

Webster's II

New College Dictionary



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Signs and S

spoon-fed (spoon'féd') *adj.* 1. Fed with a spoon. 2. Overindulged. 3. Given no chance to act or think independently.

spoon-feed (spoon'féd') *vt.* **-fed** (-féd'), **-feeding**, **-feeds**. 1. To feed (another) with a spoon. 2. To treat (another) so as to discourage independence, as by overindulgence. 3. a. To inform or teach (another) in an oversimplified way. b. To provide (knowledge or information) in an oversimplified way.

spoon-ful (spoon'fóol') *n.*, *pl.* **-fuls**. The amount a spoon holds.

spoon-y also **spoon-ey** (spoon'ne) *adj.* **-i-er**, **-i-est**. 1. Enamored in a silly or sentimental way. 2. Feebly sentimental.

spoor (spoor) *n.* [Afr. < MDu.] The track or trail of an animal, esp. a wild animal. — *vt.* **spoored**, **spoor-ing**, **spoors**. — *vt.* To track by following a spoor. — *vi.* To track an animal by its spoor.

spor- *pref.* var. of **sporo-**.

sporadic (spa-rád'ík, spó-) also **sporad-i-cal** (-i-kál) *adj.* [Med. Lat. *sporadicus* < Gk. *sporadikos*, isolated < *sporas*, scattered.] 1. Occurring at irregular intervals; having no pattern or order. 2. Appearing singly or at widely scattered localities, as a plant. 3. Occurring in isolated instances <sporadic static on the radio> — **sporad'i-cal-ly** *adv.* — **sporad'i-cal-ness** *n.*

sporangia (spa-rán'jé-ə) *n.* *pl.* of SPORANGIUM.

sporangio-phore (spa-rán'jé-ə-fór', -fór') *n.* [SPORANGIUM] + PHORE.] A specialized branch or filament bearing sporangia.

sporangium (spa-rán'jé-əm) *n.*, *pl.* **-gia** (-jé-ə) [NLat. : SPOR(O)- + Gk. *angion*, vessel.] A spore-bearing structure in certain plants, as fungi, mosses, and ferns. — **spor-an-gi-al** *adj.*

spore (spór, spór) *n.* [NLat. *spora* < Gk. *seed*] 1. An asexual, usu. single-celled reproductive organ characteristic of nonflowering plants such as fungi, mosses, or ferns. 2. A microorganism, as a bacterium, in a dormant or resting state. — *vi.* **spored**, **spor-ing**, **spores**. To produce spores. — **spo-ra-ceous** (spa-rá'shas, spó-) *adj.*

spore case *n.* A structure containing spores : SPORANGIUM.

sporicide (spór't-síd', spór't-) *n.* A spore-killing agent. — **spo-ri-ci-deal** (-síd'li) *adj.*

sporifer-ous (spór'í-fér-əs, spó-, spó-) *adj.* Generating spores.

sporo- or **spor-** *pref.* [< NLat. *spora*, spore < Gk., *seed*] Spore <sporo- >

sporo-carp (spór'ə-kárp', spór'-) *n.* A multicellular structure in which spores are formed.

sporo-cyst (spór'ə-síst', spór'-) *n.* 1. A resting cell that produces asexual plant spores. 2. A protective case containing spores of certain protozoans. 3. A saclike larval stage in many trematode worms.

sporo-cyte (spór'ə-sít', spór'-) *n.* A cell that produces haploid spores during meiosis.

sporo-gen-e-sis (spór'ə-jén'í-sís, spór'-) *n.* Production or formation of spores. — **spo-ro-gen-ic** (-jén'ík), **spo-rog-e-nous** (spa-rój'ə-nəs, spó-) *adj.*

sporo-goni-um (spór'ə-gó-né-əm, spór'-) *n.*, *pl.* **-nia** (-né-ə). A structure in mosses that generates asexual spores.

sporo-gony (spa-róg'ə-né, spó-) *n.* Production of spores resulting from sexual fusion of gametes prior to multiple fission, characteristic of certain protozoans. — **spo-ro-gon-ic** (spór'ə-gón'ík, spór'-), **spo-rog-o-nous** (spa-róg'ə-nəs, spó-) *adj.*

sporo-phore (spór'ə-fór', spór'ə-fór') *n.* A spore-bearing structure, esp. in fungi.

sporo-phyll (spór'ə-fíl', spór'-) *n.* A leaf or leaflike organ that bears spores.

sporo-phyte (spór'ə-fít', spór'-) *n.* The spore-producing phase in plants that reproduce by metagenesis. — **spo-ro-phyt-ic** (-fít'ík) *adj.*

sporo-pol-len-in (spór'ə-pól'lə-nín, spór'-) *n.* A polymer that comprises the exine of spores and pollen grains.

