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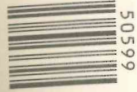
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Preface

This new edition of *THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY* is the fifth in a line of Merriam-Webster paperback dictionaries which began in 1947. It is based on and preserves the best aspects of preceding editions, but it also offers much that is new, drawing specifically on *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition*, which was published after the appearance of the last paperback edition. Every entry and every section has been reexamined and revised in light of the most current information available. Every definition has been based on examples of actual use found in the Merriam-Webster citation file, which now includes more than 14,500,000 examples of English words used in context.

The 60,000 entries in *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* give coverage to the most frequently used words in the language. The heart of the dictionary is the A-Z vocabulary section, where readers will find information about meaning, spelling, pronunciation, etymology, and synonymy. This section is followed by several others that users have long found useful: a list of foreign words and phrases that often occur in English texts; a list of nations of the world; a list of places in the United States having 18,000 or more inhabitants; a similar list of places in Canada; and a section devoted to widely used signs and symbols. The A-Z vocabulary is preceded by a set of Explanatory Notes that should be read carefully by every user of the dictionary. An understanding of the information contained in these notes will make the dictionary both easier and more rewarding to use.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary has been created by a company that has been publishing dictionaries for 150 years. It has been edited by an experienced staff of lexicographers, who believe it will serve well those who want a concise and handy guide to the English language of today.

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compost • concelebrant

com-post \kām-pōst/ *n*: a fertilizing material consisting largely of decayed organic matter
com-po-sure \kām-pō-zhər/ *n*: CALMNESS, SELF-POSSESSION
com-pote \kām-pōt/ *n* 1: fruits cooked in syrup 2: a bowl (as of glass) usu. with a base and stem for serving esp. fruit or compote
com-pound \kām-paund/ *kām-s* *vb* [ME *componere*, fr. *com-* together + *ponere* to put] 1: COMBINE 2: to form by combining parts (~ a medicine) 3: SETTLE (~ a dispute); also: to refrain from prosecuting (an offense) in return for a consideration 4: to increase (as interest) by an amount that can itself vary; also: to add to
com-pound \kām-paund/ *adj* 1: made up of individual parts 2: composed of united similar parts esp. of a kind usu. independent (a ~ plant ovary) 3: formed by the combination of two or more otherwise independent elements (~ sentence)
com-pound \kām-paund/ *n* 1: a word consisting of parts that are words 2: something formed from a union of elements or parts; esp.: a distinct substance formed by the union of two or more chemical elements syn mixture, composite, blend, admixture, alloy
com-pound \kām-paund/ *n* (by folk etymology fr. Malay *kampung* group of buildings, village) an enclosure containing buildings
compound interest *n*: interest computed on the sum of an original principal and accrued interest
com-pre-hend \kām-pri-hend/ *vb* 1: UNDERSTAND 2: INCLUDE — **com-pre-hensible** \kām-pri-hen-sə-bəl/ *adj* — **com-pre-hension** \kām-pri-hen-shən/ *n* — **com-pre-hensive** \kām-pri-hen-siv/ *adj*
com-press \kām-pres/ *vb*: to squeeze together syn constrict, contract, shrink — **com-pression** \kām-pres-shən/ *n* — **com-pres-sor** \kām-pres-sər/ *n*
com-press \kām-pres/ *n*: a folded pad or cloth used to press upon a body part
compressed air *n*: air under pressure greater than that of the atmosphere
com-prise \kām-priz/ *vb* **com-prise**: to include, contain 2: to be made up of 3: COMPOSE, CONSTITUTE
com-pro-mise \kām-prə-miz/ *n*: a settlement of differences reached by mutual concessions
compromise *vb* **com-prise**: to settle by compromise 2: to expose to suspicion or loss of reputation
com-pro-ler \kām-trō-lər/ *kām-strō* *n*: an official who audits and supervises expenditures and accounts
com-pul-sion \kām-pōl-shən/ *n* 1: an act of compelling 2: a force that com-

