

Ads by Google Send feedback Why this ad?

German noun (1)

Save Word

German | \ˈjɑr-mən\

Definition of German (Entry 1 of 4)

- 1 a : a native or inhabitant of Germany
b : a person of German descent
c : one whose native language is German and who is a native of a country other than Germany
2 a : the Germanic language spoken mainly in Germany, Austria, and parts of Switzerland
b : the literary and official language of Germany
3 : a member of any of the Germanic peoples inhabiting western Europe in Roman times
4 often not capitalized
a : a dance consisting of intricate figures that are improvised and intermingled with waltzes
b chiefly Midland US : a dancing party specifically : one at which the german is danced

German adjective (1)

Definition of German (Entry 2 of 4)

: of, relating to, or characteristic of Germany, the Germans, or German

german adjective (2)

ger-man | \ˈjɑr-mən\

Definition of german (Entry 3 of 4)

: having the same parents or the same grandparents on either the maternal or paternal side—usually used after the noun which it modifies and joined to it by a hyphen
// brother-german
// cousin-german

german noun (2)

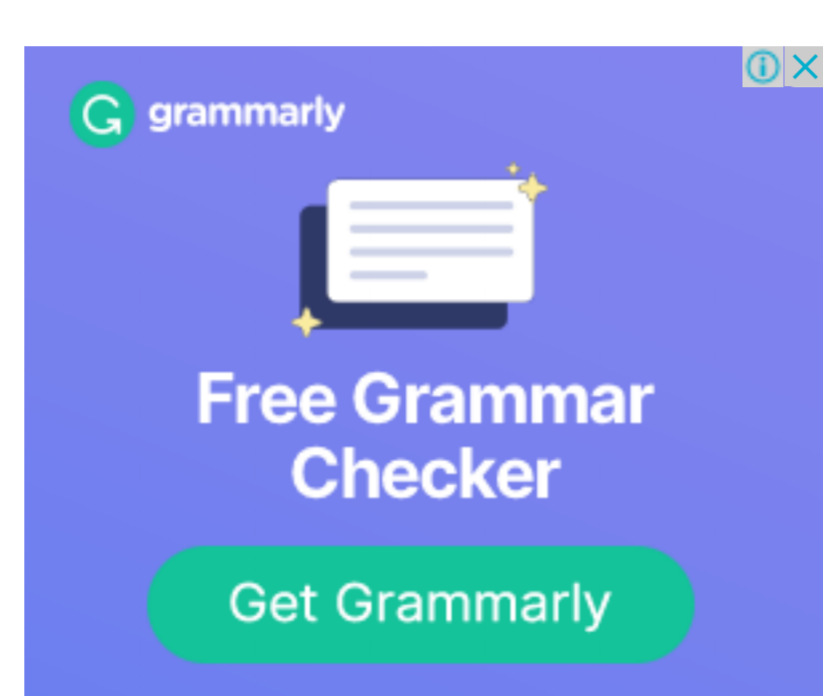
Definition of german (Entry 4 of 4)

obsolete

: a near relative

Phrases Containing German

Table with 3 columns: German phrase, German word, English translation. Includes: anti-German, German cockroach, German mark, German measles, German shepherd, German shorthaired pointer, German silver, German wirehaired pointer, High German, Low German, Middle High German, Middle Low German, Old High German, Pennsylvania German, Upper German.



First Known Use of German

Noun (1)

14th century, in the meaning defined at sense 3

Adjective (1)

15th century, in the meaning defined above

Adjective (2)

14th century, in the meaning defined above

Noun (2)

15th century, in the meaning defined above

History and Etymology for German

Noun (1)

Middle English, from Medieval Latin Germanus, from Latin

Adjective (2)

Middle English german, from Anglo-French, from Latin germanus having the same parents, from germen

Buying Guide

Learn a new language with apps selected by our team at Reviews by Merriam-Webster.

Learn More About German

Share German



Time Traveler for German

The first known use of German was in the 14th century. See more words from the same century.

From the Editors at Merriam-Webster

Badenfreude and Other German Words Without Translation. Accept no substitutes.

Dictionary Entries Near German

germ

German

german

See More Nearby Entries

Statistics for German

Look-up Popularity

Top 8% of words

Cite this Entry

"German." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/German. Accessed 5 Mar. 2022.

Style: MLA

Seen & Heard

People are talking about

Contemporary Manhattan Townhouse Offers Privacy and... Amenities in the six-story home include a new elevator, a fenced backyard...

Word cloud visualization of search terms.

AdChoices Sponsored

What made you look up this word?

Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

Log in | Sign up

Tell us here text input field.

Sort by Best

User comment by Tom Rigg: It was used in an article in the social section of the New Orleans Times Picayune newspaper dated Jan. 15, 1893. The article said "Mrs. Frank Emmett will entertain at a german in honor of her sisters, Misses Celia and Clara Bradway, on Tuesday evening."

