SPELLING BEE

Every word, explained

A searchable A-Z companion to the original 21-page scan.
1,155 words: 911 Study words and 244 Challenge words.

How to use this reference

Find the word alphabetically or use its matching number in the word list. Each entry gives a short study meaning, part of speech, source grouping, and original scan page. Click a headword to open its dictionary or other cited reference.

Check the pronunciation before practicing

Use the audio or pronunciation information in the linked dictionary when available. For an unfamiliar word without audio, ask the teacher or bee organizer how it will be pronounced. Avoid guessing from the spelling.

What the definitions mean

These are original, simplified study glosses, usually selecting one useful meaning. They are not quotations from a dictionary or the official definitions the bee will read aloud. Rare and ambiguous senses were researched; every entry has a reference lookup link.

Keep the source categories in perspective

Study and Challenge reproduce the supplied booklet, not grade levels. Group labels reproduce its organization and are not complete etymologies. Several words traveled through more than one language.

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Part of speech: n. = noun; v. = verb; adj. = adjective; adv. = adverb; interj. = interjection.
C = original Challenge word; S = original Study word. Selected editorial notes are on the last page.

Definitions A-Z

abdicate to alchemy | Click a word for its reference entry.

1 **abdicate**

v. To give up a throne or an important responsibility.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

2 **abide**

v. To accept and follow something, as in abide by the rules.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

3 **academy**

n. A school, especially one devoted to a particular subject or skill.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

4 **access**

n. A way or opportunity to reach or use something.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

5 **accommodate**

v. To provide room for someone or adjust to their needs.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

6 **acme**

n. The highest point of achievement, quality, or development.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

7 **acronym**

n. A word formed from the first letters of several words, such as NASA.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

8 **adagio**

adv. At a slow, unhurried speed when playing music.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

9 **adamant**

adj. Firmly determined and unwilling to change a decision or belief.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

10 **adios**

interj. A Spanish word used to say goodbye.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

11 **adjacent**

adj. Next to or very close to something.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

12 **admiral**

n. A high-ranking officer who commands naval forces.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

13 **adobe**

n. Sun-dried earth used to make bricks and buildings.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

14 **affinity**

n. A natural liking for or connection with something.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

15 **aggregate**

n. A whole formed by bringing separate things together.
Latin | C | scan p. 16

16 **agnostic**

n. A person who is unsure whether a god exists or can be known.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

17 **alamo**

n. A poplar tree, especially an aspen, in the southwestern United States.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

18 **albatross**

n. A large seabird with very long wings.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

19 **alcazar**

n. A palace or fortress in Spain.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

20 **alchemy**

n. An old practice that tried to turn ordinary metals into gold.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

Definitions A-Z

alcohol to amicable | Click a word for its reference entry.

21 **alcohol**

n. A type of chemical found in some drinks, medicines, and cleaners.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

22 **alcove**

n. A small space set back into the side of a room.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

23 **alderman**

n. A member of a city or town council.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

24 **alfalfa**

n. A plant grown as food for farm animals.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

25 **algebra**

n. A branch of mathematics that uses letters to represent numbers.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

26 **algorithm**

n. A clear set of steps for solving a problem.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

27 **alim**

n. A Muslim scholar with knowledge of religious matters.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

28 **alkali**

n. A base that dissolves in water and neutralizes acids.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

29 **allegory**

n. A story whose characters and events represent deeper ideas or lessons.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

30 **allegro**

adv. At a lively, fairly fast speed when playing music.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

31 **alleviate**

v. To make pain or a problem less severe.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

32 **alligator**

n. A large reptile with a broad snout and a powerful tail.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

33 **alliteration**

n. Repetition of the same starting consonant sound in nearby words.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

34 **altruism**

n. Caring about and helping others without expecting a reward.
French | S | scan p. 9

35 **amarillo**

n. A tropical American tree whose wood is used for lumber.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

36 **ambiguity**

n. Uncertainty because something can have more than one meaning.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

37 **ambivalent**

adj. Having mixed feelings about something or someone.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

38 **ambulance**

n. A vehicle that carries sick or injured people for medical care.
French | S | scan p. 9

39 **ameliorate**

v. To make a bad situation better.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

40 **amenable**

adj. Willing to cooperate, listen, or accept a suggestion.
French | S | scan p. 9

41 **amicable**

adj. Friendly and peaceful, without arguments or bad feelings.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

Definitions A-Z

amnesia to apostrophe | Click a word for its reference entry.

42 **amnesia**

n. A condition in which someone loses some or all memory.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

43 **ampere**

n. A unit used to measure the flow of electric current.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

44 **amphibious**

adj. Able to live, move, or operate both on land and in water.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

45 **anachronism**

n. Something placed in a time period where it does not belong.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

46 **analysis**

n. A careful examination of something by studying its parts.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

47 **anchovy**

n. A small sea fish often eaten salted or used to flavor food.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

48 **androcentric**

adj. Centered on men's interests or treating their experiences as the norm.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

49 **android**

n. A robot designed to look and act like a human.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

50 **angelic**

adj. Like an angel, especially in beauty, gentleness, or goodness.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

51 **angst**

n. A strong feeling of worry, fear, or uneasiness.
German | S | scan p. 11

52 **angstrom**

n. A tiny unit of length equal to one ten-billionth of a meter.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

53 **animosity**

n. A strong feeling of dislike or hostility.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

54 **anomaly**

n. Something that is different from what is normal or expected.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

55 **anschluss**

n. A political union, especially Germany's forcible joining with Austria in 1938.
German | C | scan p. 11

56 **antibiotic**

n. A medicine that kills bacteria or stops them from growing.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

57 **antipasto**

n. An Italian starter served before the main part of a meal.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

58 **anvil**

n. A heavy metal block used as a surface for shaping metal.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

59 **apartheid**

n. South Africa's former system of legally enforced racial separation and discrimination.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

60 **apathy**

n. A lack of interest, concern, or enthusiasm about something.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

61 **apostrophe**

n. A punctuation mark used to show possession or missing letters.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

Definitions A-Z

apparatchik to azimuth | Click a word for its reference entry.

62 **apparatchik**

n. An official who loyally follows the rules of a political party or organization.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

63 **apricot**

n. A small yellow-orange fruit with a hard stone inside.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

64 **aquatic**

adj. Living, growing, or taking place in water.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

65 **arachnid**

n. An animal such as a spider or scorpion, usually with eight legs.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

66 **archipelago**

n. A group or chain of islands in a body of water.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

67 **Argentine**

n. A person who comes from or lives in Argentina.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

68 **aria**

n. A song for one voice in an opera or similar work.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

69 **aristocracy**

n. A country's highest social class, often with inherited titles or privileges.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

70 **arsenal**

n. A collection of weapons or a place that stores them.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

71 **artichoke**

n. A plant whose thick flower bud is eaten as a vegetable.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

72 **asana**

n. A position or posture used when practicing yoga.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

73 **aspen**

n. A poplar tree whose leaves tremble easily in a breeze.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

74 **asterisk**

n. A star-shaped mark used to point to a note or special information.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

75 **asthmogenic**

adj. Causing attacks of asthma, a condition that makes breathing difficult.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

76 **aul**

n. A village or settlement in the Caucasus or parts of Central Asia.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

77 **autobahn**

n. A major highway in Germany or another German-speaking country.
German | S | scan p. 11

78 **automaton**

n. A machine that moves or carries out actions by itself.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

79 **autopsy**

n. An examination of a body after death to learn the cause.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

80 **average**

n. A number found by adding amounts and dividing by how many there are.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

81 **azimuth**

n. A direction measured as an angle around the horizon.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

Definitions A-Z

azure to barrage | Click a word for its reference entry.

82 **azure**

adj. Bright blue like a clear sky.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

83 **baba**

n. A small, rich cake soaked in a syrup often flavored with rum.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

84 **babka**

n. A sweet yeast cake, often containing chocolate, cinnamon, or dried fruit.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

85 **babushka**

n. A headscarf folded into a triangle and tied under the chin.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

86 **Backstein**

n. A strong-smelling German cheese made in a brick shape.
German | S | scan p. 11

87 **Baedeker**

n. A guidebook that gives useful information about places to visit.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

88 **bagel**

n. A chewy, ring-shaped bread that is boiled before baking.
German | S | scan p. 11

89 **balalaika**

n. A Russian stringed musical instrument with a triangular body.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

90 **balcony**

n. A raised platform with a railing that projects from a building.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

91 **ballerina**

n. A female ballet dancer, especially one with a leading role.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

92 **ballot**

n. A paper or electronic form used to record a vote.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

93 **bambino**

n. An Italian word used in English for a baby or small child.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

94 **bamboo**

n. A tall grass with hard, hollow stems used for building and making objects.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

95 **bandersnatch**

n. A wildly strange person, named after an imaginary creature in Lewis Carroll's writing.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

96 **bandit**

n. A robber, especially one who belongs to a gang.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

97 **bangle**

n. A stiff bracelet worn around the wrist.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

98 **banzai**

n. A Japanese shout used as a cheer or battle cry.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

99 **barabara**

n. A partly underground hut made with earth or turf in northern regions.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

100 **barley**

n. A cereal grain grown for food, animal feed, and drinks.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

101 **barrage**

n. A large number of things arriving quickly, such as questions.
French | S | scan p. 9

Definitions A-Z

barrio to bevel | Click a word for its reference entry.

102 **barrio**

n. A neighborhood, especially in a Spanish-speaking community.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

103 **barrow**

n. A cart used to carry loads, often pushed by hand.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

104 **barukhzy**

n. An Afghan hound, a tall hunting dog with a long coat.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

105 **basmati**

n. A type of fragrant rice with long, slender grains.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

106 **batik**

n. A method of coloring cloth using wax to keep some areas undyed.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

107 **baton**

n. A thin stick used by a conductor to lead musicians.
French | S | scan p. 9

108 **bayou**

n. A slow-moving stream or swampy waterway, especially in the southern United States.
New World | S | scan p. 6

109 **Beetewk**

n. A horse of a Russian breed developed for heavy pulling work.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

110 **begonia**

n. A flowering plant often grown for its colorful flowers or leaves.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

111 **behest**

n. A strong request, instruction, or command from someone.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

112 **behoove**

v. To be necessary, proper, or useful for someone to do.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

113 **beige**

n. A pale, light brown or sandy color.
French | S | scan p. 9

114 **belay**

v. To secure a rope, especially to protect someone who is climbing.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

115 **beleaguer**

v. To surround with trouble, difficulties, or attacking forces.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

116 **belladonna**

n. A poisonous plant with dark berries, also called deadly nightshade.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

117 **bellicose**

adj. Eager to fight or start an argument.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

118 **belligerent**

adj. Hostile and ready to argue or fight.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

119 **benefactor**

n. Someone who gives money or other help.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

120 **benevolent**

adj. Kind and wanting to help other people.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

121 **bequeath**

v. To leave money or property to someone after death through a will.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

122 **bevel**

n. A sloping edge cut into a piece of material.
French | S | scan p. 9

Definitions A-Z

bezoar to borax | Click a word for its reference entry.

123 **bezoar**

n. A hard lump that forms from swallowed material in an animal's stomach.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

124 **bhalu**

n. A bear, especially the sloth bear of South Asia.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

125 **biblical**

adj. Related to the Bible or to things described in it.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

126 **Bildungsroman**

n. A novel about how its main character grows up and develops.
German | S | scan p. 11

127 **biopsy**

n. Removal of a small tissue sample to check for disease.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

128 **blasé**

adj. Unimpressed or bored because something has become too familiar.
French | C | scan p. 9

129 **blister**

n. A small raised pocket of fluid under the skin.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

130 **blithe**

adj. Cheerful and carefree, sometimes without enough concern.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

131 **blitzkrieg**

n. A sudden, powerful military attack intended to win quickly.
German | C | scan p. 11

132 **bluff**

v. To pretend to have strength or knowledge you do not have.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

133 **Bobadil**

n. Someone who boasts about bravery but is actually cowardly.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

134 **bobbejaan**

n. A chacma baboon, a large monkey from southern Africa.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

135 **bolero**

n. A Spanish dance with foot stamping, sharp turns, and pauses.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

136 **bolivar**

n. The basic unit of money used in Venezuela.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

137 **Bolshevik**

n. A member of the Russian political group that took power in 1917.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

138 **bonanza**

n. Something that brings a large amount of wealth or good fortune.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

139 **bongo**

n. One of a pair of small drums played with the hands.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

140 **boodle**

n. Money or valuables, especially money gained dishonestly.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

141 **bookkeeping**

n. The work of keeping accurate records of money received and spent.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

142 **borax**

n. A white mineral compound used in some cleaning products.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

Definitions A-Z

Borzoi to bugle | Click a word for its reference entry.

