

WEBSTER'S  
UNABRIDGED  
DICTIONARY  
*of the*  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The dictionary entries are based on the Second Edition of  
*The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*





Copyright © 2001 by Random House, Inc.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Please contact RHR Press, an imprint of the Random House Reference Group, 280 Park Avenue, New York, New York, 10017 for permission.

This edition published by the Borders Group, Inc. by arrangement with the Random House Reference Group, a division of Random House, Inc.

Acknowledgments and Permissions

The "Dictionary of the English Language" section of this book (*Webster's Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language*) is based on the second edition of *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, the Unabridged Edition*, copyright © 1993, 1987 by Random House, Inc.

ISBN 0-681-31723-X

Printed and bound in the United States of America

2001 Borders Group, Inc.



capsulate, 10. to capsulize. —*adj.* 11. small and compact. 12. short and concise; brief and summarized: a capsule report. [1645-55; 1850-55 for def. 5; < F: L *capsula*, equiv. to *caps(a)* box (see CASE) + *-ula* -*VL*]



capsules (after Johansson)  
A, *Aspidodelpha*; B, prickly poppy; C, violet

**cap-sul-ize** (kap'sul iz', -aydō-, *v.t.* -ized, -iz-ing. to summarize or make very concise; capsule. Also, *esp. Brit.* *cap'sul-ize*. [1945-50; CAPSULE + *-ize*] —*cap'sul-iz-a'tion*, *n.*

**cap't.** *ML* captain. Also, *CPT*

**cap-tain** (kap'tan, -tin), *n.* 1. a person who is at the head of or in authority over others; chief; leader. 2. an officer ranking in most armies above a first lieutenant and below a major. 3. an officer in the U.S. Navy ranking above a commander and below a rear admiral or a commodore. 4. a military leader. 5. an officer in the police department, ranking above a lieutenant and usually below an inspector. 6. an officer of the fire department, usually in command of a company, ranking above a lieutenant and below a chief or assistant chief. 7. the commander of a merchant vessel. Cf. *staff captain*. 8. the pilot of an airplane. 9. a local official in a political party responsible for organizing votes on a ward or precinct level. 10. Sports. the field leader of a team: The captain of the home team elected to receive on the kickoff. 11. a person of great power and influence, esp. based on economic wealth. 12. headwaiter. 13. See *bell captain*. 14. *South Midland and Southern U.S.* an unofficial title of respect for a man (sometimes used humorously or ironically). —*v.t.* 15. to lead or command as a captain. [1325-75; ME *capitain* < AF *capitain*, *capitain* < LL *capitaneus* chief, equiv. to *capit-* (s. of *caput*) head + *-an(us)* -AN + *-eus* -EUS]

**cap-tain-cy** (kap'tan sē), *n.* *pl.* -cies for 2. 1. the office or rank of a captain. 2. a district or area administered by a captain. 3. the ability of a captain; captainship. [1810-20; CAPTAIN + *-cy*]

**Cap'tain Jack**, (*Kintpuash*), 1837-73, Modoc leader.

**cap'tain of in'dustry**, the head of a large business firm, esp. of an industrial complex. [1835-45]

**cap'tain's bed**, a bed consisting of a shallow box with drawers in the side and a mattress on top.

**cap'tain's chair**, a chair having a rounded back formed by a heavy rail resting upon vertical spindles and coming forward to form the arms. [1945-50]

**Cap'tains Courageous**, a novel (1897) by Rudyard Kipling.

**cap-tain-ship** (kap'tan ship'), *n.* 1. captaincy. 2. the ability or skill of a military captain; leadership or generalship. [1400-50; late ME. See CAPTAIN, SHIP]

**cap'tain's mast**, a session at which the captain of a naval ship hears and acts on the cases of enlisted personnel charged with committing offenses. [1940-45]

**cap-tan** (kap'tan, -tan), *n.* a powder,  $C_6H_4Cl_2NO_2S$ , of white to cream color, used as a fungicide on vegetables, fruits, and flowers. [1950-55; shortening of MERCAPTAN]

**cap-tion** (kap'shan), *n.* 1. a title or explanation for a picture or illustration, esp. in a magazine. 2. a heading or title, as of a chapter, article, or page. 3. *Motion Pictures, Television.* the title of a scene, the text of a speech, etc., superimposed on the film and projected onto the screen. 4. *Law.* the heading of a legal document stating the time, place, etc., of execution or performance. —*v.t.* 5. to supply a caption or captions for; entitle: to caption a photograph. [1350-1400; ME *capcio(u)n* seizure < L *captio* - (s. of *capto*), equiv. to *capit(us)* taken (see CAP-ITVE) + *-ion* -ION] —*cap'tion-less*, *adj.*

**cap-tious** (kap'shəs), *adj.* 1. apt to notice and make much of trivial faults or defects; faultfinding; difficult to please. 2. proceeding from a faultfinding or caviling disposition: He could never praise without adding a captious remark. 3. apt or designed to ensnare or perplex, esp. in argument: captious questions. [1350-1400; ME *capciosus* < L *captiosus* sophistical, equiv. to *capiti(o)* a taking, hence, sophism (see CAPTION) + *-osus* -OUS] —*cap'tiously*, *adv.* —*cap'tious-ness*, *n.*

