

Dictionary

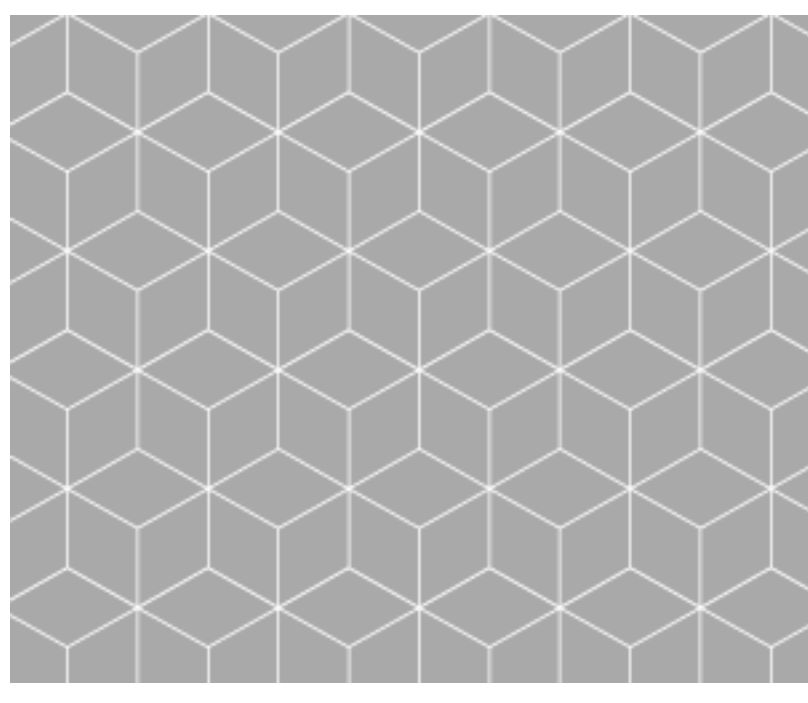
Definition

- Example Sentences
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apostasy noun

apos-ta-sy (ə-ˈpā-stə-sē)plural **apostasies**[Synonyms of apostasy](#)

- : an act of refusing to continue to follow, obey, or recognize a religious faith
- : abandonment of a previous loyalty : **DEFECTION**



Example Sentences

Recent Examples on the Web

While teasing out causation in presidential politics is tricky, Reagan's *apostasy* wounded Ford.

—Walter Shapiro, *The New Republic*, 3 Apr. 2023

The two leaders remained amicable in the beginning, with Mr. Hamdok's government overseeing a raft of reforms that succeeded in removing Sudan from the U.S. list of countries that sponsor terrorism, banned female genital cutting and scrapped *apostasy* laws.

—*New York Times*, 29 Oct. 2021

But the former congressman's unorthodox plan has drawn the ire of several party stalwarts who think McAdams' *apostasy* is worthy of punishment.

—Bryan Schott, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, 2 Apr. 2022

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These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'apostasy.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#) about these examples.

CUMPLEAÑOS DE ALMAS GEMELAS

9 de oct.	23 de dic.
25 de mayo	1 de abr.
2 de feb.	12 de mayo
11 de jun.	9 de feb.
20 de jul.	18 de oct.
8 de jul.	7 de jul.
10 de nov.	3 de jun.
3 de agosto	8 de jun.
9 de enero	30 de nov.
27 de enero	4 de sept.

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Word History

Etymology

Middle English *apostasie*, borrowed from Anglo-French, borrowed from Late Latin *apostasía*, borrowed from Greek *apostasía* "defection, revolt, (Septuagint) rebellion against God" (Late Greek, "defection, apostasy"), variant (with *-ia* -**IA** entry 1) of *apóstasis*, from *aposta-*, variant stem of *aphístamai*, *aphístasthai* "to stand away from, keep aloof from, revolt," middle voice of *aphístēmi*, *aphístánai* "to put away, remove, cause to revolt" (from *aph-*, assimilated variant of *apo-* **APO-** + *hístánai* "to cause to stand, place") + *-sis* -**SIS** — more at **ASSIST** entry 1

First Known Use

14th century, in the meaning defined at **sense 1**

Time Traveler

The first known use of *apostasy* was in the 14th century

[See more words from the same century](#)

Dictionary Entries Near *apostasy*

- [apostacy](#)
- apostasy**
- [apostate](#)

[See More Nearby Entries](#)

Cite this Entry

Style

"Apostasy." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/apostasy>. Accessed 20 Jun. 2023.

