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The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

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Dictionary

Merriam-Webster's

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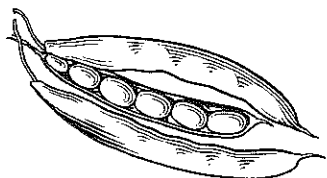
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legion • lessen

tion of ex-servicemen — **le-gion-ary** \jə-'ner-ē\ *n* — **le-gion-naire** \lɛ-'jə-'nar\ *n*
legion *adj*: MANY, NUMEROUS
Legionnaires' disease also **Legionnaire's disease**
 \-'nerz-\ *n*: a lobar pneumonia caused by a bacterium
legis *abbr*: legislation; legislative; legislature
leg-is-late \lɛ-'jəs-'lāt\ *vb* -lat-ed; -lat-ing: to make or enact laws; also: to bring about by legislation — **leg-is-la-tor** \-'lā-'tər\ *n*
leg-is-la-tion \lɛ-'jəs-'lā-shən\ *n* 1: the action of legisla-tion 2: laws made by a legislative body
leg-is-la-tive \lɛ-'jəs-'lā-tiv\ *adj* 1: having the power of legisla-tion 2: of or relating to a legislature or legisla-tion
leg-is-la-ture \lɛ-'jəs-'lā-čər\ *n*: an organized body of persons having the authority to make laws
le-git \li-'jit\ *adj*, *slang*: LEGITIMATE
le-git-i-mate \li-'ji-'tə-mət\ *adj* 1: lawfully begotten 2: GENUINE 3: LAWFUL 4: conforming to recognized principles or accepted rules or standards — **le-git-i-ma-cy** \-'mə-sē\ *n* — **le-git-i-mate-ly** *adv*
le-git-i-mize \-'māt\ *vb*: to make legitimate
le-git-i-mise *Brit var of* LEGITIMIZE
le-git-i-mize \li-'ji-'tə-'mīz\ *vb* -mīz-ed; -mīz-ing: LEGIT-I-MATE
leg-man \lɛg-'man\ *n* 1: a reporter assigned usu. to gath-er information 2: an assistant who gathers information and runs errands
le-gume \lɛ-'gyūm, li-'gyūm\ *n* [F] 1: any of a large fam-ily of plants having fruits that are dry pods and split when ripe and including important food and forage plants (as beans and clover); also: the part (as seeds or pods) of a legume used as food 2: the pod of a legume — **le-gu-mi-nous** \li-'gyū-'mə-nəs\ *adj*



legume 2

lei \lā-, 'lā-'ē\ *n*: a wreath or necklace usu. of flowers
lei \lā-, 'lā-'ē\ *pl of* LEU
lei-sure \lɛ-'zhər, 'lɛ-, 'lā-'ē\ *n* 1: time free from work or duties 2: EASE; also: CONVENIENCE + **Synonyms** RE-LAXATION, REST, REPOSE — **lei-sure-ly** *adj* or *adv*
leit-mo-tif also **leit-mo-tiv** \lɛit-'mō-'tɪf\ *n* [G *Leitmotiv*, fr. *leiten* to lead + *Motiv* motive]: a dominant recurring theme
lek \lɛk\ *n*, *pl* **leks** or **le-ke** or **lekē** \lɛ-'kə\ — see **MONEY** table
lem-ming \lɛ-'mɪŋ\ *n* [Norw]: any of various short-tailed rodents found mostly in northern regions and noted for recurrent mass migrations
lem-on \lɛ-'mən\ *n* 1: an acid yellow usu. nearly oblong citrus fruit; also: a citrus tree that bears lemons 2: something (as an automobile) unsatisfactory or defective — **lem-on-y** *adj*
lem-on-ade \lɛ-'mə-'nād\ *n*: a beverage of lemon juice, sugar, and water
lemon curd *n*: a custard made with lemon juice, butter, sugar, and eggs
lem-on-grass \lɛ-'mən-'gras\ *n*: a tropical Asian grass grown for its lemon-scented foliage used as a seasoning
lem-pi-ra \lɛm-'pɪ-rə\ *n* — see **MONEY** table
le-mur \lɛ-'mər\ *n*: any of various arboreal primates large-ly of Madagascar that have large eyes, very soft woolly fur, and a long furry tail
Len-a-pe \lɛ-'nə-'pɛ, lə-'nā-'pɛ\ *n*, *pl* **Lenape** or **Lenapes**
 : DELAWARE
lend \lɛnd\ *vb* **lent** \lɛnt\; **lend-ing** 1: to give for tem-porary use on condition that the same or its equivalent be repaid 2: ACCORD, FURNISH 3: ACCOMMODATE —

