

Based on Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary,
America's best-selling dictionary

The Merriam Webster Dictionary



HOME AND OFFICE EDITION

- More than 60,000 words and phrases—the essential vocabulary encountered in daily business and academic activity.
- Coverage of biographical names, geographical names, and foreign words and phrases.
- Special sections on punctuation, capitalization, footnotes, bibliographies, and more.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

HOME AND OFFICE EDITION



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, Publishers
Springfield, Massachusetts



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 registered trademark 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 © 1995 by Merriam-Webster Inc.

Philippines Copyright 1995 by Merriam-Webster Inc.

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

The Merriam-Webster dictionary. — Home and office ed.

p. cm.
ISBN 0-87779-606-8

1. English language — Dictionaries. I. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M353 1995
423—dc20

94-48886
CIP

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

678910RRD9796

- senior high school** *n*: a school usu. including grades 10 to 12
- seniority** \sēn-ˈyōr-ə-tē\ *n* 1: the quality or state of being senior 2: a privileged status owing to length of continuous service
- senior master sergeant** *n*: a noncommissioned officer in the air force ranking next below a chief master sergeant
- seni-ti** \ˈse-nə-tē\ *n*, *pl* **seniti** — see *pa'anga* at MONEY table
- sen-na** \ˈse-nə\ *n* 1: CASSIA 2: *esp*: one used medicinally 2: the dried leaflets or pods of a cassia used as a purgative
- sen-sa-tion** \sen-ˈsā-shən\ *n* 1: awareness (as of noise or heat) or a mental process (as seeing or hearing) due to stimulation of a sense organ; *also*: an indefinite bodily feeling 2: a condition of excitement; *also*: the thing that causes this condition
- sen-sa-tion-al** \shə-nəl\ *adj* 1: of or relating to sensation or the senses 2: arousing an intense and usu. superficial interest or emotional reaction — **sen-sa-tion-al-ly** *adv*
- sen-sa-tion-al-ism** \nə-ˈli-zəm\ *n*: the use or effect of sensational subject matter or treatment — **sen-sa-tion-al-ist** \nə-ˈlist\ *adj* or *n* — **sen-sa-tion-al-istic** \sā-shə-nə-ˈlis-tik\ *adj*
- sen-sa-tion-al-ize** \nə-ˈlīz\ *vb* -ized; -izing 1: to present in a sensational manner
- sense** \sens\ *n* 1: semantic content: MEANING 2: the faculty of perceiving by means of sense organs; *also*: a bodily function or mechanism (as sight, hearing, or smell) basically involving a stimulus and a sense organ 3: SENSATION, AWARENESS 4: INTELLIGENCE, JUDGMENT 5: OPINION (the ~ of the meeting) — **sense-less** *adj* — **sense-less-ly** *adv*
- sense** *vb* sensed; **sens-ing** 1: to be or become aware of (~ danger); *also*: to perceive by the senses 2: to detect (as radiation) automatically
- sense organ** *n*: a bodily structure (as an eye or ear) that receives stimuli (as heat or light) which excite nerve cells to send information to the brain
- sen-si-bil-i-ty** \sen-sə-ˈbi-lə-tē\ *n*, *pl* -ties: delicacy of feeling: SENSITIVITY
- sen-si-ble** \sen-sə-bəl\ *adj* 1: capable of being perceived by the senses or the mind; *also*: capable of receiving sense impressions 2: AWARE, CONSCIOUS 3: REASONABLE, RATIONAL — **sen-si-bly** \-blē\ *adv*
- sen-si-tive** \sen-sə-tiv\ *adj* 1: subject to excitation by or responsive to stimuli 2: having power of feeling 3: of such a nature as to be easily affected 4: TOUCHY (a ~ issue) — **sen-si-tive-ness** *n* — **sen-si-tiv-i-ty** \sen-sə-ˈti-və-tē\ *n*
- sensitive plant** *n*: any of several mimosas with leaves that fold or droop when touched
- sen-si-tize** \sen-sə-ˈtiz\ *vb* -tized; -tizing: to make or become sensitive or hypersensitive — **sen-si-ti-za-tion** \sen-sə-tə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*
- sen-sor** \sen-ˈsɔr, -sər\ *n*: a device that responds to a physical stimulus
- sen-so-ry** \sen-sə-rē\ *adj*: of or relating to sensation or the senses
