



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>

cant¹  (kănt)

Share:

- n.*
1. Angular deviation from a vertical or horizontal plane or surface; an inclination or slope.
 2. A slanted or oblique surface.
 3.
 - a. A thrust or motion that tilts something.
 - b. The tilt caused by such a thrust or motion.
 4. An outer corner, as of a building.
- v. cant·ed, cant·ing, cants*
- v.tr.*
1. To set at an oblique angle; tilt.
 2. To give a slanting edge to; bevel.
 3. To change the direction of suddenly.
- v.intr.*
1. To lean to one side; slant.
 2. To take an oblique direction or course; swing around, as a ship.

[Middle English, side, from Old North French, from Vulgar Latin **cantus*, corner, from Latin *canthus*, rim of wheel, tire, of Celtic origin.]

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

cant²  (kănt)

Share: [Post](#)

- n.*
1. Tedious or hackneyed language, especially when used sanctimoniously: *"a merciless onslaught upon the cant of the age, the cant about progress, equality, [and] universal education"* (C. Vann Woodward).
 2.
 - a. The special vocabulary peculiar to the members of an underworld group; argot.
 - b. The special vocabulary of a profession, discipline, or social group; jargon.
 3. **Cant** See [Shelta](#).
 4. Whining or singsong speech, such as that used by beggars.
- intr.v. cant·ed, cant·ing, cants*
1. To speak tediously or sanctimoniously.
 2. To speak in argot or jargon.
 3. To speak in a whining or singsong voice.

[Anglo-Norman *cant*, song, singing, from *canter*, to sing, from Latin *cantāre*; see **kan-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cant ing·ly *adv.*

Cant.

Share:

abbr.
Bible
Canticle of Canticles

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

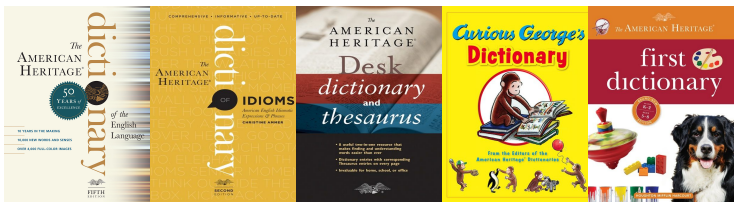
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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

- **CONTACT US**
- [Customer Service](#)
- [Make Me An Author](#)
- [Ebooks Help with Gloze 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.