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## Preface

This new edition of THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY is the fifth in a line of Merriam-Webster paperback dictionaries which began in 1947. It is based on and preserves the best aspects of preceding editions, but it also offers much that is new, drawing specifically on *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition*, which was published after the appearance of the last paperback edition. Every entry and every section has been reexamined and revised in light of the most current information available. Every definition has been based on examples of actual use found in the Merriam-Webster citation file, which now includes more than 14,500,000 examples of English words used in context.

The 60,000 entries in *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* give coverage to the most frequently used words in the language. The heart of the dictionary is the A-Z vocabulary section, where readers will find information about meaning, spelling, pronunciation, etymology, and synonymy. This section is followed by several others that users have long found useful: a list of foreign words and phrases that often occur in English texts; a list of nations of the world; a list of places in the United States having 19,000 or more inhabitants; a similar list of places in Canada; and a section devoted to widely used signs and symbols. The A-Z vocabulary is preceded by a set of Explanatory Notes that should be read carefully by every user of 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 company that has been publishing dictionaries for 150 years. It has been edited by an experienced staff of lexicographers, who believe it will serve well those who want a concise and handy guide to the English language of today.

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1 : INJU-  
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cap : the  
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adj : UN-  
tri-shən.  
adequate  
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adj : ill  
adv —  
n : a der-  
or a fail-  
results in  
sp. barley  
sprouted  
istilling 2  
malty adj  
a powder

esp. from starch by the action of en-  
zymes  
mal-treat \mal-<sup>trēt</sup>\ vb : to treat cruel-  
ly or roughly : ABUSE — mal-treat-  
ment n  
ma-ma or mam-ma \<sup>mā-mə</sup>\ n : MOTH-  
ER  
mam-bo \<sup>mām-bō</sup>\ n, pl mambos : a  
dance of Cuban origin related to the  
rumba — mambo vb  
mam-mal \<sup>ma-məl</sup>\ n : any of a class of  
warm-blooded vertebrates that in-  
cludes humans and all other animals  
which nourish their young with milk  
and have the skin more or less cov-  
ered with hair — mam-ma-lī-an \mə-  
<sup>mā-lē-ən</sup>, ma-\ adj or n  
mam-ma-ry \<sup>ma-mə-rē</sup>\ adj : of, relat-  
ing to, or being the glands (mammary  
glands) that in female mammals se-  
crete milk  
mam-mo-gram \<sup>ma-mə-gram</sup>\ n : an  
X-ray photograph of the breasts  
mam-mo-gra-phy \ma-<sup>mā-grə-fē</sup>\ n  
: X-ray examination of the breasts  
(as for early detection of cancer)  
mam-mon \<sup>ma-mən</sup>\ n, often cap : ma-  
terial wealth having a debasing influ-  
ence  
<sup>1</sup> mam-moth \<sup>ma-məθ</sup>\ n : any of a ge-  
nus of large hairy extinct elephants  
<sup>2</sup> mammoth adj : of very great size : GI-  
GANTIC syn colossal, enormous, im-  
mense, vast, elephantine  
<sup>1</sup> man \<sup>man</sup>\ n, pl men \<sup>men</sup>\ 1 : a hu-  
man being; esp : an adult male 2 : the  
human race : MANKIND 3 : one pos-  
sessing in high degree the qualities  
considered distinctive of manhood 4  
: an adult male servant or employee 5  
: the individual who can fulfill one's  
requirements (he's your ~) 6 : one of  
the pieces with which various games  
(as chess) are played; also : one of the  
players on a team 7 often cap : white  
society or people  
<sup>2</sup> man vb manned; man-ning 1 : to supply  
with men (~ a fleet) 2 : FORTIFY.  
BRACE  
<sup>3</sup> man abbr manual  
Man abbr Manitoba  
man-about-town n, pl men-about-  
town : a worldly and socially active  
man  
man-a-cle \<sup>ma-ni-kəl</sup>\ n 1 : a shackle  
for the hand or wrist 2 : something  
used as a restraint  
man-age \<sup>ma-nij</sup>\ vb man-aged; man-  
ag-ing 1 : HANDLE, CONTROL; also : to  
direct or carry on business or affairs  
2 : to make and keep compliant 3 : to

who  
man-ager  
manages — man-  
<sup>1</sup>jir-ē-əl\ adj  
ma-na-na \mən-<sup>yā-nə</sup>\ [Sp. lit.  
row] n : an indefinite time in the  
ture  
man-at-arms n, pl men-at-arms : s  
DIER; esp : one who is heavily arm  
and mounted  
man-a-tee \<sup>ma-nə-tē</sup>\ n : any of a  
nus of chiefly tropical plant-eat  
aquatic mammals having a bro  
rounded tail  
Man-chu-ri-an \man-<sup>chūr-ē-ən</sup>\ n :  
native or inhabitant of Manchur  
China — Manchurian adj  
man-ci-ple \<sup>man-sə-pəl</sup>\ n : a stewa  
or purveyor esp. for a college or m  
astery  
man-da-mus \man-<sup>dā-məs</sup>\ n [L.  
enjoin] : a writ issued by a superi  
court commanding that an official  
or duty be performed  
man-da-rin \<sup>man-də-rən</sup>\ n 1 : a pub  
official of high rank under the C  
nese Empire 2 cap : the chief diale  
group of China 3 : a yellow to reddi  
orange loose-skinned citrus fruit; al  
: a tree that bears mandarins  
man-date \<sup>man-dāt</sup>\ n 1 : an autho  
itative command 2 : an authorizati  
to act given to a representative 3 :  
commission granted by the League  
Nations to a member nation for go  
erning conquered territory; also :  
territory so governed  
man-da-to-ry \<sup>man-də-tōr-ē</sup>\ adj  
: containing or constituting a con  
mand : OBLIGATORY 2 : of or relating  
a League of Nations mandate  
man-di-b-le \<sup>man-də-bəl</sup>\ n 1 : JAW; es  
: a lower jaw 2 : either segment of  
bird's bill — man-di-bu-lar \man-<sup>d</sup>  
byə-lər\ adj  
man-do-lin \<sup>man-də-lin</sup>, <sup>mand-əl-ər</sup>  
n : a stringed musical instrument wit  
a pear-shaped body and a frette  
neck  
man-drake \<sup>man-drāk</sup>\ n 1 : an Ol  
World herb of the nightshade famil  
or its large forked root superstitiousl  
credited with human and medicina  
attributes 2 : MAYAPPLE  
man-drel also man-dril \<sup>man-drel</sup>\ n  
: an axle or spindle inserted into  
hole in a piece of work to support i  
during machining 2 : a metal bar use  
as a core around which material may  
be cast, shaped, or molded