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Based on the landmark New Oxford American Dictionary, the Concise Oxford American Dictionary is the first desk-sized dictionary to use the revolutionary new Oxford defining style: the most central meanings come first in the entry, guiding you from the familiar to the unfamiliar and making it easy for you to find and learn new meanings.

A convenient and complete dictionary for school, work, and home, the Concise Oxford American Dictionary packs an extraordinary amount of information in a book that is practical, dependable, affordable, and easy to read.
Concise Oxford American Dictionary
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Preface

The *Concise Oxford American Dictionary*, with more than 180,000 entries and definitions, is intended to be a convenient and complete dictionary for school, work, and home. The Oxford-exclusive core sense/subsense arrangement of definitions is geared to helping you find just the right meaning quickly and efficiently. Sample sentences or phrases for virtually every sense show words in illuminating contexts, and over a thousand fascinating word histories provide useful background on both common and unusual words. More than three hundred illustrations are included, carefully chosen to provide maximum information in places where only a picture will do. The back of the book contains a handy and useful ready reference guide, with information about weights and measures, chemical elements, states and presidents, frequently misspelled words, punctuation, gentle guidance about problematic words, and more.

A dictionary should be a tool for daily use, not a dreaded last resort. We have tried to create not just a book that will satisfy your desire for clear, accurate, and helpful information about words and meanings, but one that is pleasant, easy to use, and a genial companion in your work and leisure.

Erin McKean  
Editor in Chief  
U.S. Dictionaries  
Oxford University Press
Introduction

The Concise Oxford American Dictionary is designed to be easy to use and largely self-explanatory. Specialized dictionary symbols and conventions have been avoided wherever possible. These notes are provided as extra help for the user, and as a guide to the structure and principles behind this dictionary.

Structure: Core Sense and Subsense

The first part of speech is the primary one for that word: thus, for bag and balloon the senses of the noun are given before those for the verb, while for babble and bake the senses of the verb are given before those of the noun. Within each part of speech, the first definition given is the core sense. The core sense is the typical, central, or ‘core’ meaning of the word in modern American English. The core sense is the one that represents the most literal sense that the word has in ordinary modern American usage. This is not necessarily the same as the oldest meaning, because word meanings change over time. Nor is it necessarily the most frequent meaning, because figurative senses are sometimes the most frequent. It is the meaning accepted by native speakers as the one that is most established as literal and central.

Each word has at least one core sense, which can act as a gateway to other, related subsenses. These subsenses are grouped under the core sense, each one being introduced by a solid square symbol.

**co-coon** /ka'kōon/  n. a silky case spun by the larvae of many insects for protection as pupae. ■ a similar structure made by other animals. ■ a covering that prevents the corrosion of metal equipment. ■ something that envelops or surrounds, esp. in a protective or comforting way: the cocoon of her kimono | fig. a warm cocoon of love.

There is a logical relationship between each subsense and the core sense under which it appears. The organization of senses according to this logical relationship is designed to help the user, not only in being able to navigate the entry more easily and find relevant senses more readily, but also in building up an understanding of how senses in the language relate to one another.

Many entries have just one core sense. However some entries are more complex and have different strands of meaning, each constituting a core sense. In this case, each core sense is introduced by a bold sense number, and each potentially has its own block of subsenses relating to it.
Labels

Unless otherwise stated, the words and senses recorded in this dictionary are all part of standard English; that is, they are in normal use in both speech and writing everywhere in the world, at many different levels of formality, ranging from official documents to casual conversation. Some words, however, are appropriate only in particular contexts, and these are labeled accordingly.

The Concise Oxford American Dictionary uses the following labels:

- **archaic**: very old-fashioned language, not in ordinary use at all today, but sometimes used to give a deliberately old-fashioned effect, or found in works of the past that are still widely read.
- **dated**: no longer used by the majority of English speakers, but still encountered occasionally, especially among the older generation.
- **derog.**: derogatory: language intended to convey a low opinion or cause personal offense.
- **dial.**: dialect: not used in standard American English, but still widely used in certain local regions of the United States.
- **fig.**: figurative: normally used only in nonliteral contexts, or metaphorically
- **formal**: normally used only in writing, in contexts such as official documents.
- **hist.**: historical: still used today, but only to refer to some practice or artifact that is no longer part of the modern world.
- **humorous**: used with the intention of sounding funny, ironic, or playful.
- **inf.**: informal: normally used only in contexts such as conversations or letters between friends.
- **offens.**: offensive: language that is likely to cause offense, particularly racial offense, whether the speaker intends it or not.
- **poetic/lit.**: found only or mainly in poetry or in literature written in an “elevated” style.
- **rare**: not in normal use.
- **technical**: normally used only in technical and specialist language, though not necessarily restricted to any specific subject field.
- **vulgar slang**: informal language that may cause offense, often because it refers to the bodily functions of sexual activity or excretion, which are still widely regarded as taboo.

Labels are also used to indicate a word is used in a particular region or area (Brit., Austral./NZ) or that it is associated with a subject field or specialist activity (Zool., Philately).

Grammar

The Concise Oxford American Dictionary is based on a rigorous examination of the grammatical structures of American English. This information is used to organize entries and define words, but, for the most part, is not made explicit in the definitions. Grammatical information is provided when particular usages are controversial, confusing, or ambiguous.
Introduction

Patterns that are very frequent or nearly obligatory are presented in bold text, either before the definition or in the example:

push ... (push for) demand persistently.

sound ... question (someone), typically in a cautious or discreet way, as to their opinions or feelings on a subject: we'll sound out our representatives first.

gouge ... (gouge something out) cut or force something out roughly or brutally: one of his eyes had been gouged out.

When a verb or noun is often used as an adjective, or an adjective is used as a noun, this is indicated either before the definition or in the example.

ac-cor-di-on ... [as adj.] folding like the bellows of an accordion: an accordion pleat.

re-state ... state (something) again or differently, esp. in order to correct or to make more clear or convincing: he restated his opposition to abortion | [as adj.] restated earnings.

ab-surd ... adj. (of an idea or suggestion) wildly unreasonable, illogical, or inappropriate: it would be absurd to blame contemporary Germans for Nazi crimes | [as n.] (the absurd) he had a keen eye for the absurd.

A few other explicit labels are used:

[treated as sing.]: used to mark a noun that is plural in form but is used with a singular verb, e.g., mumps in mumps is one of the major childhood diseases or genetics in genetics has played a major role in this work.

[treated as sing. or pl.]: used to mark a noun that can be used with either a singular or a plural verb without any change in meaning or in the form of the headword (often called collective nouns, because they typically denote groups of people considered collectively), e.g., the staff are committed to this policy or the staff is trying to gag its critics.

[tr.]: used to mark a verb that is transitive, i.e., takes a direct object (the type of direct object often being shown in parentheses in the definition), e.g.,

es-cort ... [tr.] accompany (someone or something) somewhere, esp. for protection or security, or as a mark of rank: Shiona escorted Janice to the door.

[intr.]: used to mark a verb that is intransitive, i.e., takes no direct object, e.g.,

a-bound ... v. [intr.] exist in large numbers or amounts: rumors of a further scandal abound.

[attrib.]: used to mark an adjective that is normally used attributively, i.e., comes before the noun that it modifies, e.g., leading in a leading politician (not the politician is leading, which has a different meaning). Note that attributive use is standard for many adjectives, especially in specialist fields: the [attrib.] label is used only to mark those cases in which predicative use would be less usual.

Spelling

The Concise Oxford American Dictionary gives advice and information on spelling, particularly those cases that are irregular or that otherwise cause difficulty for native speakers. The main categories are summarized in the following.
Variant spellings
The main form of each word given in the Concise Oxford American Dictionary is always the standard American spelling. If there is a standard variant, e.g., a standard British spelling variant, this is indicated at the top of the entry and is cross-referred if its alphabetical position is more than ten entries distant from the main entry.

- col- or (Brit. colour)
- mock-u-men-ta-ry (also moc-u-men-ta-ry)
- foet-id variant spelling of FETID.

Other variants, such as archaic, old-fashioned, or informal spellings, are cross-referred to the main entry, but are not themselves listed at the parent entry.

- scollop archaic spelling of SCALLOP.

Hyphenation
Although standard spelling in English is fixed, the use of hyphenation is not. In standard American English, a few general rules are followed, and these are outlined below.

Hyphenation of noun compounds: There is no hard-and-fast rule to determine whether, for example, airstream, air stream, or air-stream is correct. All forms are found in use: all are recorded in the Oxford databank and other standard texts. However, there is a broad tendency to avoid hyphenation for noun compounds in modern English (except when used to show grammatical function: see below). Thus there is, for example, a preference for airstream rather than air-stream, and for air raid rather than air-raid. Although this is a tendency in both American and British English, there is an additional preference in American English for the form to be one word and in British English for the form to be two words; e.g., airfare tends to be the most common form in American English, while air fare tends to be the most common form in British English. To save space and avoid confusion, only one of the three potential forms of each noun compound (the standard American one) is generally used as the headword form in the Concise Oxford American Dictionary. This does not, however, imply that other forms are incorrect or not used.

Grammatical function: Hyphens are also used to perform certain grammatical functions. When a noun compound made up of two separate words (e.g., credit card) is placed before another noun and used to modify it, the general rule is that the noun compound becomes hyphenated, e.g., I have overused my credit card and am now in credit-card debt. This sort of regular alternation is seen in example sentences in the Concise Oxford American Dictionary but is not otherwise explicitly mentioned in the dictionary entries.

A similar alternation is found in compound adjectives such as well intentioned. When used predicatively (i.e., after the verb), such adjectives are unhyphenated, but when used attributively (i.e., before the noun), they are hyphenated: his remarks were well intentioned; a well-intentioned remark.

A general rule governing verb compounds means that, where a noun compound is two
words (e.g., beta test), any verb derived from it is normally hyphenated (the system was beta-tested). Similarly, verbal nouns and adjectives are more often hyphenated than ordinary noun or adjective compounds (e.g., epoch-making, nation-building).

Inflection

Compared with other languages, English has comparatively few inflections, and those that exist are remarkably regular. We add an s to most nouns to make a plural; we add ed to most verbs to make a past tense or a past participle, and ing to make a present participle.

Occasionally, a difficulty arises: for example, a single consonant after a short stressed vowel is doubled before adding ed or ing (hum, hums, humming, hummed). In addition, words borrowed from other languages generally bring their foreign inflections with them, causing problems for English speakers who are not proficient in those languages.

In all such cases, guidance is given in the Concise Oxford American Dictionary. The main areas covered are outlined below.

Verbs

The following forms are regarded as regular and are therefore not shown in the dictionary:

- third person singular present forms adding s to the stem (or es to stems ending in s, x, z, sh, or soft ch), e.g., find → finds; crush → crushes
- past tenses and past participles dropping a final silent e and adding ed to the stem, e.g., change → changed; dance → danced
- present participles dropping a final silent e and adding ing to the stem, e.g., change → changing; dance → dancing

Other forms are given in the dictionary, notably for:

- verbs that inflect by doubling a consonant, e.g., bat → batted, batting
- verbs ending in y that inflect by changing y to i, e.g., try → tries, tried
- verbs in which past tense and past participle do not follow the regular ed pattern, e.g., feel → past felt; awake → past awoke; → past part. awoken
- present participles that add ing but retain a final e (in order to make clear that the pronunciation of g remains soft), e.g., singe → singing

Nouns

Plurals formed by adding s (or es when they end in s, x, z, sh, or soft ch) are regarded as regular and are not shown, e.g., dog → dogs; lunch → lunches.

Other plural forms are given in the dictionary, notably for:

- nouns ending in i or o, e.g., agouti → agoutis; albino → albinos
- nouns ending in a, um, or us that are or appear to be Latinate forms, e.g., alumna → alumnae; spectrum → spectra; alveolus → alveoli
- nouns ending in y, e.g., fly → flies; party → parties
- nouns with more than one plural form, e.g., crux → cruxes or cruces; money → moneys or monies
• nouns with plurals showing a change in the stem, e.g., *foot* → *feet*; *louse* → *lice*
• nouns with plurals unchanged from the singular form are indicated by (pl. same).
• for polysyllabic words, only the changed syllables are shown.

**Adjectives**
The following forms for comparative and superlative are regarded as regular and are not shown in the dictionary:

• words of one syllable adding *er* and *est*, e.g., *great* → *greater, greatest*
• words of one syllable ending in silent e, which drop the *e* and add *er* and *est*, e.g., *brave* → *braver, bravest*
• words that form the comparative and superlative by adding “more” and “most”; e.g.,
  *beautiful → more beautiful, most beautiful*

Other forms are given in the dictionary, notably for:

• adjectives that form the comparative and superlative by doubling a final consonant, e.g., *hot* → *hotter, hottest*
• two-syllable adjectives that form the comparative and superlative with *er* and *est* (typically adjectives ending in *y* and their negative forms), e.g., *happy* → *happier, happiest; unhappy → unhappier, unhappiest*
• only the changed final syllables are shown.

**Syllabification**
In the *Concise Oxford American Dictionary*, syllable breaks are shown for main entries and derivatives. Although all possible breaks are shown, there are some conventions that govern how writers break words at the ends of lines. Guidelines include:

• Avoid a break that will leave one letter and a hyphen at the end of the line or one letter (or one letter and a punctuation mark such as a period) at the beginning of a line.
• Avoid breaking a word that is already hyphenated except at that hyphen (e.g., *self-adjmiration; leather-bound*).
• Never break proper names.
• Avoid breaking abbreviations.
Key to the Pronunciations

This dictionary uses a simple respelling system to show how entries are pronounced, using the symbols listed below. Generally, only the first of two or more identical headwords will have a pronunciation respelling. Where a derivative simply adds a common suffix such as -ment, -ness, or -ly to the headword, the derivative may not have a pronunciation respelling unless some other element of the pronunciation also changes.

a  as in hat /hæt/, fashion /ˈfæʃən/
á  as in day /deɪ/, rate /ræt/
ä  as in lot /lɑt/, father /ˈfæðər/, barn /bɑrn/
ö  as in go /gø/, promote /præˈmot/  ó  as in law /lɔw/, thought /ˈθəʊt/, lore /ˈlɔr/  ō  as in boy /boɪ/, noisy /ˈnoʊzɪ/  ōo  as in wood /ˈwʊd/, sure /ʃʊr/  ōō  as in food /ˈfʊd/, music /ˈmjuːzɪk/  ou  as in mouse /maʊs/, coward /ˈkaʊərd/  p  as in put /pʊt/, cap /kæp/  r  as in run /rən/, fur /fɜr/, spirit /ˈspɪrɪt/  s  as in sit /sɪt/, lesson /ˈlesən/, face /fɑs/  sh  as in shut /ʃʌt/, social /ˈsəʊʃəl/  t  as in top /tɑp/, seat /sed/, forty /ˈfɔrti/  th  as in thin /θɪn/, truth /ˈtrʌθ/  th  as in then /ˈθɛn/, father /ˈfæðər/  v  as in very /ˈveri/, never /ˈnevər/  w  as in wait /wɔt/, quiet /kwɪt/  (h)w as in when /waɪn/, which /waɪk/  y  as in yet /ˈjet/, accuse /əˈkjʊz/  z  as in zipper /ˈzɪpər/, musician /ˈmiʒən/  zh  as in measure /ˈmezər/, vision /ˈvɪʒən/

Foreign Sounds
KH  as in loch /lɑkh/, Hanukkah /ˈkʰənəkə/  N  as in en route /ˈen rʊt/, bon mot /ˈbɒn ˈmoʊ/  ŋ  as in hours d’oeuvre /ɔr ˈdəvʁ/., adieu /ˈadju/  œ  as in couru /kooˈtæ/  Ÿ  as in couture /kooˈtør/
Key to Pronunciations

Stress Marks
Stress (or accent) is represented by marks placed before the affected syllable. The primary stress mark is a short, raised vertical line /* which signifies that the heaviest emphasis should be placed on the syllable that follows. The secondary stress mark is a short, lowered vertical line // which signifies a somewhat weaker emphasis than on the syllable with primary stress.

Variant Pronunciations
There are several ways in which variant pronunciations are indicated in the respellings. Some respellings show a pronunciation symbol within parentheses to indicate a possible variation in pronunciation; for example, in sandwich /sandwich/. Variant pronunciations may be respelled in full, separated by semicolons. The more common pronunciation is listed first, if this can be determined, but many variants are of equal status.

Variant pronunciations may be indicated by respelling only the part of the word that changes. A hyphen will replace the part of the pronunciation that has remained the same.

Note: A hyphen sometimes serves to separate syllables where the respelling might otherwise look confusing, as at reinforce /re-in'fôr/. 
## Key to the Abbreviations

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**A**

A [ə] (also A) n. (pl. As or A's) 1 the first letter of the alphabet. denoting the first in a set of items, categories, sizes, etc. denoting the first of two or more hypothetical people or things: suppose A had killed B. the highest class of academic mark. (usu. a) the first fixed quantity in an algebraic expression. (A) the human blood type (in the ABO system) containing the A antigen and lacking the B. 2 a shape like that of a capital A: [in come], an A-shape. 3 Mos. the sixth note of the diatonic scale of C major. a key based on a scale with A as its keynote.

A > abbr. 1 ace (used in describing play in bridge and other card games). 2 ampere(s). 3 (A) angstrom(s). 4 answer. 5 (in personal ads) Asian. 6 a dry cell battery size.

a [ə] [an before a vowel sound] called the *indirect article*. adj. 1 used when referring to someone or something for the first time in a text or conversation: a man came out of the room. Compare THE. 2 used with units of measurement to mean one such unit: a hundred. 3 one single; any: I simply haven't a thing to wear. 4 used when mentioning the name of someone not known to the speaker: a Mr. Smith telephoned. 5 someone like (the name specified): you're no better than a Hitler. 6 used to indicate membership of a class of people or things: he is a lawyer. 7 used when expressing rates or ratios: in, to, or for each: per: typing 60 words a minute.

AA n. Alcohols Anonymous. 2 antiaircraft. 3 administrative assistant. 4 Associate of Arts. 5 a 1.5-volt dry cell battery size.

a [ə] or [æ] n. Geol. basaltic lava forming very rough jagged masses with a light frothy texture.

AAA [tripal 'æ] abbr. American Automobile Association. 1 a 1.5-volt dry cell battery size.

aard-vark [a'ard,værk] n. a nocturnal burrowing African mammal (Orycteropus afer, family Orycteropidae) with long ears, a long extensible tongue, feeding on ants and termites. 2 late 18th cent.: from South African Dutch, from aarde 'earth' + vark 'pig'.


AAU abbr. Amateur Athletic Union.

AB n. a human blood type (in the ABO system) containing both the A and B antigens.

AB 1 abbr. 1 able seaman; able-bodied seaman. 2 Bachelor of Arts. 3 airman basic. 4 Basketball at bat.

AB [əb] of (also Av) n. (in the Jewish calendar) the eleventh month of the civil year and the fifth month of the religious year, usually coinciding with parts of July and August. 2 back [bæk] adv. 1 archaic toward or situated to the rear: the little strip of pasture aback of the house. 2 Sailing with the sail pressed backward against the mast by a headwind.

a-back [a'bak] shock or surprise someone.

abacus [abəkəs] n. (pl. -acuses) 1 an oblong frame with rows of wires or grooves along which beads are slid, used for calculating. 2 *Archit.* the flat slab on top of a capital, supporting the architrave.

ab-abt [a'bat] Naut. adv. in or behind the stern of a ship.

pre: nearer the stern than; behind.

ab-a-lo-ne [a'ba'lo né; 'abə'lo né] n. an edible mollusk (genus *Haliotis*, family *Haliotidae*) of warm seas that has a shallow ear-shaped shell lined with mother-of-pearl and pierced with respiratory holes. 2 mid 19th cent.: via Latin American Spanish from abalun, from an American Indian language of Monterey Bay, California.

a-ban-don [a'bandən] v. [tr.] 1 give up completely (a course of action, a practice, or a way of thinking): he had abandoned all pretense of trying to succeed. 2 discontinue (a scheduled event) before completion. 3 cease to support or look after (someone); desert. 4 leave (a place, typically a building) empty or uninhabited, without intending to return. 5 leave (something, typically a vehicle or a vessel) decisively, esp. as an act of survival. 6 abandon someone/something to condemn someone or something to (a specified fate) by ceasing to take an interest in or look after them: an attempt to persuade businesses not to abandon the area to inner-city deprivation. 7 abandon oneself to allow oneself to indulge in (a desire or impulse): abandoning herself to moody fantasies.

n. lack of inhibition or restraint: she sings and sways with total abandon.

—a-ban-don-ment n.

a-ban-doned [a'bandənd] adj. 1 of (a person) having been deserted or cast off: a home for orphan and abandoned boys. 2 of (a building or vehicle) remaining empty or unused; having been left for good. 3 unstrained; uninhibited: a wild, abandoned dance.

a-base [a'bas] v. [tr.] behave in a way so as to belittle or degrade (someone): I watched my colleagues abusing themselves before the board of trustees.

—a-base-ment n.

a-bash [a'bash] v. [tr.] (usu. as adj.) (abashed) cause to feel embarrassed, disconcerted, or ashamed: she was abashed at being caught.

a-bate [a'beit] v. [int.] (of something perceived as hostile, threatening, or negative) become less intense or widespread: the storm suddenly abated. 2 [tr.] cause to become smaller or less intense: nothing abated his crusading zeal. 3 [tr.] Law lessen, reduce, or remove (esp. a nuisance).

—a-bate-ment n.

a-bat-toir [a'bat twa'] n. a slaughterhouse. 2 early 19th cent.: from French, from abattre 'to fell'.

a-bess [a'beis] n. a woman who is the head of an abbey of nuns.

a-bey [a'bei] n. (pl. -beys) the building or buildings occupied by a community of monks or nuns.

a-bot [a'bot] n. a man who is the head of an abbey of monks.

a-bre-vi-at-e [a'brév,ät] v. [tr.] shorten (a word, phrase, or text): the business of artists and repertory, commonly abbreviated to A&R.

a-bre-vi-a-tion [a'brév,ə'shən] abbr.: a-bre. n. a shortened form of a word or phrase; the process or result of abbreviating.

A-B-C n. the alphabet. 2 (also ABCs) the rudiments of a subject; the ABCs of emergency heart-lung resuscitation.


a-di-cate [a'dikät] v. [tr.] (of a monarch) renounce one's throne: in 1918 Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated as German emperor. 2 Ferdinand abdicated the throne in favor of the emperor's brother. 3 [tr.] fail to fulfill or undertake (a responsibility or duty); the government was accused of abdicating its responsibility | [intr.] the secretary of state should not abdicate from leadership on educational issues.

—a-di-ca-tion [ə'kə'shən] n.

a-do-men [a'dəman] ab'dəman n. the body of the part of the body of an arthropod containing the digestive organs; the belly. In humans and other mammals, it is contained between the diaphragm and the pelvis.

Zool. the posterior part of the body of an arthropod.


ad-duct [ad'dekt] v. [tr.] 1 take (someone) away illegally by force or
deception; kidnap. 2. Physiol. (of a muscle) move (a limb or part) away from the midline of the body or from another part. —ab•duc•tor n.

ab•beam /əˈbɛm/  v. [on a line at right angles to a ship's or an aircraft's length.

a•bed /əˈbɛd/  adv. archaic in bed.

a•be•nak•i /ˈa-bənˌnək/; ə-bəˈnək/; n. variant spelling of Abna•ki.

ab•er•rant /əˈbɛr-ər-ənt/ adj., departing from an accepted standard.

■ chiefly Biol. diverging from the normal type: aberrant chromosomes.

ab•er•rac•n•cy /əˈbɛr-ər-əns/ n. —ab•er•rac•nty adv. —ab•er•rac•nty•ly adv.

ab•err•a•tion /əˈbɛr-ər-əshən/ n. a departure from what is normal, usual, or expected, typically one that is unwelcome. ■ a person whose beliefs or behavior are unusual or unacceptable. ■ a departure from someone's usual moral character or mental aptitude, typically for the worse.

■ Biol. a characteristic that deviates from the normal type: color aberrations of the eye. [pl.] a beam of rays that converge at one focus because of limitations or defects in a lens or mirror. ■ A stro, the apparent displacement of a celestial object from its true position, caused by the relative motion of the observer and the object. —ab•err•a•tional /əˈbɛr-ər-ə-təl/ adj.

ab•et /əˈbet/  v. [bet•ed, bet•ing] [tr.] encourage or assist (someone) to do something wrong, in particular, to commit a crime: he was guilty of aiding and abetting the murder. ■ encourage or assist someone to commit (a crime): we are aiding and abetting this illegal traffic. ■ late Middle English: 'urge to do something (good or bad?):' from Old French abeter, from (from Latin 'ad, at') + better 'hound, urge on.' —ab•et•ment n. —ab•et•tor /əˈbet-tər/ [also ab•et•ter/ n. —ab•et•ment

ab•ey•ance /əˈbē-əns/ n. a state of temporary disuse or suspension: matters were held in abeyance pending further inquiries.

ab•hor /əˈhər/  v. [hor•red, hor•ring] [tr.] formal regard with disgust and hatred. —ab•hor•ren•cy n.

ab•hor•rent /əˈhər-ər-ənt/ adj. ■ of a situation or condition) extremely bad, unpleasant, and degrading: abhor poverty. ■ (of an unhappy state of mind) experienced to the maximum degree: abhor misery. ■ (of a failure) absolute and humiliating. ■ (of a person or their behavior) completely without pride or dignity: an abhor rage. ■ [in the context of education] a level of mental power: a student of average ability. ■ a special talent or skill: much depends on the person's abilities and attitudes.

ab•i•o•genic•sis /əˈbē-ə-žen•sis/ n. technical term for spontaneous generation.

ab•ject /əˈbɛkt/; ə-bek/ adj. 1. (of a situation or condition) extremely bad, unpleasant, and degrading: abject poverty. ■ (of an unhappy state of mind) experienced to the maximum degree: abject misery. ■ (of a failure) absolute and humiliating. ■ (of a person or their behavior) completely without pride or dignity: an abject rage. ■ [in the context of education] a level of mental power: a student of average ability. ■ a special talent or skill: much depends on the person's abilities and attitudes.

ab•junc•tion /əˈbɛk•ʃən/ n. the surgical removal of body tissue. 2. the removal of snow and ice by melting or evaporation, typically from a glacier or ice cap. ■ the loss of surface material from a spacecraft or meteorite through evaporation or melting caused by friction with the atmosphere. —ab•i•o•genic•sis /əˈbē-ə-žen•sis/ n. technical term for spontaneous generation.

ab•l•i•ty /əˈbily/; ə-bil/ n. (pl. -ties) 1. the capacity to do something: the manager had lost his ability to motivate the players. 2. talent that enables someone to achieve a great deal: a man of exceptional ability. ■ in (the context of education) a level of mental power: a student of average ability. ■ a special talent or skill: much depends on the person's abilities and attitudes.

ab•ju•re /əˈbjud/  v. [tr.] formal solemnly renounce (a belief, cause, or claim).

ab•ju•ration /əˈbjud-ərāshən/ n.

ab•la•tion /əˈblə-šən/ n. 1. the surgical removal of body tissue. 2. the removal of snow and ice by melting or evaporation, typically from a glacier or ice cap. ■ the loss of surface material from a spacecraft or meteorite through evaporation or melting caused by friction with the atmosphere. —ab•i•o•genic•sis /əˈbē-ə-žen•sis/ n. technical term for spontaneous generation.

ab•la•tive /əˈblə-tiv/ adj. Gram. relating to or denoting a case (esp. in Latin) of nouns and pronouns (and words in grammatical agreement with them) indicating separation or an agent, instrument, or location.

ab•la•tion /əˈblə-šən/ n. a word in the ablative case. ■ (the ablative) the ablative case.

ab•lauf /əˈblouf/ n. a change of vowel in related words or forms, e.g., in Germanic strong verbs (e.g., sing, sung, sung).

ab•blaze /əˈblaz/ adj. burning fiercely: very brightly colored or lighted: New England is ablaze with color in autumn. ■ made bright by a strong emotion: his eyes were ablaze with anger.

ab•ble /əˈbəl/ adj. [abl•er, abl•est] 1. having the power, means, skill, or opportunity to do something: he was able to read Greek. 2. having considerable skill, proficiency, or intelligence: the dancers were very able.

ab•bod•ied adj. fit, strong, and healthy; not physically disabled: he was the only able-bodied man on the farm.

ab•bloom /əˈboom/ adj. covered in flowers.

ab•lu•tion /əˈlu•shən/ n. (usu. ab•lu•a•tions) the act of washing oneself (often used for humorously formal effect): the women performed their ablutions. —ab•lu•a•tion•ary adj.

a•bly /əˈblē/ adv. skillfully; competently.

a•br•am /əˈbrem/ n. system of four basic types (A, AB, B, and O) into
which human blood may be classified, based on the presence or absence of certain inherited antigens.

about [əˈbaʊt] prep. 1 on the subject of: concerning. I was thinking about you. so as to affect: there’s nothing we can do about it. be about to be involved or to do with; have the intention of: it’s all about having fun. used to indicate movement within a particular area; she looked about the room. used to express location in a particular place: rugs strewn about. used to indicate a description of a question apparent in a person: there was a look about her that said everything.

adv. 1 used to indicate movement in an area: men were floundering about. 2 used to express location in a particular place; there was a lot of flu about. 3 [used with a number or quantity] approximately: he looks about 35.

about to do something intending to do something or close to doing something very soon: the ceremony was about to begin. be not about to do something be unwilling to do something; he is not about to step down.

about-face [əˈbaʊt fɑːs] n. (chiefly in military contexts) a turn made so as to face the opposite direction; he did an about-face and marched out.

about-face [əˈbaʊt fɑːs] n. (chiefly in military contexts) a turn made so as to face the opposite direction; he did an about-face and marched out.

absolute [ˈæbsələt] adj. completely; without qualification: this is the absolute truth.

about-face [əˈbaʊt fɑːs] n. (chiefly in military contexts) a turn made so as to face the opposite direction; he did an about-face and marched out.

about-face [əˈbaʊt fɑːs] n. (chiefly in military contexts) a turn made so as to face the opposite direction; he did an about-face and marched out.

about-face [əˈbaʊt fɑːs] n. (chiefly in military contexts) a turn made so as to face the opposite direction; he did an about-face and marched out.
independently and not in relation to other things: absolute moral standards. ■ Gram. (of a construction) syntactically independent of the rest of the sentence, as in dinner being over, we left the table. ■ Gram. (of a transitive verb) used without an expressed object [e.g., guns killed]. ■ Gram. (of an intransitive verb) used without an expressed object (e.g., the breeze). n. Philos. a value or principle that is regarded as universally valid or that may be viewed without relation to other things: good and evil are presented as absolutes. ■ (the absolute) Philos. that which exists without being dependent on anything else. ■ (the absolute) Theol. ultimate reality. God. —ab-solu-ti-ty n.

absolutely /əˈbсолюtli/ adv. 1 with no qualification, restriction, or limitation: totally. ■ used to emphasize the truth or appropriateness of a very strong or exaggerated statement: he absolutely adores that car. ■ none whatsoever: she had absolutely no idea what he was talking about. ■ used to emphasize a statement or opinion: it's absolutely pouring out there! it's absolutely ages since I went to a party. ■ [as interj. inf. used to express and emphasize one’s assent or agreement: “Did you give you a free hand when you joined the band?” “Absolutely!”] 2 not viewed in relation to other things or factors: these crimes increased both absolutely and in comparison with other crimes. ■ Gram. (of a verb) without a stated object.

absolute value /ˈæbsəluːt/ n. 1 Math. the magnitude of a real number without regard to its sign. The absolute value of a complex number a + ib is the positive square root of a² + b². Also called modulus. ■ technical the actual magnitude of a numerical value, irrespective of its relation to other values.

absolu-tion /əˈbсолюteɪʃən/ n. 1 formal release from guilt, obligation, or punishment. ■ absolu-tist /əˈbсолюtɪst/ adj. the acceptance of or belief in absolute principles in political, philosophical, ethical, or theological matters. —absolu-tist n. & adj.

absolve /əˈb sålv; -ˈsālveɪ/ v. [tr.] set or declare (someone) free from blame, guilt, or responsibility: the pardon absolved them of any crimes.