143 **Borzoi**

n. A large Russian hunting dog with a narrow head and long, silky fur.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

144 **Boswell**

n. Someone who carefully records the life of a famous person they know.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

145 **boudoir**

n. A woman's private bedroom, dressing room, or sitting room.
French | S | scan p. 9

146 **boutique**

n. A small shop selling fashionable clothing or other special goods.
French | S | scan p. 9

147 **bower**

n. A sheltered place in a garden, shaded by trees or climbing plants.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

148 **bowery**

n. A farm or plantation of early Dutch settlers.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

149 **boysenberry**

n. A large, dark reddish fruit developed from several kinds of berries.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

150 **brackish**

adj. Slightly salty, especially describing water.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

151 **braggadocio**

n. Loud, boastful talk meant to make someone sound impressive or brave.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

152 **bratwurst**

n. A German sausage usually made from pork or veal.
German | S | scan p. 11

153 **bravura**

n. A brilliant, confident display of skill in a performance.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

154 **broadleaf**

adj. Having wide, flat leaves, rather than narrow needles.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

155 **bromeliad**

n. A tropical plant in the same family as the pineapple.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

156 **bruin**

n. A name for a bear, especially in stories.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

157 **buccaneer**

n. A pirate, especially one who sailed in the Caribbean long ago.
New World | S | scan p. 6

158 **buckwagon**

n. A heavy wagon used to carry loads in southern Africa.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

159 **buckwheat**

n. A plant whose grainlike seeds are ground into flour.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

160 **Buddha**

n. A person who has reached enlightenment in Buddhist teaching.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

161 **buffalo**

n. A large wild animal related to cattle, such as an American bison.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

162 **bugle**

n. A brass instrument often used to sound military signals.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

Definitions A-Z

bundle to canine | Click a word for its reference entry.

163 **bundle**

n. Several things wrapped or tied together.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

164 **bungalow**

n. A small house usually built mainly on one floor.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

165 **bureaucracy**

n. A system run by many officials who follow detailed rules.
French | S | scan p. 9

166 **burrito**

n. A flour tortilla wrapped around fillings such as beans, rice, or meat.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

167 **caballero**

n. A Spanish gentleman or a skilled horseman.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

168 **cabana**

n. A small shelter or changing room near a beach or pool.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

169 **caboose**

n. A railroad car formerly used by the train crew at the back.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

170 **cacao**

n. A tropical tree whose seeds are used to make chocolate.
New World | S | scan p. 6

171 **cachet**

n. A special quality that makes something respected or admired.
French | S | scan p. 9

172 **cacophony**

n. A mixture of harsh, unpleasant sounds heard together.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

173 **cadenza**

n. A showy solo passage that lets a musician display skill.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

174 **cafeteria**

n. A place where people choose food from a counter and carry it to tables.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

175 **calypso**

n. A small northern orchid with one flower, often pink or purple.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

176 **cameo**

n. A small carving with a raised design on a contrasting background.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

177 **camouflage**

n. Colors or coverings that help something blend into its surroundings.
French | C | scan p. 9

178 **camphor**

n. A strong-smelling substance used in some medicines and to repel insects.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

179 **canary**

n. A small songbird often kept as a pet.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

180 **canasta**

n. A card game in which players collect sets of matching cards.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

181 **candidate**

n. Someone being considered for a position or honor.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

182 **canine**

adj. Relating to dogs or animals in the dog family.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

Definitions A-Z

cantata to charlatan | Click a word for its reference entry.

183 **cantata**

n. A musical work for singers with instruments, often in several parts.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

184 **capitulation**

n. The act of surrendering or giving in.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

185 **cappelletti**

n. Small pieces of filled pasta folded into little hat shapes.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

186 **capricious**

adj. Changing choices or moods suddenly and without a clear reason.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

187 **Capricorn**

n. A zodiac constellation traditionally shown as a sea goat.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

188 **carafe**

n. A glass container used for serving water or other drinks.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

189 **caribou**

n. A large deer of northern regions, also called a reindeer.
New World | S | scan p. 6

190 **carmine**

n. A strong red color or a dye of that color.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

191 **carnivore**

n. An animal that eats other animals for food.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

192 **cashew**

n. A curved edible nut that grows on a tropical tree.
New World | S | scan p. 6

193 **castanets**

n. Small curved pieces clicked together with the fingers to make music.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

194 **catkin**

n. A thin, usually hanging cluster of tiny flowers on some trees.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

195 **caucus**

n. A meeting of members of a political group to make decisions.
New World | S | scan p. 6

196 **cauliflower**

n. A vegetable with a firm head of tightly packed flower buds.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

197 **cavalry**

n. Soldiers who fight on horseback or in armored vehicles.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

198 **cedilla**

n. The small mark under a letter, as in ç.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

199 **chagrin**

n. Embarrassment or disappointment after a mistake or failure.
French | S | scan p. 9

200 **chalupa**

n. A fried, boat-shaped tortilla topped with savory ingredients.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

201 **character**

n. A person or other being who appears in a story.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

202 **charlatan**

n. A person who pretends to have skills or knowledge they lack.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

Definitions A-Z

charpoy to cockatoo | Click a word for its reference entry.

203 **charpoy**

n. A bed with a frame strung with woven ropes or strips.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

204 **chary**

adj. Careful and unwilling to take chances or give too freely.
Old English | C | scan p. 13

205 **chassis**

n. The supporting frame of a vehicle or machine.
French | C | scan p. 9

206 **chauvinism**

n. An unreasonable belief that one's own group is better than others.
French | C | scan p. 9

207 **cheka**

n. The secret police organization created in the early Soviet state.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

208 **chimichanga**

n. A burrito that is fried until its outside is crisp.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

209 **chinchilla**

n. A small South American rodent with very soft, thick fur.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

210 **chintz**

n. A cotton fabric often printed with colorful flowers and given a shiny finish.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

211 **chipotle**

n. A ripe jalapeno pepper that has been smoked and dried.
New World | S | scan p. 6

212 **chocolate**

n. A food made from roasted cacao seeds, often sweetened.
New World | S | scan p. 6

213 **chronic**

adj. Continuing for a long time or happening again and again.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

214 **chronology**

n. The order in which events happened, or a record of that order.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

215 **chutney**

n. A spicy sauce or relish made from fruits or vegetables.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

216 **cilantro**

n. The fresh leaves of the coriander plant, used to flavor food.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

217 **clapboard**

n. A long, thin board used in overlapping layers on a building's outside walls.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

218 **cleanser**

n. A substance used for washing or removing dirt.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

219 **clementine**

n. A small, sweet citrus fruit that is easy to peel.
French | S | scan p. 9

220 **coati**

n. A tropical American relative of raccoons with a long nose and tail.
New World | C | scan p. 6

221 **cobalt**

n. A hard, silvery metal used in alloys and blue pigments.
German | S | scan p. 11

222 **cockatoo**

n. A parrot with a crest of feathers on its head.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

Definitions A-Z

coffle to cordovan | Click a word for its reference entry.

223 **coffle**

n. A group of people or animals tied or chained together in a line.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

224 **cognition**

n. The mental processes used to learn, understand, and remember.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

225 **collage**

n. Art made by attaching different pieces of material to a surface.
French | S | scan p. 9

226 **colloquial**

adj. Used in everyday conversation rather than formal writing.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

227 **coloratura**

n. Elaborate, decorative singing with many quick notes and vocal flourishes.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

228 **comandante**

n. A military commander in a Spanish-speaking country.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

229 **commensurate**

adj. Matching something else in size, amount, or importance.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

230 **commissar**

n. A government or political officer, especially in the former Soviet Union.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

231 **concerto**

n. A musical work featuring one or more solo instruments with an orchestra.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

232 **condolences**

n. Words expressing sympathy when someone has died.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

233 **condor**

n. A very large American vulture with broad wings and a bare head.
New World | S | scan p. 6

234 **confetti**

n. Small pieces of colored paper scattered during celebrations.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

235 **confidence**

n. A feeling of trust in yourself or someone else.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

236 **conjecture**

n. A guess formed without enough evidence to be certain.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

237 **conquistador**

n. A Spanish conqueror in the Americas during the 1500s.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

238 **consensus**

n. General agreement among the people in a group.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

239 **contiguous**

adj. Touching or sharing a boundary with something else.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

240 **contraband**

n. Goods that someone is forbidden by law to carry or sell.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

241 **contrapuntal**

adj. Having two or more independent melodies played together.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

242 **cordovan**

n. A smooth, durable leather often used to make shoes.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

Definitions A-Z

corporal to croon | Click a word for its reference entry.

243 **corporal**

n. A military rank above a private and below a sergeant.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

244 **corpuscle**

n. A tiny cell or particle, especially a blood cell.
Latin | C | scan p. 16

245 **cosmetic**

adj. Meant to improve outward appearance rather than change what is underneath.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

246 **cosmos**

n. The universe considered as a whole, organized system.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

247 **cossack**

n. A member of communities in Ukraine and Russia traditionally known for skilled horseback riding.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

248 **cotton**

n. Soft fibers from a plant, used to make cloth.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

249 **coyote**

n. A wild North American animal related to wolves and dogs.
New World | S | scan p. 6

250 **cravat**

n. A piece of cloth worn around the neck as a tie.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

251 **credentials**

n. Documents or qualifications showing that someone is suitable for something.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

252 **credenza**

n. A low cabinet used for storing or displaying things.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

253 **credible**

adj. Believable and worthy of being trusted.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

254 **creepy**

adj. Making someone feel frightened, uneasy, or uncomfortable.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

255 **crescendo**

n. A gradual increase in the loudness of music.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

256 **crescent**

n. A curved shape like a thin slice of the moon.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

257 **crimp**

v. To press something into small folds or waves.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

258 **crimson**

adj. Deep red with a slightly purple tint.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

259 **cringle**

n. A reinforced loop in a sail where a rope can attach.
German | S | scan p. 11

260 **crochet**

n. A way of making fabric by looping yarn with a hook.
French | S | scan p. 9

261 **Croesus**

n. A person who has an extremely large amount of money.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

262 **croissant**

n. A buttery, flaky pastry usually shaped like a crescent.
French | C | scan p. 9

263 **croon**

v. To sing in a soft, gentle voice.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

Definitions A-Z

croquet to dearth | Click a word for its reference entry.

264 **croquet**

n. A game of hitting balls through hoops with wooden mallets.
French | S | scan p. 9

265 **croquette**

n. A small roll of chopped food coated in crumbs and fried.
French | S | scan p. 9

266 **cruiser**

n. A large warship or a boat used for pleasure trips.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

267 **cruller**

n. A twisted or curled piece of fried sweet dough.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

268 **Crusoe**

n. A person stranded alone who survives using their own skills and resourcefulness.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

269 **cryptic**

adj. Having a meaning that is hidden or hard to understand.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

270 **cummerbund**

n. A wide band of cloth worn around the waist with formal clothing.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

271 **cupid**

n. A small figure of a winged boy, representing love.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

272 **current**

adj. Happening or being used at the present time.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

273 **curriculum**

n. The subjects and lessons taught in a course or school.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

274 **cushy**

adj. Easy and comfortable, requiring very little effort.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

275 **cynical**

adj. Distrustful of people's motives and doubtful that they act unselfishly.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

276 **cynosure**

n. A person or thing that attracts everyone's attention.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

277 **dachshund**

n. A dog breed with a long body and very short legs.
German | S | scan p. 11

278 **daffodil**

n. A spring flower with a central trumpet-shaped part.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

279 **dahlia**

n. A garden plant with large, colorful flowers made of many petals.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

280 **dairy**

n. A place where milk is produced or made into other foods.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

281 **dally**

v. To waste time or move too slowly.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

282 **dealership**

n. A business authorized to sell a particular maker's products.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

283 **dearth**

n. A shortage or lack of something that is needed.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

Definitions A-Z

debacle to diphthong | Click a word for its reference entry.