Powered by OpenWeb Terms | Privacy | Feedback

More Definitions for German

German noun

Ger-man | \ˈjɑr-mən\

Kids Definition of German (Entry 1 of 2)

- 1 : a person born or living in Germany
2 : the language spoken mainly in Germany, Austria, and parts of Switzerland

German adjective

Kids Definition of German (Entry 2 of 2)

: of or relating to Germany, the Germans, or the German language

More from Merriam-Webster on German

Nglish: Translation of German for Spanish Speakers

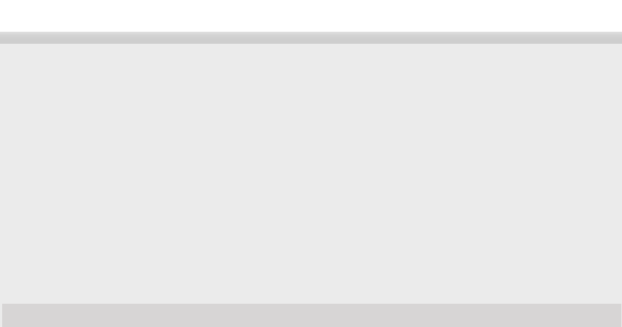
Britannica English: Translation of German for Arabic Speakers

Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

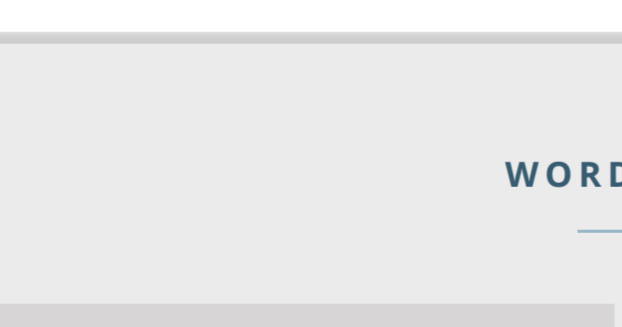
MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

WORDS AT PLAY



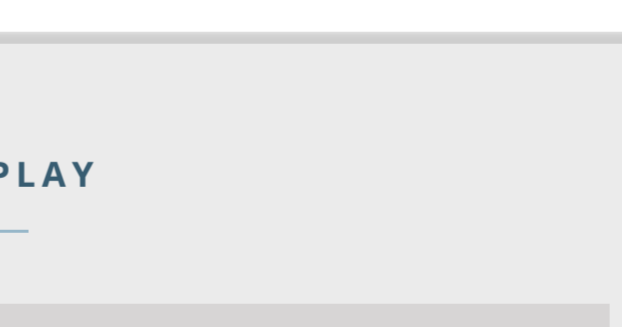
'Za' and 9 Other Words to Help You Win at SCRABBLE

The secret top 10 words experts use to win at SCR...



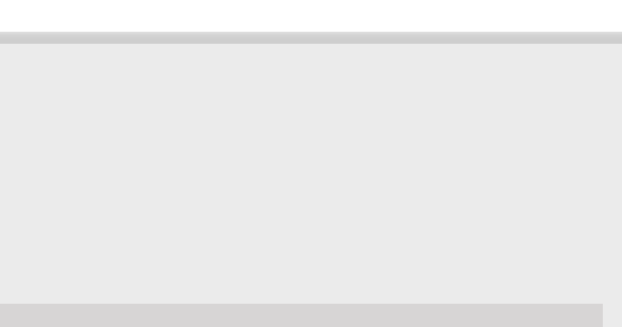
A Cast of 12 Astrological Words

It's written in the stars



What does 'yeet' mean?

