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LONGMAN
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ENGLISH

Your Complete Guide to American English



Longman Dictionary of American English

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2 used in order to say that something definitely will or will not happen in spite of what the situation is: *Whether you like it or not, you're going to have to take that test.*

whew /hwyu, hwu/ *interjection* ⇨ PHEW

which /wɪtʃ/ *determiner, pron* **1** used in order to ask or state what things you mean when a choice has to be made: *Which of these books is yours?* | *Ask him which one he wants.* **2** used in order to show what specific thing or things you mean: *The letters from fans, which have been coming every day, are mostly from teenagers.* **3** used in order to add more information about something, especially in written language after a COMMA: *The train only takes two hours, which is quicker than the bus.* –see also usage note at THAT¹

USAGE NOTE which and what

Use these words when asking a question about a choice you need to make. Use **what** when you make a choice from an unknown number of things or people: *What color would you like your room to be painted?* Use **which** when you make a choice from a limited number of things or people: *Which color would you like - blue or yellow?*

which-ever /wɪ'tʃɛvə/ *determiner, pron* used in order to say that it does not matter what thing you choose, what you do etc.: *You can have whichever you like best.* | *You get the same result whichever way you do it.*

whiff /wɪf/ *n* a smell of something that is not strong: *As she walked past, I caught a whiff of (=smelled) her perfume.*

while¹ /waɪl/ *n* a **while** a period of time, especially a short one: *Can you wait a while or do you have to leave right now?* | *I've been alone for a while.* | *I'll be back in a little while.* –see also AWHILE, **worth your while** (WORTH¹)

while² *conjunction* **1** during the time that something is happening: *They arrived while we were having dinner.* | *I like to listen to music while I'm taking a bath.* **2** in spite of the fact that; though: *While she is a likable woman she can be extremely difficult to work with.* **3** used in order to say that although something is true of one thing, it is not true of another: *That region has plenty of water, while this one has little.*

while³ *v* **while away the hours/evening/days etc.** to spend time in a pleasant and lazy way: *We whiled away the summer evenings talking and drinking wine.*

whim /wɪm/ *n* a sudden desire to do or have something, especially when there is no good reason for it: *I went to visit her on a whim.* (=because of a whim)

whim-per /'wɪmpə/ *v* [I] to make low crying sounds, or to speak in this way: *A dog*

whimpered in the corner. | *"Don't hurt me," he whimpered.* –**whimper** *n*

whim-si-cal /'wɪmzɪkəl/ *adj* unusual, but fun or showing that someone is having fun: *a whimsical smile*

whine /waɪn/ *v* [I] **1** to complain about something in a sad annoying voice: *Stop whining about everything!* **2** to make a long high sound because you are in pain or unhappy: *The dog was whining at the door.* **3** if a machine whines, it makes a continuous high sound –**whine** *n* –**whiner** *n*

whin-ny /'wɪni/ *v* [I] if a horse whinnies, it makes a quiet high sound –**whinny** *n*

whip¹ /wɪp/ *n* a long thin piece of rope or leather with a handle, used for making animals move or for hitting people

whip² -pped, -pping *v* **1** [T] to hit someone with a whip **2** [T] INFORMAL to defeat someone easily: *Smith ran for three touchdowns as the Hawks whipped the Huskies 42-3.* **3** [T] INFORMAL to move something with a quick sudden movement: *He whipped out a gun.* **4** [I] to move suddenly or violently: *The wind whipped across the plain.* | *Bill whipped around to see what was happening.* **5** **whip sb/sth into shape** INFORMAL to make a system, group of people etc. start to work in an organized way

6 [T] also **whip up** to continue to quickly mix something such as cream or the clear part of an egg very hard until it becomes stiff

whip up *phr v* [T] **1** **whip up support/enthusiasm etc.** to deliberately try to make people feel or react strongly **2** [**whip sth ↔ up**] to quickly make something to eat: *I could whip up a salad or something.*

whip-lash /'wɪplæʃ/ *n* [U] a neck injury caused when your head moves forward and back again suddenly and violently, especially in a car accident

whip-ping /'wɪpɪŋ/ *n* a punishment given to someone by hitting him/her, especially with a whip

whir /wɜː/ *v* -rred, -rring [I] to make a fairly quiet regular sound, like the sound of something spinning or moving up and down in the air very quickly: *Somewhere, an electric motor whirred.* –**whir** *n*

whirl¹ /wɜːl/ *v* [I,T] to spin around very quickly, or to make something do this: *The falling leaves whirled around her feet.*

whirl² *n* **1** **give sth a whirl** INFORMAL to try something that you are not sure you are going to like or be able to do **2** [singular] a lot of activity of a particular kind: *a whirl of social activity*

3 **be in a whirl** to feel very excited or confused about something: *Debbie's head was all in a whirl.* **4** a spinning movement, or the shape of a substance that is spinning: *a whirl of dust*

whirl-pool /'wɜːlpul/ *n* a powerful current of

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