-to-er-ot'ic-ism** (-î-rô'tî-sîz'm) *n.* 1. Self-satisfaction of sexual desire, as by masturbation. 2. The arousal of sexual feeling without external stimulation. —**au-to-er-ot'ic** (-î-rô't'ik) *adj.*
au-to-ga-my (ô-tôg'a-më) *n.* 1. *Bot.* Fertilization of a flower by its own pollen; self-fertilization. 2. *Biol.* The union of nuclei within and arising from a single cell, as in certain protozoans.
au-to-gen-e-sis (ô'tô-jën'tî-sis) *n.* Abiogenesis. —**au-to-gen-etic** (-jô-nët'ik) *adj.* —**au-to-gen-etic-al-ly** *adv.*
au-to-gen-ous (ô-tôj'ô-nôs) also **au-to-gen'ic** (ô'tô-jën'ik) *adj.* Self-generated; self-produced. —**au-to-gen-ous-ly** *adv.*
au-to-gi-ro also **au-to-gy-ro** (ô'tô-jî'rô) *n., pl. -ros.* An aircraft powered by a conventional propeller and supported in flight by a free-wheeling, horizontal rotor that provides lift. [AUTO- + Gk. *gyros*, circle.]
au-to-graph (ô'tô-gräf') *n.* 1. A person's own signature or handwriting. 2. A manuscript in the author's handwriting. —*tr.v.* -graphed, -graphing, -graphs. 1. To write one's name or signature on or in; sign. 2. To write in one's own handwriting. [Lat. *autographus*, written with one's own hand < Gk. *autographos* : *autos*, self + *graphên*, to write.] —**au-to-graph'ic**, **au-to-graph'ic-al** *adj.* —**au-to-graph'ic-al-ly** *adv.*
au-to-g-ra-phy (ô-tôg'râ-fë) *n.* 1. The writing of something in one's own handwriting. 2. Autographs collectively.
Auto-harp (ô'tô-härp'). A trademark for a musical instrument similar to a zither, on which a desired chord can be selected by depressing a particular damper.
au-to-hyp-no-sis (ô'tô-hîp-nô'sis) *n.* 1. The act or process of hypnotizing oneself. 2. A self-induced hypnotic state. —**au-to-hyp-not'ic** (-nôt'ik) *adj.*
au-to-im-mune (ô'tô-î-myôon') *adj.* Related to or caused by autoantibodies. —**au-to-im-mun'ity** *n.* —**au-to-im-mun-i-za-tion** (-îm'yô-nô-zâ'shôn) *n.* —**au-to-im-mun-ize'** *v.* (-îzed, -îz-ing, -îzes).
au-to-in-dex (ô'tô-în'dëks') *n.* 1. The procedure for preparation of an index to a body of material by means of a computer program. 2. An index prepared by autoindex.
au-to-in-fec-tion (ô'tô-în-fëk'shôn) *n.* Infection, as with recurrent boils, caused by germs or viruses persisting on or in the body.

