

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLDTM COLLEGE DICTIONARY

THIRD EDITION

*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor and friend*

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membrane of certain invertebr esp. insects — **am-ni-ot'ic** (-ät'ik) or **am-ni-on'ic** (-än'ik) *adj.*

am-ni't (ant, am'ant) [Colloq.] *confr.* of am not: see **AIN'T**

am-no-bar-bi-tal (am'ä bär'ba töl', -tal') *n.* [AM(YL)O- + BARBITAL] a colorless crystalline compound, $C_{11}H_{16}N_2O_3$, used as a sedative and hypnotic

am-no-dia-quin (-di'ä kwün') *n.* [am(in)-o-di(hydrochloride) + -a- + quin(olin)e] a compound, $C_{20}H_{22}ClN_2O$, whose hydrochloride form is used in treating malaria Also **am'o-di-ä-quine'** (-kwün', -kwén')

am-noe-ba (ä m'ä'ba) *n.*, pl. -bas or -bae (-bä) [ModL < Gr **amoibe**, change < **ameibein**, to change] 1 a one-celled, microscopic organism belonging to any of several families of rhizopods that move and feed using pseudopodia and reproduce by fission; esp., any of a genus (*Amoeba*) found in soil or water or a parasitic genus (*Entamoeba*) found in higher animals and humans 2 something indefinite in shape or perpetually changing, like an amoeba See usage note at **AMEBA** — **am-noe'bic** (-bik), **am-noe'bo'id** (-bo'id'), or **am-noe'-ban** (-ban) *adj.*

am-noe-bae-an or **am-noe-be-an** (am'i bē'an) *adj.* [**L** *amoebaem* (*carmen*) < Gr (*asma*) *amoibaion*, responsive (song) < **amoibe**: see **prec.**] answering or responding to each other, as successive strophes of a verse dialogue

am-noe-bia-sis (am'i bi'ä sis) *n.* *alt. sp.* of **AMEBIASIS**

am-noe-bic dysentery *alt. sp.* of **AMEBIC DYSENTERY**

am-noe-bo-cyte (ä m'ä'bo sit') *n.* [**L** *AMOEBÄ* + **-CYTE**] *alt. sp.* of **AMEBOCYTE**

am-ok (ä muk', -mäk') *n.* [**L** Malay *amuk*, attacking furiously, ult. < Old Javanese] in Indonesia and the Philippines, a condition of great emotional disturbance under which a person loses control and goes about killing indiscriminately — run (or go) **amok** 1 to rush about in a frenzy to kill 2 to lose control of oneself and behave outrageously or violently 3 to become wild or undisciplined

***am-o-le** (ä mö'lä) *n.* [MexSp < Nahuatl *amolli*, lit., soap-root] 1 the root of any of various plants of the SW U.S. and Mexico, used as a substitute for soap 2 any of these plants, esp. the soap plant

A-mon (ä'män) [Egypt *ymn Amün*; ? akin to *ymn*, to hide] *Egypt.* Myth. orig., a local god of fertility and life in Egyptian Thebes: later associated with Re as the chief deity of Egypt (**AMON-RE**): identified by the Greeks (and Romans) with Zeus (and Jupiter) Also **A'mun** (-män)

among (ä mun') *prep.* [**ME** < **OE** *on gemang*, in the company (of) < *on*, in + *gemang*, a mingling, crowd < *gemengan*, **MINGLE**] 1 in the company of; surrounded by; included with [*you* are among friends] 2 from place to place in /he passed among the crowd/ 3 in the number or class of /fairest among women/ 4 by or with many of /popular among businessmen/ 5 as compared with /one among thousands/ 6 with a portion for each of /the estate was divided among the relatives/ 7 with one another /don't quarrel among yourselves/ 8 a) by the concerted action of b) in the joint possession of

amongst (ä mun'st') *prep.* [**prec.** + **adv.** gen. -s + **unhistoric** -t] *var.* of **AMONG**

A-mon-Re (ä'män rä') [Egypt *ymn-rä* < *Amun* + *rä*, sun] the ancient Egyptian sun god. Also **A'mon-Rä'** (-rä')

amon-ti-lä-do (ä män'tä lä'dö) *n.* [**L** Sp., after *Montilla*, town in Spain + **-ado**, **-ATE'**] a pale, relatively dry sherry

am-or-al (ä mö'r'al) *adj.* 1 not to be judged by criteria of morality; neither moral nor immoral 2 without moral sense or principles; incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong — **am-or-al-ity** (ä'mä rä'lä tē) *n.* — **am-or'al-ly** *adv.*

am-o-ret-to (am'ä ret'ö) *n.*, pl. -ret'ti (-ret'ti) [It, dim. of *amore* < **L** *amor*, love] an infant cupid, as in Italian art of the 16th cent.

am-o-ris-t (am'ä rist) *n.* [**L** *amor*, love + **-IST**] a person much occupied with love and lovemaking

