

WEBSTER'S  
NEW  
COLLEGE  
DICTIONARY

Michael Agnes  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Copyright © 2005 by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, 978-750-8400, fax 978-750-4470, or on the Web at [www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com). Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Legal Department, Wiley Publishing, Inc., 10475 Crosspoint Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46256, 317-572-3447, fax 317-572-4447, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

Trademarks: Webster's New World, the Webster's New World logo, and We Define Your World are registered trademarks of Wiley Publishing, Inc., in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Wiley Publishing, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the publisher and the author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales representatives or written sales materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. Neither the publisher nor the author shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

For general information on our other products and services please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 800-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993 or fax 317-572-4002.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books. For more information about Wiley products, visit our web site at [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com).

ISBN-13: 978-0-7645-9845-6

ISBN-10: 0-7645-9845-7

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

tal, performed together with the main part for richer effect [the piano accompaniment to a song]

**ac-com-pa-nist** (ə kum'pə nɪst; often, ə kump'nɪst) *n.* a person who plays or sings an accompaniment; also **ac-com'pa-ny-ist** (-nē ɪst)  
**ac-com-pany** (ə kum'pə nē; often, ə kump'nē) *vt.* **-nied, -ny-ing** [MFr *accompaignier* < *ac-*, *Ad-* + OFr *compagnon*; see COMPANION] 1 to go or be together with; attend 2 to send (with); add to; supplement [to accompany words with acts] 3 to play or sing a musical accompaniment for or to **-vi.** to perform a musical accompaniment

**SYN.**—accompany means to go or be together with as a companion, associate, attribute, etc., and usually connotes equality of relationship [he accompanied her to the theater]; attend implies presence either in a subordinate position or to render services, etc. [Dr. Jones attended the patient]; escort and convoy are both applied to the accompanying, as by an armed guard, of persons or things needing protection (convoy, esp. in the case of sea travel and escort, in the case of land travel); escort also implies an accompanying as a mark of honor or an act of courtesy; chaperon implies accompaniment, for reasons of propriety, of young unmarried people by an older or married person

**ac-com-plice** (ə kəm'plɪs) *n.* [ME *a complice* (the article *a* is merged, infl. by *accomplish*) < OFr *complice* < LL *complex*; see COMPLICE] a person who knowingly participates with another in an unlawful act; partner in crime **-SYN.** ASSOCIATE

**ac-com-plish** (ə kəm'plɪʃ; also, -kum'-) *vt.* [ME *accomplissen* < OFr *acompliss-*, extended stem of *acomplir* < VL *\*adcomplere* < L *ad-*, intens. + *complere*; see COMPLETE] 1 to do; succeed in doing; complete (a task, time, or distance) 2 to make complete; perfect **-SYN.** PERFORM, REACH **ac-com'plish-able** *adj.*

**ac-com-plished** (-plɪʃt) *adj.* 1 done; done successfully; completed 2 skilled; proficient [an accomplished pianist] 3 having social poise; polished

**ac-com-plish-ment** (ə kəm'plɪʃ mənt; also, -kum'-) *n.* 1 an accomplishing or being accomplished; completion 2 something accomplished or done successfully; work completed; achievement 3 a social art or skill: usually used in *pl.*

**ac-cord** (ə kɔrd') *vt.* [ME *acorden* < OFr *acorder* < VL *\*accordare* < L *ad-*, to + *cor* (gen. *cordis*)] 1 to make agree or harmonize; reconcile 2 to grant or concede; bestow **-vi.** to be in agreement or harmony (with) **-n.** 1 mutual agreement; harmony 2 an informal agreement, as between countries 3 harmony of sound, color, etc. 4 [Obs.] consent; permission **-SYN.** AGREE **of one's own accord** willingly, without being asked **with one accord** all agreeing; with no one dissenting

**ac-cord-ance** (ə kɔrd'əns) *n.* [ME < OFr *accordance* < *acordant*; see fol.] 1 agreement; harmony; conformity [in accordance with the plans] 2 the act of granting

**ac-cord-ant** (ə kɔrd'ənt) *adj.* [ME < OFr *acordant*, *prp.* of *acorder*; see ACCORD] in agreement or harmony (with or to) **ac-cord'antly** *adv.*

**ac-cord-ing** (ə kɔrd'ɪŋ) *adj.* agreeing; in harmony **according as** 1 to the degree that; in proportion as 2 depending on whether; if **according to** 1 in agreement with 2 in the order of [arranged according to size] 3 as stated in or reported by

