

# The American Heritage Children's Dictionary

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The word list is enhanced with hundreds of informative notes that describe word histories, discuss synonyms, warn of spelling pitfalls, and discuss how to use prefixes and suffixes to build vocabulary. Supplementary material in the back of the book includes a guide to phonics and grammar, a geographical dictionary, maps, and a table of measurements.

This updated edition includes many new illustrations as well as a variety of new words and meanings in the fast-changing areas of technology, sports, and health, including *podcast*, *smartphone*, *paddleboard*, and *gluten*.

*The American Heritage® Children's Dictionary* is rich in content and graphics and easy to use. It provides a complete and compelling language reference for every child.

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**Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

#### Product Description

This brand-new edition of the best-selling *American Heritage Children's Dictionary* covers all the vocabulary young readers need today. More than 2,000 new words and senses make this the most comprehensive and up-to-date children's dictionary available. New entries cover the complete range of subjects and include such terms as aikido, burqa, dwarf planet, greenhouse gas, hip-hop, skate park, and sustainable. Over 25,000 entries are defined in age-appropriate, contemporary language. More than 16,000 expertly crafted example sentences show words in context. Hundreds of special feature notes expand children's knowledge of language and a separate phonics and spelling guide helps to develop sound reading and writing skills. The engaging and contemporary design includes 1,500 vivid full-color photographs, illustrations, and diagrams that supplement and expand upon the definitions. The art encompasses multidimensional presentations showing fascinating subjects such as cave, geyser, houseboat, and starfish. With the thousands of new words and senses and an all-new art program, nearly 80 percent of the book is fresh material. Rich in content and graphics, this comprehensive and easy-to-use dictionary is a must for every young reader.

### Sample Entries from the *American Heritage Children's Dictionary* (Click on Images to View Full Page)

**acid rain** *noun* Rain, snow, or other precipitation that has a high amount of acidity. Acid rain comes from pollution in the air.

**acknowledge** (äk' nöf'ij) *verb* 1. To admit that something exists or is true: *It is hard to acknowledge your mistakes.* 2. To recognize that someone has authority: *They were acknowledged as experts in chemistry.* 3. To notice and respond to something: *The leader acknowledged the cheering crowd by waving.* ▶ *verb forms acknowledged, acknowledging*

**acknowledgment** (äk' nöf'ij mant) *noun* 1. Something that you write or say to recognize or respond to another person's action: *In her acknowledgments, the author thanked all the people who had helped her.* 2. The act of admitting that something exists or is true: *I bowed my head in acknowledgment of guilt.*

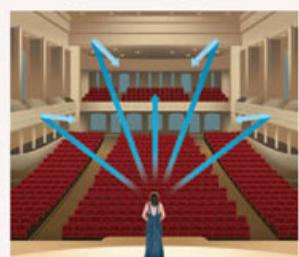
**acne** (äk' nē) *noun* A condition in which the oil glands of the skin become infected and then form pimples.

**acorn** (äk' körn') *noun* The nut of an oak tree. Acorns have a smooth, hard shell with a scaly cap.

► **acid rain** The smoke from smokestacks and the exhaust from cars contain chemicals that combine with raindrops in clouds to form acids. The rain falls as acid rain. It kills plants and pollutes lakes and rivers.

Sample Entry: acid rain-acoustic

**acoustic** (äk' koo'stik) *adjective* 1. Having to do with how materials and spaces affect sound: *The singer's voice sounded very clear because of the good acoustic design of the concert hall.* 2. Making music without using electronic instruments: *Sophia brought an acoustic guitar on the camping trip.*



► **acoustic** The walls and ceiling of an auditorium deflect sound waves coming from the stage.

#### Spelling Note

##### bicycle

The prefix *bi-* means "two." Recognizing this prefix will help you spell the word *bicycle* (a vehicle with two wheels) and these other words: *bilingual* (speaking two languages); *binary digit* (one of the two numbers 0 and 1 used in some counting systems); *binoculars* (an optical instrument consisting of two small telescopes); *biplane* (an airplane with two sets of wings); *bisect* (to cut into two equal parts). The word *biscuit* also contains the element *bi-*; it originally meant "twice-baked."

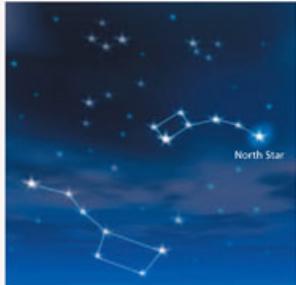
**bicycle** (bi'sil'ē) *noun* A vehicle with two wheels mounted one behind the other, a seat for the rider, and pedals for turning the wheels. ▶ *verb* To ride a bicycle.

► *verb forms bicycled, bicycling*

**bid** (bid) *verb* 1. To offer an amount of money as a price: *I bid a dollar for the old magazine.* 2. To say or express something to someone: *Our guests walked to the door, and we bid them farewell.* 3. To order someone to do something; command: *The knight bade his squire to prepare for the journey.* ▶ *noun* 1. An offer to pay or accept a certain amount for something: *We're looking for a higher bid for our boat.* 2. An amount that is bid: *The winning bid for the necklace was \$500.* ▶ *verb forms bid or bade, bid or bidden, bidding*

Sample Entry: bicycle-big dipper

**Big Dipper** *noun* A group of seven stars in the northern sky that is shaped somewhat like a cup with a long handle, with four stars forming the cup and three forming the handle. It is larger than the Little Dipper, which has a similar shape.



► **Big Dipper** left: the Big Dipper  
right: the Little Dipper

For pronunciation symbols, see the chart on the inside back cover.

### From School Library Journal

Grade 3–6—A clean layout, quality illustrations, and notes on word histories, synonyms, vocabulary, and spelling—all features of earlier editions—have been retained in this edition. The lexicon contains 25,000

words and 1500 full-color illustrations. Entries are highlighted in blue followed by the pronunciation, part of speech, and definition(s). Plural forms, verb forms, and variant spellings are noted. Many entries contain examples of the term used in a sentence. Guide words are found at the top of the page and guide letters appear in the right margin of the recto. More than 2000 new terms have been added, including names of ethnic foods and medical and educational terminology. The 1500 images include full-color photos, labeled diagrams, and illustrations; many of these are also new. This dictionary will have a general appeal to students and teachers and is perfect for ready-reference sections. An excellent choice.—*Beth McGuire, Fannett-Metal School District, Willow Hill, PA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Some of the illustrations have been replaced, but the vocabulary, definitions, and boxed features appear to be unchanged from the 1998 edition. For grades three to six.

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