



The AMERICAN HERITAGE[®]



student dictionary



BRAND-NEW
GRADES
6-9
AGES
11-15
EDITION



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT



alluvial fan



aloe



alpaca

ă	pat	ôr	core
â	pay	oi	boy
âr	care	ou	out
ă	father	oō	took
ě	pet	oōr	lure
ē	be	oō	boot
ī	pit	ū	cut
ī	bite	ūr	urge
îr	pier	th	thin
ô	pot	th	this
ô	toe	zh	vision
ô	paw	ə	about

al-lu-sive (ə-lōō'siv) *adj.* Containing or making allusions; suggestive. —**al-lu/sive-ly** *adv.*

al-lu-vi-al (ə-lōō'vē-əl) *adj.* Relating to or found in alluvium: *rich alluvial deposits at the mouth of the river.*

alluvial fan *n.* A fan-shaped mass of alluvium deposited at the mouth of a ravine or where a tributary stream joins the main stream.

al-lu-vi-um (ə-lōō'vē-əm) *n., pl. al-lu-vi-ums or al-lu-vi-a (ə-lōō'vē-ə) Sand, silt, mud, or other matter deposited by flowing water, as in a riverbed, river delta, or flood plain.*

al-ly (ə-lī' or əl'i) *tr.v. al-lyed, al-ly-ing, al-lies* To join or unite for a specific purpose: *The United States allied itself with the Soviet Union during World War II.* ♦ *n. (əl'i or ə-lī')* *pl. al-lies* **1.** A person or country that is allied to another. **2. Allies a.** The nations, including Russia, France, Great Britain, and the United States, that were allied against the Central Powers during World War I. **b.** The nations, including Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States, that were allied against the Axis during World War II. [From Middle English *allien*, from Old French *alier*, from Latin *alligare* : *ad-*, to + *ligare*, to bind.]

al-ma-ma-ter or **Al-ma Ma-ter** (əl'mə mā'tər or əl'mə mā'tər) *n.* **1.** The school, college, or university that a person has attended. **2.** The song or anthem of a school, college, or university. [From Latin *alma*, nourishing + Latin *māter*, mother.]

al-ma-nac (əl'mə-nāk' or əl'mə-nāk') *n.* **1.** A book published once a year containing calendars with weather forecasts, astronomical information, tide tables, and other related information. **2.** A book published once a year containing lists, charts, and other information, especially in many different fields. [From Medieval Latin *almanach*, from medieval scientific Arabic *al-manāḥ*, the calendar, astronomical almanac.]

al-might-y (əl-mī'tē) *adj.* All-powerful; omnipotent: *al-mighty God.* ♦ *n. Almighty* God. —**al-might'i-ly** *adv.*

al-mond (ə'mənd or əl'mənd or əm'ənd) *n.* **1.** An oval edible nut having a soft light-brown shell. **2.** The tree, native to the Mediterranean region, that bears such nuts.

al-mo-ner (əl'mə-nər or əl'mə-nər) *n.* A person who gives out alms, as for a king or monastery.

al-most (əl'mōst' or əl-mōst') *adv.* Slightly short of; not quite: *was almost asleep when the doorbell rang.*

alms (əmz) *pl.n.* Money or goods given to the poor as charity. [From Middle English *almes*, from Old English *ælmesse*, from Greek *eleēmosunē*, pity, charity, from *eleēmōn*, pitiful, from *eleos*, pity.]

alms-house (əmz'hous') *n.* A home for the poor, especially one that is maintained by private charity.

al-ni-co (əl'ni-kō') *n.* Any of several alloys of iron, aluminum, nickel, cobalt and sometimes copper, niobium, or tantalum, used to make strong permanent magnets.

al-oe (əl'ō) *n.* Any of various tropical plants, chiefly of Africa, having thick spiny-toothed leaves and red or yellow flowers. [From Middle English, from Old English *aluwe*, from Greek *aloē*.]

aloe vera (vēr'ə or vīr'ə) *n.* **1.** An aloe native to the Mediterranean region. **2.** The juice or gel obtained from the leaves of this plant, widely used in cosmetics and medicinal preparations, especially for use on the skin.

a-loft (ə-lōft') *adv.* **1.** In or into a high place; high or higher up: *Jet planes fly thousands of feet aloft.* **2.** In or toward a ship's upper rigging.