Amo-rite (am'ä rit') *n.* [**Heb** *emori*] a member of an ancient Semitic people of c. 2000 B.C.: in the Bible, regarded as descended from Canaan, son of Ham: Gen. 10:16

am-o-rous (am'ä res) *adj.* [**ME** < **OFr** *amoureux* < **LL** *amorousus*, loving < **L** *amor*, love < *amare*, to love] 1 full of love or fond of making love 2 in love; enamored or fond (of) 3 full of or showing love or sexual desire [*amorous words*] 4 of sexual love or lovemaking — **am'o-rous-ly** *adv.* — **am'o-rous-ness** *n.*

amor pa-tri-äe (ä'mör pä'trē ä', -trē'ti) [**L**] love of one's country; patriotism

amor-phous (ä mör'fäs) *adj.* [**ModL** *amorphus* < Gr *amorphos* < *a-*, without + *morphē*, form] 1 without definite form: shapeless 2 of no definite type; anomalous 3 unorganized; vague 4 **Biol.** without definite or specialized structure, as some lower forms of life 5 **Chem.**, **Mineralogy** not crystalline — **amor-phism** (-fiz'm) *n.* — **amor-phous-ly** *adv.* — **amor-phous-ness** *n.*

am-or-tise (am'är tiz', ä mör'-) *vt.* -tized', -tiz'ing chiefly **Brit.** *sp.* of **AMORTIZE**

am-or-ti-za-tion (am'är ti zä'shan, ä mörtä-) *n.* 1 am amortizing or being amortized 2 money put aside for amortizing a debt, etc.: also **amort-ize-ment** (ä mört'iz mēt)

am-or-tize (am'är tiz', ä mör'-) *vt.* -tized', -tiz'ing [**ME** *amortisen* < extended stem of **OFr** *amortir*, to extinguish, sell in mortmain (< **ML** *amortire*); or < **ML** *amortizare*; both **ML** forms < **L** *ad*, to + *mors*, death: see **MORTAL**] 1 to put money aside at intervals, as in a sinking fund, for gradual payment of (a debt, etc.) either at or before maturity 2 Accounting to write off (expenditures) by prorating over a fixed period 3 **Law** to reduce, transfer, or sell (property) in mortmain — **am-or-tiz-able** *adj.*

Amor (ä'mör'vin'chit öm'nä ä:-vän'sit-, -vink'ä-) [**L**] love; conquest; everything

Amos (ä'mäs) [**Amos**, lit., borne (by God?)] 1 a masculine name 2 **Bible** a Hebrew prophet of the 8th cent. B.C. b) the book containing his prophecies: abbrev. **Am.**

amount (ä mount') *vi.* [**ME** *amounten*, to ascend < **OFr** *amonten* < *amont*, upward < *a-* (**L** *ad*), to + *mont* < **L** *montem*, acc. sing. of *mons*, MOUNTAIN] 1 to add up; equal in total /the bill amounts to \$4.50/ 2 to be equal in meaning, value, or effect /her failure to reply amounts to a refusal/ — **1** the sum of two or more quantities; total 2 the whole meaning, value, or effect 3 a quantity /a fair amount of resistance/ — **SYN.** **SUM**

amour (ä moor', ä-, ä-) *n.* [**Fr** < **Prov** *amor* < **L**, *love*] a love affair, esp. of an illicit or secret nature

amour-propre (ä möör prö'pr') *n.* [**Fr**] self-esteem

Amoy (ä moi') old name of **XIAMEN**

***amp** (amp) *n.* short for: 1 **AMPERE** 2 **AMPLIFIER**

AMP [**adenosine** *m*(ono)(phosphate)] a crystalline nucleotide, $C_{10}H_{14}N_5O_7P$, present in, and vital to the energy processes of, all living cells: also a major regulator of a cell's biochemical activity

amp abbrev. 1 **amperage** 2 **ampere(s)**

am-pe-lop-sis (am'pä läp'sis) *n.* [**ModL** < Gr *ampelos*, vine + **-opsis**] a climbing vine or shrub of a genus (*Ampelopsis*) in the grape family, widely grown as ornamentals

am-per-age (am'pä'r ij, am'pir'ij) *n.* the strength of an electric current, measured in amperes

am-pere (am'pir') *n.* [after **fol.**] the standard unit for measuring the strength of an electric current; rate of flow of charge in a conductor or conducting medium of one coulomb per second

Amp-ère (än'pä'r), **An-dré Ma-rie** (än'drä mä rä') 1775-1836; **Fr.** physicist & mathematician

ampere-hour (am'pir our') *n.* a standard unit for measuring the quantity of electricity, equal to the flow of a current of one ampere for one hour, or to an elapsed current drain of 3,600 coulombs

ampere turn the amount of magnetomotive force produced by an electric current of one ampere flowing around one turn of a wire coil

am-per-sand (am'pä'r sand') *n.* [**L** < *and per se and*, lit., (the sign) & by itself (is) and] a sign (& or &), meaning and: it represents the Latin word *et* (and)