-sporous *suff.* [< SPOR(É) + -OUS.] Having a specified number or kind of spores <heterosporous>

sporo-zo-an (spór'ə-zó-ən, spór'-) *n.*, *pl.* **-zo-a** (-zò-ə) [< NLat. *Sporozoa*, class name : SPORO- + Gk. *zōia*, *pl.* of *zōion*, animal.] Any of numerous parasitic protozoans of the class Sporozoa, many of which have complex reproductive processes. — **spo-ro-zo-an** *adj.*

sporo-zo-ite (spór'ə-zò'ít', spór'-) *n.* [SPOROZO(A) + -ITE.] A sporozoan that has been released from a spore and is ready to penetrate a new host cell.

sporran (spór'an, spór'-) *n.* [Sc. Gael. *sporan* < Llat. *bursa*, bag < Gk., leather.] A leather or fur pouch worn by Scottish Highlanders at the front of the kilt.



sporran

sport (spórt, spórt) *n.* [ME *sperten*, to amuse < *disporten*. — see **SPORT**.] 1. An active pastime : RECREATION. 2. A specific diversion, usu. involving physical exercise and having a set form and body of rules ; GAME. 3. Mockery ; jest. 4. One known for the manner of one's acceptance of the rules of a game or of a difficult situation <a good sport>. 5. *Informal*. One who lives a gay, extravagant life. 6. *Genetics*. An organism that shows a marked change from the parent stock ; MUTATION. 7. *Archaic*. Amorous dalliance. — *v.* **sport-ed**, **sport-ing**, **sports**. — *vi.* 1. To play or frolic. 2. To trifle or joke. 3. To mutate. — *vt.* To display or show off <spotted a large yellow hat> — *adj.* Of, relating to, or appropriate for sports. — **in sport**. In jest. — **sport-ful** *adj.* — **sport-ful-ly** *adv.* — **sport-ful-ness** *n.*

sport-ing (spór'ting, spór'-) *adj.* 1. Appropriate for or used in sports. 2. Marked by sportsmanship. 3. Of or having to do with gambling. — **sport-ing-ly** *adv.*

sporting chance *n.* *Informal*. An even chance for success.

sport-ive (spór'tív, spór'-) *adj.* 1. Playful ; frolicsome. 2. Relating to or interested in sports. 3. *Obs.* Amorous ; wanton. — **sport-ive-ly** *adv.* — **sport-ive-ness** *n.*

sports car *n.* A car equipped for racing, esp. an aerodynamically shaped one- or two-passenger vehicle having a low center of gravity, and steering and suspension designed for precise control at high speeds on curving roads.

sports-cast (spórts'kást', spórts'-) *n.* [SPORTS + (BROAD)CAST.] A television or radio broadcast of a sports event or of sports news. — **sports'cast'er** *n.*

sports-man (spórts'mán, spórts'-) *n.* 1. A man active in sports. 2. One who abides by the rules of a contest and accepts victory or defeat graciously. — **sports'man-like**, **sports'man-ly** *adj.*

sports-man-ship (spórts'mán-shíp', spórts'-) *n.* The qualities and conduct befitting a sportsman or sportswoman.

sports medicine *n.* Medicine dealing with the diseases and injuries resulting from sports participation.

sports-wear (spórts'wár', spórts'-) *n.* Comfortable, casual clothes.

sports-woman (spórts'wóm'ən, spórts'-) *n.* 1. A woman active in sports. 2. A woman who abides by the rules of a contest and accepts victory or defeat graciously.

sports-writ-er (spórts'rit'ər, spórts'-) *n.* A writer about sports.

sport-y (spór'tē, spór'-) *adj.* **-i-er**, **-i-est**. *Informal*. 1. Appropriate to sport or participation in sports. 2. Casual in style <sporty pants>. 3. Carefree ; gay. — **sport-i-ly** *adv.* — **sport-i-ness** *n.*

sporu-late (spór'ya-lát', spór'-) *vi.* **-lat-ed**, **-lat-ing**, **-lates**. [< NLat. *sporula*, small spore, dim. of *spora*, spore.] To produce or release spores. — **spor-u-la-tion** *n.*