a-lo-ha (ə-lō'hə or ə-lō'hā') *interj.* An expression used as a greeting or farewell. It is the Hawaiian word for "love." —SEE NOTE AT **ukulele**.

a-lone (ə-lōn') *adj.* **1.** Apart from the company of anyone else: *Once her friends left and she was alone in the studio, she was able to practice without interruption.* **2.** Being without anyone or anything else; only: *The teacher alone*

knows when the quiz will be given. ♦ *adv.* **1.** Without others: *She likes to travel alone.* **2.** Without aid or help: *I can lift the rock alone.* ♦ **leave well enough alone or let well enough alone** To be satisfied with things as they are and not try to change them. —**a-lone/ness** *n.*

SYNONYMS **alone, solitary, lonesome, lonely** These adjectives describe being apart from others. **Alone** means lacking a companion but not necessarily feeling unhappy about it: *I walked alone on the beach while my brother went surfing.* **Solitary** often means being physically apart from others by choice: *A solitary diner sat at the table in the corner.* **Lonesome** means wishing for a companion: *After her best friend moved to another state, she felt lonesome.* **Lonely** often means sad at being by oneself: *He felt lonely while all her friends were away on vacation.*

a-long (ə-lōng') *prep.* **1.** Over the length of: *walked along the path.* **2.** On a line or course close to; beside: *trees growing along the river.* **3.** In accordance with: *Congress was split along party lines.* ♦ *adv.* **1.** Forward; onward: *The train moved along, crossing the plains.* **2.** As company: *Bring your friend along.* **3.** As an associate piece; together: *packed her binoculars along with her hiking boots.* **4.** On one's person; in hand: *He took a camera along.* —SEE NOTE AT **together**.

a-long-side (ə-lōng'sīd') *adv.* At or near the side; to the side: *stood with a bodyguard alongside; drove up alongside.* ♦ *prep.* By the side of; side by side with: *The boat is alongside the dock.*

a-loof (ə-lōof') *adj.* Distant, reserved, or indifferent in manner: *an aloof manner.* ♦ *adv.* At a distance but within view; apart; withdrawn: *The new student stood aloof from the others.* —**a-loof/ly** *adv.* —**a-loof/ness** *n.*

a-loud (ə-loud') *adv.* **1.** With the voice: *Read the story aloud.* **2.** In a loud tone; loudly: *If we speak aloud, it will awaken the baby.*

alp (əlp) *n.* A high mountain.

al-pac-a (əl-pāk'ə) *n., pl. alpaca or al-pac-as* **1.** A South American mammal related to the llama, having long silky wool. **2.** Cloth made from the wool of this mammal. **3.** A fabric that is similar to alpaca. [From Spanish, from Aymara and Quechua *allpaqa*.]

al-pen-horn (əl'pən-hōrn') *n.* A curved wooden horn traditionally used by herders in the Alps to call cows to pasture.

al-pen-stock (əl'pən-stōk') *n.* A long staff with an iron point formerly used by mountain climbers.

al-pha (əl'fə) *n.* **1.** The first letter of the Greek alphabet, written Α, α. In English it is represented as *A, a*. **2.** The first one; the beginning.

alpha and omega *n.* **1.** The first and the last. **2.** The most important part of something.

al-pha-bet (əl'fə-bēt') *n.* **1.** The letters of a language, arranged in the order fixed by custom. **2.** A system of characters or symbols representing sounds or things. See table. [From Greek *alphabētos* : *alpha*, alpha + *bēta*, beta.]

al-pha-bet-i-cal (əl'fə-bēt'i-kəl) also **al-pha-bet-ic** (əl'fə-bēt'ik) *adj.* **1.** Arranged in the order of the alphabet: *The dictionary lists words in alphabetical order.* **2.** Based on or using an alphabet: *an alphabetic writing system.* —**al'pha-bet'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

al-pha-bet-ize (əl'fə-bī-tīz') *tr.v. al-pha-bet-ized, al-pha-bet-iz-ing, al-pha-bet-iz-es* To arrange in alphabetical order. —**al'pha-bet'i-za-tion** (əl'fə-bēt'i-zā-shən) *n.* —**al'pha-bet-iz'er** *n.*

al-pha-num-er-ic (əl'fə-nōō-mēr'ik) *adj.* Consisting of or using letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and other conventional symbols: *an alphanumeric computer code.*

alpha particle *n.* A positively charged particle that con-

Arabian Sea The northwest part of the Indian Ocean between Arabia and western India. It is an important trade route between India and the West.