***am-phet-amine** (am'fēt'ä mēn', -min) *n.* [**a**(lpha)-**m**(ethyl-beta)-**ph**(enyl)-**et**(hyl)-**amine**] a colorless, volatile liquid, $C_9H_{11}N$, used in its sulfate or phosphate form as a drug to treat narcolepsy and some forms of Parkinson's disease, and to lessen the appetite in dieting: these dangerous habit-forming stimulants are available by prescription only and are popular with chemical abusers in both legal and illegal forms

amphi- (äm'fi, -fē, -fä) [**L** < Gr *amphi*, around: see **AMBI-**] combining form 1 on both sides or on both ends [*amphistylar*] 2 around or about 3 of both kinds [*amphibious*]

amphi-ar-thro-sis (äm'fē är thrō'sis) *n.* [**ModL** < **prec.** + Gr *arthrosis*, a jointing < *arthron*, a joint: see **ARTHR-**] **Anat.** a form of jointing in which cartilage connects the bones and allows only slight motion

amphi-as-ter (äm'fē as'tär) *n.* [**AMPHI-** + **-ASTER'**] in mitosis, the long spindle with asters at either end that forms during the prophase, or first stage

am-phi-bi-an (äm'fīb'ē än) *n.* [**L** < **ModL** *Amphibia* < Gr *amphibia*, neut. pl. of *amphibios*: see **AMPHIBIOUS**] 1 any of a class (*Amphibia*) of coldblooded, scaleless vertebrates, consisting of frogs, toads, newts, salamanders, and caecilians, that usually begin life in the water as tadpoles with gills and later develop lungs 2 any amphibious animal or plant 3 any aircraft that can take off from and come down on either land or water 4 a tank or other vehicle that can travel on either land or water — **adj.** 1 of amphibians 2 **AMPHIBIOUS**

amphi-bi-ot-ic (äm'fi bi'öt'ik) *adj.* [**L** < Gr *amphibios* (see **fol.**) + **-IC**] **Zool.** that lives in water in one stage of development and on land in another

am-phi-bi-ous (äm'fīb'ē əs) *adj.* [**Gr** *amphibios*, living a double life < *amphi-*, **AMPHI-** + *bios*, life: see **BIO-**] 1 that can live both on land and in water 2 that can operate or travel on both land and water 3 designating, of, or for a military operation involving the landing of assault troops on a shore from seaborne transports 4 having two natures or qualities; of a mixed nature — **am-phi-bi-ous-ly** *adv.*

amphi-bo-le (äm'fä bö'l') *n.* [**Fr** < **LL** *amphibolus*, ambiguous < Gr *amphibolos* < *amphiballein*, to throw around, doubt < *amphi-*, **AMPHI-** + *ballein*, to throw: see **BALL'**] any of a group of rock-forming minerals, as hornblende or actinolite, composed largely of silica, calcium, iron, and magnesium: they are common constituents of igneous and metamorphic rocks

am-phi-bo-lite (äm'fä bö'l'it) *n.* [**prec.** + **-ITE'**] a rock consisting largely of amphibole and plagioclase

amphi-bol-olgy (äm'fä bö'l'ä jē) *n.*, pl. -igies [**ME** *amphibologie* < **LL** *amphibologia* (altered after words ending in **-logia**, **-LOGY**) < **L** *amphibolia* < Gr, ambiguity < *amphiballein*: see **AMPHIBOLE**] 1 double or doubtful meaning; ambiguity, esp. from uncertain grammatical construction 2 an ambiguous phrase, proposition, etc. Also **am-phi-bol-ly** (äm'fä bö'l'ä), pl. -lies — **am-phi-bol'ic** (-bäl'ik) or **am-phi-bol-i-ous** (-ä-ləs) *adj.*

amphi-brach (äm'fä bräk') *n.* [**L** *amphibrachys* < Gr, lit., short before and after < *amphi-*, **AMPHI-** + *brachys*, short: see **MERRY**] a metrical foot consisting, in Greek and Latin verse, of one long syllable between two short ones, or, in English verse, of one accented syllable between two unaccented ones (**EX.**: *explōsion*)

amphi-chronic (äm'fi krō'ik) *adj.* [**L** < **AMPHI-** + Gr *chroma*, color (see

