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RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S

unabridged dictionary

SECOND EDITION

RANDOM HOUSE
REFERENCE

NEW YORK TORONTO LONDON SYDNEY AUCKLAND



RANDOM HOUSE
WEBSTER'S
Unabridged
Dictionary

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independent assortment

Congregationalist. [1605-15; IN-3 + DEPENDENT] -IN-3. **independ/ent-ly**, adv.

independ/ent assort/ment, *Genetics*. See **law of independent assortment**. [1945-50]

independ/ent au/dit, an audit of a company conducted by accountants from an outside accounting firm (distinguished from *internal audit*).

independ/ent ax/iom, *Logic, Math.* In a set of axioms, one that cannot be proved by using the others in the set. [1900-05]

in-dependen-tis-ta (en/de pen/den tē's/tā), n., pl. -tas (-tās). Spanish. (esp. in Latin America) a person who supports or works toward political independence, esp. one supporting radical changes in an existing government or from an existing system of government.

independ/ent suspen/sion, an automotive suspension system in which each wheel is attached to the frame independently, so that a road bump affecting one wheel has no effect on the others. [1925-30]

independ/ent var/iable, *Math.* A variable in a functional relation whose value determines the value or values of other variables, as *x* in the relation $y = 3x^2$. Cf. **dependent variable**. [1850-55]

in-depth (in/'depth/), adj. 1. extensive, thorough, or profound: an *in-depth analysis of the problem*. 2. well-based or fully developed. [1960-65]

in-der-al (in/'de rōl/, -rōl/), *Pharm., Trademark*. A brand of propranolol.

in-de-scrib-a-ble (in/'di skri/'bē bəl), adj. not describable; too extraordinary for description: a scene of *in-describable confusion*; *in-describable euphoria*. [1785-95; IN-3 + DESCRIBABLE] -in-'de-scrib-'a-bil/i-ty, **in-de-scrib-'a-ble-ness**, n. -in-'de-scrib-'a-bil-y, adv. -Syn. overwhelming, indefinable, unutterable.

in-de-struct-i-ble (in/'di struk/'tə bəl), adj. not destructible; that cannot be destroyed. [1665-75; < LL *in-dēstrūctibilis*. See IN-3, **DESTRUCTIBLE**] -in-'de-struct-'i-bil/i-ty, **in-de-struct-'i-ble-ness**, n. -in-'de-struct-'i-bil-y, adv. -Syn. unbreakable, permanent, enduring.

in-de-ter-mi-na-ble (in/'di tūr/'mē nə bəl), adj. 1. not determinable; incapable of being ascertained. 2. incapable of being decided or settled. [1480-90; < LL *indēterminabilis*. See IN-3, **DETERMINABLE**] -in-'de-ter-'mi-na-ble-ness, n. -in-'de-ter-'mi-na-bil-y, adv.

in-de-ter-mi-na-cy (in/'di tūr/'mē nə sē), n. the condition or quality of being indeterminate; indeterminateness. [1640-50; INDETERMINATE + -ACY]

in-der-mi-nacy prin/ciple, *Physics*. See **uncertainty principle**. [1925-30]

in-de-ter-mi-nate (in/'di tūr/'mē nit), adj. 1. not determinate; not precisely fixed in extent; indefinite; uncertain. 2. not clear; vague. 3. not established. 4. not settled or decided. 5. *Math.* a. (of a quantity) undefined, as $0/0$. b. (of an equation) able to be satisfied by more than one value for each unknown. 6. *Bot.* (of an inflorescence) having the axis or axes not ending in a flower or bud, thus allowing further elongation. -n. 7. *Math.* something whose value is not specified: used esp. in abstract algebra; a variable. [1350-1400; ME < LL *indēterminatus*. See IN-3, **DETERMINATE**] -in-'de-ter-'mi-nate-ly, adv. -in-'de-ter-'mi-nate-ness, n. -Syn. 2. ambiguous.