**ac-cord-ingly** (-lə) *adv.* 1 in a way that is fitting and proper; correspondingly 2 therefore

**ac-cord-ion** (ə kɔrd'ɪən) *n.* [Ger *akkordion* < *akkord*, harmony (prob. < It *accordare*, to be in tune; see ACCORD) + *-ion* as in ORCHESTRION] a musical instrument with keys, metal reeds, and a bellows: it is played by alternately pulling out and pressing together the bellows to force air through the reeds, which are opened by fingering the keys **-adj.** having folds, or folding, like the bellows of an accordion [accordion pleats] **ac-cor'di-on-ist** *n.*



ACCORDION

**ac-cost** (ə kɔst', -kəst') *vt.* [Fr *accoster* < It *accostare*, to bring side by side < VL *\*accostare* < L *ad-*, to + *costa*, rib, side] 1 to approach and speak to; greet first, before being greeted, esp. in an intrusive way 2 to solicit for sexual purposes: said of a prostitute, etc.

**ac-cou-che-ment** (ə kooʃ'mənt; Fr *à kooʃ mān'*) *n.* [Fr < *accoucher*, put to bed, give birth < OFr *accoucher*, lie down < L *ad-*, to + *collocare*; see COUCH] confinement for giving birth to a child; childbirth

**ac-cou-cheur** (ə kooʃ'ʃʊr') *n.* [Fr; see prec.] OBSTETRICIAN

**ac-cou-cheuse** (ə kooʃ'ʃʊz') *n.* [Fr, fem. of prec.] MIDWIFE

**ac-count** (ə kount') *vt.* [ME *acounten* < OFr *aconter* < *ac-*, to + *conter*, to tell < *compter* < L *computare*; see COMPUTE] to consider or judge to be; deem; value **-vi.** 1 to furnish a reckoning (to someone) of money received and paid out 2 to make satisfactory amends (for) [he will account for his crime] 3 to give satisfactory reasons or an explanation (for) [can he account for his actions?] 4 to be the cause, agent, or source of: with *for* 5 to do away with as by killing: with *for* [he accounted for five of the enemy] **-n.** 1 a counting; calculation 2 [often *pl.*] a record of the financial data pertaining to a specific asset, liability, income item, expense item, or net-worth item 3 BANK ACCOUNT 4 a) a record of the financial transactions relating to a specific person, property, business, etc. b) CHARGE ACCOUNT c) a business or firm that is a customer or client, esp. on a regular, credit basis [one of our best accounts] 5 worth; importance [a thing of small account] 6 an explanation 7 a

report; description; story **call to account** 1 to demand an explanation of 2 to reprimand **give a good account of oneself** to acquit oneself creditably **on account 1** on a charge account; on the installment plan 2 as partial payment **on someone's account for someone's sake** **on account of 1** because of 2 for (someone's) sake **on no account** not under any circumstances **take account of 1** to take into consideration; allow for 2 to take notice of; note **take into account** to take into consideration **turn to account** to get use or profit from

**ac-count-able** (ə kount'ə bəl) *adj.* 1 obliged to account for one's acts; responsible 2 capable of being accounted for; explainable **-SYN.** RESPONSIBLE **ac-count'abil-ity** *n.* or **ac-count'able-ness** **ac-count'ably** *adv.*

**ac-count-ancy** (ə kount'n sē) *n.* the keeping or inspecting of commercial accounts; work of an accountant

**ac-count-ant** (ə kount'nt) *n.* a person whose work is to inspect, keep, or adjust accounts: see CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

**account book** a book in which business accounts are set down

**account current** a record of business transactions that shows the total amount of money owed as of the date of the summarizing statement

**account executive** an executive in an advertising agency, stockbrokerage, etc. who handles the accounts of, and maintains direct contact with, one or more established clients and seeks new clients

**ac-count-ing** (ə kount'ɪŋ) *n.* 1 the principles or practice of systematically recording, presenting, and interpreting financial accounts 2 a statement of debits and credits 3 a settling or balancing of accounts

**account payable** *pl. accounts payable* the amount owed by a business to a creditor, usually for goods or services

**account receivable** *pl. accounts receivable* the amount owed to a business by a debtor, usually for goods or services

**ac-cou-ple-ment** (ə kup'əl mənt) *n.* [Fr < *accoupler*, to couple up < OFr *accoupler* < ML *accopulare* < L *ad-*, to + *copulare*, to COUPLE] 1 *Archit.* the placing of columns in pairs close together 2 *Carpentry* a brace or tie of timber