—Christian Theol. give absolution for (a sin). —absolu-tize /əˈbсолюtəɪz/ v. 1 take in or soak up (energy, or a liquid or other substance) by chemical or physical action, typically gradually: buildings designed to absorb and retain heat; steroids are absorbed into the bloodstream. 2 take in and assimilate (information, ideas, or experience). ■ take control of (a smaller or less powerful entity), making it a part of oneself, by assimilation: the firm was assimilated into a larger group. 3 take up (time or resources). 4 reduce the effect or intensity of (sound or an impact). 2 engross the attention of (someone). —absolu-tize v. intr. —absolu-tum /əˈbсолюtəm/ n.

absorb /əˈb zɔrb; -ˈb zərveɪ/ v. [tr.] 1 take in or soak up (energy, or a liquid or other substance) by chemical or physical action, typically gradually: buildings designed to absorb and retain heat; steroids are absorbed into the bloodstream. 2 take in and assimilate (information, ideas, or experience). ■ take control of (a smaller or less powerful entity), making it a part of oneself by assimilation: the firm was absorbed into a larger group. ■ take up (time or resources). 4 reduce the effect or intensity of (sound or an impact). 2 engross the attention of (someone). —absorb-able /əˈb zɔrˈbəbl/ adj. ■ absorb-able n. —absorb-er n. —absorb-bility /əˈb zɔrˈbəblɪti/ n. —absorb-bly adv.


absorbing /əˈb zɔrˈbɪŋ/ adj. [of (material) able to soak up liquid easily: drain on absorbent paper towels. ■ a substance or item that soaks up liquid easily. —absorb-ency /əˈb zɔrˈbən sɪ/ n.

absorption /əˈb zɔrˌpʃən; -ˈb zərˈpʃən/ n. 1 the process or action by which one thing absorbs or is absorbed by another. 2 the fact or state of being engrossed in something. ■ absorb-tive /əˈb zɔrbˈtɪv/ adj. ■ absorb-tion-ism /ˌæbˈzɔrbənˌɪzəm/ n. & adj. —absorb-tively /əˈb zɔrbˈtɪvli/ adv.

abs-tinence /əˈb stənns/ n. the act or practice of restraining oneself from indulging in something. ■ absti-nency /əˈb stənnsɪ/ n. —ab-sti-nent adj. —ab-sti-nently adv.

ab-stact /əˈb strækt/ adj. [ab’strakt] existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence: abstract concepts such as love or beauty. ■ dealing with ideas rather than events: the novel was too abstract to sustain much attention. ■ not based on a particular instance: theoretical: we have been discussing the problem in a very abstract manner. ■ (of a word, esp. a noun) denoting an idea, quality, or state rather than a concrete object. ■ of or relating to art that uses shapes, forms, colors, and textures to create suggestive effects rather than realistic images. —ab-stract [ab’stræk] v. [tr.] consider (something) theoretically or separately from something else: abstracting religion from its historical context. ■ [intr.] form a general idea in this way: he cannot form a general notion by abstracting from particulars. 2 extract or remove (something). 3 make a written summary (of an article or book): he abstracts material for an online database.

—n. /əbˈstrækt/ 1 a summary or statement of the contents of a book, article, or formal speech. 2 an abstract work of art. 3 (the abstract) that which is abstract; the theoretical consideration of something. —ab-stract-ly adv. —ab-stract-ly adv. —ab-stract-ness n.

abs-traction /əˈb strækʃən/ n. 1 the quality of dealing with ideas rather than events. 2 something that exists only as an idea. 3 freedom from representational qualities in art. 4 a state of preoccupation: his momentary abstraction. ■ the process of considering something independently of its associations, attributes, or concrete accompaniments: they tend to interpret Jesus’s words in abstraction from any historical context. 5 the process of removing something, esp. water from a river or other source.

abstruse /əˈb strəs/ adj. difficult to understand; obscure. —ab-stru-sely adv. —ab-stru-se-ness n.

ab-surd /əˈbə:rd/ adj. (of an idea or suggestion) wildly unreasonable, illogical, or inappropriate; it would be absurd to blame contemporary Germans for Nazi crimes [as n.] (the absurd) he had a keen eye for the absurd. ■ (of a person or a person’s behavior or actions) foolish; unreasonable. ■ (of an object or situation) arousing amusement or derision; ridiculous. —ab-surd-ly adv.

ab-surd-ly adv. —ab-surd-ness n.

ab-surd-ty /əˈbə:rd tɪ/ n. (pl.-ties) the quality or state of being ridiculous or wildly unreasonable.

abund ance /əˈb ʌndəns/ n. a very large quantity of something: an abundance of... the quantity or amount of something, e.g., a chemical element or an animal or plant species, present in a particular area, volume, sample, etc.: the relative abundances of carbon and helium. ■ the state or condition of having a copious quantity of something: plentifulness; wines and figs grew in abundance. ■ plentifulness of the good things of life; prosperity: the growth of industry promised wealth and abundance.

ab-undant /əˈb ʌndənt/ adj. existing or available in large quantities; plentiful. ■ (abundant) in having plenty of something: the riverbanks were abundant in wild plants. —ab-und-ant-ly adv.

abuse /əˈbjuːs/ v. [tr.] 1 use (something) to bad effect or for a bad purpose; misuse: the judge abused his power. ■ make excessive and habitual use of (alcohol or drugs, esp. illegal ones). 2 treat (a person or an animal) with cruelty or violence, esp. regularly or repeatedly. ■ assault (someone, esp. a woman or child) sexually. ■ use or treat in such a way as to cause damage or harm: he had been abusing his body for years. ■ speak in an insulting and offensive way to or about (someone). —n. /əˈb jəʊs/ 1 the improper use of something: alcohol abuse. ■ unjust or corrupt practice: human rights abuses. 2 cruel and violent treatment of a person or an animal: signs of physical abuse. ■ violent treatment involving sexual assault, esp. on a repeated basis. ■ insulting and offensive language. —ab-us-er n.

ab-sive /əˈb ʌsɪv; -zi/ adj. 1 extremely offensive and insulting language. 2 engaging in or characterized by habitual violence and cruelty. 3 involving injustice or illegality: an abusive manipulation of the system. —ab-su-ly adv. —ab-su-ness n.

ab-ut /əˈb ʌt/ v. [abutted, abutting] [tr.] (of an area or land or a building) be next to or have a common boundary with: gardens abutting Great Prescott Street [intr.] a park abutting on an area of wasteland. ■ touch or form upon: masonry may crumble where a roof abuts it.

ab-ment /əˈb ʌmənt/ n. a structure built to support the lateral pressure of an arch or span, e.g., at the ends of a bridge. ■ the process of supporting something with such a structure. ■ a point at which something abuts against something else.

abuzz /əˈb zʊz/ adj. filled with a continuous humming sound: the room was abuzz with mosquitoes. ■ fig. the city was abuzz with rumors.

ab-yss /əˈb ɪs/ n. 1 a deep or seemingly bottomless chasm: a rope led down into the dark abyss. ■ fig. a wide or profound difference between people: the abyss between the two nations. ■ fig. the regions of hell conceived of as a bottomless pit.

ab-yssal /əˈb ɪsəl/ adj. chiefly technical relating to or denoting the depths or bed of the ocean, esp. between about 10,000 and 20,000 feet (3,000 and 6,000 m) down.

ac /ək/ abbrev. ■ (also ac) alternating current. ■ (also ac) air conditioning. ■ before Christ. ■ athletic club. ■ (aca) ac.
account

rhinestone-studded barrettes. 2 Law someone who gives assistance to the perpetrator of a crime, without directly committing it, sometimes without being present: an accessory to murder.

> adj. chiefly technical contributing to or aiding an activity or process in a minor way; functionally the same as are a pair of accessory jaws.

access provider > n. another term for SERVICE PROVIDER.

access time > n. Comput. the time taken to retrieve data from storage.

acc-ci-dent-prone > adj. tending to be involved in a greater than average number of accidents.

ac-claim > v. praise enthusiastically and publicly: the conference was acclaimed as a considerable success.

ac-clim-a-tize > v. to adapt themselves before ascending Everest. Biol. respond physiologically or behaviorally to changes in a complex of environmental factors.

ac-cord > v. [tr.] to agree; account, to correspond or conform to.

ac-cord-ance > n. (phrase) in accordance with; in a manner conforming with: the product is disposed of in accordance with federal regulations.

ac-cord-ing > v. (accord) as stated by or in: the outlook according to financial experts.

ac-cord-ingly > adv. in a way that is appropriate to the particular circumstances: we'll read the plan and act accordingly.

ac-cord-ion > n. a portable musical instrument with metal reeds blown by bellows, played by means of keys and buttons. [as adj. ] folding like the bellows of an accordion: an accordion pleat.

ac-cord-ion-ist > n.
account (or take account of) consider a specified thing along with other factors before reaching a decision or taking action.

account-ant /'koun(t)ənt/ n. a person whose job is to keep or inspect financial accounts. [Middle English; from Old French, present participle of Old French 'acountier' to 'count', based on center 'to count' (from Latin computare; 'to calculate'). The original use was as an adjectival meaning 'liable to give an account,' hence denoting a person who must do so.

account-able /'koun(t)əbəl/ adj. 1. (of a person, organization, or institution) required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible: a government accountable to its citizens | parents held accountable for their children's actions. 2. explicable; understandable: the wry dialogue is not accountable until the third chapter. —account-abil-i-ty /'koun(t)əbiləti/ n.

account-antcy /'koun(t)əntsi/ n. the profession or duties of an accountant.

account-ant /'koun(t)ənt/ n. [abbr. acct.] n. a person who carries out or works for a particular activity: the accountants of religious ritual. 2. a soldier's outfit other than weapons and garments.

account-ment /'koun(t)əment/ n. (usu. accouting) additional items of dress or equipment, or other items carried or worn by a person or used for a particular activity: the accounts of religious ritual. 2. a soldier's outfit other than weapons and garments.

account-cred /'kred/ v. [int.] give credit (to someone) for: accounting for being our leading citizen. 2. attribute (an action, saying, or quality) to: the discovery of distillation is usually accredited to the Arabs. 3. (of an official body) give authority or sanction to (someone or something) when recognized standards have been met: institutions that do not meet the standards will not be accredited for teacher training. 4. give official authorization for (someone) to be in a particular place or to hold a particular post: ambassadors accredited to Baghdad. —ac-count-i-ation /'kredətəshən/ n.

account-cred-i-ted /'kredətəd/ adj. (of a person, organization, or course of study) officially recognized or authorized.

account-cre /'krestəl/ adj. [int.] grow by accumulation or coalescence: the ice had accreted into stalactites. —account-cre-ted /'krestəd/ adj. (of a person, organization, or course of study) officially recognized or authorized.

account-cre-tion /'krestəʃən/ n. the process of growth or increase, typically by the gradual formation of additional layers or matter: a thing formed or added by such growth or increase. —account-cre-tive /'krestətiv/ adj.

account-cre /'krestəl/ v. [cr-] (cr-ules, -cruling) [int.] (of sums of money or benefits) be received by someone in regular or increasing amounts over time: savings will accrue from restructuring. —account-cre-ted /'krestəd/ adj. (of a person, organization, or course of study) officially recognized or authorized.

account-cre /'krestəl/ v. [int.] form (a composite whole or a collection of things) by gradual accumulation.

account-cre-tion /'krestəʃən/ n. an activity or process of accumulating or becoming part of another: the process of becoming part of another.

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actuary /'æktəri/ n. (pl. -aries) a person who compiles and analyzes statistics and uses them to calculate insurance risks and premiums. —actuarial /'æktəriəl/ adj. —actuarially adv.

actuate /'æktjuət/ v. 1 [tr] cause (a machine or device) to operate: the pendulum actuates an electrical switch. 2 (usu. be actuated) cause (someone) to do something: the defending team were actuated by malice. —actuation /'æktjʊəʃən/ n. —actuator /'ækʃʊtər/ n.

ad-lu-tiy /'ædəluəti/ n. sharpness or keenness of thought, vision, or hearing; intellectual acuity; visual acuity.

ad-ven-ture /'ædvəntʃər/ n. a series of complementary medicines that involve prickings the skin or tissues with needles, used to alleviate pain and to treat various conditions. —adventurist /-ist/ n.

ad-verb /'ædvɜːb/ n. a mark (') placed over certain letters in some languages to indicate an alteration of a sound, as of quality, quantity, or pitch, e.g., in risqué.

AD abbr. 1. Med. active duty. 2. armored division. 3. (usu. AD) Anno Domini (used to indicate that a date comes the specified number of years after the accepted date of Christ’s birth). 4. athletic director. 5. adj. n. inf. an advertisement.

ad /'æd/ n. inf. Tennis short for ADVANTAGE.

ad-age /'ædədʒ/ n. a proverb or saying expressing a general truth.

ad-apt /'ædəpt/ v. 1 adj. refusenin speak or to change one’s mind: he is adamant that he is not going to resign. 2 n. archaic a legendary rock or mineral to which many, often contradictory, properties were attributed. —adaptable /'ædəptəbl/ adj. —adaptable-ly adv.

Adam’s apple /'ædəmz ɑːpl/ n. the projection at the front of the neck formed by the thyroid cartilage of the larynx, often prominent in men.

ad-a-pter /'ædəpət/ n. 1-a device for connecting pieces of equipment that cannot be connected directly. 2 a person who adapts a text for film, broadcasting, or the stage.

ad-dress /'ædəs/ v. 1 write the name and address of the intended recipient on an (envelope, letter, or package). 2 speak to a person or an assembly, typically in a formal way: they addressed themselves to my father. 3 say or write remarks or a protest to (someone): address your complaints to the Board of Review. 4 think about and begin to deal with (an issue or problem). 5 Golf take up one’s stance and prepare to hit (the ball). —ad-dress-er n. —ad-dress-see n. —ad-dressee n.
ad-duce

ad-dy

ad-e-nine

ad-e-no-ids

ad-e-nective

ad-e-quotate

ad-e-ri-nent

ad-e-sion

ad-e-ri-sive

ad-e-ri-stone

ad-e-ri-tude

ad-e-ri-vable

ad-e-ri-sive

ad-e-port

ad-e-ri-stable

ad-e-ri-tude

ad-e-ri-vable

ad-e-ri-stable

ad-e-ri-tude

ad-e-ri-vable

ad-e-ri-stable
ad-ven-tur-ous /'ad'ven.tərəs/ adj., ad-ven-tur-e-ous-ly adv. 
adj. daring; full of enterprise, spirit, or soul: a fresh teacher... 
adv. in an adventurous manner or spirit; boldly, courageously.
aggregat

series of sporting contests: the result put the sides even on aggregate. 2 a material or structure formed from a loosely compacted mass of fragments or particles. 3 pieces of broken or crushed stone or gravel used to make concrete, or more generally in construction work.

adj. /ag-gr-at/ formed or calculated by the combination of many separate units or items; total: the aggregate amount of grants made. 2 Econ. denoting the total supply or demand for goods and services in an economy at a particular time.

v. /gät/ form or group into a class or cluster: [intr.] the butterflies aggregate in dense groups. 2 -ag-reat-ion /'ag-reat-shan/ n. -ag-reat-tive /'ag-reat-tiv/ adj.

ag-gre-gator /'ag-gre-ga-tar/ n. Comput. an Internet company that collects information about competing products and services and distributes it through a single Web site. a travel insurance aggregator.

ag-gres-sion /'ag-res-shan/ n. hostile or violent behavior or attitudes toward another; readiness to attack or confront: territorial aggression between individuals of the same species. 2 the action of attacking without provocation, esp. in beginning a quarrel or war. 3 forceful and sometimes overly assertive pursuit of one's aims and interests.

ag-gre-sive /'ag-ressiv/ adj. ready or likely to attack or confront; characterized by or resulting from aggression; aggressive behavior. 2 pursuing one's aims and interests forcefully, sometimes unduly so.

ag-gre-sively adv. ag-gre-sive-ness n.

ag-gre-sor /'ag-gre-sor/ n. a person or country that attacks another first

ag-gri-gated /'ag-gred-at/ adj. resentful at having been unfairly treated; she saw herself as the aggrieved party. 2 -ag-gred-yed /'ag-gred-ad/ adv.

ag-gast /'ag-gast/ adv. filled with horror or shock: when the news came out they were agast. 2 late Middle English: past participle of the obsolete verb agast, gest 'frighten.' from Old English gästen. The spelling with gh (originally Scots) became general by about 1700, probably influenced by ghost.

agile /'ag-il/ adj. able to move quickly and easily; Ruth was as agile as a monkey /fig. her vague manner concealed an agile mind. 2 -ag-i-lity /'ag-i-lit/ n.

ag-ing /'ag-ing/ n. the process of growing old: the external signs of aging. 2 adj. the aging process. 3 the process of change in the properties of a material occurring over a period, either spontaneously or through deliberate action.

adj. (of a person) growing old; elderly: looking after aging relatives. 2 (of a thing) reaching the end of useful life; obsolescent.

ag-i-tate /'ag-i-tat/ v. [tr.] make (someone) troubled or nervous. 2 [intr.] campaign to arouse public concern about an issue in the hope of prompting action: they agitated for a reversal of the decision. 3 stir or disturb (something, esp. a liquid) briskly.

ag-i-tation /'ag-i-ta-shon/ n. 1 a state of anxiety or nervous excitement. 2 the action of arousing public concern about an issue and pressing for action on it; widespread agitation for social reform. 3 the action of briskly stirring or disturbing something, esp. a liquid.

ag-i-tate-to /'ag-i-ta-to/ adj. & adv. & adj. Mus. (as a direction after a tempo marking) in an agitated manner: allegro agitato.

ag-i-ta-tor /'ag-i-ta-tar/ n. 1 a person who urges others to protest or rebel; a communist agitator. 2 an apparatus for stirring liquid, as in a washing machine or a photographic developing tank.

ag-it-prop /'ag-it-prop/ n. political (originally communist) propaganda, esp. in art or literature; [as adj.] agitprop painters.

ag-low /'ag-lo/ adj. glowing; his bold head aglow under the lights.

ag-nostic /'ag-nost-ik/ n. a person who believes that nothing is known or can be known about the existence or nature of God or of anything beyond material phenomena; a person who claims neither faith nor disbelief in God.

adj. of or relating to agnostics or agnosticism. 2 -ag-nos-tis-cism /'ag-nos-tis-kiz-am/ n.

ago /'ago/ adv. (used after a measurement of time) before the present; earlier: he went five minutes ago as long ago as 1942! not long ago.

ago /'ago/ adv. very eager or curious to hear or see something; I'm all agog to see London! New York is agog at the gossip.

ag-onist /'ag-onist/ n. 1 Biochem. a substance that initiates a physiological response when combined with a receptor. Compare with Antagonist. 2 Art. that muscle whose contraction impairs a part of the body directly. Often contrasted with Antagonist. 3 another term for Protagonist. 4 early 20th cent.: from Greek agonistes 'contestant' (a sense reflected in English in the early 17th cent.), from agon 'contest.'

ag-onism /'ag-oniz-am/ n.


ag-onize /'ag-oniz/ v. [intr.] undergo great mental anguish through worrying about something: I didn't agonize over the problem. 2 (tr.) cause mental anguish to (someone).

agony /'agony/ n. (pl. -nies) extreme physical or mental suffering; he crashed to the ground in agony. 2 the final stages of a difficult or painful death: his last agony / the death agony.

agoraphobia /'ag-or-a-fobia/ n. extreme or irrational fear of crowded spaces or enclosed public places.

agri-an /'agri-0n/ adj. of or relating to cultivated land or the cultivation of land. n. a person who advocates a redistribution of landed property.

agree /'agre/ v. (agrees, agreed, agreeing) [intr.] 1 have the same opinion about something; concur: I completely agree with your editorial. 2 the authors agree that Jerusalem must remain united. 3 [agree with] approve of (something) with regard to its moral correctness: I'm not sure I agree with abortion. 2 agree to or do something consent to doing something that has been suggested by another person: she had agreed to see a movie with him. 3 [intr.] reach agreement about (something), typically after a period of negotiation: the commission agreed on a proposal.

agreeable /'agree-0bl/ adj. 1 enjoyable and agreeable: pleasant; a cheerful and agreeable companion. 2 willing to agree to something: they were agreeable to its publication. 3 (of a course of action) acceptable; a compromise that might be agreeable. -agree-able-ness n. -agree-able-ly /'bl-ly/ adv.

agreement /'ag-r0-ment/ n. harmony or accord in opinion or feeling: a position or result of agreeing: the governments failed to reach agreement between the two officers killed in agreement. 2 a negotiated and typically legally binding arrangement between parties to a course of action: a trade agreement. 3 the absence of incompatibility between two things; consistency. 4 Gram. the condition of having the same number, gender, case, or person.

agribusiness /'agri-biznis/ n. agriculture conducted on commercial principles, esp. using advanced technology. 2 an organization engaged in this. 3 the group of industries dealing with agricultural produce and services required in farming.

agriculture /'ag-rish-0l-tur/ n. the science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food and other products. 2 agri-cultural /'agri-k0-0-nal/ adj. -agri-cul-tur-ist /'ist/ n.

agrochemical /'ag-ro-ke-m0likal/ n. a chemical used in agriculture, such as a pesticide or a fertilizer.

agronomy /'ag-ro-nam0/ n. the science of soil management and crop production. 2 agro-nomic /'ag-ro-nomik/ adj. -agro-nom-ist /'ist/ n.

aground /'ag-round/ adj. & adv. (with reference to a ship) on or onto the bottom in shallow water; [as adv.] the ship must slow to avoid running aground. 2 [as adj.] a cargo ship aground in the Mediterranean.

agonize /'ag-oniz/ v. a grief /'agro'fobea/ adv. 1 a medical or surgical procedure for removing a piece of tissue; an operation: he had an operation to remove a cyst.

AK abbrev. in the year of the Hegira (used in the Muslim calendar for reckoning years from Muhammad's departure from Mecca in AD 622) of the Muslim era: a Koran dated 556 AH.

ah /'ah/ interj. used to express a range of emotions including surprise, pleasure, sympathy, and realization: ah, there you are! ah, this is the life.

aha /'ah/ interj. used to express satisfaction, triumph, or surprise: what? that's your secret plan?

ahead /'aed/ adj. further forward in space; in the line of one's forward motion. 2 further forward in time; in advance, in the near future: to plan ahead. 3 onward so as to make progress. 4 in the lead: the Buckeyes were ahead by four; higher in number, amount, or value than previously: his marks were slightly ahead.

ahead of one's (or its) time innovative and radical.

Pronunciation Key a goo, up; or over. fur: a hut; a: ate; ch: chin; e: let; e: see; e: ar; i: f; i: th; i: y; i: ear; io: sing; o: go; o: law; or: foe; oy: toy; oo: good; oo: goor; ou: out; sh: she; th: thin; th: then; (h) why; zh vision
a-hem ['æhem] intrj. used to represent the noise made when clearing the throat, typically to attract attention or express disapproval or embarrassment.

a-hi ['æhe] noun Japanese name for YELLOWFIN.

a-him-sa [jo him.sə] n. (in the Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain tradition) the principle of nonviolence toward all living things.

a-hoy ['a.hoi] intrj. Naut. a call used in sailing: ship ahoy!

AIA → abbr. artificial intelligence. artificial intelligence.

AID → abbr. Agency for International Development. artificial intelligence by donor.

aid [aɪd] n. help, typically of a practical nature: he was walking with the aid of a walker. v. [tr.] material or financial help given to a country or area in need: 7,000 tons of food aid. a person or thing that is a source of help or assistance: exercise is an important aid to recovery after heart attacks a teaching aid. see: a grants of subsidy or tax to a king. v. [tr.] help, assist, support (someone or something) in the achievement of something: when they were wounded in midflight by machine guns || [intr.] the added was slanted to aid in climbing hilly terrain. promote or encourage (something): diet and exercise aid healthy skin.

aide [aɪd] n. an assistant to an important person, esp. to a political leader: a presidential aide. see: short for AIDE-DE-CAMP.

aide-de-camp [ˈɑːd də ˈkæmp] n. (pl. aides-de-camp [ˈɑːdz] pronunc. same) a military officer acting as a confidential assistant to a senior officer.

AIDS [aɪdz] n. acquired immune deficiency syndrome, a disease in which there is a severe loss of the body's cellular immunity, generally lowering the resistance to infection and malignancy.


ail [aɪl] v. [tr.] trouble or afflict (someone) in mind or body: exercise is good for whatever ails you.

ail-er-on [ˈaɪlərən] n. a hinged surface in the trailing edge of an aircraft wing, used to control lateral balance.

ail-ing [əˈlɪŋ] adj. in poor health: my ailing mother. see: the ailing economy.

ail-ment [əˈlɪmənt] n. an illness, typically a minor one.

aim [aɪm] v. 1 [tr.] point or direct (a weapon or camera) at a target: aim the cannon at a suitable object. v. [intr.] aim for the middle of the target. adj. directed (an object or blow) at someone or something: she aimed the bottle at his head. v. [intr.] aim something at direct information or an action toward a particular group; the TV campaign is aimed at the 16-24 age group. n. 1 a purpose or intention; a desired outcome: our primary aim is to achieve financial discipline. 2 the directing of a weapon or object at a target: his aim was perfect.

- take aim point a weapon or camera at a target.

aim-less [əˈAIMlis] adj. without purpose or direction: an aimless, ungratifying life. see: aim-less-ly adv. — aim-less-ness n.

ain’t [aɪnt] inter. cont. of am not; are not; is not; if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. n. has not: have not: they ain’t got nothing to say.

air [eər] n. 1 the invisible, featureless space above the surface of the earth: he tossed his hat high in the air. see: the free or unconfined space above the surface of the earth: he tossed his hat high in the air. 2 the earth’s atmosphere as a medium for transmitting radio waves: it’s sold products over the air. see: the earth’s atmosphere as a medium for transmitting radio waves: it’s sold products over the air. 3 air, air as one of the four elements in ancient philosophy and in astrology: a breeze or light wind; air conditioning. 4 air (of) an impression of a quality or manner given by someone or something: she had a faint air of boredom. 5 air (of) an annoyingly affected and condescending manner: he began to put on airs and boss us around. 3 Mus. a tune or short melodic composition, typically a song.