Ar-a-bic (är'ə-bīk) *adj.* Relating to Arabia, the Arabs, or their language or culture. ♦ *n.* A Semitic language consisting of many dialects that is spoken in many countries in southwestern Asia and northern Africa.

Arabic numeral *n.* One of the numerical symbols 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 0. They originated in India but are called Arabic numerals because Europeans first learned about them from Arabic written sources.

ar-a-ble (är'ə-bəl) *adj.* Fit for cultivation: *arable land*.

a-rach-nid (ə-räk'nīd) *n.* Any of a large group of invertebrate animals that resemble insects but have eight rather than six legs, no wings or antennae, and a body divided into two rather than three parts. Spiders, scorpions, ticks, and mites are arachnids.

Ar-a-fat (är'ə-fāt'), **Yasir** also **Yasser** 1929–2004. Leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization who in 1996 was elected president of the Palestinian Authority, the newly formed Palestinian self-rule government.

Ar-a-gon (är'ə-gōn') A region and former kingdom of northeast Spain. It was united with Castile in 1479 to form the core of modern Spain.

Ar-al Sea (är'əl) An inland sea between southern Kazakhstan and northwest Uzbekistan east of the Caspian Sea. The diversion of water from its major sources has greatly reduced the size of the Aral Sea.

Ar-a-ma-ic (är'ə-mā'īk) *n.* The Semitic language originally of the ancient Syrians, used in modern form in certain countries of southwest Asia.

A-rap-a-ho (ə-rāp'ə-hō') *n., pl. Arapaho or **A-rap-a-hos** **1.** A member of a Native American people living in Oklahoma and Wyoming. **2.** The Algonquian language of the Arapaho.*

Ar-a-rat (är'ə-rāt'), **Mount** A mountain peak of extreme eastern Turkey near the Iranian border rising to about 16,850 feet (5,136 meters). It is the traditional resting place of Noah's ark.

Ar-au-ca-ni-an (är'ə-kā'nē-ən) *n.* **1.** A family of languages spoken by native peoples of south-central Chile and western Argentina. **2.** A member of a people speaking an Araucanian language. —**Ar'au-ca-ni-an** *adj.*

Ar-a-wak (är'ə-wāk') *n., pl. Arawak or **Ar-a-waks** **1.** A member of an American Indian people formerly living in the West Indies and now living chiefly in northeast South America. **2.** The Arawakan language of the Arawak.*

Ar-a-wa-kan (är'ə-wā'kən) *n., pl. Arawakan or **Ar-a-wa-kans** **1.** A member of a widespread group of native peoples living in northern South America and formerly in most of the Greater Antilles. **2.** A family of languages spoken by these peoples. —**Ar'a-wa'kan** *adj.**

ar-bi-ter (är'bī-tēr) *n.* **1.** A person chosen to judge a dispute; an arbitrator. **2.** A person or thing having the power to ordain or judge at will: *Celebrities often act as unofficial arbiters of fashion.*

ar-bi-trar-y (är'bī-trēr'ē) *adj.* **1.** Based on a whim, impulse, or chance, not on reason or law: *Drawing numbers out of a hat was an arbitrary way to select the captain of the team.* **2.** Not limited by law; despotic: *The dictator's arbitrary government jailed many of his political opponents.* —**ar'bi-trar'i-ly** (är'bī-trār'ə-lē) *adv.* —**ar'bi-trar'i-ness** *n.*

ar-bi-trate (är'bī-trāt') *v.* **ar-bi-trat-ed, ar-bi-trat-ing, ar-bi-trates** —*tr.* **1.** To decide as an arbitrator: *arbitrate the boundary dispute between the two neighbors.* **2.** To submit to judgment by arbitration: *Management and labor agreed to arbitrate their differences.* —*intr.* To serve as an arbitrator: *Even strong nations must allow others to arbitrate between them.*

ar-bi-tra-tion (är'bī-trā'shən) *n.* The process of referring

the issues in a dispute to an impartial person or group for judgment or settlement: *Many disputes between labor and management are settled by arbitration.*

ar-bi-tra-tor (är'bī-trā'tər) *n.* **1.** A person chosen to settle a dispute or controversy. **2.** A person having the ability or power to make authoritative decisions; an arbitrator.

ar-bor (är'bər) *n.* A shady resting place in a garden or park, often made of latticework on which vines or other climbing plants grow: *a grape arbor; a rose arbor.* [From Middle English *herber*, from Old French *erbier*, garden, from *erbe*, herb.]