**cap-ti-va-te** (kap'ti vāt', *v.t.* -vat-ed, -vat-ing. 1. to attract and hold the attention or interest of, as by beauty or excellence; enchant: Her blue eyes and red hair captivated him. 2. Obs. to capture; subjugate. [1520-30; < LL *captivatus* (ptp. of *captivare* to take captive), equiv. to L *captiv(us)* CAPTIVE + *-atus* -ATE] —*cap'ti-vat-ing-ly*, *adv.* —*cap'ti-va'tion*, *n.* —*cap'ti-va'tive*, *adj.* —*cap'ti-va'tor*, *n.*

**cap-tive** (kap'tiv), *n.* 1. a prisoner. 2. a person who is enslaved or dominated; slave: He is the captive of his own fears. —*adj.* 3. made or held prisoner, esp. in war: captive troops. 4. kept in confinement or restraint: captive animals. 5. enslaved by love, beauty, etc.: captivated: her captive beau. 6. of or pertaining to a captive. 7. managed as an affiliate or subsidiary of a corporation and operated almost exclusively for the use or needs of the parent corporation rather than independ-

ently for the general public: a captive shop; a captive mine. [1300-50; ME (< MF) < L *captivus*, equiv. to *capiti(us)* taken (ptp. of *capere* to take) + *-ivus* -IVE]

**cap-tiv-i-ty** (kap'tiv itē), *n.* *pl.* -ties. 1. the state or period of being held, imprisoned, enslaved, or confined. 2. (cap.) See *Babylonian captivity*. [1275-1325; ME *captivitas* (< OF) < L *captivitas*. See CAPTIVE, -ITY] —*Syn.* 1. bondage, servitude, slavery, thralldom, subjection; imprisonment, confinement, incarceration. —*Ant.* 1. freedom.

**cap-to-pril** (kap'to pril), *n.* *Pharm.* a white to whitish crystalline powder,  $CaH_{12}NO_2S$ , used as an antihypertensive [prob. by contr. and resp. of mercaptopropanoyl a chemical component]

**cap-tor** (kap'tor), *n.* a person who has captured a person or thing. [1640-50; < LL, equiv. to *capere* to take + *-tor* -TOR]

**cap-ture** (kap'char), *v.* -tured, -tur-ing. *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to take by force or stratagem; take prisoner; seize: The police captured the burglar. 2. to gain control of or exert influence over: an ad that captured our attention; a TV show that captured 30% of the prime-time audience. 3. to take possession of, as in a game or contest: to capture a pawn in chess. 4. to represent or record in lasting form: The movie succeeded in capturing the atmosphere of Berlin in the 1930's. 5. Computers. a. to enter (data) into a computer for processing or storage. b. to record (data) in preparation for such entry. —*n.* 6. the act of capturing. 7. the thing or person captured. 8. Physics. the process in which an atomic or nuclear system acquires an additional particle. 9. Crystall. substitution in a crystal lattice of a trace element for an element of lower valence. [1535-45; < MF < L *captura*, equiv. to *capit(us)* taken (ptp. of *capere* to take) + *-ura* -URE] —*cap-tur-a-ble*, *adj.* —*cap-tur-er*, *n.* —*Syn.* 1. catch, arrest, snare, apprehend, grab, nab. 6. seizure, arrest, apprehension. —*Ant.* 1. 6. release.

**Cap-u-a** (kap'yō ō; *It.* kă'pwā), *n.* a town in NW Campania, in S Italy, N of Naples. 17,581.

**cap-puche** (ka pōsh', -pōch'), *n.* a hood or cowl, esp. the long, pointed cowl of the Capuchins. [1590-1600; < MF < It *cappuccio*, equiv. to *capp(a)* cloak (see CAP) + *-uccio* aug. suffix] —*cap-puch-ed*, *adj.*

**cap-u-chin** (kap'yō chīn, -shin), *n.* 1. a Central and South American monkey, *Cebus capucinus*, having a prehensile tail and hair on the head resembling a cowl. 2. any monkey of the genus *Cebus*. 3. a hooded cloak for women. 4. (cap.) Also called *Friar Minor Capuchin*. *Rom. Cath. Ch.* a friar belonging to the branch of the Franciscan order that observes vows of poverty and austerity. Cf. *Friar Minor*, *Friar Minor Conventual*. Also called *ringtail monkey* (for def. 1, 2). [1590-1600; < MF < It *cappuccino*, equiv. to *cappucc(i)o* CAPUCHE + *-ino* -INE]

**capuchin**,  
*Cebus capucinus*,  
head and body  
1 ft. (0.3 m);  
tail 17 in. (43 cm)



**Cap-u-let** (kap'yō let', -lit), *n.* (in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*) the family name of Juliet. Cf. *Montague* (def. 1).

