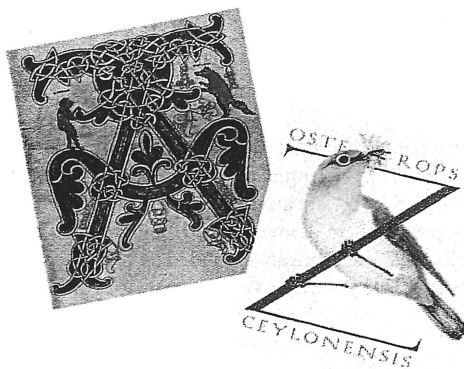


The
American
Heritage[®] Dictionary
of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



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Dor·drecht (dôr'drĕkt', -drĕkht') also **Dort** (dôrt) A city of southwest Netherlands on the Meuse River southeast of Rotterdam. Founded in the 11th century, it is a railroad junction and river port. Population: 113,041.

Dor·ré (dô-rĕ'), (Paul) **Gustave** 1832–1883. French artist best known for his imaginative drawings and lithographs in editions of Balzac's *Droll Stories* (1856) and Cervantes's *Don Quixote* (1863).

Dor·ri·an (dôr'ri-ən, dôr'-) *n.* One of a Hellenic people that invaded Greece around 1100 B.C. and remained culturally and linguistically distinct within the Greek world. [Latin *Dōriānus*, from *Dōrius*, from Greek *Dōrios*, from *Dōris*, Doris.] —**Dor'ri·an** *adj.*

Dor·ic (dôr'ik, dôr'-) *n.* A dialect of ancient Greek spoken in the Peloponnesus, Crete, certain of the Aegean Islands, Sicily, and southern Italy. *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, characteristic of, or designating Doric. 2. In the style of or designating the Doric order. [Latin *Dōricus*, from Greek *Dōrikos*, from *Dōris*, Doris.]

Doric order *n.* 1. The oldest and simplest of the three main orders of classical Greek architecture, characterized by heavy fluted columns with plain, saucer-shaped capitals and no base. 2. A Roman order of similar design but with the addition of a base.

Dor·is (dôr'is, dôr'-, dôr'-) *n.* An ancient region of central Greece. It was the traditional homeland of the Dorians.

dork (dôrk) *n.* 1. *Slang* A stupid, inept, or foolish person: "the stupid antics of America's favorite teen-age cartoon dorks" (Joshua Mooney). 2. *Vulgar Slang* The penis. [Perhaps from *dork*, variant of DIRK.] —**dork'i·ness** *n.* —**dork'y** *adj.*

Dor·king (dôr'king) *n.* A heavy-bodied domestic fowl having five toes on each foot and raised chiefly for table use. [After *Dorking*, an urban district of southern England.]

dorm (dôrm) *n.* *Informal* A dormitory.

dor·mant (dôr'mənt) *adj.* 1. Lying asleep or as if asleep; inactive. 2. Latent but capable of being activated: "a harrowing experience which . . . lay dormant but still menacing" (Charles Jackson). 3. Temporarily quiet: "a dormant volcano." See synonyms at **inactive**, **latent**. 4. In a condition of biological rest or inactivity characterized by cessation of growth or development and the suspension of many metabolic processes. [Middle English, from Old French, from present participle of *dormir*, to sleep, from Latin *dormire*.] —**dor'man·cy** *n.*

dor·mer (dôr'mar) *n.* 1. A window set vertically into a small gable projecting from a sloping roof. 2. The gable holding such a window. [Obsolete French *dormeur*, sleeping room, from *dormir*, to sleep. See DORMANT.]

dor·mie also **dor·my** (dôr'mĕ) *adj.* Ahead of an opponent in a golf match by as many holes as there are holes remaining to be played. [Origin unknown.]

dor·min (dôr'mĭn) *n.* Abscisic acid. [DORM(ANCY) + -IN.]

dor·mi·to·ry (dôr'mĭ-tôr'ĕ, -tôr'ĕ) *n., pl. -ries* 1. A room providing sleeping quarters for a number of persons. 2. A building for housing a number of persons, as at a school or resort. 3. A community whose inhabitants commute to a nearby city for employment and recreation. [Middle English *dormitorie*, from Latin *dormitōrium*, from *dormitōrius*, of sleep, from *dormitus*, past participle of *dormire*, to sleep.]

dor·mouse (dôr'mous') *n.* Any of various small, squirrellike Old World rodents of the family Gliridae. [Middle English, probably alteration (influenced by *mous*, mouse) of Anglo-Norman *dormeus*, inclined to sleep, hibernating, from Old French *dormir*, to sleep. See DORMANT.]

dor·my (dôr'mĕ) *adj.* Variant of **dormie**.

dor·nase al·fa (dôr'nās' əlfə, -nāz') *n.* A genetically engineered enzyme used to hydrolyze the DNA in bronchial mucus, facilitating its expectoration, in the treatment of cystic fibrosis. [Alteration of (*recombinant human*) *d(e)oxy(r)ibo(n)uclease* (1) + alteration of ALPHA.]

dor·nick (dôr'nik) *n.* A coarse damask. [Middle English, after *Doornik* (Tournai), a city of southwest Belgium.]