Arbor Day *n.* A day observed in many areas by planting trees, often occurring in the spring.

ar-bo-re-al (är-bōr'ē-əl) *adj.* **1.** Living in trees: *arboreal marsupials.* **2.** Relating to or resembling a tree. [From Latin *arbor*, tree.] —**ar-bo-re-al-ly** *adv.*

ar-bo-re-tum (är'bə-rē'təm) *n.* A place where trees and other plants are cultivated for scientific, educational, and ornamental purposes.

ar-bor-vi-tae (är'bər-vī'tē) *n.* Any of several evergreen trees or shrubs having scalelike leaves and small cones, often planted in hedges.

ar-bu-tus (är-byōō'təs) *n.* **1.** A low-growing eastern North American shrub having evergreen leaves and clusters of fragrant pink or white flowers. **2.** Any of various evergreen trees or shrubs of Europe and western North America, having flaky bark and small red fruit.

arc (ärk) *n.* **1.** Something shaped like a curve or arch: *the arc of a rainbow.* **2.** A segment of a circle. **3.** A stream of brilliant light or sparks produced when an electric current jumps across the gap between two electrodes separated by a gas. **4.** A progression of events in a story or narration, especially one that leads to a climax and settles in a conclusion. ♦ *intr.v.* **arced** (ärkt), **arc-ing** (är'king), **arcs** **1.** To form an arc. **2.** To take or follow a curved path: *The diver arced into the water.* [From Middle English *ark*, path of a heavenly body, from Latin *arcus*, bow.]

□ *These sound alike: arc, ark* (ship).

ar-cade (är-kād') *n.* **1.** A series of arches supported by columns or pillars. **2.** A roofed passageway, especially one with shops on either side. **3.** A commercial establishment where customers pay to play mechanical or electronic games.

Ar-ca-di-a (är-kā'dē-ə) A region of ancient Greece in the Peloponnesus. According to legend, its relatively isolated inhabitants lived a simple, pastoral life.

arch¹ (ärch) *n.* **1a.** A usually curved structure forming the upper edge of an open space and supporting the weight above it, as in a bridge or doorway. **b.** A structure, such as a monument, shaped like an upside-down U. **2.** A curved shape or object having the ends lower than the middle: *the arch of leaves overhanging the lane.* **3.** Any of various arch-shaped structures of the body: *the arch of the foot.* ♦ *v.* **arched, arch-ing, arch-es** —*tr.* **1.** To cause to form an arch or a similar curve: *The cat arched its back.* **2.** To provide or build with an arch: *The entrance to the store was arched.* —*intr.* To extend in an arch: *The bridge arched across the river.* [From Middle English, from Latin *arcus*.]

arch² (ärch) *adj.* **1.** Chief; principal: *our arch rivals.* **2.** Teasing, ironic, or sardonic: *an arch reply.* [From *arch*, chief, from Greek *arkhi-*.] —**arch'ly** *adv.* —**arch'ness** *n.*

arch- *pref.* A prefix that means principal or chief: *arch-diocese; archenemy.*

ar-cha-e-bac-te-ri-um (är'kē-bāk-tīr'ē-əm) *n., pl. ar-cha-e-bac-te-ri-a* (är'kē-bāk-tīr'ē-ə) An archaeon.

ar-cha-e-ol-o-gy or **ar-che-ol-o-gy** (är'kē-ōl'ə-jē) *n.* The study of the remains of past human life and culture, such as graves, tools, and pottery. —**ar'cha-e-ol-og'i-cal** (är'-

WRITERS CHOOSE THEIR WORDS

She began to describe this year's group [of children] and its variety of personalities, though she singled no one out by name. She mentioned that there was one who had singular skills at caretaking, another who loved newchildren, one with unusual scientific aptitude, and a fourth for whom physical labor was an obvious pleasure.

