

Etymology- The origin and history of a word is called its etymology. It appears in brackets like these []. It lists the history of a word from the most recent to the earliest, most certain language. Etymologies appear in different places in different dictionaries. Check yours. Some etymologies are very brief while others may give much more information.

min·e·stro·ne (mĭn'ī-strō'nē) *n.* A thick soup of Italian origin containing assorted vegetables, beans, pasta, and herbs in a broth. [Ital., aug. of *minestra*, dish of pasta, rice, vegetables or beans < OItal. < *ministrare*, to dish up < Lat. *ministrāre*, to serve food < *minister*, servant. See *mei-2**.]

Derived Words- These are words that are found by adding common suffixes such as -ly, -er, or -ness to an entry word. They are usually found at the end of a main entry and is followed by the new word's part of speech.

fl·nite (fī'nīt') *adj.* 1.a. Having bounds; limited: *finite fuel reserves*. b. Existing, persisting, or enduring for a limited time only; impermanent. 2. *Math.* a. Being neither infinite nor infinitesimal. b. Having a positive or negative numerical value; not zero. c. Having a limited number of elements. Used of a set. 3. *Gram.* Limited, as by person and number. Used of a verb that can serve as or in a predicate. — *n.* A finite thing. [ME *finit* < Lat. *finitus*, p.part. of *finire*, to limit < *finis*, end.] — fl'nite'ly *adv.* — fl'nite'ness *n.*

Usage and Field Labels- Usage labels indicate nonstandard usages such as **ARCHAIC, OBSOLETE, SLANG, VULGAR,** and so on.

A field label indicates an occupation, activity, or area of knowledge in which the word is used in a special way. These labels may or may not be italicized and/or abbreviated. Check your dictionary.

Joy ride *n. Slang.* 1. A ride taken for fun and often for the thrills provided by reckless driving. 2. A hazardous, reckless, often costly venture. — **Joy rider** *n.*

joy·stick (joi'stik') *n. Slang.* 1. The control stick of an aircraft. 2. A manual control or cursor device, as one attached to a computer.

J.P. or JP *abbr. Law.* Justice of the peace.

Synonyms- are words that have similar but **NOT IDENTICAL** meanings. After some entries, a block of words may appear with the abbreviation, **SYN.** Here synonyms are given and the differences in the meanings are listed.

phy·sique (fī-zēk') *n.* The body considered with reference to its proportions, muscular development, and appearance. [Fr., physical, physique < Lat. *physicus*, of nature < Gk. *phusikos* < *phusis*, nature. See *bheus-**.] — **phy·siqued'** *adj.*
Syns: *physique, build, constitution.* The central meaning shared by these nouns is "bodily structure or development": *a delicate physique; a stocky build; a robust constitution.*

Antonyms- These are words that are opposite in meaning. They are listed in the same format as a synonym, except they are preceded by the abbreviation, ANT.

Captions- A title, short explanation, or description that accompanies a photograph or illustration.

Photo- an image, especially a positive print, recorded by a camera and reproduced on a photosensitive surface.

Illustration- a visual matter used to clarify or decorate a text.

Picture- A visual representation or image drawn, photographed, or otherwise rendered on a flat surface.

Diagram- a plan, drawing, or outline designed to demonstrate or explain how something works or clarify the relationship between parts of a whole.

Drawing- The art of representing objects or forms on a surface chiefly by means of lines.

Inflected forms- represent changes in the entry word by the addition of suffixes or by changes in its base form. There are three kinds of inflected forms. They are verb parts, irregular plurals, and the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives.

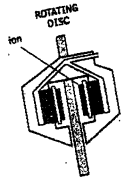
Inflected forms follow the part of speech label. They are printed in bold type. They may include syllables but are usually shortened to the last syllable plus the inflectional ending.

Some inflected forms are spelled out to avoid confusion.

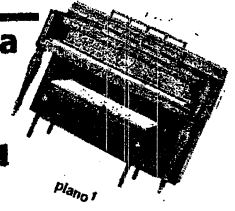
min·er·al·ize (mĭn'ər-ə-līz') *v.* -ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es. — *tr.*
1. To convert to a mineral substance. 2. To transform a metal into a mineral by oxidation. 3. To impregnate with minerals.
— *intr.* 1. To develop or hasten mineral formation. 2. To collect or study minerals. — **min' er·al·iz'a·ble** *adj.* — **min' er·al·iz'a'tion** (ə-lī-zā'shən) *n.* — **min' er·al·iz'er** *n.*

fin·ny (fĭn'ē) *adj.* -ni·er, -ni·est. 1. Having a fin or fins.

las·so (lās'ō, lă-sōō') *n., pl.* -sos or -soes. A long rope with a running noose at one end, used esp. to catch horses and cattle.