absorbent 2 addicted to *drinking* beverages — **bib'u-lous-ni** *adv.* — **bib'u-lous-ni**
bi-cam-er-al (bi kam'ar al) *adj.* [**BI-** + **CAMERAL**] made up of or having two legislative chambers /Congress is a bicameral legislature/ — **bi-cam'er-al-ism** *n.*
bi-cap-su-lar (bi kap'sa lar, -syoo lar) *adj.* Bot. having two capsules or a capsule with two cells
bi-carb (bi'kärb') *n.* [Colloq.] SODIUM BICARBONATE
bi-car-bon-ate (bi kär'bän it, -ät') *n.* an acid salt of carbonic acid containing the monovalent, negative radical HCO₃
bicarbonate of soda SODIUM BICARBONATE
bi-cent-e-nar-y (bi sen'ta ner't, bi'sen ten'ar è) *adj., n., pl. -naries* BICENTENNIAL
bi-cent-en-ni-al (bi'sen ten'è al) *adj.* 1 happening once in a period of 200 years 2 lasting 200 years 3 of a 200th anniversary — *n.* a 200th anniversary or its commemoration
bi-ceph-a-lous (bi sef'a las) *adj.* [**BI-** + **CEPHALOUS**] two-headed Also **bi-ce-phal-ic** (bi'se fal'ik)
bi-ceps (bi'seps') *n., pl. -ceps' or -cepsies'* [ModL < L < *bis*, two + *caput*, HEAD] 1 a muscle having two heads, or points of origin; esp., the large muscle in the front of the upper arm or the corresponding muscle at the back of the thigh 2 loosely, strength or muscular development, esp. of the arm
bi-chlo-ride (bi klör'id') *n.* 1 a binary compound containing two atoms of chlorine for each atom of another element; dichloride 2 MERCURIC CHLORIDE
bichloride of mercury MERCURIC CHLORIDE
bi-chon frisé (bè shôn frè zä') [Fr *bichon*, lap dog + *frisé*, curly] a variety of toy spaniel with curly white hair, originally from Tenerife
bi-chro-mate (bi krö'mät') *n.* DICHROMATE
bi-ci-pi-tal (bi sip'at l') *adj.* [**BI-** + **L** *biceps* (gen. *bicipitis*), BICEPS] Anat. 1 with two heads or points of origin, as a biceps muscle 2 of a biceps
bick-er (bik'är) *vi.* [**ME** *bikeren*, ? akin to Fris *bikkern*, hack, gnaw] 1 to have a petty quarrel; squabble 2 to move with quick, rippling noises [*a bickering brook*] 3 to flicker, twinkle, etc. — *n.* 1 a petty quarrel 2 a rippling or pattering sound — **bick'er-er** *n.*
bi-coast-al (bi köst'al) *adj.* of or involving both the east and west coasts of the U.S.; specif., a) traveling back and forth from coast to coast, or entailing such travel b) with offices, outlets, etc. on both coasts
bi-color (bi'kulär) *adj.* [**L**: see **BI-** & **COLOR**] of two colors Also **bi-color-ed**
bi-con-cave (bi kän'käv, bi'kän käv') *adj.* concave on both surfaces [*a biconcave lens*] See **LENS**, **ILLUS.**
bi-con-vex (bi kän'veks', bi'kän veks') *adj.* convex on both surfaces [*a biconvex lens*]
bi-corn (bi'körn') *adj.* [**L** *bicornis* < *bi-*, **BI-** + *cornu*, HORN] 1 having two horns or hornlike parts 2 crescent-shaped Also **bi-corn-ate** (bi körn'yöö it)
bi-cron (bi'krän') *n.* [**B**(ILLION) + (**MI**)CRON] one billionth (.000000001) of a meter; nanometer; symbol nm
bi-cul-tur-al (bi kul'char al) *adj.* of or combining two distinct cultures in a single region — **bi-cul'tur-al-ism** *n.*
bi-cus-pid (bi kus'pid) *adj.* [**ModL** *bicuspid* < **BI-** + **L** *cuspid* (gen. *cuspidis*), CUSP] having two points [*a bicuspid tooth*] Also **bi-cus'-pi-date** (-pi dat') — *n.* any of eight adult teeth with two-pointed crowns; premolar tooth See **TEETH**, **ILLUS.**
bicuspid valve MITRAL VALVE
bi-cy-cle (bi'sik'al, -si käl) *n.* [**Fr**: see **BI-** & **CYCLE**] a vehicle consisting of a tubular metal frame mounted on two large, wire-spoked wheels, one behind the other, and equipped with handlebars, a saddlelike seat, and foot pedals — *vi.* -cled, -cling to ride or travel on a bicycle — *vt.* 1 to carry on or as on a bicycle 2 to travel over on a bicycle — **bi-cy-clist** (bi'sik'al ist, -si käl ist, -klist) or **bi-cy-cler** (bi'sik'al är, -si käl är, -klär) *n.*
bi-cy-clic (bi sik'lik) *adj.* 1 of or forming two cycles 2 Chem. containing only two fused rings in the molecule Also **bi-cy-cli-cal**
bid¹ (bid) *vt.* **bade** or **bid**, **bid'den** or **bid**, **bid'ding**; for **vt.** 3, 6, 8 & for **vi.**, the **pt.** & **pp.** are always **bid** [**ME** *bidden*, to ask, plead, pray < **OE** *biddan* < **IE** base **bheidh-*, to urge, compel; meaning and form merged with **ME** *beden*, to offer, present < **OE** *beodan*, to command, decree < **IE** base **bheudh-*, to be alert, announce] 1 orig., to beseech or implore 2 to command, ask, or tell (do as you are *bidden*) 3 to offer (a certain amount) as the price or fee that one will pay or accept 4 to declare openly [*to bid defiance*] 5 to express in greeting or taking leave [*bid farewell to your friends*] *6 [Colloq.] to offer membership to [*the fraternity may bid five new men*] 7 [Now Chiefly Dial.] to invite 8 Card Games to state (the number of tricks or points one proposes to take and, in bridge, whether one proposes to play the hand with a specified suit as trump or with no suit as trump) in an effort to win the right to name trump — *vi.* to make a bid — *n.* 1 a bidding of an amount 2 the amount bid 3 a chance to bid 4 an attempt or try [*a bid for fame*] *5 [Colloq.] an invitation, esp. to become a member 6 Card Games a) the act of bidding b) the number of tricks, suit, etc. stated in a bid c) a player's turn to bid — **bid fair** to seem likely (to be or do something) — ***bid in** at an auction, to bid more than the best offer on one's own property in order to keep it — **bid up** to raise the amount bid — **bid'der** *n.*
bid² (bid) *vi.* obs. **pp.** of **BIDE**
b.i.d. [**L** *bis in die*] Pharmacy abbrev. twice daily
bid-dable (bid'a bal) *adj.* 1 ready to do as bidden; obedient 2 worth bidding on [*a biddable bridge hand*]

