

The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dic·tion·ary

of the
English
Language

FIFTH
EDITION

The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

Dictionary

of the
English
Language

FIFTH
EDITION

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
BOSTON NEW YORK

Words are included in this dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. The inclusion of any word in this dictionary is not, however, an expression of the publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

American Heritage and the eagle logo are registered trademarks of American Heritage Inc. Their use is pursuant to a license agreement with American Heritage Inc.

Copyright © 2011 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to:
Reference Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt,
222 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Visit our website at www.ahdictionary.com
or www.youareyourwords.com.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The American Heritage dictionary of the English language. -- 5th ed.
p. cm.
Previous ed.: 2000.
ISBN 978-0-547-04101-8
1. English language--Dictionaries.
PE1628.A623 2011
423--dc22

2011004777

Manufactured in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10-QGV-15 14 13 12 11

maphrodite; see HERMAPHRODITUS.] —**her-maph'ro-dit'ic** (-dit'ik) *adj.* —**her-maph'ro-dit'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

hermaphrodite brig *n.* *Nautical* A two-masted vessel, with a square-rigged foremast and a schooner-rigged mainmast.

her-maph-ro-dit-ism (hər-măf'rō-dī-tiz'm) also **her-maph-ro-dism** (-rō-diz'm) *n.* **1.** The presence of both male and female reproductive organs that is typical of certain plants and animals, as in a monoecious plant or an earthworm. **2.** The presence in some humans and in some individuals of other animal species of both male and female reproductive organs and secondary sexual characteristics in the same individual.

Her-maph-ro-di-tus (hər-măf'rō-dī-təs) *n.* *Greek Mythology* The son of Hermes and Aphrodite, who became united in one body with the nymph Salmacis. [Latin *Hermaphroditus* < Greek *Hermaphroditos*: *Hermēs*, Hermes + *Aphroditē*, Aphrodite; see APHRODITE.]

her-me-neu-tic (hūr'mā-nōō'tik, -nyōō't-) also **her-me-neu-ti-cal** (-ti-kəl) *adj.* Interpretive; explanatory. [Greek *hermeneutikos* < *hermeneutēs*, interpreter < *hermeneuein*, to interpret < *hermeneus*, interpreter.] —**her-me-neu-ti-cal-ly** *adv.*

her-me-neu-tics (hūr'mā-nōō'tiks, -nyōō't-) *n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. verb*) The theory and methodology of interpretation, especially of scriptural text. —**her-me-neu'tist** *n.*

Her-mes (hūr'mēz) *n.* *Greek Mythology* The god of commerce, invention, cunning, and theft, who also served as messenger, scribe, and herald for the other gods.

Hermes Tris-me-gis-tus (trīs'mā-jīs'təs, trīz'-) *n.* *Mythology* Hermes as identified with the Egyptian god Thoth, the legendary author of works on alchemy, astrology, and magic. [Medieval Latin *Hermēs Trismegistus* < Greek *Hermēs trismegistos*: *Hermēs*, Hermes + *trismegistos*, thrice greatest (*trīs*, thrice; see **trei-** in App. I + *megistos*, greatest; see **meg-** in App. I).]

her-met-ic (hər-mēt'ik) also **her-met-i-cal** (-i-kəl) *adj.* **1.** Completely sealed, especially against the escape or entry of air. **2.** Impervious to outside interference or influence: *the hermetic confines of an isolated life*. **3.** often **Hermetic a.** *Mythology* Of or relating to Hermes Trismegistus or the works ascribed to him. **b.** Having to do with the occult sciences, especially alchemy; magical. [New Latin *hermēticus*, alchemical < Medieval Latin *Hermēs* (*Trismegistus*); see HERMES TRISMEGISTUS.] —**her-met-i-cal-ly** *adv.*

her-mit (hūr'mīt) *n.* **1.** A person who has withdrawn from society and lives a solitary existence; a recluse. **2.** A cookie made with molasses, raisins, and nuts. [Middle English *heremite* < Old French < Medieval Latin *herēmita* < Late Latin *erēmīta* < Greek *erēmītēs* < *erēmīā*, desert < *erēmos*, solitary.] —**her-mit'ic**, **her-mit'i-cal-ly** *adj.* —**her-mit'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

her-mit-age (hūr'mī-tij) *n.* **1a.** The habitation of a hermit or group of hermits. **b.** A monastery or abbey. **2.** A place where one can live in seclusion; a retreat. **3.** The condition or way of life of a hermit. [Middle English < Old French *hermitage* < *heremite*, hermit; see HERMIT.]