in-der-mi-nate sen/tence, *Criminal Law*. a penalty, imposed by a court, that has relatively wide limits or no limits, as one of imprisonment for one to ten years. [1870-75]

in-de-ter-mi-na-tion (in/'di tūr/'mē nā'shən), n. 1. the quality or condition of being indeterminate. 2. an unsettled state, as of the mind. [1610-20; INDETERMINATE + -ION]

in-de-ter-min-ism (in/'di tūr/'mē niz/əm), n. *Philos.* 1. the doctrine that human actions, though influenced somewhat by preexisting psychological and other conditions, are not entirely governed by them but retain a certain freedom and spontaneity. 2. the theory that the will is to some extent independent of the strength of motives, or may itself modify their strength in choice. [1870-77; IN-3 + DETERMINISM] -in-'de-ter-'min-ist, n., adj. -in-'de-ter-'min-ist-ic, adj.

in-dex (in/'dɛks), n., pl. **-dex-es**, **-di-ces** (-dē sēz'/, v. -n. 1. (in a nonfiction book, monograph, etc.) a more or less detailed alphabetical listing of names, places, and topics along with the numbers of the pages on which they are mentioned or discussed, usually included in or constituting the back matter. 2. a sequential arrangement of material, esp. in alphabetical or numerical order. 3. something used or serving to point out; a sign, token, or indication: a *true index of his character*. 4. something that directs attention to some fact, condition, etc.; a guiding principle. 5. a pointer or indicator in a scientific instrument. 6. a piece of wood, metal, or the like, serving as a pointer or indicator. 7. *Computers*. a. a value that identifies and is used to locate a particular element within a data array or table. b. a reference table that contains the keys or references needed to address data items. 8. Also called **flist**, **hand**. *Print.* a sign in the shape of a hand with extended index finger, used to point out a particular note, paragraph, etc. 9. a light, smooth cardboard stock. 10. the forefinger. 11. a number or formula expressing some property, ratio, etc., of something indicated: *index of growth*; *index of intelligence*. 12. *Statistics*. See **index number**. 13. *Econ.* See **price index**. 14. *Algebra*. a. an exponent *b*, the integer *n* in a radical $\sqrt[n]{}$ defining the *n*-th root: $\sqrt[3]{}$ is a radical having index three. c. a subscript or superscript indicating the position of an object in a series of similar objects, as the subscripts 1, 2, and 3 in the series x_1, x_2, x_3 . d. See **winding number**. 15. *Horol.* a leverlike regulator for a hairspring. 16. (cap.) *Rom. Cath. Ch.* a. See **Index Librorum Prohibitorium**. b. See **Index Expurgatorius**. 17. (usually cap.) any list of forbidden or otherwise restricted material.

contents, b. a preface or prologue. -u.t. 20. to provide with an index, as a book. 21. to enter in an index, as a name or approach of spring. 23. to indicate: *warm breezes indexing the politically or morally harmful*: The *commissioner insisted on indexing the book*. 24. to rotate (work) on a milling machine. 25. *Econ.* to repeat the milling operation at a new positioning to changes in (wages, taxes, etc.) automatically according to adjust (wages, taxes, etc.) automatically according to offset inflation. [1350-1400; ME < L: *index*, show, declare, INDICATE; akin to *TEACH*] + -s. nom. sing. ending] -in-'dex-'a-ble, adj. -in-'dex-'er, n. -in-'dex-'i-cal, adj. -in-'dex-'i-cal-ly, adv. -in-'dex-'less, adj.