an ally to aid in a common cause with payment made by a return of the items or their use in the cause or by a sim-ilar transfer of other goods and services
length \lɛŋθ\ *n* 1: the longer or longest dimension of an object; also: a measured distance 2: duration or extent in time or space 3: the length of something taken as a unit of measure 4: a single piece of a series of pieces that may be joined together (a ~ of pipe) — **at length** 1: in full 2: FINALLY
length-en \lɛŋ-'θən\ *vb*: to make or become longer
 + **Synonyms** EXTEND, ELONGATE, PROLONG, PROTRACT
length-wise \lɛŋθ-'wīz\ *adv*: in the direction of the length — **length-wise** *adj*
lengthy \lɛŋ-'θi\ *adj* **length-i-er**; -**est** 1: protracted ex-cessively 2: EXTENDED, LONG (a ~ journey)
le-nient \lɛ-'nē-ənt, -nyənt\ *adj*: of mild and tolerant dis-position or effect + **Synonyms** INDULGENT, FORBEAR-ING, MERCIFUL, TOLERANT — **le-ni-en-cy** \lɛ-'nē-ən-sē, -nyən-sē\ *n* — **le-ni-ent-ly** *adv*
len-i-tive \lɛ-'nā-tiv\ *adj*: alleviating pain or harshness
len-i-ty \lɛ-'nā-tē\ *n*: LENIENCY
lens \lɛnz\ *n* [L *lent*, *lens* lentil; so called fr. the shape of a convex lens] 1: a curved piece of glass or plastic used singly or combined in an optical instrument for forming an image; also: a device for focusing radiation other than light 2: a transparent body in the eye that focuses light rays on receptors at the back of the eye
Lent \lɛnt\ *n*: a 40-day period of penitence and fasting observed from Ash Wednesday to Easter by many churches — **Lent-en** \lɛn-'tən\ *adj*
len-til \lɛn-'tɪl\ *n*: a Eurasian annual legume grown for its flat edible seeds and for fodder; also: its seed
Leo \lɛ-'ō\ *n* [L, lit., lion] 1: a zodiacal constellation be-tween Cancer and Virgo usu. pictured as a lion 2: the 5th sign of the zodiac in astrology; also: one born under this sign
le-one \lɛ-'ōn\ *n*, *pl* **leones** or **leone** — see **MONEY** table
le-o-nine \lɛ-'ō-'nīn\ *adj*: of, relating to, or resembling a lion
leop-ard \lɛ-'pərd\ *n*: a large usu. tawny and black-spot-ted cat of southern Asia and Africa
le-o-tard \lɛ-'ō-'tərd\ *n*: a close-fitting garment worn esp. by dancers and for exercise
lep-er \lɛ-'pər\ *n* 1: a person affected with leprosy 2: OUTCAST
lep-re-chaun \lɛ-'prə-'kæn\ *n*: a mischievous elf of Irish folklore
lep-ro-sy \lɛ-'prə-'sē\ *n*: a chronic bacterial disease marked esp. if not treated by slow-growing swellings with deformity and loss of sensation of affected parts — **lep-rous** \-'prəs\ *adj*
lep-tin \lɛp-'tɪn\ *n*: a hormone that is produced by fat-containing cells and plays a role in body weight regula-tion
lep-ton \lɛp-'tɪn\ *n*, *pl* **lep-ta** \-'tā\ *n*: a former monetary unit equal to 1/100 drachma
les-bi-an \lɛz-'bē-ən\ *n* [fr. the reputed homosexual group associated with the poet Sappho of Lesbos]: a woman who is a homosexual — **lesbian** *adj* — **les-bi-an-ism** \-'ə-'ni-zəm\ *n*
lèse-maj-es-té or **lese maj-es-ty** \lāz-'ma-'jə-'stē, 'lɛz-'lɛz-\ *n* [MF *lèse majesté*, fr. L *laesa majestas*, lit., injured majesty]: an offense violating the dignity of a sovereign
le-sion \lɛ-'zhən\ *n*: an abnormal structural change in the body due to injury or disease; esp: one clearly marked off from healthy tissue around it
less \lɛs\ *adj*, *comparative of* **LITTLE** 1: FEWER (< ~ than six) 2: of lower rank, degree, or importance 3: SMALL-ER; also: more limited in quantity
less *adv*, *comparative of* **LITTLE**: to a lesser extent or de-gree
less *n*, *pl* **less** 1: a smaller portion 2: something of less importance
less *prep*: diminished by: MINUS (list price ~ the dis-count)
-less \lɛs\ *adj* *suffix* 1: destitute of: not having (child-less) 2: unable to be acted on or to act (in a specified way) (dauntless)
les-see \lɛ-'sē\ *n*: a tenant under a lease
 + **Synonyms** to make or become less