284 **debacle**

n. A complete failure that causes confusion or embarrassment.
French | C | scan p. 9

285 **decoy**

n. Something used to lure an animal or person into a trap.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

286 **dejected**

adj. Feeling unhappy and discouraged after a disappointment.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

287 **deluxe**

adj. Especially fine, comfortable, or expensive in quality.
French | S | scan p. 9

288 **democracy**

n. A system of government in which people have power, usually through voting.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

289 **demotic**

adj. Related to the everyday speech or customs of ordinary people.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

290 **denim**

n. A strong cotton fabric commonly used to make jeans.
French | S | scan p. 9

291 **denture**

n. A set of artificial teeth that replaces missing teeth.
French | S | scan p. 9

292 **desperado**

n. A bold, dangerous criminal who takes desperate risks.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

293 **détente**

n. An easing of strained relationships, especially between countries.
French | C | scan p. 9

294 **diablo**

n. A devil or an evil spirit in religious stories.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

295 **diagnosis**

n. Identification of an illness or problem by examining signs and information.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

296 **diary**

n. A book used to record daily events and thoughts.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

297 **diatribe**

n. A long, angry speech or piece of writing criticizing someone or something.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

298 **dichotomy**

n. A division between two sharply different or opposite groups or ideas.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

299 **didactic**

adj. Intended to teach something, especially a lesson about behavior.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

300 **diesel**

n. An engine that burns fuel using heat created by compressing air.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

301 **diffa**

n. An Arab reception or feast held for guests.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

302 **diorama**

n. A small three-dimensional display showing a scene.
French | S | scan p. 9

303 **diphthong**

n. A vowel sound that glides between two positions, as in toy.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

Definitions A-Z

diplomat to dungaree | Click a word for its reference entry.

304 **diplomat**

n. Someone who officially represents a country in its dealings with other countries.
French | S | scan p. 9

305 **discern**

v. To notice or recognize something that is not obvious.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

306 **discipline**

n. Training that teaches self-control and orderly behavior.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

307 **dissect**

v. To cut something apart carefully in order to study it.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

308 **ditto**

adv. The same as something that was just said or written.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

309 **doctrinaire**

adj. Sticking rigidly to a theory even when practical facts disagree.
French | S | scan p. 9

310 **dogged**

adj. Determined to keep trying despite problems or difficulty.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

311 **dogma**

n. A belief or set of beliefs accepted as unquestionable by a group.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

312 **dossier**

n. A collection of records about a particular person or subject.
French | C | scan p. 9

313 **douane**

n. A building where officials check goods and collect customs taxes.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

314 **Dracula**

n. Someone who drains another person's strength or energy, like a vampire.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

315 **dreary**

adj. Dull, gloomy, and lacking anything cheerful or interesting.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

316 **dreidel**

n. A four-sided spinning top used in a Hanukkah game.
German | C | scan p. 11

317 **dressage**

n. A sport in which a trained horse performs careful, controlled movements.
French | S | scan p. 9

318 **dross**

n. Waste material or impurities left during the working of metals.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

319 **ductile**

adj. Able to be stretched into a thin wire without breaking.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

320 **duenna**

n. An older woman who acts as a companion and guardian to younger women.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

321 **dugong**

n. A large sea mammal that eats underwater plants and is related to manatees.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

322 **dune**

n. A hill or ridge of sand formed by wind.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

323 **dungaree**

n. A strong, heavy cotton cloth used to make work clothes.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

Definitions A-Z

durwan to embargo | Click a word for its reference entry.

324 **durwan**

n. A person employed to guard a door or entrance.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

325 **dynamic**

adj. Full of energy, activity, and the ability to create change.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

326 **dyslexia**

n. A learning difference that can make reading and spelling words difficult.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

327 **earthenware**

n. Objects made from clay that has been shaped and fired.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

328 **earwig**

n. An insect with a pair of pincers at the end of its body.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

329 **easel**

n. A stand that holds a picture while it is painted or displayed.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

330 **echt**

adj. True and genuine, rather than a copy or imitation.
German | S | scan p. 11

331 **eclectic**

adj. Choosing ideas or styles from many different sources.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

332 **ecru**

n. A pale beige color like unbleached linen.
French | C | scan p. 9

333 **edelweiss**

n. A mountain plant with woolly, white, star-shaped flower heads.
German | C | scan p. 11

334 **efficacy**

n. The ability to produce the intended result.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

335 **egalitarian**

adj. Supporting equal rights and opportunities for all people.
French | S | scan p. 9

336 **egregious**

adj. Extremely bad in a way that is easy to notice.
Latin | C | scan p. 16

337 **eiderdown**

n. The soft feathers of an eider duck, used to fill bedding.
German | S | scan p. 11

338 **einkorn**

n. An ancient kind of wheat, or the grain it produces.
German | S | scan p. 11

339 **electoral**

adj. Having to do with choosing leaders by voting.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

340 **elite**

n. A group considered the best, most powerful, or most skilled.
French | S | scan p. 9

341 **elixir**

n. A liquid once believed to have magical healing powers.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

342 **embarcadero**

n. A landing place where boats load or unload people or goods.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

343 **embargo**

n. An official order stopping trade with a country.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

Definitions A-Z

empanada to euthanasia | Click a word for its reference entry.

344 **empanada**

n. A folded pastry filled with meat, vegetables, or other ingredients.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

345 **enchilada**

n. A tortilla rolled around a filling and covered with sauce.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

346 **endemic**

adj. Native or regularly found in a particular place or population.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

347 **enthusiasm**

n. Strong excitement and interest in something you enjoy.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

348 **entourage**

n. A group of people who travel with an important person.
French | S | scan p. 9

349 **Eocene**

n. A division of Earth's history roughly 56 to 34 million years ago.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

350 **ephemeral**

adj. Lasting for only a very short period of time.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

351 **epiphany**

n. A sudden realization that helps someone understand something important.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

352 **eponym**

n. A person whose name is used to name something else.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

353 **ergonomic**

adj. Designed to fit people's bodies and make work comfortable and efficient.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

354 **errand**

n. A short trip made to deliver, collect, or do something.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

355 **ersatz**

adj. Made as a substitute, usually of poorer quality than the original.
German | C | scan p. 11

356 **erudite**

adj. Having deep knowledge gained through much study.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

357 **escargot**

n. A snail prepared and served as food.
French | S | scan p. 9

358 **etch**

v. To cut a design into a surface using a tool or acid.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

359 **etymology**

n. The study of where words come from and how they change.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

360 **eulogy**

n. A speech or piece of writing praising someone, often after death.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

361 **euphemism**

n. A mild or indirect expression used instead of one that may upset people.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

362 **eureka**

interj. A shout of excitement used when someone makes a discovery.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

363 **euthanasia**

n. Deliberately ending a severely ill person's or animal's life to relieve suffering.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

Definitions A-Z

exacerbate to fête | Click a word for its reference entry.

364 **exacerbate**

v. To make a problem or unpleasant situation worse.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

365 **excise**

n. A tax on certain goods made or sold within a country.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

366 **expertise**

n. Special knowledge or skill gained through learning and experience.
French | S | scan p. 9

367 **extravaganza**

n. A large, spectacular show or event with elaborate entertainment.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

368 **exuberant**

adj. Full of energy, excitement, and happiness.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

369 **facetious**

adj. Trying to be funny when a serious response is expected.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

370 **Fahrenheit**

adj. Using a temperature scale where water freezes at 32 degrees and boils at 212.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

371 **falsetto**

n. An unusually high singing voice above a singer's normal range.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

372 **fandango**

n. A lively Spanish dance, often accompanied by guitars and castanets.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

373 **fantoccini**

n. pl. Puppets moved by strings or machinery, or a show using them.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

374 **farthing**

n. An old British coin worth one-quarter of a penny.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

375 **fastidious**

adj. Very careful and hard to please about small details.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

376 **fathom**

n. A unit equal to six feet, often used to measure water depth.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

377 **fatigue**

n. Great tiredness after effort, work, or illness.
French | S | scan p. 9

378 **feldsher**

n. A medical worker trained to give treatment but without full physician qualifications.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

379 **feldspar**

n. A common group of minerals found in many rocks.
German | S | scan p. 11

380 **femininity**

n. Qualities traditionally associated with women or girls.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

381 **fennec**

n. A small desert fox with very large ears.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

382 **fennel**

n. A plant with feathery leaves and a flavor like anise.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

383 **fête**

n. An organized celebration, festival, or special party.
French | C | scan p. 9

Definitions A-Z

fiasco to foliate | Click a word for its reference entry.

384 **fiasco**

n. Something that turns out to be a complete failure.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

385 **fickle**

adj. Changing one's mind, feelings, or loyalties very easily.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

386 **fidelity**

n. Faithfulness to a person, promise, or belief.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

387 **fiend**

n. An evil spirit or an extremely cruel person.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

388 **fiery**

adj. Full of fire, heat, strong feeling, or energy.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

389 **fiesta**

n. A lively celebration or festival, especially in a Spanish-speaking community.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

390 **fife**

n. A small, high-pitched flute often used in marching music.
German | S | scan p. 11

391 **filament**

n. A very thin thread or threadlike part.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

392 **filibuster**

n. A long speech or other action used to delay a lawmaking decision.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

393 **finale**

n. The last part of a musical work, show, or event.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

394 **finesse**

n. Skill and care in handling a tricky situation.
French | S | scan p. 9

395 **flamboyant**

adj. Very bright, showy, and likely to attract attention.
French | S | scan p. 9

396 **flamenco**

n. A Spanish style of music and dance with strong rhythms.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

397 **Flemish**

adj. Relating to Flanders, its people, or their Dutch language.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

398 **flense**

v. To remove skin or fat from a whale or seal.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

399 **Fletcherism**

n. An old eating method that emphasizes chewing food very thoroughly.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

400 **floss**

n. A thin thread used to clean between teeth.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

401 **flotilla**

n. A group of small ships or boats traveling together.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

402 **foggara**

n. An underground channel that carries water through desert land.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

403 **foist**

v. To force something unwanted on another person.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

404 **foliate**

adj. Having leaves or shaped like a leaf.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

Definitions A-Z

folksiness to garibaldi | Click a word for its reference entry.

405 **folksiness**

n. A friendly, informal manner that seems familiar and down-to-earth.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

406 **forlorn**

adj. Very lonely, sad, or feeling without hope.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

407 **formidable**

adj. So powerful or difficult that it causes fear or respect.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

408 **forsythia**

n. A shrub with bright yellow flowers that bloom early in spring.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

409 **foyer**

n. An entrance hall in a house or other building.
French | S | scan p. 9

410 **Frankenstein**

n. A monstrous creation that harms or destroys its creator.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

411 **fräulein**

n. A traditional German title for an unmarried woman.
German | C | scan p. 11

412 **freebooter**

n. A pirate or other person who steals by force.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

413 **fresco**

n. A painting made on fresh, wet plaster on a wall.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

414 **frolic**

v. To play or move about in a lively, happy way.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

415 **furlong**

n. A measure of distance equal to one-eighth of a mile.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

416 **furlough**

n. A period of allowed leave from work or military duty.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

417 **fuselage**

n. The main body of an aircraft, excluding its wings and tail.
French | S | scan p. 9

418 **fusillade**

n. Many gunshots fired together or in quick succession.
French | C | scan p. 9

419 **futon**

n. A mattress that can be folded or placed on the floor.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

420 **galjoen**

n. A deep-bodied fish found along southern African coasts.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

421 **galleria**

n. A covered passage or indoor area lined with shops.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

422 **garage**

n. A building or enclosed space used for keeping vehicles.
French | S | scan p. 9

423 **garçon**

n. A male waiter, especially in a French restaurant.
French | C | scan p. 9

424 **gardenia**

n. A shrub with shiny leaves and sweet-smelling white flowers.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

425 **garibaldi**

n. A loose shirt or blouse named after an Italian patriot.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

Definitions A-Z

gauche to glockenspiel | Click a word for its reference entry.

426 **gauche**

adj. Awkward or uncomfortable in social situations.
French | C | scan p. 9

427 **gazelle**

n. A graceful, fast-running antelope with slender legs.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

428 **gazpacho**

n. A cold Spanish soup usually made with tomatoes and other vegetables.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

429 **geisha**

n. A Japanese professional entertainer trained in traditional music, dance, and conversation.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

430 **genre**

n. A kind or category of art, music, or writing.
French | C | scan p. 9

431 **geode**

n. A rounded rock with a hollow center often lined with crystals.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

432 **geoponics**

n. The art or science of farming and cultivating the soil.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

433 **geothermal**

adj. Related to heat that comes from inside the Earth.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

434 **geranium**

n. A flowering plant commonly grown in gardens or pots.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

435 **Geronimo**

interj. A shout of excitement, often made when jumping.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

436 **gestalt**

n. A whole pattern understood as more than just its separate parts.
German | S | scan p. 11

437 **gestapo**

n. A secret police organization that frightens and cruelly treats people suspected of disloyalty.
German | S | scan p. 11

438 **gesundheit**

interj. A word said to wish someone good health after a sneeze.
German | C | scan p. 11

439 **geta**

n. A Japanese wooden clog or sandal worn outdoors.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

440 **ghoul**

n. An imaginary evil creature said to haunt graves.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

441 **gingham**

n. A cotton fabric woven with a pattern of small checks.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

442 **giraffe**

n. A tall African animal with a very long neck.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

443 **glasnost**

n. A Soviet policy allowing more open discussion and sharing of information.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

444 **glitz**

n. Bright, showy decoration or glamorous appearances that attract attention.
German | S | scan p. 11

445 **glockenspiel**

n. A musical instrument with metal bars struck by small hammers.
German | C | scan p. 11

Definitions A-Z

gnat to guillotine | Click a word for its reference entry.