own body. 2. A secondary infection caused by a disease already in the body.
au-to-in-tox-i-ca-tion (ô'tô-în-tôk'sî-kâ'shôn) *n.* Self-poisoning caused by endogenous microorganisms, metabolic wastes, or other toxins in the body.
au-to-load-ing (ô'tô-lôd'ing) *adj.* Semiautomatic.
au-to-ly-sate (ô-tôl'tî-sät', -zät') *n. Biochem.* An end-product of autolysis.
au-to-ly-sin (ô-tôl'tî-sîn, ô'tô-lî'sîn) *n.* A substance that causes autolysis.
au-to-ly-sis (ô-tôl'tî-sîs) *n.* The destruction of tissues or cells of an organism by autogenous substances, such as enzymes. —**au-to-lyt'ic** (ô'tô-lî't'ik) *adj.*
au-to-mak'er (ô'tô-mä'kär) *n.* An automobile manufacturer.
Au-to-mat (ô'tô-mät'). A trademark for a restaurant in which the customers obtain food from closed compartments by depositing coins in the appropriate slots.
au-to-ma-ta (ô-tôm'ô-tâ) *n.* A plural of *automaton*.
au-to-mate (ô'tô-mät') *v. -mated, -mat'ing, -mates.* —*tr.* 1. To convert to automation. 2. To control or operate by automation. —*intr.* To convert to or make use of automation. [Back-formation from AUTOMATIC.]
automated teller n. An unattended data system and related equipment activated by a bank customer to obtain banking services.
au-to-mat'ic (ô'tô-mät'ik) *adj.* 1. a. Acting or operating in a manner essentially independent of external influence or control; self-moving. b. Self-regulating. 2. a. Without volition or conscious control. b. Acting or performing in a mechanical fashion. 3. Capable of firing continuously until ammunition is exhausted. —*n.* 1. An automatic firearm, esp. an automatic pistol. 2. An automatic machine or device. 3. *Football.* An audible. [Gk. *automatos*, self-acting.] —**au-to-mat'ic-al-ly** *adv.* —**au-to-mat'ic-ity** (-mät'îs'tî) *n.*
automatic pilot n. A mechanism, as on an aircraft, that automatically maintains a preset course.
au-to-ma-tion (ô'tô-mä'shôn) *n.* 1. The automatic operation or control of a process, equipment, or a system. 2. The techniques and equipment used to achieve automatic operation or control. 3. The condition of being automatically controlled or operated. —**au-to-ma'tive** *adj.*
au-to-ma-tism (ô-tôm'ô-tîz'm) *n.* 1. a. The state or quality of being automatic. b. Automatic mechanical action. 2. *Philos.* The theory that the body is a machine whose functions are accompanied but not controlled by consciousness. 3. *Physiol.* a. The automatic operation of organs and cells, such as the beating of the heart. b. Performance of an act without conscious control, as in the operation of the reflexes. 4. The suspension of consciousness in order to express subconscious ideas and feelings. —**au-tom'a-tist** *n.*
au-to-ma-ti-za-tion (ô-tôm'ô-tî-zâ'shôn) *n.* Automation.
au-to-ma-tize (ô-tôm'ô-tîz') *tr.v. -tized, -tiz'ing, -tiz-es.* To make automatic.
au-to-ma-ton (ô-tôm'ô-tôn, -tôn') *n., pl. -tons* or *-ta* (-tâ). 1. A robot. 2. One that behaves in an automatic or mechanical fashion. [Lat., self-operating machine < Gk. *automatos*, self-acting.] —**au-tom'a-tous** *adj.*
au-to-mo-bile (ô'tô-mô-bël', -mô'bël') *n.* A self-propelled passenger vehicle that usually has four wheels and an internal-combustion engine, used for land transport. —*adj.* Automotive. [Fr. : Gk. *autos*, self + *mobile*, mobile < OFr. —see MOBILE.] —**au-to-mo-bil'ist** *n.*
au-to-mo-tive (ô'tô-mô'tiv) *adj.* 1. Self-moving; self-propelling. 2. Of or pertaining to self-propelled vehicles.
au-to-net-ics (ô'tô-nët'iks) *n. (used with a sing. verb).* The study of automatic guidance and control systems. [AUTO- + (CYBER)NETICS.]
au-to-nom'ic (ô'tô-nôm'ik) *adj.* 1. Independent; autonomous. 2. *Physiol.* Of or pertaining to the autonomic nervous system. 3. Resulting from internal causes; spontaneous. —**au-to-nom'ic-al-ly** *adv.*
autonomic nervous system n. The division of the vertebrate nervous system that regulates involuntary action, as of the intestines, heart, and glands, and comprises the sympathetic nervous system and the parasympathetic nervous system.
au-ton-o-mous (ô-tôn'ô-môs) *adj.* 1. a. Independent. b. Self-contained. 2. a. Independent of the laws of another state or government; self-governing. b. Of or pertaining to an autonomy. 3. Autonomic. [Gk. *autonomos*, self-ruling : *autos*, self + *nomos*, law.] —**au-ton'o-mous-ly** *adv.*
au-ton-o-my (ô-tôn'ô-më) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. The condition or quality of being self-governing. 2. Self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination; independence. 3. A self-governing state, community, or group. [Gk. *autonomia* < *autonomos*, autonomous.] —**au-ton'o-mist** *n.*
au-to-phyte (ô'tô-ftî') *n.* An autotrophic plant. —**au-to-phyt'ic** (-fit'ik) *adj.*
au-to-pil'er (ô'tô-pî'lär) *n. Computer Sci.* A specific automatic compiler. [AUTO- + (COM)PILER.]
au-to-pi-lot (ô'tô-pî-lät) *n.* An automatic pilot.
au-to-plas'ty (ô'tô-pläs'të) *n.* Surgical repair or replacement with tissue taken from the same body as that on which the surgery is performed. —**au-to-plas'tic** *adj.* —**au-to-plas'tic-ly** *adv.*