bid-den¹ (bid'n) *vt.* **vi.** **att.** **pp.** of **BIDE**
bid-den² (bid'n) *vi.* obs. **pp.** of **BIDE**
bid-ding (bid'ing) *n.* a command or request 2 an invitation or summons 3 the or the making of bids in a card game or auction — do the **bid-ding** of to be obedient to; carry out the orders of
Bid-dle (bid'l) 1 John 1615-62; Eng. theologian; founder of Eng. Unitarianism 2 Nicholas 1786-1844; U.S. financier
biddy (bid'è) *n., pl. -dies* [**< ?**] 1 a chicken or chick; esp., a hen 2 [Colloq.] a woman; esp., an elderly woman (usually old biddy) regarded contemptuously as annoying, gossiping, etc.
bide (bid) *vi.* **bode** or **bid'ded**, **bid'ding** [**ME** *biden* < **OE** *bidan*, to stay, wait < **IE** base **bheidh-* (see **BID**), prob. in sense "compel oneself," hence, delay] [Now Chiefly Dial.] 1 to stay; continue 2 to dwell; reside 3 to wait — *vt.* [Now Chiefly Dial.] to endure or tolerate — **bide one's time** to wait patiently for a chance
bi-den-tate (bi den'tät') *adj.* [**BI-** + **DENTATE**] having two teeth or toothlike parts
bi-det (bè dät', bi-) *n.* [**Fr**, lit., small pony, nag (prob. < Gaul *bid*, small); fig. use from straddling stance assumed by the user] a low, bowl-shaped, porcelain bathroom fixture equipped with running water, used for bathing the crotch
bi-di-rec-tion-al (bi'da rek'sh nal) *adj.* moving, functioning, or receiving signals in or from two, usually opposite, directions
bi-don-ville (bè'dön vèl') *n.* [**Fr** slang < *bidonner*, to guzzle, swig < *bidon*, wine jug, orig. soldier's water bottle + *vill*, city] a shantytown on the outskirts of a city, characterized by squalor and extreme poverty, as in France and formerly Algeria or Tunisia
Bie-der-meier (bè'där mî'ar) *adj.* [**Ger**, after (Gottlieb) Biedermeier, fictitious author of stodgy poems published (1855-57, and later) by Adolf Kussmaul and Ludwig Eichrodt to satirize Ger bourgeois tastes] designating or of a style of mid-19th-cent. German furniture design, essentially a heavy, stolid variation of French Empire
Biel (bèl) city in NW Switzerland; pop. 53,000
Bie-le-feld (bè'le felt') city in NW Germany, in North Rhine-Westphalia; pop. 304,000
Bi-el-sko-Bia-la (bè el'skò bè'äl'a) city in S Poland, at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains; pop. 172,000
bien en-ten-du (byan nän tən dü') [**Fr**, lit., well understood] certainly; to be sure
bi-en-na-le (bè'an ä'lè) *n.* [**It**] a biennial show; esp., an art show held every two years
Bi-enne (byen) *Fr.* name of **BIEL**
bi-en-ni-al (bi en'è al) *adj.* [**< L** *biennium*, period of two years < *bi-*, **BI-** + *annus*, year + *-al*] 1 happening every two years 2 lasting or living two years — *n.* 1 a biennial event or occurrence 2 Bot. a plant that lasts two years, usually producing flowers and seed the second year — **bi-en'ni-ally** *adv.*
bi-en-ni-um (bi en'è am) *n., pl. -ni-ums or -nia* (-ä) [**L**, see **prec.**] a period of two years
bien-pen-sant (byan pän sän') *adj.* [**Fr** < *bien*, well + *prp.* of *penser*, to think] right-minded; accepting or based on ideas regarded as sound or correct; orthodox, doctrinaire, conventional, etc.; also **bien pensant**
bien-ve-nue (byan vä nü') *n.* [**Fr**, lit., well come] a welcome
Bien-ville (byan vèl'), Sieur de (born Jean Baptiste Le Moyne) 1680-1768; Fr. colonizer & governor of Louisiana; founder of New Orleans
bier (bir) *n.* [**ME** *bere* < **OE** *bær*, for **IE** base see **BEAR**] 1 a platform or portable framework on which a coffin or corpse is placed 2 a coffin and its supporting platform
Bierce (birs), Ambrose (Gwinett) 1842-c. 1914; U.S. satirical writer
Bier-stadt (bir'stat), Albert 1830-1902; U.S. painter, born in Germany
biest-ings (bès'tingz) *n.pl.* **alt. sp.** of **BEESTINGS**
bi-fa-cial (bi fä'shal) *adj.* 1 having two faces or main surfaces 2 Bot. having two unlike opposite surfaces
bi-far-i-ous (bi fer'è as) *adj.* [**L** *bifarius*, twofold < *bifariam*, in two directions < *bis*, twice + *fas*, (divine) law, lawful, possible] Bot. arranged in two rows
***biff** (bif) *n.* [**prob.** echoic] [**Old Slang**] a blow; strike; hit — *vt.* [**Old Slang**] to strike; hit
bi-fid (bi'fid') *adj.* [**L** *bifidus*, forked; see **BI-** & **-FID**] divided into two equal parts by a cleft, as the end of a snake's tongue; forked — **bi-fid-ity** (-fid'ä tè) *n.* — **bi-fid-ly** (-fid'lè) *adv.*
bi-fi-lar (bi fi'lär) *adj.* [**BI-** + **FILAR**] having two threads, wires, etc. as certain sensitive measuring instruments — **bi-fi-lar-ly** *adv.*
bi-flag-el-late (bi flaj'a lit, -lät') *adj.* [**BI-** + **FLAGELLATE**] Biol. having two whiplike parts, as certain protozoa
***bi-foc-al** (bi fö'kal, bi'fö-) *adj.* adjusted to two different focal lengths — *n.* a lens, esp. for eyeglasses, with one part ground for close focus, as for reading, and the other ground for distance
***bi-foc-als** (bi'fö'kälz) *n.pl.* eyeglasses with bifocal lenses
bi-foc-li-ate (bi fö'lè it, -ät') *adj.* [**BI-** + **FOLIATE**] Bot. having two leaves
bi-fol-i-o-late (bi fö'lè ä lit, -lät') *adj.* [**BI-** + **FOLIOLATE**] Bot. having two leaflets
bi-form (bi'förm') *adj.* [**L** *biformis*; see **BI-** & **FORM**] having, or incorporating the features of, two forms
Bif-rost (bè'fäst') [**ON** *bifrost*, lit., the tremulous way; *bif-* < *bifask* to tremble + *rost*, a distance] Norse Myth. the rainbow bridge to the gods from Asgard, their home, to Midgard, the earth
bif-teck (bèf tek') *n.* BEEFSTEAK Also **bi'ftek**
bi-fur-cate (bi'far kät', bi fur'kät'; for *ad*, also, -kit) *adj.* [**ML** *bifurcatus* < **L** *bifurcus* < *bi-*, **BI-** + *furca*, FORK] having two branche