Her-mi-tage (ēr'mī-tāzh') *n.* A rich, full-bodied, usually red wine produced in southeast France. [After Tain l'Hermitage, a village of southeast France.]

hermit crab *n.* Any of various decapod crustaceans of the superfamily Paguroidea that have a soft asymmetrical abdomen and occupy the empty shells of gastropod mollusks.

hermit thrush *n.* A bird (*Catharus guttatus*) of North and Central America having brownish plumage, a spotted breast, a reddish tail, and a distinctive melodious song.

Her-mon (hūr'mən), **Mount** The highest peak, 2,814 m (9,230 ft), of the Anti-Lebanon Range on the Syria-Lebanon border. It was sacred to the worshippers of Baal and is considered the traditional site of Jesus's transfiguration.

Her-mo-sil-lo (ēr'mō-sē'ō) The capital and largest city of the Mexican state of Sonora, near the Gulf of California west of Chihuahua. Established c. 1700, it is a trade center in an agricultural and mining area.

her-ni-a (hūr'nē-ə) *n., pl. -ni-as* or *-ni-ae* (-nē-ē') The protrusion of an organ or other bodily structure through the wall that normally contains it; a rupture. [Middle English < Latin; see **gher-** in App. I.] —**her-ni-al** *adj.*

her-ni-ate (hūr'nē-āt') *intr.v.* **-at-ed**, **-at-ing**, **-ates** To protrude through an abnormal bodily opening. —**her-ni-a'tion** *n.*

he-ro (hīr'ō) *n., pl. -roes* **1.** In mythology and legend, a man, often of divine ancestry, who is endowed with great courage and strength, celebrated for his bold exploits, and favored by the gods. **2.** A person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life: *soldiers and nurses who were heroes in an unpopular war*. **3.** A person noted for special achievement in a particular field: *the heroes of medicine*. See Synonyms at **celebrity**. **4.** The principal character in a novel, poem, or dramatic presentation. **5.** See **submarine sandwich**. [Earlier *heroe*, back-formation < *heroes*, heroes < Latin *hērōēs*, pl. of *hērōs* < Greek; see **ser-** in App. I.]

He-ro¹ (hīr'ō) *n.* *Greek Mythology* A priestess of Aphrodite beloved by Leander.

He-ro² (hēr'ō, hīr'ō) or **He-ron** (hēr'rōn') First century AD. Alexandrian scientist who invented many water-driven and steam-driven machines and devised a formula for deriving the area of a triangle from the lengths of its sides.

Her-od (hēr'ōd) Known as "the Great." 73?–4 BC. King of Judea (40–4) who, according to the New Testament, attempted to kill the infant Jesus

by John the Baptist. According to the New Testament, he granted the request of Salome, daughter of Herodias, for John's beheading, and was the official to whom Pontius Pilate sent Jesus for judgment.

He-ro-di-as (hī-rō'dē-əs) Died c. AD 39. The niece and second wife of Herod Antipas and the mother of Salome.

He-rod-o-tus (hī-rōd'ə-təs) Known as "the Father of History." Fifth century BC. Greek historian whose writings on the Persian Wars are among the earliest known works of narrative history.

he-ro-ic (hī-rō'ik) *adj.* also **he-ro-i-cal** (-i-kəl) **1.** Of, relating to, or resembling the heroes of literature, legend, or myth. **2.** Having, displaying, or characteristic of the qualities appropriate to a hero; courageous: *heroic deeds*. **3a.** Impressive in size or scope; grand: *heroic undertakings*. **b.** Of a size or scale that is larger than life: *heroic sculpture*. **4 n. 1.** A line of heroic verse. **2. heroics** Heroic behavior or action. **3. heroics.** Melodramatic behavior or language: *"We trust the House . . . will come up with answers without all the political heroics"* (Atlanta Constitution). —**he-ro'i-cal-ly** *adv.* —**he-ro'i-cal-ness** *n.*

heroic couplet *n.* A verse unit consisting of two rhymed lines in iambic pentameter.

heroic drama *n.* Restoration tragedy or tragicomedy composed in heroic couplets and generally characterized by exotic settings, bombastic rhetoric, and exaggerated characterization.

heroic meter *n.* See **heroic verse**.

heroic quatrain or **heroic stanza** *n.* See **elegiac stanza**.

heroic verse *n.* One of several verse forms traditionally used in epic and dramatic poetry, especially: **a.** The dactylic hexameter in Greek and Latin. **b.** The iambic pentameter in English. **c.** The alexandrine in French. In all senses also called *heroic meter*.

he-ro-in (hēr'ō-in) *n.* A white, odorless, bitter crystalline compound, C₂₁H₂₃NO₅, that is derived from morphine and is a highly addictive illegal narcotic. Also called *diacetylmorphine*. [German, originally a trademark.]

