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The Merriam-Webster Dictionary



MERRIAM-WEBSTER, INCORPORATED
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This new edition of THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY of Merriam-Webster paperback dictionaries which is based on and preserves the best aspects of preceding editions offers much that is new, drawing specifically on *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition*, which was published in 1989. Every entry and every definition has been examined and revised in light of the most current information. Every definition has been based on examples of actual usage. A new Merriam-Webster citation file, which now includes more than 100,000 examples of English words used in context.

The 60,000 entries in *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* include the most frequently used words in the language. The first section is the A-Z vocabulary section, where readers will find the meaning, spelling, pronunciation, etymology, and other information. This section is followed by several others that users have found helpful: a list of foreign words and phrases that often occur in English; a list of places in the United States and Canada with more than 100,000 inhabitants; a similar list of places in Canada; and a list of widely used signs and symbols. The A-Z vocabulary section is followed by a section of Explanatory Notes that should be read carefully before using the dictionary. An understanding of the information contained in these notes will make the dictionary both easier and more rewarding to use.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary has been created by a staff of experienced lexicographers, who believe it will serve as a concise and handy guide to the English language.

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overhear • overtrick

expenses not chargeable to a particular part of the work
overhear \o-vər-ˈhɪr\ vb -heard
over-joyed \o-vər-ˈjɔɪd\ adj : filled with great joy
over-kill \o-vər-ˈkɪl\ n 1 : destructive capacity greatly exceeding that required for a target 2 : a large excess
over-land \o-vər-ˈlænd\ adv or adj : by, on, or across land
over-lap \o-vər-ˈlɑp\ vb 1 : to lap over 2 : to have something in common — over-lap \o-vər-ˈlɑp\ n
over-lay \o-vər-ˈlaɪ\ vb -laid \-ˈlaɪd\ ; -laying 1 : to lay or spread over or across — over-lay \o-vər-ˈlaɪ\ n
over-leap \o-vər-ˈli:p\ vb -leaped or -leapt \-ˈlept\ ; -leaping 1 : to leap over or across 2 : to defeat (oneself) by going too far
over-lie \o-vər-ˈliː\ vb -lay \-ˈleɪ\ ; -lain \-ˈlaɪn\ ; -lying 1 : to lie over or upon
over-look \o-vər-ˈlu:k\ vb 1 : INSPECT 2 : to look down on from above 3 : to fail to see 4 : IGNORE ; also : EXCUSE 5 : SUPERINTEND
over-look \o-vər-ˈlu:k\ n : a place from which to look upon a scene below
over-lord \o-vər-ˈlɔrd\ n : a lord who has supremacy over other lords
over-ly \o-vər-ˈliː\ adv : EXCESSIVELY
over-match \o-vər-ˈmætʃ\ vb : to be more than a match for ; DEFEAT
over-much \o-vər-ˈmʌtʃ\ adj or adv : too much
over-night \o-vər-ˈnaɪt\ adv 1 : on or during the night 2 : SUDDENLY (became famous ~)
overnight adj : of, lasting, or staying the night (~ guests)
over-pass \o-vər-ˈpɑs\ n 1 : a crossing (as of two highways) at different levels by means of a bridge 2 : the upper level of an overpass
over-play \o-vər-ˈplɑː\ vb 1 : EXAGGERATE ; also : OVEREMPHASIZE 2 : to rely too much on the strength of
over-pop-u-lation \o-vər-ˈpɑ-py-ə-ˈlæ-shən\ n : the condition of having a population so dense as to cause a decline in population or in living conditions — over-pop-u-lated \o-vər-ˈpɑ-py-ə-ˈlæ-təd\ adj
over-power \o-vər-ˈpaʊ-ər\ vb : to overcome by superior force
over-price \o-vər-ˈpraɪs\ vb : to price too high
over-print \o-vər-ˈprɪnt\ vb : to print over with something additional — over-print \o-vər-ˈprɪnt\ n
over-qual-ified \o-vər-ˈkwɑ-lə-ˈfɪd\ adj : having more education, training, or experience than a job calls for
over-reach \o-vər-ˈri:tʃ\ vb : to defeat (oneself) by too great an effort
over-ride \o-vər-ˈraɪd\ vb -rode \-ˈrɒd\ ; -ridden \-ˈrɪd-ən\ ; -riding 1 : to ride over or across 2 : to prevail over ; also : to set aside (~ a veto)