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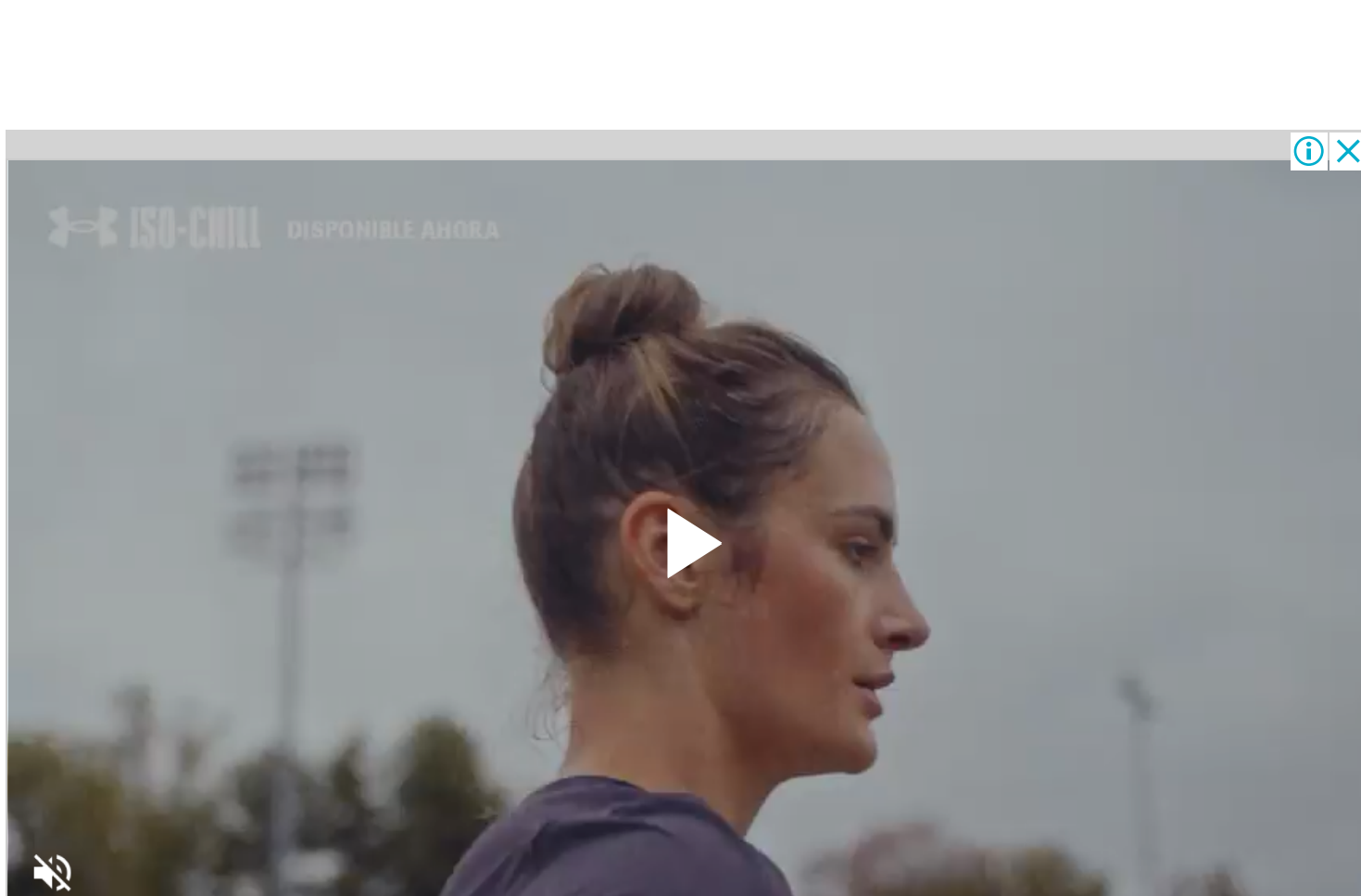
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Kids Definition