he-ro-ine (hēr'ō-in) *n.* **1.** A woman noted for courage and daring action. **2.** A woman noted for special achievement in a particular field. **3.** The principal female character in a novel, poem, or dramatic presentation. [Latin *hērōinē*, *hērōina* < Greek *hērōinē*, feminine of *hērōs*, hero; see **HERO**.]

he-ro-in-ism (hēr'ō-i-nīz'm) *n.* Addiction to heroin.

he-ro-ism (hēr'ō-iz'm) *n.* **1.** Heroic conduct or behavior. **2.** Heroic characteristics or qualities; courage.

he-ro-ize (hīr'ō-iz') *tr.v.* **-ized**, **-iz-ing**, **-iz-es** To make a hero of; treat as a hero: *was heroized for her medical discoveries*.

he-ron (hēr'ən) *n.* Any of various wading birds of the family Ardeidae, having a long neck, long legs, a long pointed bill, and usually white, gray, or bluish-gray plumage. [Middle English < Old French, of Germanic origin.]

He-ron (hēr'rōn') See **HERO**².

her-on-ry (hēr'ən-rē) *n., pl. -ries* A place where herons nest and breed.

hero worship *n.* Intense or excessive admiration for someone regarded as a hero. —**he-ro-wor'ship** *v.* —**he-ro-wor'ship-er** *n.*

her-pes (hūr'pēz) *n.* Any of several viral infections marked by the eruption of small vesicles on the skin or mucous membranes, especially herpes simplex. [Middle English < Latin *herpēs* < Greek < *herpein*, to creep.] —**her-pet'ic** (hər-pēt'ik) *adj.*

herpes la-bi-a-lis (lā'bē-ā'līs) *n.* See **cold sore**. [New Latin *herpēs labialis*: Latin *herpēs*, herpes + Medieval Latin *labialis*, of the lip.]

herpes simplex *n.* **1a.** A recurrent viral infection caused by a herpesvirus, marked by the eruption of fluid-containing vesicles usually on the mouth, lips, and face. **b.** The herpesvirus, designated herpes simplex type one, that causes this infection. **2a.** A recurrent viral infection, caused by a herpesvirus, that is sexually transmitted and marked by the eruption of fluid-containing vesicles usually on the genitals. **b.** The herpesvirus, designated herpes simplex type two, that causes this infection. [New Latin *herpēs simplex*: Latin *herpēs*, herpes + Latin *simplex*, simple.]

her-pes-vi-rus (hūr'pēz-vī'rəs) *n., pl. -rus-es* Any of a family of DNA viruses that form characteristic inclusion bodies within the nuclei of host cells and cause diseases such as chickenpox, infectious mononucleosis, herpes simplex, and shingles.

herpes zoster *n.* See **shingles**. [New Latin *herpēs zōstēr*: Latin *herpēs*, herpes + Greek *zōstēr*, girdle.]

her-pe-tol-o-gy (hūr'pī-tōl'ə-jē) *n.* The branch of zoology that deals with reptiles and amphibians. [Greek *herpeton*, reptile (< *herpein*, to creep) + **-LOGY**.] —**her'pe-to-log'ic** (-tə-lōj'ik), **her'pe-to-log'i-cal** *adj.* —**her'pe-to-log'i-cal-ly** *adv.* —**her'pe-to-l'o-gist** *n.*

Herr (hēr) *n., pl. Her-ren* (hēr'rən) *Abbr. Hr.* Used as a courtesy title in a German-speaking area, prefixed to the surname or professional title of a man. [German < Middle High German *hērre* < Old High German *hērro*, lord, master, alteration of *hērro*, older, more venerable, comparative of *hēr*, proud, holy, splendid, noble.]

Her-ren-vo-lk (hēr'an-fōk', -fōlk') *n.* A master race. [German: *Herren*, genitive pl. of *Herr*, master; see **HERR** + *Volk*, people, nation; see **VOLKSLIED**.]

Her-ric-k (hēr'ik), **Robert** 1591–1674. English lyric poet whose sensuous, simple works, such as "Delight in Disorder" (1648), are marked by his affinity for Latin verse and the influence of Ben Jonson.

her-ring (hēr'ing) *n., pl. herring* or **-rings** Any of various silvery fishes of the family Clupeidae, especially the commercially important



hermit crab
strawberry land hermit crab
Coenobita perlatus



heron
great blue heron
Ardea herodias



herringbone

ā	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
âr	care	ōō	took
ā	father	ōōr	lure
ē	pet	ōō	boot
ē	be	ū	cut
i	pit	ūr	urge
i	bite	th	thin
îr	pier	th	this
ō	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about,
ô	paw		item
ôr	core		