**cap-put** (kap'pət, kap'ət), *n.* *pl.* *cap-i-ta* (kap'i tā). Anat. any head or headlike expansion on a structure, as on a bone. [1640-50; < L head]

**cap-y-ba-ra** (kap'yō bār'ā), *n.* a South American tailless rodent, *Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*, living along the banks of rivers and lakes, having partly webbed feet, the largest living rodent. Also, *capibara*. [1765-75; < NL < Pg *capibara* < Tupi]

**capybara**,  
*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*,  
about 2 ft. (0.6 m)  
high at shoulder;  
length 3 to 4 ft.  
(0.9 to 1.2 m)



**caque-teuse** (kak'ī tōōz', Fr. kak' tōēz'), *n.* *pl.* -teuses (-tōōziz; Fr. -tōēz). Furniture. cacquetteuse.

**caque-toire** (kak'ī twār', Fr. kak' twār'), *n.* *pl.* -toires (-twārız; Fr. -twār'). Furniture. cacquetteuse. [*< F*; see CACQUETEUSE, -ORY]

**car** (kär), *n.* 1. an automobile. 2. a vehicle running on rails, as a streetcar or railroad car. 3. the part of an elevator, balloon, modern airship, etc., that carries the passengers, freight, etc. 4. *Brit. Dial.* any wheeled vehicle, as a farm cart or wagon. 5. *Literary.* a chariot, as of war or triumph. 6. *Archaic.* cart; carriage. [1350-1400; ME *carre* < AF < LL *carra* (fem. sing.), L *carra*, neut. pl. of *carum*, var. of *carrus* < Celt.; cf. OIr. *car* wheeled vehicle] —*car-less*, *adj.*

**car** (kär), *adj.* Chiefly *Scot.* 1. left-handed. 2. sinister. [1375-1425; ME (Scots) < ScotGael *cearr*]

**CAR**, computer-assisted retrieval. [1980-85]

**car.**, carat; carats.

**Car-a** (kär'ā), *n.* a female given name: from an Italian word meaning "dear one."

**car-a-ba-o** (kär'ā bā'ō), *n.* *pl.* -ba-os. (in the Philippines) the water buffalo. [1895-1900; < Philippine Sp < Bisayan *karabaw*]

**car-a-bi-neer** (kär'ā bō nēr'), *n.* carbineer. Also, *car-a-bi-nier*.

**car-a-bi-ner** (kär'ā bō nēr), *n.* a D-shaped ring with a spring catch on one side, used for fastening ropes in mountaineering. Also, *karabiner*. [1915-20; < Austrian G *Karabiner*, shortening of G *Karabinerhaken* carbine hook, equiv. to *Karabiner* (< F *carabine* CARBINE + G *-er* -ER) + *Haken* HOOK; it was originally used to fasten carbines to bandoleers]

**car-a-bi-ne-ro** (kär'ā bō nēr'ō; Eng. kär'ā bō nēr'ō), *n.* *pl.* -ne-ros (-bō nēr's; Eng. -nār'ōs). Spanish. 1. an officer of the revenue service. 2. a frontier guard. 3. carbineer. 4. (in the Philippines) a coast-guard officer. [1835-45]

**car-a-bi-nie-re** (kär'ā bō nēr'ē; Eng. kär'ā bō nēr'ē), *n.* *pl.* -bi-nie-ri (-bō nēr'ē; Eng. -bin yār'ē). Italian. 1. a member of the Italian national police force, organized as a military unit and charged with maintaining public security and order as well as assisting local police. 2. carbineer.

**car-a-cal** (kär'ā kal'), *n.* 1. a slender, catlike mammal, *Lynx caracal*, with a reddish-brown coat and long tufted ears, inhabiting northern Africa and India. 2. the fur of this animal. [1750-60; < F, appar. Buffon's adaptation of Turk *karakulak* lynx (black black + *kulak* ear)]

**Car-a-cal-la** (kär'ā kal'ā), *n.* (Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Bassianus) A.D. 188-217, Roman emperor 211-217.

**car-a-ca-ra** (kär'ā kār'ā, kär'ā kār'ā), *n.* any of certain long-legged birds of prey of the falcon family, of the southern U.S. and Central and South America that feed on carrion. [1830-40; < Sp or Pg < Tupi; imit. of its cry]

**Car-a-cas** (kär'ā kās; Sp. kār'ā kās), *n.* a city in and the capital of Venezuela, in the N part. 1,035,499.

**car-ack** (kär'āk), *n.* Naut. carrack.

**car-a-col** (kär'ā kōl'), *n.* *v.t.* -colled, -col-ling. caracole. [*< Sp*] —*car-a-col-ler*, *n.*

**car-a-cole** (kär'ā kōl'), *n.* *v.* -coled, -col-ling. —*n.* 1. a half turn executed by a horse and rider. 2. Rare. a winding staircase. —*v.t.* 3. to execute caracoles; wheel. [1650-60; < F < Sp *caracol* snail, spiral shell or stair, turning movement (of a horse)] —*car-a-col-er*, *n.*

**Car-ac-ta-cus** (kär'ā kāk'ta kās), *n.* *pl.* A.D. c50, British chieftain who opposed the Romans. Also, *Car-rad-oc* (kär'ā dāk).