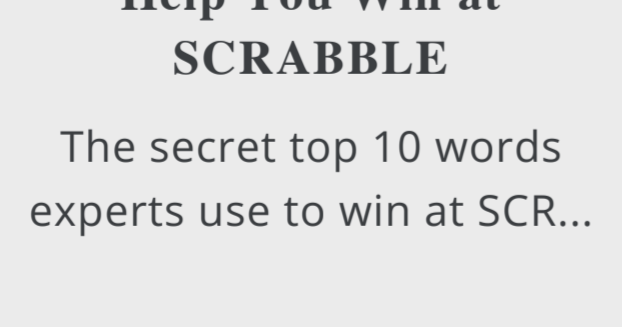
Tossing some knowledge your way



Top Banana, Kingpin, and Other Nicknames for Important People

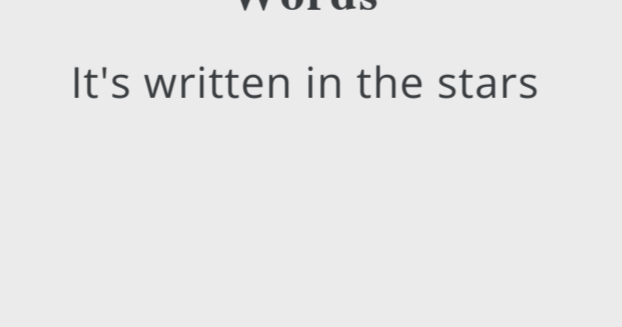
Big wigs, big enchiladas, and big shots

ASK THE EDITORS



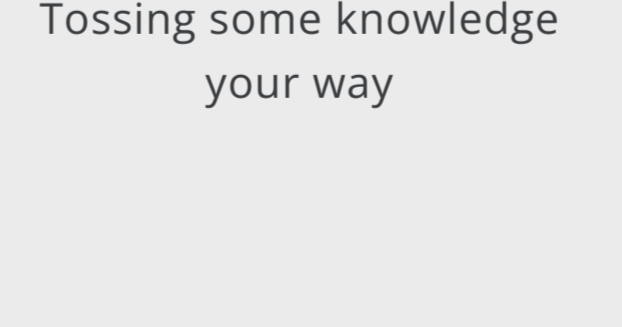
'Everyday' vs. 'Every Day'

A simple trick to keep them separate



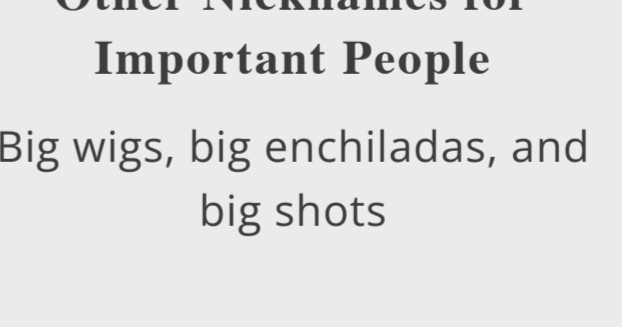
What Is 'Semantic Bleaching'?

How "literally" can mean "figuratively"



Literally

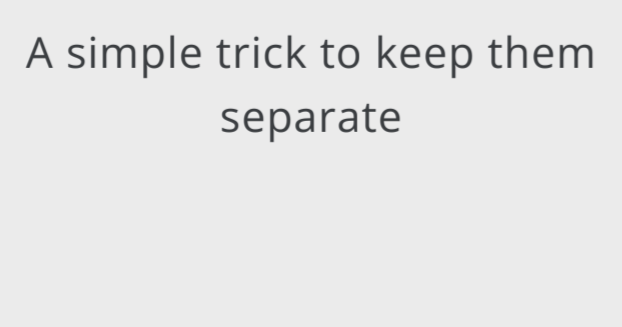
How to use a word that (literally) drives some pe...



Is Singular 'They' a Better Choice?

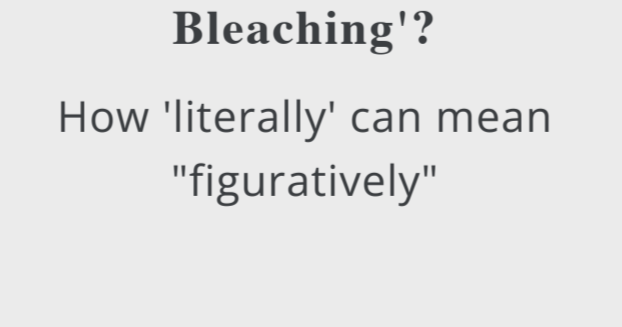
The awkward case of 'his or her'

WORD GAMES



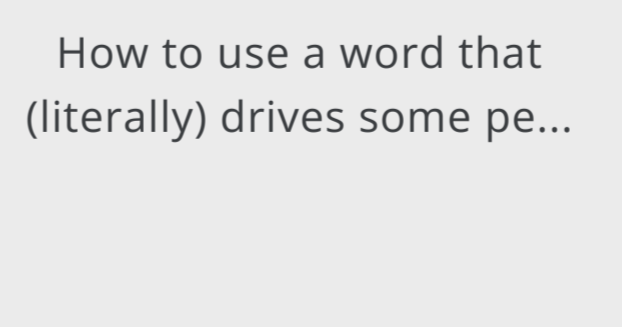
Challenging Vocabulary Quiz Returns!

No tricks, just hard words you might encounter in...



Eponyms: Words Named After People

Was there really a Mr. Shrapnel?



True or False?

Test your knowledge - and maybe learn something a...

Learn a new word every day. Delivered to your inbox!

Your email address input field with SUBSCRIBE button.

OTHER MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARIES: MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY, SCRABBLE® WORD FINDER, MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY API

ENGLISH - SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION, BRITANNICA ENGLISH - ARABIC TRANSLATION

Mejora tu hipoteca. Estás a un paso de obtener una tasa de interés anual fija desde 7.90%. citibanamex El Banco Nacional de México