

# New Oxford American Dictionary

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FIRST EDITION

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informal. **French-y** /'frɛnʃi/ (also **Frenchie**) ► adj. informal, chiefly derogatory perceived as characteristically French: *a perfect example of that kind of progressive Frenchy art.*  
 ► n. (pl. **Frenchies**) 1 informal, chiefly derogatory a French person. ■ Canadian a French Canadian.  
 2 Brit. informal or dated short for **FRENCH LETTER**.

**French-woman** /'frɛnʃ,wu:mən/ ► n. (pl. **French-women**) a female who is French by birth or descent.  
**French-y** /'frɛnʃi/ (also **Frenchie**) ► adj. informal, chiefly derogatory perceived as characteristically French: *a perfect example of that kind of progressive Frenchy art.*  
 ► n. (pl. **Frenchies**) 1 informal, chiefly derogatory a French person. ■ Canadian a French Canadian.  
 2 Brit. informal or dated short for **FRENCH LETTER**.

**fre-e-my** /'frenəmi/ ► n. (pl. **freemies**) informal a person with whom one is friendly despite a fundamental dislike or rivalry.  
 -ORIGIN 1950s: blend of **FRIEND** and **ENEMY**.

**fre-net-ic** /frə'netik/ ► adj. fast and energetic in a rather wild and uncontrolled way: *a frenetic pace of activity.*  
 -DERIVATIVES **fre-net-i-cal-ly** /-ik(ə)li/ adv.  
 -ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'insane'): from Old French *frenetique*, via Latin from Greek *phrenitikos*, from *phrenitis* 'delirium,' from *phrēn* 'mind.' Compare with **FRANTIC**.

**fre-nu-m** /'frenəm/ ► n. another term for **FRENULUM**.  
 -ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: from Latin, literally 'bridle.'

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rich pastry, often with a filling  
 hellac polish that produces a  
 (d) with such a polish.  
 /,pələ'nɛzə/ an overseas  
 the South Pacific; pop. 287,000  
 peete (on the island of Tahiti).  
 uades the Society Islands, the  
 Tuamotu Archipelago, the  
 the Marquesas. It was granted  
 977.

**n cal-en-dar** ► n. a reformed  
 reduced by the French  
 on October 5, 1793.  
 en to have started on the  
 er 22, 1792, the day of the  
 Republic. It had twelve  
 s each, with five days of  
 end (six in leap years). The  
 s were Vendémiaire, Brumaire,  
 iose, Ventose, Germinal,  
 idor, Thermidor, and Fructidor.  
 is abandoned under the  
 ind the Gregorian calendar  
 ed on January 1, 1806.

the overthrow of the  
 France (1789–99).

in began with the meeting  
 (the States General)  
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 : The revolution became  
 and ruthless with power  
 inds of the Jacobins and  
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 / Robespierre's Reign of  
 1 failed to produce a stable  
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sp roll of French bread.  
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 : Kerguelen and Crozet  
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French twist

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PRONUNCIATION KEY ə go, up;  
 ā ate; ā car; e let; ō see; ī fit;  
 ō go; ō law, for; oi toy; ōō goo  
 TH thin; TH then; ZH vision

three-cornered

**three-cornered** ▶ adj. triangular. ■ (esp. of a contest) between three people or groups.

**three-cush-ion bil-li-ards** ▶ plural n. [usu. treated as sing.] a type of billiards in which the cue ball must strike one object ball and three or more cushions before the second object ball.

**three-deck-er** ▶ n. a thing with three levels or layers: [as modifier] *three-decker sandwiches*. ■ historical a sailing warship with three gun decks.

**three-di-men-sion-al** ▶ adj. having or appearing to have length, breadth, and depth: *a three-dimensional object*. ■ (of a literary or dramatic work) sufficiently full in characterization and representation of events to be believable.

-DERIVATIVES **three-di-men-sion-al-i-ty** /di,menshə'nælətē/ n., **three-di-men-sion-al-ly** adv.

**three-fold** /'THRē,fōld/ ▶ adj. three times as great or as numerous: *a threefold increase in the number of stolen cars*. ■ having three parts or elements: *the differences are threefold*.

▶ adv. by three times; to three times the number or amount: *the aftershocks intensify threefold each time*.

**Three Grac-es** see GRACE.

**three-leg-ged race** /'legəd/ ▶ n. a race run by pairs of people, one member of each pair having their left leg tied to the right leg of the other.

**Three Mile Is-land** an island in the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, site of a nuclear power station. In 1979, an accident caused damage to the reactor core, provoking strong reactions against the nuclear industry in the US.

**three-mile lim-it** ▶ n. Law the outer boundary of the area extending 3 miles (4.8 km) out to sea from the coast of a state or country, considered to be within its jurisdiction.

**three-peat** ▶ v. [no obj.] win a particular sports championship three times, esp. consecutively: *the Bulls rate as the favorite to three-peat*.

▶ n. [in sing.] a third win of a particular sports championship, esp. the third of three consecutive wins: *all eyes were on the 49ers' bid for a three-peat*.

