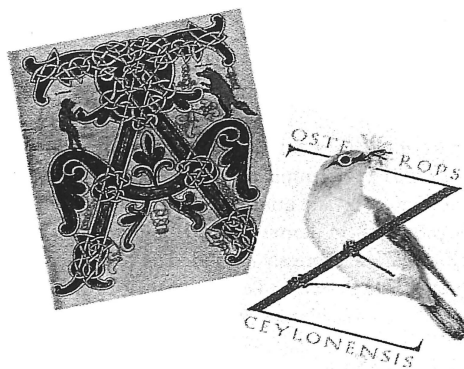


The
American
Heritage® Dictionary
of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



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amor·phism (ə-mōr'fīz'əm) *n.* The state or quality of being amorphous.

amor·phous (ə-mōr'fəs) *adj.* 1. Lacking definite form; shapeless. See synonyms at **shapeless**. 2. Of no particular type; anomalous. 3. Lacking organization; formless. 4. Lacking distinct crystalline structure. [From Greek *amorphos* : *a-*, without; see *A-1* + *morphē*, shape.] —**amor·phous·ly** *adv.* —**amor·phous·ness** *n.*

amor·ti·za·tion (ām'ər-tī-zā'shən, ə-mōr'tī-) *n.* 1a. The act or process of amortizing. b. The money set aside for this purpose. 2. In reckoning the yield of a bond bought at a premium, the periodic subtraction from its current yield of a proportionate share of the premium between the purchase date and the maturity date.

amor·tize (ām'ər-tīz', ə-mōr'tī-) *tr.v.* -tized, -tiz·ing, -tiz·es 1. To liquidate (a debt, such as a mortgage) by installment payments or payment into a sinking fund. 2. To write off an expenditure for (office equipment, for example) by prorating over a certain period. [Middle English *amortisen*, to alienate in mortmain, from Old French *amortir*, *amortiss-*, from Vulgar Latin **admortire*, to deaden : Latin *ad-*, ad- + Latin *mors*, *mort-*, death; see *mer-* in Appendix I.] —**amor·tize·able** *adj.*

A·mos¹ (ā'mās) A Hebrew prophet of the eighth century B.C. He was the earliest prophet to have a book of the Bible named for him. [Hebrew *āmōs*. See **'ms** in Appendix I.]

A·mos² (ā'mās) *n.* *Abbr.* **Am** See table at **Bible**. [After AMOS¹.]

a·mount (ə-maunt) *n.* 1. The total of two or more quantities; the aggregate. 2. A number; a sum. 3. A principal plus its interest, as in a loan. 4. The full effect or meaning; import. 5. Quantity: *a great amount of intelligence*. ❖ *intr.v.* **a·mount·ed**, **a·mount·ing**, **a·mounts** 1. To add up in number or quantity: *The purchases amounted to 50 dollars*. 2. To add up in import or effect: *That plan will never amount to anything*. 3. To be equivalent or tantamount: *accusations that amount to an indictment*. [From Middle English *amouten*, to ascend, from Old French *amont*, from *amont*, upward, from Latin *ad montem*, to the hill : *ad*, to; see *ad-* in Appendix I + *mōns*, *mont-*, hill; see **men-2** in Appendix I.]

a·mour (ə-mōor') *n.* A love affair, especially an illicit one. [Middle English, from Old French, from Old Provençal, from Latin *amor*, love. See AMOROUS.]

a·mour·pro·pre (ä-mōor-prōp'rē) *n.* Respect for oneself; self-esteem. [French : *amour*, love + *propre*, own.]

a·mox·i·cil·lin (ə-mōk'sī-sil'in) *n.* A semisynthetic penicillin, C₁₆H₁₉N₃O₃S, having an antibacterial spectrum of action similar to that of ampicillin. [AM(INO) + (HYDR)OX(Y) + (PEN)ICILLIN.]

A·moy¹ (ä-moi') See **Xiamen**.

A·moy² (ä-moi', ə-moi') *n.* The variety of Chinese spoken in and around the city of Xiamen in Fujian province in southeast China. [After *A moy* (Xiamen).]

amp (ämp) *n.* *Informal* 1. An ampere. 2. An amplifier, especially one used to amplify music.

AMP (ä'ēm-pē') *n.* A mononucleotide, C₁₀H₁₄N₅O₇P, found in animal cells and reversibly convertible to ADP and ATP; adenosine monophosphate. Also called *adenylic acid*. [A(DENOSINE)M(ONO)P(HOSPHATE).]

am·per·age (äm'pär-ij, äm'pär'-) *n.* The strength of an electric current expressed in amperes.

am·pere (äm'pär) *n.* *Abbr.* **A** 1. A unit of electric current in the meter-kilogram-second system. It is the steady current that when flowing in straight parallel wires of infinite length and negligible cross section, separated by a distance of one meter in free space, produces a force between the wires of 2×10^{-7} newtons per meter of length. 2. A unit in the International System specified as one International coulomb per second and equal to 0.999835 ampere. See table at **measurement**. [After André Marie AMPÈRE.]