**car-a-cul** (kär'ā kōl), *n.* Karakul.

**car-afe** (kär'ā raf', -rāf'), *n.* a wide-mouthed glass or metal bottle with a lip or spout, for holding and serving beverages. [1780-90; < F < It *caraffa* (< Sp *garrafa*, perh. < dial. Ar *gharrāfa* dipper, drinking vessel)]

**car-a-ga-na** (kär'ā gā'nā, -gā'-), *n.* any Asiatic tree or shrub of the genus *Caragana*, of the pea family, having pinnately compound leaves and mostly yellow flowers, used as hedge plants in the U.S., esp. in cold regions. [*< NL*, perh. directly < Mongolian *karayana* Siberian pea tree < Turkic]

**car-am-ba** (kär'ā rām'bā), *interj.* Spanish. (used as an exclamation of astonishment, dismay, or anger.)

**car-am-bo-la** (kär'ā m bō'lā), *n.* 1. a tree, *Averrhoa carambola*, native to southeastern Asia, bearing deeply ridged, yellow-brown, edible fruit. 2. Also called *star fruit*, the fruit itself. [1590-1600; < Pg < Marathi *karambal*]

**car-a-mel** (kär'ā mēl, -mēl', kär'mēl), *n.* 1. a liquid made by cooking sugar until it changes color, used for coloring and flavoring food. 2. a kind of chewy candy, commonly in small blocks, made from sugar, butter, milk, etc. 3. a yellowish brown or tan color. [1715-25; < F < Sp or Pg *caramelo* < LL *calamellus* little reed (by dissimilation), equiv. to *calam(us)* reed (see CALAMUS) + *-ellus* dim. suffix; meaning changed by assoc. with ML *cannamella*, *canna mellis*, etc., sugar cane, equiv. to L *canna* CANE + *mell* honey (gen. *mellis*)]

**car-a-mel-ize** (kär'ā mē liz', kär'mē-), *v.t.* *v.i.* -ized, -iz-ing. to convert or be converted into caramel. Also, *esp. Brit.*, *car'a-mel-ise*. [1720-30; CAMEL + *-ize*] —*car'a-mel-iz-a'tion*, *n.*

**car-an-gid** (kär'ā nāj'id), *n.* 1. any of numerous fishes of the family Carangidae, comprising the jacks, sea, pompanos, and cavallas. —*adj.* 2. belonging or pertaining to the family Carangidae. [1885-90; < NL *Carangidae*, equiv. to *Carang-* (s. of *Caranx* a genus; see CARANGOID) + *-idae* -ID']

**car-an-goid** (kär'ā nāj'oid), *adj.* 1. resembling a fish of the family Carangidae; carangid. —*n.* 2. a carangoid fish. [1860-65; < NL *Carang-* (s. of *Caranx*) genus name, a pseudo-Gk form + *-oid*]

**car-a-pa** (kär'ā pā), *n.* 1. a South American tree, *Carapa guianensis*, of the mahogany family. 2. the light, reddish-brown wood of this tree, used for making furniture. Also called *andiroba*, *crabwood*. [1860-65; < NL < Carib: oil]

**car-a-pace** (kär'ā pās'), *n.* a bony or chitinous shield, test, or shell covering some or all of the dorsal part of an animal, as of a turtle. [1830-40; < F < Sp *carapacha*, of obscure orig.] —*car'a-paced'*, *adj.* —*car-a-pa-cial* (kär'ā pā'shāl), *adj.*

**car-at** (kär'āt), *n.* 1. a unit of weight in gemstones, 200 milligrams (about 3 grains of troy or avoirdupois weight). Abbr.: c. ct. 2. karat. [1545-55; < ML *carratus* (used by alchemists) < Ar *qirāt* weight of 4 grains < Gk *keration* carob bean, weight of 3/4 grains, lit. little horn, equiv. to *kerat-* (s. of *heras*) horn + *-ion* dim. suffix]

**Car-a-tin-ga** (kär'ā tēn'ga), *n.* a city in E Brazil. 123,344.

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: *act*, *cāpe*, *dāre*, *pārt*; *set*, *ēqual*; *if*, *ice*; *ox*, *over*, *order*, *oil*, *bōth*, *boat*, *out*, *ūrges*; *child*; *sing*; *shoe*; *thin*; *that*; *zh* as in *treasure*; *ə* = *u* as in *alone*, *e* as in *system*, *i* as in *easily*, *o* as in *gallop*, *u* as in *circus*; *as* as in *fire* (*fīr*), *hour* (*hūr*). *l* and *n* can serve as syllabic consonants, as in *cradle* (*krdl*), and *button* (*bʌtn*). See the full key inside the front cover.



voraciousness; appetite. [1620-30; < L *edacitas*, equiv. to *edaci-* (s. of *edax*) gluttonous, equiv. to *ed-* EAT + *-aci-* adj. suffix + *-tas* -RY]

