

bu-reau \ˈbyûr-ō\ *n* **1** : a low chest of drawers for use in a bedroom **2** : a division of a government department <the Federal *Bureau* of Investigation> **3** : a business office that provides services <a travel *bureau*>

word history

bureau

A chest of drawers and an office, which are two of the meanings of the word **bureau**, do not seem to have much of a connection. In French, from which we have borrowed the word, **bureau** originally referred to a piece of rough cloth used to protect the surface of a desk. But its meaning expanded so that it could also refer to the desk itself, and to the room containing the desk, that is, an office. On some bureaus with lots of drawers the writing surface could be raised and closed to form a slanting top. In the United States a chest of drawers without any writing surface came to be called a **bureau**.



bur-ger \ˈbər-gər\ *n* **1** : HAMBURGER **2** : a sandwich like a hamburger <a turkey *burger*>

bur-glar \ˈbər-glər\ *n* : a person who commits burglary

bur-glary \ˈbər-glə-rē\ *n, pl bur-glaries* : the act of breaking into a building especially at night with the intent to commit a crime (as theft)

nace where the flame or heat is produced
bur-nish \ˈbər-nish\ *vb* **bur-nished; bur-nish-ing**
: to make shiny

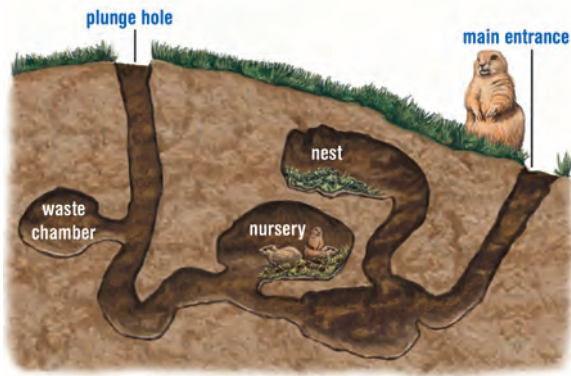
ˈburp \ˈbərɪp\ *vb* **burped; burp-ing** **1** : ¹BELCH **2** : to help (a baby) let out gas from the stomach especially by patting or rubbing the baby's back

ˈburp *n* : ²BELCH

burr *variant of BUR*

bur-ro \ˈbər-ō\ *n, pl burros* : a small donkey often used to carry loads

ˈbur-row \ˈbər-ō\ *n* : a hole in the ground made by an animal (as a rabbit or fox) for shelter or protection



ˈburrow: the burrow of a woodchuck

ˈburrow *vb* **bur-rowed; bur-row-ing** **1** : to hide in or as if in a burrow <... she *burrowed* face downward into the pillow... —Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*> **2** : to make a burrow **3** : to proceed by or as if by digging <He *burrowed* through his suitcase.>

crisp *vb* **crisped**; **crisp-ing** : to make or keep something crispy or fresh

crispy \ˈkri-spē\ *adj* **crispi-er**; **crispi-est** : pleasantly thin, dry, and crunchy

criss-cross \ˈkris-krɒs\ *vb* **criss-crossed**; **criss-cross-ing** **1** : to go, pass, or extend back and forth or cover with something that extends back and forth <On our trip we *crisscrossed* the state.> **2** : to mark with or make lines that go across one another

crit-ic \ˈkri-tik\ *n* **1** : a person who makes or gives a judgment of the value, worth, beauty, or quality of something <a movie *critic*> **2** : a person who finds fault or complains

word root

The Greek word *kritikos*, meaning “able to judge,” gives us the root **critic**. Words from the Greek *kritikos* have something to do with judging. A **critic** is someone who judges the value or quality of something, such as a movie or book. Someone **critical** makes a lot of judgments and usually decides that things are not good. To **criticize** is to make a judgment that something is not good.

crit-i-cal \ˈkri-ti-kəl\ *adj* **1** : likely or eager to find fault **2** : consisting of or involving judgment of value, worth, beauty, or quality <*critical* writings> **3** : using or involving careful judgment <a *critical* examination of a patient> **4** : extremely important <It is *critical* that you follow the instructions exactly.> (**ROOT**) see CRITIC — **crit-i-cal-ly** *adv*

crit-i-cism \ˈkri-tə-ˌsi-zəm\ *n* **1** : the act of finding fault <His *criticism* of her decision made her stop and rethink the plan.> **2** : a remark that expresses disapproval <I had only one *criticism* about his work.> **3** : a careful judgment or review especially by a person whose job is to judge the value, worth, beauty, or quality of something

crit-i-cize \ˈkri-tə-ˌsīz\ *vb* **crit-i-cized**; **crit-i-ciz-**

croc-o-dīle \ˈkrä-kə-,dīl\ *n* : a reptile that resembles the related alligator but that has a long narrow snout

word history

crocodile

The word **crocodile** is taken from Greek *krokodēilos*, which is probably a compound of *krokē*, “pebble, stone,” and a rare word *drilos*, which may mean “worm.” According to the ancient Greek writer Herodotus, some Greeks gave this name to the lizards that lived among the stone walls of their farms. When these Greeks visited Egypt, the enormous reptiles of the Nile River reminded them of the lizards and they applied the same name to them.