Am·père (äm'pär, än-pär') **André Marie** 1775–1836. French physicist and mathematician who formulated Ampère's law, a mathematical description of the magnetic field produced by a current-carrying conductor.

am·pere·hour (äm'pär-ūr) *n.* *Abbr.* **A.h.** or **amp hr** The electric charge transferred past a specified circuit point by a current of one ampere in one hour.

am·pere·turn (äm'pär-türn') *n.* *Abbr.* **At** A unit of magnetomotive force in the meter-kilogram-second system equal to the magnetomotive force around a path linking one turn of a conducting loop carrying a current of one ampere.

am·per·sand (äm'pär-sänd') *n.* The character or sign (&) representing the word *and*. [Alteration of *and per se and*, & (the sign) by itself (means) and.]

am·phet·a·mine (äm-fēt'ə-mēn', -mīn) *n.* 1. A colorless, volatile liquid, C₉H₁₃N, used as a central nervous system stimulant in the treatment of certain conditions, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, depression, and narcolepsy, and abused illegally as a stimulant. 2. A derivative of amphetamine, such as dextroamphetamine or a phosphate or sulfate of amphetamine. [A(LPHA) + M(ETHYL) + PH(ENYL) + ET(HYL) + AMINE.]

amphi- *pref.* 1. Both: *amphibiotic*. 2. On both sides: *amphistylar*. 3. Around: *amphithecium*. [Latin, from Greek, from *amphi*, on both sides, around. See **ambi** in Appendix I.]

am·phi·ar·thro·sis (äm'fē-är-thrō'sis) *n., pl. -ses* (-sēz) A type of articulation between bony surfaces that permits limited motion and is connected by ligaments or elastic cartilage, such as that between the vertebrae.

am·phib·i·an (äm-fīb'i-ən) *n.* 1. A cold-blooded, smooth-

then transforms into an adult having air-breathing lungs. 2. An animal capable of living both on land and in water. 3. An aircraft that can take off and land on either land or water. 4. A tracked or wheeled vehicle that can operate both on land and in water. [From New Latin *Amphibia*, class name, from Greek, neuter pl. of *amphibios*, amphibious : *amphi-*, *amphi-* + *bios*, life; see **g^wei-** in Appendix I.]

am·phi·bi·o·tic (äm'fī-bī-ō'tīk) *adj.* Living in water during an early stage of development and on land during the adult stage.

am·phib·i·ous (äm-fīb'i-əs) *adj.* 1. *Biology* Living or able to live both on land and in water. 2. Able to operate both on land and in water: *amphibious tanks*. 3. Relating to or organized for a military landing by means of combined naval and land forces. 4. Of a mixed or twofold nature. [From Latin *amphibius*, from Greek *amphibios*. See AMPHIBIAN.] —**am·phib·i·ous·ly** *adv.* —**am·phib·i·ous·ness** *n.*

am·phi·bole (äm'fā-bōl') *n.* Any of a large group of structurally similar hydrated double silicate minerals, such as hornblende, containing various combinations of sodium, calcium, magnesium, iron, and aluminum. [French, from Late Latin *amphibolus*, ambiguous, from Greek *amphibolos*, doubtful, from *amphiballein*, to throw on either side : *amphi-*, *amphi-* + *ballein*, to throw; see **g^welā-** in Appendix I.] —**am·phi·bol·ic** (-bōl'īk) *adj.*

am·phib·o·lite (äm-fīb'ə-līt') *n.* A metamorphic rock composed chiefly of amphibole with minor plagioclase and little quartz. —**am·phib·o·lit·ic** (-līt'īk) *adj.*

am·phi·bol·o·gy (äm'fā-bōl'ə-jē) *n., pl. -gies* An ambiguous or equivocal statement. [French *amphibologie*, from Late Latin *amphibologia* : Latin *amphibolia*, ambiguity (from Greek *amphibolia*, from *amphibolos*, doubtful; see AMPHIBOLE) + Latin *-logia*, *-logy* (added on the model of such words as *tautologia*, tautology).]

am·phib·o·lous (äm-fīb'ə-ləs) *adj.* Having a grammatical structure that allows of two interpretations; equivocal. [From Late Latin *amphibolus*. See AMPHIBOLE.]

am·phi·brach (äm'fā-brāk') *n.* A trisyllabic metrical foot having one accented or long syllable between two unaccented or short syllables, as in the word *remember*. [Latin *amphibrachys*, from Greek *amphibrachus* : *amphi-*, *amphi-* + *brachus*, short; see **mregh-u-** in Appendix I.]