Daniel Boone
 Daniel Boone
 S. A. J.
 X P O F E R E N S Y
 Christopher Columbus
 Christopher Columbus
 Julia Ward Howe
 Julia Ward Howe
 Arturo Toscanini
 Arturo Toscanini
 Thomas Hood
 Thomas Hood
 Emily Dickinson
 Emily Dickinson
 Gertrude Stein
 Gertrude Stein
 Thomas Jefferson
 Thomas Jefferson
 Napoleon
 Napoleon
 autograph





sea lion
Zalophus californianus



sea otter



sea robin

to the ocean floor in deep water, having a flowerlike body supported by a long stalk.

sealing wax *n.* A resinous preparation of shellac and turpentine that is soft and fluid when heated but solidifies upon cooling, used to seal letters, batteries, or jars.

sea lion *n.* Any of several seals of the family Otariidae, having small but distinct external ears, esp. *Zalophus californianus*, of the Northern Pacific.

seal ring *n.* A signet ring.

seal'skin (sēl'skīn') *n.* 1. The pelt or fur of a fur seal, esp. the underfur. 2. A coat or other garment made of sealskin.

Sealyham terrier (sē'lē-hām', -lē-əm) *n.* A terrier of a breed developed in Wales, having a wiry white coat, a long head, and short legs. [After *Sealyham*, Wales.]

seam (sēm) *n.* 1. a. A line of junction formed by sewing together two pieces of material along their margins. b. A similar line, ridge, or groove made by fitting, joining, or lapping together two sections along their edges. c. A suture. d. A scar. 2. A line across a surface, as a crack, fissure, or wrinkle. 3. A thin layer or stratum, as of coal or rock. —*v.* **seamed**, **seam-ing**, **seams**. —*tr.* 1. To put together with or as if with a seam. 2. To mark with a groove, wrinkle, scar, or other seamlike line. 3. To form ridges in by purling. —*intr.* 1. To crack open; become fissured or furrowed. 2. To purl. [ME *seem* < OE *sēam*.] —**seam'er** *n.*

sea-maid-en (sē'mād'n) also **sea-maid** (-mād') *n.* A mermaid or a sea nymph.

seaman (sē'mon) *n.* 1. A mariner or sailor. 2. An enlisted man in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ranking above seaman apprentice and below petty officer.

seaman apprentice *n.* An enlisted man in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ranking above a seaman recruit and below a seaman.

seaman recruit *n.* An enlisted man of the lowest rank in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard.

sea-man-ship (sē'man-ship') *n.* Skill in managing or navigating a boat or ship.

sea-mark (sē'mārk') *n.* 1. A landmark visible from the sea, used as a guide in navigation. 2. The mark along a coastline indicating the upper tidal limits.

sea mew *n.* Any of various gulls frequenting coastal areas, esp. *Larus canus*, of Europe.

sea mile *n.* A nautical mile.

sea milkwort *n.* A fleshy plant, *Glaux maritima*, of shores and brackish marshes, having pink or white flowers.

seam-less (sēm'lis) *adj.* 1. Without seams. 2. Perfectly consistent. —**seam'less-ness** *n.*

sea-mount (sē'mount') *n.* A submarine mountain rising to more than 3,000 feet above the ocean floor but having a summit at least 1,000 feet below sea level.