in-dex-a-tion (in/'dɛk sē'shən), n. *Econ.* the automatic adjustment of wages, taxes, pension benefits, interest rates, etc., according to changes in the cost of living or another economic indicator, esp. to compensate for inflation. [INDEX + -ATION]

in-dex card, a card, often relatively small, as 3×5 in. (7.6 \times 12.7 cm), used in noting or recording information and usually filed in an index. [1925-30]

in-dex crime, a crime included in the yearly crime statistics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. [1965-70; so called because it provides an index of the general level of criminal activity]

in-dex Ex-pur-ga-to-ri-us (in/'dɛks ik spər'gə tōr-'ē-sə, tōr-'ē-), pl. **in-di-ces Ex-pur-ga-to-ri-i** (in/'dɛ sēz-'i kəpər'gə tōr-'ē-), *Rom. Cath. Ch.* a list of rum, forbidden to be read except from expurgated editions. [*< NL lit., expurgatory index*]

in-dex fin-ger, forefinger. [1840-50]

in-dex fos/sil, *Geol., Paleontol.* a widely distributed fossil, of narrow range in time, regarded as characteristic of a given geological formation, used esp. in determining the time of related formations. Also called **guide fossil**. [1895-1900]

in-dex fund, a fund, as a mutual fund or pension fund, with a portfolio that contains many of the securities listed in a major stock index in order to match the performance of the stock market generally. [1975-80]

in-dex-ing serv/ice, a service that indexes the contents of a number of publications for use in printed or machine-readable form. [INDEX + -ING²]

in-dex Li-br-o-rum Pro-hi-bi-to-rum (in/'dɛks li-brōr'əm prō hib'i tōr-'əm, -brōr'əm prō hib'i tōr-'ē-), pl. **in-di-ces Li-br-o-rum Pro-hi-bi-to-rum** (in/'dɛ sēz-'i li brōr'əm prō hib'i tōr-'əm, -brōr'əm prō hib'i tōr-'ē-), *Rom. Cath. Ch.* a list of books forbidden to be read except from expurgated editions or by special permission. Cf. **Index Expurgatorius**. [*< NL: index of prohibited books*]

in-dex-link (in/'dɛks lɪŋk/), v.t. Chiefly *Brit.* *Econ.* index (def. 25). [1965-70]

in-dex num/ber, *Statistics*. a quantity whose variation over a period of time measures the change in some phenomenon. Also called **index**. [1870-75]

in-dex of lead-ing in-dicators, *Econ.* See **leading indicators**.

in-dex of refrac-tion, *Optics*. a number indicating the speed of light in a given medium as either the ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum to that in the given medium (**absolute index of refraction**) or the ratio of the speed of light in a specified medium to that in the given medium (**relative index of refraction**). Symbol: *n*. Also called **index**, **refractive index**. [1820-30]

in-dex plate, *Mach.* a plate perforated with rows of different numbers of equally spaced holes as a guide for indexing work. [1815-25]

in-dex set, *Math.* a set whose elements are used to indicate the order of the elements of a sequence, series, etc.



in-dia (in/'di ə), n. 1. *Hindi, Bharat*, a republic in S Asia: a union comprising 25 states and 7 union territories; formerly a British colony; gained independence Aug. 15, 1947; became a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations Jan. 26, 1950. 844,000,000; 1,246,880 sq. mi. (3,229,419 sq. km). Cap.: New Delhi. 2. a subcontinent in S Asia, occupied by Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Republic of India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sikkim. [*< L < Gk India, equiv. to Ind(ōs) the Indus river < OPers Hindu lit., the river; c. Skt sindhu + -ia -IA*]

in-di-a (in/'dē ə), n. a word used in communications to represent the letter I. [1950-55]

in-dia chintz, a sturdy, heavyweight fabric constructed in a figured weave, used esp. in upholstery. Also called **in-dia cot-ton**.

in-dia drug/get, druggel (def. 1).

in-dia ink, (sometimes *l.c.*) 1. a black pigment consisting of lampblack mixed with glue or size. 2. a liquid ink from this. Also called **Chinese ink**. [1655-65]

in-dian (in/'di ən), n. 1. Also called **American Indian**, **Amerind**, **Amerindian**, **Native American**. a member of the aboriginal people of America or of any of the aborig-