am·phic·ty·o·ny (äm-fīk'tē-ə-nē) *n., pl. -nies* A league of neighboring ancient Greek states sharing a common religious center or shrine, especially the one at Delphi. [Greek *Amphiktuonia*, from *amphiktuones*, variant of *amphiktiones*, neighbors : *amphi-*, on the periphery; see **AMPHI-** + *ktizein*, to settle; see **ktei-** in Appendix I.] —**am·phic·ty·o·n·ic** (-ōn'īk) *adj.*

am·phi·dip·loid (äm'fī-dīp'lōid) *adj.* Having a diploid set of chromosomes derived from each parent. ❖ *n.* An organism or individual having a diploid set of chromosomes derived from each parent. —**am·phi·dip·loid·y** *n.*

am·phim·a·cer (äm-fīm'ə-sər) *n.* A trisyllabic metrical foot having an unaccented or short syllable between two accented or long syllables, as in *Peter Pan*. Also called *cretic*. [Latin *amphimacrus*, from Greek *amphimakros* : *amphi-*, *amphi-* + *makros*, long; see **māk-** in Appendix I.]

am·phi·mix·is (äm'fā-mīk'sis) *n., pl. -mix·es* (-mīk'sēz) The union of the sperm and egg in sexual reproduction. [AMPHI- + Greek *mixis*, a mingling (from *mignunai*, *mik-*, to mingle; see **meik-** in Appendix I).] —**am·phi·mic·tic** (-mīk'tīk) *adj.*

Am·phi·on (äm'fī-ōn) *n.* *Greek Mythology* The son of Zeus and the twin brother of Zethus, with whom he built a wall around Thebes by charming the stones into place with the music of his magical lyre.

am·phi·ox·us (äm'fē-ōk'səs) *n.* See **lancelet**. [AMPHI- + Greek *oxus*, sharp; see **ak-** in Appendix I.]

am·phi·phil·ic (äm'fā-fīl'īk) *adj.* Of or relating to a molecule having a polar, water-soluble group attached to a nonpolar, water-insoluble hydrocarbon chain.

am·phi·pod (äm'fā-pōd') *n.* A small crustacean of the order Amphipoda, such as the beach flea, having a laterally compressed body with no carapace. [From New Latin *Amphipoda*, order name : AMPHI- + New Latin *-poda*, *-pod*.]

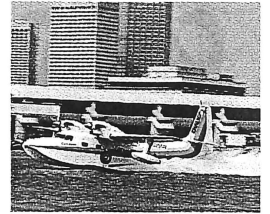
am·phi·ro·style (äm-fīp'rō-stīl', äm'fī-prō'stīl') *adj.* Having a prostyle or set of columns at each end but none along the sides, as in some Greek temples. [Latin *amphiprostylus*, from Greek *amphiprostylōs* : *amphi-*, *amphi-* + *prostūlos*, with pillars in front; see **PROSTYLE**.] —**am·phip·ro·style·n.**

am·phis·bae·na (äm'fis-bē'nə) *n.* A mythical serpent having a head at each end of its body. [Middle English *amphibena*, from Latin *amphisbaena*, from Greek *amphisbaina* : *amphis*, both ways (from *amphi-*, *amphi-*) + *bainein*, to go; see **g^wa-** in Appendix I.] —**am·phis·bae·nic** *adj.*

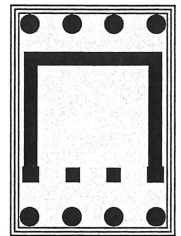
am·phi·sty·lar (äm'fī-stīl'ār) *adj.* Having columns at both front and back or on each side, as some Greek temples. [From AMPHI- + Greek *stūlos*, pillar; see **stā-** in Appendix I.]

am·phi·the·ater (äm'fā-thē'ə-tēr) *n.* 1. An oval or round structure having tiers of seats rising gradually outward from a central open space or arena. 2. An arena where contests and spectacles are held. 3. A level area surrounded by upward sloping ground. 4. An upper, sloping gallery with seats for spectators, as in a theater or operating room. [Middle English *amphitheatre*, from Latin *amphitheatrum*, from Greek *amphitheātron* : *amphi-*, *amphi-* + *theātron*, theater; see **THEATER**.] —**am·phi·the·at·ric** (-ät'īk), **am·phi·the·at·ri·cal** *adj.* —**am·phi·the·at·ri·cal·ly** *adv.*

am·phi·the·ci·um (äm'fā-thē'shē-əm, -sē-əm) *n., pl. -cia* (-shē-ə-sē-ə) The outer layer of cells of the spore-containing capsule of a



amphibian
amphibious aircraft



amphiprostyle
plan of the Temple of Athena Nike at the Acropolis, Athens



amphitheater
built by the Romans
c. 200 B.C., Segesta, Sicily

ä pat	oi boy
ä pay	ou out
är care	ōō took
ä father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ō paw	♦ regionalism

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