446 **gnat**

n. A very small flying insect, sometimes one that bites.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

447 **gnathonic**

adj. Giving false or excessive praise to win someone's favor.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

448 **goatee**

n. A small beard growing on the chin.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

449 **gondola**

n. A long, narrow boat used on canals in Venice.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

450 **gopak**

n. A lively Ukrainian folk dance featuring energetic steps and jumps.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

451 **gordita**

n. A thick cornmeal pocket filled with meat, cheese, or other savory ingredients.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

452 **gorgeous**

adj. Very beautiful, attractive, or pleasing to look at.
French | S | scan p. 9

453 **gospel**

n. The message and teachings of Jesus in Christianity.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

454 **gourami**

n. A tropical freshwater fish, often kept in aquariums.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

455 **grabble**

v. To search for something by feeling with the hands.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

456 **gradient**

n. The steepness of a slope or a rate of change.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

457 **graffiti**

n. Words or pictures drawn or painted on walls or other surfaces.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

458 **graupel**

n. Soft pellets of snow that fall from clouds.
German | S | scan p. 11

459 **greengage**

n. A sweet green or yellow-green variety of plum.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

460 **gregarious**

adj. Enjoying the company of other people or living in groups.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

461 **gristle**

n. Tough, flexible tissue found around joints and in some meat.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

462 **grotto**

n. A small cave, sometimes made or decorated by people.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

463 **gruff**

adj. Rough or harsh in voice or manner.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

464 **guilder**

n. A unit of money formerly used in the Netherlands.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

465 **guillotine**

n. A device with a heavy falling blade, historically used to execute people.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

Definitions A-Z

guitar to haversack | Click a word for its reference entry.

466 **guitar**

n. A stringed musical instrument played by strumming or plucking.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

467 **gulag**

n. A forced labor camp in the former Soviet Union.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

468 **gulden**

n. A former monetary unit used in the Netherlands and some other countries.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

469 **gunnysack**

n. A large bag made of coarse cloth, often used for carrying grain.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

470 **guru**

n. A spiritual teacher, especially in Hindu traditions.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

471 **guy**

n. A rope or cable used to steady a tent or pole.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

472 **gymkhana**

n. An event featuring contests of skill, especially games on horseback.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

473 **gynarchy**

n. A system of government in which women hold power.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

474 **hacienda**

n. A large farm or estate in a Spanish-speaking country.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

475 **hafiz**

n. A Muslim who has memorized the entire Quran.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

476 **haiku**

n. A short Japanese poem, often written in English as three lines.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

477 **halal**

adj. Allowed under Islamic law, especially when describing food.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

478 **hamster**

n. A small rodent with cheek pouches, often kept as a pet.
German | S | scan p. 11

479 **handsome**

adj. Attractive in appearance or impressively large in amount.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

480 **harmonica**

n. A small musical instrument played by blowing and drawing air through it.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

481 **harpoon**

n. A long spear used to catch large fish or sea animals.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

482 **harpsichord**

n. A keyboard instrument that makes sound by plucking strings.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

483 **hartebeest**

n. A large African antelope with a long face and curved horns.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

484 **hassock**

n. A firm cushion used for kneeling or resting the feet.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

485 **haversack**

n. A bag carried over the shoulder for food or other supplies.
German | S | scan p. 11

Definitions A-Z

hawthorn to holster | Click a word for its reference entry.

486 **hawthorn**

n. A thorny tree or shrub with blossoms and small fruits.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

487 **hazard**

n. Something that could cause harm or danger.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

488 **hearth**

n. The floor of a fireplace and the area just in front of it.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

489 **hector**

v. To bully someone or speak to them in a threatening way.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

490 **hedonism**

n. The belief that pleasure is the most important goal in life.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

491 **heifer**

n. A young female cow that has not yet had a calf.
Old English | C | scan p. 13

492 **Hemerocallis**

n. The plant genus containing daylilies, whose individual flowers usually last one day.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

493 **henna**

n. A plant dye used to color skin or hair.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

494 **herbivore**

n. An animal that feeds on plants.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

495 **herpetology**

n. The scientific study of reptiles and amphibians.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

496 **hibachi**

n. A small charcoal heater or grill originally used in Japan.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

497 **hickory**

n. A North American tree known for its hard wood and nuts.
New World | S | scan p. 6

498 **hierarchy**

n. A system that ranks people or things from higher to lower.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

499 **hinterland**

n. Land far from a coast, city, or busy center.
German | S | scan p. 11

500 **hippopotamus**

n. A very large African mammal that spends much time in water.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

501 **hock**

v. To leave something valuable with a pawnbroker in exchange for a loan.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

502 **hogan**

n. A traditional Navajo home made from wood and earth.
New World | S | scan p. 6

503 **Holi**

n. A Hindu spring festival celebrated with colored powders and water.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

504 **hollandaise**

n. A sauce made from butter, egg yolks, and lemon juice.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

505 **holster**

n. A fitted holder for carrying a handgun or another tool.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

Definitions A-Z

homburg to hyperbole | Click a word for its reference entry.

506 **homburg**

n. A felt hat with a dented crown and a curled brim.
German | S | scan p. 11

507 **hominy**

n. Corn kernels treated to remove their hulls and then used as food.
New World | S | scan p. 6

508 **homogeneous**

adj. Made up of parts that are all of the same kind.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

509 **homonym**

n. A word with the same spelling or sound as another but a different meaning.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

510 **honcho**

n. A person who is in charge of a group.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

511 **hoomalimali**

n. Flattering talk or actions meant to win someone's favor.
New World | C | scan p. 6

512 **hosta**

n. A shade-loving garden plant with broad leaves and tall stalks of flowers.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

513 **howitzer**

n. A large gun that fires shells in a high arc.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

514 **huckster**

n. A seller, especially one who uses pushy or misleading methods.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

515 **hue**

n. A color or a particular shade of color.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

516 **humble**

adj. Not boasting or thinking you are more important than others.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

517 **hundredth**

adj. Coming in position number one hundred in a sequence.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

518 **hurdle**

n. A barrier to jump over, or a difficulty to overcome.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

519 **hurricane**

n. A powerful tropical storm with very strong winds and heavy rain.
New World | S | scan p. 6

520 **hustings**

n. The activities and public events of an election campaign.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

521 **hustle**

v. To move or work quickly and energetically.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

522 **hydraulic**

adj. Operated by the pressure of water or another liquid.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

523 **hydrology**

n. The scientific study of water on and beneath Earth's surface.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

524 **hygiene**

n. Practices that keep people and their surroundings clean and healthy.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

525 **hyperbole**

n. Deliberate exaggeration used to make a point or create an effect.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

Definitions A-Z

hyphen to inferno | Click a word for its reference entry.

526 **hyphen**

n. A short punctuation mark that joins words or parts of words.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

527 **hypocrisy**

n. Pretending to have beliefs or standards that one's own actions do not follow.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

528 **hypothesis**

n. A possible explanation that can be tested through investigation.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

529 **icicle**

n. A pointed piece of ice formed by dripping water that freezes.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

530 **idiom**

n. An expression whose overall meaning differs from the literal meanings of its words.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

531 **igneous**

adj. Describing rock formed when melted rock cools and hardens.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

532 **iguana**

n. A large tropical American lizard with a row of spines along its back.
New World | S | scan p. 6

533 **illuminati**

n. pl. People considered, or claiming to be, especially knowledgeable or enlightened.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

534 **imam**

n. A Muslim leader, especially someone who leads prayers.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

535 **impasse**

n. A situation in which no progress or agreement seems possible.
French | S | scan p. 9

536 **imperative**

adj. Extremely important and needing to be done.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

537 **impetuous**

adj. Acting quickly without thinking carefully about the results.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

538 **implement**

v. To put a plan or decision into action.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

539 **inane**

adj. Silly or lacking sense and useful meaning.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

540 **incognito**

adv. With one's true identity hidden from other people.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

541 **incorruptible**

adj. Too honest to be persuaded to do wrong.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

542 **incredulous**

adj. Unable or unwilling to believe something surprising.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

543 **incriminate**

v. To provide evidence that someone did something wrong.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

544 **indigenous**

adj. Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

545 **inferno**

n. An extremely large, fierce fire that causes great destruction.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

Definitions A-Z

infinitesimal to jaguar | Click a word for its reference entry.

546 **infinitesimal**

adj. So tiny that it is almost impossible to measure.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

547 **influenza**

n. A contagious illness, called flu, that affects the breathing system.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

548 **ingenious**

adj. Showing cleverness in solving a problem or inventing something.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

549 **ingenue**

n. An innocent young woman, or an actress playing that kind of character.
French | C | scan p. 9

550 **innate**

adj. Present naturally from birth rather than learned.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

551 **innocuous**

adj. Not harmful or likely to cause trouble.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

552 **inselberg**

n. An isolated steep hill rising from an otherwise fairly level plain.
German | S | scan p. 11

553 **insidious**

adj. Causing harm gradually in a way that is hard to notice.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

554 **intaglio**

n. A design carved below the surface of stone or another hard material.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

555 **interrupt**

v. To stop someone or something briefly in the middle.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

556 **intractable**

adj. Very difficult to control, manage, or solve.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

557 **ipecac**

n. A tropical plant whose roots have been used to make medicine.
New World | C | scan p. 6

558 **irony**

n. A surprising difference between what is expected and what actually happens.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

559 **isinglass**

n. A gelatin made from fish swim bladders, used to clarify liquids.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

560 **Islamic**

adj. Relating to Islam, a religion followed by Muslims.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

561 **isobar**

n. A line on a weather map joining places with equal air pressure.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

562 **issei**

n. A person born in Japan who immigrated to another country, especially America.
Japanese | C | scan p. 5

563 **jacamar**

n. A tropical American bird with shiny feathers and a long, pointed bill.
New World | C | scan p. 6

564 **jackal**

n. A wild, doglike animal found in parts of Africa and Asia.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

565 **jaguar**

n. A large spotted wild cat native to the Americas.
New World | S | scan p. 6

Definitions A-Z

jeremiad to kasha | Click a word for its reference entry.

566 **jeremiad**

n. A long speech or piece of writing filled with complaints.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

567 **jerky**

n. Meat cut into strips and dried so it keeps longer.
New World | S | scan p. 6

568 **jiva**

n. An individual soul or living self in Hindu and Jain beliefs.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

569 **jnana**

n. Spiritual knowledge or understanding in Hindu thought.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

570 **jovial**

adj. Cheerful, friendly, and full of good humor.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

571 **juggernaut**

n. A huge, powerful force or thing that seems impossible to stop.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

572 **julep**

n. A sweet drink, often flavored with mint.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

573 **junco**

n. A small North American bird with a short bill and white outer tail feathers.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

574 **jungle**

n. A thick forest in a hot region with many tangled plants.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

575 **junta**

n. A small group that controls a government, often military leaders.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

576 **jute**

n. A plant fiber used to make rough cloth, bags, and rope.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

577 **Kabuki**

n. Traditional Japanese theater with stylized acting, singing, dancing, and elaborate costumes.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

578 **kahuna**

n. A traditional Hawaiian religious expert or spiritual leader.
New World | S | scan p. 6

579 **kama**

n. Desire for pleasure or worldly things in Indian religious thought.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

580 **kami**

n. A sacred spirit or power honored in the Shinto religion.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

581 **karaoke**

n. Entertainment in which people sing along with recorded musical accompaniment.
Japanese | C | scan p. 5

582 **karate**

n. A martial art using hand strikes, kicks, and defensive movements.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

583 **karma**

n. The effect of a person's actions on their future in some Indian religions.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

584 **kasha**

n. A cooked grain dish, usually made from buckwheat.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

Definitions A-Z

kavya to kohlrabi | Click a word for its reference entry.

