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Collegiate  
Dictionary  
TENTH EDITION





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**three-phase** *adj* (ca. 1900) : of, relating to, or operating by means of a combination of three circuits energized by alternating electromotive forces that differ in phase by one third of a cycle  
**three-piece** *adj* (ca. 1909) : consisting of or made in three pieces (a ~ suit)

**three-point landing** *n* (1918) : an airplane landing in which the two main wheels of the landing gear and the tail wheel or skid or nose wheel touch the ground simultaneously

**three-quarter** *adj* (1677) : extending to three-quarters of the normal full length (a ~ sleeve)

**three-quarter-bound** *adj* (ca. 1951) : of a book : bound like a half-bound book but having the material on the spine extended to cover about one third of the boards — **three-quarter binding** *n*

**three-ring circus** *n* (1904) : a circus with simultaneous performances in three rings : something wild, confusing, engrossing, or entertaining

**three R's** *n pl* [fr. the facetiously used phrase *reading, 'riting, and 'rith-metic*] (1828) : 1 : the fundamentals taught in elementary school; esp : reading, writing, and arithmetic 2 : the fundamental skills in a field of endeavor

**three-score** *adj* (14c) : being three times twenty : SIXTY

**three-some** *adj* (14c) : 1 : a group of three persons or things : TRIO 2 : a golf match in which one person plays his ball against the ball of two others playing each stroke alternately

**three-spined stickleback** *n* (1769) : a stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) chiefly of fresh and brackish waters that typically has three dorsal spines



three-spined stickleback

**three-toed sloth** *n* (1879) : any of a genus (*Bradypus*) of sloths having three clawed digits on each foot and nine vertebrae in the neck — compare TWO-TOED SLOTH

**three-wheel-er** *n* (1886) : any of various vehicles having three wheels

**three-node** *n* (1858) : THRENOLOGY — **three-nod-ic** *adj* (1858) : THRENOLOGICAL — **three-nod-ist** *n* (1858) : THRENOLOGIST — **three-nod-ism** *n* (1858) : THRENOLOGY — **three-nod-ism** *n* (1858) : THRENOLOGY

**three-o-nine** *n* (1858) : THRENOLOGY — **three-o-nine** *n* (1858) : THRENOLOGY — **three-o-nine** *n* (1858) : THRENOLOGY

**thresh** *vb* (ME *threschen*, fr. OE *threscan*; akin to OHG *threskan* to thresh) *vt* (bef. 12c) 1 : to separate seed from (a harvested plant) mechanically; also : to separate (seed) in this way 2 : THRESH 3 : to strike repeatedly ~ *vi* 1 : to thresh grain 2 : THRESH 2, 3

**thresher** *n* (14c) 1 : one that threshes; esp : THRESHING MACHINE 2 : THRESHER SHARK

**thresher shark** *n* (1888) : a large nearly cosmopolitan shark (*Alopias vulpinus*) having a greatly elongated curved upper lobe of its tail with which it is said to thresh the water to round up the fish on which it feeds — see SHARK illustration

**threshing machine** *n* (1775) : a machine for separating grain crops into grain or seeds and straw

**threshold** *n* (13c) : 1 : the plank, stone, or piece of timber that lies under a door (bef. 12c) 2 : a : GATE, DOOR b (1) : END, BOUNDARY; specif : the end of a runway (2) : the place or point of entering or beginning : OUTSET (on the ~ of a new age) 3 a : the point at which a physiological or psychological effect begins to be produced b : a level, point, or value above which something is true or will take place and below which it is not or will not

**thrive** *vb* (ME *thrive*, *thries*, fr. OE *thriga*; akin to OFris *thria* three times, OE *thrie* three) (13c) 1 : three times 2 a : in a threefold manner or degree b : to a high degree

**thrift** *n* (13c) : 1 : ON, prosperity, fr. *thrifask* to thrive (13c) 1 : healthy and vigorous growth 2 : careful management esp. of money 3 chiefly Scot : gaudy occupation 4 : any of a genus (*Armeria*) of the plumbago family of perennial evergreen acaulescent herbs; esp : a scape herb (*A. maritima*) with pink or white flower heads 5 : a savings bank or savings and loan association — called also *thrift institution*