**Edam** (ē'dām, ē'dām; Du. *edāme*), *n.* a mild, hard, yellow cheese, produced in a round shape and coated with red wax. Also called **Edam cheese**. [1830-40; after *Edam*, town in the Netherlands, where it originated]

**edaphic** (i'daf'ik), *adj.* related to or caused by particular soil conditions, as of texture or drainage, rather than by physiographic or climatic factors. [*< G edaphisch* (1898); see *EDAPHON*, -ic] —**edaphically**, *adv.*

**edaphic climax**, *Ecol.* a localized climax community that may differ from the surrounding climax vegetation by reason of slightly differing soil type, exposure to sun and wind, drainage, etc. [1945-50]

**edaphon** (ē'dā fōn'), *n.* the aggregate of organisms that live in the soil. [*< G Edaphon* (1913) < Gk *edaphos* ground, floor; -on prob. after *PLANKTON*]

**EDB**, *Chem.* ethylene dibromide: a colorless liquid,  $C_2H_4Br_2$ , used as an organic solvent, an additive in gasoline to prevent lead buildup, and a pesticide and soil fumigant, esp. by citrus and grain farmers.

**Ed.B.**, Bachelor of Education.

**EDC**, European Defense Community.

**Ed.D.**, Doctor of Education.

**Ed-da** (ē'dā), *n.* a female given name. Also, **Eda**.

**Ed-da** (ē'dā), *n.* either of two old Icelandic literary works, one a collection of poems on mythical and religious subjects (*Elder Edda* or *Poetic Edda*) erroneously attributed to Saemund Sigfusson (c1055-1133), the other a collection of ancient Scandinavian myths and legends, rules and theories of versification, poems, etc. (*Younger Edda* or *Prose Edda*), compiled and written in part by Snorri Sturluson (1179-1241). —**Ed'dic**, **Ed-da-ic** (ē'dā'ik), *adj.*

**Ed-ding-ton** (ē'ding tōn), *n.* Sir Arthur (Stanley), 1882-1944, English astronomer, physicist, and writer.

**ed-do** (ē'dō), *n.* pl. **-does**, the edible root of the taro or of any of several related plants. [1765-75; < one or more W Afr. languages; cf. Igbo *edē*, Fante *edwō(w)* yam]

**ed-dy** (ē'dē), *n.* pl. **-dies**, *v.* **-died**, **-dy-ing**. —*n.* 1. a current at variance with the main current in a stream of liquid or gas, esp. one having a rotary or whirling motion. 2. a small whirlpool. 3. any similar current, as of air, dust, or fog. 4. a current or trend, as of opinion or events, running counter to the main current. —*v.* 1. to move or whirl in eddies. [1425-75; late ME; OE *edturning* + *ea* water; akin to ON *itha*]

**Ed-dy** (ē'dē), *n.* 1. **Mary (Morse) Baker** (Mrs. Glover; Mrs. Patterson), 1821-1910, U.S. founder of the Christian Science Church. 2. Also, **Ed'die**, a male given name, form of **Edgar** or **Edward**.

**ed-dy cur-rent**, an electric current in a conducting material that results from induction by a moving or varying magnetic field. [1590-1600; for an earlier sense]

**Ed-dy-stone Rocks**, (ē'dā stōn), a group of rocks near the W end of the English Channel, SW of Plymouth, England; celebrated lighthouse.

**Ed-de** (ā'dā, ā'dā for 1; ā'dā for 2), *n.* 1. a city in SW Nigeria. 182,000. 2. a city in central Netherlands. 83,738.

**Ed-el-man** (ē'dēl mən), *n.* Gerald Maurice, born 1929, U.S. biochemist; Nobel prize for medicine 1972.

**ed-el-weiss** (ē'dēl wīs', -wīs'), *n.* 1. a small composite plant, *Leontopodium alpinum*, having white woolly leaves and flowers, growing in the high altitudes of the Alps. 2. a liqueur made in Italy, flavored with the extracts of alpine flowers. [1860-65; < G, equiv. to *edel* noble + *weiss* white]

**ed-de-ma** (ē'dē'mā), *n.* pl. **-mas**, **-ma-ta** (-mā tā). *Pathol.* 1. effusion of serous fluid into the interstices of cells in tissue spaces or into body cavities. 2. *Plant Pathol.* a. a small surface swelling of plant parts, caused by excessive moisture. b. any disease so characterized. Also, **oedema**. [1490-1500; < NL *oedema* < Gk *oidema* a swelling, equiv. to *oidē* (var. s. of *oidēin* to swell) + *-ma* *n.* suffix] —**ed-dem-a-tous** (i'dē'mā-tas, i'dē'mā-), **ed-dem-a-tose** (i'dē'mā-tōs, i'dē'mā-), *adj.*

**E-den** (ē'dēn), *n.* 1. the place where Adam and Eve lived before the Fall. Gen. 2:8-24. 2. any delightful region or abode; paradise. 3. a state of perfect happiness or bliss. Also called **Garden of Eden** (for defs. 1-3). 4. a town in N North Carolina. 15,672. [*< Heb* *ēden* delight, pleasure] —**Ed-en-ic** (ē'dēn'ik), *adj.*