-ORIGIN 1980s: from THREE + a shortened form of REPEAT.

**three-pence** /'THrēpəns, 'THrəp-, 'THrē,pens/ ▶ n. Brit. the sum of three pence, esp. before decimalization (1971).

**three-pen-ny** /'THrɪp(ə)nē, 'THrəp-, 'THrē,pənē/ ▶ adj. [attrib.] Brit. costing or worth three pence, esp. before decimalization (1971). ■ trifling or paltry; of little worth: *a threepenny production*.

**three-phase** ▶ adj. (of an electric generator, motor, or other device) designed to supply or use simultaneously three separate alternating currents of the same voltage, but with phases differing by a third of a period.

**three-piece** ▶ adj. [attrib.] consisting of three separate and complementary items, in particular: ■ (of a set of furniture) consisting of a sofa and two armchairs. ■ (of a set of clothes) consisting of slacks or a skirt with a vest and jacket.

▶ n. a set of three separate and complementary items. ■ a group consisting of three musicians.

**three-ply** ▶ adj. (of material) having three layers or strands.

▶ n. 1 knitting wool made of three strands. 2 plywood made by gluing together three layers with the grain in different directions.

**three-point land-ing** ▶ n. a landing of an aircraft on the two main wheels and the tailwheel or skid simultaneously.

**three-point turn** ▶ n. a method of turning a vehicle around in a narrow space by moving forward, backward, and forward again in a sequence of arcs.

**three-quar-ter** ▶ adj. [attrib.] consisting of three quarters of something (used esp. with reference to size or length): *a three-quarter length cashmere coat*. ■ (of a view or depiction of a person's face) at an angle between full face and profile.

**three-ring cir-cus** ▶ n. a public spectacle, esp.

rank of lieutenant general, distinguished by three stars on the uniform.

**Three Stoog-es** US comedy team, comprising various partners from the early 1930s to 1970. The most popular trio (1934-46) were **Moe Howard** (born *Moses Horwitz*) (1897-1975), **Curly Howard** (Moe's brother; born *Jerome Lester Horwitz*) (1903-52), and **Larry Fine** (born *Louis Feinberg*) (1902-75). The Stooges' nearly 200 movie shorts include *Men in Black* (1934), *Hold That Lion!* (1947), and *Quiz Whizz* (1958).

**three strikes** ▶ n. [usu. as modifier] legislation providing that an offender's third felony is punishable by life imprisonment or another severe sentence.

-ORIGIN 1990s: from the phrase *three strikes and you're out* (with allusion to baseball).

**three-way** ▶ adj. involving three directions, processes, or participants: *a three-way race for the presidency* | *a three-way switch*.

**three-wheel-er** ▶ n. a vehicle with three wheels, esp. a child's tricycle.

**Three Wise Men** another name for **MAGI**.

**threm-ma-tol-o-gy** /'THrēmətə'lōjē/ ▶ n. the science of breeding animals and plants.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Greek *thremma*, *thremmat-* 'nursling' + **LOGY**.

**thren-o-dy** /'THrənədəj/ ▶ n. (pl. **threnodies**) a lament.

-DERIVATIVES **thre-no-dial** /'THrənōdēəl/ adj., **thre-nod-ic** /'THrənōdɪk/ adj., **thre-no-dist** /-dɪst/ n.

-ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Greek *threnōidia*, from *threnos* 'wailing' + *oidē* 'song'.

**thre-o-nine** /'THrēə,nēn-, 'nɪn/ ▶ n. Biochemistry a hydrophilic amino acid that is a constituent of most proteins. It is an essential nutrient in the diet of vertebrates. ● Chem. formula: CH<sub>3</sub>CH(OH)CH(NH<sub>2</sub>)COOH.

-ORIGIN 1930s: from *threose* (the name of a tetrose sugar) + **-INE**.

**thresh** /THrɛʃ/ ▶ v. [with obj.] 1 separate grain from (a plant), typically with a flail or by the action of a revolving mechanism: *machinery that can reap and thresh corn in the same process* | (as noun **threshing**) *farm workers started the afternoon's threshing*. 2 variant spelling of **THRASH**.

-ORIGIN Old English *threscan*, later *threscan*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *dorsen* and German *dreschen*. Compare with **THRASH**.

**thresher** /'THrɛʃər/ ▶ n. 1 a person or machine that separates grain from the plants by beating. 2 (also **thresher shark**) a surface-living shark with a long upper lobe to the tail. Threshers often hunt in pairs, lashing the water with their tails to herd fish into a tightly packed shoal. ● *Alopias vulpinus*, family Alopiidae.