over-rule \o-vər-ˈru:l\ vb 1 : to prevail over ; to rule against 3 : to set aside
over-run \o-vər-ˈrʌn\ vb -ran \-ˈræn\ ; -running 1 : to defeat and occupy the positions of 2 : OVERSPREAD ; also : IMPROVE 3 : to go beyond 4 : to flow over
over-run \o-vər-ˈrʌn\ n 1 : an act or instance of overrunning ; esp : an exceeding of estimated costs 2 : the amount by which something overruns
over-see \o-vər-ˈsiː\ , ˈo-vər-ˈsiː\ adj or adv : OVERSEAS
over-seas \o-vər-ˈsiːz\ , -ˈsiːz\ adv or adj : beyond or across the sea ; ABOARD
over-see \o-vər-ˈsiː\ vb -saw \-ˈsɔː\ ; -seen \-ˈsiːn\ ; -seeing 1 : OVERLOOK ; INSPECT ; also : SUPERVISE — over-see \o-vər-ˈsiː\ n
over-sell \o-vər-ˈsel\ vb -sold ; -selling 1 : to sell too much or too much too soon
over-sexed \o-vər-ˈseks\ adj : exhibiting excessive sexual drive or interest
over-shadow \o-vər-ˈʃɑ-də\ vb 1 : to cast shadow over 2 : to exceed in importance
over-shoe \o-vər-ˈʃuː\ n : a protective outer shoe ; esp : GALOSH
over-shoot \o-vər-ˈʃu:t\ vb -shot \-ˈʃɔt\ ; -shooting 1 : to pass beyond 2 : to shoot over or beyond
over-sight \o-vər-ˈsaɪt\ n 1 : SURPRISE 2 : an inadvertent omission or error
over-size \o-vər-ˈsaɪz\ or over-sized \-ˈsaɪzd\ adj : of more than ordinary size
over-sleep \o-vər-ˈslɛp\ vb -slept \-ˈslept\ ; -sleeping 1 : to sleep beyond the time for waking
over-spread \o-vər-ˈspred\ vb -spread \-ˈspred\ ; -spreading 1 : to spread over or above
over-state \o-vər-ˈsteɪt\ vb : EXAGGERATE
over-statement n
over-stay \o-vər-ˈsteɪ\ vb : to stay beyond time or limits of
over-step \o-vər-ˈstep\ vb : EXCEED
over-sub-scribe \o-vər-ˈskraɪb\ vb -scribed \-ˈskraɪb\ ; -subscribing 1 : to subscribe for more of than is available, asked for, or offered for
overt \o-vər-ˈvɔrt\ , ˈo-vər-ˈvɔrt\ adj [ME, MF ouvert, overt, fr. pp. of ouvrir (open) ; not secret — overtly adv]
overtake \o-vər-ˈtɑ:k\ vb -took \-ˈtʊk\ ; -taken \-ˈtɑ-kən\ ; -taking 1 : to catch up with ; also : to catch up with and pass by
over-the-counter adj : sold without a prescription (~ drugs)
over-throw \o-vər-ˈθrəʊ\ vb -threw \-ˈθruː\ ; -thrown \-ˈθrɔn\ ; -throwing 1 : UPSET 2 : to bring down (a government) 3 : to throw over
past — over-throw \o-vər-ˈθrəʊ\ n
over-time \o-vər-ˈtɪm\ n : time beyond a set limit ; esp : working time in excess of a standard day or week
overtime adv
over-tone \o-vər-ˈtəʊn\ n 1 : one of the tones in a complex musical tone ; IMPLICATION, SUGGESTION
over-trick \o-vər-ˈtrɪk\ n : a card won in excess of the number