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Ee

Sounds of E. The letter E makes a number of sounds. The sound heard in the words *fresh* and *melt* is the short E. The long E is heard in words like *me* and *complete*. The sound of the long E is indicated by the symbol ē. Letter E also makes the schwa sound, which is indicated by the symbol ə, in words like *angel* and *bulletin*. In *pretty*, E sounds like a short I. E makes a variety of sounds when combined with other letters, such as the long A sound in *vein*, *prey*, and *steak*. The combination EW can often sound just like the long U, like in *few* or *grew*. Sometimes E is silent, especially at the end of a word, such as in *note*.

e \‘ē\ *n, pl e’s or es* \‘ēz\ *often cap* 1 : the fifth letter of the English alphabet 2 : a grade that shows a student’s work is failing 3 : a musical note referred to by the letter E
E *abbr* 1 east 2 eastern 3 excellent
ea *abbr* each
each \‘ēch\ *adj* : every one of two or more individuals considered separately <read *each* book>
each *pron* : each one <We *each* took a turn.>
each *adv* : to or for each : APIECE <We were given two presents *each*.> <They cost 50 cents *each*.>
each other *pron* : each of two or more in a shared action or relationship <They greeted *each other*.>
ea-ger \‘ē-gər\ *adj* : very excited and interested <... bright *eager* eyes were looking up into hers... —Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*> — **ea-ger-ly** *adv* — **ea-ger-ness** *n*



earmuff: a man and a girl wearing earmuffs

synonyms EAGER, ANXIOUS, and KEEN mean having or showing a strong desire or interest. EAGER is used when there is much enthusiasm and often impatience. <*Eager* travelers waited for their train.> ANXIOUS is used when there is fear of failure or disappointment. <I was *anxious* to learn who won.> KEEN is used when there is great interest and readiness to act. <The new scouts are *keen* to learn.>

ea-gle \‘ē-gəl\ *n* : a large bird of prey noted for keen sight and powerful flight
ea-glet \‘ē-glət\ *n* : a young eagle
-ean — see -AN
ear \‘ir\ *n* 1 : the organ of hearing and balance of vertebrates that in most mammals is made up of an outer part that collects sound, a middle part that carries sound, and an inner part that receives sound and sends nerve signals to the brain 2 : the outer part of the ear <She pulled on his *ear*.> 3 : the sense of hearing <a good *ear* for music> 4 : willing or sympathetic attention <The coach had every player’s *ear*.> — **eared** \‘ird\ *adj* <a long-eared dog>
ear *n* : the seed-bearing head of a cereal grass <an *ear* of corn>
ear-ache \‘ir-āk\ *n* : an ache or pain in the ear
ear-drum \‘ir-ḍrəm\ *n* : the membrane that separates the outer and middle parts of the ear and vibrates when sound waves strike it
earl \‘ər\ *n* : a member of the British nobility who ranks below a marquess and above a viscount
ear-ly \‘ər-lē\ *adv* **ear-li-er**; **ear-li-est** 1 : at or near the beginning of a period of time <woke up *early*> <*early* in my career> 2 : before the usual or expected time <arrived *early*>
early *adj* **ear-li-er**; **ear-li-est** : occurring near the beginning or before the usual time <*early* morning>
ear-muff \‘ir-məf\ *n* : one of a pair of coverings joined by a flexible band and worn to protect the ears from cold or noise

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word history

easel

Our word **easel** is borrowed from the Dutch word *ezel*, which means literally “donkey.” A donkey is used for carrying loads, and an artist’s easel, like an obedient animal, does the work of supporting an artist’s canvas. If this comparison seems at all odd, we should recall that *horse* in English is used in a similar way, as in the compound *sawhorse*, a frame that supports wood for cutting.