Finland



piano



Pablo Picasso
Photographed c. 1953

Prefixes- are one or more syllables added to the beginning of a word. This is important because it allows you to build your vocabulary. You add prefixes to root words you already know to form new words!

When a prefix is added to root word, the spelling of the root word STAYS THE SAME!

dis- *pref.* 1. Not: *dissimilar*. 2.a. Absence of: *disinterest*. b. Opposite of: *disfavor*. 3. Undo; do the opposite of: *disarrange*. 4.a. Deprive of: *disfranchise*. b. Remove: *disbud*. S.a. Free from: *disintoxicate*. 6. Used as an intensive: *disannul*. [ME < OFr. *des-* < Lat. *dis-*, *dis-* < *dis*, apart, asunder.]
dis-a-bil-i-ty (*dís-ə-bil'it-ē*) *n.*, *pl. -ties*. 1.a. The condition of being disabled; incapacity. b. The period of such a condition. 2. A disadvantage or deficiency, esp. a physical or mental impairment that impedes normal achievement. 3. Something that hinders or incapacitates. 4. *Law*. A legal incapacity or disqualification.
dis-a-ble (*dís-ə'bl*) *tr.v.* -bled, -bling, -bles. 1. To deprive of

SUFFIXES- are the addition of one or more syllables to the end of a word to form a new word. The new word's part of speech is usually different from that of the original root. When a suffix is added to a root word, the SPELLING OF THE ROOT WORD often CHANGES.

un-ceas'ing adj.
un-ceas'ing-ly adv.
un-ceas'ing-ness n.
un-cer'e-brat'ed adj.
un-cer'ti-fied' adj.

Proper Nouns- are nouns that name a specific person, place, or thing. PROPER NOUNS ARE always CAPITALIZED.

Fin-land (*fín'lánd*). A country of N Europe on the Gulf of Bothnia; gained independence from Russia in 1919. Cap. Helsinki. Pop. 4,893,748. — *Fin'land-er n.*
Finland, Gulf of. An arm of the Baltic Sea bordering on Finland, Russia, and Estonia.

Cross-references- help you find additional, related information. You will often be able to find exactly what you want to know by checking the word source that you're being referred to. You can identify cross-references by the words *See* and *See also*.

fin whale n. See *finback*.

J particle n. An unusually massive neutral meson with an anomalously long lifetime. See table at *subatomic particle*.

Word origin= the etymology of a word. The etymology is usually explained by identifying the older language from which a word is derived. The symbols used in etymologies are usually explained in the front of the dictionary. The etymology gives a clue to the word's meaning and can sometimes help with spelling.

Examples- Your dictionary may demonstrate how a word may be used by giving phrases or sentences containing that word. Check your dictionary for more information.

un-ad-dressed (*ún-ə-drĕst'*) *adj.* 1. Not brought up for discussion or solution: *questions that remain unaddressed*. 2. Not containing the required address: *unaddressed letters*.

Homographs- These are words that are spelled the same but have different sounds and different meanings.

e.g. invalid¹ n. A sick, injured, or disabled person
invalid² adj. Not valid or proper

Homonyms- These are words that are spelled and pronounced the SAME, BUT they have different meanings.

e.g. bluff¹v. To mislead or deceive
bluff²n. A steep riverbank or cliff

Homophones- These are words that have the SAME SOUND, BUT they have DIFFERENT SPELLINGS AND DIFFERENT MEANINGS.

e. g. brake v. To slow or stop
break v. To smash or divide into pieces

Abbreviations- are used to save time or space. They are indicated by the letters abbr. Some abbreviations may be used in formal writing, while others may be used only in informal writing. Check your grammar book for more information.

Jr abbr. Bible. Jeremiah.
Jr. or Jr. abbr. Junior.
JRC abbr. Junior Red Cross.

Plurals- refer to nouns that are greater than one. They are indicated by *pl.* and follow the pronunciation in a dictionary entry. Plurals are divided into two categories: regular plurals and irregular plurals.

pi¹ (pi) n., pl. pts. 1. The 16th letter of the Greek alphabet.

Most nouns in our language have regular plural forms. This means that they use an -s to form the plural. In some words, the singular word is changed slightly before -es is added to the word.

IRREGULAR PLURALS defy the above stated rules. You must use a dictionary to find out how to spell these plurals correctly.

THUMB INDEX- is a series of rounded indentations cut into the front edge of a book, each labeled, as with a letter, to indicated a section of a book.

Idiom- A phrase or expression which means something different from what the words may actually say.

e. g. "Now, that's a horse of a different color!"