Indian corn
American Indians. *Abbr.*: **Ind**. 3. a member of any of the peoples native to or inhabiting India or the East Indies. 4. a citizen of the Republic of India. 5. *Slang*. a person who performs a required task or carries out the instructions of superiors: *We have too many chiefs and not enough Indians*. 6. *Astron.* the constellation **Indus**. -adj. 7. of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the American Indians or their languages. 8. of, pertaining to, or characteristic of India or the East Indies. 9. made of, or characteristic of India or the East Indies. [*< INDIAN*; cf. *Indian corn*: *Indian meal*. 10. *Zoogeog.* oriental. 11. *Phytogeog.* belonging or pertaining to a geographical division comprising India south of the Himalayas, and Pakistan and Sri Lanka. [1350-1400; < ML *Indiānus*; r. ME *Indien* < OF < ML as above. See **INDIA**, -AN]

Usage. Because Christopher Columbus mistakenly believed that the Caribbean island on which he had landed was the subcontinent of India, he called the inhabitants **INDIANS**. Eventually, that name was applied to almost all the indigenous, non-European inhabitants of North and South America. In modern times **INDIAN** may refer to an inhabitant of the subcontinent of India or of the East Indies, to a citizen of the Republic of India, or to a member of an aboriginal American people.

In the 18th century the term **American Indian** came to be used for the aboriginal inhabitants of the United States and Canada; it now includes the aboriginal peoples of South America as well. (When necessary, further distinctions are made with such terms as **North American Indian** and **South American Indian**.) The term: **Amerindian** and **Amerind** subsequently developed in the attempt to reduce ambiguity. For some, especially among North American Indians, the preferred designation is **Native American**. All these terms appear in edited writing. Whether one or several will gain ascendancy over the others remains to be seen.

The only pre-European inhabitants of North America to whom **INDIAN** or other terms using the word **INDIA** are not applied are the Eskimos or Inuit. See **Eskimo**.

in-dian-a (in/'di ən ə), n. 1. **Robert (Robert Clark)** born 1928, U.S. painter of pop art. 2. a state in the central United States: a part of the Midwest. 5,490,173 sq. mi. (93,995 sq. km). Cap.: Indianapolis. *Abb IN* (for use with zip code). *Ind*. 3. a city in W. cent. Pennsylvania. 16,051. -in-'di-an-'an, **in-dian-i-an** (in-'dē ən-'ē ən), adj., n.



in-dian/a bal/lot, a ballot on which the candidates are listed in separate columns by what is also **party-column ballot**. Cf. **Massachusetts party-column ballot**.

in-diana Dunes/Na-tional Lake/shore, a area in N Indiana, on Lake Michigan; established for recreation and conservation purposes; com. shoreline, dunes, bogs, and forests. 14 sq. mi. (36 sq. mi.).

in-dian a/gen-cy, headquarters of an Indian [1815-25, Amer.]

in-dian a/gen-t, an official representing the U. S. government in dealing with an Indian tribe or tribes. [15]

in-dian al/mond, a Malayan tree, *Terminalia toton*, having edible seeds, planted widely in the area as a street tree. [1885-90]

in-dian-apo-lis (in/'dē ə nəp'ə lis), n. a city the capital of Indiana, in the central part. 700,817.

Indianapolis 500, a 500-mile oval-track rear-engine cars having particular specification annually in Indianapolis, Ind.

in-dian bal/sam. See **Peru balsam**.

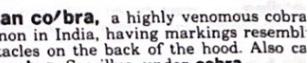
in-dian bean, catalpa. [1835-45, Amer.]

in-dian bi/son, the gaur.

in-dian bread, 1. See **corn bread**. 2. *tuck* 1). [1645-55, Amer.]

in-dian bread/root, breadroot. [1850-55]

in-dian club, a metal or wooden club shaft large bottle, swung singly or in pairs for exercise. [1855-60]



in-dian co/bra, a highly venomous cobra common in India, having markings resembling spectacles on the back of the hood. Also called **cobra**. See **illus. under cobra**.

in-dian corn, 1. *corn* (def. 1). 2. any p

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, cāpe, dāre, pārt, s; 0z, ūter, ōrder, oil, bōsh, bōst, out; up, ūder; child; that; zh as in treasure, a = a as in alone, e as in easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus, ' as in fire (f) and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in (cr)