eas-i-ly \‘ē-zə-lē, \‘ēz-lē\ *adv* 1 : without difficulty <I won the race *easily*.> 2 : without doubt : by far <You’re *easily* the best person for the job.>
east \‘ēst\ *n* 1 : the direction of sunrise : the compass point opposite to west 2 *cap* : regions or countries east of a certain point
east *adj* : placed toward, facing, or coming from the east <the *east* end> <an *east* wind>
east *adv* : to or toward the east <traveled *east*>
Eas-ter \‘ē-stər\ *n* : a Christian holy day that celebrates the Resurrection
east-er-ly \‘ē-stər-lē\ *adv or adj* 1 : toward the east <They sailed *easterly*.> <They sailed in an *easterly* direction.> 2 : from the east <an *easterly* wind>
east-ern \‘ē-stərn\ *adj* 1 : lying toward or coming from the east 2 *often cap* : of, relating to, or like that of the East
east-ward \‘ēs-twərd\ *adv or adj* : toward the east
easy \‘ē-zē\ *adj* **eas-i-er**; **eas-i-est** 1 : not hard to do or get : not difficult <an *easy* lesson> 2 : not hard to please <an *easy* teacher> 3 : free from pain, trouble, or worry <She had an *easy* life.> 4 : COMFORTABLE 1 <In *easy* state upon this couch, there sat a jolly Giant... —Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*> 5 : showing ease : NATURAL <an *easy* manner>
easy *adv* 1 : EASILY <Our team should win *easy*.> 2 : slowly and carefully or calmly <*Easy* does it.> 3 : without much punishment <You got off *easy*.>
eat \‘ēt\ *vb* **ate** \‘āt\; **eat-en** \‘ē-tə-n\; **eat-ing** 1 : to chew and swallow food 2 : to take a meal <Let’s *eat* at home.> 3 : to destroy as if by eating : CORRODE <Acids *ate* away the metal.> — **eat-er** *n*
eat-able \‘ē-tə-bəl\ *adj* : fit to be eaten : EDIBLE



earwig

earn \‘ərn\ *vb* **earned**; **earn-ing** 1 : to get for work done <She *earns* her pay.> 2 : to deserve as a result of labor or service <He *earned* good grades.> **synonyms** see DESERVE
ear-nest \‘ər-nəst\ *adj* : not light or playful <We received an *earnest* request for help.> **synonyms** see SERIOUS — **ear-nest-ly** *adv* — **ear-nest-ness** *n*
earn-ings \‘ər-nɪŋz\ *n pl* : money received as wages or gained as profit
ear-phone \‘ir-fōn\ *n* : a device that converts electrical energy into sound and is worn over the opening of the ear or inserted into it
ear-ring \‘ir-rɪŋ\ *n* : an ornament worn on the ear
ear-shot \‘ir-shāt\ *n* : the range within which a person’s voice can be heard
earth \‘ərth\ *n* 1 *often cap* : the planet that we live on 2 : land as distinguished from sea and air <Snow fell to *earth*.> 3 : ²SOIL 1 <a mound of *earth*>
earth-en \‘ər-thən\ *adj* : made of earth or of baked clay <an *earthen* dam> <an *earthen* jar>
earth-en-ware \‘ər-thən-wer\ *n* : things (as dishes) made of baked clay
earth-ly \‘ərth-lē\ *adj* 1 : having to do with or belonging to the earth 2 : IMAGINABLE, POSSIBLE <It’s of no *earthly* use.>
earth-quake \‘ərth-ˌkwāk\ *n* : a shaking or trembling of a portion of the earth
earth-worm \‘ərth-wɜrm\ *n* : a worm that has a long body made up of similar segments and lives in damp soil
earthy \‘ər-thē\ *adj* **earth-i-er**; **earth-i-est** 1 : of or like earth <an *earthy* smell> <*earthy* colors> 2 : open and direct <Voters like the mayor’s *earthy* manner.> 3 : not polite : CRUDE <*earthy* humor>
ear-wax \‘ir-waks\ *n* : a yellowish brown waxy substance made by glands in the canal of the outer part of the ear
ear-wig \‘ir-wɪg\ *n* : an insect with long slender feelers and a part at the end of its body that pinches and is used for self-defense
ease \‘ēz\ *n* 1 : freedom from pain or trouble : comfort of body or mind <a life of *ease*> 2 : lack of difficulty <... a thief might get in with perfect *ease*... —Washington Irving, “Sleepy Hollow”> 3 : freedom from any feeling of difficulty or embarrassment <She spoke with *ease*.>
ease *vb* **eased**; **eas-ing** 1 : to free from discomfort or worry : RELIEVE <This medicine will *ease* the pain.> 2 : to make less tight : LOOSEN <She *eased* up on the rope.> 3 : to move very carefully <He *eased* himself into the driver’s seat.>
ea-sel \‘ē-zəl\ *n* : a frame for supporting an artist’s painting

WORD HISTORIES
create interest in words
and their origins and
enrich the student's
understanding of
language.

**INFLECTED
FORMS** are shown
for all verbs,
irregular nouns, and
for those adjectives
and adverbs that take
-er and -est forms.

**DIAGRAMS,
ILLUSTRATIONS,
and PHOTO-
GRAPHS**
supplement
definitions
and provide
context.

DEFINITIONS
explain meanings
and distinguish
between different
senses of a word.

