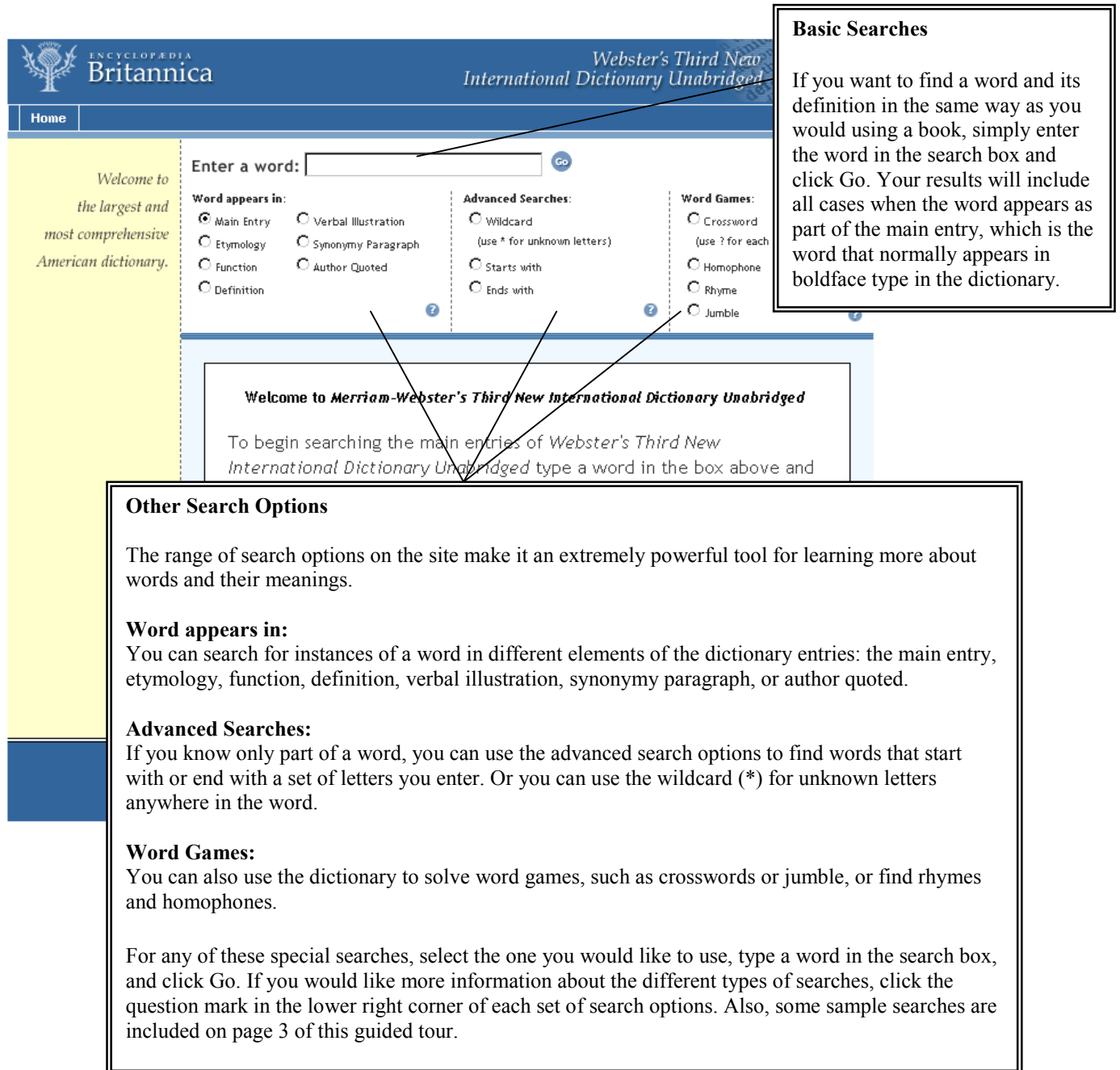


Welcome to *Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged* (<http://mwu.eb.com/>).

With more than 470,000 entries, it is the largest and most comprehensive American dictionary. To help you take full advantage of all its resources we've created this introduction to the site's features.

