

AMERICAN HERITAGE dictionary of the English Language

Search



HOW TO USE THE DICTIONARY

Learn what the dictionary tells you about words.

GET STARTED NOW!

Some compound words (like bus rapid transit, dog whistle, or identity theft) don't appear on the drop-down list when you enter them into the search window. If a compound term doesn't appear in the dropdown list, try entering the term into the search window and then hit the search button (instead of the "enter" key).



THE USAGE PANEL

The Usage Panel is a group of nearly 200 prominent scholars. creative writers, journalists, diplomats, and others in occupations requiring mastery of language. The Panelists are surveyed annually to gauge the acceptability of particular usages and grammatical constructions

THE PANELISTS



Go to our Crossword Puzzle Solver and type in the letters that you know, and the Solver will produce a list of possible solutions.

ce-les-ta (sə-lĕs tə) also ce-leste (-lĕst)



A musical instrument with a keyboard and metal plates struck by hammers that produce bell-like tones.

[French célesta, from céleste, celestial, from Latin caelestis; see CELESTIAL.]

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

The American Heritage Dictionary Blog

Check out our blog, updated regularly, for new words and revised definitions, interesting images from the 5th edition, discussions of usage, and more.

Most Recent posts:

- Picture a Squash Blossom: The Art of the Dictionary
- What's in a Name? Succulent and Unsavory Food Synonyms

William Zinsser (1922-2015): American Heritage Dictionary Usage Panelist, 1964–2015

American Heritage Dictionary Products







The American Heritage Idioms



The American Heritage Thesaurus



Curious George's Dictionary



The American Heritage Dictionary

Have a promotional code?

GET YOUR FREE APP



Put the entire dictionary at your fingertips—anywhere, anytime!

BUY THE iOS or ANDROID APP

This website is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, or Safari.

THE 100 WORDS*

OPEN DICTIONARY

PURCHASE THE

DICTIONARY

The online searchable American

etymologies, and feature notes.

as an iOS or an Android app-

or buy the deluxe printed edition.

INDO-EUROPEAN &

SEMITIC ROOTS

APPENDICES

dictionary include etymologies

information about these forms in

that trace their roots back to reconstructed proto-languages.

You can obtain more

our online appendices:

Additional information is available in an expanded form

in our Dictionary of Indo-

PROJECT

and new meanings of old

START SHARING NOW!

Share your ideas for new words

SEMITIC ROOTS

European Roots.

words!

INDO-EUROPEAN ROOTS

Thousands of entries in the

You can purchase the dictionary

Heritage Dictionary includes definitions, pronunciations,

See word lists from the bestselling 100 Words Series!

FIND OUT MORE!

Home | About Us | Careers | Contact Us | FAQs

Privacy Policy | Terms & Conditions of Use



The You Are Your Words word cloud generator is no longer available.

Copyright 2015 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.