erture \o-vər-ˈtʃɜr-ˌtʃər\ n [ME, It., opening, fr. MF, fr. (assumed) VL apertura, alter. of L apertura] 1 : an opening offer 2 : an orchestral introduction to a musical dramatic work
over-turn \o-vər-ˈtɜrn\ vb 1 : to turn over ; UPSET 2 : INVALIDATE
overview \o-vər-ˈvjuː\ n : a general survey ; SUMMARY
overweening \o-vər-ˈwi:n-ɪŋ\ adj 1 : ARROGANT 2 : IMMODERATE
over-weight \o-vər-ˈwəɪt\ n 1 : weight above what is required or allowed 2 : bodily weight greater than normal — over-weight adj
overwhelm \o-vər-ˈhwelm\ vb 1 : TO OVERTHROW 2 : SUBMERGE 3 : to overcome completely
overwhelming adj : EXTREME, GREAT (~ joy) — overwhelming-ly adv
over-winter \o-vər-ˈwɪn-tər\ vb : to survive the winter
over-work \o-vər-ˈwɜrk\ vb 1 : to work or cause to work too hard or long 2 : to use too much — overwork n
overwrought \o-vər-ˈrəʊt\ adj 1 : extremely excited 2 : elaborated to excess
oviduct \o-vɪ-ˈdʌkt\ n : a tube that serves for the passage of eggs from an ovary
ov-er-ous \o-vi-ˈpə-rəs\ adj : reproducing by eggs that hatch outside the parent's body
oviduct \o-vɪ-ˈdʌkt\ or oviduct \o-vɪ-ˈdʌkt\ n : egg-shaped ; OVAL
ovulation \o-vy-ˈvʌ-lə-shən\ , ˈo-vy-ˈvʌ-ˌlən\ n : the discharge of a mature egg from the ovary — ovulate \o-vy-ˈvʌ-lət-ɪz\ , ˈo-vy-ˈvʌ-lət\ vb
ovary \o-vy-ˈvʌ-ri-əl\ , ˈo-vy-ˈvʌ-ri-əl\ n : any of the bodies in a plant ovary that after fertilization become seeds
ova \o-və\ n, pl ova \-ˈvə\ : EGG 2
ov-er \o-vər\ interj — used esp. to express sudden pain
owe \o-və\ vb owed ; owing 1 : to be under obligation to pay or render 2 : to be indebted to or for ; also : to be in debt owing to prep ; BECAUSE OF
ow-er \o-vər\ n : any of an order of chiefly nocturnal birds of prey with a large hooked beak and eyes and strong talons — owl-ly adv
owl \o-vl\ n : a young or small owl
own \o-vn\ adj : belonging to oneself — used as an intensive after a possessive adjective (her ~ car)
own \o-vn\ vb 1 : to have or hold as property — own-er n — own-er-ship n
own-er n : one or ones belonging to oneself
ox \ɒks\ n, pl oxen \ˈɒk-sən\ also oxen n : any of the common large domestic

overtur

cattle kept for mil
esp : an adult ca
ox-blood \ˈɒks-ˌbloʊd\ n : reddish brown
ox-bow \ˈɒks-ˌboʊ\ n 1 : worn by a draft 2 : bend in a river — ox-ford \ˈɒks-ˌfɔrd\ or tied over the in
ox-i-dant \ˈɒks-ˌdʌnt\ , ˈɒks-ˌdʌnt\ n : AGENT — oxidant
ox-i-da-tion \ˈɒks-ˌdʌ-ˈtʃən\ or process of oxidation condition of being
ox-ide \ˈɒks-ˌaɪd\ n : ygen with another
ox-i-dize \ˈɒks-ˌaɪ-ˈdɪz\ vb : to combine rusts because it is sure to the air) — oxidizing agent n : ygen or nitric acid taking up electron
oxy-gen \ˈɒks-ˌi-dʒən\ n : Gk oxyz acidic, lit giving rise to ; so called once thought to be ment of all acids) less gaseous chem found in the air, i and is involved in
oxy-gen-ate \ˈɒks-ˌi-ˈdʒə-ˈneɪt\ n : to impreg supply with oxyge
oxy-gen-ate \ˈɒks-ˌi-ˈdʒə-ˈneɪt\ n : oxygen mask n : a device nose and mouth through which oxygen is supplied
oxygen tent n : a capsule placed over a bed within which a flow of oxygen is maintained
oxy-mo-rum \ˈɒks-ˌi-ˈmɔ-rəm\ n : combination of cc (as cruel kindness)
oyster \ˈɔɪ-ˌstər\ n : a bivalve mollusk with a 2-valved shell that is especially important as a pearl producer — oyster-man \ˈɔɪ-ˌstər-ˈmæn\ n : a person who catches oysters
ozone \ˈoʊ-ˌzɔn\ n 1 : a reactive form of oxygen formed naturally and is used for disinfecting, and bleaching fresh air
ozone layer n : an atmospheric layer of about 10 kilometers (6 miles) thick which blocks most of the radiation