- sen-su-al** \sen-shə-wəl\ *adj* 1: relating to gratification of the senses 2: devoted to the pleasures of the senses — **sen-su-al-ist** *n* — **sen-su-al-i-ty** \sen-shə-ˈwa-lə-tē\ *n* — **sen-su-al-ly** *adv*
- sen-su-ous** \sen-shə-wəs\ *adj* 1: relating to the senses or to things that can be perceived by the senses 2: VOLUPTUOUS — **sen-su-ous-ly** *adv* — **sen-su-ous-ness** *n*
- send** *past and past part* of SEND
- sen-te** \ˈsen-tē\ *n*, *pl* **li-cen-te** or **li-sen-te** \li-ˈsen-tē\ — see *loti* at MONEY table
- sen-tence** \sent-əns, -ənz\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *sententia*, lit., feeling, opinion, fr. *sentire* to feel] 1: the punishment set by a court 2: a grammatically self-contained speech unit that expresses an assertion, a question, a command, a wish, or an exclamation
- sen-tence** *vb* **sen-tenced**; **sen-tenc-ing**: to impose a sentence on
- sen-ten-tious** \sen-ˈten-çəs\ *adj*: using wise sayings or proverbs; *also*: using pompous language
- sen-tient** \ˈsen-çənt, -chē-ənt\ *adj*: capable of feeling: having perception
- sen-ti-ment** \ˈsen-tə-mənt\ *n* 1: FEELING; *also*: thought and judgment influenced by feeling: emotional attitude 2: OPINION, NOTION
- sen-ti-men-tal** \sen-tə-ˈment-ə\ *adj* 1: influenced by tender feelings 2: affecting the emotions *syn* bathetic, maudlin, mawkish, mushy — **sen-ti-men-tal-ism** *n* — **sen-ti-men-tal-ist** *n* — **sen-ti-men-tal-i-ty** \-men-tə-lə-tē, -mənt\ *n* — **sen-ti-men-tal-ly** *adv*
- sen-ti-men-tal-ize** \-ˈment-ə-līz\ *vb* -ized; -izing 1: to indulge in sentiment 2: to look upon or imbue with sentiment — **sen-ti-men-tal-i-za-tion** \-mənt-ə-lī-zā-shən\ *n*
- sen-ti-mo** \sen-ˈtē-(ə)mō\ *n*, *pl* -mos — see *peso* at MONEY table
- sen-ti-nel** \ˈsent-ən-əl\ *n* [MF *sentinelle*, fr. It *sentinella*, fr. *sentina* vigilance, fr. *sentire* to perceive, fr. L] 1: one that watches or guards
- sen-try** \ˈsen-trē\ *n*, *pl* **sentries**: SENTINEL, GUARD
- sep** *abbr* separate, separated
- Sep** *abbr* September
- SEP** *abbr* simplified employee pension
- sep-al** \ˈsē-pəl, ˈse-\ *n*: one of the modified leaves comprising a flower calyx
- sep-a-rable** \se-pə-rə-bəl\ *adj*: capable of being separated
- sep-a-rate** \se-pə-ˈrāt\ *vb* -rat-ed; -rat-ing 1: to set or keep apart: DISCONNECT, SEVER 2: to keep apart by something intervening 3: to cease to be together: PART
- sep-a-rate** \se-prət, -pə-rət\ *adj* 1: not connected 2: divided from each other 3: SINGLE, PARTICULAR (the ~ pieces of the puzzle) — **sep-a-rate-ly** *adv*
- sep-a-rate** *n*: an article of dress designed to be worn interchangeably with others to form various combinations
- sep-a-ra-tion** \se-pə-ˈrā-shən\ *n* 1: the act or process of separating: the state of being separated 2: a point, line, means, or area of division 3: a formal separating of a married couple by agreement but without divorce
- sep-a-rat-ist** \se-prə-tist, ˈse-pə-ˈrā-\ *n*: an advocate of separation (as from a political body) — **sep-a-rat-ism** \se-prə-ˈti-zəm\ *n*
- sep-a-ra-tive** \se-pə-ˈrā-tiv, ˈse-prə-tiv\ *adj*: tending toward, causing, or expressing separation
- sep-a-ra-tor** \se-pə-ˈrā-tər\ *n*: one that separates; *esp*: a device for separating cream from milk
- sepia** \ˈsē-pē-ə\ *n*: a brownish gray to dark brown color
- sep-sis** \sep-səs\ *n*, *pl* **sep-ses** \sep-ˈsēz\: a toxic condition due to spread of bacteria or their products in the body
- Sept** *abbr* September
- Septem-ber** \sep-ˈtem-bər\ *n* [ME *Septembre*, fr. OF & OE, both fr. L *September* (seventh month), fr. *septem* seven]: the 9th month of the year having 30 days
- sep-tic** \sep-tik\ *adj* 1: PUTREFACTIVE 2: relating to or characteristic of sepsis
- sep-tic-e-mia** \sep-tə-ˈsē-mē-ə\ *n*: BLOOD POISONING
- septic tank** *n*: a tank in which sewage is disintegrated by bacteria
- sep-tu-a-ge-nar-i-an** \sep-ˈtū-ə-jə-ˈner-ē-ən, -ˈtū-\ *n*: a person whose age is in the seventies — **sep-tu-a-genarian** *adj*
- Sep-tu-a-gint** \sep-ˈtū-ə-jənt, -ˈtū-\ *n*: a Greek version of the Old Testament prepared in the 3d and 2d centuries B.C. by Jewish scholars
- sep-tum** \sep-təm\ *n*, *pl* **sep-ta** \-tə\: a dividing wall or