- v. 1 [intr.] (often be aired) express (an opinion or grievance) publicly: long-standing grievances were aired. 2 broadcast (a program) on radio or television.

by air in an aircraft: all goods must come in by air. — in the air noticeable all around; becoming prevalent: I smell violence in the air. on or off the air being (or not being) broadcast on radio or television.

air bag n. a safety device fitted inside a road vehicle, consisting of a cushion designed to inflate rapidly in the event of a collision and position so as to protect passengers from being flung forward.

air-base [eərˌbæs] n. a base for the operation of military aircraft.

air blader [eərˈblædər] n. an air-filled bladder or sac found in certain animals and plants. — another term for SWIM BLADDER.


air brake [eərˈbreɪk] n. a brake worked by air pressure. see: a movable flap or other device on an aircraft to reduce its speed.

airbrush [eərˈbrʌʃ] n. an artist’s device for spraying paint by means of compressed air. see: [v. [tr.] paint with an airbrush. v. alter or conceal (a photograph or a detail in one) using an airbrush: a picture of a man with wings airbrushed onto his shoulders. see: [usu. as adj. | airbrushed] fig. represent or describe (someone or something) as better or more beautiful than they in fact are: an airbrushed vision of the decade.

air-condition-ing [eərˈkɔndɪʃənŋ] n. a system for controlling the humidity, ventilation, and temperature in a building or vehicle, typically to maintain a cool atmosphere. — air-conditioned adj. — air-condition-er n.

air-craft [eərˈkraft] n. (pl. same) an airplane, helicopter, or other machine capable of flight.

air-cush-ion [eərˈkəʃən] n. 1 an inflatable cushion. 2 the layer of air supporting a hovercraft or similar vehicle.

aire-dale [ˈeər,dɔl] n. a large terrier of a rough-coated black and tan breed.


air-field [eərˈфild] n. an area of land set aside for the takeoff, landing, and maintenance of aircraft.

air-flow [eərˈflau] n. the flow of air, esp. that encountered by a moving aircraft or vehicle.

air-foil [eərˈfol] n. a structure with curved surfaces designed to give the most favorable ratio of lift to drag in flight, used as the basic form of the wings, fins, and horizontal stabilizers of most aircraft.

air force [n. (often the air force or the Air Force)] the branch of a nation’s armed services that conducts military operations in the air.

air-frame [eərˈfræm] n. the body of an aircraft as distinct from its engine.

air-freight [eərˈfrɛt] n. the transportation of goods by aircraft. — goods in transit, or to be carried, by aircraft.

air-grams [eərˈgræmz] n. 1 an exposure to warm or fresh air, for the purpose of ventilating or removing dampness from something; give the place a thorough airing. 2 a walk or outing: taking the baby out for an airing.

air-glow [eərˈɡlau] n. a glow in the night sky caused by radiation from the upper atmosphere.

air gun [eərˈguŋ] n. a gun that fires pellets using compressed air.

air-head [əˈhɛd] n. int. a silly or foolish person.

air-ing [eərˈɛŋ] n. 1 an exposure to warm or fresh air, for the purpose of ventilating or removing dampness from something; give the place a thorough airing. 2 a walk or outing: taking the baby out for an airing. — a public expression of an opinion or subject: ideas that might be worth an airing. 3 a transmission of a television or radio program.

air-less [əˈɛrliəs] adj. stuffy; not ventilated: a dusty, airless basement.

air-lock [ˈeərˌlɔk] n. an act of transporting supplies by aircraft typically in a blockade or during an emergency: a massive airlift of food.

air-mail [eərˈmeil] n. a system of transporting mail by aircraft, typically overseas. see: a letter carried by aircraft.

air-line [eərˈlайн] n. an organization providing a regular public service of air transportation on one or more routes. — usu. air line a route that forms part of a system regularly used by aircraft.

air-line-r [eərˌlier] n. a large passenger aircraft.

air-lock [ˈeərˌlɔk] also air lock n. 1 a blockage in the flow in a pump or pipe, caused by an air bubble. 2 a compartment with controlled pressure and parallel sets of doors, to permit movement between areas at different pressures.

air-mail [eərˌmeil] n. a system of transporting mail by aircraft, typically overseas. see: a letter carried by aircraft.

air-mail [eərˌmeil] n. a recent letter that I airmailed to Miss Sifton.
amphitheater

amphitheater ['amfθiθiər] n. (esp. in Greek and Roman architecture) a round building, typically unroofed, with a central space for the presentation of dramatic or sporting events. Tiered seats surround the central space, and a sloping, semicircular seating gallery; a lecture in the amphitheater of the hospital. a large circular hollow in rocks or hills.

amphora ['æmfoʊrə] n. (pl. -rae [-rrə] or -ra) a tall ancient Greek or Roman jar with two handles and a narrow neck.

amphicillin ['æmpiθiθiən] n. Med. a semisynthetic form of penicillin used chiefly to treat infections of the urinary and respiratory tracts.

amphidromy ['æmplidرومɪ] adj. (pler. -pler. -plerest) enough or more than enough; plentiful.

amphiterm ['æmplθiθərm] n. large and accommodating: his amphitheater chair.

amplifier ['æmplɪfaɪər] n. an electronic device for increasing the amplitude of electrical signals, used chiefly in sound reproduction.

amplitude ['æmplɪtjuːd] n. a device of this kind combined with a loudspeaker, used to amplify electric guitars and other musical instruments.

amplify ['æmplɪfaɪ] v. (fies. -fied) [tr] (often be amplified) increase the volume of sound, esp. using an amplifier.

amplification ['æmplɪfɪkeɪʃən] n. increase the amplitude of (an electrical signal or other oscillation).

amplitude modulation (abbr.: AM) n. the modulation of a wave by varying its amplitude, used chiefly as a means of radio broadcasting, in which an audio signal is combined with a carrier wave. Often contrasted with FREQUENCY MODULATION.

amplification (analog) n. the system of radio transmission using such modulation.

amplifier ['æmplɪfaɪər] n. a sealed container glass capsule having a liquid, esp. a measured quantity ready for injecting.

amputate ['æmˈpjuːteɪt] v. (tr) cut off (a limb), typically by surgical operation: surgeons had to amputate her left hand; the wounded had to have legs or arms amputated.

amputation ['æmˌpjuːteɪʃən] n. a person who has had a limb amputated.

amtrak ['æmtræk] n. an amphibious tracked vehicle used for landing assault troops on a shore.

amtrak ['æmtræk] n. trademark a federal passenger railroad service in the U.S. operated by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

amuk ['æmʌk] adj. variant spelling of AMOK.

amulet ['æmjuəlet] n. a small piece of jewelry thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease.

anamne ['ænəmni] v. (tr) cause (someone) to find something funny; entertain: he made faces at amuse her.

anamnesis ['ænəmniːsɪs] n. (pl. -ses [-sɪs]) detailed examination of the elements or structure of something, typically as a basis for discussion or analysis.
interpretation: an analysis of popular culture. ■ the process of separating something into its constituent elements. Often contrasted with synthesis. ■ the identification and measurement of the chemical constituents of a substance or specimen. ■ short for psychoanalytic. ■ linguistics the use of separate, short words and word order rather than inflection or agglutination to express grammatical structure. ■ math. the part of mathematics concerned with the theory of functions and the use of limits, continuity, and the operations of calculus.

analyst /əˌnælist/ n. a person who conducts analysis, in particular: ■ an investment expert, typically in a specified field: rising consumer confidence and falling oil prices are the keys to any upturn, many analysts believe. ■ short for psychoanalyst. ■ a chemist who analyzes substances. ■ used in systems analysis.

analytic /əˌnælitik/ adj. another term for analytical. ■ linguistics (of a language) tending not to alter the form of its words and to use word order rather than inflection or agglutination to express grammatical structure.

analytical /əˌnælitikəl/ adj. relating to or using analysis or logical reasoning: analytical methods. —ana-lytically adv. —ana-lytical adj.

analyse /ˌanəˈlais/ v. (tr.) examine methodically and in detail the constitution or structure of (something, esp. information), typically for purposes of explanation and interpretation: we need to analyze our results more clearly. ■ discover or reveal (something) through such examination: he tried to analyze exactly what was going on. ■ psychoanalyse (someone). ■ identify and measure the chemical components of (a substance or specimen). ■ gram. resolve (a sentence) into its grammatical elements: parse. —ana-lysing, —ana-lysed.

anaphora /əˈnæfərə/ n. 1. gram. the use of a word referring to or replacing a word used earlier in a sentence, in order to avoid repetition, as do in like and so do they. ■ rhetic the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses. —ana-phoric adj. —ana-phorically adv.

anaphrodisiac drug

anaphylaxis /əˌnæflɪˈkeɪs/ n. (also anaphylactic shock) Med. an extreme, often life-threatening, allergic reaction to an antigen (e.g., a bee sting) to which the body has become hypersensitive following an earlier exposure. —anaphylactic adj. —anaphylactically adv.

anarchism /əˈnærki-zəm/ n. belief in the abolition of all government and the organization of society on a voluntary, cooperative basis without recourse to force or compulsion. ■ anarchists as a political force or movement: socialism and anarchism emerged to offer organized protest against the injustices of Spanish society.

anarchist /əˈnærki-st/ n. a person who believes in or tries to bring about anarchy. —anarchistically adv. —anarchistic adj.

anarchic /əˈnærki-kIk/ adj. ■ relating to or supporting anarchy or anarchists: an anarchist newspaper. —anarchistically adv. —anarchistic adj.

anarchy /əˈnærki/ n. a state of disorder due to absence or nonrecognition of authority. ■ absence of government and absolute freedom of the individual, regarded as a political ideal. —anarchic adj. —anarchistically adv.

anastasis /əˈnæstəsɪs/ n. (pl. same or -sis) a member of an ancient (Greek) sect of eastern American people of the southwestern U.S., who flourished between c. 1500 B.C. and c. 1500.

anastomosis /əˈnæstəməsɪs/ n. (pl. same or -ses) technical a cross-connection between adjacent channels, fibers, or parts of a network. ■ Med. a connection made surgically between adjacent blood vessels, parts of the intestine, or other channels of the body, or the operation in which this is constructed. —anastomatic adj. & n.

anastrophe /əˈnæstrəf/ n. rhetic the inversion of the usual order of words or clauses.

anal thes-ma /əˈnæθəmə/ n. 1. something or someone that one vehemently dislikes: racial hatred was anathema to her. 2. a formal curse by a pope or a council of the church, excommunicating a person or decreeing a doctrine. ■ poetics, a strong curse.

anatemesize /əˈnætəmɪz/ v. (tr.) curse; condemn: she anathematized Tom as the destructor of a helpless widow.

anatomical /əˌnætekˈmɪkl/ adj. of or relating to bodily structure: anatomical abnormalities. ■ of or relating to anatomy: anatomical lectures. —anatomically adv.

anatomize /əˌnætəmɪz/ v. (tr.) dissect (a body). ■ examine and analyze in detail: successful surgery is notoriously difficult to anatomize.

anatomy /əˈnætəmI/ n. (pl. -mies) the branch of science concerned with the bodily structure of humans, animals, and other living organisms, esp. as revealed by dissection and the separation of parts. ■ the bodily structure of an organism: descriptions of the cat’s anatomy and behavior. ■ int., humorously a person’s body: he left dusty handprints on his lady customers’ ananatomies. ■ fig. a study of the structure or internal workings of something: Machiavelli’s anatomy of the art of war.

anato-my /əˈnætəmI/ n. (pl. -tוס) variant spelling of annatto.

ANC /əˈnæktI/ n. African National Congress.

ancestor /ənˈsestr/ n. a person, typically one more remote than a grandparent, from whom one is descended. ■ an early type of animal or plant from which others have evolved. ■ an early version of a machine, artifact, system, etc., that later became more developed.

ancient /əˈnɛsnt/ adj. of, belonging to, inherited from, or denoting an ancestor or ancestors: the family’s ancestral home.

anesthesia /ənˈsestrə/ n. (pl. -ties) one’s family or ethnic descent: his dark eyes came from his Jewish ancestry. ■ the evolutionary or genetic line of descent of an animal or plant: the ancestry of the rose is extremely complicated. ■ fig. the origin or background of something.

anchor /əˈnæktər/ n. 1. a heavy object attached to a rope or chain and used to moor a vessel to the sea bottom, typically one having a metal shank with a ring at one end for the rope and a pair of curved and/or barbed flukes at the other. ■ fig. a person or thing that provides stability or confidence in an otherwise uncertain situation: the European Community is the economic anchor of the New Europe. ■ in full anchor store a store, e.g., a department store, that is the principal tenant of a mall or a shopping center. ■ an anchorwoman or anchorwoman, esp. in broadcasting or athletics. —v. (tr.) moor (a ship) to the sea bottom with an anchor: the ship was anchored in the lee of the island | [pre] we anchored in the harbor. ■ secure firmly in position: with cords and pitons they anchored him to the rock. ■ provide with a firm basis or foundation: it is important that policy be anchored to some acceptable theoretical basis. 2. to act or serve as an anchor for (a news program or sporting event). —drop anchor (of a ship) let down the anchor and moor. —weigh (or raise or heave) anchor (of a ship) take up the anchor when ready to depart.

anchor with arm and flukes

mushroom anchor

anchor

anatoly /əˈnætəlI/ n. (pl. -mies) a branch of science concerned with the bodily structure of humans, animals, and other living organisms, esp. as revealed by dissection and the separation of parts. ■ the bodily structure of an organism: descriptions of the cat’s anatomy and behavior. ■ int., humorously a person’s body: he left dusty handprints on his lady customers’ ananatomies. ■ fig. a study of the structure or internal workings of something: Machiavelli’s anatomy of the art of war.

ancienne /əˌnɛsɛnt/ adj. belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence: the ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean. ■ having been in existence for a very long time: ancient forests. ■ chiefly humorous showing or feeling signs of age or wear: an ancient pair of jeans.
ancient

> n. archaic or humorous an old person; a solitary ancient in a twined jacket.

ancient-ness n.

ancient! n. archaic a standard, flag, or ensign.

ancillary /ənˈsərəl/ adj. providing necessary support to the primary activities or operation of an organization, institution, industry, or system: the development of ancillary services to support its products. additional; subsidiary; paragraph 19 was merely ancillary to paragraph 16.

n. (pl. -aries) a person whose work provides necessary support to the primary activities of an organization, institution, or industry: specialist teachers and ancillaries. something that functions in a supplementary or supporting role; undergraduate courses of three main subjects with related ancillaries. mid 17th cent.: from Latin ancillarius, from ancilla ‘maid-servant.’

and /ənd/ conj. 1 used to connect words of the same part of speech, clauses, or sentences that are to be taken jointly: bread and butter | red and black tiles. 2 used to connect two clauses when the second happens after the first: first and then, or when her hair. 3 used to connect two clauses, the second of which results from the first: do that once more, and I’ll skin you alive. 4 used to connect two identical comparatives, to emphasize a progressive change: getting better and better. 5 used to connect two identical clauses, implying great duration or great extent: I cried and cried. 6 used to connect two identical words to indicate that things of the same class or name have different qualities: all human conduct is determined or caused—but there are causes and causes.

and/or or either or both of two stated possibilities: audio and video.

andante /ənˈdɑntə/ Mus. adj. & adv. (esp. as a direction) in a moderately slow tempo.

andante-no /ənˈdɑntəno/ Mus. adj. & adv. (esp. as a direction) of or at any one.

and-rünst /ənˈdrɪnst/ n. a metal support, typically one of a pair, that holds wood burning in a fireplace.

Andrew-sar-chus /ənˈdrɔʊdʒərəkəs/ n. a large carnivorous mammal (Andrewsarchus mongoliensis, order Creodonta) of the Eocene epoch.

andro-gen /ənˈdɹoʊdʒən/ n. Biochem. a male sex hormone, such as testosterone. —andro-genic /ənˈdɹoʊjenɪk/ adj.

andro-gynous /ənˈdrɪgroʊnəs/ adj. partly male and partly female in appearance; of indeterminate sex. having the physical characteristics of both sexes; hermaphroditic. —andro-gyny /ənˈdɹoʊdʒəni/ n.

andro-droid /ənˈduːrdɔɪd/ n. (in science fiction) a robot with a human appearance.

anecdote /ənˈɛdət/ n. a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person. he had a rich store of anecdotes. an account regarded as unreliable or hearsay: his wife’s death has long been the subject of rumor and anecdote. the depiction of a minor narrative incident in a painting.. —an-edotal /ənˈɛdətəl/ adj.

ane-mia /ənˈɛmə/ (Brit. an-e-mia) n. a condition marked by a deficiency of red blood cells or of hemoglobin in the blood, resulting in pallor and weakness.

ane-mic /ənˈɛmɪk/ (Brit. an-e-mic) adj. suffering from anemia. lig. lacking in color, spirit, or vitality.

an-e-mom-e-tr /ənˈɛməmətər/ n. an instrument for measuring the speed of the wind, or the rate of egress of gas. —an-e-mometric /ənˈɛməmətrɪk/ adj.

an-e-mone /ənˈɛmənə/ n. 1 a widely distributed, often cultivated plant (genus Anemone) of the buttercup family, typically bearing brightly colored flowers. 2 short for SEA ANEMONE. mid 16th cent.: said to be from Greek anemone, literally ‘daughter of the wind.’

an-eroid /ənˈɛrɔɪd/ adj. relating to or denoting a barometer that measures air pressure by the action in the deforming elastic lid of an evacuated box or chamber.

an-es-the-sia /ənˈɛsiθəsə/ (Brit. an-es-the-sia) n. a state —an-es-the-si-o-logy /ənˈɛsiθəsələˈjoʊ/ (also Brit. an-es-the-si-o-logy) n. the branch of medicine concerned with anesthesia and anesthetics. —an-es-the-si-o-gist /ənˈɛsiθəsəˈdʒist/ n.

an-es-the-tic /ənˈɛsθətɪk/ (Brit. an-es-the-tic) n. a substance that induces insensitivity to pain.

adj. inducing or relating to insensitivity to pain.

an-es-the-list /ənˈɛsθəlst/ n. a medical specialist who administers anesthesia.

an-es-the-lize /ənˈɛsθələˌzaɪz/ v. [tr.] administer an anesthetic to. fig. deprive of feeling or awareness: tragedy of a magnitude that anesthetizes the mind. —an-es-the-liza-tion /ənˈɛsθələˌzaʃən/ n.

an-eu-rism /ənˈiərɪzəm/ (also aneurism) n. Med. an excessive localized enlargement of an artery caused by a weakening of the artery wall. —an-eu-rysmal /ənˈiərɪsməl/ adj.

anew /ənˈiə/ adv. chiefly poetically in a new or different, typically more positive, way: her career had begun anew, with a lucrative Japanese modeling contract. once more; again: tears filled her eyes anew.

angel /ˈæŋɡəl/ n. 1 a spiritual being believed to act as an attendant, agent, or messenger of God, conventionally represented in human form with wings and a long robe. 2 an attendant spirit, esp. a benevolent one: there was an angel watching over me. 3 int. a financial backer of an enterprise, typically in the theater. 4 in traditional Christian theology, a being of the lowest order of the celestial hierarchy. 2 a person of exemplary conduct or virtue: I know I’m no angel. 5 used in similes or comparisons to refer to a person’s outstanding beauty, qualities, or abilities: you sure are an angel. 6 used in approval when a person has been or is expected to be kind or willing to oblige: be an angel and let us in. 7 used as a term of endearment. 3 (angels) int. Aviation an aircraft’s altitude (often used with a numeral indicating thousands of feet): we rendezvous at angels nine.

angel dust n. int. the hallucinogenic drug phenylcyclidine hydrochloride.

angel-fish /ˈæŋɡəlfɪʃ/ n. (pl. same or -fishes) any of a number of laterally compressed deep-bodied fish with extended dorsal and anal fins. 2 n. in the freemasonry, the fraternal or chivalric Porphyrion scalpale, native to the Amazon basin. 3 the gray angelfish (Pomacanthus arcuatus, family Pomacanthidae), a coastal marine fish.

anglic /ˈæŋɡlɪk/ adj. of or relating to angels: the angelic hosts. 2 of a person exceptionally beautiful, innocent, or kind: she looks remarkably young and angelic. —anglic-ical adj. —anglic-ically adv.

Angelus /ˈæŋɡələs/ (also angelus) n. a Roman Catholic devotion commemorating the Incarnation of Jesus and including the Hail Mary, said at morning, noon, and sunset.

anger /ˈæŋɡər/ n. a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility: the colonel’s anger at his daughter’s disobedience. —v. [tr.] often be angered fill (someone) with such a feeling: provoke anger: she was angered by his terse answer.

angina /ˈæŋɡɪnə/ n. 1 also angina pectoris /ˈpɛktəris/ a condition marked by severe pain in the chest, caused by an inadequate blood supply to the heart. 2 any of a number of disorders in which there is an intense localized pain: Ludwig’s angina.

angio-gram /ˈæŋɡəˌɡræm/ n. an X-ray photograph of blood or lymph vessels, made by angiography.

angio-sperm /ˈæŋɡəˌspɜrm/ n. Bot. a plant that has flowers and produces seeds enclosed within a carpel. The angiosperms are a large group and include herbaceous plants, shrubs, grasses, and most trees.

Angle /ˈæŋɡəl/ n. a member of a Germanic people, originally inhabitants of what is now Schleswig-Holstein, who migrated to England in the 5th century AD.

angle /ˈæŋɡəl/ n. 1 the space (usually measured in degrees) between two intersecting lines or surfaces at or close to the point where they meet. 2 a corner, esp. an external projection or an internal recess of a part of a building or other structure: a skylight in the angle of the roof. 3 a line or string of two lines or surfaces with respect to each other, equal to the amount that one would have to be turned in order to point in the same direction as the other: sloping at an angle of 30° to the horizon. 4 a position from which something is viewed or along which it travels or acts, often as measured by its inclination from an implicit horizontal or vertical baseline: camera angles. 2 a particular way of approaching or considering an issue or problem.

Pronunciation Key a ago, up; or over, fur; a hat; a: att; a: car; ch chin; o let; 6 sec; o(r) air; i: fed; i: by; i: (r) ear; ng sing; o: go; l: fur; 3: to; oo good; oo go; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; (b): why; zh vision
anima
typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general: adolescent angst.

angst ['æŋst] n. a sense of feeling persistently worried about something trivial: my hair causes me angst.

angry ['æŋri] adj. having a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility; full of anger: why are you angry with me?

angry ['æŋri] adj. [-grier, -griest] having a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility; full of anger: why are you angry with me?

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animosity

an-I-mos-i-ty, an-I-mās-tēt [an-I-mās-tēt] n. (pl. -ties) strong hostility. he no longer felt any animosity toward her; the animosity between the King and his brother.

an-i-mus [a-ni-mus] n. 1 hostility or ill feeling: the author’s animus toward her. 2 motivation to do something: the reformist animus came from within the Party. 3 Psychol. Jung’s term for the masculine part of a woman’s personal unconscious.

an-i-on [a-nē-on] n. Chem. a negatively charged ion, i.e., one that would be attracted to the anode in electrolysis. The opposite of cation. —an-i-on-ic [a-nē-on-ik] adj.

an-i-se [a-nē-sē] n. 1 a Mediterranean plant (Pimpinella anisum) of the parsley family, cultivated for its aromatic seeds, used in cooking and herbal medicine. 2 an Asian or American tree or shrub (genus Illicium) that has a fruit with an anise-like odor, esp. star anise (I. verum), used in Chinese cooking.

an-i-seed [a-nē-seed] n. the seed of the anise.

an-kh [a-nēkh] n. 1 an object or design resembling a cross but having a loop instead of the top arm, used in ancient Egypt as a symbol of life.

an-kle [a-nēk] n. the joint connecting the foot with the leg. the narrow part of the leg between the foot and the calf.

an-key-lo-sis, an-key-lo-sis [a-nē-ky-lō-sis] n. Med. abnormal stiffening and immobility of a joint due to fusion of the bones. —an-key-ly-tic [a-nē-ky-lit-ik] adj.


an-nals [a-nalz] n. pl. a record of events yearly by year: eighth-century Northumbrian annals. —historical records: the annals of the discoverers. —Annals (Annais) used in the titles of learned journals.

an-na-tol-o-gy [a-nə-təl-ə-ji] n. (also Anatology) n. (pl. -logies) 1 an orange-red dye obtained from the pulp of a tropical fruit, used for coloring foods and fabric. 2 the tropical American tree (Ixora cincta) family Bixaceae, from which this fruit is obtained.

an-nee [a-nē] n. [tr. or n. v.] heat (metal or glass) and allow it to cool slowly, in order to remove internal stresses and toughen it. Biochem. recombine (DNA) in the double-stranded form following separation by heat. —an-nee-er n.

an-ne-lid [a-nē-lid] n. any of various segmented worms, including earthworms and leeches. —adj. of or relating to annelids.

an-ne-x [a-nēks] n. [pl. -nexes] 1 an expanse (often be annexed) append or add as an extra or subordinate part, esp. to a document: the first ten amendments were annexed to the Constitution in 1791. 2 add (territory) to one’s own territory by appropriation. Moldova was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. 3. int. take for oneself; appropriate. —archaic add or attach as a condition or consequence.

annex v. [a-nēkst] n. a building joined to or associated with a main building, providing additional space or accommodations; 2 an addition to a document; an annex to the report. —an-nee-xation, an-nee-xa-tion-ist n. & adj.


an-ni-hi-lator [a-nē-ni-hē-lat-er] n.

an-ni-hi-lation [a-nē-ni-hē-lā-shōn] n.

an-ni-ver-sary [a-nē-vər-sar-i] n. [pl. -aries] the date on which an event took place in a previous year: the 50th anniversary of the start of World War II. 2 the date on which a country or other institution was founded in a previous year: Canada’s 125th anniversary. 3 the date on which a couple was married in a previous year: he forgot our tenth anniversary!

an-no-tate [a-nō-tāt] v. [tr.] add notes to (a text or diagram) giving explanation or comment: documentation should be annotated with explanatory notes. —an-no-ta-ta-ble adj.

an-nounce [ə-noun스] v. [tr.] make a public and typically formal declaration about a fact, occurrence, or intention: the president’s office announced that the state of siege would be lifted. he announced his retirement from football.

an-ny [a-ni] n. a small, mainly arboreal American lizard (genus Anolis) of the iguana family, with a throat fan that (in the male) is typically brightly colored. Anoles have some ability to change color. Also called CHAMELEON.

Pronunciation Key ə agu, ə pr; or ar; jor; a bat; a tae; a car; ch chin; ə let; ə sec; ə(tr) air; ɨ j; ɨ jai; ə ng; si ng; ə gr; ə law; for; of; to; əv good; əv go; əv out; ɨ sh she; ə th thin; ɨ the; əhw why; əh vision
anxious: the housekeeper's cager anxiety to please. • Psychiatry a nervous disorder characterized by a state of excessive uneasiness and apprehension, typically with compulsive behavior or panic attacks.

anxious /'ænıkəs/ adj. 1 experiencing worry, unease, or nervousness, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome: she was anxious about her exams. • (of a period of time or situation) causing or characterized by worry or nervousness: some anxious moments. 2 wanting something very much, typically with a feeling of unease: the company was anxious to avoid trouble. —anxiously adv. —anxious-ness n.

any /'eni/ adj., pron. 1 used to refer to one or some of a thing or number of things, no matter how many or many: [as adj.] I don't have any choice | [as pron.] someone asked him for a match, but Joe didn't have any. 2 any person of importance: everybody who was in state government turned out to be involved. any-how /'eni.hou/ adv. another term for ANYWAY. 2 in a careless or haphazard way: two suitcases flung anyhow.

any-more /'eni.mɔr/ adv. [also any more] [usu. with negative or in questions] to any further extent; any longer: she refused to listen anymore you don't get men like him anymore.

any-one /'eni.wa:n/ pron. 1 any person or people: there wasn't anyone there | does anyone remember him? used for emphasis: anyone could do it. 2 a person of importance or authority: they're read by anyone who's read any thing.

any-place /'eni.pləs/ adv. informal term for ANYWHERE.

anything /'enɪθɪŋ/ adj. 1 used to refer to a thing, or no matter what: nobody was saying anything. 2 used for emphasis: I was ready for anything. 3 used to indicate a range: he trains anything from seven to eight hours a day. 4 anything but not at all (used for emphasis): he is anything but racist.

as /əz/ — as anything int. extremely: she said it out loud, clear as anything.

any-way /'eni.waɪ/ adv. 1 used to confirm or support a point just mentioned: it's all right, and anyway, it was my fault. 2 used in questions to emphasize the speaker's wish to obtain the truth: What are you doing here, anyway? 3 used in conversations: to change the subject or to resume a subject: How are you doing these days? Anyway, I really hate this, I want to end the conversation: “Anyway, I must go.” 4 used to indicate that the speaker is passing over less significant aspects in order to focus on important points: “John always enjoyed a drink. Anyway, he died last year.” 5 used to indicate that something happened or will happen in spite of something else: nobody invited Miss Honey to sit down so she sat down anyway.

any-where /'eni.hʊər/ adv. in or to any place: he couldn't be found anywhere. 2 used for emphasis: I could go anywhere in the world. 3 used to indicate a range: this iron garden seat dates anywhere from 1890 to 1920.

Anzac /ˈæn.zæk/ n. a soldier in the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (1914–18).

A-OK (also A-Okay) int. adv. in good order or condition; all right: everything will be A-OK.

aorta /ˈɔrətə/ n. the main artery of the body, supplying oxygenated blood to the circulatory system. —aortic /əˈtɔrɪk/ adj.

apace /ˈæpəs/ adv. poetically, swiftly; quickly: work continues apace.

A-pache /ˈɑːpəʃ/ n. 1 (pl. same or A-paches) a member of a North American Indian people living in New Mexico and Arizona. 2 the Athabaskan language of this people. —adj. of or relating to the Apache or their language.

aphasic /ˈæfəsik/ adj. [usu. with negative or in questions] used for emphasis: I was ready for anything. —aphasia /ˈæfəsər/ n. a speech impediment, typically caused by brain damage, that results in the loss of the ability to understand or express speech, caused by brain damage. —aphasic /ˈæfəsɪk/ adj. & n.

aphelion /ˈæfɪliən/ n. Astron. the point in the orbit of a planet, asteroid, or comet at which it is furthest from the sun: Mars is at aphelion. The opposite of perihelion.

aphesis /ˈæfɪsɪs/ n. Linguistics the loss of an unstressed vowel at the beginning of a word (e.g., for from around to form round). —aphetic /ˈæfɪtɪk/ adj. —aphetically adv.

aphid /ˈæfɪd/ n. 1 a minute bug (superfamily Aphidoidea) that feeds by sucking sap from plants. 2 an aphid, esp. one of the genus Aphis.

aphid /ˈæfɪd/ n. 1 a minute bug (superfamily Aphidoidea) that feeds by sucking sap from plants. 2 an aphid, esp. one of the genus Aphis.