modificatory /mo'di-fai-kə-tōrē/ *n.* product of such a change *c)* a partial or slight change in form *d)* slight reduction; moderation *e)* qualification or limitation of meaning *f)* Biol. a change in an organism caused by its environment and not inheritable *g)* Linguist. a change in the form of a morpheme (Ex.: foot, feet, bath, bathe) — **modifi-ca-tōry** (mō'di-fik'ā-tōrē, -tī-kā-, -tī-kā'tār ē) *adj.*

modi-fier (mō'di-fai-er) *n.* a person or thing that modifies, esp.: a word, phrase, or clause that limits the meaning of another word or phrase (adjectives and adverbs are modifiers)

modi-fy (mō'di-fai) *vt.* -fied; -fying ME *modifien* < MFr. < L *modificare*, to limit, regulate < *modus*, measure (see **MODUL**) + *facere*, to make see **MOD** 1 to change or alter, esp. to change slightly or partially in character, form, etc. 2 to limit or reduce slightly; moderate [to modify a penalty] 3 Gram. to limit the meaning of; qualify [old] modifies "man" in "old man"] 4 Linguist. to change the form of a morpheme to indicate grammatical relations or derivation — *vi.* to be modified — **SYN.** CHANGE — **mod'i-fi-able** *adj.*

Mo-diglia-ni (mō'dēl yā'nē), **Amedeo** (ā'mā dā'ō) 1884-1920; It. painter, in France

mo-dil-ion (mō dil'yān) *n.* [It *modiglione* < LL **mutillus* < L *mutulus*, modillion, prob. < Etr base **mut-*, a projection] Archit. an ornamental block or bracket placed under a projecting cornice, esp. in the Corinthian order

mo-dio-lus (mō di'ō-lās) *n.*, pl. -iō-lī (-lī) ModL, dim. of L *modius*, measure for grain < *modus*, measure: see **MODUL** the central bony axis of the cochlea of the ear

mod-ish (mō'dish) *adj.* in the current mode; in the latest style; fashionable — **mod'ishly** *adv.* — **mod'ish-ness** *n.*

mo-diste (mō dēs'tī, mō-) *n.* [Fr. < *mode* see **MODUL**] [Old-fashioned] a person who makes or deals in fashionable clothes, hats, etc. for women

ModL Modern Latin

Mo-dred (mō'dred) Arthurian Legend treacherous nephew of King Arthur: they kill each other in battle

modu-lar (mā'jā-lār) *adj.* [ModL *modularis*] 1 of a module or modulus 2 designating or of units of standardized size, design, etc. that can be arranged or fitted together in a variety of ways

modu-late (mā'jā-lāt) *vt.* -lated, -lating [L *modulatus*, pp. of *modulari*, to regulate, measure off, arrange < *modulus*, dim. of *modus*: see **MODUL**] 1 to regulate, adjust, or adapt to the proper degree 2 to vary the pitch, intensity, etc. of (the voice), often specif. to a lower degree 3 Radio to vary the amplitude, frequency, or phase of (an oscillation, as a carrier wave) in accordance with some signal — *vi.* to shift to another key within a musical composition — **mod'u-lator** *n.* — **mod'u-la-tōry** *adj.*