**E-den** (ē'dēn), *n.* (Robert) Anthony, Earl of Avon, 1897-1977, British statesman; prime minister 1955-57.

**E'den Prairie**, a town in SE Minnesota. 16,263.

**ed-en-tate** (ē'dēn'tāt), *adj.* 1. belonging or pertaining to the Edentata, an order of New World mammals characterized by the absence of incisors and canines in the arrangement of teeth and comprising the armadillos, the sloths, and the South American anteaters. 2. toothless. —*n.* 3. an edentate mammal. [1820-30; < L *edentatus* deprived of teeth, equiv. to *ē-* + *dent-* (s. of *dēns*) TOOTH + *-atus* -ATE]

**ed-en-tu-lous** (ē'dēn'tū-ləs), *adj.* lacking teeth; toothless. [1775-85; < L *edentulus*, equiv. to *ē-* + *dent-* (s. of *dēns*) TOOTH + *-ulus* -ULOUS]

**E-der** (ā'dār), *n.* a river in central Germany, mainly in Hesse and flowing E to Kassel. 110 mi. (177 km) long.

**E-der-le** (ā'dār lē), *n.* Gertrude Caroline, born 1907?, U.S. swimmer.

**EDES**, Hellenic National Democratic army, a Greek resistance coalition in World War II. [*< ModGk* *E(θnikos) Dēmokratikōs* *E(θnikos) Syndesmos*]

**E-des-sa** (i'des'sā), *n.* an ancient city in NW Mesopotamia, on the modern site of Urfa: an early center of Christianity; the capital of a principality under the Crusaders. —**E-des'san**, **E-des-sene** (i'des'sen), *adj.*

**ed-e-tate cal-cium diso-dium** (ē'dā tā't'), *n.* *Pharm.* a chelating agent,  $C_{10}H_{14}CaN_4Na_2O_8$ , used in medicine to treat lead poisoning. [*ed-etate* appar. irreg. from EDTA + *-ate*]

**Ed-gar** (ē'djər), *n.* an award given annually in various categories of mystery writing. [1945-50; named after Edgar Allan Poe]

**Ed-gar** (ē'djər), *n.* a male given name: from Old English words meaning "rich, happy" and "spear."

**edge** (ej), *n.* *v.* **edged**, **edg-ing**. —*n.* 1. a line or border at which a surface terminates: *Grass grew along the edges of the road. The paper had deckle edges.* 2. a brink or verge: *the edge of a cliff, the edge of disaster.* 3. any of the narrow surfaces of a thin, flat object: *a book with gilt edges.* 4. a line at which two surfaces of a solid object meet: *an edge of a box.* 5. the thin, sharp side of the blade of a cutting instrument or weapon. 6. the sharpness proper to a blade: *The knife has lost its edge.* 7. sharpness or keenness of language, argument, tone of voice, appetite, desire, etc.: *The snack took the edge off his hunger. Her voice had an edge to it.* 8. *Brit. Dial.* a hill or cliff. 9. an improved position; advantage: *He gained the edge on his opponent.* 10. *Cards.* a. advantage, esp. the advantage gained by being the age or eldest hand. b. See **eldest hand**. 11. *Ice Skating.* one of the two edges of a skate blade where the sides meet the bottom surface, made sharp by carving a groove on the bottom. 12. *Skiing.* one of the two edges on the bottom of a ski that is angled into a slope when making a turn. 13. *have an edge on*, *Informal.* to be mildly intoxicated with alcoholic liquor: *He had a pleasant edge on from the sherry.* 14. *on edge*, *a.* (of a person or a person's nerves) acutely sensitive; nervous; tense. *b.* impatient; eager: *The contestants were on edge to learn the results.* 15. *set one's teeth on edge.* See **tooth** (def. 18). —*v.* 1. to put an edge on; sharpen. 17. to provide with an edge or border: *to edge a terrace with shrubbery, to edge a skirt with lace.* 18. to make or force (one's way) gradually by moving sideways. 19. *Metaphorically.* a. to turn (a piece) to be rolled onto its edge. b. to roll (a piece) set on edge. c. to give (a piece) a desired width by passing between vertical rolls. d. to rough (a piece being forged) so that the bulk is properly distributed for final forging. —*v.* 20. to move sideways: *to edge through a crowd.* 21. to advance gradually or cautiously: *a car edging up to a curb.* 22. **edge in**, to insert or work in or into, esp. in a limited period of time: *Can you edge in your suggestion before they close the discussion?* 23. **edge out**, to defeat (rivals or opponents) by a small margin: *The home team edged out the visitors in an exciting finish.* [bef. 1000; ME *egge*, OE *egg*, c. G *Ecke* corner; akin to L *acies*, Gk *akis* point] —**edge-less**, *adj.*