A-point /ˈɑːptənt/ n. a suite of rooms forming one body, typically in a building containing a number of these. 2 a large building containing such suites; an apartment building. —apartments a suite of rooms in a very large or grand house set aside for the private use of a monarch or noble: the Imperial apartments. 3 mid 17th cent. (denoting a suite of rooms for the use of a particular person or group); from French appartement, from Italian appartamento, from appartare 'to separate,' from a partir 'apart.'
appealing  adj. being attractive or interesting; the popular appeal of football. —ap·peal·ing

ap·peal·ing [-pəˈliŋɡ] adj. 1 attractive or interesting. 2 (of an expression or tone of voice) showing that one wants help or sympathy. —ap·peal·ing·ly adv.

ap·pear [-əˈpîr] v. [int.] 1 come into sight; become visible or noticeable, typically without visible agent or apparent cause. 2 come into existence or use: the major life forms appeared on earth. 3 (of a book) be published: the paperback edition didn’t appear for another two years. 4 feature: the symbol appears in many paintings of goddesses. 5 perform formally in a movie, play, etc.: he appeared on Broadway. 6 (of an accused person, witness, or lawyer) make an official appearance in a court of law. 7 (of an object) appear in a large volume or a large edition: of the 10,000 books published in the United States every year, most are never reprinted. 8 see: give the appearance of being: she appeared not to know what was happening; it appears unlikely that interest rates will fall; he appeared unaware of the rebuke.

ap·pear·ance [-əˈpîrəns] n. 1 the way that someone or something looks: like the appearance of striped antique pine. 2 an impression given by someone or something, although this may be misleading: she read it with every appearance of interest. 3 a way of performing or participating in a public event: he is well known for his television appearances. 4 an act of becoming visible or noticeable; an arrival: the sudden appearance of her daughter startled her. 5 a process of coming into existence or use: the appearance of the railroad.

ap·pear·ance [-əˈpîrəns] n. keep up appearances maintain an impression of wealth or well-being, typically to hide the true situation. make (or put in) an appearance attend an event briefly, typically out of courtesy. to (or by) all appearances as far as can be seen.

ap·pease [-əˈpîs] v. [tr.] 1 pacify or placate (someone) by acceding to their demands. 2 relieve or satisfy (a demand or a feeling). —ap·peas·ment n. —ap·peaser n.

ap·pel·lant [-əˈpîlənt] n. Law a person who applies to a higher court for a reversal of the decision of a lower court.

ap·pel·late [-əˈpîlət] adj. Law (typically of a court) concerned with or dealing with applications for decisions to be reversed.

ap·pel·la·tion [-əˈpîləˈshən] n. Law (typically of a court) with an appeal concerned or with an appeal concerning applications for decisions to be reversed.

ap·pend [-əˈpînd] v. [tr.] add (something) as an attachment or supplement: the results of the survey are appended to this chapter.

ap·pend·age [-əˈpîndij] n. (often with negative connotations) a thing that is added to something else in order to do something more important: they append Scotland as a mere appendage of England. 2 Biot a projecting part of an invertebrate or other living organism, with a different function or function: many species have specialized appendages.

ap·pen·dec·to·my [-əˈpînətəˈmî] n. (pl. -mies) a surgical operation to remove the appendix.

ap·pen·di·ci·tis [-əˈpînədəˈsîts] n. a serious medical condition in which the appendix becomes inflamed and painful.

ap·pen·di·x [-əˈpînəks] n. (pl. -dices, -diˌsēz, -diˌsēz) 1 Anat. a tubular organ attached to and opening into the lower end of the large intestine in humans and some other mammals. Also called VERMIFORM APPENDIX. 2 a section or a part of a document or a part of an article.

ap·per·cep·tion [-əˈpîpərˈsepshən] n. dated Psychol the mental process by which a person makes sense of an idea by assimilating it to the body of ideas he or she already possesses. • fully conscious perception. —ap·per·cep·ti·ve [-tīv] adj.

ap·per·tain [-əˈpîrən] v. [int.] 1 (appertain) relate to; concern: the answers appertain to improvements in standards. 2 be appropriate or applicable: the institutional arrangements that appertain under the system.

ap·pel·ti·le [-əˈpîltil] n. a natural desire to satisfy a bodily need, esp. for food: he has a healthy appetite. 2 a strong desire or liking for something: an unconventional appetite as can be seen.

ap·pel·ti·zer [-əˈpîlˌtər] n. a small dish of food or a drink taken before a meal or the main course of a meal to stimulate one's appetite.

ap·pel·ti·zing [-əˈpîlˌtiˌzîŋ] also ap·pel·ti·zing·ly adv. stimulating one's appetite: the appetizing aroma of sizzling bacon. —ap·pel·ti·zing·ly adv.

ap·pl·a·n·d·ed [-əˈpləˈpləd] v. [tr.] show approval or praise by clapping: the crowd whistled and applauded. 2 [tr.] show strong approval of (a person or action): praise: Jill applauded the decision.

ap·pl·a·sue [-əˈpləs] n. approval or praise expressed by clapping: they gave him a round of applause.

ap·ple [-əˈpîl] n. 1 the round fruit of a tree of the rose family, typically with thin red or green skin and crisp flesh. 2 an unrelated fruit that resembles this in some way. 3 (also apple tree) the tree (genus Malus) bearing such fruit.

ap·ple·jack [-əˈpîlˌjak] n. an alcoholic drink distilled from fermented cider.

ap·ple·jack [-əˈpîlˌjak] n. a device or piece of equipment designed to perform a specific task, typically a domestic appliance: electrical and gas appliances. 2 an apparatus fitted by a surgeon or a dentist for corrective surgical or tooth roots.

ap·ple·jack [-əˈpîlˌjak] n. relevant or appropriate: some of the considerations are equally applicable to accident claims. —ap·ple·jack·ly adj.

ap·pl·o·lent [-əˈpîlənt] n. a person who makes a formal application for something, typically a job.

ap·pl·ica·tion [-əˈpîləˈkeiʃən] n. 1 a formal request to an authority or the process of making such a request. 2 the act of putting something into effect: the application of general rules to particular cases. 3 practical use or relevance: this principle has no application to the present case. 4 the act of putting points into action: the application of a mental test.

ap·plic·a·tor [-əˈpîlətər] n. a device used for inserting something or for applying something to a surface. 2 a person who applies a substance or instills something, such as house siding.

ap·plied [-əˈpîld] adj. (of a subject or type of study) put to practical use as opposed to being theoretical: applied chemistry.

ap·plic·qué [-əˈpîlˌkə] n. ornamented needlework in which pieces of fabric are sewn or stuck onto a large piece of fabric to form patterns.

ap·ply [-əˈpîl] v. [trans. -plied, -plied] 1 [intr.] make a formal application or request: you need to apply to the local authorities for a grant. 2 [intr.] be applicable or relevant: normal rules apply. 3 [tr.] put or spread (something) on a surface: the seed can be applied to new wood.

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ap·prais·al [-əˈprîzəl] n. an act of assessing something or someone: a
thorough appraisal of the patient's condition. ■ an expert estimate of the value of something.

appraise [əˈprɛz] v. [tr.] assess the value or quality of: she stealthily appraised him in a pocket mirror without his noticing it. [intr.] the interviewer's job is to appraise and evaluate. ■ (of an official or expert) set a price on; value: they appraised the painting at $200,000. ■ appraisingly adv.
appraisal a-prə-səl n. adj. large or important enough to be noticed: tea and coffee both contain appreciable amounts of caffeine. —appraisal-ly adv.
appraise [əˈprɛz] v. [tr.] 1 recognize the full worth of: feels that he does not appreciate her. ■ be grateful for (something): I'd appreciate any information you could give me. 2 understand (a situation) fully; recognize the full implications of: they failed to appreciate the pressure he was under. ■ [intr.] rise in value or price: they expected the house to appreciate in value. —appraisably adv. —appraiser a-prə-sər n.
apprication a-prə-ˈkraʃən n. 1 the recognition and enjoyment of the good qualities of someone or something: I smiled in appreciation. ■ gratitude for something: they would be the first to show their appreciation. ■ a piece of writing in which the qualities of a person or the person's work are discussed and assessed. ■ sensitive understanding of the aesthetic value of something: courses in music appreciation. 2 a full understanding of a situation: they have an appreciation of the needs of users. ■ an increase in monetary value: the appreciation of the pound against the dollar.
apprehend a-prə-ˈhend v. [tr.] (usu. be apprised) employ (someone) as an apprentice: Edward was apprised to a printer. ■ [intr.] serve as an apprentice: she apprenticed with midwives in San Francisco. —appriser a-prə-ˈzir n.
apprise [əˈprɛz] v. [tr.] inform or tell (someone): I thought it right to apprise Chris of what had happened. ■ a sense of awareness or anticipation (something) with uneasiness or fear. ■ an apprehension of something bad or unpleasant will happen: he felt sick with apprehension. 2 understanding; grasp: the pure apprehension of the work of art. 3 the act of apprehending (someone) or the state of being apprehended (someone) and act with intent to prevent lawful apprehension. —apprehensive a-prə-hens-əv adj. 1 anxious or fearful that something bad or unpleasant will happen. ■ archaic or poetical, of or relating to perception or understanding. —apprehensively adv. —apprehensiveness a-prə-hensiv-əs n.
apprentice a-prəntis n. a person who is learning a trade from a skilled employer, having agreed to work for a fixed period at low wages. ■ [usu. as adj.] a beginner at something: an apprentice confidence trickster.
aprophone a-prə-fon v. [tr.] (usu. be apprised) employ (someone) as an apprentice: Edward was apprised to a printer. ■ [intr.] serve as an apprentice: she apprenticed with midwives in San Francisco. —appriser a-prə-ˈzir n.
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architect /ˈarkɪˌtek/t n. a person who designs buildings and in many cases also supervises their construction. • a person who is responsible for inventing or realizing a particular idea or project: a chief architect of the plan to slash income taxes.

architectonic /ˌarkɪˈtekˈtɒnik/ adj. of or relating to architecture or architects. • (of an artistic composition or physical appearance) having a clearly defined structure, esp. one that is artistically pleasing.

arch- | /ɑrˈkɛ/ | adj., n. a curved symmetrical structure spanning an opening and typically supporting the weight of a bridge, roof, or wall above it. • a structure of this type forming a passageway or a ceremonial monument: a triumphal arch. • a shape resembling such a structure or a thing with such a shape: the delicate arch of his eyebrows.

archaic /ɑrˈkɛik/ adj. very old or old-fashioned. • [of a word or a style of language] no longer used in everyday use but sometimes used to impart an old-fashioned flavor. • of an early period of art or culture, esp. the 7th-6th centuries bc in Greece.

arch-day /ˈɑrkəˌdeɪ/ n. a senior clergyman (in the early Church a deacon), in the Anglican Church a priest to whom a bishop delegates certain responsibilities.

arch- | /ɑrˈkɛ/ | adj., n. a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people. • the place where such documents or records are kept.

architect /ˈarkɪˌtek/t n. 1 (in classical architecture) a main beam resting across the tops of columns, specifically the lower third entablature. 2 the molded frame around a doorway or window.

arch- | /ɑrˈkɛ/ | adj., n. a bass lute with an extended neck and stopped bass strings.

arch | /ɑr/ | n. a curved structure forming a passage or entrance.

arch | /ɑr/ | n. 1 (the Arctic) the regions around the North Pole. 2 thick waterproof overshirts.

arch | /ɑr/ | n. a technique in which metals are welded using heat generated by an electric arc.

dent | /dɑnt/ | adj., n. a tooth-shaped cavity in a bone, tooth, etc.

dent | /dɑnt/ | adj., n. a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people. • the place where such documents or records are kept.

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reddenet patch around a spot or papule. —are-o-lar adj. —are-o-late

arete /a'ret/ n. a sharp mountain ridge.

argent /ær'gɛnt/ adj. poetic lit. & Heraldic silver; silvery white; the argent moon.

argon /ær'ɡɔrn/ n. the chemical element of atomic number 18, an inert gaseous element of the noble gas group. (Symbol: Ar)

Argos /'argəs/ n. (pl. -sies) poetolit. a large merchant ship, originally one from Ragusa (now Dubrovnik) or Venice.

argot /'arɡɔt/ n. the jargon or slang of a particular group or class.

arguable /'arɡəʊəbəl/ adj. able to be argued or asserted: it is arguable that egg donation raises a series of moral and practical problems. —argu-ably adv.

argue /'argu/ v. (drew, gued, guing) 1 [tr] give reasons or cite evidence in support of an idea, action, or theory, typically with the aim of persuading others to share one's view; defend arguments assert that the point is not arguable: there is no point in arguing about this. 2 [intr] exchange or express diverging or opposing views, typically in a heated or angry way; don't argue with me. | [tr] she was too tired to argue the point. —arguer n.

argument /'arɡəment/ n. 1 an exchange of diverging or opposing views, typically a heated or angry one: I've had an argument with my father. 2 a reason or set of reasons given with the aim of persuading others that an action or idea is right or wrong; there is a strong argument for submitting a formal appeal. 3 Math. an independent variable associated with a function and determining the value of the function. 4 Compute a value or address passed to a procedure or function at the time of call. 5 argumentation /'arɡəmentɑːʃən/ n. the action or process of reasoning systematically in support of an idea, action, or theory. 6 argumentative /'arɡəmentətɪv/ adj. 1 given to expressing divergent or opposing views: an argumentative child. 2 using or characterized by systematic reasoning: the highest standards of argumentative rigor. —argumentatively adv. —argumentativeness n.

argus /'arɡəs/ n. (Argus) Greek Mythol. a monster with a hundred eyes, used by Hera to watch over Io. 2 an alert, watchful guardian.

aria /'arɪə/ n. Mus. an accompanied song for a solo voice, typically in an opera or oratorio.

arid /'arid/ adj. of (kind of) a climate having little or no rain; too dry or barren to support vegetation. —aridly adv. —aridness n.

Aries /'eɪrɪəz/ n. 1 Astron. a small constellation (the Ram), said to represent the ram whose Golden Fleece was sought by Jason and the Argonauts. 2 [as genitive] (in reference to) the preceding letter or numeral to designate stars: the star Beta Aretis. 3 Astron. the first sign of the zodiac, which the sun enters at the vernal equinox (about March 20). 4 (an Aries, pl. aries) (part. past) a person born when the sun is in this sign.

aright /'a(r)ɪt/ adj. adv. dial. correctly, properly: I wondered if I'd heard aright.

ari /'a(r)i/ n. Bot. an extra seed-covering, typically hairy or fleshy, e.g., the red fleshy cup around a yew seed. —arially adj. —ari-ality n.

arise /'ərerz/ v. (past arrose /'ərəs/; past part. arisen /ər'ɜzn/; intr.) 1 [of a problem, or situation] emerge: become apparent, that difficulties had arisen, to come into being: originate: the practice arose in the sixteenth century. 2 [arise from or out of] occur as a result of: most conflicts arise from ignorance or uncertainty. 3 formal or poetolit. get or stand up.

aristocracy /'arɪstəkrəsɪ/ n. (pl. -cies) [treated as sing. or pl.] (usu. the aristocracy) the highest class in certain societies, esp. those holding hereditary titles or offices. 2 a form of government in which power is held by the nobility. 3 a state governed in this way: a group regarded as privileged or superior in a particular sphere: high-level technocrats make up a large part of this "technocratic aristocracy." 4 late 15th cent.: from Old French aristocratic, from Greek aristokratia, from aristos 'best' + kratos 'power.' The term originally denoted the government of a state by its best citizens, later by the rich and well-born, hence the sense 'nobility,' regardless of the form of government (mid 17th cent.).
fore a court to answer a criminal charge; her sister was arraigned on attempt murder charges. • find fault with (someone or something): censure. —ar-rain-ment n.

arrange /əˈreɪndʒ/ v. [tr.] 1 put (things) in a neat, attractive, or required order; she had just finished arranging the flowers. 2 organize or make plans for (a future event); they hoped to arrange a meeting. • [intr.] reach agreement about an action or event in advance; I arranged with my boss to have the time off; • ensure that (something) is done or provided by organizing it; arrangements must be made for him to be treated. 3 Mus. adapt (a composition) for performance with instruments or voices other than those originally specified; songs arranged for piano and violin. —arrange-a-ble adj. —arrange-r n.

arrangement /əˈreɪndʒmənt/ n. 1 the action, process, or result of arranging or being arranged: the arrangement of windows failed to take into account; 2 (usu. arrangements) plans or preparations for a future event; all the arrangements for the wedding were made. • an agreement with someone; the travel agents have an arrangement with the hotel. 3 Mus. a composition adapted for performance with different instruments or voices than those originally specified; Mozart’s symphonies in arrangements for cello and piano. 4 arrange a settlement of a dispute or claim.

arrant /əˈrænt/ adj. dated complete, utter; what arrant nonsense!

array /əˈreɪ/ n. 1 an impressive display or range of a particular type of thing: a vast array of literature on the topic. 2 an ordered arrangement, in particular: an arrangement of troops. • Math. an arrangement of quantities or symbols in one or more rows or columns; a matrix. • Comput. an ordered set of related elements. • poetic/elaborate or beautiful clothing; he was dressed in fine array.

arrow /ˈərəʊ/ v. [tr.] (usu. be arrayed) display or arrange (things) in a particular way; arrayed across the table was a buffet. • [tr.] (usu. be arrayed in) dress someone in (the clothes specified); they were arrayed in Hungarian national dress.

arrars /əˈreɪz/ n. money that is owed and should have been paid earlier; the arrears of rent. —ar-rear-age /əˈreɪdʒ-ij/ n.

• in arrears (also Chiefly Law in arrear) behind in paying money that is owed; two out of three lessees are in arrears. • (of payments made or due for wages, rent, etc.) at the end of each period of work or occupancy; you will be paid monthly in arrears.

arrest /əˈrest/ v. [t.r.] 1 seize (someone) by legal authority and take into custody: the police arrested him for possession of marijuana. 2 stop or check (progress or a process); the spread of the disease can be arrested | as adj [arrested] arrest development may occur. 3 attract the attention of (someone); his attention was arrested by a strange sound.

• n. 1 the action of seizing someone to take into custody; I have a warrant for your arrest; they placed her under arrest. 2 a stoppage or sudden cessation of motion: a car accident.

arival /əˈrɪvəl/ n. the action or process of arriving; he was dead on arrival at the hospital. • a person who has arrived somewhere. • the emergence or appearance of a new development, phenomenon, or product; the arrival of democracy. • such a new development, phenomenon, or product; sociology is a relatively new arrival on the academic scene.

arive /əˈrɪv/ v. [t.r.] reach a place at the end of a journey or a stage in a journey; we arrived at his house and knocked at the door. • (of a thing) be brought or delivered: the invitation arrived a few days later. • arrive at (reach a conclusion or decision); they arrived at the same conclusion. • (of an event or a particular moment) happen or come; we will be in touch with them when the time arrives. • (of a new development or product) come into existence or use; microcomputers arrived at the start of the 1970s. • (of a baby) be born. • n achieve success or recognition.

ar-rivista /əˈrɪvɪsta/ n. an ambitious or ruthlessly self-seeking person, esp. one who has recently acquired wealth or social status.

arrogant /əˈrɒgənt/ adj. having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one’s own importance or abilities. —arrogance n. —arrogantly adv.

arrogation /əˈrɒgəʃən/ n. take or claim (something) for oneself without justification; they arrogate to themselves the ability to divine the nature of reality.

arrow /ˈərəʊ/ n. 1 a shaft sharpened at the front and with feathers or vanes at the back, shot from a bow as a weapon or for sport. 2 a mark or sign resembling an arrow, used to show direction or position; a pointer: we drove in the main gate and followed a series of arrows.

arrowhead /ˈərəʊ,hed/ n. 1 the pointed end of an arrow, typically wedge-shaped. • a decorative device resembling an arrowhead. 2 an aquatic or semiaquatic plant (genus Sagittaria, family Alismataceae) with arrow-shaped leaves and three-petaled white flowers. Several species include the common broad-leaved arrowhead (S. latifolia).
with others in a newspaper, magazine, or other publication. 3 a separate clause or paragraph of a legal document or agreement, typically one outlining a single rule or regulation: [as adj.] Article 7 of the treaty.
4 Gram. see DEFINITE ARTICLE, INDEFINITE ARTICLE.

artistic adj. [Art. | art·is·ty] adj. (of an artist or the art) bound by the terms of a contract, as one of an apprenticeship.
	n an article of faith a firmly held belief: it was an article of faith that women must free themselves.
	n the genuine article a person or thing considered to be an authentic and excellent example of their kind.

articulate [ərˈtɪkjʊleɪt] adj. of or relating to a joint or the joints: articulating cartilage.

articulated adj. [ərˈtɪkjʊleɪtɪd] 1 (of a person or a person’s words) having or showing the ability to speak fluently and coherently: an articulate account of their experiences. 2 having joints or jointed segments.

articulation [ərˈtɪkjʊleɪʃən] n. 1 the action of putting into words an idea or feeling of a specified type: it would involve the articulation of a theory of the just war. 2 the formation of clear and distinct sounds in speech: the articulation of vowels. 3 Mus. clarity in the production of successive notes. 4 Phon. the act or manner of uttering a speech sound, esp. a consonant. 2 the state of being jointed: the area of articulation of the lower jaw. 3 a specified joint: the leg articulation.

artifact [ˈɑːrtɪfækrt] n. an object made by a human being, typically in a cultural or historical interest, as gold and silver artifacts. 2 Archaeol. such an object as distinguished from a similar object naturally produced. 3 something observed in a scientific investigation or experiment that is not naturally present but occurs as a result of the preparatory or investigative procedure.

artificial adj. [ˈɑːrtɪfɪʃəl] n. n. (of people or things) behavior or actions that are not natural; contrived or false: the artificial division of people into age groups. 2 Bridge (of a bid) conventional as opposed to natural. 3 (of a person or a person’s behavior) insincere or affected: an artificial smile.


army [ˈɑːmi] n. (pl. -ies) large-caliber guns used in warfare on land: tanks and heavy artillery.

artificially adv. [ˈɑːrtɪfɪʃəli] adverb.

artillery [ˈɑːrtɪləri] n. (pl. -lies) large-caliber guns used in warfare on land: tanks and heavy artillery.

artistic adj. [ˈɑːrtɪstɪk] adj. 1 having or revealing natural creative skill: my lack of artistic ability. 2 a habitual practitioner of a specified reprehensible activity: a habitual thief.

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artlessly adv. [ɑːrtˈlɛsli] adverb. without effort or pretentiousness; natural and simple: an artless literary masterpiece. 2 without skill or fineness. 3 artlessly adv. without effort or pretentiousness; natural and simple: an artless literary masterpiece. 2 without skill or fineness.

art nouveau [ɑːrt nɔvɔ] n. a style of decorative art, architecture, and design prominent in western Europe and the U.S. from about 1890 until World War I, characterized by a rejection of the straight lines of modernism and flowing curves based on natural forms.

arts and crafts n. pl. decorative design and handicrafts.

arty adj. [ˈɑːrtɪ] adj. (sier, siest) int. making a strong, affected, or pretentious display of being artistic or interested in the arts: the art-ty town of Tinos. art-istry n. 5 the artsy-craftsy [ˈɑːrtskɛʃ] adj. interested or involved in making decorative, artistic objects, typically ones perceived as quixotic or homemade: artsy-craftsy gift shop.

artwork [ˈɑːrtwɜːrk] n. illustrations, photographs, or other nonmaterial items prepared for inclusion in a publication. 2 paintings, drawings, or other artistic works: a collection of artwork from tribal cultures.

as adj. of relating to this people or their language. 5 Anglo-Saxon. Asperger’s syndrome.

association n. the chemical element arsenic.

as adj. or adv. (usu. as) as used in comparisons to refer to the extent or degree of something: halitosis as bad as tennis balls. 1 used to emphasize an amount: as many as twenty-two rare species.

as conj. 1 used to indicate that something happens during the time something is taking place: Frank watched him as he ambled through the crowd. 2 as to: be concerned as to, for example, the way that something happens or is done: dress as you would if you were having guests: [as adv] as you like.

as prep. 1 used to refer to the action or character that someone or something has: he got a job as a cook. 2 during the time of being (the thing specified): he had often been sick as a child.

as if int. 1 very much doubt it: You know how lottery winners always say it won’t change their lives? Yeah, as if! 2 as if were in a way (used to be less precise): areas that have been, as it were, pushed aside. 3 as used to indicate the time or date from which something starts: I’m on unemployment as of today.

as n. 1 with respect to, concerning: decisions as to which patients receive treatment.

as adj. or adv. (pl. as-sees) an ancient Roman copper coin.

ASAP (also asap) n. as soon as possible.

asbestos [ˈæsəbɛtɪs] n. a fibrous silicate mineral that can be woven into heat-resistant fabrics, and is used in fire-resistant and insulating materials such as brake linings: [as adj] asbestos shingles.

ascend [əˈsend] v. 1 [it] go up or climb: she ascended the stairs. 2 [in], new magnus were created and ascended to the surface. 3 [to] climb to the summit of (a mountain or hill): the first traveler to ascend the mountain: 4 [a] fish or boat) move upstream along (a river). 5 [in], rise through the air: we had ascended 3,000 ft. 6 [to] rise up: the road ascends to the lake. 7 [to] move up the social or professional scale: he took exams to ascend the ranks. 8 [to] rise to (an important position or a higher level); some executives ascend to top-level positions. 9 [a] person or thing that ascends, in particular: when (of a spiritual being or soul) rise into heaven: the Prophet ascended to heaven (of a sound) rise in pitch.

ascending adj. [əˈsendɪŋ] adj. 1 ascending the throne become king or queen.

ascent [əˈsɛnt] n. occupation of a position of dominant power or influence: the ascendancy of good over evil.

ascent n. occupation of a position of dominant power or influence: the ascendancy of good over evil.

ascendancy [əˈsɛndənsi] n. occupation of a position of dominant power or influence: the ascendancy of good over evil.

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assembler

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association

chine or other object: a factory that assembled parts for trucks. • Comput. translate (a program) from low-level symbolic code into machine code.

assembler [a'semblə] n. 1. a person who assembles a machine or its parts. 2. Comput. a program for converting instructions written in low-level symbolic code into machine code.

assemblage [a'sembli] n. (pi. -blies) 1. a group of people gathered together in one place for a common purpose: an assembly of scholars. 2. a group of people elected to make laws or decisions for a particular community or region, esp. the lower legislative house in some U.S. states: the Connecticut General Assembly. 2. the action of gathering together as a group for a common purpose: freedom of assembly. • a regular gathering of the teachers and students of a school. • [often as adj.] the action of fitting together the component parts of a machine or other object: a car assembly plant. • a unit consisting of components that have been fitted together: the tail assembly of the aircraft. • [usu. as adj.] Comput. the conversion of instructions in low-level code to machine code by an assembler.

as-sent [a'sent] n. the expression of approval or agreement; a loud murmur of assent. • he nodded assent. • official agreement or sanction: the governor has a power to withhold his assent from a bill. • v. [intr.] express approval or agreement, typically officially: Roosevelt assented to the agreement. —as-sen'ter n.

as-sert [a'sərt] v. [tr.] state a fact or belief confidently and forcefully: the company asserts that the cuts will not affect development. • he asserted his innocence. • cause others to recognize (one's authority or a right) by confident and forceful behavior: the good librarian is able to assert authority when needed. • assert oneself behave or speak in a confident and forceful manner: it was time to assert himself. —as-serv'er n.

as-ser-ten-sion [a'sər-tən'shən] n. a confident and forceful statement of fact or belief: his assertion that his father had deserted the family. • the action of stating something or exercising authority confidently and forcefully: the assertion of his legal rights.

as-ser-tive [a'sər-tiv] adj. having or showing a confident and forceful personality. —as-ser-tive-ly adv. —as-ser-tive-ness n.

as-sess [a'ses] v. [tr.] evaluate or estimate the nature, ability, or quality of: the committee must assess the relative importance of the issues. • [usu. be assessed] calculate or estimate the price or value of: the damage was assessed at $5 billion. • [often be assessed] set the value of a tax, fine, etc., for a person or property: at a specified level: all empty properties will be assessed at 50 percent. —as-sess-a-ble adj. —as-sess-ment n.

as-ses-sor [a'sesər] n. a person who assesses something, in particular: a person who calculates or estimates the value of something or an amount to be paid, chiefly for tax or insurance purposes. • a person who is knowledgeable in a particular field and is called upon for advice, typically by a judge or committee of inquiry.

as-set [a'sæt] n. a useful or valuable thing, person, or quality: the school is an asset to the community. • [usu. assets] property owned by a person or company, regarded as having value and available to meet debts, commitments, or legacies. • [assets] military equipment, such as planes, ships, communications and radar installations, employed or targeted in military operations.

as-severa-tion [a'sevərə'shən] n. the solemn or emphatic declaration or statement of something: I fear that you offer only unsuppressed asseveration. —as-sever-a'te [a'sevərə,t] v.

as-hole [a'shəl] n. vulgar slang the anus. • an irritating or contemptible person.

as-sid-yous [a'si'dəs] adj. showing great care and perseverance. —as-sid'u-ly adv. —as-sid'u-ness n.

as-sign [a'sign] v. [tr.] 1. allocate a job or duty: Congress assigned the task to the agency. • often be assigned: appoint (someone) to a particular job, task, or organization: she has been assigned to a new job. 2. designate or set (something) aside for a specific purpose: managers usually assign large sums of money to travel budgets. • assign something to attribute something as belonging to: it is difficult to decide whether the victory to Goodwin. 3. transfer (legal rights or liabilities): they will ask you to assign your rights against the airline.

as-sign-ee [a'signi] n. 1. a person to whom a right or liability is legally transferred. 2. a person appointed to act for another.

as-sign-ment [a'si'mənt] n. 1. a task or piece of work assigned to someone as part of a job or course of study: a homework assignment. • the allocation of a job or task to someone: the task or post to which one has been appointed. 2. the attribution of something or someone as belonging: the assignment of individuals to particular social positions. 3. an act of making a legal transfer of a right, property, or liability: an assignment of leasehold property. • a document effecting such a transfer.

as-sim-i-l-a-tee [a'si,simələ't] r. v. [tr.] take in (information, ideas, or culture) and understand fully. • [usu. be assimilated] absorb and integrate (people, ideas, or culture) into a wider society or culture: pop trends are assimilated into the mainstream with alarming speed. • [intr.] the converts were assimilated into the society of their conquerors. • absorb or integrate and use for one’s own benefit: the music business assimilated whatever aspects of punk it could turn into profit. • [usu. be assimilated] (of the body or any biological system) absorb and digest (food or nutrients): the sugars in the fruit are readily assimilated by the body. • cause (something) to resemble: liken. • [intr.] come to resemble: the churches assimilated to a certain cultural norm. • Phonet. make a (sound) more like another in the same or next word. • as-sim-i-l-a-ble [a'si,si-mələbəl] adj. • as-sim-i-l-a-tion [a'si,si-mələ'ta'shən] n. • as-sim-i-l-a-tive [a'si,si-mələtiv] adj. • as-sim-i-l-a-tor [a'si,si-mələtər] n. • as-sim-i-l-a-tory [a'si,si-mələ'tor-ər] adj.

as-sin-i-boin [a'si,sinəbən] (also Assiniboine) n. (pi. same or -boins) 1. a member of an American Indian people formerly living in southern Manitoba, but now living in Montana, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. 2. the Siouan language of this people.

as-sist [a'sis] v. [tr.] help (someone), typically by doing a share of the work: a senior academic would assist him in his work. • [intr.] their presence would assist in keeping the peace. • help, by providing money or information: they were assisting police with their inquiries. • [intr.] funds to assist with capital investment. • [intr.] be present as a helper or spectator: two midwives who assisted at a water birth.

as-sist-a-te [a'zistət] v. [tr.] help, typically by providing money: the budget must have an assist from tax payers. • [chiefly in ice hockey, basketball, or baseball] the action of touching the puck or ball in a play in which a teammate scores or an opposing batter is put out. • [in comb.] a mechanical device that provides help: the implant is a ventricular-assist device. —as-sis-ta-nce n. —as-sis'ter n.

as-sist-ant [a'sistənt] n. 1. a person who ranks below a senior person: the managing director and his assistant. • [adj.] an assistant manager. • a person who helps in particular work: a laboratory assistant.

as-soci-a-ted [a'so,siə'təd] v. [v. pres. as-socia-ted, past as-so-ci-at-ed, past part. as-so-ci-at-ing] 1. connect (someone or something) with something else in one’s mind: I associated wealth with freedom. • [usu. be associated] connect (something, with something else) because: they occur together or one produces another: the environmental problems associated with nuclear waste. • [be associated with] allow oneself to be connected with or seen to be supportive of: I cannot associate myself with some of the language used. • [be associated with] be involved with: she has been associated with the project from the start. • [intr.] meet or have dealings with someone commonly regarded with dispute: she began associating with socialists.

as-so-ci-a-tive [a'so,siə'tiv] adj. [v. pres. as-so-ci-at-ing, past as-so-ci-at-ed, past part. as-so-ci-at-ed] joined or connected with an organization or business: an associate company. • denoting shared function or membership but with a lesser status: associate director. • as-so-ci-a-tive-ly [a'so,siə'tivli] adv. • as-so-ci-a-tive-ness [a'so,siə'tivnəs] n. • as-so-ci-a-tive-ship [a'so,siə'tivship] n.

as-so-ci-a-tion [a'so,siə'shən] n. 1. (abbr.: assn.) (often in names) a group of people organized for a joint purpose: the National Association of Broadcasters. • Ecol. a plant community defined by a characteristic group of dominant plant species. 2. a connection or cooperative link between people or organizations: he developed a close association with the university. • the action or state of becoming a member of an organization with subordinate status. • Chem. the linking of
from Greek *as-long* 'refuge,' from *as-long* 'invulnerable,' from *a- without + salo* 'right of seizure.' The current senses date from the 18th cent.