sea mouse *n.* Any of various segmented marine worms of the genus *Aphrodite*, esp. *A. aculeata*, having a flattened elliptical body with overlapping scales covered by long hairs.

seam-ster (sēm'star) *n.* A tailor. [ME *semeister* < OE *sēamestre* < *sēam*, *seam*.]

seam-stress (sēm'stris) *n.* A woman who sews, esp. one who makes her living by sewing.

seam-y (sē'mē) *adj.* -i-er, -i-est. 1. Having, marked with, or showing a seam. 2. Sordid; base: *the seamy side of life*. —**seam'i-ness** *n.*

sé-ance (sā'āns', -āns') *n.* 1. A meeting of persons to receive spiritualistic messages. 2. A meeting, session, or sitting. [Fr. < OFr., a sitting < *seoir*, to sit < Lat. *sedere*.]

sea oats *pl.n.* (used with *a sing.* or *pl. verb*). A tall grass, *Uniola panicolata*, common along the coast of the southern United States.

sea onion *n.* 1. A plant, *Urginea maritima*, of the Mediterranean area, cultivated for its bulb that yields a powder used medicinally and as a rat poison. 2. A small European bulbous plant, *Scilla verna*, having fragrant blue flowers.

sea otter *n.* A large, nearly extinct marine otter, *Enhydra lutris*, of northern Pacific coasts, having a soft dark-brown coat valued as fur.

sea pen *n.* Any of various marine anthozoans of the families Stylatulidae and Funiculinidae, resembling and related to the sea feathers. [From its resemblance to a quill pen.]

sea-plane (sē'plān') *n.* An aircraft equipped with floats for landing on or taking off from a body of water.

sea-port (sē'pōrt', -pōrt') *n.* A harbor or town having facilities for seagoing ships.

sea power *n.* 1. A nation having significant naval strength. 2. Naval strength.

sea purse *n.* The purse-shaped egg case of skates or of certain sharks.

sea-quake (sē'kwāk') *n.* An earthquake under the sea floor.

sear (sir) *v.* **seared**, **sear-ing**, **sears**. —*tr.* 1. To cause to wither or dry up. 2. To char, scorch, or burn the surface of with or as if with a hot instrument. —*intr.* To become withered or dried up. —*n.* A condition, as a scar, produced by searing. [ME *seren* < OE *sēarian* < *sēar*, withered.]

sear² (sir) *n.* The catch in a gunlock that keeps the hammer halfcocked or fully cocked. [Prob. < OFr. *serre*, lock < *serer*, to grasp < LLat. *serare*, to bolt < Lat. *sera*, bar, bolt.]

sear³ (sir) *adj.* Variant of *sear*¹.

sea raven *n.* A large sculpin, *Hemitripterus americanus*, of the western Atlantic.

search (sūrch) *v.* **searched**, **search-ing**, **searches**. —*tr.* 1. To make a thorough examination of or look over carefully in order to find something; explore. 2. To make a careful examination or investigation of; probe; *search one's conscience*. 3. To make a thorough check of (a legal document); scrutinize: *search a title*. 4. a. To examine in order to find something lost or concealed. b. To examine in order to or personal effects of in order to find something lost or concealed. 5. To come to know; learn. —*intr.* To conduct a thorough investigation; seek: *searching for clues*. —*n.* 1. An act of searching. 2. The exercise of right of search. [ME *serchen* < OFr. *cerchier* < LLat. *circare*, to go around < Lat. *circus*, circle.] —**search'a-ble** *adj.* —**search'er** *n.*

search-ing (sūr'ching) *adj.* 1. Examining closely or thoroughly: *a searching investigation of their stock-market dealings*. 2. Keenly observant: *searching insights*.

search-less (sūrch'lis) *adj.* Mysterious; impenetrable.

search-light (sūrch'lit') *n.* 1. An apparatus containing a light source and a reflector for projecting a bright beam of approximately parallel rays of light. b. The beam of light so projected. 2. A flashlight.

search warrant *n.* A warrant giving legal authorization for a search.

sea robin *n.* Any of various marine fishes of the family Triglidae, having a bony head and extremely long pectoral fins with fingerlike rays.

sea room *n.* Space at sea adequate for maneuvering a ship.

sea-scape (sē'skāp') *n.* A view or picture of the sea.