**ac-cou-ter** or **ac-cou-tre** (ə koo'tər) *vt.* **-tered** or **-tred, -tering** or **-tring** (ə koo't'ər ɪŋ, -koo't'ɪŋ) [Fr *accouter*, earlier *accoustrer*; prob. < *à-*, to + OFr *costure* < VL *\*consutura*, seam, sewing < L *consuere*, to sew < *con-*, together + *suere*, SEW] to outfit; equip, esp. for military service

**ac-cou-ter-ment** or **ac-cou-tre-ment** (ə koo't'ər mənt, -koo't'rə-) *n.* 1 an accoutering or being accoutered 2 [*pl.*] a) personal outfit; clothes; apparel b) furnishings; trappings; equipment; specif., a soldier's equipment except clothes and weapons

**Ac-cra** (ə krā') capital of Ghana: seaport on the Gulf of Guinea: pop. 949,000

**ac-credit** (ə kred'ɪt) *vt.* [Fr *accréditer*, to give credit or authority < *à-*, to + *crédit*, CREDIT] 1 to bring into credit or favor 2 to authorize; give credentials to [an accredited representative] 3 to believe in; take as true 4 to certify as meeting certain set standards [colleges may be accredited by regional associations] 5 to attribute; credit [an action accredited to him] **-SYN.** AUTHORIZE **ac-cred'i-tation** *n.*

**ac-crete** (ə kret'et) *vi.* **-cret'ed, -cret'ing** [L *accretus*, pp. of *acrescere*; see fol.] 1 to grow by being added to 2 to grow together; adhere **-vt.** to cause to adhere or unite (to) **-adj.** Bot. grown together

**ac-cre-tion** (ə kre'shən) *n.* [L *accretio* < *acrescere*, to increase < *ad-*, to + *crecere*, to grow; see CRESCENT] 1 growth in size, esp. by addition or accumulation 2 a growing together of parts normally separate 3 accumulated matter [the accretion of earth on the shore] 4 a part added separately; addition 5 a whole resulting from such growth or accumulation 6 *Law* the addition of soil to land by gradual, natural deposits **ac-cre'tive** (-kret'ɪv) *adj.*

**ac-cru-al** (ə kroo'əl) *n.* 1 the act or process of accruing 2 the amount that accrues Also **ac-cru-e-ment** (ə kroo'mənt)

**ac-crue** (ə kroo'et) *vi.* **-crued, -cru'ing** [ME *acruen* < OFr *acruen*, pp. of *acrouistre*, increase < L *acrescere*; see ACCRETION] 1 to come as a natural growth, advantage, or right (to) 2 to be added periodically as an increase: said esp. of interest on money **-vt.** to accumulate periodically as an increase [savings accounts accrue interest]

**acct** *abbrev.* 1 account 2 accountant

**\*ac-cul-tur-ate** (ə kul'tʃər ət') *vi., vt.* **-at'ed, -at'ing** [back-form. < fol.] to undergo, or alter by, acculturation

**\*ac-cul-tura-tion** (ə kul'tʃər ə'shən) *n.* [AC- + CULTUR(E) + -ATION] *Sociology* 1 the process of conditioning a child to the patterns or customs of a culture 2 the process of becoming adapted to a new or different culture with more or less advanced patterns 3 the mutual influence of different cultures in close contact **ac-cul'tura'tive** *adj.*

**ac-cum-bent** (ə kum'bənt) *adj.* [L *accumbens*, *prp.* of *accumbere* < *ad-*, to + *cubare*, to recline] 1 lying down 2 Bot. lying against some other part: said esp. of certain cotyledons **ac-cum'bency** *n.*

**ac-cu-mu-late** (ə kyoo'm'yoo lāt', -yə-) *vt., vi.* **-lat'ed, -lat'ing** [L *accumulatus*, pp. of *accumulare* < *ad-*, to + *cumulare*, to heap; see CUMULUS] to pile up, collect, or gather together, esp. over a period of time **ac-cu'mu-lable** (-lə bəl) *adj.*

**ac-cu-mu-la-tion** (ə kyoo'm'yoo lā'shən, -yə-) *n.* 1 an accumulating or being accumulated; collection 2 accumulated or collected material; heap 3 the addition to capital of interest or profits

**ac-cu-mu-la-tive** (ə kyoo'm'yoo lāt'ɪv, -lət'ɪv; -yə-) *adj.* 1 resulting

See the inside front cover for pronunciation information.  
The symbol \* is used to mark terms of American origin.