**as-mentry** [a-s'mentri] n. (pl. *tries*) lack of equality or equivalence between parts or aspects of something; lack of symmetry. —as-ment-ric [a-s'mentrik] adj. —as-sym-etrical adj.

**as-sympto-mat-ic** [a-simp'to-mat'ik] adj. Med. (of a condition or a person) producing or showing no symptoms.

**as-syn-chron-ous** [a-sen'kron-əs] adj. 1. Comput. & Telecom. of or requiring a form of computer control timing protocol in which specific operation begins upon receipt of an indication (signal) that the preceding operation has been completed. 2. Not going at the same rate and exactly together with something else, in particular: (of two or more objects or events) not existing or happening at the same time.

**at** prep. the standard time in a zone including the easternmost parts of mainland Canada, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, specifically: **Atlantic Standard Time** (abbr.: AST) standard time based on the mean solar time at the longitude of 60° W. Four hours behind GMT.

**Atlas** [a'tlas] n. 1. (pl. *at-lases*) a book of maps or charts: I looked in the atlas to find a map of Italy. 2. A book of illustrations or diagrams on any subject. 3. (pl. *at-lan-tes*) (also *at-las*-verb) Anat. the topmost vertebra of the backbone, articulating with the occipital bone of the skull. 4. (pl. *at-lan-tes* [a'tlan-tez]) Archit. a stone carved of a male figure, used as a column to support the entablature of a Greek or Greek-style building.

**ATM** abbr. (automated or automatic) teller machine.

**at-mo-sphere** [a'tmo-sfər] n. 1. the envelope of gases surrounding the earth or another planet. 2. the air in any particular place: the dusty atmosphere of his apartment. 3. (abbr.: atm) Physics a unit of pressure equal to mean atmospheric pressure at sea level. 4. the surrounding or enveloping medium, esp. as they interfere with telecommunications. 5. Effects intended to create an atmosphere or mood, esp. in music: a jazz sound with spooky atmospheres.

**at-o-mize** [a-tə-mi-zə] v. [tr.] convert (a substance) into very fine particles or droplets. 2. reduce (something) to atoms or other small distinct units: by disrupting our ties with our neighbors, crime atomizes society.

**atomizer** a device for emitting water, perfume, or other liquids in a fine spray.
attention /ə'tenʃən/ n. a person's interest in someone, esp. when un
welcome or regarded as excessive; his aim was to avoid the attentions of the newspapers.

attentions /ə'tenʃənz/ n. a person's actions intended to express interest of a sexual or romantic nature in someone, sometimes un
welcome: she felt flattered by his attentions. 3 A position assumed by a soldier, standing very straight with the heels together and the arms straight down the sides of the body: the squadron stood to attention. 4 [as interj.] an order to assume such a position. —attentional /ə'tenʃənal/ adj.

atten-tive /ə'ten-tiv/ adj. paying close attention to something; never before had she had such an attentive audience. 2 Congress should be more attentive to the interests of taxpayers. 2 assiduously attending to the comfort or wishes of others; very polite or courteous: the hotel has a pleasant atmosphere and attentive service. —atten
tively /ə'ten-tivē/ adv. —atten-tive-ness n.

atten-u-a-tion /ə'ten-yóō-shən/ n. (often be
ten-u-at-ive) reduce the force, effect, or value of: his intolerance was attenuated by a rather unexpected liberal-ism. 2 [usu. as adj.] (attenuated) reduce the virulence of (a patho-
genic organism or vaccine); attenuated strains of rabies virus. 2 reduce in thickness; make thin.

atten-test /ə'ten-tést/ v. [tr.] provide or serve as clear evidence of; his status is attested by his recent promotion. 2 [intr.] his numerous drawings of ships attest to his love of fantasy. 2 observe that something exists or is the case: I can attest to his tremendous energy. 2 the deceased's attorney asked that he had been about to institute divorce proceedings. 2 be a witness to; certify formally: the witnesses must attest and sign the will in the testator's presence.

atten-tion /ə'ten-shən/ n. the act of or relating to Athens or Attica, or the dialect of Greek spoken there in ancient times.

Att-lc /ə'tl̩k/ adj. of or relating to Athens or Attica, or the dialect of Greek spoken there in ancient times.

Att-ica /ə'tl̩kə/ n. a space or room just below the roof of a building.

Attire /ə'tir/ n. clothes, esp. fine or formal ones: holiday attire.

be attired; be dressed in clothes of a specified kind: Donna was attired in an elaborate evening gown.

At-ti-tude /ə'ti-túd/ n. a settled way of thinking or feeling about something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior: she took a tough attitude toward other people's indulgences. 2 a position of the body proper to or implying an action or mental state: the boy was standing in an attitude of despair, his chin sunk on his chest. 2 [intr.] uncooperative behavior; a resentful or antagonistic manner: I asked the waiter for a clean fork, and all I got was attitude. 2 [intr.] individuality and self-confidence as manifested by behavior or style: she showed her fingers with attitude. 2 the orientation of an aircraft or spacecraft, relative to the direction of travel. 2 Ballet a position in which one leg is lifted behind with the knee bent at right angles and turned out, and the corresponding arm is raised above the head, the other extended to the side. 2 17th cent. (denoting the placing or posture of a figure in art): from French, from Italian attitudine 'fitness, posture,' from Late Latin, from aptus 'fit.' —at-ti-tud-inal /ə'ti-túd-nəl/ adj.

at-tor-ney /ə'torning/ n. (pl. -nies) 1 a person appointed to act for another in business or legal matters. 2 a lawyer. —at-tor-ney-ship /ə'torning-ship/ n.

at-tor-ney-gen-eral (abbr. AG or Atty. Gen.) n. the principal legal officer who represents a country or a state in legal proceedings and gives legal advice to the government. —the head of the U.S. Department of Justice.

at-tract /ətrak/ v. [tr.] cause to come to a place or participate in a venture by offering something of interest, favorable conditions, or opportunities: a campaign to attract more visitors to West Virginia. 2 evoke (a specified reaction): I did not want to attract attention | his criticism of the government attracted widespread support. 2 cause (someone) to have a liking for or interest in something: I was attracted to the idea of working for a ballet company. 2 cause (someone) to have a sexual or romantic interest in someone: it was her beauty that attracted him. 2 exert a force on (an object) that is directed toward the source of the force: the negatively charged ions attract particles of dust. —attractor /ətrak-ər/ n.

at-trac-tion /ətrak'shən/ n. the action or power of evoking interest, pleasure, or liking for someone or something: she has romantic ideas about sexual attraction. 2 a quality or feature of someone or something that evokes interest, liking, or desire; the main attraction of bucking sheep is the cracking texture of its skin. 2 a thing or place that draws visitors by providing something of interest or pleasure: the church is the town's main tourist attraction. 2 Physics a force under the influence of which objects tend to move toward each other: gravitational attraction. 2 Gram. the influence exerted by one word on another that causes it to change to an incorrect form, e.g., the words of sin is (for are) death.

at-trac-tive /ətrak'tiv/ adj. (of a thing) pleasing or appealing to the senses; an attractive home. 2 (of a person) appealing to look at; sexually alluring. 2 (of a thing) having beneficial qualities or features that induce someone to want to accept what is being offered; the site is close to the high-rent district, which makes it attractive to developers. —at-trac-tively /ətrak'tiv-əl-ē/ adv. —at-trac-
tive-ness n.

at-trib-u-te /ə'trib-yút/ v. [tr.] [lit.] (attribute something) to regard something as being caused by (someone or something); he attributed the firm's success to the efforts of the director. 2 ascribe a work or remark to (a particu-
lar author, artist, or speaker); the building was attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright. 2 regard a quality or feature as characteristic of or possessed by (someone or something); ancient peoples attributed magic properties to certain stones.


at-tri-bute /ə'trib-yút/ v. [tr.] [attrib] (attribute something) to regard something as being caused by (someone or something); he attributed the firm's success to the efforts of the director. 2 ascribe a work or remark to (a particu-
lar author, artist, or speaker); the building was attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright. 2 regard a quality or feature as characteristic of or possessed by (someone or something); ancient peoples attributed magic properties to certain stones.

austerity /əˈsʊrəti/ n. (pl. -ties) sternness or severity of manner or attitude.

auster-i-ty /əˈstɔrɪti/ (pr. -ties) harsh or ascetic; conditions in the prison could hardly be more austere. 1 having an extremely plain and simple style or appearance; unadorned: the cathedral is impressive in its austere simplicity. 2 (of an economic policy or measure) designed to reduce a budget deficit, esp. by cutting public expenditure. 3 austere-ly adv.
present in the body: the infection triggers an autonomic response. —au-


au-lol-y-sis [ˌoʊtəˈlɑːsɪs] n. Biol. the destruction of cells or tissues by their own enzymes, esp. those released by lysosomes. —au-to-līt′ic /ˌoʊtəˈlɪtɪk/ adj.

au-to-mate /ˌoʊtəˈmeɪt/ v. [tr] convert a (process or facility) to largely automatic operation; industry is investing in automating production | as adj. (automated) a fully automated process.

au-to-matic [ˌoʊtəˈmatɪk] adj. 1 (of a device or process) working by itself with little or no direct human control; an automatic kettle that switches itself off when it boils. 2 (of a firearm) self-loading and able to fire continuously until the ammunition is exhausted or the pressure on the trigger is released. 3 (of a motor vehicle or its transmission) using gears that shift by themselves according to speed and acceleration; a four-speed automatic gearbox. 2 done or occurring spontaneously, without conscious thought or intention; automatic physical functions such as breathing. 1 occurring as a matter of course and without debate: he is the automatic choice for the senior team. 2 esp. of a legal sanction given or imposed as a necessary and inevitable result of a fixed rule or particular set of circumstances: for missing the team workout, he received an automatic game-one suspension.

au-to-matic device or machine, in particular: a gun that continues firing until the ammunition is exhausted or the pressure on the trigger is released. a vehicle with automatic transmission. 2 Football another term for AUDEBLE. —au-to-mat-i-cal-ly [ˌoʊtəˈmeɪtɪkəl] adv. —au-to-mat-i-ty [ˌoʊtəˈmeɪtɪtɪ] n.

au-to-mat-ic pilot n. a device for keeping an aircraft on a set course without the intervention of the pilot.

au-to-ma-tion [ˌoʊtəˈmeɪʃən] n. the use of largely automatic equipment in a system of manufacturing or other production process; unemployment due to the spread of automation | the automation of office tasks.

au-to-ma-tism [ˌoʊtəˈmeɪtəm] n. the performance of automatic actions without conscious thought or intention. 2 Art the avoidance of conscious intention in producing works of art, esp. by using mechanical techniques or subconsciously.

au-to-ma-tize /ˌoʊtəˈmeɪtɪz/ v. [tr] make automatic or habitual. —au-to-

au-to-ma-tiza-tion [ˌoʊtəˈmeɪtəˈzeɪʃən] n.

au-to-ma-ton /ˌoʊtəˈmeɪtən/ n. 1 a moving mechanical device made in imitation of a human being. 2 a machine that performs a function according to a predetermined set of coded instructions, esp. one capable of a range of programmed responses to different circumstances. 3 used in similes and comparisons to refer to a person who seems to act in a mechanical or unemotional way: she went about her preparations like an automaton.

au-to-mo-bile /ˌoʊtəˈmoʊbɪl/ n. a road vehicle, typically with four wheels, powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor and able to carry a small number of people.

au-to-mo-tive /ˌoʊtəˈmoʊtɪv/ adj. of, relating to, or concerned with motor vehicles.

au-to-nom-ic /ˌoʊtəˈnɑːmɪk/ adj. chiefly Physiol. involuntary or unconscious; not under the control of the autonomic nervous system.

au-to-nom-ic nerv-ous system [ˌoʊtəˈnɑːmɪk ˈnɜːrvəs] n. the part of the nervous system responsible for control of the bodily functions not consciously directed, such as breathing, the heartbeat, and digestive processes.

au-to-nous [ˌoʊtəˈnoʊs] adj. 1 (of a country or region) having self-government, at least to a significant degree: the federation included sixteen autonomous republics. 2 acting independently or having the freedom to do so: an autonomous committee of the school board. —au-to-nous-ly adv.

au-to-nom-ous [ˌoʊtəˈnɔməs] adj. [pl. -omes] (of a country or region) the right or condition of self-government, esp. in a particular sphere. 2 a self-governing country or region. 3 freedom from external control or influence; independence: economic independence is still a long way off for many nations. —au-to-nom-ist [ˌoʊtəˈnɔmist] n. & adj.

au-to-pi-lot /ˌoʊtəˈpɪlət/ n. short for AUTOMATIC PILOT.

au-to-psy [ˌoʊtəˈpsɪ] n. (pl. -sies) a postmortem examination to discover the cause of death or the extent of disease.

au-to-ra-di-o-graph [ˌoʊtəˌrædəˈɡrɑf] n. a photograph of an object produced by radiation from radioactive material in the object and revealing the distribution or location of labeled material in the object.

au-to-sug-ges-tion [ˌoʊtəsəˈɡɛʃən] n. the hypnotic or subconscious adoption of an idea that one has originated oneself, e.g. through repetition of verbal statements to oneself in order to change behavior.

au-to-tox-in [ˌoʊtəˈtɔksən] n. a substance produced by an organism that is toxic to the organism itself. —au-to-tox-i-cally [ˌoʊtəˈtɔksəkəl] adv.


aux-i-la-ry [oʊˈsɪlærɪ] adj. providing supplementary or additional help and support: an auxiliary nurse. 2 (of equipment) held in reserve: an auxiliary power source. 3 (of troops) engaged in the service of a nation at war but not part of the regular army, and often of foreign origin. 4 (of a sailing vessel) equipped with a supplementary engine.

aux-in [oʊˈsɪn] n. a plant hormone that causes the elongation of cells in shoots and is involved in regulating plant growth.

AV abbr. audiovisual (teaching aids). Authorized Version.

Av [aʊv] n. variant spelling of Av. 2 avail (əˈvɔɪl) v. 1 (avail oneself) of use or take advantage of (an opportunity or available resource); my daughter did not avail herself of my advice. 2 help or benefit: [tr] no amount of struggle availed Charles. [intr] the dark and narrow hiding place did not avail to save the fugitives.

a-vi-l of little (or no) avail not very (or not at all) effective or successful: little was of little avail in the practical affairs of life. 2 to little (or no) avail with little (or no) success or benefit: he tried to get his work recognized, but to little avail.

a-vail-a-ble (əˈvɔɪləbəl) adj. able to be used or obtained; at someone's disposal: refreshments will be available all afternoon. 2 (of a person) not otherwise occupied; free to do something: the nurse is only available at certain times. 3 not currently involved in a sexual or romantic relationship; there's a dearth of available women here. —a-vail-a-blem-ly [əˈvɔɪləbəmˈlɪ] adv.

a-van-ta-gage [əˌvæntəˈdʒeɪdʒ] n. a mass of snow, ice, and rocks falling rapidly down a mountainside. 2 a large mass of any material moving rapidly downhill: an avalanche of mud. 3 fig. a sudden arrival or occurrence of something overwhelming quantities: we have had an avalanche of applications.

av-ant-garde [əˈvæntˌɡɑrd] n. physically a cumulative process in which a fast-moving ion or electron generates further ions and electrons by collision.

av-ar-i-cious [əˈvɔːrərɪʃəs] adj.

av-as-t [əˈvæst] adj. archaic. Naut. stop; cease; you, young man, avast there!

av-ar-ice [əˈvɔːrɪs] n. extreme greed for wealth or material gain. —av-

av-a-ricious [əˈvɔːrərɪʃəs] adj.

av-ast [əˈvæst] adj. archaic. Naut. stop; cease; you, young man, avast there!

av-ava [əˈvævə] adj. chiefly Hinduism a manifestation of a deity or released soul in bodily form on earth; an incarnate divine teacher. 2 an incarnation, embodiment, or manifestation of a person or idea: he set himself up as a new avatar of Arab radicalism. 3 Comput. a movable icon representing a person in cyberspace or virtual reality graphics.

ave. abbr. Avenue.

a-venger [əˈvenər] n. [tr] inflict harm in return for an injury or wrong done to oneself or another: his determination to avenge the murder of his brother. 2 inflict such harm on behalf of oneself or someone else previously wronged or harmed: we must avenge our dead. 3 she avenged herself after he broke off their engagement: the warrior swore he would be avenged on their price. —a-venger n.

av-e-nue [əˈvɛn(ə)ˈjuː] n. 1 a broad road in a town or city, typically...
aver /əˈver/ v. [tr.]
1 keep away from or stop oneself from doing (something); avoid excessive exposure to the sun. [intr. conative not to meet (someone); boys lined up to meet Gloria, but avoided her bossy sister. (of a person) not to go or to withdraw (from a place); this route avoids downtown Boston. prevent from happening; make the necessary adjustments to avoid an accident. [Law repudiate, nullify, or render void (a decree or contract). —avoid-able adj. —avoid-a-bly adv. —avoid-ance [əˈvoɪdəns] n. —avoid-er n.

avoirdupois /əˈvɔːrdəpɔɪz/ n. a system of weights based on a pound of 16 ounces or 7,000 grains, widely used in English-speaking countries. [as adj. avoirdupois weights | a pound avoirdupois. Compare with troy. —humorous weight; heaviness.

avoid /əˈvɔɪd/ v. [tr.] assert or confess openly: he avowed that he had voted Republican in every election; he avowed his change of faith. —avo-wal [əˈvoʊl] /əˈvɑːl/ adj. —avo-wed-ly [əˈvɔʊd-əl] adv.

avuncular /əˈvʌŋskələr/ adj. 1 of or relating to an uncle. —kind and friendly toward a younger or less experienced person: an avuncular manner. 2 Anthropol. of or relating to the relationship between men and their siblings' children.

AWACS /ˈæwəks/ n. an aircraft equipped with a long-range airborne radar system for detecting enemy aircraft and missiles and directing attacks on them.

awake /ˈɔːwək/ v. (past awoke /ˈɔːwk/) [tr.] 1 turn away (one's eyes or thoughts); she averted her eyes during the more violent scenes. 2 prevent or ward off (an undesirable condition); talks failed to avert a rail strike. —a-ware [əˈwɔːr] adj. having knowledge of something or fact; most people are aware of the dangers of sunbathing. —concerned and well-informed about a particular situation or development: a politically aware electorate. —aware-ness n.

awash /əˈwɔːs/ adj. covered; flooded with water, esp. seawater or rain: the boat rolled violently, its decks awash; fig. the city was awash with journalists. —plevel with the surface of the water, esp. the sea, so that it just washes over: a rock awash outside the reef entrance.

away /əˈwɔɪ/ adv. 1 to or at a distance from a particular place, person, or thing; they walked away from the church in silence; Berenice pushed him away; we'll be away for four nights. 2 at a specified distance: when he was ten or twelve feet away, she stopped. 3 at a specified future distance in time: the wedding is only weeks away; toward a lower level; downward; in front of them the land fell away to the river. 4 conceptually to one side, so as no longer to be the focus of attention: the museum has shifted its emphasis away from research toward exhibitions. 5 into an appropriate place for storage or safekeeping; he put away the lawn furniture; 6 toward or into nonexistence: the sound of hoofbeats died away 3. constantly, persistently, or continuously: there was little edgar crying away.

Pronunciation Key: a aw; up; or; over; fur; a lat: a tti; a car; zh chin; i e; j see; o (ər) air; i t; hi (air) ear; no sung; o so; o low; for; ur toy; 60 good; 66 gool; ou out; sh she; th thin; zh then; zh why; zh vision.
azure [oaz] n. a bright blue color, like a cloudless sky

a- x-es /a kse/- plural form of axis.

ax-i-al /aksjəl/ adj. of, forming, or relating to an axis: the main axial road.

ax-i-al-ly adv. around an axis: the axial rotation rate of the earth.

ax-i-lar-y /aksəlәrə/ adj. of or relating to the armpit: enlargement of the axillary lymph nodes.

ax-i-o-mat-ic /aksəmətik/ adj. self-evident or unquestionable: it is axiomatic that dividends have to be financed.

ax-i-s /ak'siz/ n. (pl. ax-es /ak'siz/) 1. an imaginary line about which a body rotates: the earth revolves on its axis once every 24 hours. 2. Geom. an imaginary straight line passing through the center of a symmetrical solid, and about which a plane figure can be conceived as rotating to generate the solid. 3. an imaginary line that divides something into equal or roughly equal halves, esp. in the direction of its greatest length.

ax-le /aksəl/ n. a rod or spindle (either fixed or rotating) passing through the center of a wheel or group of wheels: [as adj.] axle grease axle loads.

ax-on /ak'son/ n. the long threadlike part of a nerve cell along which impulses are conducted from the cell body to other cells.

ax-ow /æksəʊ/ n. Bot. a stiff bristle, esp. one of those growing from the ear or flower of barley, rye, and many grasses.

ax-wr /ær/ adv. & adj. away from the appropriate, planned, or expected course; amiss: [as adv.] many youthful romances go awry; [as adj.] I got the impression that something was awry.

az-i-muth-al /ækzəmatəl/ adj. the direction of a celestial object from the observer, expressed as the angular distance from the north or south point of the horizon to the point at which a vertical circle passing through the object intersects the horizon or the horizontal angle or direction of a compass bearing.

az-i-c /ækzətik/ adj. having no trace of life or organic remains.

az-ize /ækziz/ n. abbr. trademark azidodermidine, an antiretroviral drug used to treat HIV infections.

az-le-ek /'æzkəlek/ n. 1. a member of the American Indian people domiciled in Mexico before the Spanish conquest of the 16th century.

az-le-x /'ækzəlæk/ adj. of, relating to, or denoting this people or their language. From French Azteque or Spanish Azteca, from Nahuaatl aztecīl, 'person of Aztlán,' their legendary place of origin.

az-ure /'oazər/ adj. bright blue color, like a cloudless sky.

b. a bright blue color. poetic the clear sky. 2. a small butterfly (Celastrina and other genera, family Lycaenidae) typically blue or purplish, with color differences between the sexes.
B

bbe/ bæ/ (also b. n. (pl. Bs or B's) 1 the second letter of the alphabet. 2 the second highest class of academic rank. 3 denoting the secondhighest-earning socioeconomic category for marketing purposes, including intermediate management and professional personnel. 4 [usu. b.] the second constant to appear in an algebraic equation. 5 the human blood type (in the ABO system) containing the B antigen and lacking the A. 6 [usu. B] Mus. the seventh note of the diatonic scale of C major. 7 a key based on with B as its keynote.

B abbr. black (used in describing grades of pencil lead); 2HB pencils. 2 (in personal ads) Black. 3 bomber (in designations of U.S. aircraft types) A-82.

B symb. the chemical element boron.

b abbr. (b.) born (used to indicate a date of birth): George Lloyd (b. 1913). 2 billion.

BA abbr. Bachelor of Arts: David Brown, BA. 2 Baseball batting average.

B symb. the chemical element barium.

baba/bàba/ (also baba au rhum (b. ran)) n. a small rice sponge cake, typically soaked in rum-flavored syrup.

babble/babal/ v. (int.) talk rapidly and continuously in a foolish, excited, or incomprehensible way: he would babble on in his yngyo Spanish.

bacteria/ba-si-las/ n. (pl. bacteria) 1 small living units, usually less than one micrometer in diameter. 2 any of a large number of insect species, including bees, wasps, and ants. 3 any of a large number of plant species, including grasses, ferns, and mosses. 4 any of a large number of animal species, including birds, mammals, and reptiles. 5 any of a large number of fungi species, including yeasts, molds, and mushrooms. 6 any of a large number of viruses species, including HIV, H1N1, and SARS.

babes/ba-bel/ ish adj. 1 (chiefly Baseball) adj. resembling the chemical element boron.

ba-ba/ba-ba/ v. (intr.) 1 talk loudly and continuously: he would babble on in his yngyo Spanish. 2 (usu. in comb.) pretentious jargon from a specialized field: to shed light on such translational psycho-babble.

bacing/bac-cing/ n. the continuous murmuring sound of water flowing over stones in a stream: the babbling brook.

babec/ba-bel/ n. a confused noise, typically made by a number of voices: the babble of voices on the road.

babka/ba-bka/ n. a loaf-shaped coffee cake made with sweet yeast dough to which raisins, chocolate, or nuts may be added.

ba-been/ba-bon/ n. a large Old World ground-dwelling monkey (Papio, Mandrillus, and other genera, family Cercopithecidae) with a long doglike snout and large teeth. Species include the drill and mandrill, an ugly or uncouth person. 2 Middle English: from Old French babin or medieval Latin babewynus, perhaps from Old French babine 'grime.'

babushka/ba-bushka/ n. (in Poland and Russia) an old woman or grandmother. 2 a headscarf tied under the chin, typical of those worn by Polish and Russian women.

babie/ba-be/ n. (pl. bies) 1 a very young child, esp. one newly or recently born. 2 a young or newly born animal. 3 the youngest member of a family or group; Clara was the baby of the family. 4 a timid or childlike person: "Don't be such a baby!" 5 (one's baby) fig. one's particular responsibility, achievement, or concern: "This is your baby, Gerry." she said, handing him the brief. 6 a young woman or a person with whom one is having a romantic relationship (often as a form of address); my baby left me for another guy. 7 a thing regarded with affection or familiarity: this baby can reach speeds of 140 mph.

baboon/ba-bún/ n. a large Old World ground-dwelling monkey (Papio, Mandrillus, and other genera, family Cercopithecidae) with a long doglike snout and large teeth. Species include the drill and mandrill, an ugly or uncouth person. 2 Middle English: from Old French babin or medieval Latin babewynus, perhaps from Old French babine 'grime.'

back/bak/ n. 1 the rear surface of the human body from the shoulders to the hips: he lay on his back. 2 the corresponding upper surface of an animal's body: the part of a chair against which the sitter's back rests. 3 the part of a garment that covers a person's back. 4 a person's torso or body regarded in terms of wearing clothes: all he owned were the clothes on his back. 5 a person's back regarded as carrying a load or bearing an imposition: they wanted the government off their backs. 6 the side or part of something that is away from the spectator or from the direction in which it moves or faces; the rear: at the back of the hotel is a satellite dish. 7 the position directly behind someone or something; she unbuttoned her dress from the back. 8 the side or part of an object opposed to the one that is normally seen or used: the less active, visible, or important part of something: write on the back of a postcard. 3 a player in a field game whose initial position is behind the front line: their backs showed some impressive running and passing.

adj. toward the rear; in the opposite direction from the one that one is facing or traveling: she moved back a pace; she walked away without looking back. 2 expressing movement of the body into a reclining position; he leaned back in his chair. 3 sit back and relax. 4 at a distance away: I thought you were miles back. 5 the officer pushed the crowd back. 6 (back of) behind: he knew that other people were back of him. 2 expressing a return to
an earlier or normal condition: she put the book back on the shelf] to drive to Montreal and back | I went back to sleep. | fashionably again: sideburns are back. 3 in or into the past: he made his fortune back in 1955. 4 in a place previously left or mentioned: the folks back home are counting on him. 4 in return: they wrote back to me.

\( \text{back} \) 1 [br] give financial, material, or moral support to: he had a newspaper empire backing him | go up there and tell them—I'll back you up. 2 bet money on: a promise or animal winning a race or contest: he backed the horse at 33–1. 3 be in favor of: over 97 percent backed the changes. 4 supplement in order to reinforce or strengthen: U.S. troops were backed up by forces from European countries. 2 esp. (in popular music) provide musical accompaniment to (a singer or musician): brisk guitar work backed by drums, bass, fiddle, and accordion. 3 walk or drive backward: she tried to back away | backing down the stairs | fig. the administration backed away from the plan | [tr.] he backed the Mercedes into the yard.

\( \text{back} \) phrasal v. \( \text{back down} \) withdraw a claim or assertion in the face of opposition: the contenders backed down from their original pledge. \( \text{back off} \) draw back from action or confrontation: they backed off from fundamental reform of the system. another way of saying \( \text{back down} \). \( \text{back out} \) withdraw from a commitment: if he backs out of the deal they'll sue him. \( \text{back up} \) 1 (of vehicles) form a line due to congestion: the traffic began to back up. 2 (of running water) accumulate behind an obstruction. \( \text{back} \) something up Comput make a spare copy of data or a disk. \( \text{back off} \) or out of the back of something: the back pocket of his jeans. \( \text{back sit} \) in a remote or subsidiary position: back roads. 2 (esp. of wages or something published or released) from or relating to the past: she was owed back pay. 3 directed toward the rear or in a reversed course: back currents.