585 **kavya**

n. Highly decorated poetry written in Sanskrit or other Indian languages.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

586 **keelhaul**

v. To punish a sailor by dragging them underwater beneath a ship.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

587 **keen**

adj. Very eager, interested, or sharp in understanding.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

588 **keeshond**

n. A dog with a thick gray coat and a curled tail.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

589 **keest**

n. A Scottish word for an inner vital substance, such as marrow.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

590 **khan**

n. A traditional title for some rulers in Central Asia.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

591 **khor**

n. A water channel or a deep, narrow valley.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

592 **kibei**

n. A child of Japanese immigrants, born in America but educated mostly in Japan.
Japanese | C | scan p. 5

593 **kielbasa**

n. A smoked sausage originally made in Poland.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

594 **kipper**

n. A fish, usually herring, that has been salted and smoked.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

595 **kirtle**

n. An old-fashioned long dress or a tunic worn in earlier times.
Old English | C | scan p. 13

596 **kishke**

n. A sausage casing filled with a seasoned mixture, often including flour and fat.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

597 **kith**

n. Familiar friends, neighbors, or people one knows.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

598 **kitsch**

n. Art or decoration considered overly sentimental or in poor taste.
German | S | scan p. 11

599 **klompen**

n. Traditional Dutch wooden shoes.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

600 **knapsack**

n. A bag carried on the back for clothes or supplies.
German | S | scan p. 11

601 **knavery**

n. Dishonest or tricky behavior meant to fool others.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

602 **knish**

n. A baked or fried dough pocket with a savory filling, often potatoes.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

603 **koan**

n. A puzzling question or statement used for meditation in Zen Buddhism.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

604 **kohlrabi**

n. A cabbage relative with a round, swollen stem eaten as a vegetable.
German | S | scan p. 11

Definitions A-Z

kona to lilac | Click a word for its reference entry.

605 **kona**

n. A southwesterly Hawaiian wind that can bring heavy rain.
New World | S | scan p. 6

606 **kovsh**

n. A Russian drinking vessel with a boat-shaped bowl and a handle.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

607 **kremlin**

n. A central fortress or fortified area in a Russian city.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

608 **kuchen**

n. A German cake, often made with fruit or cheese.
German | S | scan p. 11

609 **kudzu**

n. A fast-growing climbing vine with large leaves, originally from eastern Asia.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

610 **kuruma**

n. A small two-wheeled passenger carriage pulled by a person.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

611 **lahar**

n. A fast-moving mixture of water and volcanic rock that flows down a volcano.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

612 **langlauf**

n. The sport of traveling or racing across countryside on skis.
German | S | scan p. 11

613 **langosta**

n. A spiny lobster found in Central or South American waters.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

614 **lariat**

n. A long rope with a sliding loop used to catch animals.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

615 **layette**

n. A collection of clothes and supplies for a newborn baby.
French | S | scan p. 9

616 **learned**

adj. Having gained a great deal of knowledge through study.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

617 **lederhosen**

n. Traditional leather shorts worn especially in parts of Germany and Austria.
German | S | scan p. 11

618 **lemon**

n. A yellow citrus fruit with sour juice.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

619 **leotard**

n. A close-fitting, one-piece outfit worn for dancing or gymnastics.
French | S | scan p. 9

620 **lethargy**

n. A feeling of unusual tiredness, sluggishness, or lack of energy.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

621 **library**

n. A collection of books or the place that holds them.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

622 **libretto**

n. The written words of an opera or similar musical work.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

623 **lieutenant**

n. An officer who ranks below a captain in some military services.
French | C | scan p. 9

624 **lilac**

n. A shrub with clusters of sweet-smelling purple or white flowers.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

Definitions A-Z

linden to maestro | Click a word for its reference entry.

625 **linden**

n. A shade tree with heart-shaped leaves and fragrant flowers.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

626 **linseed**

n. The seed of the flax plant, often used to make oil.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

627 **lithe**

adj. Able to bend and move easily and gracefully.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

628 **liverwurst**

n. A soft sausage made with liver and other meat.
German | S | scan p. 11

629 **llama**

n. A South American animal related to camels, raised for wool and carrying loads.
New World | S | scan p. 6

630 **loam**

n. Soil with a mixture of sand, silt, and clay.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

631 **loiter**

v. To stay around a place without a clear purpose.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

632 **lokshen**

n. Noodles, especially those used in Jewish cooking.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

633 **loot**

n. Money or valuables stolen or taken by force.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

634 **luau**

n. A Hawaiian feast that often includes music and dancing.
New World | S | scan p. 6

635 **lucid**

adj. Clear and easy to understand or think about.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

636 **lunatic**

n. An insulting, old-fashioned term for someone considered wildly foolish or mentally ill.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

637 **macadamia**

n. A round, rich-tasting edible nut with a very hard shell.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

638 **macaroni**

n. Pasta shaped like short tubes, often with a bend.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

639 **machismo**

n. An exaggerated belief that men should seem tough and powerful.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

640 **macrame**

n. The craft of making decorative patterns by knotting cords.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

641 **macron**

n. A horizontal mark above a vowel that can show a long sound.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

642 **madeleine**

n. A small, rich cake usually baked in a shell-shaped mold.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

643 **maelstrom**

n. A powerful whirlpool or a situation of great confusion.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

644 **maestro**

n. A highly skilled musician, especially a conductor or composer.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

Definitions A-Z

magazine to marzipan | Click a word for its reference entry.

645 **magazine**

n. A regularly published collection of articles and pictures.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

646 **magnanimous**

adj. Generous and forgiving, especially toward a rival.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

647 **magnolia**

n. A tree or shrub with large, often sweet-smelling flowers.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

648 **mahal**

n. A summer house or private living quarters in India.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

649 **mahatma**

n. A person respected for great wisdom, kindness, and selfless behavior.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

650 **mahimahi**

n. A large ocean fish with bright colors, also called dolphinfish.
New World | S | scan p. 6

651 **mahout**

n. A person who cares for and drives an elephant.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

652 **maladroit**

adj. Clumsy or awkward in movement or behavior.
French | S | scan p. 9

653 **malaria**

n. A disease caused by parasites spread through certain mosquito bites.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

654 **malihini**

n. A newcomer or visitor who is unfamiliar with Hawaii.
New World | S | scan p. 6

655 **mammoth**

n. An extinct elephant relative, often known for long tusks and a woolly coat.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

656 **mandir**

n. A Hindu temple, used for worship and religious gatherings.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

657 **manhandle**

v. To move or treat someone or something roughly by hand.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

658 **manicure**

n. A treatment that cleans, shapes, and cares for fingernails.
French | S | scan p. 9

659 **mantilla**

n. A lace or silk scarf worn over the head and shoulders.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

660 **maraca**

n. A musical rattle shaken to produce a rhythmic sound.
New World | S | scan p. 6

661 **maraschino**

n. A cherry preserved in sweet syrup, often colored bright red.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

662 **mariachi**

n. Traditional Mexican music, or a musician who performs it.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

663 **mart**

n. A market or place where goods are sold.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

664 **marzipan**

n. A sweet paste made from ground almonds and sugar.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

Definitions A-Z

masala to mentor | Click a word for its reference entry.

665 **masala**

n. A mixture of spices used in South Asian cooking.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

666 **mascara**

n. Makeup brushed onto eyelashes to make them darker or thicker.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

667 **mascot**

n. A person, animal, or character that represents a team or group.
French | S | scan p. 9

668 **massage**

n. Rubbing or pressing muscles to help them relax.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

669 **mathematics**

n. The study of numbers, shapes, patterns, measurements, and their relationships.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

670 **matinee**

n. A performance or movie showing held in the afternoon.
French | S | scan p. 9

671 **matriarch**

n. A mother or older woman who leads a family or group.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

672 **mattock**

n. A digging tool with a heavy head, used to break soil.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

673 **mattress**

n. A padded surface that lies on a bed for sleeping.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

674 **mayonnaise**

n. A thick sauce made mainly from oil, egg yolk, and vinegar or lemon juice.
French | C | scan p. 9

675 **measure**

v. To find the size, length, or amount of something.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

676 **mediocre**

adj. Only average in quality and not very good.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

677 **megalopolis**

n. A very large urban area formed by nearby cities growing together.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

678 **Meiji**

n. The period from 1868 to 1912 when Emperor Mutsuhito ruled Japan.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

679 **Meistersinger**

n. A member of a historical German craftworkers' group devoted to poetry and music.
German | S | scan p. 11

680 **melancholy**

n. A quiet, thoughtful feeling of sadness that may last.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

681 **mélange**

n. A mixture of different kinds of things.
French | C | scan p. 9

682 **melba**

n. A dessert of fruit with ice cream, raspberry sauce, and whipped cream.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

683 **menhaden**

n. An oily fish related to herring, often used for bait or fertilizer.
New World | C | scan p. 6

684 **mentor**

n. An experienced person who guides and teaches someone else.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

Definitions A-Z

menu to mnemonic | Click a word for its reference entry.

685 **menu**

n. A list of foods and drinks that can be ordered.
French | S | scan p. 9

686 **mercerize**

v. To treat cotton with a chemical solution to make it stronger and shinier.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

687 **mercurial**

adj. Changing moods quickly and unpredictably.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

688 **mermaid**

n. An imaginary creature with a woman's upper body and a fish's tail.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

689 **mesa**

n. A hill or mountain with a flat top and steep sides.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

690 **mesmerize**

v. To hold someone's attention so completely that they notice little else.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

691 **message**

n. Information sent or spoken to another person.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

692 **metamorphosis**

n. A major change in form, such as a caterpillar becoming a butterfly.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

693 **metaphor**

n. A comparison that describes one thing as another to suggest a shared quality.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

694 **meticulous**

adj. Extremely careful about even the smallest details.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

695 **mihrab**

n. A mosque's wall recess showing the direction of Mecca for prayer.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

696 **mikado**

n. A title formerly used in English for the emperor of Japan.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

697 **minaret**

n. A tall mosque tower traditionally used for the call to prayer.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

698 **mirage**

n. An image caused by bent light, often making distant ground look like water.
French | S | scan p. 9

699 **misanthropy**

n. A strong dislike or distrust of people in general.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

700 **miso**

n. A salty, fermented soybean paste used in Japanese cooking.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

701 **misogynist**

n. A person who hates women or is strongly prejudiced against them.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

702 **mistletoe**

n. A plant that grows on trees and often has white berries.
Old English | C | scan p. 13

703 **mizzle**

n. A light, misty rain.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

704 **mnemonic**

n. A pattern, phrase, or other trick that helps someone remember information.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

Definitions A-Z

mohair to myriad | Click a word for its reference entry.

705 **mohair**

n. Soft fiber made from the hair of Angora goats.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

706 **mole**

n. A Mexican sauce made with chilies, spices, and often chocolate.
New World | S | scan p. 6

707 **mongoose**

n. A small, quick mammal with a long body, sometimes known for fighting snakes.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

708 **mongrel**

n. A dog whose parents come from different breeds.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

709 **monotonous**

adj. Staying the same in a way that becomes boring.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

710 **monsoon**

n. A seasonal wind that can bring months of heavy rain.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

711 **mootable**

adj. Open to discussion, disagreement, or debate.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

712 **morgue**

n. A place where dead bodies are kept before burial or examination.
French | S | scan p. 9

713 **mosque**

n. A building where Muslims gather to pray.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

714 **motif**

n. A repeated design, theme, or idea in art or music.
French | S | scan p. 9

715 **mozzarella**

n. A mild Italian cheese often used on pizza.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

716 **muddle**

v. To mix things up or make them confusing.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

717 **muishond**

n. A striped southern African weasel that releases a strong odor when disturbed.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

718 **mukhtar**

n. The head of a town's local government.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

719 **mummy**

n. A dead body preserved so that it does not decay normally.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

720 **musicale**

n. A social gathering where musical performances are the main entertainment.
French | S | scan p. 9

721 **muskrat**

n. A swimming rodent with thick fur and a long, narrow tail.
New World | S | scan p. 6

722 **muslin**

n. A lightweight woven cotton cloth.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

723 **muumuu**

n. A loose, flowing Hawaiian dress that hangs from the shoulders.
New World | S | scan p. 6

724 **mynheer**

n. A Dutch title of respect, similar to mister or sir.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

725 **myriad**

n. A very large number of people or things.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

Definitions A-Z

mystique to nisei | Click a word for its reference entry.

726 **mystique**

n. An interesting sense of mystery surrounding someone or something.
French | S | scan p. 9

727 **nabob**

n. A very wealthy or powerful person.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

728 **nachtmusik**

n. A serenade, or music traditionally performed in the evening.
German | S | scan p. 11

729 **nadir**

n. The lowest point in someone's fortunes or in a situation.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

730 **narcissistic**

adj. Too focused on yourself and too eager for admiration.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

731 **nasal**

adj. Having to do with the nose.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

732 **nebbish**

n. A timid person who has trouble standing up for themselves.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

733 **necessary**

adj. Needed for a particular purpose or situation.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

734 **nelma**

n. A large northern freshwater fish related to whitefish, also called an inconnu.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

735 **nemesis**

n. A powerful rival or opponent who is very difficult to defeat.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

736 **nenuphar**

n. A water lily, especially the Egyptian lotus.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

737 **neologism**

n. A newly created word, phrase, or meaning.
French | S | scan p. 9

738 **nestle**

v. To settle comfortably into a snug, sheltered place.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

739 **nether**

adj. Located below or underneath something else.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

740 **Netherlander**

n. A person from the Netherlands.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

741 **newfangled**

adj. New and unfamiliar, often in a way someone dislikes.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

742 **newton**

n. A unit scientists use to measure force.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

743 **nightingale**

n. A small songbird known for its rich, musical singing.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

744 **ninja**

n. A person trained in secret fighting and spying in historical Japan.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

745 **nirvana**

n. A state of freedom from suffering and desire, especially in Buddhist teaching.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

746 **nisei**

n. A child of Japanese immigrants, born and educated in America.
Japanese | C | scan p. 5

Definitions A-Z

noodle to opera | Click a word for its reference entry.