spot (spót) *n.* [ME.] 1. A specific place with relatively small and definite limits. 2. a. A mark on a surface differing sharply in color from the surroundings, esp. a stain. b. A mark on a playing card indicating its value <a two-spot>. 3. A position ; location. 4. *Informal*. A troublesome situation. 5. A personal defect or injury, as in one's reputation. 6. *pl.* **spots** or **spot**. An edible marine fish, *Leiostomus xanthurus* of North American Atlantic waters, with a dark spot above each pectoral fin. 7. *Chiefly Brit.* A small amount : BIT <a spot of tea>. 8. *Informal*. A spotlight. 9. A short presentation or commercial on radio or television between major programs, esp. by a local station on a network broadcast. — *vt.* **spot-ted**, **spot-ting**, **spots**. — *vt.* 1. To cause a spot or spots to appear on, esp.: a. To dirty with spots. b. To decorate with spots. 2. To place in a specific location. 3. To discern. 4. To yield as a handicap in a sport <spotted their opponents 14 points>. — *vi.* 1. To become marked with spots. 2. To make a stain ; DISCOLOR. 3. To locate targets from the air during combat or training missions. — *adj.* 1. Made, paid, or delivered at once <spot cash>. 2. Presented between the major radio or television programs <a spot commercial>. — **hit the spot**. *Informal*. To be exactly what is needed. — **on the spot**. 1. Without delay or movement ; at once. 2. At the scene of action. 3. Under pressure. — **spot'ta-ble** *adj.*

spot check *n.* An inspection or investigation carried out at random or in a limited way.

spot-check (spót'chék') *v.* **-checked**, **-check-ing**, **-checks**. *vt.* & *vi.* To subject to or make a spot check.

spot-less (spót'lis) *adj.* 1. Entirely clean. 2. Free from blemish ; IMPECCABLE. — **spot-less-ly** *adv.* — **spot-less-ness** *n.*

spot-light (spót'lit') *n.* 1. a. A strong beam of light that illuminates only a small area, used esp. to focus attention on a stage performer. b. A lamp that produces such a light. 2. Public notoriety. 3. An artificial light source with a strongly focused beam, as on a car. — *vt.* **-light-ed** or **-lit** (-lít), **-light-ing**, **-lights**. 1. To illuminate with a spotlight. 2. To focus attention on.

spot price *n.* A commodity's market price.

spot-ted (spót'íd) *adj.* Marked or stained with spots.

spotted cranesbill *n.* The wild geranium.

spotted fever *n.* 1. An often fatal infectious disease, as typhus or Rocky Mountain spotted fever, caused by *Rickettsiae*, that is transmitted by ticks and mites and is characterized by skin eruptions. 2. An epidemic form of cerebrospinal meningitis.

spotted sandpiper shore bird, *Actitis mac*

spot-ter (spót'ər) *n.* 1. locates, and reports sc

lookout. b. *Informal*. A

ployees, as in a bank. 3

for a television or radio

responsible for watchir

prevent injury, as in gy

a dry cleaner to remov

spot-y (spót'ē) *adj.*

spots : SPOTTED. 2. Inc

ti-ly *adv.* — **spot'ti-**

spot weld-ing *n.* We

areas by application of é

-weld-ing, **-welds**.

spou-sal (spou'zəl), -s

— *n.* often **spousals**.

spousal equivalent

habits and shares resp

sive of the same sex in

maintain indefinitely

— **spousal equivale**

spouse (spou-s, spouz) ;

< part. of *spondere*,

spous) **spoused**, **spou**

spout (spout) *v.* **spoi**

— *vi.* 1. To gush forth ;

a liquid continuously o

rediously. — *vt.* 1. To

pour and volubly. 3. (

or pipe through which

liquid. 3. *Chiefly Brit.*

sprach-g-e-fühl (shp

ically correct or appropr

sprag (sprág) *n.* [Perh.

wedged beneath a wheel

ing. b. A pointed stake

vehicle to prevent mow

sprain (sprán) *n.* [Orig

the ligaments of a joint

characterized by pain, i

sprained, **sprain-ing**

sprang (spráng) *v.* var.

sprat (sprát) *n.* [Alter

marine food fish, *Clupe*

A fish, as a young herri

spraw (spról) *v.* **spr**

< OE *spreawlian*.] — *vi.*

out awkwardly. 2. To s

<slms *sprawling* towa

a straggling or disorder

2. Haphazard growth o

new housing on the out

spray (sprá) *n.* [< ME

moving in a mass of disj

liquid discharged from

tainer ; ATOMIZER. c. A

dispensed from a contai

ing, **sprays**. — *vt.* 1. '

lets. 2. To apply a spr

liquid. 2. To move in th

spray (sprá) *n.* [ME.]

berries. 2. Something re

spray gun *n.* A gunlik

spread (spréd) *v.* **spe**;

OE *spreadan*.] — *vt.* 1. T

2. To move farther apar

over a surface in a laye

wall with paint>. 4. To

struction>. 5. To caus

<spread the news>. 6. a.

(food or a meal) on a tab

become widely distribut

wide area <The bad new

layer. 5. To become sepa

mination, as of news. 2

or farmland. 3. The exte

spread ; RANGE. 4. A clot

table. 5. *Informal*. An ab

be layered on bread or c

newspaper with relat

advertisement running a

between two figures or t

á pat á pay ár care ä father è pet é be hw which íht
í tie ír pier ò pot ò toe ó paw, for oi noise ðð took

ó boot ou out th tí
ðð abuse zh vision ;