\( \text{backache} \) [bak,æk] n. a prolonged pain in one's back.

\( \text{backbiting} \) [bak,biting] n. malicious talk about someone who is not present.

\( \text{backboard} \) [bak,bord] n. a board placed at or forming the back of something, such as a collage or piece of electronic equipment. \( \text{basketball} \) an upright board behind the basket, off which the ball may rebound. \( \text{backbone} \) [bak,bon] n. the series of vertebras extending from the skull to the pelvis; the spine. \( \text{fig.} \) the chief support of a system or organization; the mainstay; these firms are the backbone of our industrial sector. \( \text{fig.} \) strength of character; firmness: he has the backbone to see this through this difficulty.

\( \text{backbreaking} \) also \( \text{back-breaking} \) adj. (esp. of manual labor) physically demanding: a day's back-breaking work.

\( \text{backcountry} \) [bak,kentri] n. (the backcountry) sparsely inhabited rural areas; wilderness: exploring the backcountry on horseback.

\( \text{backdate} \) [bak,dat] v. [tr.] put an earlier date to (a document or agreement) than the actual one: they backdated the sale documents to evade a court order.

\( \text{backdoor} \) n. the door or entrance at the back of a building.

\( \text{backdoor} \) adj. (also \( \text{back-door} \)) (of an activity) clandestine; underhanded: back-door private deals.

\( \text{backdrop} \) [bak,drap] n. a painted cloth hung at the back of a theater stage as part of the scenery. \( \text{fig.} \) the setting or background for a scene, event, or situation; the conference took place against a backdrop of increasing diplomatic activity.

\( \text{backfield} \) [bak,fi] n. Football the area of play behind either the offensive or defensive line. the players positioned in this area.

\( \text{backfill} \) [bak,fil] v. [tr.] refill (an excavated hole) with the material dug out of it: they backfill the hole to street level.

\( \text{back} \) n. material used for backfilling.

\( \text{backfire} \) [bak,fir] v. [intr.] 1 (of an engine) undergo a mistimed explosion in the cylinder or exhaust: a car backfired on the road. 2 (of a plan or action) rebound adversely on the opponent; have the opposite effect to what was intended: overwhelming publicity backfired on her.

\( \text{back} \) n. 1 a mistimed explosion in the cylinder or exhaust of a vehicle or engine. 2 a fire set intentionally to arrest the progress of an approaching fire by creating a burned area in its path, thus depriving the fire of fuel.

\( \text{background} \) [bak,ground] n. the area or scenery behind the main object of contemplation, esp. when perceived as a framework for it: the house stands against a background of sheltering trees. the part of a picture or design that serves as a setting to the main figures or objects, or that appears furthest from the viewer: the background shows a landscape of domes and minarets | the word is written in white on a red background. the position or function that is not prominent or conspicuous: after that evening, Athens remained in the background. 2 the general scene, surroundings, or circumstances: the black cab blends beautifully into the city background. 3 the circumstances, events, or a state of affairs that influence or explain something: the political and economic background. 4 a person's education, experience, and social circumstances: she has a background in nursing | a mix of students from many different backgrounds. a persistent level of some phenomenon or process, against which particular events or measurements are distinguished, in particular: physics low-intensity radiation from radioisotopes present in the natural environment. unwanted signals, such as noise in the reception or recording of sound. 4 Comput. used to describe tasks or processes running on a computer that do not need input from the user: programs can be left running in the background.

\( \text{backhand} \) [bak,hand] n. 1 (in tennis and other racket sports) a stroke played with the back of the hand facing in the direction of the stroke, typically starting with the arm crossing the body: he drove a backhand into the net. 2 handwriting that slopes to the left.

\( \text{backhand} \) adj. made with the back of the hand facing in the direction of movement: a backhand pass. fig. indirect; ambiguous or insincere: coming from me, teasing is a backhanded compliment.

\( \text{backhaul} \) [bak,hol] n. 1 a cargo carried on a return journey. 2 an unedited video transmission via satellite or other means to a network or station. a frequency on which such transmissions occur.

\( \text{backhoe} \) [bak,hoe] n. a mechanical excavator that draws toward itself a bucket attached to a hinged boom.
bacterium

multiplying of bacteria without destroying them. —bact•e•rio•sta•sis [ˌbaktəˌrēəˈstāsəs] n. —bact•e•rio•sta•tic [ˌbaktəˌrēəˈstātik] adj. —bact•e•rio•sta•ti•cal•ly adv.

bact•e•ri•um [ˈbaktəˌrēəm] n. (pl. -te•ria [ˌbaktəˌrēələ]) a member of a large group of unicellular microorganisms that have cell walls but lack organelles and an organized nucleus, including some that can cause disease.

—19th cent.: from modern Latin, from Greek bak'teria, diminutive of bak'terion, staff cane (because the first ones to be discovered were rod-shaped).

—bact•e•ri•al [ˌbaktəˌrēəl] adj.

Bac•t•e•ri•an cam•el /baktəˈrēən/ n. the two-humped camel (Camelus bac•trianus).

bad [bad] adj. (worse [wors] worst [worst]) 1 of poor quality; inferior or defective: a bad diet. n. (of a person) not able to do something well; incompetent: I'm so bad at names. 2 unpleasant or unwelcome: bad news. —badly adv. —bad•ness n.

—bad not (or not so) adj. fairly good: she discovered he wasn't so bad after all. —badly adv. used to indicate that something is regrettable but now beyond retrieval: too bad, but that's the way it is.

—bad blood n. ill feeling: there has always been bad blood between them.

—bad break n. a piece of bad luck: a weird coincidence and a bad break.

—bad breath n. unpleasant-smelling breath: halitosis.

—bad debt n. a debt that cannot be recovered.

—bad end past of bad.

—bad Faith n. intent to deceive: the owners have bargained in bad faith.

—badge [bædʒ] n. a distinctive emblem worn as a mark of office, membership, achievement, licensed employment, etc.: name badges | a Girl Scout badge. —adj. distinguishing an object or emblem: a large gold key hung around his neck as his badge of office. —fig. a feature or sign that reveals a particular condition or quality: my jeans had patches on the knees, like badges of courage marking encounters with barbed wire.

—v. [tr.] mark with a badge or other distinguishing emblem.

—bad•er [ˈbædər] n. a heavily built omnivorous nocturnal mammal of the weasel family, typically having a gray and black coat. Several genera and species include the North American Taxidea taxus, with a white stripe on the head. 2 (Badger) n. a native of Wisconsin. —v. [tr.] ask (someone) repeatedly and annoyingly for something; pester: they badgered him about the deals.

—bad•age [ˌbɑdəˈædʒ] n. humorous or witty conversation: cultured badinage about art and life. —mid 17th cent.: from French, from badiner 'to joke.' from badin 'fool.' based on Provençal badar 'gape.'

—bad•lands [ˌbɑdəldz] n.pl. n. extensive tracts of deeply eroded, unculivated land with little vegetation.

—bad•ly [ˈbɑdlɪ] adv. worse [wors] worst [worst] 1 in an unsatisfactory, inadequate, or unsuccessful way: a badly managed company | the war was going badly. 2 in an unfavorable way: try not to think badly of me. 3 in an unacceptable or unpleasant way: she realized she was behaving rather badly. 4 to a great or serious degree: severely: the building was badly damaged by fire | I wanted a baby so badly.

—adj. guilty or regretful: I felt badly about my unkindness of the previous evening.

—bad•min•ton [ˈbɑdmینtən] n. a game with rackets in which a shuttlecock is played back and forth across a net.

—bad•mouth v. [tr.] criticize (someone or something); speak disloyally of: no one wants to hire an individual who badmouths a prior employer.

—bad•news [ˈbɑdnɪz] n. an unpleasant or undesirable person or thing: dry weather is always bad news for gardeners.

—bad•tem•pered [ˈbɑdtemˌpərd] adj. easily annoyed or made angry: in a hot wave, many people become increasingly bad-tempered. —characterized by anger or ungraciousness: Mary was feeling very bad-tempered | a bad-tempered exchange.

—bad•tem•pered•ly adv.

—ba•file [ˈbɑfl] v. [tr.] totally bewildered or perplexed: an unexplained occurrence that baffled everyone | as adj. (baffling) the baffling murder of her sister.

—n. a device used to restrain the flow of a fluid, gas, or loose material to prevent the spreading of sound or light in a particular direction.

—ba•fil•ment [ˈbɑfilˌment] n. —ba•fil•ling adj.

—bag [bæɡ] n. 1 a container of flexible material with an opening at the top, used for carrying things: brown paper bags. 2 an amount held by such a container: a bag of apples. 3 a thing resembling a bag in shape.

—n. a woman's handbag or purse. —a piece of luggage: she began to unpack her bags. 2. the amount of game shot by a hunter.

—bag [bæɡ] n. 1 an article of clothing worn over a shoulder: a bag | a player's golf bag.

—n. 1 a thing of little importance; a very easy task: dealing with these boats was a mere bagatelle for the world's oldest yacht club. 2 a short, light piece of music, esp. one for the piano.

—bag•el [ˈbæɡəl] n. a dense bread roll in the shape of a ring, made by boiling dough and then baking it.

—bag•gage [ˈbæɡɪdʒ] n. personal belongings packed in suitcases for traveling: luggage. —fig. past experiences or long-held ideas regarded as burdens and impediments: the emotional baggage I'm hauling around.

—bag•gy [ˈbæɡi] adj. (-gi•er, -gi•est) of (clothing) loose and hanging in folds: baggy pants. —n. (of eyes) with folds of puffy skin below them.

—bag•gi•ness n.

—bag•lay·er [ˈbægəˌlɛr] n. a homeless woman who carries her possessions in shopping bags.

—bag•man [ˈbægmən] n. man: n. an agent who collects or distributes the proceeds of illicit activities: one million dollars cash paid to the general's bagman.

—bag•pipe [ˈbægpɪp] n. (usu. bagpipes) a musical instrument with reed pipes that are sounded by the pressure of wind emitted from a bag squeezed by the player's arm. Bagpipes are associated esp. with Scotland, but are also used in folk music in Ireland, Northumberland, and France. —bag•pip•er [ˈbægpɪpər] n.

—ba•guette [ˈbaˌget] n. 1 a long, narrow loaf of French bread. 2 a gem, esp. a diamond, cut in a long rectangular shape: a baguette diamond.

—bah [bɑh] interj. an expression of contempt or disagreement: You think it was an accident? Bah!

—Bah•ha•i [ˈbɑhˌhei] also (also Bah•ha•i) n. (pl. -hais) a monotheistic religion founded in the 19th century as a development of Babism, emphasizing the essential oneness of humankind and of all religions and seeking world peace. The Bahá’í faith was founded by the Persian Báb ‘Abd illah (1817-92) and his son ‘Abdul Baha (1844-1921). —an adherent of the Bahá’í faith. —Bah•ha•ism [ˌbɑhmaɪzəm] n.

—ball [bɑl] n. 1 the temporary release of an accused person awaiting trial, sometimes on condition that a sum of money be lodged to guarantee their appearance in court: he has been released on bail. 2 money paid by or for such a person as security.

—v. [tr.] (usu. be bailed) release or secure the release of (a prisoner) on payment of bail: his son called home to get bailed out of jail. —bail•able adj. —n. a sum of money as bail: I posted bail for him.

—ball [bɑl] n. 1 a bar that holds something in place, in particular: a fishing bar that guides fishing line on a reel. 2 a bar on a typewriter or computer printer that holds the paper steady. 3 an arched handle,
bail

such as on a bucket or a teapot; [as adj] drawers fitted with brass bail handles.

bail [v. 1 [tr] scoop water out of (a ship or boat); the first priority is to bail out the boat with buckets. 2 [imp] scoop (water) out of a ship or boat: I started to use my hands to bail out the water.

bail out make an emergency parachute descent from an aircraft; eject; [fig] become free of an obligation or commitment; discontinue an activity; she felt ready to bail out of the corporate rat race.

bail bond /bail bônd/ n. a person who makes an agreement to pay the difference in case the accused person does not return for trial.

bail bond /bail bônd/ n. a bond that is required by law for the appearance of a defendant in court.

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ring of small solid metal balls that reduce friction. a ball used in such a bearing.

**ball** | n. a ball who retrieves balls that go out of play during a game such as tennis or baseball, and who supplies players or umpires with new balls.

**ball cock** | n. a valve that automatically fills a tank after liquid has been drawn from it. Used, for example, in a flush toilet, a ball cock has a float on the end of a pivoting arm that opens the valve when the arm drops.

**balkenize** | vb. [tr.], vb. [intr.] to divide (a region or body) into smaller mutually hostile states or groups. —Balkenization | n.

**ballky** | vb. [tr.] also bal-buky | vb. [intr.], adj. Balkenization (ball-ky-ization) | n. (balk-ky) reluctant; uncooperative; he was trying to get his balky horse to move.

**ball** | n. 1 a solid or hollow sphere or ovoid, esp. one that is kicked, thrown, or hit in a game: a soccer ball. 2 a ball-shaped object: a ball of wool; he crushed the card into a ball. 3 hist. a solid nonexplosive missile for a firearm. 4 a game played with a ball, esp. baseball: young men would graduate from college and enter pro ball. 2 Baseball a pitch delivered outside the strike zone that the batter does not attempt to hit: the umpire called it a ball. 3 Sports a pass of a ball from one player to another. 4 Balkanize a form a round ball out of the ball of the foot, the rounded protuberant part of the foot at the base of the big toe. 5 (balls) vulgar slang testicles. 6 (ball) an act of sexual intercourse. 7 courage or nerve. 8 nonsense; rubbish (often said to express strong disagreement).

**ballad** | n. a poem or song narrating a story in short stanzas. Traditional ballads are typically of unknown authorship, having been passed on orally from one generation to the next as part of the folk culture. They may be sentimental or romantic songs. —late 15th cent. (denoting a light, simple song, from Old French balade, from Provençal balada 'dance, song to dance to,' from bolar 'to dance,' from late Latin ballare. The sense 'narrative poem' dates from the mid 18th cent.

**ballade** | n. 1 a poem normally composed of three stanzas and an envoi. The last line of the opening stanza is used as a refrain, and the same rhymes, strictly limited in number, recur throughout. 2 a short, lyrical piece of music, esp. one for piano.

**balladeer** | n. a singer or composer of ballads.

**ball-and-socket joint** | n. a natural or manufactured joint or coupling, such as the hip joint, in which a partially spherical end lies in a socket, allowing multidirectional movement and rotation.

**ballast** | n. 1 heavy material, such as gravel, sand, iron, or lead, placed low in a vessel to improve its stability. 2 a substance of this type carried in an airship or on a hot-air balloon to stabilize it and jetisoned when greater altitude is required. 3 something that gives stability or substance: the film is an entertaining comedy with some serious ideas thrown in for ballast. 4 gravel or coarse stone used to form the bed of a railroad track or road. 5 a mixture of coarse and fine aggregate for making concrete. 6 a passive component used in an electric circuit to moderate changes in current.

**ball bearing** | n. a bearing between a wheel and a fixed axle, in which the rotating part and the stationary part are separated by a ball, a bearing between a wheel and a fixed axle, in which the rotating part and the stationary part are separated by a ball.
balm /bæl/ n. a fragrant ointment or preparation used to heal or soothe the skin; used in names of other aromatic herbs of the mint family, e.g. bee balm. fig. something that has a comforting, soothing, or restorative effect.

balmily /bælˈmɪli/ adj. balm-like. balmiest (of the weather) pleasantly warm; the balmiest days of late summer. 2 inf. extremely foolish; eccentric: this is a balmiest decision. I think he’s gone balmly again. —balmi-ness n.

bala-loy /ˈba(ɪ)ləʊ/ n. int. foolish or deceptive talk; nonsense: typical salesman’s baloney. 2 variant of BOLOGNA.

bal-se /bɔɪsə/ n. (also balsa wood) a very lightweight wood used in particular for making models and rafts.

bal-sam /ˈbæləm/ n. 1 an aromatic resinous substance, such as balm, exuded by various trees and shrubs and used as a base for certain fragrances and medical preparations. 2 a tree or shrub that yields balsam. 2 a herbaceous plant (genus Impatiens, family Balsaminaceae) cultivated for its flowers, which are typically pink or purple and carried on the stem. —bal-sam-like adj.

bal-sam fir /ˈbæləm/ n. a North American fir tree (Abies balsamea) that yields Canada balsam.

bal-sam poplar /ˈbæləm/ n. a North American poplar tree (Populus balsamifera) that yields balsam.

Bal-tic /ˈbæltɪk/ n. adj. 1 of or relating to the Baltic Sea or the region surrounding it. 2 denoting, belonging to, or relating to the branch of the Indo-European family of languages consisting of Lithuanian, Latvian, and Old Prussian.

Bal-ust/ˈbælstər/ n. a short pillar or column, typically decorative in design, in a series supporting a rail or copings. as adj. (of a furniture leg or other decorative item) having the form of a baluster. —early 17th cent.: from French balustre, from Italian balustro, from balans (and 'wild pomegranate flower' (via Latin from Greek balosloun), so named because part of the pillar resembles the curving calyx tube of the flower. —bal-ust-ral adj.

bal-ustrade /ˈbæləstrəd/ n. a railing supported by balusters, esp. an ornamental parapet on a balcony, bridge, or terrace.

bam-bi-no /bæmˈbɛno/ n. (pl. -ni [nɪ]) often humorous a baby or young child. —an image of the infant Jesus.

bam-boo /bæmˈboʊ/ n. a giant woody grass (Bambusa and other genera), that grows chiefly in the tropics, where it is widely cultivated. —the hollow jointed stem of this plant, used as a cane or to make furniture and implements.

bam-boo shoot n. a young shoot of bamboo, eaten as a vegetable.

bam-boo-ze /ˈbæmboʊzə/ v. [tr.] inf. fool or cheat (someone): Tom Sawyer bamboozled the neighborhood boys into doing it for him. —often be bamboozled confused and perplexed: bamboozled by the number of savings plans being offered.

ban /bæn/ v. (banned, banning) [tr.] officially or legally prohibit: he was banned from driving for a year. a proposal to ban all trade in ivory. officially exclude (someone) from a place: he once was banned from a casino in Reno.

n. 1 an official or legal prohibition: a proposed ban on cigarette advertising. a three-year driving ban. an official exclusion of a person from an organization, country, or activity: a ban on homosexuals in the armed forces. 2 a tacit prohibition by public opinion: barnes have proposed to defy an unwritten ban on Wagner's works.

ba-nal /ˈbænal/ adj. so lacking in originality as to be obvious and boring: songs with banal, repeated words. —ba-nal-ly adv.

ba-nan-a /bəˈnænə/ n. 1 a long-curved fruit that grows in clusters and has soft purple flesh and yellow skin when ripe. 2 (also banana plant or banana tree) the tropical and subtropical tree-like plant (genus Musa, family Musaceae) that bears this fruit, with very large leaves.

3 adj. [bananas] int. insane or extremely silly: he's beginning to think I'm bananas.

top banana int. the most important person in an organization or activity.

ba-nan-a-re-pub-lic /bəˈnænərəˈpʌblik/ n. chiefly derog. a small nation, esp. in Central America, dependent on one crop or the influx of foreign capital.

ba-nan-a-slip t. n. a dessert made with a split banana, ice cream, sauce, whipped cream, nuts, and a cherry.

band /bænd/ n. 1 a flat, thin strip or loop of material put around something, typically to hold it together or to decorate it: wads of bandages fastened with gummed paper bands. a strip of material forming part of a garment: bandage /ˈbændɪdʒ/ or waistband. a plain ring for the finger: e.g. a gold wedding ring; a narrow band of gold was her only jewelry. Ornithol. a ring of metal placed around a bird's leg to identify it. 2 a stripe or elongated area of a different color, texture, or composition than its surroundings: a long, narrow band of cloud. 3 a range of frequencies or wavelengths in a spectrum (esp. of radio frequencies): channels in the UHF band.

v. [intr.] usu. be banded 1 surround (an object) with something in the form of a ring or strip, typically for reinforcement or decoration: doors are banded with metal to make them stronger. Ornithol. put a band on (a bird) for identification. 2 mark (something) with a stripe or strips of a different color: the bird’s bill is banded across the middle with black. —adj. (banded) bandedagate.

band /bænd/ n. 1 a group of people who have a common interest or purpose: guerrilla bands /ɡɪˈrɪlə/ and a determined band of activists. Anthropol. a sub-group of a tribe. 2 a group of musicians who play together, in particular: a small group of musicians and vocalists who play pop, jazz, or rock music: the band's last two albums are rock band. 3 a group of people who play brass, wind, or percussion instruments: a military band. —inf. an orchestra. 3 a herd or flock: moving bands of caribou.

v. [intr.] of people or organizations form a group for a mutual purpose: local people banded together to fight the company.

band-age /ˈbændɪdʒ/ n. a strip of material used to bind a wound or to protect an injured part of the body: her leg was swathed in bandages.

v. [tr.] bind (a wound or a part of the body) with a protective strip of material: bandage the foot so that the ankle is supported. —fig. of something: bandage the foot to a much deeper problem.

band-dan-na /bænˈdænə/ n. a large handkerchief or neckerchief, typically of silk or cotton, often having a colorful pattern.

b. & b. (also B&B) abbr. bed and breakfast.

band-deau /ˈbændə/ n. (pl. -deaux /ˈdədʒə/) a narrow band worn around the head to hold the hair in position: their dusty blonde hair smoothly coiled in bandeaux. a woman's strapless top formed from a band of fabric fitting around the bust: white-two piece bathing suit with quilted sateen bandana top.

band-i-coot /bændiˈkoʊ/ n. a mainly insectivorous marsupial (family Peramelemorphidea) native to Australia and New Guinea. Several genera and species, some of which are endangered or extinct, include the short-nosed bandicoot (Isodon obesus).

band-it /ˈbændɪt/ n. (pl. bandits or band-di-ti /ˈbændɪtə/) a robber or outlaw belonging to a gang and typically operating in an isolated or lawless area: the bandit produced a weapon and demanded money. —fig. a person notably proficient at something, esp. in contrast to or at the expense of a rival or opponent: he was no base-running bandit, but he got the job done. —military slang an enemy aircraft. late 16th cent.: from Italian banditii, literally 'banded,' past participle of bandire.

make out like a bandit profit greatly from an activity.

band-do-lier /ˈbændədəˈlɪər/ n. a shoulder-belt with loops or pockets for cartridges.

band-saw /ˈbændsɔ/ (also band saw) n. an endless saw, consisting of a steel band with a serrated edge running over wheels.

band-stand /ˈbænd,steɪnd/ n. a covered outdoor platform for a band to play on, typically in a park. a raised platform for performing musicians in a restaurant or dance hall.

band-wag-on /ˈbændˌwɔŋ/ n. a particular activity or cause that has suddenly become fashionable or popular: the local deejays are on the home-team bandwagon.

jump (or climb) on the bandwagon join others in doing or supporting something fashionable or likely to be successful: scientists and doctors alike have jumped on the bandwagon.

band-width /ˈbændwɪdθ/ n. Elec. a range of frequencies within a given band, in particular: the range of frequencies for transmitting a signal. the transmission capacity of a computer network.
bandy /ˈbændi/ adj. (-di-er, -di-est) (of a person's legs) curved so as to be wide apart at the knees. —often bandy-legged (of a person) having legs that are curved in such a way: bowlegged.

ban-ny /v. tr. be banded/about around pass on or discuss an idea or rumor in a casual way: $40,000 is the figure that has been banded about. —intr. exchange; pass back and forth: they banded words and rhymes from one to another.

—bandy words with argue pointlessly or rudely: don't bandy words with me.

banes /bæn/ n. a cause of great distress or annoyance: the bane of the decorator is the long, narrow hall.

baneful /ˈbænfəl/ adj. archaic.

bang /bæŋ/ n. 1. a sudden loud noise: the door slammed with a bang. 2. a sharp blow causing such a loud noise: I went to answer a bang on the front door. 3. a sudden painful blow: a nasty bang on the head. 4. a fringe of hair cut straight across the forehead; she brushed back her wispy bangs. 5. vulgar slang an act of sexual intercourse. 6. Comput. the character "!

—intr. 1. strike or put down (something) forcefully and noisily, typically in anger or in order to attract attention: he began to bang the table with his fist. 2. come into contact with (something) suddenly and sharply, typically by accident: I banged my head on the low beams. 3. [intr.] make a sudden loud noise, typically repeatedly: the shutter was banging in the wind. 4. [of a door] open or close violently and noisily: he banged the kitchen door shut behind him. 5. [intr.] make a sudden noise, esp. as an indication of anger or irritation: she was banging the phone down. 6. [of a person] move around or do something noisily, esp. as a result of anger or irritation: it was as if the kitchen were a set for a sports player. 7. [intr.] hit (a ball or a shot) forcefully and successfully: in his second start he banged out two hits.

—bang out of tr. derive excitement or pleasure from; some people get a bang out of reading that stuff.

—bang off of tr. go (off) with a bang: go successfully: the occasion went with a bang.

bang-up /ˈbæŋkwit/ adj. excellent; he has done a bang-up job.

banish /bənɪʃ/ v. [tr.] often be banished send (someone) away from a country or place as an official punishment: they were banished to Siberia for political crimes. —fig. forbid, abolish, or get rid of (something unwanted): it's perfectly feasible to ban the smoke without banning smoking.

—banishment n.

banister /ˈbænɪstər/ n. (also banister) the structure formed by uprights and a handrail at the side of a staircase. —a single upright on the side of the staircase.

—banisters /ˈbænɪstərz/ n. (pl. jos or joes) a stringed musical instrument with a long neck and a round open-backed body consisting of partchment stretched over a metal hoop like a tambourine, played by plucking or with a plectrum. It is used esp. in American folk music. —an object resembling this in shape: [adj.] a banjo clock. —mid 18th cent.: originally a black American alteration of earlier bandore, probably based on Greek pandoura 'three-stringed lute'. —banjoist /ˈbænjoɪst/ n.

bank /bæŋk/ n. 1. the land alongside or sloping down to a river or lake: willows lined the bank. 2. a slope, mass, or mound of a particular substance: a bank of clouds | a bank of snow. 3. an elevation in the seabed or a riverbed: a mudbank or sandbank. 4. a transverse slope given to a road, railroad, or sports track to enable vehicles or runners to maintain speed around a curve. 5. the side-walls of an aircraft when the aircraft is turning. 6. a set or series of things resembling this in some way: lights and speakers on either side of his console. 7. the cushion of a pool table; [adj.] a bank shot.

—intr. 1. leap (a substance) into a mass or mound: the rain banked the soil up behind the gate. 2. rise or form into a mass or mound: hehe a mass or mound of a substance against (something); people were banked their houses with earth. 3. (a fire) with tightly packed fuel so that it burns slowly; she could have made a fire and banked it with dirt. 4. (an aircraft or vehicle) tilt or cause to tilt sideways in making a turn. 5. the plane banked as if to return to the airport.

—intr. 1. bank the aircraft steeply and turned. 2. [intr.] build (a road, railroad, or sports track) higher at the outer edge of a bend to facilitate fast cornering. 3. (in pool and other games) play (a ball) so that it rebounds off a surface such as a backboard or cushion.

bank /bæŋk/ n. a financial establishment that invests money deposited by customers, pays it out when required, makes loans at interest, and exchanges currency; I paid the money straight into my bank. —a stock of something available for use when required: a blood bank. —build a bank of test items is the responsibility of teachers. —a place where something may be safely kept: the computer's memory bank. —the bank of the store of money or tokens held by the banker in some gambling or board games. —the person holding this store: the banker.

—intr. deposit (money or valuables) in a bank: I banked the check. —intr. have an account at a particular bank: he did bank with the old family banks. —esp. (of a competitor in a game or race) win or earn (a sum of money): he banked $100,000 for a hole-in-one.

—intr. (something, esp. bank, tissue, or sperm) for future use: the sperm is banked or held in storage for the following spring.

—intr. break on bank (in gambling) win money more than is held by the bank.

—intr. cost more than one can afford: Christmas must not break on the bank.

bank card n. a card issued by a bank for the purpose of identifying a customer, as at an automated teller machine. —a credit card issued by a bank.

banker /ˈbæŋkər/ n. an officer or owner of a bank or group of banks.

—intr. the person running the table, controlling play, or acting as dealer in some gambling or board games.

banking /ˈbæŋkiŋ/ n. the business conducted or services offered by a bank: with this account, you are entitled to free banking.

—intr. support (a person, organization, or project) financially.

bankrupt /ˈbæŋkrupt/ adj. of (a person or organization) declared in law unable to pay outstanding debts: the company was declared bankrupt. —fig. impoverished or depleted: a bankrupt country with no natural resources. —fig. completely lacking in a particular quality or value: their cause is morally bankrupt. —bankruptcy n.

—intr. a person judged by a court to be insolvent, whose property is taken and disposed of for the benefit of creditors.

—intr. reduce (a person or organization) to bankruptcy: the strike nearly bankrupted the union.

—intr. a printed record of the balance in a bank account and the amounts that have been paid into it and withdrawn from it. —issuued periodically to the holder of the account.

baner /ˈbæner/ n. 1. a long strip of cloth bearing a design or a word or a symbol. —hung in a public place or carried in a demonstration or procession: a banner in the front window announced "Grand Reopening." —fig. a flag on a pole used as the standard of a monarch, army, or knight. —fig. an idea or principle used to rally public opinion: the administration is flying the free trade banner. —intr. an advertisement appearing across the top of a web page: to get a new banner now, click Step 1.

—intr. excellent; outstanding: I predict that 1998 will be a banner year.

—intr. variant spelling of bannister.

banns /ˈbæn兹/ pl. n. a notice read out on three successive Sundays in a parish church, announcing an intended marriage and giving the opportunity for objections.

banquet /ˈbænkwet/ n. an elaborate and formal evening meal for many people, often followed by speeches: the Austrian emperor's lavish banquet as adj. a banquet table. —an elaborate and extensive meal: a feast; a ten-course Chinese banquet.