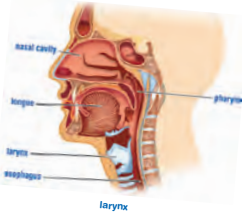
insects that hatches from an egg. **2**: an early form of any animal (as a frog) that at birth or hatching is very different from its parents

word history

larva

To biologists in the 1700s, the adult was the only genuine form of an insect. The stages that come between the egg and the adult in many insects' disguises. These stages were named with the Latin words *pupa*, "doll," and *larva*, which in the Latin of the ancient Romans was a sort of ghostly demon or a mask representing a demon. Although as far as real as adults, the traditional terms *larva* and *pupa* remain with us.

laryngitis \lär-an-'jī-tis\ *n*: swelling and irritation of the larynx in which the voice becomes hoarse or weak and the throat sore
larynx \lär-'īk-s\ *n*, *pl* **larynges** \lär-'īn-jēz\ or **larynxes**: the upper part of the trachea that contains the vocal cords



lasagna \lā-'zā-n-yā\ *n*: layers of broad flat noodles baked with a sauce usually of tomatoes, cheese, and meat or vegetables
laser \lā-'zər\ *n*: a device that produces a very powerful beam of light
laser printer *n*: a printer for computer output that produces high-quality images formed by a laser
'lash \lāsh\ *v* **lashed**; **lashing** **1**: to hit with a whip (The rider *lashed* his horse.) **2**: to move forcefully from side to side (The animal *lashed* the windows.) **3**: to make a sudden and angry attack against (He *lashed* out at his critics.)
'lash *n* **1**: a blow with a whip or switch (The pirate received 20 *lashes*.) **2**: the flexible part of a whip **3**: **EYELASH**

laryngitis • late

'lash *v* **lashed**; **lashing**: to tie or tie down with a rope or chain (The first thing Timothy did was to *lash* our water keg high on a palm trunk. —Theodore Taylor, *The Cay*)

lashing \lā-'shīn\ *n*: something used for tying, wrapping, or fastening

lass \lās\ *n*: GIRL

lassie \lā-'sē\ *n*: a young girl

'lasso \lā-sō, lā-'sū\ *v* **lassoed**; **lassoing**: to catch with a rope having a slipknot (Cowboys *lassoed* a calf.)

'lasso *n*, *pl* **lassos** or **lassoes**: a rope with a slipknot that is used for catching animals
'last \lāst\ *v* **lasted**; **lasting** **1**: to go on (The game *lasted* two hours.) **2**: to stay in good condition (These sneakers won't *last*.) **3**: to be enough for the needs of (We have food to *last* till the next condition (Are you too hungry to *last* till lunch?)

'last *adv* **1**: after any others in time or order (She spoke *last*.) **2**: most recently (They were *last* seen here.)

'last *adj* **1**: following all the rest: **FINAL** (I was the *last* one out.) **2**: most recent (*last* week) **3**: lowest in rank or position (Our team was *last* in the league.) **4**: most unlikely (You're the *last* person I thought I'd see.)

synonyms **LAST** and **FINAL** mean following all the others. **LAST** is used for something at the end of a series but it does not always mean that the series is complete or permanently ended. (I spent my *last* dollar on a ticket.) **FINAL** is used for something that positively closes a series and forever settles the matter. (This is the *final* game of the championship.)

'last *n*: a person or thing that is last (That order was my *last*.) — **at last** or **at long last**: after a long period of time: **FINALLY** (We're *finished at last*.)

lasting \lā-'tīn\ *adj*: continuing for a long while (a *lasting* impression)

lastly \lāst-'lē\ *adv*: at the end (Lastly, I would like to thank you all.)

'latch \lāch\ *n*: a movable piece that holds a door, gate, or window closed

'latch *v* **latched**; **latching**: to close or fasten with a latch

'late \lāt\ *adj* **later**; **latest** **1**: coming or occurring after the usual or proper time (a *late* spring) **2**: coming or occurring toward the end (He married in his *late* twenties.) **3**: having died or recently left a certain position (the late president) **4**: **RECENT** (a *late* discovery) — **late-ness** *n* (Do you realize the *lateness* of the hour?)

'late *adv* **later**; **latest** **1**: after the usual or proper time (We arrived *late*.) **2**: near the end of something (We'll see you *late* next week.) —

QUOTATIONS
from children's
literature relate
definitions to a
meaningful context
and add interest.

**EXAMPLE
SENTENCES and
PHRASES** illustrate
and clarify different
meanings of the
headword.

**SYNONYM
PARAGRAPHS**
and **WORD ROOT
PARAGRAPHS**
spark imagination,
describe different shades
of meaning, and improve
vocabulary and spelling.

**IDIOMS and
COMMONLY USED
PHRASES** are identified
with bold type and clearly
defined.

linear lile laling lalbone lalsaw lalcoin laldoor lalthin lalthis lalfood lalfoot lalvair lalvision