



The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



HOW TO USE THE DICTIONARY

To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

[guide to the dictionary](#)



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. Annual surveys have gauged the acceptability of particular usages and grammatical constructions.

[The Panelists](#)



AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY APP

The new American Heritage Dictionary app is now available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).



THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY BLOG

The articles in our [blog](#) examine new words, revised definitions, interesting images from the fifth edition, discussions of usage, and more.

THE 100 WORDS®

See word lists from the best-selling 100 Words Series!

[Find out more!](#)



INTERESTED IN DICTIONARIES?

Check out the Dictionary Society of North America at <http://www.dictionariesociety.com>

green  (grēn)

Share: [Tweet](#)

n.

1. The hue of that portion of the visible spectrum lying between yellow and blue, evoked in the human observer by radiant energy with wavelengths of approximately 490 to 570 nanometers; any of a group of colors that may vary in lightness and saturation and whose hue is that of the emerald or somewhat less yellow than that of growing grass; one of the additive or light primaries; one of the psychological primary hues.

2. Something green in color.

3. **greens** Green growth or foliage, especially:

a. The branches and leaves of plants used for decoration.

b. The leaves of certain plants eaten as vegetables.

4. A grassy lawn or plot, especially:

a. A grassy area located usually at the center of a city or town and set aside for common use; a common.

b. *Sports* A putting green.

5. **greens** A green uniform: "*a young ... sergeant in dress greens*" (Nelson DeMille).

6. *Slang* Money.

7. **Green** A supporter of a social and political movement that espouses global environmental protection, bioregionalism, social responsibility, and nonviolence.

adj. **green·er, green·est**

1. Of the color green.

2.

a. Abounding in or covered with green growth or foliage: *the green woods*.

b. Made with green or leafy vegetables: *a green salad*.

c. Characterized by mild or temperate weather: *a green climate*.

3.

a. Not mature or ripe: *green tomatoes*.

b. Not grown up; young: *still at a green age*.

c. Vigorous or robust: *keeping one's memory green*.

d. Lacking training or experience. See Synonyms at [young](#).

e. Lacking sophistication or worldly experience; naive.

f. Easily duped or deceived; gullible.

4. Not yet fully processed, especially:

a. Not dried or aged: *green wood*.

b. Not cured or tanned: *green pelts*.

5.

a. Beneficial to the environment or less harmful to the environment than others: *green technology; recyclable green products*.

b. Favoring or supporting environmentalism: *green legislators who strengthened pollution controls*.

6.

a. Having a sickly or unhealthy appearance.

b. Envious or jealous.

7. Being a trail, as for skiing, marked with a sign having a green circle, indicating the easiest level of difficulty.

v. **greened, green·ing, greens**

v.intr.

To become green: *The rains came, and the grass greened*.

v.tr.

1. To make green: *Grass greened the hills.*

2. To design or organize so as to be beneficial or less harmful to the environment, especially in reducing the amount of pollution created: *efforts to green the economy.*

Idiom:

green around/about the gills

Pale or sickly in appearance.

[Middle English *grene*, from Old English *grēne*; see **ghrē-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots. N., sense 7 translation of German (*die*) *Grünen*, (the) Greens, from *grün*, green.]

green **ly** *adv.*

green **ness** *n.*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

Green, William 1873-1952.

Share: [Tweet](#)

American labor leader who as president of the American Federation of Labor (1924-1952) led the struggle with the Congress of Industrial Organizations after the two groups split (1936).

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

American Heritage Dictionary Products



[The American Heritage Dictionary, 5th Edition](#)
[The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms](#)
[The American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus](#)

[Curious George's Dictionary](#)
[The American Heritage Children's Dictionary](#)

- **CONTACT US**
- [Customer Service](#)
- [Make Me An Author](#)
- [Ebooks Help with Glose Reader](#)
- **ABOUT US**
- [Company Profile](#)
- [Leadership Team](#)
- [Corporate Social Responsibility](#)
- [HarperCollins Careers](#)
- [HarperCollins Imprints](#)
- [HarperGreen](#)
- [Social Media Directory](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- **FOR READERS**
- [Browse Reading Guides](#)
- **FOR AUTHORS**
- [Submit a Manuscript](#)
- [Report Piracy](#)
- [Agent Portal](#)
- **MEDIA**
- [Publicity Contacts](#)
- [Press Room](#)
- **SERVICES**
- [HarperCollins Speakers Bureau](#)
- [Library Services](#)
- [Academic Services](#)
- [Desk & Exam Copies](#)
- [Review Copies](#)
- [OpenBook API](#)
- [Marketing Partnerships](#)
- **COVID-19 RESOURCES & PERMISSIONS**
- [Permissions for Adult Online Readings](#)
- [Permissions for Kids Online Readings](#)
- **SALES & RIGHTS**
- [Booksellers & Retailer Ordering](#)
- [HarperCollins Catalogs](#)
- [Permissions](#)
- [Subsidiary Rights](#)
- [Media Rights and Content Development](#)
- **GLOSE APP**
- [iPhone](#)
- [Android](#)
-
-
-
- **GLOBAL DIVISIONS**
- [HarperCollins US](#)
- [HarperCollins Canada](#)
- [HarperCollins Christian](#)
- [HarperCollins Australia](#)
- [HarperCollins India](#)
- [HarperCollins UK](#)
-
-
-
-
-
-
-



News Corp

[Terms of Use](#) • [Terms of Sale](#) • [Your Ad Choices](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [California Privacy Policy](#)
[Do Not Sell My Personal Information](#)

Copyright 2022 HarperCollins Publishers All rights reserved.

*This website is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari. Some characters in pronunciations and etymologies cannot be displayed properly in Internet Explorer.