747 **noodle**

n. A thin strip or piece of dough cooked in liquid.
German | S | scan p. 11

748 **nosh**

v. To eat a snack or a small amount of food.
German | S | scan p. 11

749 **nosiest**

adj. Most curious about other people's private business.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

750 **nostril**

n. One of the two openings of the nose.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

751 **notochord**

n. A flexible supporting rod in some animals and in developing vertebrate embryos.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

752 **nougat**

n. A chewy sweet made with sugar or honey and often nuts.
French | S | scan p. 9

753 **novillero**

n. A beginning bullfighter who has not yet become a matador.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

754 **obsequious**

adj. Too eager to obey or please someone important.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

755 **obstinate**

adj. Stubbornly refusing to change an opinion or behavior.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

756 **ocarina**

n. A small wind instrument with finger holes and a rounded body.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

757 **ocelot**

n. A medium-sized spotted wild cat from the Americas.
New World | C | scan p. 6

758 **odori**

n. A lively Japanese folk or theater dance with quick foot movements.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

759 **odyssey**

n. A long journey filled with adventures and important experiences.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

760 **olio**

n. A mixture or collection of many different things.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

761 **Olympian**

n. An athlete who takes part in the Olympic Games.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

762 **ominous**

adj. Suggesting that something bad may happen soon.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

763 **omnipotent**

adj. Having unlimited power or the ability to do anything.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

764 **omnivorous**

adj. Eating food from both plants and animals.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

765 **oolong**

n. A type of tea processed partway between green and black tea.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

766 **opera**

n. A stage work in which the story is mainly sung.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

Definitions A-Z

opossum to paparazzo | Click a word for its reference entry.

767 **opossum**

n. An American mammal that usually carries its young in a pouch.
New World | C | scan p. 6

768 **orange**

n. A round citrus fruit with orange-colored skin.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

769 **oratorio**

n. A large musical work for singers and instruments, usually telling a religious story.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

770 **orchard**

n. A planted area where fruit or nut trees grow.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

771 **oregano**

n. An herb whose leaves add flavor to foods such as pizza.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

772 **origami**

n. The art of folding paper into decorative shapes and figures.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

773 **orthodox**

adj. Following the accepted or traditional beliefs and practices of a group.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

774 **ostentatious**

adj. Showing off wealth or possessions to attract attention.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

775 **pacifism**

n. The belief that wars and violence should be avoided.
French | S | scan p. 9

776 **package**

n. An object or group of objects wrapped for carrying or sending.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

777 **paddock**

n. A small enclosed field where horses are kept or exercised.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

778 **palette**

n. A flat board on which an artist mixes paint.
French | S | scan p. 9

779 **palmetto**

n. A palm tree or shrub with fan-shaped leaves.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

780 **pampas**

n. pl. Wide, mostly treeless grasslands found in parts of South America.
New World | S | scan p. 6

781 **pandit**

n. A learned teacher or scholar in India, especially of Hindu religion.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

782 **Panglossian**

adj. Unrealistically cheerful and convinced that everything will turn out for the best.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

783 **pangolin**

n. A mammal covered in hard scales that eats ants and termites.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

784 **panic**

n. A sudden, strong fear that makes clear thinking difficult.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

785 **panzer**

n. A German military tank or armored fighting vehicle.
German | S | scan p. 11

786 **paparazzo**

n. A photographer who follows famous people to take their pictures.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

Definitions A-Z

paprika to perfidy | Click a word for its reference entry.

787 **paprika**

n. A red seasoning made by grinding dried peppers.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

788 **paradigm**

n. A model, example, or pattern used to understand or do something.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

789 **paradox**

n. A statement or situation that seems contradictory but may be true.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

790 **parapet**

n. A low protective wall along a roof, bridge, or balcony.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

791 **parfait**

n. A dessert often made with layers of cream, fruit, or other sweet ingredients.
French | S | scan p. 9

792 **parka**

n. A warm jacket with a hood, worn in cold weather.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

793 **Parmesan**

n. A hard Italian-style cheese often grated over pasta.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

794 **participant**

n. Someone who takes part in an activity or event.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

795 **pasteurize**

v. To heat food or liquid enough to kill many harmful germs.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

796 **patel**

n. A village chief or headman in India.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

797 **patina**

n. A surface layer or sheen that develops as something ages.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

798 **patriarch**

n. A father or older man who leads a family or group.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

799 **pecan**

n. A smooth-shelled nut with a rich kernel, or the tree producing it.
New World | S | scan p. 6

800 **peccadillo**

n. A small fault or a minor wrongdoing.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

801 **peloton**

n. The main group of riders in a bicycle race.
French | S | scan p. 9

802 **pentathlon**

n. An athletic contest made up of five different events.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

803 **percolate**

v. To pass slowly through something with small spaces or holes.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

804 **perennial**

adj. Lasting for many years or returning again and again.
Latin | C | scan p. 16

805 **perestroika**

n. The policy of changing Soviet government and economic systems during the 1980s.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

806 **perfidy**

n. Deliberately betraying someone who trusted you.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

Definitions A-Z

periphery to pistachio | Click a word for its reference entry.

807 **periphery**

n. The outside edge or boundary of an area.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

808 **periscope**

n. An instrument with mirrors or prisms for seeing over or around obstacles.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

809 **Permian**

adj. Relating to the geological period that ended just before the Triassic began.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

810 **pernicious**

adj. Very harmful, often in a gradual or hidden way.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

811 **persimmon**

n. A sweet orange or reddish fruit that becomes soft when ripe.
New World | S | scan p. 6

812 **pesto**

n. A sauce usually made with basil, garlic, nuts, cheese, and oil.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

813 **petunia**

n. A garden plant with colorful, trumpet-shaped flowers.
New World | S | scan p. 6

814 **pfeffernuss**

n. A small, hard spice cookie traditionally made at Christmas.
German | C | scan p. 11

815 **phenomenon**

n. An event or fact that can be observed or studied.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

816 **philanthropy**

n. Giving money, time, or other help to improve people's lives.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

817 **philately**

n. The collection and study of postage stamps and related materials.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

818 **philhellenism**

n. Admiration for Greece, its people, or its culture.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

819 **philippic**

n. A speech that strongly and harshly criticizes someone or something.
Eponym | C | scan p. 20

820 **physique**

n. The size, shape, and build of someone's body.
French | S | scan p. 9

821 **piazza**

n. An open public square in an Italian town.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

822 **picaresque**

adj. Describing a story about the adventures of a clever, dishonest character.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

823 **piccolo**

n. A small flute that plays very high notes.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

824 **pickelhaube**

n. A helmet with a spike, formerly worn by German soldiers.
German | C | scan p. 11

825 **pickle**

n. Food preserved in salty water or vinegar.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

826 **pinafore**

n. A sleeveless garment worn over clothes to protect them.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

827 **pistachio**

n. A small greenish nut inside a hard, pale shell.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

Definitions A-Z

pitchblende to powwow | Click a word for its reference entry.

828 **pitchblende**

n. A dark mineral that is an important source of uranium.
German | S | scan p. 11

829 **pizzicato**

adv. By plucking an instrument's strings with the fingers.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

830 **plateau**

n. A large, raised area of land with a fairly level surface.
French | S | scan p. 9

831 **plausible**

adj. Seeming reasonable or likely to be true.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

832 **pneumatic**

adj. Operated by air pressure or filled with compressed air.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

833 **pochismo**

n. An American English word borrowed into Mexican Spanish, especially near the United States border.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

834 **pogrom**

n. A violent, organized attack on a religious or ethnic group, especially Jewish people.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

835 **poi**

n. A traditional Hawaiian food made from cooked, mashed taro root.
New World | S | scan p. 6

836 **poignant**

adj. Causing strong feelings, especially sadness or tenderness.
French | C | scan p. 9

837 **poinsettia**

n. A plant with bright leaflike parts around its tiny flowers, popular at Christmas.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

838 **polder**

n. Low land protected from water by embankments and drainage.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

839 **polka**

n. A lively dance with three quick steps and a hop.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

840 **poltergeist**

n. An imagined spirit said to make noises and move objects.
German | S | scan p. 11

841 **polygon**

n. A flat, closed shape with three or more straight sides.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

842 **polymer**

n. A substance made of large molecules containing many repeating units.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

843 **popularity**

n. The state of being liked by many people.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

844 **portfolio**

n. A collection of work that shows a person's skills.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

845 **postmortem**

n. An examination of a body to find the cause of death.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

846 **potash**

n. Potassium compounds often used to make fertilizers.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

847 **powwow**

n. A gathering of Indigenous North American people, often featuring traditional dancing and music.
New World | S | scan p. 6

Definitions A-Z

prabhu to protocol | Click a word for its reference entry.

848 **prabhu**

n. A title meaning lord or chief in India.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

849 **pragmatic**

adj. Focused on practical results and what works in real situations.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

850 **prairie**

n. A large area of grassland with few trees.
French | S | scan p. 9

851 **praline**

n. A sweet candy made with nuts and sugar.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

852 **prattle**

v. To talk at length about small or unimportant things.
German | S | scan p. 11

853 **precipice**

n. A very steep cliff or the edge of one.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

854 **precipitate**

v. To cause something to happen suddenly or sooner than expected.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

855 **precocious**

adj. Showing abilities at an unusually early age.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

856 **predicate**

n. The part of a sentence that tells about its subject.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

857 **prerogative**

n. A special right that belongs to a particular person or group.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

858 **prescription**

n. A health professional's written directions for a medicine or treatment.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

859 **pretzel**

n. A baked snack often shaped like a knot and sprinkled with salt.
German | S | scan p. 11

860 **primal**

adj. Basic, original, or belonging to the earliest stage.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

861 **prodigal**

adj. Spending money or resources in a wasteful way.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

862 **prosaic**

adj. Ordinary and unexciting, with little imagination or beauty.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

863 **prosciutto**

n. Italian ham that is cured and usually served in thin slices.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

864 **prosecute**

v. To bring a criminal case against someone in court.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

865 **protagonist**

n. The main character in a story, play, or other work.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

866 **protégé**

n. A person guided and helped by someone more experienced.
French | C | scan p. 9

867 **protein**

n. A substance made of amino acids that helps build and run living cells.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

868 **protocol**

n. An agreed set of rules for how to do something.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

Definitions A-Z

providence to raita | Click a word for its reference entry.

869 **providence**

n. Protective care, especially care believed to come from God.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

870 **provolone**

n. A smooth, firm Italian cheese often used in sandwiches.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

871 **pueblo**

n. A Native American village with connected stone or adobe homes.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

872 **puma**

n. A large American wild cat also called a cougar or mountain lion.
New World | S | scan p. 6

873 **pumpernickel**

n. A dense, dark bread made mostly from rye flour.
German | S | scan p. 11

874 **punctilio**

n. A small detail of proper behavior or ceremony.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

875 **pundit**

n. An expert who shares opinions or explanations about a subject.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

876 **purga**

n. A fierce Arctic snowstorm with very cold winds.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

877 **pyre**

n. A pile of wood prepared for burning a body in a funeral ceremony.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

878 **Qatari**

adj. Relating to Qatar, a country on the Arabian Peninsula.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

879 **quell**

v. To calm, stop, or put an end to something.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

880 **quesadilla**

n. A tortilla filled with cheese and sometimes other ingredients, then heated.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

881 **quiche**

n. A savory pie filled with eggs, milk or cream, and other ingredients.
French | S | scan p. 9

882 **quinine**

n. A bitter substance from cinchona bark used in medicine and some drinks.
New World | S | scan p. 6

883 **quisling**

n. A person who helps an enemy take control of their own country.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

884 **quiver**

v. To shake or tremble with small, quick movements.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

885 **quixote**

n. Someone who pursues noble goals in an impractical or unrealistic way.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

886 **rabbit**

n. A small mammal with long ears and a short tail.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

887 **raconteur**

n. A person who tells stories in an entertaining way.
French | C | scan p. 9

888 **raita**

n. A cooling dish of yogurt mixed with vegetables, fruit, or seasonings.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

Definitions A-Z

raj to renegade | Click a word for its reference entry.