—intr. entertain with a banquet: there are halls for banqueting up to 3,000 people. —adj. banqueting a banquet hall.

—intr. a banquet.

ban-quet /ˈbænkwet/ n. an upholstered bench along a wall, esp. in a restaurant or bar.

ban-shee /ˈbænsi/ n. (in Irish legend) a female spirit whose wailing warns of an impending death in a house: the little girl dropped her ice cream and began to howl like a banshee.
bantam /'bæntəm/ n. a chicken of a small breed, of which the cock is noted for its aggressiveness.

bantam-weight /'bæntəmˌwɔːt/ n. a weight in boxing and other sports intermediate between flyweight and featherweight. In boxing it ranges from 112 to 118 pounds (51 to 54 kg). a boxer or other competitor in this weight class.

banty /'bænti/ n. [pl. same or -tus] 1 a member of an extensive group of native peoples of central and southern Africa, the group of languages spoken by these peoples.

bantustan /'bæntʊstæn/ n. (pl. same or -tus) a member of an extensive group of native peoples of central and southern Africa, the group of languages spoken by these peoples.

bar /'bɑːr/ n. 1 a short red or rigid piece of wood, metal or similar material, typically used as an obstruction, furniture, or weapon; 2 an amount of food or another substance formed into a regular shape; 3 a bar of chocolate; 4 a bar of color or light, esp. on a flat surface: bars of sunlight streaming through the broken windows; 5 see crossbar; 6 a sandbox or sandpit at the mouth of a harbor, bay, or estuary; 7 a counter across which alcoholic drinks or refreshments are served; 8 a room in a restaurant or hotel in which alcohol is served; 9 an establishment where alcohol and sometimes other refreshments are served; 10 a small stall or booth serving refreshments or providing a service; 11 a diary; 12 a barrier or restriction on an action or advance: political differences are not necessarily a barrier to a good relationship; 13 a measure of music or the time of a piece of music; 14 any kind of boll: the bar of public opinion; 15 the Bar (lawyers collectively).

barad /'bɑːrəd/ adj. 1 fasten (something, esp. a door or window) with a bar or bars; 2 bar a car or a door or window; 3 be barred from a workhouse or a men-only dinner; 4 be barred (someone) from doing something; 5 bar journalists from attending the elections; 6 bar something from consideration: nothing is barred from the crime novel.

barb /'bɑːb/ n. 1 a sharp projection near the end of an arrow, fishhook, or similar item, angled away from the main point so as to make extraction difficult; 2 a cluster of spikes on barbed wire; 3 a deliberately hurtful remark: his barb hurt more than she cared to admit; 4 be barbed (someone) with a beaklike filament at the mouth of some fish, such as barb and catfish; 5 a freshwater fish (Barbus and other genera) of the minnow family that typically has barbels around the mouth, popular in aquaria;

barbarian /'bærəbərən/ n. (in ancient times) a member of a community or tribe not belonging to one of the great civilizations (Greek, Roman, Christian). an uncultured or brutal person.

barbaric /'bærəbərik/ adj. 1 savagely cruel; exceedingly brutal: he had carried out barbaric acts in the name of war; 2 primitive; unsophisticated: the barbaric splendor he found in civilizations since destroyed; 3 uncivilized and uncultured.

barbarism /'bærəbərizm/ n. 1 absence of culture and civilization: the collapse of civilization and the return to barbarism; 2 extreme cruelty or brutality; she called the execution of an act of barbarism; 3 barbary: the barbary exposed by the terrorists; the Nazibarbarian barbarities of the last war. 4 absence of culture and civilization: beyond the Empire lay barbarity.

barbarous /'bærəbərəs/ adj. 1 savagely cruel; exceedingly brutal; 2 savage acts of early child-rearing practices were barbarous by modern standards; 3 primitive: uncivilized; a remote and barbarous country. 4 (esp. of language) coarse and unrefined.

baryonyx ape /'bærənɒks/ n. a tailless macaque monkey (Macaca sylvana) that is native to northwestern Africa and also found on the Kock of Gibraltar.

barbecue /'bɑːbəkjuː/ n. 1 a meal or gathering at which meat, fish, or other food is cooked on a grill over an open fire or on a portable grill; 2 a portable grill used for the preparation of food at a barbecue, or a brick fireplace containing a grill; 3 food cooked in this way.

barber /'bɑːbər/ n. & v. a common misspelling of barbecue.

barber /'bɑːbər/ n. a person who cuts hair, esp. men's, and shaves or trims beards as an occupation.

barberry /'bɑːbəri/ n. (esp. adj.) a thorny shrub (genus Berberis, family Berberidaceae) that bears yellow flowers and red or blue-black berries.

barbershop /'bɑːbərʃɒp/ n. a shop where a barber works; often as adj. a popular style of close harmony singing, typically for four male voices: a barbershop quartet.

barber's pole /'bɑːbərə pɔːl/ n. a pole painted with spiraling red and white stripes and hanging outside barbershops as a business sign.

barbiturate /'bɑːbɪtjʊrət/ n. a long-acting sedative and sleep-inducing drug, C₅H₁₂O₂N₂, of the barbiturate type.

barbituric /'bɑːbɪtjʊrɪk/ n. any of a class of sedative and sleep-inducing drugs derived from barbituric acid.

barbwire /'bɑːbˈwɪr/ n. a barbed wire.

barcarole /'bɑːkarəl/ n. a song traditionally sung by Venetian gondoliers; a musical composition in the style of such a song.

bar chart /'bɑːr tʃɑːt/ n. another term for bar graph.

bar code /'bɑːr kɔd/ n. a machine-readable code in the form of numbers and a pattern of parallel lines of varying widths, printed on and identifying a product. Also called universal product code.

bard /'bɑːrd/ n. a poet, traditionally one reciting epic and associated with a particular oral tradition; the Bard or the Bard of Avon Shakespeare. —bardic /bərdɪk/ adj.

bare /bɛər/ adj. 1 of or relating to ancient barbarians; barbarian invasions; barbarian peoples; uncivilized: brutal.

barefoot /bɛərˌfʊt/ adj. 1 savagely cruel; exceedingly brutal: he had carried out barbaric acts in the name of war; 2 primitive; unsophisticated: the barbaric splendor he found in civilizations since destroyed; 3 uncivilized and uncultured.

barely /bɛərli/ adv. 1 producer of culture and civilization: the collapse of civilization and the return to barbarism; 2 extreme cruelty or brutality; she called the execution of an act of barbarism; 3 barbary: the barbary exposed by the terrorists; the Nazibarbarian barbarities of the last war. 4 absence of culture and civilization: beyond the Empire lay barbarity.
sun, for relaxation and pleasure: sprawled figures basking in the afternoon sun. [bask in] fig. revel in and make the most of something pleasing: he went on basking in the glory of his first book.

bas-ket [basket] n. 1. a container used to hold or carry things, typically made from interwoven strips of cane or wire: a laundry basket. 2. a structure suspended from the envelope of a hot-air balloon for carrying the crew, equipment, and ballast. 3. Finance a group or range of currencies or investments: the European currency unit is made up of a basket of ten currencies. 2. Basketball a net fixed on a hoop as the goal.

bas-ket-ball [basketboll] n. a game played between two teams of five players in which goals are scored by throwing a ball through a net or pole fixed above each end of the court. 2. the inflated ball used in this game.

bas-ket-case n. int. a person or thing regarded as useless or unable to cope.

bas-ket-ry [basketry] n. the craft of basket-making.

bas-ket-weave n. a style of weave or a pattern resembling basket-work.

bas-ket-work [basketwork] n. material woven in the style of a basket.

bas-sa-rie [basari] n. a kind of long-grain Indian rice of a high quality. 2. from Hindi basari, literally 'fragrant.'

bas mitz-vah [bas mitzvah] n. a variant of BAT MITZVAH.

Basque [bas] n. 1. a member of a people living in the Basque Country of France and Spain. Culturally one of the most distinct groups in Europe, the Basques were largely independent until the 19th century. 2. the language of this people, which has no known relation to any other language.

bas-si-cal [basical] adj. of or relating to the Basques or their language.

bas-relief [bâr'el'éf] n. Sculpture see RELIEF (sense 4). a sculpture, carving, or molding in bas-relief.

bas-si [bāsī] n. a voice, instrument, or sound of the lowest range, in particular: the lowest adult male singing voice. 2. as adj. denoting the member of a family of instruments that is in the lowest pitch: a bass clarinet | a bass drum. 3. inf. a bass guitar or double bass. 4. the low-frequency output of a radio or audio system, corresponding to the bass in music. —bas-ist n.

bas-si [bas] n. (pl. same or basises) 1. the common European freshwater perch. 2. any of a number of fish similar to or related to this, in particular: a mainly marine fish found in temperate waters (family Percichthyidae or Moronidae). 3. an American fish (genera Ambloplites and Micropterus) of the freshwater sunfish family. 4. a sea bass.

bas-cle [bās kle] n. a clef placing F below middle C on the second-highest line of the staff.

bas-set hound [bas't hound] n. a sturdy hunting dog of a breed with a long body, short legs, and big ears.

bas-si-net [bas'net] n. a baby's wicker cradle, usually with a hood.

bas-so [bāsō; bā'zō; (pl. bas-sos or bas-si) [bā'bē] a singer with a bass voice.

bas-soon [bā'sōon; bā'zōn; bā'zōn] n. a bass instrument of the oboe family with a double reed. —bas-sonist n.

bas-so-pro-fun-do [bāsō prō'fandō; bā'bō] n. (pl. basso pro-fun-dos or bas-si pro-fun-di) [bā'pēzō prō'fandō] a bass singer with an exceptionally low range.

bas-so-re-lie-vo [bāsō rē'luvō] n. (pl. -vōs) Sculpture another term for BAS-RELIEF (see RELIEF sense 4).

bas-si-wood [bās'wōd] n. a North American linden tree, including the large-leaved (Anagyris) or small-leaved (Amelanchier) of the northern U.S. and Canada.

bast [bast] n. (also bast fiber) fibrous material from the phloem of a plant, used as fiber in matting, cord, etc.

bastard [bastard] n. 1. *archaic or derog.* a person born of parents not married to each other. 2. int. an unpleasant or despisable person: he lied to me, the bastard! 3. a person (used to suggest an emotion such as pity or envy): the poor bastard. 4. a difficult or awkward thing, undertaking, or situation: it's been an absolute bastard of a week.

—adj. 1. *archaic or derog.* born of parents not married to each other; illegitimate: a bastard child. 2. (of a thing) no longer in its pure or original form: debased: a bastard Durwium... 3. Middle English: via Old French from medieval Latin bastardus. —bastar'dy n.
battle-ax  n. a large broad-bladed ax used in ancient warfare. 2 inf. a formidable aggressive older woman.
battle cry  n. a word or phrase shouted by soldiers going into battle to express solidarity and intimidate the enemy. a slogan expressing the ideals of people promoting a cause.
battle fatigue  n. another term for shell shock.
battle-field  [bat'fild] (also battle-ground, -ground)  n. the piece of ground on which a battle is or was fought: death on the battlefield [as adj] battlefield conditions. fig. a place or situation of strife or conflict; an ideological battlefield.
battle-ment  [bat'ment]  n. (us. battlements) a parapet at the top of a wall, usually of a fort or castle, that has regularly spaced, squared openings for shooting through. —battle-ment-ed adj.
battle-ship  [bat'chip]  n. a heavy warship of a type built chiefly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with extensive armor and large-caliber guns.
batty  [bat′] adj. (-tier, -iest) int. crazy; insane: you'll drive me batty! —bat-tie (bat′) adv. —bat-tie-ness n.
bau-ble  [bōb′]  n. a small, snowy, trinket or decoration. fig. something of no importance or worth.
bau-d (bōd′)  n. (pl. same or bauxs) chiefly Comput. a unit used to express the speed of transmission of electronic signals, corresponding to one information unit or event per second. a unit of data transmission speed for a modem of one bit per second (in fact there is usually more than one bit per event).
bau-x-ite  [bōks′i]  n. a clayey rock that is the chief commercial ore of aluminum. It consists largely of hydrated alumina. —bau-x-ite (bōks′it) adj.
baw-dy  [bōd′] adj. (bawd-ier, bawd-iest) dealing with sexual matters in a comical way; humorously indecent. n. humorously indecent talk or writing. —bawd-i-ly [dāl′] adv. —bawd-i-ness n.
bawl  [bōl] v. 1 shout or call out noisily and unrestrainedly: “Mow!” bawled the drill sergeant | Tr. loudly bawling out the hymns. 2 [intr. weep or cry noisily: she bawled to a child | [as adj] bawling] bawling babies. —phrasal vb. bawl someone out reprimand someone angrily: tales of how she bawled out employees. n. a loud, unrestrained shout.
bay  [bā]  n. a broad inlet of the sea.
bay  [be]  n. 1 also bay tree  an evergreen Mediterranean shrub (Laurus nobilis) of the laurel family, with deep green leaves and purple berries. Its aromatic leaves are used in cooking and were formerly used to make triumphal crowns for victors. 2 a similarly aromatic tree or shrub of North America, esp. the bayberry used in the preparation of bay rum.
bay  [be]  n. a recessed or enclosed area, in particular: a space created by a window-line projecting outward from a wall. short for bay window. a section of wall between two buttresses or columns, esp. in the nave of a church. a compartment with a particular function in a motor vehicle, aircraft, or ship: an engine bay, a bomb bay, an area allocated or marked off for a specified purpose: a loading bay. a cabinet, or a space in the cabinet, into which an electronic device is installed: a drive bay.
bay  [be]  n. a brown horse with black points.
bay  [bay] v. [int.]: 1 of a dog, esp. a large one) bark or howl loudly: the dogs bayed. —[at bay] forced to confront one’s attackers or pursuers; cornered. hold (or keep) someone/something at bay prevent someone or something from approaching or having an effect.
bay-berry  [bā′bər]  n. (pl. -ies) 1 a North American shrub (genus Myrica, family Myricaceae) with aromatic leathery leaves and waxy berries. 2 a tropical American shrub (Phymenia racemosa) of the myrtle family with aromatic leaves that are used in the preparation of bay rum. Also called bay rum tree.
bay leaf  n. the aromatic, usually dried, leaf of the bay tree, used in cooking.
bayonet  [ˈbeɪənət, ˈbeɪnət]  n. 1 a swordlike stabbing blade that may be fixed to the muzzle of a rifle for use in hand-to-hand fighting. 2 [as adj] denoting a fitting for a light bulb, camera lens, or other appliance that is engaged by being pushed into a socket and then twisted to lock it in place. —v. (-net-ed, -net-ing) [Tr.] stab (someone) with a bayonet.
bay-ou  [ˈbeɪoʊ, ˈbeɪə]  n. (pl. -ous) a slow-flowing stream in a swampy area.
bay rum  n. an aromatic liquid, used esp. for the hair or as an aftershave, typically distilled from rum and the leaves of the bayberry.
bay window  n. a window built to project outward from an outside wall.
bazaar  [ˈbɑːzər]  n. a market in a Middle-Eastern country. a fund-raising sale of goods, typically for charity.
bazooka  [ˈbɑːzəkə]  n. 1 a short-range tubular rocket launcher used against tanks. 2 a trombonelike type of kazoo.
BB  symb. a standard size of lead pellet used in air rifles. —abbr. Baseball base on balls.
BC  abbr. before Christ (used to indicate that a date is before the Christian era). —British Columbia (in official postal use).
BCC  abbr. blind carbon copy, a copy of an e-mail sent to someone whose name and address isn't visible to other recipients.
BCE  abbr. Bachelor of Chemical Engineering. —Bachelor of Civil Engineering. —before the Common Era (used of dates before the Christian era, esp. by non-Christians).
BDD  abbr. body dysmorphic disorder.
bde-li-um  [ˈdeɪlem]  n. a fragrant resin produced by a number of trees related to myrrh, used in perfumes.
Be  symb. the chemical element beryllium.
be  [bē]  v. sing. present am. & are. fmr. is. fmr. were. pl. present are. 1st and 3rd sing. past was. past am. was; fmr. past am. were. 2nd sing. past and pl. past were. fmr. past subjunctive be; past subjunctive were; present part. being (byehn). past part. been (bēn). 1 usu. there is/are: exist: there are no easy answers. be present: there is a boy sitting on the step. 2 occur: take place. the exhibition will be in November | that was before the war. 3 occupy a position in space: the Salvation Army store was on his left. 4 stay in the same place or condition: she was here until about ten-thirty | he's a tough customer | let him be. 5 attend: the days when she was in school. 6 come; go; visit; he's from Missouri | I have just been to Thailand. 7 having the state, quality, identity, nature, role, etc., specified; Amy was 91 | the floor was uneven | I want to be a teacher | father was not well | his hair's brown | it will be Christmas soon. 8 “Be careful,” Mr. Carter said. 9 cost: the tickets were $25. 10 amount: to one and one is two. 11 represent: let A be a square matrix of order n. signify: we were everything to each other. 12 consist of; constitute: the monastery was the sum of three, three-story buildings. —phrasal vb. be off go away; leave: he was anxious to be off. aux. v. 1 used with a present participle to form continuous tenses: they are coming. she will be waiting. 2 used with a past participle to form the passive mood: it was done. 3 used to indicate something due to happen; construction is to begin next summer. 4 used to express obligation or necessity; you are to follow these orders. 5 used to express possibility: these snakes are to be found in North America. 6 used to hypothesize about something that might happen: if I were to lose. 7 the be-all and end-all n. a feature of an activity or a way of life that is of greater importance than any other. 8 not be oneself not feel well. 9 to (in comb.) of the future: my bride-to-be.
beach  [bēch]  n. a pebbly or sandy shore, esp. by the ocean between high and low-water marks.
bear  [bār]  n. 1 a large “run or haul up” (a boat or ship) onto a beach; at the water’s edge a rowboat was beached | [intr. crew] would not beach for fear of damaging craft. 2 often as adj. (beached) cause a whale or similar animal) to become stranded out of the water. 3 [intr.] (of a whale or similar animal) become stranded out of the water. 4 (of an angler) land (a fish) on a beach. —fig. cause (someone) to suffer a loss: competitive procurement seems to have beached several companies.
beach ball  n. a large inflatable ball used for playing games on the beach.
beau-ti-ful  /ˈbjoʊtɪfəl/  adj.  pleasing  the  senses  or  mind  aesthetically:  beautiful  poetry  the  mountains  were  calm  and  beautiful.  1.  of  a  very  high  standard:  excellent;  the  house  had  been  left  in  beautiful  order.  —beau-ti-fully  [ˈbjoʊtɪfəli]  adv.  as  adj.  the  rules  are  beautifully  simple.

beau-ti-fi-er  /ˈbjoʊtɪfɪər/  n.  a  beautiful  person.

beau-ti-fi-ful  /ˈbjoʊtɪfəl/  adj.  pleasing  the  senses  or  mind  aesthetically:  beautiful  poetry  the  mountains  were  calm  and  beautiful.  of  a  very  high  standard:  excellent;  the  house  had  been  left  in  beautiful  order.  —beau-ti-fully  [ˈbjoʊtɪfəli]  adv.  as  adj.  the  rules  are  beautifully  simple.

beau-ti-fi-ca-tion  /ˈbjoʊtɪfɪkəʃən/  n.  the  action  or  claim  to  beautify.

beau-ti-fi-er  /ˈbjoʊtɪfɪər/  n.  a  person  whose  job  is  to  do  hair  styling,  manicures,  and  other  beauty  treatments.

beau-ti-ful  /ˈbjoʊtɪfəl/  adj.  fashionable,  glamorous,  and  privileged  people.

beau-ti-fi-er  /ˈbjoʊtɪfɪər/  n.  a  particular  fine  example  of  something;  the  idea  was  a  beauti.

beau-ti-ful  /ˈbjoʊtɪfəl/  adj.  fashionable,  glamorous,  and  privileged  people.

beau-ti-fi-cation  /ˈbjoʊtɪfɪkəʃən/  n.  the  action  or  claim  to  beautify.
bed-spread  [bed, spred]  n. a decorative cloth used to cover a bed.

bed-stead  [bed, sted]  n. the framework of a bed on which the bed-springs and mattress are placed.

bed-straw  [bed, strow]  n. a herbaceous plant (genus Galium, family Rubiaceae) with small, lightly perfumed, white or yellow flowers and whorls of slender leaves, formerly used for stuffing mattresses.

bed-time  [bed, tim]  n. the usual time when someone goes to bed: it was well past her bedtime.

bed-wetting  [bed, wetting]  n. involuntary urination during sleep. —bed-wet-ter  n.

bee  [bi]  n. 1 a honeybee. 2 an insect of a large group (superfamily Apoidea) to which the honeybee belongs, including many solitary as well as social kinds. 3 a meeting for communal work or amusement: a quelling bee.

— □ have a bee in one's bonnet  int. be preoccupied or obsessed about something, esp. a scheme or plan of action.

beech for the beam (also beech tree) a large tree (genera Fagus and Nothofagus) with smooth gray bark, glossy leaves, and hard, pale, fine-grained timber. Its fruit, a small triangular nut (beechnut), is an important food for numerous wild birds and mammals. The beech family (Fagaceae) also includes the oaks and chestnuts.

bee-eater  [bi, eeter]  n. a brightly colored insectivorous bird (Merops and other genera, family Meropidae) with a large head and a long down-curved bill, and typically with long central tail feathers.

beef  [bēf]  n. 1 the flesh of a cow, bull, or ox, used as food. — pl. (beefes, bēviz) 2 [past -fell; past part. -felled] [tr. poet., light.] (of something bad) happen to someone: a tragedy befell his daughter | intr. she was to blame for anything that befell.

beef-tie'  [bēf, tie']  adj. (typically [as adj. or intr.]) befitting I answered in a befitting manner.

beefy  [bēf, i] adj. (beefy-er, beefy-est) 1 int. muscular or robust: he shrugged his beefy shoulders. — large and impressively powerful: beefy skiis. 2 tasting like beef. — beefy-like  [bēf, e, i, lik] adj. — beefy-ness  n.

beef-stake  [bēf, stak]  n. a thick slice of lean beef, typically from the rump and eaten grilled, broiled, or fried.

beef-y  [bēf, i] adj. (beef-ier, beef-iest) 1 int. muscular or robust: he shrugged his beefy shoulders. — large and impressively powerful: beefy skiis. 2 tasting like beef. — beefy-like  [bēf, e, i, lik] adj. — beefy-ness  n.

beneath  [bi, neth]  prep., conj. & adv. 1 during the time of preceding (a particular event, date, or time): [as prep] she had to rest before dinner | the day before yesterday | [as conj.] they lived rough for four days before they were arrested. 2 in front of; [as prep.] Madlil stood before her, panning at the patterns swam before her eyes. 3 in front of and required to answer to (a court of law, tribunal, or other authority): he could be taken before a magistrate for punishment. 3 in preference to: with a higher priority than: [as prep.] a woman who placed duty before all else | [as conj.] they would die before they would cooperate with each other.

be-end  [bi, end]  v. (fit-ted, fit-ting) befit; to suit: the ballet ended nobly, as befits a tragedy. — be-end-ly  adv. be-end-ness  n.

beg  [beg]  v. (begged, begging, sleet) 1 ask (someone) earnestly or humbly for something: [tr.] a leper begged Jesus for help | [int.] I must beg of you not to act impulsively. — ask for (something) earnestly or humbly: he begged their forgiveness. — with direct speech "Don't leave me," she begged. — beg formally (for permission to do something): I will now beg leave to make some observations | [intr.] we beg to inform you that we are instructed to wait. 2 [intr.] ask for something, typically food or money, as charity or a gift: they had to beg for food. 3 [intr.] acquire (something) from someone in this way: a piece of bread that I begged from a farmer. 4 live by acquiring food or sustenance in this way. 5 (of a dog) sit up with the front paws raised expectantly in the hope of a reward.

— □ beg, borrow, or steal fig. do whatever may be necessary to acquire something greatly desired: I'm gonna get the money to buy Casey's ring, even if I have to beg, borrow, or steal. □ beg off request to be excused from a question or obligation: asked to name her favorites from her films, Hepburn begged off. □ beg the question 1 [of a fact or action] raise a question or point that has not been dealt with; invite an obvious question. 2 avoid the question; evade the issue. 3 assume the truth of an argument or proposition to be proved, without arguing it. □ go begging (of an article) be available for use because unwanted by others: half the apartments in New York go begging in the summer. □ (of an opportunity) not be taken: we let so many good chances go begging.

beggar  [bi, gar]  n. past of BEGIN.

beg-get  [bi, get]  v. (get, -getting; past -got; -gat); past part. -got-en] [tr.] poet. icht. 1 [typically of a man, sometimes of a man and a woman] bring (a child) into existence by the process of reproduction: they hoped that the King might beget an heir by his new queen. 2 give rise to; bring about: success begot further success. — be-get-ter  n.

beggar-y  [bi, gär, e]  adj. poverty-stricken. — pitifully or deplorably bad: the beggarly physical condition to which I had been reduced. — very small and mean: the stipend was a beggarly $26. — beggar-li-ness  n.

beggar-y  [bi, gär, e]  n. a state of extreme poverty.

be-gin  [bi, gin]  v. (gin, -ginning; past -gan; -gan); past part. -gun; -gun] 1 [tr.] start: perform or undergo the first part of an action or activity: the Communist movement began its fight to | begin (to do) it was beginning to snow | [intr.] she began by rewriting the syllabus. — begin to come into being or have its starting point at a certain time or place: the ground campaign had begun. — [intr.] (of a person) hold a specific position or role before holding any other: he began as a drummer. — [intr.] (of a thing) originate: Watts Lake began as a marine inlet. — [intr.] begin with have as a first element: words beginning with a vowel. — [begin

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benediction

following the rule of St. Benedict. 2 trade mark a liqueur based on brandy originally made by Benedictine monks in France.

benediction [ben 'di skon] n. the utterance or bestowing of a blessing, esp. at the end of a religious service.
bene-faction [ben 'o faktən] n. a donation or gift.
bene-factor [ben 'a faktər] n. a person who gives money or other help to a person or cause.
bene-fice [ben 'a fiks] n. a permanent Church appointment, typically that of a rector or vicar, for which property and income are provided in respect of pastoral duties. —bene-ficed adj.
bene-fic-ent [ben 'a fiksənt] adj. (of a person) generous or doing good.
bene-fic-ently adv.
bene-fi-cial [ben 'a fis̆əl] adj. favorable or advantageous; resulting in good: the beneficial effect on the economy | discovers beneficial to mankind.
law of or relating to rights, other than legal title: the beneficiary will be taxed on the value of his beneficial use of the property. —bene-ficial-ly adv.
bene-fi-ci-ar-y [ben 'a fis̆ə ri] n. (pl. -aries) a person who derives advantage from something, esp. a trust, will, or life insurance policy.
bene-fit [bene'fit] n. 1 an advantage or profit gained from something: tenants bought their houses with the benefit of a discount | enjoy the benefits of being a member. 2 a payment or gift made by an employer, the state, or an insurance company: welfare benefits | wages and benefits. 3 a public performance or other entertainment of which the proceeds go to a particular charitable cause.

—v. (fitted, fitting or fitted, fitting) intr. receive an advantage: profit: gain: areas that would benefit from regeneration. [tr.] bring advantage to: the bill will benefit the nation. —late Middle English (originally denoting a kind deed or something well done): from Old French beneficet, from Latin beneficium 'good deed.' from bene facere 'do good to.'

a the benefit of the doubt a concession that a person or fact must be regarded as correct or justified, if the contrary has not been proven: I'll give you the benefit of the doubt as to whether it was deliberate or not.

bene-night-ed [ben 'a nitəd] adj. in a state of pitiful or contemptible intellectual or moral ignorance, typically owing to a lack of opportunity: they saw themselves as bringing of culture to poor benighted peoples. —bene-night-edness n.

bent [bent] adj. 1 past and past participle of bending. 2 bent on determined to do or have something: a missionary bent on saving souls | a mob bent on violence.

bent out of shape int. angry or agitated: it was just a mistake, nothing to get bent out of shape about.

bent [bent] n. (also bent grass) a stiff grass (Agrostis and other genera) that is used for lawns and is a component of pasture and hay grasses. —the stiff flowering stalk of a grass.

bent-wood [ben 'woud] n. wood that is artificially shaped for use in making furniture: [as adj.] bentwood chairs.
bene-zen [ben 'zen; ben 'zen] n. a colorless volatile liquid hydrocarbon, C₆H₁₄, present in coal tar and petroleum, used in chemical synthesis.
bene-zen ring [ben 'zen] n. Chem. the hexagonal unsaturated ring of six carbon atoms present in benzene and many other aromatic molecules.
bene-zine [ben 'zen; ben 'zen] n. a mixture of liquid hydrocarbons obtained from petroleum.
bene-zo-in [ben 'zo in] n. 1 a fragrant gum resin obtained from a tropical eastern Asian tree (genus Styrax, family Styracaceae), used in medicines, perfumes, and incense. 2 Chem. a white crystalline aromatic ketone, present in this resin.

be-queath [bi 'kwæθ; -'kwæθ] v. [tr.] leave (a personal estate or one's body) to a person or other beneficiary by a will: he bequeathed his art collection to the town. [pass. (something) on or leave (something) to someone else: he is dishing the unpopular policies bequeathed to him. —be-queather n.

be-quest [bi 'kweslt] n. a legacy: her $13,000 was the largest bequest the library ever has received. —the action of bequeathing something: a painting acquired by bequest.

be-rate [bi 'ræt] v. [tr.] scold or criticize (someone) angrily: my son berated me for not giving him a Jewish upbringing.

be-reeve [bi 'ri və] v. (be bereaved) be deprived of a loved one through a profound absence, esp. due to the loved one's death: the year after they had been bereaved | as adj. [bereaved] bereaved families | as pl. n. [the bereaved] those who caused the bereaved. —be-reeve-ment n.

be-ref [bi 'ref] adj. archaic past participle of bereave.

be-ret [bi 'ræt] n. a round flattened cap of felt or cloth.

be-ga-mot [bə 'gə mət] n. 1 an oily substance extracted from the rind of the fruit of a dwarf variety of the Seville orange tree, used in cosmetics and as flavoring in tea. 2 also bergamot orange the tree (Citrus aurantium bergamia) that bears this fruit. 3 an aromatic North American herb (Monarda didyma) of the mint family, grown for its bright flowers and used medicinally.

be-ri-ber-i [bi 'ber i ri] n. a disease causing inflammation of the nerves and heart failure, caused by a deficiency of vitamin B₁.

be-re-kel-ium [ber'kle ə jəm] n. the chemical element of atomic number 97, an artificial radioactive metal of the actinide series. (Symbol: Bk)

be-rum [ber'əm] n. a flat strip of land, raised bank, or terrace bordering a river or canal. —a path or grass strip beside a road. —an artificial ridge or embankment, e.g., as a defense against tanks.