pels 3: an irresistible impulse syn constraint, force, violence, duress
com-pul-sive \kām-pōl-siv/ *adj* — **com-pul-sive-ly** \kām-pōl-siv-lee/ *adv*
com-punc-tion \kām-pəŋk-shən/ *n*: anxiety arising from guilt; REMORSE
com-pute \kām-pyūt/ *vb* **com-pute**: to calculate, reckon — **com-pu-tation** \kām-pyū-tā-shən/ *n* — **com-pu-ta-tional** \kām-pyū-tā-shən/ *adj*
computed tomography *n*: radiography in which a three-dimensional image of a body structure is constructed by computer from a series of plane cross-sectional images made along an axis
com-puter \kām-pyū-tər/ *n*: a programmable electronic device that can store, retrieve, and process data
com-puter-ize \kām-pyū-tə-īz/ *vb* **com-puter-ize**: to carry out, control, or produce by means of a computer 2: to provide with computers 3: to store in a computer; also: put into form that a computer can use — **com-puter-ization** \kām-pyū-tə-ī-zā-shən/ *n*
computerized axial tomography *n*: COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY
com-rade \kām-rad/ *n* [MF *comrade* group sleeping in one room, room-mate, companion, fr. Sp *comrada*, fr. *cdmara* room, fr. LL *camerā*] 1: COMPANION, ASSOCIATE — **com-rade-ly** \kām-rad-lee/ *adv* — **com-rade-ship** \kām-rad-ship/ *n*
con \kən/ *vb* **con**: to connect; **con-ning** 1: MEMORIZE 2: STUDY
con *adv*: in opposition: AGAINST
con *n*: an opposing argument, person, or position (pros and ~s)
con *vb* **con**: to connect; **con-ning** 1: SWINDLE 2: PERSUADE, CAJOLE
con *n*: CONVICT
conc *abbr* concentrated
con-cate-nate \kām-kā-tə-nāt/ *vb* **con-cate-nate**: to link together in a series or chain — **con-cate-na-tion** \kām-kā-tə-nā-shən/ *n*
con-cave \kām-kāv/ *kām-s* *adj*: curved or rounded inward like the inside of a bowl — **con-cav-ity** \kām-kāv-ē-tē/ *n*
con-ceal \kām-sēl/ *vb*: to place out of sight; HIDE — **con-ceal-ment** \kām-sēl-mənt/ *n*
con-cede \kām-sēd/ *vb* **con-cede**: to admit to be true 2: GRANT, YIELD syn allow, acknowledge, avow, confess
con-ceive \kām-sēv/ *n* 1: excessively high opinion of one's self or ability 2: VANITY 2: an elaborate or strained metaphor — **con-ceived** *adj*
con-ceive \kām-sēv/ *vb* **con-ceive**: to become pregnant or pregnant with (~ a child) 2: to form an idea of; THINK, IMAGINE — **con-ceive-able** \kām-sēv-ə-bəl/ *adj* — **con-ceive-ably** \kām-sēv-ə-bəl/ *adv*
con-cele-brant \kām-sē-lə-brənt/ *n*: one that jointly participates in celebrating the Eucharist

166

167

concentrate • concretion

con-centrate \kām-sən-strāt/ *vb* **con-centrate**: to gather into one mass, or force 2: to make less 3: to fix one's powers, efforts.
con-centrate *n*: something concentrated
con-centra-tion \kām-sən-trā-shən/ *n*: the act or process of concentrating
con-cierge \kām-syerzh/ *n*, *pl* **con-cierges** \kām-syerzh-əz/ [F] 1: a resident in an apartment building who performs services for the tenants 2: a usu. multilingual hotel staff member
con-cil-i-ate \kām-si-lē-āt/ *vb* **con-cil-i-ate**: to bring into agreement
con-cil-i-ation \kām-si-lē-ā-shən/ *n*: RECONCILE 2: to gain the goodwill of
con-cil-i-a-tory \kām-si-lē-ā-tōr-ē/ *adj*
con-cise \kām-sis/ *adj*: expressing much in few words; BRIEF — **con-cise-ly** \kām-sis-lee/ *adv* — **con-ciseness** *n*
con-clave \kām-klāv/ *n* [ML. fr. L. room that can be locked, fr. *com-* together + *clavis* key] a private gathering; also: CONVENTION
con-clude \kām-klūd/ *vb* **con-clude**: to bring to a close
con-clud-ing 1: to bring to a close; END 2: DECIDE, JUDGE 3: to bring about as a result syn close, finish, terminate, complete, halt
con-clusion \kām-klū-zhən/ *n* 1: the logical consequence of a reasoning process 2: TERMINATION, END 3: OUTCOME, RESULT — **con-clu-sive** \kām-klū-siv/ *adj* — **con-clu-sively** \kām-klū-siv-lee/ *adv*
con-coct \kām-kākt/ *kām-s* *vb* 1: to prepare by combining raw materials 2: DEVISE — **con-coction** \kām-kākt-shən/ *n*
con-com-pant \kām-mə-tənt/ *adj*: ACCOMPANYING, ATTENDING — **con-com-pan-tant** *n*
con-cord \kām-kōrd/ *kām-ā* *n*: AGREEMENT, HARMONY
con-cord-ance \kām-kōrd-əns/ *n* 1: an alphabetical index of words in a book or in an author's works with the passages in which they occur 2: AGREEMENT, COVENANT
con-cord-ant \kām-kōrd-ənt/ *adj*: HARMONIOUS, AGREEING
con-cord-at \kām-kōrd-ət/ *n*: CONCORDANCE 2
con-course \kām-kōrs/ *n* 1: a spontaneous coming together; GATHERING 2: an open space or hall (as in a bus terminal) where crowds gather
con-crete \kām-krēt/ *kām-krēt* *adj* 1: naming a real thing or class of things; not abstract 2: not theoretical: ACTUAL 3: made of or relating to concrete
con-crete \kām-krēt/ *kām-krēt* *vb* **con-crete**: to solidify 2: SOLIDIFY 2: to cover with concrete
con-crete \kām-krēt/ *kām-krēt* *n*: a hard building material made by mixing cement, sand, and gravel with water
con-cre-tion \kām-kre-shən/ *n*: a hard mass esp. when formed abnormally in the body

con-ces-sion-aire \kām-se-shə-nair/ *n*: one that owns or operates a concession
conch \kāŋk/ *kāŋk* *n*, *pl* **conchs** \kāŋks/ or **conches** \kām-chəz/ *n*: a large spiral-shelled marine gastropod mollusk; also: its shell
con-cierge \kām-syerzh/ *n*, *pl* **con-cierges** \kām-syerzh-əz/ [F] 1: a resident in an apartment building who performs services for the tenants 2: a usu. multilingual hotel staff member
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