889 **raj**

n. The period when Britain ruled India, or government rule more generally.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

890 **ramada**

n. An outdoor shelter with a roof and usually open sides.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

891 **ramen**

n. Japanese noodles often served in a bowl of broth.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

892 **rapport**

n. A friendly relationship based on understanding and trust.
French | C | scan p. 9

893 **rasgado**

n. A guitar effect made by sweeping the thumb across the strings.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

894 **ravel**

v. To untangle threads or cause them to become tangled.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

895 **ravioli**

n. Small pasta pockets filled with cheese, meat, or vegetables.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

896 **realschule**

n. A German secondary school focused on practical subjects and sciences.
German | S | scan p. 11

897 **recalcitrant**

adj. Stubbornly refusing to obey rules or accept guidance.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

898 **recidivist**

n. Someone who commits crimes again after being punished.
French | C | scan p. 9

899 **reckless**

adj. Acting without enough thought about danger or consequences.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

900 **refugee**

n. Someone forced to leave their country to escape danger or persecution.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

901 **regatta**

n. An organized event in which boats race against one another.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

902 **regime**

n. A government or system of rule in a country.
French | S | scan p. 9

903 **rehearse**

v. To practice a performance before presenting it to an audience.
French | S | scan p. 9

904 **rejoneador**

n. A bullfighter who rides a horse and uses a short lance.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

905 **relevant**

adj. Directly connected to the topic being discussed.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

906 **renaissance**

n. A time when art, learning, or another activity becomes lively again.
French | C | scan p. 9

907 **rendezvous**

n. A meeting arranged for a particular time and place.
French | C | scan p. 9

908 **renegade**

n. Someone who leaves a group or rejects its rules.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

Definitions A-Z

renovate to sachem | Click a word for its reference entry.

909 **renovate**

v. To repair and improve an old building or object.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

910 **repertoire**

n. The collection of pieces a performer knows and can present.
French | C | scan p. 9

911 **reptile**

n. A cold-blooded vertebrate with scaly skin, such as a snake.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

912 **retrospective**

adj. Looking back at events that happened in the past.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

913 **rhetoric**

n. The skill of using language effectively to persuade or influence people.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

914 **rhinoceros**

n. A large, thick-skinned mammal with one or two horns on its nose.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

915 **ridiculous**

adj. So silly or unreasonable that it seems laughable.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

916 **robot**

n. A machine that performs tasks automatically, sometimes resembling a person.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

917 **Romaji**

n. A way of writing Japanese using the Roman alphabet.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

918 **roodebok**

n. An impala or another reddish African antelope.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

919 **rottweiler**

n. A strong, black-and-tan dog breed often used for guarding.
German | C | scan p. 11

920 **rotunda**

n. A round room or building, often covered by a dome.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

921 **rouge**

n. Red or pink makeup used to color the cheeks.
French | S | scan p. 9

922 **rough-hewn**

adj. Shaped roughly with a cutting tool and left unfinished.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

923 **rucksack**

n. A bag carried on the back with shoulder straps.
German | S | scan p. 11

924 **rupee**

n. A unit of money used in India and several other countries.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

925 **rupture**

n. A break or tear in something.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

926 **sable**

n. A small mammal from northern Asia with valuable dark fur.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

927 **saboteur**

n. Someone who deliberately damages things or disrupts plans.
French | C | scan p. 9

928 **sachem**

n. A chief or leader of certain Indigenous North American peoples.
New World | C | scan p. 6

Definitions A-Z

safari to scampi | Click a word for its reference entry.

929 **safari**

n. A journey to observe or hunt wild animals, especially in Africa.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

930 **saffron**

n. A yellow-orange spice made from parts of a crocus flower.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

931 **salaam**

n. A greeting of peace, sometimes accompanied by a bow.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

932 **salami**

n. A strongly seasoned sausage usually sliced and eaten cold.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

933 **sallow**

adj. Having an unhealthy-looking pale yellow or yellowish brown color.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

934 **salmonella**

n. A kind of bacterium that can cause food poisoning.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

935 **salve**

n. A soothing ointment put on sore or damaged skin.
Old English | C | scan p. 13

936 **samaritan**

n. A person who kindly helps someone in trouble.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

937 **samovar**

n. A metal container that heats water for making tea.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

938 **samurai**

n. A member of the warrior class in historical Japan.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

939 **sansei**

n. A grandchild of Japanese immigrants, born and educated in America.
Japanese | C | scan p. 5

940 **sarcasm**

n. Words meant to mock or hurt, often saying the opposite of what is meant.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

941 **sarsaparilla**

n. A tropical vine whose roots have been used to flavor drinks.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

942 **sashimi**

n. A Japanese dish of thin slices of raw fish or seafood.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

943 **sassafras**

n. A tree with fragrant bark and leaves of several different shapes.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

944 **satori**

n. A sudden, deep spiritual understanding sought in Zen Buddhism.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

945 **sauerbraten**

n. A German dish of beef soaked in a seasoned liquid and then roasted or braised.
German | S | scan p. 11

946 **saxophone**

n. A metal woodwind instrument with keys, played by blowing through a single reed.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

947 **sayonara**

n. An expression of farewell, borrowed from Japanese.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

948 **scampi**

n. A dish of shrimp cooked with garlic and butter.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

Definitions A-Z

scenario to serendipity | Click a word for its reference entry.

949 **scenario**

n. A description of a situation or how events might develop.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

950 **schadenfreude**

n. Pleasure felt because someone else has trouble or bad luck.
German | C | scan p. 11

951 **scherzo**

n. A lively, playful musical piece or part of a larger composition.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

952 **schipperke**

n. A small, usually black dog with pointed ears.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

953 **schloss**

n. A castle or large country house in Germany.
German | S | scan p. 11

954 **schnauzer**

n. A dog breed known for its bushy eyebrows and beard.
German | S | scan p. 11

955 **schnecke**

n. A rich, coiled cinnamon bun made from yeast dough.
German | C | scan p. 11

956 **school**

n. A group of fish swimming together.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

957 **schottische**

n. A lively social dance resembling a slow polka.
German | C | scan p. 11

958 **scow**

n. A wide, flat-bottomed boat used for carrying goods.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

959 **scrabble**

v. To scrape or struggle with the hands or feet.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

960 **screen**

n. A surface that displays pictures or a barrier that blocks something.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

961 **scum**

n. A layer of unwanted material floating on liquid.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

962 **seersucker**

n. A light fabric with alternating smooth and puckered stripes.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

963 **segue**

v. To move smoothly from one activity, topic, or musical section to another.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

964 **seltzer**

n. Water containing bubbles of carbon dioxide gas.
German | S | scan p. 11

965 **semantics**

n. The study of the meanings of words and language.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

966 **semolina**

n. Coarsely ground wheat used to make pasta and some puddings.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

967 **sequin**

n. A small shiny disk sewn onto clothing as decoration.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

968 **serdab**

n. A small chamber in an ancient Egyptian tomb that holds a statue.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

969 **serendipity**

n. The happy discovery of something useful or pleasant by chance.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

Definitions A-Z

sevruga to souvenir | Click a word for its reference entry.

970 **sevruga**

n. Small sturgeon eggs eaten as a kind of caviar.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

971 **shampoo**

n. A liquid soap made especially for washing hair.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

972 **shogun**

n. A military ruler who held great power in historical Japan.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

973 **shrapnel**

n. Sharp metal pieces scattered by an exploding bomb or shell.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

974 **shrieval**

adj. Connected with a sheriff or a sheriff's duties.
Old English | C | scan p. 13

975 **Siberian**

adj. Relating to Siberia, a large region of northern Asia.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

976 **sierra**

n. A mountain range with a rough, jagged outline.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

977 **simile**

n. A comparison using words such as like or as.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

978 **sitzmark**

n. A dent in snow made when a skier falls backward.
German | S | scan p. 11

979 **skipper**

n. The captain of a boat or ship.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

980 **skunk**

n. An animal that can spray a strong-smelling liquid to defend itself.
New World | S | scan p. 6

981 **slaughter**

n. The killing of animals for meat or other food.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

982 **Slav**

n. A person whose native language is Slavic, such as Russian, Polish, or Czech.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

983 **slave**

n. A person treated as property and forced to work without freedom.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

984 **snuff**

n. Powdered tobacco traditionally taken through the nose.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

985 **soliloquy**

n. A speech a character makes aloud while alone in a play.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

986 **sombrero**

n. A hat with a very wide brim, especially one worn in Mexico.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

987 **sonata**

n. A musical work for one or two instruments, usually in several parts.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

988 **sortie**

n. A short trip out to carry out a task or mission.
French | S | scan p. 9

989 **souvenir**

n. An object kept as a reminder of a place or event.
French | S | scan p. 9

Definitions A-Z

Soviet to stollen | Click a word for its reference entry.

990 **Soviet**

adj. Relating to the former Soviet Union or its people.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

991 **spaghetti**

n. Pasta made in the form of long, thin strands.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

992 **spareribs**

n. Ribs with meat on them, usually cut from pork.
German | S | scan p. 11

993 **Spartan**

n. A person from the ancient Greek city of Sparta.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

994 **spectrum**

n. A range of colors, qualities, or possibilities.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

995 **spherical**

adj. Shaped like a ball, with a curved surface all around.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

996 **spinet**

n. A small keyboard instrument, such as a compact piano or harpsichord.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

997 **spitz**

n. A dog type with pointed ears, thick fur, and a curled tail.
German | S | scan p. 11

998 **splice**

v. To join the ends of ropes, wires, or other materials.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

999 **spoor**

n. Tracks or other signs left by a wild animal.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1000 **springbok**

n. A small southern African antelope known for high leaps.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

1001 **springerle**

n. A thick, hard cookie with a stamped design, usually flavored with anise.
German | C | scan p. 11

1002 **spritz**

v. To spray something lightly with small drops of liquid.
German | S | scan p. 11

1003 **sputnik**

n. One of the early satellites launched into space by the Soviet Union.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

1004 **staccato**

adv. With each musical note short and clearly separated.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

1005 **staple**

n. A short piece of wire used to fasten papers together.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1006 **stethoscope**

n. An instrument used to listen to sounds inside the body.
French | S | scan p. 9

1007 **stipple**

v. To draw, paint, or decorate using many small dots.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1008 **stoic**

n. Someone who faces pain or difficulty without showing much emotion.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1009 **stollen**

n. A German sweet bread containing dried fruit and often nuts.
German | S | scan p. 11

Definitions A-Z

strategy to synchronous | Click a word for its reference entry.

1010 **strategy**

n. A carefully planned way to achieve an important goal.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1011 **streusel**

n. A crumbly topping of flour, sugar, and butter used on baked goods.
German | S | scan p. 11

1012 **strict**

adj. Requiring rules to be followed very carefully.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1013 **stringy**

adj. Made of or resembling long, thin strands.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1014 **stripe**

n. A long, narrow band that differs from the surrounding area.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1015 **strudel**

n. A pastry made by wrapping thin dough around fruit or another filling.
German | S | scan p. 11

1016 **stucco**

n. Plaster used to cover and decorate walls and ceilings.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

1017 **suave**

adj. Smooth, confident, and polite in the way one behaves.
French | S | scan p. 9

1018 **subterfuge**

n. A clever trick used to hide the truth or avoid something.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1019 **succotash**

n. A dish made from corn and beans cooked together.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1020 **sugar**

n. A sweet substance used in foods and drinks.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

1021 **sukiyaki**

n. A Japanese dish of thinly sliced beef cooked with vegetables.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

1022 **sultan**

n. A ruler in certain Muslim countries.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

1023 **sumo**

n. A Japanese form of wrestling fought inside a circular ring.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

1024 **surveillance**

n. Careful watching of a person, place, or activity.
French | C | scan p. 9

1025 **susceptible**

adj. Easily affected, harmed, or influenced by something.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1026 **sushi**

n. A Japanese food made with seasoned rice and toppings or fillings.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

1027 **Swahili**

n. An East African language widely used for communication between communities.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

1028 **symbiosis**

n. A close living relationship between organisms of different species.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1029 **synchronous**

adj. Happening at the same time or moving together in time.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

Definitions A-Z

synergy to temporal | Click a word for its reference entry.