apostasy noun

apos-ta-sy (ə-ˈpās-tə-sē)plural **apostasies**

: a giving up of a religious faith or a previous loyalty



More from Merriam-Webster on *apostasy*

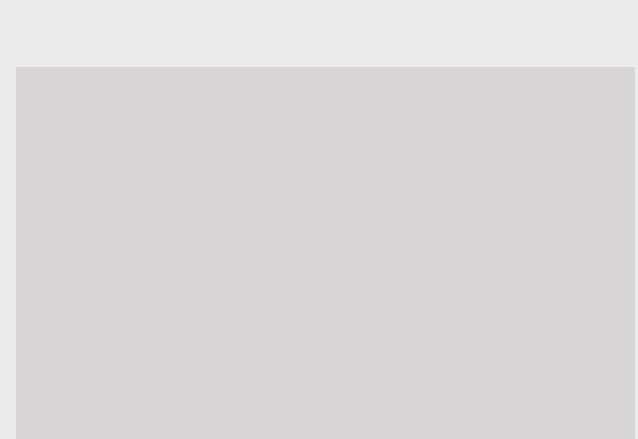
- Thesaurus: [All synonyms and antonyms for apostasy](#)
- Nghlish: [Translation of apostasy for Spanish Speakers](#)
- Britannica English: [Translation of apostasy for Arabic Speakers](#)
- Britannica.com: [Encyclopedia article about apostasy](#)

Last Updated: 3 Jun 2023 - Updated example sentences

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Words For Things You Didn't Know Have Names, Vol. 2

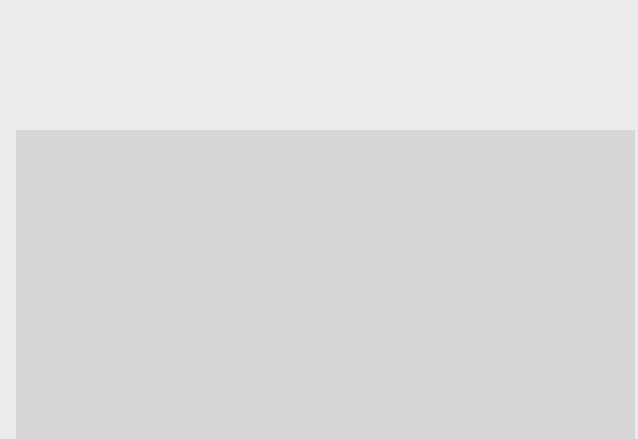
When 'thingamajig' and 'thingamabob' just won't do



When Were Words First Used?

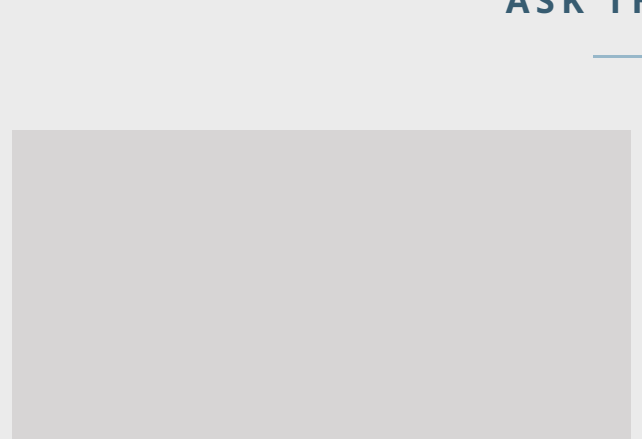
Look up any year to find out

ASK THE EDITORS



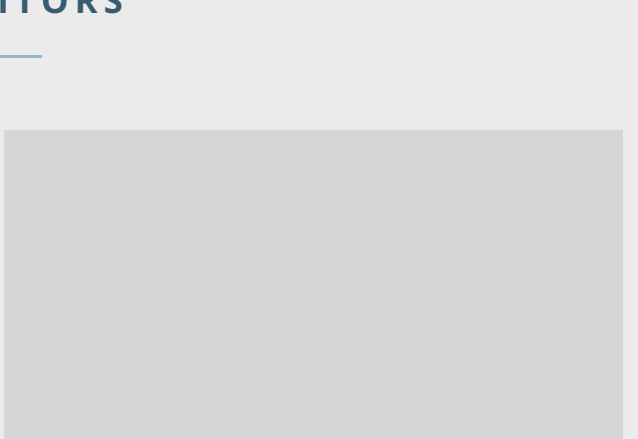
What Is 'Semantic Bleaching'?

How 'literally' can mean 'figuratively'



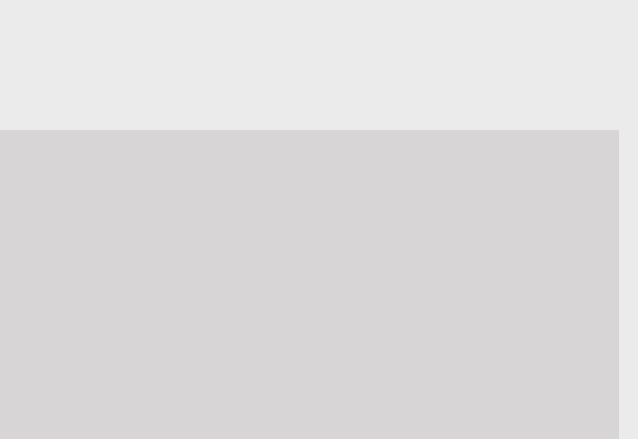
How to Remember 'Affect' and 'Effect'

A simple way to keep them apart. (Most of the time.)



