

AMERICA'S BEST-SELLING DICTIONARY

Merriam-  
Webster's  
Collegiate<sup>®</sup>  
Dictionary

—  —  
Eleventh Edition

The Words You Need Today

AN ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA<sup>®</sup> COMPANY

# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

ELEVENTH  
EDITION



Merriam-Webster, Incorporated  
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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Made in the United States of America

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b: elevated
dv
fr. fraister to
route: STRAY-
e
ide: 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;

LOGY — as-
ed cell of the
ia-ta \mə-tə\
cytes
t dome in the
vigator makes

AF astrelabe,
os, fr. astr- +
ct instrument
lies before the

ces astrology
astrologia, fr.
2: the divts
on human
ts — as-tro-
-ə-lē\ adv
irony: that
s) of celestial

maut) (1929)
'so: a trainee

constr (1928)
s for travel in
-tik\ or as-
-ə-lē\ adv
skilled in as-
na

e \mīk\ adj
s: 2: enor-
as-tro-nom-
onomy equal
at 93 million

fr. AF, fr. L
dy of objects
physical and

1858): pho-
tro-pho-to-
-gra-ri\ n
(1897) (1890)
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\zī-k(ə)-lē\

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565): having
er) <~>
re-ly adv —

and Andro-
torn ~> 2

SWARMING
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h, as well as

ylas involia-
place of ref-
s: SANCTU-
: the protec-
tion by a nation
nminity 4
, the insane
ik\} adj [Gk
med, fr. a- +
s asymmet-
r groups —

asym-met-ri-cal-ly \tri-k(ə)-lē\ adv — asym-me-try \i-ə'si-mə-trē\ n

asymptom-at-ic \ā-sim(p)-tə-'ma-tik\ adj (1856): presenting no symptoms of disease — asymptom-at-ic-ly \i-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv
as-ymp-tote \ā-səm(p)-tōt\ n [prob. fr. NL \*asymptotus, fr. Gk asymptōtos not meeting, fr. a- + symptein 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 \ā-səm(p)-tā-tik\ adj — as-ymp-tot-ic-ly \i-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv

asyn-ap-sis \ā-sə-'nāp-səs\ n, pl -ap-ses \sēz\ [NL 'a- + synopsis (1930): failure of pairing of homologous chromosomes in meiosis]

asyn-chron-ous \jā-'sīp-krə-'nos, -sīn-\ adj (1748) 1: not synchronous 2: of, used in, or being digital communication (as between computers) in which there is no timing requirement for transmission and in which the start of each character is individually signaled by the transmitting device — asyn-chron-ous-ly adv

asyn-chron-y \k-rə-nē\ or asyn-chron-ism \k-rə-ni-zəm\ n (1875): the quality or state of being asynchronous: absence or lack of concurrence in time

as-yn-det-ic \ā-sən-'de-tik\ adj (ca. 1864): marked by asyndeton — as-yn-det-ic-ly \i-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv

asyn-de-ton \ā-'sīn-də-'tān, (jā-'sīn-\ n, pl -tons or -ta \-də-tə\ [LL, fr. Gk, fr. neut. of asyndetos 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 coordinate words or clauses (as in "I came, I saw, I conquered")

at \ət, 'at\ prep [ME, fr. OE at; 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 employed (<~> work) (<~> the controls) (good ~ chess) 4: used as a function word to indicate situation in an active or passive state or condition (<~> 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 indicate the rate, degree, or position in a scale or series (the temperature ~ 90) (<~> first) b — used as a function word to indicate age or position in time (will retire ~ 65)

at also att \ät\ n, pl at also att [Lao] (1955) — see kip at MONEY table

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 \ā-tə-brīn\ n [fr. Atabrine, a trademark] (1933): QUINACRINE

at-ac-tic \ā-'tāk-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 \ā-tə-'lān-tə\ n [L, fr. Gk Atlantē] (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 apples 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 \ā-tə-'mān\ n [RUSS] (1835): HETMAN

at-a-mas-co lily \ā-tə-'mās-(j)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-a-vism \ā-tə-'vī-zəm\ n [F atavisme, fr. L atavus ancestor, fr. at- (prob. akin to atax dandy) + avus grandfather — more at UNSCLE] (1835) 1: a recurrence in an organism of a trait or character typical of an ancestral form and usu. due to genetic recombination 2: recurrence of or reversion to a past style, manner, outlook, approach, or activity (architectural ~) 2: one that manifests atavism: THROWBACK — at-av-ist-ic \ā-tə-'vīz-ik\ adj — at-a-vis-ti-cal-ly \i-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv

atax-ia \ə-'tāk-sē-ə, -i-\ n [Gk, fr. a- + tassein 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 \-sīk\ adj

atax-ia-tel-an-gi-ec-ta-sia \i-tē-'lān-jē-'ek-'tā-zh(ē)-jā, -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 \ā-'tē, 'ā-(j)ē, 'ā-'tā\ n [Gk Atē] (1583): a Greek goddess personifying foolishly 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 persons holding a (specified) office or rank or having a (specified) function (vicariate) 2: state: dominion: jurisdiction (emirate) (khanate)

