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—  —
Eleventh Edition

The Words You Need Today

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Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
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r b: elevated dv, fr. frastraier to route: STRAY- e: astride a stretched wide n each side of lying ~ a riv- : state of being strings, prp, ht ~ more at tissues: STYP- e of an astrin- ~ comments); OLOGY — as- ed cell of the ia-ta \mə-tə cytes dome in the rigator makes AF astrelabe, os, fr. astr- + ct instrument lies before the ces astrology astrogalia, fr. 2: the divts on human ts — as-tro-)lè\ adv (ronomy that s) of celestial (naut) (1929) 'so: a trainee constr (1928) s for travel in -tik\ or as-)lè\ adv skilled in as- na e \mík\ adj as- 2: enor- as-tro-nom- onomy equal at 93 million , fr. AF, fr. L dy of objects physical and .1858): pho- tro-pho-to- g-ra-far\ n (1897) physical prop- nomena — \zi-k(ə)\è\ icial turf 565): having ver\ < re- te-ly adv — and Andro- torn ~> 2 : SWARMING l as loy\ th, as well as ylos inviola- place of ref- : SANCTU- : the protec- by a nation nminity 4 , the insane ik\ adj [Gk med, fr. a- + asymmet- r groups —

asym-met-ri-cal-ly \tri-k(ə)\è\ adv — asym-me-try \i-ə'si-mə-trè\ n
asymptom-atic \i-ə-sim(p)-tə-'ma-tik\ adj (1856) : presenting no symptoms of disease — **asymptom-atic-ly** \i-ti-k(ə)\è\ adv
as-ymp-tote \i-səm(p)-tə\ n [prob. fr. NL *asymptotus*, fr. Gk *asymptōtos* not meeting, fr. *a-* + *syniptein* to meet — more at SYMPTOM] (1656) : a straight line associated with a curve such that as a point moves along an infinite branch of the curve the distance from the point to the line approaches zero and the slope of the curve at the point approaches the slope of the line — **as-ymp-tot-ic** \i-səm(p)-tə-tik\ adj — **as-ymp-tot-ic-ly** \i-ti-k(ə)\è\ adv
asyn-aps-isis \i-ə-sə-'nəp-səs\ n, pl -ap-ses \i-səz\ [NL *a-* + *synapsis* (1930) : failure of pairing of homologous chromosomes in meiosis
asyn-chro-nous \i-ə-'sɪn-kro-nəs, -'sɪn-ə\ adj (1748) 1 : not synchro-nous 2 : of, used in, or being digital communication (as between com-puters) in which there is no timing requirement for transmission and in which the start of each character is individually signaled by the trans-mitting device — **asyn-chro-nous-ly** adv
asyn-chro-ny \i-kra-nè\ or **asyn-chro-nism** \i-kro-ni-zəm\ n (1875) : the quality or state of being asynchronous : absence or lack of concu-rence in time
as-yn-det-ic \i-ə-'sɪn-də-tik\ adj (ca. 1864) : marked by asyndeton — **as-yn-det-ic-ly** \i-ti-k(ə)\è\ adv
asyn-de-ton \i-ə-'sɪn-də-tən, (i-ə-'sɪn-ə\ n, pl -tons or -ta \i-də-tə\ [L, fr. Gk, fr. neut. of *asyndeotos* unconnected, fr. *a-* + *syndetos* bound together, fr. *syndein* to bind together, fr. *syn-* + *dein* to bind — more at DYSM] (1555) : omission of the conjunctions that ordinarily join co-ordinate words or clauses (as in "I came, I saw, I conquered")
at \ət, 'at\ prep [ME, fr. OE *æt*: akin to OHG *az* at, L *ad*] (bef. 12c) 1 — used as a function word to indicate presence or occurrence in, on, or near (staying ~ a hotel) (< ~ a party) (sick ~ heart) 2 — used as a function word to indicate the goal of an indicated or implied action or motion (aim ~ the target) (creditors are ~ him again) 3 — used as a function word to indicate that with which one is occupied or em-ployed (< work) (< the controls) (good ~ chess) 4 — used as a function word to indicate situation in an active or passive state or con-dition (< liberty) (< rest) 5 — used as a function word to indicate the means, cause, or manner (sold ~ auction) (laughed ~ my joke) (act ~ your own discretion) 6 a — used as a function word to in-dicate the rate, degree, or position in a scale or series (the temperature ~ 90) (< first) b — used as a function word to indicate age or po-sition in time (will retire ~ 65)