You can conduct searches and see results on the same page, which looks like this:



The screenshot shows the search interface of the Merriam-Webster website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Britannica logo and the text "Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged". Below this is a search box with the text "Enter a word:" and a "Go" button. To the left of the search box is a yellow sidebar with the text "Welcome to the largest and most comprehensive American dictionary." To the right of the search box are three columns of search options: "Word appears in:", "Advanced Searches:", and "Word Games:". Each column has several radio button options. Below the search options is a blue box with the text "Welcome to Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged" and "To begin searching the main entries of Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged type a word in the box above and".

Basic Searches

If you want to find a word and its definition in the same way as you would using a book, simply enter the word in the search box and click Go. Your results will include all cases when the word appears as part of the main entry, which is the word that normally appears in boldface type in the dictionary.

Other Search Options

The range of search options on the site make it an extremely powerful tool for learning more about words and their meanings.

Word appears in:
You can search for instances of a word in different elements of the dictionary entries: the main entry, etymology, function, definition, verbal illustration, synonymy paragraph, or author quoted.

Advanced Searches:
If you know only part of a word, you can use the advanced search options to find words that start with or end with a set of letters you enter. Or you can use the wildcard (*) for unknown letters anywhere in the word.

Word Games:
You can also use the dictionary to solve word games, such as crosswords or jumble, or find rhymes and homophones.

For any of these special searches, select the one you would like to use, type a word in the search box, and click Go. If you would like more information about the different types of searches, click the question mark in the lower right corner of each set of search options. Also, some sample searches are included on page 3 of this guided tour.

Results

After you enter a word and click Go, the page will display the results in the bottom portion.

The screenshot shows the Merriam-Webster website interface. At the top, the logo for 'ENCYCLOPEDIA Britannica' and 'Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged' are visible. A search bar contains the word 'brand' and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar, there are three columns of options: 'Word appears in:' with radio buttons for Main Entry (selected), Etymology, Function, Definition, Verbal Illustration, Synonymy Paragraph, and Author Quoted; 'Advanced Searches:' with radio buttons for Wildcard, Starts with, and Ends with; and 'Word Games:' with radio buttons for Crossword, Homophone, Rhyme, and Jumble. On the left side, a yellow box contains the text: 'Welcome to the largest and most comprehensive American dictionary.' Below the search bar, a box titled '9 matches found.' lists several terms: brand[1,noun], brand[2,transitive verb], brand iron, brand-new, brand spore, hair brand, road brand, running brand, and vent[6,noun]. To the right of this list, a box titled 'Main Entry: 1 brand' provides details: Pronunciation: 'brand, -aa(ɛ)-; Function: noun; Inflected Form: -s; Etymology: Middle English brand, brond brand, sword, from Old English; akin to Old High German brant brand, Old Norse brandr brand, blade of a sword, Old English byrnan, bærnian to burn -- more at BURN. Below this, a definition for '1 a' is partially visible: 'a : a piece of wood that has been o... one from a hearth or a burning building...'. In the upper right corner of the main entry box, there are links for 'Thesaurus Search', 'Pronunciation Key', 'Format for printing', and 'E-mail this entry'. At the bottom right, a box titled 'More Information' contains text about using the links in the upper right corner.

Matches and Dictionary Entries

Search results display in the lower portion of the page. All matches appear in a menu on the left. The complete entry for the first word in the list will automatically appear on the right. To display another dictionary entry, highlight a word in the list and click Go.

All elements of the entry—the word, its pronunciation, function, etymology, and definitions—will display on the right. You may need to use your browser's scroll bar to see the complete entry.

More Information

You can use the links in the upper right corner to learn more. Click Thesaurus Search to find synonyms and antonyms or click Pronunciation Key for a guide to the phonetic symbols used in the dictionary. You can also format the entry for printing or e-mail it to yourself or a friend.

Search Options

The site offers several powerful ways to search.

71 matches found.

To view an entry in the list, highlight it and click on [Go](#).