-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: 3-ATE (plicated)

at-el-ec-ta-sis \ā-tə-'lek-tə-sās\ n, pl -ta-ses \sēz\ [NL, fr. Gk atelēs incomplete, defective (fr. a- 'a + telos end) + ektasis extension, fr. ektēlein to stretch out, fr. ek- + teinein to stretch — more at TELOS, THIN] (1859): collapse of the expanded lung; also: defective expansion of the pulmonary alveoli at birth

ate-lier \ā-'tē-'lī-ā\ 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 \ā-'tə-'mōi-ə, -i-\ 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 \ā-'tēm-(j)pō\ adv or adj [It] (1834): in time — used as a direction in music to return to the original tempo

atem-po-ral \jā-'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 C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> used in the treatment of hypertension

ATF abbr [Bureau of] Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

Ath-a-bas-can \ā-'thə-'bas-kən\ or Ath-a-bas-kan \-bas-\ also Ath-a-pas-can \-pas-\ or Ath-a-pas-can \-pas-\ n [Athabasca, a Cree band, fr. Cree dial. ābapaskaw, 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, Alaska, and the U.S. Southwest 2: a member of a people speaking an Athabaskan language

Ath-a-na-sian \ā-'thə-'nā-zhən, -shən\ adj (1586): of or relating to Athanasius or his advocacy of the homoousian doctrine against Arianism

Athanasian Creed n (1586): a Christian creed originating in Europe about A.D. 400 and relating esp. to the Trinity and Incarnation

athe-ism \ā-'thē-'i-zəm\ n [MF athéisme, fr. athée atheist, fr. Gk atheos godless, fr. a- + theos god] (1546) 1 archaic: UNGODLINESS, WICKEDNESS 2 a: a disbelief in the existence of deity b: the doctrine that there is no deity

athe-ist \ā-'thē-'ist\ n (1551): one who believes that there is no deity — athe-ist-ic \ā-'thē-'is-tik\ or athe-ist-ic-ly \i-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adj — athe-ist-ic-ly \i-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv

ath-e-ling \ā-'thə-'līŋ, -thə-\ 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 \ā-'thē-nə\ or Athe-ne \-nē\ n [L Athena, fr. Gk Athēnē] (14c): the Greek goddess of wisdom — compare MINERVA

ath-e-nae-um or ath-e-ne-um \ā-'thə-'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 \ā-'thē-'rē-ti-kəl, -thīr-'ē-\ adj (1969): not based on or concerned with theory

athero- comb form [Gk athērā]: atheroma (atherogenic)

ath-ero-gen-e-sis \ā-'thə-rō-'jē-nə-sās\ n (1953): the formation of atheroma

ath-ero-gen-ic \-jē-'nīk\ adj (1954): relating to or causing atherogenesis (<~> diet)

ath-er-o-ma \ā-'thə-'rō-mə\ n, pl -mas also -ma-ta \-mə-tə\ [NL atheromat, atheroma, fr. L, a tumor containing matter resembling gruel, fr. Gk atherōma, 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 \-rō-mə-'təs\ adj

ath-ero-scle-ro-sis \ā-'thə-rō-'sklē-'rō-sās\ n [NL] (1910): an arteriosclerosis characterized by atheromatous deposits in and fibrosis of the inner layer of the arteries — ath-ero-scle-ro-tic \-sklē-'rā-tik\ adj

athirst \ə-'thɪrst\ adj [ME, fr. OE athyrst, pp. of athyrstan to suffer from thirst, fr. of, from + thyrstan to thirst — more at OF] (bef. 12c) 1 archaic: THIRSTY 2: having a strong eager desire (<~> that for ever feel ~ for glory — John Keats) syn see EAGER

ath-lete \ə-'lēt, -i-\ 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 physical strength, agility, or stamina

athlete's foot n (1928): ringworm of the feet

ath-let-ic \ə-'lēt-ik, -i-\ adj (1636) 1: of or relating to athletes or athletics 2: characteristic of an athlete; esp: VIGOROUS, ACTIVE 3: MESOMORPHIC 4: used by athletes — ath-let-ic-ly \i-ti-k(ə)-lē\ adv — ath-let-ic-ism \-lēt-ik-'sī-zəm\ n

ath-let-ics \ə-'lēt-iks, -i-\ 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 (<~> 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)

athwart \ə-'thwɔrt, naut often -'thɔrt\ prep (15c) 1: ACROSS 2: in opposition to (<~> a procedure directly ~ the New England prejudices — R. G. Cole)

athwart adv (ca. 1500) 1: across esp. in an oblique direction 2: in opposition to the right or expected course (<~> quite ~ goes all decorum — Shak.)

athwart-ship \-shīp\ adj (1775): being across the ship from side to side (<~> and longitudinal framing)

athwart-ships \-shīps\ adv (1718): across the ship from side to side

\ə\ abut \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ə\ chin \ə\ bet \ə\ easy \ə\ go \ə\ hit \ə\ ice \ə\ job \ə\ sing \ə\ go \ə\ law \ə\ boy \ə\ thin \ə\ the \ə\ loot \ə\ foot \ə\ yet \ə\ vision, beige \k, 'n, ə, u, ' see Guide to Pronunciation