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## latch

(läch)

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n.

1. A fastening, as for a door or gate, typically consisting of a bar that fits into a notch or slot and is lifted from either side by a lever or string.
2. A spring lock, as for a door, that is opened from the outside by a key.

v. **latched**, **latch-ing**, **latch-es**

v.tr.

To close or lock with a latch.

v.intr.

1. To have or be closed with a latch.
2. To shut tightly so that the latch is engaged: a door too warped to latch.

**Idiom:**

**latch on to/onto**

1. To get hold of; obtain: latched on to a fortune in the fur trade.
2. To cling to.

[Middle English *latche*, from *lacchen*, to seize, from Old English *laccan*.]

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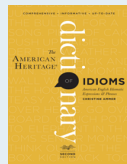
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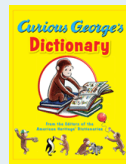
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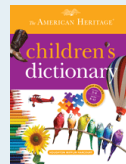
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