—Lois Lowry
The Giver



aqueduct

Pont du Gard, near Nîmes, France



arabesque



arch¹

SCIENCE

archaeon When the single-celled organisms now known as **archaea** were first described in the 1970s, they were named archaeobacteria. “Bacteria” because they looked a lot like bacteria, and “archae” (ancient) because scientists thought their ancestors were the first life forms on Earth. But new research brought a name change. It’s true that archaea have no nucleus, like bacteria; however, their cell walls are made of different chemicals, and their genes are quite different, too. They are as different from bacteria as bacteria are from us. And it turns out that archaea may have evolved from ancient bacteria rather than vice versa. Today they inhabit some of the most inhospitable places on the earth: boiling hot springs, super salty seas, ice-cold oceans, and the stomachs of cows.



archaeopteryx
fossilized skeleton

ă	pat	ôr	core
ā	pay	oi	boy
âr	care	ou	out
ă	father	oo	took
ě	pet	oor	lure
ē	be	oo	boot
ī	pit	ū	cut
ī	bite	ūr	urge
îr	pier	th	thin
ô	pot	th	this
ō	toe	zh	vision
ò	paw	ə	about

kē-ə-lōj'i-kəl) *adj.* —**ar'chae-o-log'i-cal-ly** *adv.* —**ar'chae-ol'o-gist** *n.*

ar'chae-on (ār'kē-ōn') *n., pl. ar'chae-a* (ār'kē-ə) Any of a group of one-celled organisms that are similar to bacteria in some ways, as in lacking a nucleus, but are different from them genetically and biochemically. Archaea usually live in extreme environments, such as very hot or salty ones. —SEE NOTE.

ar'chae-op-ter-yx (ār'kē-ōp'tēr-īks) *n.* A small extinct vertebrate having feathered wings with claws, a long snout with teeth, and a feathered bony tail. It is thought to have been one of the earliest birds. [From Greek *arkhaios*, ancient + Greek *pteryx*, wing.]

ar'cha-ic (ār-kā'ik) *adj.* **1.** Not current; antiquated: *archaic laws to regulate horse-drawn traffic.* **2.** Relating to or characteristic of an early period of human culture or of evolutionary history: *archaic Greek art; archaic fishes from the Ordovician Period.* **3.** Relating to words that were once common but are now rare and used chiefly to suggest an earlier style: *Methinks is an archaic word meaning "It seems to me."* [From Greek *arkhaios*, ancient, from *arkhē*, beginning.] —**ar'cha'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

ar'cha-ism (ār'kē-iz'əm or ār'kā-iz'əm) *n.* An archaic word or expression.

arch-an-gel (ār'k'ān'jəl) *n.* An angel of high rank.

arch-bish-op (ārch-bīsh'əp) *n.* A bishop of the highest rank, heading an archdiocese or church province.

arch-dea-con (ārch-dē'kən) *n.* A church official, especially of the Anglican Church, in charge of business and other affairs in a diocese.

arch-di-o-cese (ārch-dī'ə-sīs or ārch-dī'ə-sēs') *n.* The area under an archbishop's jurisdiction.

arch-duc-ess (ārch-dūch'is) *n.* **1.** The wife or widow of an archduke. **2.** A princess of the former Austrian royal family.

arch-duke (ārch-dōok') *n.* A prince of the former Austrian royal family.

arched (ārcht) *adj.* **1.** Provided, made, or covered with an arch: *an arched bridge.* **2.** Forming a curve like that of an arch: *the arched dome of the night sky.*

arch-en-e-my (ārch-ĕn'ə-mē) *n.* A chief or most important enemy: *France was the archenemy of Britain in Colonial America.*

ar-che-o-log-i-cal (ār'kē-ə-lōj'i-kəl) *adj.* Variant of **archaeological**.

ar-che-ol-o-gist (ār'kē-ōl'ə-jīst) *n.* Variant of **archaeologist**.

ar-che-ol-o-gy (ār'kē-ōl'ə-jē) *n.* Variant of **archaeology**.

arch-er (ār'chər) *n.* A person who shoots with a bow and arrow.

arch-er-y (ār'chər-ē) *n.* The sport or skill of shooting with a bow and arrow.

ar-che-type (ār'kī-tīp') *n.* An original model or form after which other, similar things are patterned: *The Wright brothers' first plane served as the archetype for later airplanes.*

Ar-chi-me-des (ār'kə-mē'dēz) 287?–212 B.C. Greek mathematician, engineer, and physicist. He made many mathematical discoveries, including formulas for the area and volume of various geometric figures.