**thrift-less** *adj* (1568) 1 : lacking usefulness or worth 2 : careless, wasteful, or incompetent in handling money or resources : IMPROVIDENT — **thrift-less-ly** *adv* — **thrift-less-ness** *n*

**thrift shop** *n* (1944) : a shop that sells secondhand articles and esp. clothes and is often run for charitable purposes

**thrifty** *adj* (15c) : 1 : thriving by industry and frugality : PROSPEROUS 2 : growing vigorously 3 : given to or marked by economy and good management *syn* see SPARING — **thrifty-ly** *adv* — **thrifty-ness** *n*

**thrill** *vb* (ME *thriren*, *thriren* to pierce, fr. OE *thryllan*, fr. *thryel* hole, fr. *thruh* through — more at THROUGH) *v* (1592) 1 a : to cause to experience a sudden sharp feeling of excitement b : to cause to have a shivering or tingling sensation 2 : to cause to vibrate or tremble perceptibly ~ *vi* 1 : to move or pass so as to cause a sudden sharp excitement 2 : to become thrilled : a : to experience a sudden sharp excitement b : TREMBLE, THROB 3 : TREMBLE, VIBRATE — **thrill** *n* — **thrill-ing-ly** *adv*

**thriller** *n* (1889) : one that thrills; esp : a work of fiction or drama designed to hold the interest by the use of a high degree of intrigue, adventure, or suspense

**thrills** *n pl* (1795) : any of an order (Thysanoptera) of small to minute sucking insects most of which feed often destructively on plant juices

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**thriving** *adj* (1607) : characterized by success or prosperity — **thriving-ly** *adv*

**thro** *prep* (15c) *archaic* : THROUGH

**throat** *n* (ME *throthe*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *drozza* throat) (bef. 12c) 1 a (1) : the part of the neck in front of the spinal column (2) : the passage through the neck to the stomach and lungs b (1) : VOICE (2) : the seat of the voice 2 : something resembling the throat esp. in being an entrance, a passageway, a constriction, or a narrowed part; as a : the orifice of a tubular organ esp. of a plant b : the opening in the vamp of a shoe at the instep c : the part of a tennis racket that connects the head with the shaft 3 : the curved part of an anchor's arm where it joins the shank — see ANCHOR illustration — **at each other's throats** : in open and aggressive conflict

**throat** *vt* (ca. 1611) 1 : to utter in the throat : MUTTER 2 : to sing or enunciate in a throaty voice

**throat-ed** *adj* (ca. 1530) : having a throat esp. of a specified kind — *usu.* used in combination (white-throated)

**throat-latch** *n* (1794) 1 : a strap of a bridle or halter passing under a horse's throat 2 : the part of a horse's throat around which the throatlatch passes — see HORSE illustration

**throaty** *adj* (1645) 1 : uttered or produced from low in the throat (a ~ voice) 2 : heavy, thick, and deep as if from the throat (a ~ note of a horn) — **throat-ily** *adv* — **throat-iness** *n* — **throat-ness** *n*

**throb** *vb* (14c) : 1 : to pulsate or pound with abnormal force or rapidity 2 : to beat or vibrate rhythmically — **throb-ber** *n*

**throb** *n* (1579) : BEAT, PULSE

**throe** *n* (ME *thrawe*, *thrawe*, fr. OE *thrawu*, *threa* threat, pang; akin to OHG *drawa* threat) (13c) 1 : PANG, SPASM (death ~s) (a ~ of childbirth) 2 *pl* : a hard or painful struggle (the ~s of revolutionary social change — M. D. Geismar)

**thromb-** or **thrombo-** *comb form* [Gk *thrombos* clot] : blood clot : clotting of blood (*thrombin*) (*thromboplastin*)

**thrombin** *n* (1898) : a proteolytic enzyme that is formed from prothrombin and facilitates the clotting of blood by catalyzing conversion of fibrinogen to fibrin

**thrombocyte** *n* (1893) : BLOOD PLATELET; also : an invertebrate cell with similar function — **thrombocyte-ic** *adj* (*thram-bō-si-tik*) *adj*

**thrombocytopenia** *n* (1923) : persistent decrease in the number of blood platelets that is often associated with hemorrhagic conditions — **thrombocytopenic** *adj* (*thram-bō-si-tik*) *adj*

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