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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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wheth·er  (wěth ər, hwěth -)

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conj.

1. Used in indirect questions to introduce one alternative: *We should find out whether the museum is open.* See Usage Notes at [doubt](#), [if](#).

2. Used to introduce alternative possibilities: *Whether she wins or whether she loses, this is her last tournament.*

3. Either: *He passed the test, whether by skill or luck.*

pron.

Archaic

Which: "We came in full View of a great Island or Continent, (for we knew not whether)" (Jonathan Swift).

Idiom:

whether or no

Regardless of circumstances.

[Middle English, from Old English *hwether*; see **k^wo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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