² **at also att** \ət\ n, pl **at also att** [Lao] (1955) — see *kip* at MONEY table
³ **at abbr** 1 airtight 2 atmosphere 3 atomic
At symbol astatine
AT abbr 1 air temperature 2 ampere-turn 3 automatic transmission at — see AD-
at-a-brine \i-ə-tə-brən\ n [fr. *Atabrine*, a trademark] (1933) : QUINA-CRINE
atac-tic \i-ə-'tək-tik\ adj [ISV *a-* + *-tactic*] (1957) : of, relating to, or being a polymer exhibiting no stereochemical regularity of structure (< polypropylene) — compare ISOTACTIC
At-a-lan-ta \i-ə-tə-'lan-tə\ n [L, fr. Gk *Atalante*] (14c) : a fleet-footed huntress in Greek mythology who challenges her suitors to a race and is defeated by Hippomenes when she stops to pick up three golden ap-ples he has dropped
at all adv (14c) : in any way or respect : to the least extent or degree : under any circumstances (doesn't smoke at all)
at-a-man \i-ə-tə-'mən\ n [RUSS] (1835) : HETMAN
at-a-mas-co lily \i-ə-tə-'mas-(k)kō\ n [Virginia Algonquian *attamusco*] (1743) : any of a genus (*Zephyranthes*) of American bulbous herbs of the amaryllis family with pink, white, or yellowish flowers; esp : one (*Z. atamasco*) of the southeastern U.S., with white flowers usu. tinged with purple
at-av-ism \i-ə-tə-'vi-zəm\ n [F *atavisme*, fr. L *atavus* ancestor, fr. *at-* (prob. akin to *ateo* daddy) + *avus* grandfather — more at UNSCLE] (1835) 1 a : recurrence in an organism of a trait or character typical of an an-cestral form and usu. due to genetic recombination b : recurrence of or reversion to a past style, manner, outlook, approach, or activity (ar-chitectural ~) 2 : one that manifests atavism : THROWBACK — **at-av-istic-ly** \i-ə-tə-'vis-tik\ adj — **at-a-vis-ti-cal-ly** \i-ti-k(ə)\è\ adv
atax-ia \i-ə-'tæk-si-ə, -'tæ-\ n [Gk, fr. *a-* + *tassinai* to put in order] (1670) : an inability to coordinate voluntary muscular movements that is symptomatic of some central nervous system disorders and injuries and not due to muscle weakness — called also *incoordination* — **atax-ic** \i-sik\ adj
atax-ia-tel-an-gi-o-cl-e-ta-si-a \i-tel-'lan-jē-'ek-'tā-zh(ē)-i-ə, -tē-, -tə-\ n (1961) : an inherited systemic disorder marked esp. by progressive pathological changes in the nervous system resulting in loss of motor coordination and by increased susceptibility to cancer esp. of lymphoid tissue
at bat n (1941) : an official turn at batting charged to a baseball player except when the player walks, sacrifices, is hit by a pitched ball, or is interfered with by the catcher (three hits in five at bats)
ATC abbr air traffic control
ate past of EAT
Ate \i-ə-'tē, 'i-ə-'tē, 'i-ə-'tā\ n [Gk *Atē*] (1583) : a Greek goddess personify-ing foolhardy and ruinous impulse
-ate n suffix [ME *-at*, fr. AF, fr. L *-atus*, *-atum*, masc. & neut. of *-atus*, pp. ending] 1 : one acted upon (in a specified way) (distillate) 2 [NL *-atum*, fr. L] : chemical compound or complex anion derived from a (specified) compound or element (phenolate); esp : salt or ester of an acid with a name ending in *-ic* and not beginning with *hydro-* (borate)