—**Syn.** 1. rim, lip, **EDGE**, **BORDER**, **MARGIN** refer to a boundary. An **EDGE** is the boundary line of a surface or plane: *the edge of a table.* **BORDER** is the boundary of a surface or the strip adjacent to it, inside or out: *a border of lace.* **MARGIN** is a limited strip, generally unoccupied, at the extremity of an area: *the margin of a page.*  
**edge-bone** (ej'bon'), *n.* aitchbone. [by folk etym.]  
**edged** (ejd), *adj.* 1. having an edge or edges (often used in combination): *dull-edged; a two-edged sword.* 2. sarcastic; cutting: *an edged reply.* [1585-95; **EDGE** + *-ed*]  
**edge/ effect'**, *Ecol.* the tendency toward greater variety and density of plant and animal populations in an ecotone. [1930-35]  
**edge/ mold-ing**, a convexly rounded molding having a fillet or concavity at or near its centerline. [1755-65]  
**edge-er** (ej'ar), *n.* 1. a person who puts an edge, esp. a finishing edge, on a garment, surface, lens, etc. 2. a machine for finishing or making an edge, as for stitching, beveling, or trimming. 3. a gardening tool with a rotary blade for cutting a neat border around a lawn, flower bed, or the like. [1585-95; **EDGE** + *-er*]  
**edge-er-feed-er** (ej'ar fē'dar), *n.* a machine used to sort letters automatically according to envelope size.  
**edge/ tool'**, a tool with a cutting edge. [1300-50; ME]  
**edge/ wave'**, *Oceanog.* a wave aligned at right angles to the shoreline.  
**edge-wise** (ej'wīz'), *adv.* 1. with the edge forward; in the direction of the edge. 2. sideways. 3. **get a word in edge-wise**, to succeed in entering a conversation or expressing one's opinion in spite of competition or opposition: *There were so many people talking at once that I couldn't get a word in edge-wise.* Also, **edge-ways** (ej'wāz'). [1560-70; **EDGE** + *-wise*]

**Edge-wood** (ej'wōd'), *n.* a city in NE Maryland, near Baltimore. 19,455.

**Edge-worth** (ej'wūth), *n.* Maria, 1767-1849, English novelist.

**edg-ing** (ej'ing), *n.* 1. something that forms or is placed along an edge or border. 2. *Skiing.* the tilting of a ski to the side so that one edge cuts into the snow. [1550-60; **EDGE** + *-ing*] —**edg-ing-ly**, *adv.*

**edg-ing lobel/ia**, a trailing lobelia, *Lobelia erinus*, of southern Africa, having loose clusters of blue flowers.

**edg-y** (ej'e), *adj.* **edg-i-er**, **edg-i-est**. 1. nervously irritable; impatient and anxious. 2. sharp-edged; sharply defined, as outlines. [1765-75; **EDGE** + *-y*] —**edg-i-ly**, *adv.* —**edg-i-ness**, *n.*

**edh** (eth), *n.* eth.

**ed-i-ble** (ē'dī bəl), *adj.* 1. fit to be eaten as food; eatable; esculent. —*n.* 2. Usually, **edibles**. edible substances; food. [1605-15; < LL *edibilis*, equiv. to *edere* to EAT + *-ibilis* -IBLE] —**ed-i-bil-i-ty**, **ed-i-bil-ness**, *n.*

—**Syn.** 1. comestible, consumable.

**ed-ict** (ē'dikt), *n.* 1. a decree issued by a sovereign or other authority. 2. any authoritative proclamation or command. [1250-1300; ME < L *edictum*, *n.* use of neut. of *edictus* (ptp. of *edicere* to say out), equiv. to *ē-* + *dictus* said; see *dictum*] —**ed-ic'tal**, *adj.* —**ed-ic'tal-ly**, *adv.*

—**Syn.** 1. dictum, pronouncement.

**ed-i-cule** (ē'dī kyool'), *n.* aedicule.

**Ed-ie** (ē'dē), *n.* a female given name, form of **Edith**.

**ed-i-fi-ca-tion** (ē'dī fī kā'shən), *n.* 1. an act of edifying. 2. the state of being edified; uplift. 3. moral improvement or guidance. [1350-1400; ME < AF < L *aedificatio* (s. of *aedificatio*), equiv. to *aedificat(us)* (ptp. of *aedificare*) built (aedi- s. of *aedes* house + *-fic-*, comb. form of *facere* to make + *-atus* -ATE) + *-ion* -ION]

**ed-i-fi-ca-to-ry** (i'dī fī kə tōr'ē, -tōr'ē, ē'dā fī kā'tā-rē), *adj.* intended or serving to edify. [1640-50; < LL *aedificatorius* edifying, equiv. to *aedificat(re)* to EDIFY + *-torius* -TORI]

**ed-i-fice** (ē'dā fis), *n.* 1. a building, esp. one of large size or imposing appearance. 2. any large, complex system or organization. [1350-1400; ME < AF, MF < L *aedificium*, equiv. to *aedificat(re)* to build (see EDIFY) + *-ium* -IUM] —**ed-i-fi-cal** (ē'dā fīsh'əl), *adj.*

—**Syn.** 1. See **building**.