Sea Scout *n.* A member of a program designed to train Boy Scouts in seamanship.

sea serpent *n.* A large snakelike marine animal often reported by mariners since antiquity but never positively identified.

sea-shell (sē'shēl') *n.* The calcareous shell of a marine mollusk or similar marine organism.

sea-shore (sē'shōr', -shōr') *n.* 1. Land by the sea. 2. *Land*. Ground lying between high-water and low-water marks; foreshore.

sea-sick-ness (sē'sik'nīs) *n.* Nausea and other malaise provoked by the motion of a vessel at sea. —**sea'sick** *adj.*

sea-side (sē'sīd') *n.* The seashore.

sea slug *n.* Any of various shell-less marine gastropods of the suborder Nudibranchia, having a colorful body with fringelike projections.

sea snake *n.* Any of various venomous tropical marine snakes of the family Hydrophiidae, chiefly of the Pacific and Indian oceans.

sea-son (sē'zən) *n.* 1. a. One of the four natural divisions of the year, spring, summer, autumn, and winter, indicated by the passage of the sun through an equinox or solstice and derived from the apparent north-south movement of the sun caused by the fixed direction of the earth's axis in solar orbit. b. The two divisions of the year, rainy and dry, in tropical climates. 2. A recurrent period that is characterized by certain occupations, festivities, or crops. 3. A suitable, natural, or convenient time. 4. A period of time. —**soned**, **son-ing**, **sons**. —*tr.* 1. To improve or enhance the flavor of (food) by adding salt, spices, herbs, or other flavorings. 2. To add zest, piquancy, or interest to: *seasoned his lectures with jokes*. 3. To dry (lumber) until it is usable; cure. 4. To render competent through trial and experience. 5. To accustom; inure. 6. To moderate; temper. —*intr.* To become usable, competent, or tempered. —**idioms**. In season. 1. Available or ready for eating or other use. 2. Legally available to the hunter, fisherman, or trapper. 3. At the right moment; opportunely. 4. In heat. Used of animals out of season. 1. Not available or ready for eating or hunting. 2. Not at the right or proper moment; inopportune. [ME *sesoun* < OFr. *seson* < Lat. *satio*, act of sowing < *satus*, p.p.art. of *serere*, to plant.]

sea-son-a-ble (sē'zə-nə-bəl, sē'zə-nə) *adj.* 1. In keeping with the time or the season. 2. Occurring or performed at the proper time; timely. —See Usage note at *seasonal*. —**sea-son-a-bly** *adv.*

sea-son-al (sē'zə-nəl, sē'zəl) *adj.* Of or dependent upon a particular season. —**sea-son-a-ly** *adv.*

Usage: *Seasonal* and *seasonable*, though closely related, are differentiated in usage. *Seasonal* applies to what depends on or is controlled by the season of the year: *a seasonal rise in employment*. *Seasonable* applies to what is appropriate to the season (*seasonable clothing*) or timely (*a seasonable intervention in the dispute*). Rains are *seasonal* if they occur at a certain time of the year. They are *seasonable* at any time if they save the crops.

season-er (sē'zə-nər, sē'zər) *n.* 1. One that uses seasons. 2. Seasoning.

sea-son-ing (sē'zə-nīng, sē'zər'nīng) *n.* 1. Something, as a spice or herb, used to flavor food. 2. The act or process by which something is seasoned.

season ticket *n.* A ticket valid for a specified period of time.

sea spider *n.* Any of various marine arachnids of the class Pycnogonida, having long legs and a relatively small body.

sea squirt *n.* Any of various sedentary marine animals of the class Ascidiacea, having a transparent, sac-shaped body.

ā pat / ā pay / ā care / ā father / b bib / ch church / d deed / ē pet / ē be / f five / g gag / h hat / hw which / i pit / i pie / ir pier / j judge / k kick / l lid, needle / m mum / n no, sudden / ng thing / ō pot / ō toe / ō paw, for / oi noise / ou out / ōō took / ōō boot