ate n suffix [ME *-at*, fr. AF, fr. L *-atus*, fr. *-as-* stem vowel of 1st conj., + *-tus*, suffix of verbal nouns] 1 : office : function : rank : group of per-sons holding a (specified) office or rank or having a (specified) func-tion (vicariate) 2 : state : dominion : jurisdiction (emirate) (khan-ate)
-ate adj suffix [ME *-at*, fr. L *-atus*, fr. pp. ending of 1st conj., verbs, fr. *-a-*, stem vowel of 1st conj., + *-tus*, pp. suffix — more at -ED] : marked by having (craniate)
-ate vb suffix [ME *-aten*, fr. L *-atus*, pp. ending] : act on (in a specified way) (insulate) : cause to be modified or affected by (camphorate) : cause to become (activate) : furnish with (capacitate)

-ated adj suffix : ²-ATE (plicated)
at-el-ec-ta-sis \i-ə-tə-'lek-tə-səs\ n, pl -ta-ses \i-sēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *atelēs* incomplete, defective (fr. *a-* + *telos* end) + *ektasis* extension, fr. *ek-telein* to stretch out, fr. *ek-* + *telein* to stretch — more at TELOS, THIN] (1859) : collapse of the expanded lung; also : defective expansion of the pulmonary alveoli at birth
ate-lier \i-ə-'li-ya\ n [F, fr. MF *atelier* woodpile, fr. *astele* splinter, fr. L *astella*, dim. of L *astula*] (1699) 1 : an artist's or designer's studio or workshop 2 : WORKSHOP
ate-moya \i-ə-tə-'mōi-ə, -i-ə\ n [ates sweetsop (fr. Tag) + *cherimoya*] (1914) : a white-pulped tropical fruit of a tree that is a hybrid of the sweetsop and the cherimoya
a tem-po \i-ə-'tēm-(p)\ə\ adv or adj [It] (1834) : in time — used as a di-rection in music to return to the original tempo
atem-po-ral \i-ə-'tēm-p(ə)-rəl\ adj (1870) : independent of or unaffected by time : TIMELESS
aten-o-lol \ə-'tē-nə-'lōl, -'lōl\ n [perh. fr. antihypertensive + *-olol* (as in *propranolol*)] (1972) : a beta blocker C₁₄H₂₂N₂O₃ used in the treatment of hypertension
ATF abbr [Bureau of] Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
Ath-a-bas-can \i-ə-'θə-'bas-kən\ or **Ath-a-bas-kan** \i-'bas-ə\ also **Ath-a-pas-can** \i-'pas-ə\ or **Ath-a-pas-can** \i-'pas-ə\ n [Athabasca, a Cree band, fr. Cree dial. *āpāskaw*, name for the area east of Lake Athabasca, lit., (where) there are reeds one after another] (1846) 1 : a family of American Indian languages spoken primarily in western Canada, Alas-ka, and the U.S. Southwest 2 : a member of a people speaking an Athabaskan language
Ath-a-na-sian \i-ə-'θə-'nā-zhən, -shən\ adj (1586) : of or relating to Athanasius or his advocacy of the homoousian doctrine against Arian-ism
Athanasian Creed n (1586) : a Christian creed originating in Europe about A.D. 400 and relating esp. to the Trinity and Incarnation
athe-ism \i-ə-'θi-ə-zəm\ n [MF *athéisme*, fr. *athée* atheist, fr. Gk *atheos* godless, fr. *a-* + *theos* god] (1546) 1 **archaic** : UNGODLINESS, WICKED-NESS 2 a : a disbelief in the existence of deity b : the doctrine that there is no deity
athe-ist \i-ə-'θi-ist\ n (1551) : one who believes that there is no deity — **athe-istic** \i-ə-'θi-'is-tik\ or **athe-ist-ic-al** \i-ə-'θi-'is-tik-əl\ adj — **athe-ist-ic-ly** \i-ti-k(ə)\è\ adv
ath-e-ling \i-ə-'θə-lɪŋ, -'θə-\ n [ME, fr. OE *ætheling*, fr. *æthelu* nobility, akin to OHG *adal* nobility] (bef. 12c) : an Anglo-Saxon prince or nobleman; esp : the heir apparent or a prince of the royal family
Athe-na \i-ə-'θi-ə-nə\ or **Athe-ne** \i-'nē-\ n [L *Athena*, fr. Gk *Athēnē*] (14c) : the Greek goddess of wisdom — compare MINERVA