**ed-i-fy** (ē'dā fi), *v.* **-fied**, **-fy-ing**. to instruct or benefit, esp. morally or spiritually; uplift: *religious paintings that edify the viewer.* [1300-50; ME *edifien* < AF, OF *edifier* < L *aedificare* to build, equiv. to *aedi-* (s. of *aedes*) house, temple + *-ficare* -FY] —**ed-i-fi-er**, *n.* —**ed-i-fy-ing-ly**, *adv.*

**e-dile** (ē'dil), *n.* *Rom. Hist.* aedile.

**E-di-na** (i'dī nā), *n.* a city in SE Minnesota, near Minneapolis. 46,073.

**Ed-in-burg** (ē'dn būrg'), *n.* a city in S Texas. 24,075.

**Ed-in-burgh** (ē'dn būr'ā, -bur'ā or, esp. *Brit.*, -brā), *n.* 1. Duke of. See **Philip** (def. 4). 2. a city in and the capital of Scotland, in the SE part; administrative center of the Lothian region. 470,985.

**Ed-ir-ne** (ē'dēr'ne), *n.* a city in NW Turkey, in the European part. 54,885. Also called **Adrianople**. Formerly, **Adrianopolis**.

**Ed-i-son** (ē'dī sən), *n.* 1. Thomas Alva (al'vā), 1847-1931, U.S. inventor, esp. of electrical devices. 2. a township in central New Jersey. 70,193.

**Ed-i-son effect'**, *Physics.* the phenomenon of the flow of electric current when an electrode sealed inside the bulb of an incandescent lamp is connected to the positive terminal of the lamp. [named after T. A. Edison]

**ed-it** (ē'dit), *v.* 1. to supervise or direct the preparation of (a newspaper, magazine, book, etc.); serve as editor of; direct the editorial policies of. 2. to collect, prepare, and arrange (materials) for publication. 3. to revise or correct, as a manuscript. 4. to expunge; eliminate (often fol. by out): *The author has edited out all references to his own family.* 5. to add (usually fol. by in). 6. to prepare (motion-picture film, video or magnetic tape) by deleting, arranging, and splicing, by synchronizing the sound record with the film, etc. 7. *Genetics.* to alter the arrangement of (genes). 8. *Computers.* to modify or add to (data or text). —*n.* 9. an instance of or the work of editing: *automated machinery that allows a rapid edit of incoming news.* [1785-95; 1915-20 for def. 6; partly back formation from *EDITOR*, partly < F *éditer* < L *editus* published (ptp. of *edere* to give out), equiv. to *ē-* + *-ditus* comb. form of *datus* given; cf. *DATUM*]

**edit**, 1. edited. 2. edition. 3. editor.

**Edith** (ē'dith), *n.* a female given name; from Old English words meaning "rich, happy" and "war." Also, **E'dithe**.

**ed-i-tion** (i'dish'ən), *n.* 1. one of a series of printings of the same book, newspaper, etc., each issued at a different time and differing from another by alterations, additions, etc. (distinguished from *impression*). 2. the format in which a literary work is published: *a one-volume edition of Shakespeare.* 3. the whole number of impressions or copies of a book, newspaper, etc., printed from one set of type at one time. 4. a version of anything, printed or not, presented to the public: *the newest edition of a popular musical revue.* [1545-55; < MF < L *editio* (s. of *editio*) publication, equiv. to *edit(us)* (ptp. of *edere*; see *EDIT*) + *-ion* -ION]

**ed-i-tion bind-ing**, a decorative binding for books, often of leather or simulated leather. Cf. **library binding**.

**ed-i-tio prin-ceps** (ē dit'i ō' prīng'keps; Eng. i'dish'e ō' prīn'seps), *pl.* **ed-i-tio-nes prin-ci-pes** (ē dit'i ō'nes prīng'ki pes; Eng. i'dish'e ō'nez prīn'se pēz'), *Latin*. first edition.

**ed-i-tor** (ē'dī tər), *n.* 1. a person having managerial and sometimes policy-making responsibility for the editorial part of a publishing firm or of a newspaper, magazine, or other publication. 2. the supervisor or conductor of a department of a newspaper, magazine, etc.: *the sports editor of a newspaper.* 3. a person who edits material for publication, films, etc. 4. a device for editing film or magnetic tape. [1640-50; < ML, LL *editor*; see *EDIT*, -TOR]

**ed-i-to-ri-al** (ē'dī tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'-), *n.* 1. an article in a newspaper or other periodical presenting the opinion of the publisher, editor, or editors. 2. a statement broadcast on radio or television that presents the opinion of the owner, manager, or the like, of the station or channel. 3. something regarded as resembling such an article or statement, as a lengthy, dogmatic utterance. —*adj.* 4. of or pertaining to an editor or to editing: *editorial policies; editorial techniques.* 5. of, pertaining to, or involved in the preparation of an editorial or editorials: *editorial page; editorial writer.* 6. of or pertaining to the literary and artistic activities or contents of a publication, broadcasting organization, or the like, as distinguished from its business activities, advertisements, etc.: *an editorial employee; an editorial decision, not an ad-*

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b., blend of; blended; c., cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling; spelled; resp., respelled; respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; \* , unattested; ? , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.