ar-chi-pel-a-go (ār'kə-pēl'ə-gō') *n., pl. ar-chi-pel-a-goes* or **ar-chi-pel-a-gos** **1.** A large group of islands. **2.** A sea in which there is a large group of islands.

ar-chi-tect (ār'kī-tēkt') *n.* **1.** A person who designs and directs the construction of buildings and other large structures. **2.** A person who plans, organizes, or designs something: *The delegates to the Constitutional Convention were the architects of the Constitution.* [From Greek *arkhitektōn* : *arkhi-*, principal, chief + *tektōn*, builder.]

ar-chi-tec-tur-al (ār'kī-tēk'tchər-əl) *adj.* Relating to architecture. —**ar'chi-tec-tur-al-ly** *adv.*

ar-chi-tec-ture (ār'kī-tēk'tchər) *n.* **1.** The art and occupation of designing and directing the construction of buildings and other large structures, such as bridges. **2.** A style of building: *Many government buildings in Washington DC are patterned on classical architecture.* **3.** Buildings and other large structures: *the stately architecture of the New York City skyline.* **4.** The orderly arrangement of parts; structure: *the architecture of a story.*

ar-chi-trave (ār'ki-trāv') *n.* The bottom part of an entablature in classical architecture.

ar-chive (ār'kiv') *n.* **1.** often **archives** A place or collection containing records and documents of historical interest: *We went to the film archives to research silent movies.* **2.** A long-term storage area of computer memory for backup copies of computer files, or for inactive computer files. —**ar'chi-val** *adj.*

arch-way (ārch/wā') *n.* **1.** A passageway under an arch. **2.** An arch that covers or encloses an entrance or passageway.

—**archy** *suff.* A suffix that means a kind of rule or government: *oligarchy.*

arc lamp *n.* A lamp in which an electric current crosses between electrodes separated by a gas and generates an arc that produces light.

arctic (ārkt'ik or ār'tik) *adj.* Extremely cold; frigid: *arctic weather.* [From Middle English *artik*, northern, from Greek *arktikos*, from *arktos*, bear, the northern constellation Ursa Major.]

Arctic A region between the North Pole and the northern timberlines of North America and Eurasia. —**Arctic** *adj.*

Arctic Archipelago A group of more than 36,000 islands of northern Canada in the Arctic Ocean between North America and Greenland.

Arctic Circle The parallel of latitude approximately 66 degrees 33 minutes north. It forms the boundary between the North Temperate Zone and North Frigid Zone.

Arctic Ocean The waters surrounding the North Pole between North America and Eurasia. The smallest ocean in the world, it is covered by ice through much of the year.

Ar-tu-rus (ār'k-tōor'əs) *n.* The brightest star in the northern sky other than the sun. It is in the constellation Boötes.

ar-dent (ār'dnt) *adj.* **1.** Expressing or full of warmth of passion, desire, or other emotion; passionate: *an ardent wish for his recovery.* **2.** Strongly enthusiastic; extremely devoted; eager: *an ardent defender of the free press.* [From Middle English *ardaunt*, from Latin *ardēre*, to burn.] —**ar'dent-ly** *adv.*

ar-dor (ār'dər) *n.* Great warmth or intensity of passion, desire, or other emotion: *the driving ardor of a reformer.*

ar-du-ous (ār'jō-əs) *adj.* Demanding great effort; difficult: *arduous training; an arduous task.* —**ar'du-ous-ly** *adv.* —**ar'du-ous-ness** *n.*

are (ār) *v.* **1.** Second person singular present tense of **be**. **2.** First, second, and third person plural present tense of **be**. [From Old English *aron*, *earon*.]

are-a (ār'ē-ə) *n.* **1a.** A section or region, as of land: *an industrial area full of factories; the Los Angeles area including its suburbs.* **b.** A part or section, as of a building: *The cafeteria is an eating area for employees.* **2.** The extent of a surface or plane figure as measured in square units: *The area of a rectangle is the product of the length and the width.* **3.** A range, as of activity or study: *the area of medical research.* —**ar'e-al** *adj.*

area code *n.* A three-digit number used before a seven-digit telephone number. Area codes were originally assigned to specific geographical areas.

are-a-way (ār'ē-ə-wā') *n.* **1.** A small sunken area allow-