modu-la-tion (mā'jā-lā'shān) *n.* [ME *modulacioun* < L *modulatio*] 1 a modulating or being modulated; specif., a) Music a shifting from one key to another b) Radio a variation in the amplitude, frequency, or phase of a wave in accordance with some signal 2 a variation in stress or pitch in speaking, as in distinguishing between the merely auxiliary and the lexical uses of a word (Ex.: "There is a post office on Main Street," as contrasted with "There is the post office")

mod-ule (mā'jō-mōl) *n.* [Fr *module* < L *modulus*, dim. of *modus*: see **MODUL**] 1 a standard or unit of measurement; specif., a) in classical architecture, the diameter, or one half the diameter, of a column at the base of the shaft, used to determine the proportions or the structure b) any of several standardized units of measurement used in architectural planning, in the construction of building materials, etc. [4-inch module, 2-foot module] 2 a) any of a set of units, as cabinets, designed to be arranged or joined in a variety of ways b) a detachable section, compartment, or unit with a specific purpose or function, as in a spacecraft c) Electronics a compact assembly that is a component of a larger unit

modu-lus (mā'jā-lās) *n.*, pl. -ulī (-lī) ModL < L: see prec. 1 Math. a) the absolute value of a complex number, computed by adding the squares of each part and taking the positive square root of the sum (i.e.: the modulus of $a + bi$ is $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$) b) a quantity which gives the same remainders when it is the divisor of two quantities c) the factor by which a logarithm to one base is multiplied to change it to a logarithm to another base 2 Physics a quantity expressing the response of a sample of material to an external stimulus, as mechanical stress: the response is usually expressed as a fractional change in the physical quantity being affected

mo-dus ope-ran-di (mō'dās ō-pā-rān'dē) [L] a way of doing or accomplishing something

modus vi-ven-di (mō'dās vē-ven'dē) [L] 1 a way of living or of getting along 2 a temporary agreement in a dispute pending final settlement; compromise

Moe-bius strip (mā'bē-ās, mō-) MöBIUS STRIP; also Moebius band

Moe-sia (mē'shē-ā, -shā) ancient Roman province in SE Europe, between the Danube & the Balkan Mountains

Moe-so-Goth or **Moe-so-goth** (mē'sō-gāth', -gōth') *n.* a member of a Gothic tribe that lived in Moesia (c. 300 A.D.)

Moe-so-Gothic or **Moe-so-gothic** (mē'sō-gāth'ik) *adj.* of the Moeso-Goths or their extinct, East Germanic language

moeurs (mērs) *n.pl.* [Fr] the manners, customs, behavior, etc. of a given group

mo-fette or **mo-fette** (mō-fet') *n.* [Fr < It *muffare*, to be moldy < Ger *muff*, mold] a vent or fissure in an area of recent volcanic activity, emitting steam, carbon dioxide, and, sometimes, other gases

mog (mag) *vi.* mugged, **mog'ging** [L *mo-gere* < ?] [Dial.] 1 to plod (along) steadily 2 to decamp; move away

Mo-ga-di-shu (mō-gā dē'shō) capital of Somalia: seaport on the Indian Ocean: pop. 371,000 It. name **Mo'ga di'scio** (-shō)

Mo-gien (mō'gēn) city in E. Belarus, on the Dnepr: pop. 343,000

mo-gul (mō'gāl) *n.* [fol. reason for use uncert.] Skiing a bump or ridge of closely packed snow, built up on a curve where skiers turn

Mo-gul (mō'gāl, -gāl, mō'gūl) *n.* [Pers *Mughal* < Mongolian *Mongol*, a Mongol] 1 a Mongol, or Mongolian; esp. any of the Mongolian conquerors of India or their descendants 2 [m-] a powerful or important person, esp. one with autocratic power

mo-hair (mō'her) *n.* [altered (by assoc. with HAIR) < earlier *mucayare* < Olt *mucayarra* < Ar *mukhayyar*, fine cloth, lit., choice < pp. of *khayyara*, to select] 1 the long, silky hair of the Angora goat 2 yarn, or any of several fabrics for clothing or upholstery, made from this hair, often mixed with other fibers — *adj.* made of or upholstered with mohair

Moham Mohammedan

Mo-ham-med (mō ham'mēd) [Ar *Muhammad*, lit., praiseworthy] 1 c. A.D. 570-632: Arab prophet; founder of Islam 2 Mo-ham'med II (1430-81): sultan of Turkey (1451-81); captured Constantinople (1453)

Mohammed Ali var. of MEHMET ALI

Mo-ham-median (mō ham'mē-dān) *adj.* of Mohammed or Islam — *n.* MUSLIM This term used, esp. formerly, by non-Muslims

Mo-ham-med-an-ism (mō ham'mē-dān iz'm) *n.* ISLAM term used, esp. formerly, by non-Muslims

Mohammed Reza Pahlavi (ré zā' pā'lā vē) 1919-80: shah of Iran (1941-79); deposed

Mo-have (mō hā'vē) *n.* [prob. self-designation < ?] 1 pl. -ves or -ve a member of a North American Indian people who live along the Colorado River in Arizona 2 the Yuman language of this people — *adj.* designating or of the Mohaves or their language or culture