**thresh-ing floor** ▶ n. a hard, level surface on which grain is threshed with a flail.

**thresh-ing ma-chine** ▶ n. a power-driven machine for separating grain from plants.

**thresh-old** /'THrɛʃ(h)əld/ ▶ n. 1 a strip of wood, metal, or stone forming the bottom of a doorway and crossed in entering a house or room. ■ [in sing.] a point of entry or beginning: *she was on the threshold of a dazzling career*. ■ the beginning of an airport runway on which an aircraft is attempting to land. 2 the magnitude or intensity that must be exceeded for a certain reaction, phenomenon, result, or condition to occur or be manifested: *nothing happens until the signal passes the threshold* | [as modifier] *a threshold level*. ■ the maximum level of radiation or a concentration of a substance considered to be acceptable or safe: *their water would meet the safety threshold of 50 milligrams of nitrates per liter*. ■ Physiology & Psychology a limit below which a stimulus causes no reaction: *everyone has a different pain threshold*. ■ a level, rate, or amount at which something comes into effect: *the tax threshold has risen to \$10,492 of adjusted gross income*.

-ORIGIN Old English *threscold*, *threscold*; related to German dialect *Drischaufel*; the first element is related to **THRESH** (in a Germanic sense 'tread'), but

growing chiefly on sea cliffs and mountains. Also called **SEA PINK**. ● *Armeria maritima*, family Plumbaginaceae.

-ORIGIN Middle English (in the sense 'prosperity, acquired wealth, success'): from Old Norse, from *thrifa* 'grasp, get hold of.' Compare with **THRIVE**.

**thrift-less** /'THRɪftlɪs/ ▶ adj. (of a person or their behavior) spending money in an extravagant and wasteful way.

-DERIVATIVES **thrift-less-ly** adv., **thrift-less-ness** n.

**thrift shop** (also **thrift store**) ▶ n. a store selling secondhand clothes and other household goods, typically to raise funds for a charitable institution.

**thrift-y** /'THRɪftē/ ▶ adj. (**thriftier**, **thriftiest**) 1 (of a person or their behavior) using money and other resources carefully and not wastefully. 2 chiefly archaic dialect (of livestock or plants) strong and healthy. ■ archaic prosperous.

-DERIVATIVES **thrift-i-ly** /-lē/ adv., **thrift-i-ness** n.

**thrill** /THrɪl/ ▶ n. a sudden feeling of excitement and pleasure: *the thrill of jumping out of an airplane*. ■ an experience that produces such a feeling. ■ a wave or nervous tremor of emotion or sensation: *a thrill of excitement ran through her*. ■ archaic a throb or pulsation. ■ Medicine a vibratory movement or resonance heard through a stethoscope.

▶ v. 1 [with obj.] cause (someone) to have a sudden feeling of excitement and pleasure: *his kiss thrilled and excited her* | *I'm thrilled to death* | *they were thrilled to pieces* | (as adj. **thrilling**) *a thrilling adventure*. ■ [no obj.] experience such feeling: *thrill to the magic of the world's greatest guitarist*. 2 [no obj.] (of an emotion or sensation) pass with a nervous tremor: *the shock of alarm thrilled through her*. ■ literary quiver or throb.

-PHRASES **thrills and chills** the excitement of dangerous sports or entertainments, as experienced by spectators.

-DERIVATIVES **thrill-ing-ly** adv.

-ORIGIN Middle English (as a verb in the sense 'pierce or penetrate'): alteration of dialect *thirl* 'pierce, bore.'

**thriller** /'THrɪlər/ ▶ n. a novel, play, or movie with an exciting plot, typically involving crime or espionage. ■ a very exciting contest or experience: *a 17-14 overtime thriller against Tampa Bay*.

**thrips** /THrɪps/ (also **thrip**) ▶ n. (pl. **same**) a minute black winged insect that sucks plant sap and can be a serious pest of ornamental and food plants when present in large numbers. ● Order Thysanoptera: many species.

-ORIGIN late 18th cent.: via Latin from Greek, literally 'woodworm.'

**thrive** /THrɪv/ ▶ v. (**thrives**, **thriving**; past **throve** /THröv/ or **thrived**; past participle **thriven** /'THrɪvən/ or **thrived**) [no obj.] (of a child, animal, or plant) grow or develop well or vigorously: *the new baby thrived*. ■ prosper; flourish: *education groups thrive on organization* | (as adj. **thriving**) *a thriving economy*.

-ORIGIN Middle English (originally in the sense 'grow, increase'): from Old Norse *thrifask*, reflexive of *thrifa* 'grasp, get hold of.' Compare with **THRIFT**.

**thro'** /THrə/ (or **thro**) ▶ prep., adv., & adj. literary spelling of **THROUGH**.

**throat** /THrət/ ▶ n. the passage that leads from the back of the mouth of a person or animal. ■ the front part of a person's or animal's neck, behind which the esophagus, trachea, and blood vessels serving the head are situated: *a gold pendant gleamed at her throat*. ■ literary a voice of a person or a songbird: *from a hundred throats came the cry "Vive l'Empereur!"* ■ a thing compared to a throat, esp. a narrow passage, entrance, or exit. ■ Sailing the forward upper corner of a quadrilateral fore-and-aft sail.

-PHRASES **be at each other's throats** (of people or organizations) quarrel or fight persistently. **cut one's own throat** bring about one's own downfall by one's actions. **force (or shove or ram) something down someone's throat** force ideas or material on a person's attention by repeatedly putting them forward. **grab (or take) someone's throat** seize someone's attention.