♦ **dor·nick**² (dôr'nik) *n.* *Lower Northern U.S.* A stone small enough to throw from a field being cleared. [Probably from Irish Gaelic *dornóg*, a small round stone.]

Regional Note The word *dornick* is used from Pennsylvania westward to Iowa. It probably comes from Irish Gaelic *dornóg*, "a small round stone." Craig M. Carver, author of *American Regional Dialects*, attributes the introduction of the term to the Scotch-Irish Protestants from Northern Ireland who emigrated to America in the 18th century. *Dornick* must have been one of the "few purely Irish terms" in the otherwise English and Scots lexicon of the Scotch-Irish.

do·ron·i·cum (dō-rŏn'i-kəm) *n.* A plant of the genus *Doronicum*, which includes the leopard's bane. [New Latin, from Arabic *darawnajs*, from Persian *darūnak*.]

dorp (dôrp) *n.* *South African* A small town. [Afrikaans, from Middle Dutch. See **treb-** in Appendix I.]

dors- *pref.* Variant of **dorso-**.

dors·sa (dôr'sə) *n.* Plural of **dorsum**.

dors·ad (dôr'săd') *adv.* In the direction of the back; dorsally.

dorsal (dôr'səl) *adj.* 1. *Anatomy* Of, toward, on, in, or near the back or upper surface of an organ, part, or organism. 2. *Botany* Of or on the outer surface, underside, or back of an organ. [Middle English, from Late Latin *dorsālis*, from Latin *dorsūlis*, from *dorsum*, back.] —**dors'al·ly** *adv.*

dorsal fin *n.* The main fin located on the back of fishes and certain marine mammals.

dorsal root *n.* The more posterior of the two nerve fiber bundles of

Dor·set¹ (dôr'sĭt) *n.* An early Native American culture flourishing in small coastal settlements in northern Greenland and the eastern Canadian Arctic south to Newfoundland from about 800 B.C. to A.D. 1000. [After Cape Dorset, Baffin Island, site of excavations.]

Dor·set² (dôr'sĭt) A region of southwest England on the English Channel. Part of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex, it was used as the setting for many of Thomas Hardy's novels.

Dorset Horn *n.* A domestic sheep of a breed having large horns and medium-length, fine-textured wool. [After DORSET, England.]

Dor·sey (dôr'sĕ), **Tommy** 1905–1956. American band leader. He and his brother **Jimmy** (1904–1957) were known for their swing bands that were particularly popular in the 1930s and 1940s.

dorsi- *pref.* Variant of **dorso-**.

dor·si·ven·tral (dôr'sĭ-vĕn'trəl) or **dor·so·ven·tral** (-sô-) *adj.* 1. *Botany* Flattened and having distinct upper and lower surfaces, as most leaves do. 2. *Biology* Extending from a dorsal to a ventral surface: *dorsiventral muscles*. —**dor'si·ven'tral·ly** *adv.*

dorso- or **dors-** *pref.* 1. Back; dorsal. 2. Dorsal: *dorsoventral*. [From Latin *dorsum*, back.]

dor·so·lat·er·al (dôr'sô-lăt'ĕr-əl) *adj.* Of or involving both the back and the side. —**dor'so-lat'er-al·ly** *adv.*

dor·so·ven·tral (dôr'sô-vĕn'trəl) *adj.* Variant of **dorsiventral**.

dor·sum (dôr'səm) *n., pl. -sa* (-sə) 1. The back. 2. The upper, outer surface of an organ, appendage, or part: *the dorsum of the foot*. [Latin, back.]

Dort (dôrt) See **Dordrecht**.

Dort·mund (dôr'tmænd, -mōnt') A city of west-central Germany north-northeast of Cologne. First mentioned c. 885, it flourished from the 13th to the 17th century as a member of the Hanseatic League. Population: 601,966.

dory¹ (dôr'ĕ, dôr'ĕ) *n., pl. -ries* A small, narrow, flatbottom fishing boat with high sides and a sharp prow. [Origin unknown.]

dory² (dôr'ĕ, dôr'ĕ) *n., pl. -ries* 1. John Dory. 2. See **walleye** (sense 1). [Middle English *dorre*, from Old French *doree*, from feminine past participle of *dorer*, to gild, from Late Latin *deaurāre*: Latin *dĕ-*, de- + Latin *aurum*, gold.]