Mohave Desert alt. sp. of MOHAVE DESERT

Mo-hawk (mō'hōk) *n.* [Narragansett *mohowauwig*, lit., man-eaters; orig. so named by enemy tribes] 1 pl. -hawks' or -hawk' a member of a North American Indian people who lived in the Mohawk Valley, New York, and now live in Ontario, Quebec, and New York: see FIVE NATIONS 2 the Iroquoian language of this people — *adj.* designating or of the Mohawks or their language or culture

Mo-hawk (mō'hōk) after prec. river in central & E N.Y., flowing into the Hudson: c. 140 mi. (225 km)

Mo-he-gan (mō hē'gān) *n.*, pl. -gans or -gan [earlier *Monahegan* < Massachusetts, a local place name] a member of a North American Indian people who lived in Connecticut, along the Thames River — *adj.* designating or of the Mohegans or their culture

mo-hel (mō'hē) Heb mō'hāl' *n.*, pl. **mo'helim** (-im; Heb mō'hā lēm') [Heb] Judaism a person qualified to perform the brit milah, or rite of circumcision

Mohenjo-Daro (mō hen'jō dā'rō) an archaeological site in the Indus valley of Pakistan, NE of Karachi, containing ruins of cities from c. 3000 to c. 1500 B.C.

Mo-hi-can (mō hē'kān) *n.*, *adj.* var. of MAHICAN

Moho (mō'hō) short for MOHOROVIČIĆ DISCONTINUITY

Mo-hock (mō'hāk) *n.* [var. of MOHAWK] any of a gang of rowdy young men of fashion who attacked and terrorized people in the streets of London in the early 18th cent.

Mo-hole (mō'hōl) *n.* [Mō(hō) + HOLE] a proposed hole to be drilled beneath the sea through the earth's crust and the Mohorovičić discontinuity to the mantle

Mo-ho-ro-vi-čić discontinuity (mō'hō rō'vā chid'it) [after A. Mohorovičić (1857-1936), Yugoslav geologist] Geol. an irregular dividing line separating the earth's crust from its underlying mantle, situated c. 35 km (c. 21.7 mi.) below the continents and c. 5 to 10 km (c. 3.1 to 6.2 mi.) below the ocean floor

Mohs' scale (mōz) [after F. Mohs (1773-1839), Ger. mineralogist] Mineralogy 1 an arbitrary scale used to indicate relative hardness, arranged in 10 ascending degrees: 1, talc; 2, gypsum; 3, calcite; 4, fluorite; 5, apatite; 6, orthoclase; 7, quartz; 8, topaz; 9, corundum; 10, diamond 2 a modification of this scale, retaining its first six minerals and continuing: 7, pure silica glass; 8, quartz; 9, topaz; 10, garnet; 11, fused zircon; 12, corundum; 13, silicon carbide; 14, boron carbide; 15, diamond

mo-hur (mō'hūr) *n.* [Hindi *muhur*, *muhur* < Pers *muhur*, a seal, akin to Sans *mudrā*, a seal] a former gold coin of India, equal to 15 rupees

moi-dore (mōi'dor) *n.* [Port *moeda d'ouro*, lit., coin of gold < L *moneta*, money + *aurum*, gold] a former gold coin of Portugal and Brazil

moi-ety (mōi'ē-tē) *n.*, pl. -ties [ME *moite* < OFr < L *medietas*, the middle (in L.L. half; moiety) < *medius*: see **MOD**] 1 a half; either of two equal, or more or less equal, parts 2 an indefinite share or part 3 Anthropol. either of two primary subdivisions in some tribes

moil (mōil) *vi.* [ME *moillen*, to moisten, make wet < OFr *moillier* < VL **molliare*, to soften < L *mollis*, soft: see **MOLLIFY**] [Dial.] to toil; drudge — *vt.* [Archaic] to moisten or soil — *n.* 1 drudgery; hard work 2 confusion; turmoil — **moil'er** *n.*

Moirai (mōi'rā) [Gr. see **MYTH**] Gr. Myth fate or destiny

moire (mwar, mōr) *n.* [Fr. watered silk < MOHAIR] a fabric, esp. silk, rayon, or acetate, having a watered, or wavy, pattern

moiré (mōwā-rā, mōi; mōr'ā) *adj.* [Fr. pp. of *moirer*, to water < *moire*: see prec.] having a watered, or wavy, pattern, as certain fabrics, stamps, or metal surfaces — *n.* 1 a watered pattern pressed into cloth, etc. with engraved rollers 2 **MOIRE**

moist (mōist) *adj.* [OFr *moiste* < VL **muscidus*, altered (prob. infl. by L *mustus*, of new wine, fresh < *mustum*, must) < L *mucidus*, moldy < *mucus*, mucus] 1 slightly wet; damp 2 suggestive of the presence of liquid [a moist sound] 3 tearful — **SYN.** WET — **moist'ly** *adv.* — **moist'ness** *n.*

mois-ten (mōis'tēn) *vt.*, *vi.* to make or become moist — **mois'ten'er** *n.*

mois-ture (mōis'chur) *n.* [OFr *mousture* < *moiste*: see **MOIST**] water