Why Is There a 'C' in 'Indict'?

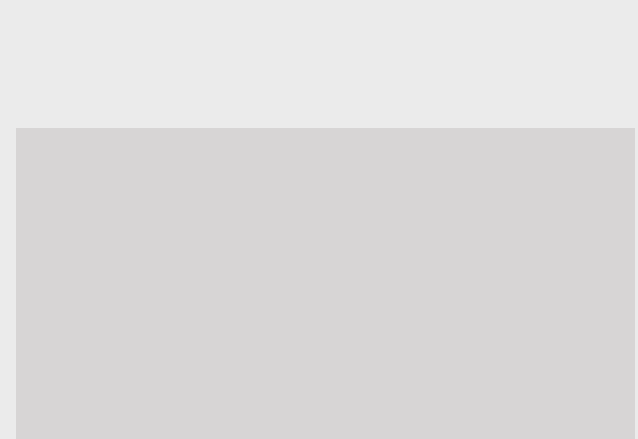
And who put it there, anyway?



'Everyday' vs. 'Every Day'

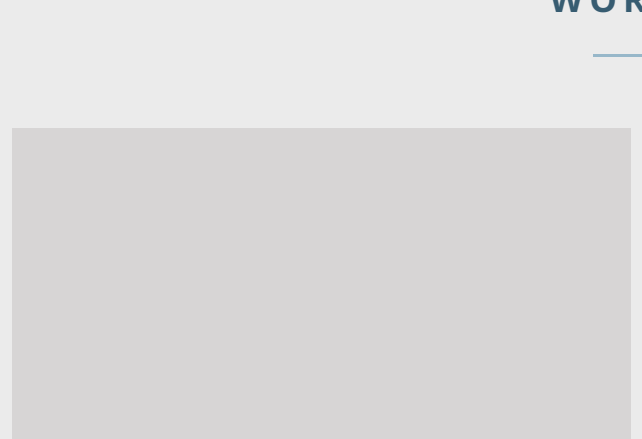
A simple trick to keep them separate

WORD GAMES



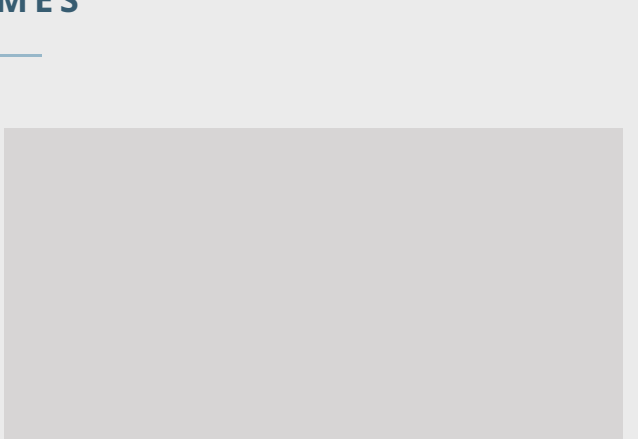
Commonly Confused Words Quiz Vol. 2

A quiz to (peak/peek/pique) your interest.

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

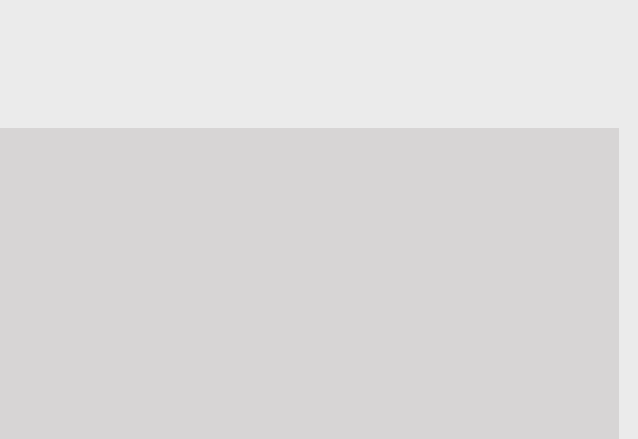
People of Interest Quiz

Can you tell the "sommeliers" from the "spelunkers"?

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

True or False?

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

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

Spelling Bee Quiz

Can you outdo past winners of the National Spelli...

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

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