ath-e-nae-um or **ath-e-ne-um** \i-ə-'θi-ə-'nē-əm\ n [L *Athenaeum*, a school in ancient Rome for the study of arts, fr. Gk *Athēnaion*, a temple of Athena, fr. *Athēnē*] (1799) 1 : a building or room in which books, periodicals, and newspapers are kept for use 2 : a literary or scientific association
athe-o-ret-ic-al \i-ə-'θi-ə-'re-ti-kəl, -'θi-ə-'re-\ adj (1969) : not based on or concerned with theory
athero- comb form [Gk *athērā*] : atheroma (atherogenic)
ath-ero-gen-e-sis \i-ə-'θə-rō-'jē-nə-səs\ n (1953) : the formation of atheroma
ath-ero-gen-ic \i-'jē-nik\ adj (1954) : relating to or causing atherogene-sis (an ~ diet)
ath-er-o-ma \i-ə-'θə-rō-mə\ n, pl -mas also -ma-ta \i-mə-tə\ [NL *atheroma*, *atheroma*, fr. L, a tumor containing matter resembling gruel, fr. Gk *athērōma*, fr. *athērā* gruel] (1875) 1 : fatty degeneration of the inner coat of the arteries 2 : an abnormal fatty deposit in an artery — **ath-er-o-ma-tous** \i-'rō-mə-təs\ adj
ath-ero-scle-ro-sis \i-ə-'θə-rō-'sklē-'rō-səs\ n [NL] (1910) : an arterio-sclerosis characterized by atheromatous deposits in and fibrosis of the inner layer of the arteries — **ath-ero-scle-ro-tic** \i-'sklē-'rə-tik\ adj
athirst \ə-'θɪrst\ adj [IME, fr. OE *afthyrst*, pp. of *afthystan* to suffer from thirst, fr. *of*, from + *thyrstan* to thirst — more at OF] (bef. 12c) 1 **archaic** : THIRSTY 2 : having a strong eager desire (I that for ever feel ~ for glory — John Keats) **syn** see EAGER
ath-lete \i-ə-'lēt, -'i-ə-'lēt\ n [ME, fr. L *athleta*, fr. Gk *athlētēs*, fr. *athlein* to contend for a prize, fr. *athlon* prize, contest] (15c) : a person who is trained or skilled in exercises, sports, or games requiring phys-ical strength, agility, or stamina
athlete's foot n (1928) : ringworm of the feet
ath-let-ic \i-ə-'lēt-ik, -'i-ə-'lēt-ik\ adj (1636) 1 : of or relating to ath-letes or athletics 2 : characteristic of an athlete; esp : VIGOROUS, AC-TIVE 3 : MESOMORPHIC 4 : used by athletes — **ath-let-ic-ly** \i-ti-k(ə)\è\ adv — **ath-let-ic-ism** \i-'lēt-ik-si-zəm\ n
ath-let-ics \i-ə-'lēt-iks, -'i-ə-'lēt-iks\ n pl but sing or pl in constr (1749) 1 : exercises, sports, or games engaged in by athletes 2 : the practice or principles of athletic activities
athletic supporter n (1927) : a supporter for the genitals worn by men participating in sports or strenuous activities
at-home \ət-'hōm, 'at-'hōm\ adj (1951) 1 : intended or suitable for one's home (an ~ dress) 2 : being or occurring at one's home (< entertainment)
at home n (1745) : a reception given at one's home
athon n comb form [*marathon*] : event or activity lasting a long time or involving a great deal of something (ulkaathon)
¹ **athwart** \ə-'θwɔrt, naut often -'θɔrt\ prep (15c) 1 : ACROSS 2 : in opposition to (a procedure directly ~ the New England prejudices — R. G. Cole)
² **athwart** adv (ca. 1500) 1 : across esp. in an oblique direction 2 : in opposition to the right or expected course (and quite ~ goes all decur-um — Shak.)
athwart-ship \i-'ʃɪp\ adj (1775) : being across the ship from side to side (< and longitudinal framing)
athwart-ships \i-'ʃɪps\ adv (1718) : across the ship from side to side

\ə\ abut \v\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \è\ easy \ə\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job \j\ sing \d\ go \d\ law \d\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \u\ loot \u\ foot \y\ yet \zh\ vision, beige \k, 'n, æ, u, ' see Guide to Pronunciation