- acculturation
- agriculture
- anaculture
- apiculture
- aquaculture
- ariculture
- aviculture
- besticulture
- bildungsroman
- capilliculture
- citriculture
- coproculture
- cult
- cultureable
- cultural
- culture[2,transitive verb]
- culturology
- deculturate
- deculture
- floriculture
- hemoculture
- homiculture
- horticulture
- inculture
- interculture

Main Entry: **ac·cul·tur·a·tion** [Thesaurus Search](#)

Pronunciation: &"k&lch&rAsh&n, ("")
a"k-

Function: noun

Inflected Form: -s

Etymology: ad- + **culture** + -ation

1 a : a process of intercultural borrowing marking the continuous transmission of traits and elements between diverse peoples and resulting in new blended

2 : the p

ENCULT

To cite:
"ac·cul·tur·a·tion" Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged
<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/accul-tur-a-tion>>
[Accessed March 7, 2003].

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Sample Searches

Trying a few sample searches is the best way to understand all the search options. Look for your search term in red.

For example, to learn about the history of a word and find other related words, select **Etymology** under **Word appears in:**. To see examples, try searching on "culture" or "logos."

To see examples of how a word is used, select **Verbal Illustration**, also under **Word appears in**. Try searching for "judicious" or "nefarious" to see examples.

14 matches found.

To view an entry in the list, highlight it and click on [Go](#).

- acumen
- alive
- irascible
- level[3,adjective]
- lyricism
- patronize
- place[2,verb]
- rubicund
- scrutiny
- temperament
- touchy
- unruly
- value[1,noun]
- wise[2,adjective]

Main Entry: **acu·men** [Thesaurus Search](#)

Pronunciation: &"kyūm&n also a'-
; 'aky&m&n also -
"men

Function: noun

Inflected Form: -s

Etymology: Latin, literally, point, from *acuere* to sharpen -- more at [ACUTE](#)

1 : acuteness of mind ; keenness of perception, discernment, or discrimination : shrewdness especially in practical matters <loses confidence in the *acumen* of reviewers -- E.S.McCartney> <business *acumen* and **judicious** handling of capital - William McFee>

2 botany : a tapering point (as of a leaf)

3 : a short spine on the rostrum of a crayfish or other crustacean

To cite:
"acu-men" Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged
<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/acumen>>
[Accessed March 7, 2003].

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More Samples

Here are some more sample searches you can try as you learn to use the site's features:

Word appears in

Function: trademark, preposition
 Definition: robot, dinosaur
 Synonymy paragraph: intrepid, deter
 Author quoted: Shakespeare, Lincoln

Advanced Search

Wildcard: har*en, ch*ize
 Starts with: philo, phono
 Ends with: tract, tting

Word Games

Crossword: r?m?ss, ?ea?er
 Homophone: read, here
 Rhyme: rose, beauty
 Jumble: dictionary, dlehur

3

Choosing a Search Option

With so many choices, it can be difficult to determine when to use each option. The tables below offer some guidelines. You can also find more detailed information on the site by clicking on the question marks that display below the search options.

Word appears in:

Each of the searches in this category allows you to find words or phrases that appear within the different elements of a dictionary entry. The table below briefly summarizes when to use each of the different types of searches.

Search Type	Use it to find
Main entry	The definition of a word or phrase.
Etymology	Words that derive from a particular language or word root.
Function	Words that have a certain function (e.g., trademark) or part of speech.
Definition	Entries whose definition includes a specific word.
Verbal illustration	Examples of a word used in context.
Synonymy paragraph	Paragraphs describing differences among synonyms.
Author quoted	Quotes by a specific author.

Advanced Searches:

The searches in this category will be helpful if you do not know all the characters in a word or if you are uncertain of the spelling. All searches will be of the main entry. The table below briefly summarizes when to use each of the different types of searches.

Search Type	Use it to find
Starts with	Words for which you know only the first character(s).
Ends with	Words for which you know only the last character(s).
Wildcard	Words that share groups of letters in common or that you know some, but not all, letters.

Word Games:

The words and letters are the sources of a range of enjoyable activities, from poetry to puzzles. You can use these searches to find different relationships between words or the answer to a tricky puzzle. The table below briefly summarizes when to use each of the different types of searches.

Search Type	Use it to find
Homophone	Words that sound alike but are spelled differently.
Rhyme	Words that rhyme with a given word.
Jumble	Words that can be made by shuffling a given group of letters.
Crossword	Words where you know some letters but not others.