The company manufactures outlandish products that fail or backfire catastrophically at the worst possible times. The name is also used as a generic title in many [cartoons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartoon), especially those made by [Warner Bros.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner_Bros._Cartoons#1933%E2%80%931944:_Leon_Schlesinger_Productions), as well as [films](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film), [TV series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Television_show#Seasons/series), [commercials](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Television_advertisement) and [comic strips](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comic_strip).

**Origin**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Acme_Corporation&action=edit&section=1)]

The word Acme comes from the [Ancient Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek) ἀκμή (*akmē*) meaning 'summit', 'highest point', 'extremity', or 'peak'.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acme_Corporation#cite_note-:0-1) It has been claimed to be an acronym, either for "A Company Making Everything", "American Companies Make Everything", or "American Company that Manufactures Everything".[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acme_Corporation#cite_note-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acme_Corporation#cite_note-3) During the 1920s, the word was commonly used in the names of businesses in order to be listed toward the beginning of [alphabetized](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alphabetical_order) telephone directories like the [Yellow Pages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_pages), and implied being the best. It is used in an [ironic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irony) sense in cartoons, because the products are often failure-prone or explosive.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acme_Corporation#cite_note-4)