1030 **synergy**

n. A combined effect greater than what separate efforts could produce.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1031 **synonym**

n. A word with the same or nearly the same meaning as another.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1032 **synopsis**

n. A short summary of a book, story, or other work.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1033 **syntax**

n. The rules for arranging words to form sentences.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1034 **tachometer**

n. An instrument that measures how fast a shaft or engine rotates.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1035 **tahini**

n. A paste made by grinding sesame seeds.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

1036 **taiga**

n. A cold northern forest made mainly of cone-bearing trees.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

1037 **taj**

n. A cap worn in some Muslim communities, sometimes tall and cone-shaped.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

1038 **talc**

n. A very soft mineral that can be ground into powder.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

1039 **tamale**

n. Seasoned filling wrapped in corn dough and steamed inside a leaf or husk.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1040 **tamarind**

n. A tropical tree whose sour fruit pulp is used in cooking.
Arabic | C | scan p. 17

1041 **tanha**

n. A strong craving or desire for life in Buddhist teaching.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

1042 **tantalize**

v. To tease someone by showing something desirable but keeping it out of reach.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

1043 **tariff**

n. A tax charged on goods brought into a country.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

1044 **tarragon**

n. An herb with narrow leaves used to flavor food.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

1045 **tatami**

n. A thick straw mat used to cover floors in Japanese homes.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

1046 **tattle**

v. To tell on someone for doing something wrong.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1047 **taupe**

n. A grayish brown color used in clothing and decoration.
French | C | scan p. 9

1048 **tchotchke**

n. A small decorative object or inexpensive trinket.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

1049 **temporal**

adj. Relating to time or to life in this world.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

Definitions A-Z

teriyaki to tortoni | Click a word for its reference entry.

1050 **teriyaki**

n. A Japanese dish cooked with a sweet sauce containing soy sauce.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

1051 **terrapin**

n. A turtle that lives in or near fresh or brackish water.
New World | C | scan p. 6

1052 **tertiary**

adj. Third in order, level, or importance.
Latin | C | scan p. 16

1053 **thermal**

adj. Related to heat or to keeping something warm.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1054 **thesaurus**

n. A reference book or tool listing words with similar or opposite meanings.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1055 **threshold**

n. The bottom of a doorway, or the point where something begins.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1056 **ticket**

n. A paper or electronic pass allowing travel or entry.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1057 **timely**

adj. Happening at a useful or suitable time.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1058 **tithe**

n. One-tenth of income or produce given to support a religious organization.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1059 **toboggan**

n. A long, flat sled without runners, with an upturned front.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1060 **tofu**

n. A soft or firm food made from soybean milk.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

1061 **tokamak**

n. A doughnut-shaped device that uses magnetic fields to contain hot gas for nuclear fusion.
Slavic | C | scan p. 19

1062 **tomatillo**

n. A small green fruit with a papery husk, often used in salsa.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

1063 **tomato**

n. A juicy fruit often used as a vegetable in cooking.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1064 **topeng**

n. A traditional Javanese performance in which masked actors tell stories through movement.
Asian | C | scan p. 21

1065 **topical**

adj. Related to a subject people are discussing at the present time.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1066 **topography**

n. The shape and physical features of an area of land.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1067 **tornado**

n. A violently spinning column of air reaching from a storm cloud to the ground.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

1068 **tortilla**

n. A thin, round flatbread made from corn or wheat flour.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

1069 **tortoni**

n. A frozen dessert made with cream, often flavored with almonds or macaroons.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

Definitions A-Z

totem to tycoon | Click a word for its reference entry.

1070 **totem**

n. An animal, plant, or object serving as a group's sacred symbol.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1071 **toucan**

n. A tropical American bird with a very large, colorful bill.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1072 **tragic**

adj. Causing great sadness, often because of loss or disaster.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1073 **trajectory**

n. The path followed by a moving object.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1074 **transect**

v. To cut across something from one side to another.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1075 **trattoria**

n. A usually small, informal restaurant that serves Italian food.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

1076 **trauma**

n. A serious physical injury or a deeply upsetting experience.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1077 **trawl**

v. To catch fish by pulling a large net through water.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1078 **trek**

n. A long journey, often difficult and made on foot.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1079 **trepak**

n. An energetic Ukrainian folk dance with strong kicks and squatting movements.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

1080 **trigger**

n. A small lever that starts a mechanism when pressed.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1081 **tritium**

n. A radioactive form of hydrogen with two neutrons in each atom's nucleus.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1082 **triumvirate**

n. A group of three people sharing power or responsibility.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1083 **troika**

n. A Russian carriage or sled pulled by three horses side by side.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

1084 **tsunami**

n. A series of huge sea waves, often caused by an underwater earthquake.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

1085 **tuckahoe**

n. A wetland plant with a thick, starchy underground stem.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1086 **tuna**

n. A large ocean fish often eaten as food.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

1087 **tundra**

n. A cold, treeless region where the ground below the surface stays frozen.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

1088 **tutu**

n. A short, full skirt worn by a ballet dancer.
French | S | scan p. 9

1089 **tycoon**

n. A very wealthy and powerful person in business.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

Definitions A-Z

typhoon to vivace | Click a word for its reference entry.

1090 **typhoon**

n. A powerful tropical storm that forms in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

1091 **ubiquitous**

adj. Present or seeming to be present everywhere.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

1092 **uitlander**

n. A foreigner, especially in the former Boer republics of South Africa.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

1093 **umlaut**

n. A vowel mark made of two dots, as in ä.
German | S | scan p. 11

1094 **unity**

n. The state of being joined together as one.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1095 **uproar**

n. A loud, confused noise made by many people.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1096 **vampire**

n. An imaginary creature said to drink the blood of living people.
Slavic | S | scan p. 19

1097 **vanilla**

n. A flavoring made from the seedpods of a tropical orchid.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

1098 **vaquero**

n. A cowboy or cattle herder in a Spanish-speaking region.
Spanish | C | scan p. 7

1099 **vendetta**

n. A long, bitter feud in which people seek revenge.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

1100 **ventilate**

v. To let fresh air move through a room or space.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1101 **verboten**

adj. Not allowed because of a rule or command.
German | S | scan p. 11

1102 **vernacular**

n. The everyday language used by people in a particular place.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

1103 **vibrato**

n. A slight, rapid wavering in the pitch of a musical sound.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

1104 **vigilante**

n. Someone who punishes suspected wrongdoers without legal authority.
Spanish | S | scan p. 7

1105 **virgule**

n. A slash mark used in writing, as in and/or.
French | C | scan p. 9

1106 **virtuosa**

n. A woman or girl with exceptional skill in music or another art.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

1107 **virtuoso**

n. A person with exceptional skill, especially at performing music.
Italian | S | scan p. 1

1108 **visceral**

adj. Coming from deep feelings rather than careful thought.
Latin | C | scan p. 15

1109 **vivace**

adv. In a lively, quick way, especially when playing music.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

Definitions A-Z

vivisection to Weimaraner | Click a word for its reference entry.

1110 **vivisection**

n. Surgery on a living animal for scientific study.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1111 **vogue**

n. A popular fashion or style at a particular time.
French | S | scan p. 9

1112 **voortrekker**

n. One of the Dutch-speaking settlers who migrated inland in southern Africa during the 1830s.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

1113 **vorlage**

n. A skiing position with the body leaning forward from the ankles.
German | S | scan p. 11

1114 **vulcanize**

v. To treat rubber with heat and chemicals to make it stronger and more elastic.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

1115 **vulnerable**

adj. Open to being hurt, harmed, or attacked.
Latin | S | scan p. 15

1116 **waffle**

n. A batter cake cooked between plates that make a grid pattern.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1117 **Wagnerian**

adj. Related to the composer Richard Wagner or his music.
German | S | scan p. 11

1118 **wainscot**

n. Wooden paneling that covers the lower part of an inside wall.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

1119 **walrus**

n. A large sea mammal with long tusks and whiskers.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1120 **waltz**

n. A turning dance performed to music with three beats per measure.
German | S | scan p. 11

1121 **wampum**

n. Shell beads traditionally used by some Indigenous North American peoples for exchange and recordkeeping.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1122 **wanderlust**

n. A strong wish to travel and explore places.
German | S | scan p. 11

1123 **wanton**

adj. Careless and showing no concern about harm to others.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1124 **wasabi**

n. A strongly flavored Japanese plant used to make a hot green condiment.
Japanese | S | scan p. 5

1125 **watery**

adj. Containing much water or having a thin, weak consistency.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1126 **waterzooi**

n. A Belgian stew made with fish or chicken and vegetables.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

1127 **waywiser**

n. An instrument that measures the distance traveled.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1128 **wedel**

v. To ski downhill while rhythmically swinging the backs of the skis side to side.
German | C | scan p. 11

1129 **Weimaraner**

n. A large hunting dog with a usually short, light gray coat.
German | C | scan p. 11

Definitions A-Z

Weissnichtwo to zeitgeber | Click a word for its reference entry.

1130 **Weissnichtwo**

n. A place that is unknown, uncertain, or imaginary.
German | C | scan p. 11

1131 **whirlpool**

n. Water that spins around and pulls toward its center.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1132 **Wiccan**

n. A person who follows Wicca, a modern nature-centered religion.
Old English | C | scan p. 13

1133 **wigwam**

n. A domed or rounded home traditionally used by some Indigenous peoples of North America.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1134 **wikiwiki**

adv. Quickly or fast, as the word is used in Hawaii.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1135 **windily**

adv. In a breezy manner, or with much empty talk.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1136 **wintergreen**

n. An evergreen plant with leaves that have a mintlike flavor.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1137 **wiseacre**

n. Someone who annoyingly acts as if they know everything.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1138 **witloof**

n. A type of chicory grown for its pale edible leaves.
Dutch | C | scan p. 18

1139 **womanly**

adj. Having qualities traditionally associated with an adult woman.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1140 **woodchuck**

n. A burrowing North American rodent also called a groundhog.
New World | S | scan p. 6

1141 **workmanship**

n. The skill and quality shown in making something.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1142 **worrisome**

adj. Causing worry, concern, or anxious thoughts.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1143 **xylophone**

n. A musical instrument with wooden bars struck by small mallets.
Greek | S | scan p. 3

1144 **yacht**

n. A boat used for pleasure or racing.
Dutch | S | scan p. 18

1145 **yahoo**

n. A rude, loud, or uncivilized person who behaves badly.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

1146 **yamen**

n. The home and offices of a government official in traditional China.
Asian | S | scan p. 21

1147 **yield**

v. To give way or stop resisting someone or something.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1148 **yieldable**

adj. Able or willing to give way or bend.
Old English | S | scan p. 13

1149 **zeitgeber**

n. A natural signal, such as daylight, that helps set a body's internal clock.
German | C | scan p. 11

Definitions A-Z

zenith to zwinger | Click a word for its reference entry.

1150 **zenith**

n. The point in the sky directly above you.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

1151 **zephyr**

n. A light, gentle breeze, especially one from the west.
Greek | C | scan p. 3

1152 **zero**

n. The number that represents no amount at all.
Arabic | S | scan p. 17

1153 **zinnia**

n. A garden plant with bright, colorful flowers.
Eponym | S | scan p. 20

1154 **zucchini**

n. A long, usually green summer squash with soft, edible skin.
Italian | C | scan p. 1

1155 **zwinger**

n. A strong fortress built to protect a city.
German | S | scan p. 11

Notes on the rebuilt list

Spelling, meanings, and source transparency

Spelling and presentation

The scan was transcribed and typeset as upright, searchable text. Tip numbers, handwritten page numbers, and words mentioned only in spelling tips were excluded. Every printed Study and Challenge entry is represented once.

rough-hewn

The scan prints roughhewn. This reference uses Merriam-Webster's current hyphenated headword rough-hewn. The letters are unchanged. Follow the school's instructions for written tests and for speaking punctuation.

Accents and capitalization

Accents such as those in garçon, fête, fräulein, protégé, mélange, blasé, and détente are preserved. Tuckahoe is shown as tuckahoe for the plant sense; weimaraner is shown as Weimaraner. Other accepted source forms are generally retained.

Words with more than one meaning

The group can help identify the intended sense: school = a group of fish; guy = a support rope; mole = a Mexican sauce; calypso = an orchid; kona = a Hawaiian wind. taj and mahal are separate entries.

Historical and sensitive vocabulary

The original list includes terms about war, enslavement, religion, punishment, and death. Their meanings are explained briefly and factually. An adult can introduce unfamiliar history as it comes up. The word lunatic is labeled as dated and insulting.

Dictionary references

Most headword links lead to Merriam-Webster. A few lead to another reference when that better identifies the required sense. A lookup link is provided for every word; it is not a claim that every dictionary sense or pronunciation is reproduced here.

Source record

Word inventory: the supplied Spelling_Bee_Word_List.pdf, 21 scanned pages. Definitions and formatting: newly written for this study pack. Dictionary checks and study research: November 2026. This is a home study aid, not an official competition pronouncer guide.