DOS (dôs, dôs) *n.* *Computer Science* An operating system that resides on a disk. [D(ISK) O(PERATING) S(YSTEM).]

dos·age (dô'sij) *n.* 1a. Administration of a therapeutic agent in prescribed amounts. b. Determination of the amount to be so administered. c. The amount so administered. 2. Addition of an ingredient to a substance in a specific amount, especially to wine.

dose (dôs) *n.* 1a. A specified quantity of a therapeutic agent, such as a drug or medicine, prescribed to be taken at one time or at stated intervals. b. The amount of radiation administered as therapy to a given site. 2. An ingredient added, especially to wine, to impart flavor or strength. 3. An amount, especially of something unpleasant, to which one is subjected: *a dose of hard luck*. 4. *Slang* A venereal infection. *tr.v.* **dosed**, **dos·ing**, **dos·es** 1. To give (someone) a dose, as of medicine. 2. To give or prescribe (medicine) in specified amounts. [French, from Late Latin *dosĭs*, from Greek, something given, from *didonai*, to give. See **dō-** in Appendix I.] —**dos'er** *n.*

do·si·do (dô'sĭ-dô') *n., pl. -dos* 1. A movement in square dancing in which two dancers approach each other and circle back to back, then return to their original positions. 2. The call given to signal such a movement. [Alteration of French *dos à dos*, back to back: *dos*, back (from Old French); see DOSSIER + *à*, to; see BLACK-A-VISED.]

dos·im·e·ter (dô-sĭm'ĭ-tĕr) *n.* An instrument that measures and indicates the amount of x-rays or radiation absorbed in a given period. [DOS(E) + -METER.]

dos·im·e·try (dô-sĭm'ĭ-trĕ) *n.* The accurate measurement of doses, especially of radiation. [DOS(E) + -METRY.] —**dos'imet'ric** (-sə-mĕt'rĭk) *adj.*

Dos Pas·sos (dôs păs'ôs), **John Roderigo** 1896–1970. American writer whose works, such as the trilogy *U.S.A.* (1930–1936), combine narrative, stream of consciousness, biography, and newspaper quotations to depict American life.

doss (dôs) *Chiefly British Slang n.* 1. Sleep; rest. 2. A crude or makeshift bed. *tr.v.* **dos**, **dos·ing**, **dos·es** To go to bed, especially in a crude or makeshift bed; sleep. [Perhaps alteration of *dorse*, back, from Latin *dorsum*.]

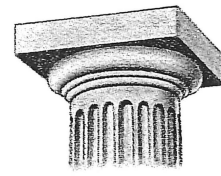
dos·al also **dos·sel** (dôs'səl) *n.* An ornamental hanging of rich fabric, as behind an altar. [Medieval Latin *dossāle*, from neuter of *dossālis*, dorsal, from Late Latin *dorsālis*. See DORSAL.]

dos·si·er (dôs'sĭ-ĕr', dô'sĕ-ĕr') *n.* A collection of papers giving detailed information about a particular person or subject. [French, from Old French, bundle of papers labeled on the back, from *dos*, back, from Latin *dorsum*.]

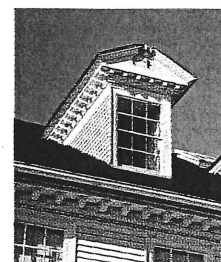
do·st (düst) *v. Archaic* A second person singular present tense of **do**¹.

Dos·to·yev·sky or **Dos·to·ev·ski** (dôs'tə-yĕf'skĕ, -toi-, dūs-), **Fedor Mikhailovich** 1821–1881. Russian writer whose works combine religious mysticism with profound psychological insight. His four great novels are *Crime and Punishment* (1866), *The Idiot* (1868–1869), *The Possessed* (1871), and *The Brothers Karamazov* (1879–1880). —**Dos'toyev'ski·an** *adj.*

dot¹ (dôt) *n.* 1a. A tiny round mark made by or as if by a pointed instrument; a spot. b. Such a mark used in orthography, as above an *i*. c. The basic unit of composition for an image produced by a device that prints text or graphics on paper: *a resolution of 900 dots per inch*. 2. A



Doric order
Doric order capital



dormer



dory¹

ă pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōo took
ā father	ōō boot
ĕ pet	ù cut
ē be	ūr urge
ĭ pit	th thin
ĭ pie	th this
ir pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ō paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: / (primary); ' (secondary), as in dictionary (dik'shə-nĕr'ĕ)