Ber-muda onion [ber' mi da] n. a variety of cultivated onion with a mild flavor and a flattened shape.

Ber-muda shorts (also Ber-mu-das) pl. n. casual knee-length shorts.

be-r-r-y [ber ri] n. (pl. -ries) a small roundish juicy fruit without a stone: juniper berries | as adj. berry clusters. —Bot. any fruit that has its seeds encased in a fleshy pulp, for example, a banana or tomato.

be-serk [ber'zərk; -sərk] adj. (of a person or animal) out of control with anger or excitement: wild or frenzied: after she left him, he went berserk, throwing things about the apartment. —of a mechanical device or system) operating in a wild or erratic way, out of control: the climate control went berserk and either melted or froze us. —of a procedure, program, or activity) fluctuating wildly: the stock market's gone berserk, with sugar at 15.27 cents a pound. —early 19th cent. (originally as a noun denoting a wild Norse warrior who fought with frenzy): from Old Norse berserkr (noun), probably from bera 'bear' + serkr 'coat,' but also possibly from berr 'bare' (i.e., without armor).

berth [bərθ] n. 1 a ship's allotted place at a wharf or dock. 2 a fixed bed or bunk on a ship, train, or other means of transport. 3 int. (often in a sports context) a situation or position in an organization or event: today's victory clinched a berth for the Orioles in the playoffs.

be-seech [bi 'si ə ch] v. (past -sought -sought or -soothed or -seached) formal or literary ask (someone) urgently and fervently to do something: implore; entreat: [tr.] they beseeched him to stay | [tr.] 'You have got to believe me.' —Gloria beseeched him | as adj. (beseeching) a beseeching gaze. —be-see-ching-ly adv.

be-set [bi 'set] v. (setting: past and past part. set) (of a problem or difficulty) trouble or threaten persistently: the social problems that beset the inner city | she was beset with self-doubt | surrounded and harassed | assailed on all sides: she was beset by clouds of flies | hem in; enclose: the ship was beset by ice.

be-side [bi 'sid] prep. at the side of: next to: he sat beside me in the front seat. —compared with: beside Beth's idealism, my priorities look shabby. 2 in addition to: he commissioned work from other artists beside Rivera.

be-side oneself overtake with worry or anger; distraught: she was beside herself with anguish. be beside the point see POINT.
beside /besid/ prep. in addition to; apart from: I have no other family besides my parents.

besies /bi'zi/ adv. in addition: as well: I'm capable of doing the work, and a lot more besides.

besiege /bi'zij/ v. [tr.] surround (a place) with armed forces in order to capture it or force its surrender; lay siege to: the guerrillas continued to besiege other major cities.

besieged /'zi:d/ adj. besieged the besieged city.

beside /baid/ adv. around oppressively; surround and harass; spent the whole day besieged by newsmen.

besieged /'zi:d/ adj. immbutuated by large numbers of requests or complaints: the television station was besieged with calls.

besmirch /'baimar/ v. [tr.] damage the reputation of (someone) or (something) in the opinion of others: he besmirched the good name of his family.

besom /'baim/ n. a broom made of twigs tied around a stick.

besotted /'bait/sat/ adj. strongly infatuated: he became besotted with his new love.

besought /bi'sot/ adj. past and past participle of beseech.

bespeak /bi'spék/ v. [past-spoke; past part.-spoked] (1) (of an appearance or action) suggest: be-speak the north.

bespeaking /'spēk/ v. order or reserve (something) in advance: obtaining the affidavits that it has been necessary to bespeak.

best /best/ adj. most of good. adj. of the most excellent, effective, or desirable type or quality: the best pitcher in the league.

bested /'bait/ adj. most excellent or effectively; the best-dressed man in Hollywood.

bestial /'bi'tial/ adj. most suitably or appropriately, or usefully: this is best done at home.

bested /'bait/ adj. (usu. the best) that which is the most excellent, outstanding, or desirable: buy the best you can afford.

bested /'bait/ v. (past tense) to look your best.

bested /'bait/ adj. one's finest or most formal clothes: she dressed in her best.

bested /'bait/ v. (in sports) a record of a specified kind, esp. a personal one: a personal best.

best man n. a friend or relative chosen by a bridegroom to assist him at his wedding.

best-of /'bait/of/ adv. adj. denoting such a collection or list.

bestow /bi'stōv/ v. [confr. or present (an honor, right, or gift): the office was bestowed on him by the chief of state. fig. she bestowed her nearest smile on him.

bestride /bi'strid/ v. [past-strode; past part.-stridden] (past tense) stand astride over; span or straddle: fig. creatures that bestride the dividing line between amphibians and reptiles.

better /'bait/ adj. sit astride on: he bestrode his horse with the easy grace of a born horsemans.

best-seller /'bait/sel/ n. a book or other product that sells in very large numbers: her autobiography is an international best-seller.

bet /bi/ v. (betting; past bet or betted) 1 intr. risk something, usually a sum of money, against someone else's on the basis of the outcome of a future event, such as the result of a race or game: betting on horses.

betting /'bait/ n. an act of risking a sum of money in this way: the bookies are taking bets on his possible successor.

best of /'bait of/ adj. the best of; most of: besides.

betray /bi'trē/ v. [trans.] disloyal to: his friends were shocked when he betrayed them.

betrayed /'bait/ adj. disloyal to (one's country, organization, or ideology): betraying the interests of an enemy: he betrayed his country for the sake of communism.

betrayed /'bait/ v. [trans.] inform an enemy of the existence or location of (a person or organization): this group was betrayed by an infiltrator.

betrayal /'bait/ n. a form of diplomacy: a diplomatic secret.

better /'bait/ adj. one of the best; of good and well: a more effective or more well.

better /'bait/ n. a form of diplomacy: a diplomatic secret.

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better /'bait/ adj. one of the best; of good and well: a more effective or more well.
beaver /ˈbeɪvər/ n. a drink, esp. one other than water.
bevy /ˈbeɪv/ n. (pl. bevies) a large group of people or things of a particular kind: he was surrounded by a bevy of beautiful girls. a group of birds, particularly when closely gathered on the ground: a bevy of quail stayed through winter, feeding on our locust beans.
to keep their clothes clean while eating. • the part above the waist of the front of an apron or pair of overalls. • a loose-fitting, sleeveless garment worn for identification, esp. by competitors and officials at sporting events. • a patch of color on the throat of a bird or other animal: a black bird with a white bib.

bib-let [ˈbɪb.lɛt] • n. a small, decorative ornament or trinket.

Bib-ble [ˈbɪb.lɛ] • n. (the Bible) the Christian scriptures, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. • (the Bible) the Jewish scriptures, consisting of the Torah, the Prophets, and the Hagiographa or Writings. • (also bib) a copy of the Christian or Jewish scriptures: a large black Bible under his arm. • (bib) a particular edition or translation of the Bible: the New English Bible. • (bib) any authoritative book: "Larousse Gastronomique," the bible of French cooking.

Bib-lie Belt • n. (the Bible Belt) a region of the southern and midwestern U.S. and western Canada where Protestant fundamentalism is traditionally practiced.

bib-li-cal [ˈbɪb.lɪ.kɔl] • adj. of, relating to, or contained in the Bible: the biblical account of creation. • resembling the language or style of the Bible: there is a biblical cadence in the last words he utters. • very great; on a large scale: they see themselves as victims of almost biblical dimensions. • bib-lic-ally adv.

bib-li-o-graph-ic [ˌbɪb.lɪ.əˈɡræf.ɪk] • adj. of, or relating to, books or bibliographic information: a bibliography of his publications. • the object or systematic description of books, their authorship, printing, publication, editions, etc.: he regarded bibliography as a science. • any book containing such information. • bib-lio-graph-er • n. • bib-li-o-graph-ic-cal ly adv.

bib-li-o-phil-e [ˌbɪb.lɪ.əˈfɪl.ɪ] • n. a person who collects or has a great love of books. • bib-li-o-phil-e • adj.

bi-cam-er-al [bɪ.ˈkæmər.əl] • adj. (of a legislative body) having two branches or chambers. • bi-cam-er-al-ism • n. • bi-cam-er-al-ly adv.

bi-car-bon-ate [bɪ.ˈkær.bə.nət] • n. a salt containing the anion HCO₃⁻ (also bicarbonate of soda) sodium bicarbonate.

bi-cent-enary [bɪ.ˈsɛnt.ər.nɪ] • n. & adj. another term for bicentennial.

bi-cent-ni-al [ˌbɪs.ən.ˈnɪ.əl] • n. the two-hundredth anniversary of a significant event. • adj. of or relating to such an anniversary: the bicentennial celebrations.

bi-cen [ˈbɪs.ɪn] • n. (pl. same or -ceps) • adj. having two points of attachment at one end, in particular: the muscle in the upper arm that turns the hand to face palm upmost and flexes the arm and forearm: he clenched his fist and exhibited his bicep biceps.

bi-cy-cl-e [bɪ.ˈsɪkl] • n. • v. (intrans) • bi-cy-clist • n.

big-a-mo-ny [bɪ.ˈgæ.mən.ɪ] • n. • adj.

big-amy • n. an act of going through a marriage ceremony while already married to another person. • big-a-mist • n. • big-a-mous • adj.

big-ge-ner • adv. of considerable size, extent, or intensity: big hazel eyes [big cuts in staff]. • adj. of a large or the largest size: my big toe. • grown up: I'm a big girl now. • elder: my big sister. • mur, doing a specified action very often or on a very large scale: a big eater. • adj. on an ambitiously large scale: a small company with big plans. • adj. popular or exciting interest among the public: Latin bands that are big in Los Angeles. • showing great enthusiasm: a big tennis fan [he tells me the limits of the Arctic are very big on Jim Reeves]. • of considerable importance or seriousness: it's a big decision [Mark's biggest problem is money] he made a big mistake. • adj. holding an important position or playing an influential role: a senior in college; he was a big man on campus. • adj. often ironic generous: "I'm inclined to take play on you." That's big of you!

big-men-ni-um [ˌbɪ.ˈmen.ən.əm] • n. (pl. -menniums or -ennia -ˈɛn.ə.ə) (usu. the biennium) a specified period of two years: the budget for the next biennium.

bier [bɪə(r)] • n. a movable frame on which a coffin or a corpse is placed before burial or cremation or on which it is carried to the grave.

bi-local [bi.ˈləʊ.kəl] • adj. (usually of a pair of eyeglasses) having lenses each with two parts with different focal lengths, one for distant vision and one for near vision.

• n. (bi-focals) a pair of eyeglasses having such parts.

bi-fur-cate [bɪ.ˈfɜːr.kət] • v. divide into two branches or forks: just below Cairo the river bifurcates.

bi-fur-ca-tion [bɪ.ˈfɜːr.kə.ˈʃən] • n. the division of something into two branches or parts: the bifurcation of the profession into social do-gooders and self-serving iconoclasts. • a thing divided in this way or either of the branches: the bifurcation of the aorta is a site commonly affected first.

big [bɪɡ] • adj. • big-ger, big-gest • 1 of considerable size, extent, or intensity: big hazel eyes [big cuts in staff]. • of a large or the largest size: my big toe. • grown up: I'm a big girl now. • elder: my big sister. • adj. doing a specified action very often or on a very large scale: a big eater. • adj. on an ambitiously large scale: a small company with big plans. • adj. popular or exciting interest among the public: Latin bands that are big in Los Angeles. • showing great enthusiasm: a big tennis fan [he tells me the limits of the Arctic are very big on Jim Reeves]. • of considerable importance or seriousness: it's a big decision [Mark's biggest problem is money] he made a big mistake. • adj. holding an important position or playing an influential role: a senior in college; he was a big man on campus. • adj. often ironic generous: "I'm inclined to take play on you." That's big of you!

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biting /'bɪtɪŋ/ adj. (of insects and certain other animals) able to wound the skin with a stinging or injecting organ; puncturing the skin; causing an irritation or inflammation of the skin.

bit-paper /'bɪt纸质/ n. a type of paper used for printing or writing that is printed on one side and is intended to be used on the other side.

bit-ter /'bɪtɪər/ adj. 1 having a sharp, pungent taste or smell; not sweet: the raw berries have an intensely bitter flavor. 2 (of chocolate) dark and unsweetened. 3 (of people or their feelings or behavior) angry, hurt, or resentful because of one's bad experiences or a sense of unjust treatment. 4 (of literature) harsh or unpleasant, in particular: often used to emphasize fault. 5 (of a conflict, argument, or opponent) full of anger and acrimony: a bitter, five-year legal battle. 6 (of wind, cold, or weather) intensely cold: a bitter wind blowing from the east.

bit-tor /'bɪtɪər/ adj. (adj.) tiny: a little bitty house.

bit-ter-sweet /'bɪtɪ̆rsw̃/ adj. (adj.) arousing pleasure tinged with sadness or pain: bitter-sweet memories.

black /blæk/ n. 1 [mass noun] Brit. beer that is strongly flavored with hops and has a bitter taste. 2 (biters) dried leaves of the plant extracts and is used in cocktails to add bitterness to alcoholic drinks.

black-black /'bɪlɪŋ/ adj. 1 having a sharp, pungent taste or smell; not sweet: the raw berries have an intensely bitter flavor. 2 (of chocolate) dark and unsweetened. 3 (of people or their feelings or behavior) angry, hurt, or resentful because of one's bad experiences or a sense of unjust treatment. 4 (of literature) harsh or unpleasant, in particular: often used to emphasize fault. 5 (of a conflict, argument, or opponent) full of anger and acrimony: a bitter, five-year legal battle. 6 (of wind, cold, or weather) intensely cold: a bitter wind blowing from the east.

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black /blæk/ n. 1 another term for nightshade (see nightshade), a vine-like climbing plant (genus Cestrum, family Solanaceae) that bears clusters of bright orange pods.

black /blæk/ adj. 1 having a sharp, pungent taste or smell; not sweet: the raw berries have an intensely bitter flavor. 2 (of chocolate) dark and unsweetened. 3 (of people or their feelings or behavior) angry, hurt, or resentful because of one's bad experiences or a sense of unjust treatment. 4 (of literature) harsh or unpleasant, in particular: often used to emphasize fault. 5 (of a conflict, argument, or opponent) full of anger and acrimony: a bitter, five-year legal battle. 6 (of wind, cold, or weather) intensely cold: a bitter wind blowing from the east.

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black art

down in black and white. 2 in terms of clearly defined opposing principles or issues: children think in black and white. good and bad.

black art n. (usu. the black art) another term for BLACK MAGIC. 2 often humorous a technique or practice considered mysterious and sinister: the black art of political news management.

blackball /'blæk,bɔːl/ v. [tr.] reject (someone, usually a candidate) from becoming a member of a private club, typically by means of a secret ballot: her husband was blackballed when he tried to join the country club.

black belt n. a black belt worn by an expert in judo, karate, and other martial arts. 2 a person qualified to wear this.

blackberry /'blæk,bɛrɪ/ n. (pl. -ries) 1 an edible soft fruit, consisting of a cluster of soft purple-black drupes. 2 the prickly climbing shrub (Rubus fruticosus) of the rose family that bears this fruit and that grows extensively in the wild.

BlackBerry /'blæk,bɛrɪ/ trademark a hand-held wireless electronic device that provides Internet access along with e-mail, telephone, and text messaging services.

blackbird /'blæk,bɜːd/ n. 1 a European thrush (genus Turdus) with mainly black plumage. 2 an American bird (family Icteridae) with a strong pointed bill. The male has black plumage that is iridescent or has patches of red or yellow.

blackboard /'blæk,brɔːd/ n. a large board with a smooth, typically dark, surface attached to a wall or supported on an easel and used for writing on with chalk, esp. by teachers in schools.

black box n. a flight recorder in an aircraft. 2 any complex piece of equipment, typically a unit in an electronic system, with contents that are mysterious to the user.

black currant n. 1 a small round edible black currant that grows in loose hanging clusters. 2 the shrub (genus Ribes) of the gooseberry family that produces this fruit.

black death n. the great epidemic of bubonic plague that killed a large part of the population of Europe in the mid-14th century. It originated in central Asia and China and spread rapidly through Europe, carried by the fleas of black rats, reaching England in 1348.

blacken /'blækən/ v. become or make black or dark, esp. as a result of burning, decay, or bruising: [intr.]. he set fire to the paper, watching the end blacken as it burned / [adj.] blackened; her smile revealed blackened teeth.

black dye or color (the face or hair) black for camouflage or cosmetic effect: in full combat gear with blackened faces. 2 [intr.] (of the sky) become dark as night or a storm approaches. 3 (someone's good reputation); defame: she wasn't thank you for blackening his husband's name.

black English n. any of various nonstandard forms of English spoken by black people, esp. as an urban dialect in the U.S.

black eye n. a bruised and discolored area around the eye resulting from a blow. 2 fig. a mark or source of dishonor or shame: legislators have caused the state to suffer yet another black eye.

black-eyed Susan n. any of a number of flowers that have yellowish petals and a dark center, in particular Rudbeckia hirta, a North American flower of the daisy family with bristly leaves and stems.

black fly n. (pl. -flies) a small black fly, often swarming fly (Simulium and other genera, family Simuliidae), the female of which sucks blood and can transmit a number of serious human and animal diseases.

blackfoot /'blæk,fʊt/ n. (pl. same or -feet) 1 a member of a confederacy of North American Indian peoples of the northwestern plains. 2 the Algonquian language of this people. 3 adj. of or relating to the Blackfeet or their language.

blackguard /'blæk,gɑːrd; 'blæk,gɑːrd/ n. dated a person, particularly a man, who behaves in a dishonorable or contemptuous way.

blackhead /'blæk,hed/ n. a plug of sebum in a hair follicle, darkened by oxidation.

black hole n. Astron. a region of space having a gravitational field so intense that no matter or radiation can escape. 2 a figurative place of emptiness or aloneness: they think he's sitting in a black hole with no interaction with his people. 3 intr. chiefly humorous a place where money, lost items, etc., are supposed to go, never to be seen again: the moribund economy has been a black hole for federal funds. 4 of (a system, practice, or institution): a state of inadequacy or excessive bureaucracy in which hopes, progress, etc., become futile: juveniles lost for good in the black hole of the criminal justice system.

black ice n. a transparent coating of ice, found esp. on a paved surface.

blackjack /'blæk,jæk/ n. a gambling card game in which players try to acquire cards with a face value as close as possible to 21 without going over. Also called TWENTY-ONE.

black light n. ultraviolet or infrared radiation, invisible to the eye.

blacklist /'blæk,lɪst/ n. a list of people or products viewed with suspicion or disapproval.

black market /'blæk,mɑːkt/ n. the action, treated as a criminal offense, of demanding money from a person in return for not revealing compromising or confidential information about that person: they were acquitted of charges of blackmail.

black lung n. pneumoconiosis caused by inhalation of coal dust.

black magic n. magic involving the supposed invocation of evil spirits for evil purposes.

blackmail /'blæk,meɪl/ n. the action, treated as a criminal offense, of demanding money from a person in return for not revealing compromising or confidential information about that person: they were acquitted of charges of blackmail. 2 money demanded in this way: we do not pay blackmail. 3 the use of threats or the manipulation of someone's feelings to force them to do something.

black mark n. int. used to indicate that someone is remembered and regarded with disfavor: an arrest will be a black mark on your record.

black market n. an illegal traffic or trade in officially controlled or scarce commodities: they planned to sell the meat on the black market. 2 a black marketeer (also black-marketeer) n.

black Mus-lim n. a member of the NATION OF ISLAM.

blackout /'blæk,aut/ n. 1 a period when all lights must be turned off or covered to prevent them being seen by the enemy during an air raid: people found it difficult to travel in the blackout / [adj.]. he peered out through the blackout curtains. 2 a failure of electrical power supply, due to a power blackout; their hotel was in total darkness. 3 a suppression of information, esp. one imposed on the media by government; there is a total information blackout on minority interests. 4 a period during which a particular activity is prohibited: there are no blackouts during the travel period. 5 a temporary loss of consciousness: she was suffering from blackouts.

Black Panther n. a member of a militant political organization set up in the U.S. in 1966 to fight for black rights.

black panther n. a leopard that has black fur rather than the typical spotted coat.

black pepper n. the dried black berries of the pepper (see PEPPER sense 2), which are harvested while still green and unripe. Black pepper is widely used as a spice and a condiment.

black rasp-ber-ry n. 1 an edible soft fruit related to the blackberry, consisting of a cluster of black drupes. 2 the prickly arching shrub (Rubus occidentalis) of the rose family that bears this fruit.

black sheep n. int. a member of a family or group who is regarded as a disgrace to them: the black sheep of the family.

black-shirt /'blæk,ʃɜːt/ n. a member of a fascist organization, in particular the Blackshirt (in Italy) a member of a paramilitary group founded by Mussolini.

blacksmith /'blæk,smɪθ/ n. a person who makes and repairs things in iron by hand. 2 a farrier.

blackthorn /'blæk,θɔːrn/ n. a thorny Eurasian shrub (Prunus spinosa) of the rose family that bears white flowers and astrin gent blue-black fruits. Also called sloe.

black tie n. a black bow tie worn with a dinner jacket. 2 a formal evening dress: the audience wears black tie.

blacklight noun  "n. (of an event) requiring formal evening dress: evening meals were black-tie affairs.

blacktop /'blæk,tɒp/ n. asphalt used for surfacing roads. 2 a road or area surfaced with such material: playing hopscotch on the blacktop behind the school.

black widow n. a venomous American spider (Latrodectus mactans, family Theridiidae), the female of which has a black body with a red hourglass shape on its underside.

blader /'blaʊdər/ n. 1 a membranous sac in humans and other
animals, in which urine is collected for excretion. 2 anything inflated and hollow: an air bladder in the arch and collar of the shoe.

bladder-wrack /ˈblædəræk/ (also bladder wrack) n. a common brownshoreline seaweed (Fucus vesiculosus, class Phaeophyceae) that has tough straplike fronds containing air bladders that give buoyancy.

blade /blæd/ n. 1 the flat cutting edge of a knife, saw, or other tool or weapon. 2 n. "petticoat", a sword. 2 the flat, wide section of an implement or device such as an oar or a propeller. 3 a thin, flat metal runner on an ice skate or skateboard used to glide or cut a path in the ice or on the surface of the tool. 4 a flat portion of the tongue behind the tip. 3 a long, narrow leaf of grass or another similar plant: a blade of grass. 4 a broad, thin part of a leaf apart from the stalk. 4 l. dressed or garnishing energetic young man. —bladed adj. in comb. double-bladed paddles.

blah /blɑː/ adj. used to substitute for actual words in contexts where they are felt to be too tedious or lengthy to give in full: the typical kid going out every night. blah, blah, blah.

n. 1 (also blah-blah) used to refer to something that is boring or without meaning: talking all kinds of blah to him. 2 (the blahs) depression: he battles a case of the blahs.

blame /blɛm/ v. [fr.] assign responsibility for a fault or wrong: the inquiry blamed the engineer for the accident.

blameless /ˈblæmli/ adj. innocent of wrongdoing: he led a blameless life.

blameworthy /ˈblæmwɜːθ/ adj. responsible for wrongdoing and deserving of censure or blame. —blameworthy-ness n.

blanc /blɑːn/ n. 1 [fr] make white or pale by extracting color: blanching: cold light blanched her face. 2 [fr] whiten (a plant) by depriving it of light: blanch endive. 3 [inf. fig.] fill (a person) grow pale from shock, fear, or a similar emotion: many people blanched at the suggestion. 4 [fr] prepare (vegetables) for freezing or further cooking by immersing briefly in boiling water. [a. adj.] blanched (blanched) blanched almonds.

blanc-mange /ˈblaŋmæŋg/ n. a sweet opaque gelatinous dessert made with cornstarch and milk.

bland /blænd/ adj. lacking strong features or characteristics and therefore uninteresting: rebelling against the bland uniformity. 4 [fr or dr) mild or stupid. 5 (of a person or behavior) showing no strong emotion: dull and unremarkable: offering bland reassurance. —blandly adv. —bland-ness n.

blameless-ment /ˈblæmliˌment/ n. a flattering or pleasing statement or action used to persuade someone gently to do something: the blandishments of the travel brochure.

blank /blæŋk/ adj. 1 of a surface or background) unrelieved by decorative or other features: bare, empty, or plain: the blank skyline. 2 not written or printed on: a blank sheet of paper. 3 (of a document) with spaces left for a signature or details: blank tax-return forms. 4 of a recording medium with nothing recorded on it: blank cassettes. 5 showing indifference or lack of emotion: we were met by blank looks.

n. 1 a space left to be filled in a document: this game required players to fill in the blanks in a story. 2 a document with blank spaces to be filled. 3 also blank cartridge) a cartridge containing gunpowder but no bullet, used for training or as a signal. 4 an empty space or period of time, esp. in terms of a lack of knowledge or understanding: my mind was a total blank. 5 an object that has no mark or design on it, in particular painted: a roughly cut metal or wooden block intended for further shaping or finishing. 6 a plate of metal disk from which a coin is made by stamping a design on it. 7 a dash written instead of a word or letter, esp. instead of an obscenity or profanity: used euphemistically in place of a noun regarded as obscene, profane, or abusive.

v. [fr] 1 cover up, obscure, or cause to appear blank or empty: electronic countermeasures blanked out the radio signals. 2 [fr] become blank or empty: the picture blanked out. 3 inf. defeat (a sports opponent) without allowing the opponent to score: Baltimore blanked Toronto in a 7–0 victory. —blankly adv. —blank-ness n.

n. 1 a bank check with the amount left for the payee to fill in. 2 fig. an unlimited freedom of action: he was effectively granted a blank check to conduct a war without congressional authorization.

blanket /ˈbleŋkt/ n. a large piece of woolen or similar material used as a bed covering or other covering for warmth. 4 fig. a thick mass or layer of a specified material that covers something completely: a dense gray blanket of cloud.

adj. covering all cases or instances; total and inclusive: a blanket ban on tobacco advertising.

blasted /ˈblestid/ (also blasting) v. [fr] cover completely with a thick layer of something: the countryside was blanketed in snow. Middle English (denoting underlay woolen cloth) via Old Northern French from Old French blank "white," ultimately of Germanic origin.

blankety /ˈblæŋkəti/ (also blankety-blank) adj. & n. int. used euphemistically to replace a word considered coarse or vulgar: it's time to ditch the blankety-blank tax code.

blank verse n. verse without rhyme, esp. that which uses iambic pentameter.


n. a loud harsh sound: a blare of trumpets.

blarney /ˈblærni/ n. talk that aims to charm, pleasantly flatter, or persuade: he had the "street charm" of an Irish politician, but this blarney concealed his inner self. —blarney-ness n. —blarne-y-er n., —blarne-y-est adj.

blasé /ˈblaːʒ/ adj. unimpressed or indifferent to something because one has experienced or seen it so often before: she was becoming quite blasé about the dangers.

blasphemous /ˈblasfeməs/ adj. speaking irreverently about God or sacred things: allegations that he had blasphemed against Islam. —blasphem-er n., —blasphem-est adj.

blasphemy /ˈblasfemii/ n. (pl. - mies) the act or offense of speaking sacrilegiously about God or sacred things: profane talk: he was detained on charges of blasphemy; screaming incomprehensible blasphemies.

blast /blist/ n. 1 a destructive wave of highly compressed air spreading outward from an explosion: they were thrown backward by the blast. 2 an explosion or explosive firing, esp. of a bomb: a bomb blast. 3 a forceful attack or assault: he defeated his weakest opponent in such a blast that the fans left unimpressed. 4 a strong gust of wind or air: the icy blast hit them. 5 a single loud note of a horn, whistle, or other noisemaking device: a blast of the ship's siren. 6 inf. a severe reprimand: I braced myself for the inevitable blast. 7 inf. an enjoyable experience or lively party: it could turn out to be a real blast.

v. [fr] 1 blow up or break apart (something solid) with explosives: quantities of solid rock had to be blasted away. 2 produce (damage or a hole) by means of an explosion: the force of the collision blasted out a tremendous crater. 3 [fr] force or throw (something) in a specified direction by impact or explosion: the car was blasted thirty feet into the sky. 4 [fr] criticize fiercely: the school was blasted by government inspectors. 5 make or cause to make a long continuous musical or other noise: [inf. fr] music blasted out at full volume. 6 kick, strike, or throw (a ball, fr] racket): they blasted the ball into the gap in right field. 7 [fr] (of a wind or other natural force) wither, shrivel, or blight (a plant): crops blasted on the eve of harvest. 8 strike with divine anger: damn and blast this awful place!

n. 1 a blast at maximum power or intensity: the heat is on full blast.

blast(ed) /ˈblæstid/ adj. 1 inf. used to express annoyance: make your own blasted coffee! 2 inf. drunk: the waiter kept bringing us free cocktails, so I got really blasted.

blast furnace n. a smelting furnace in the form of a tower into which a blast of hot compressed air can be introduced from below. Such furnaces are used chiefly to make iron from a mixture of iron ore, coke, and limestone.

blasting-off /ˈblæstɪŋ,əf/ n. the launching of a rocket or spacecraft.

blushing /ˈblæʃhɪŋ/ n. (p. - blushing, - blushed, - blushing) Inf. an animal embryo at the early stage of development when it is a hollow ball of cells.

blatant /ˈblætənt/ adj. (of bad behavior) done openly and unashamedly: blatant lies. 1 completely lacking in subtlety; very obvious: for forcing herself to resist his blatant charm. 2 late 16th cent., perhaps an alteration of Scots blastand) "bleating." It was first used by Spenser as an epithet for a thousand-tongued monster, a symbol of calumny, which he called the blatant beast. It was subsequently used to mean "clamorous, offensive to the ear," the sense "obtrusive to the eye, unashamedly conspicuous" arose in the late 19th cent. —blatantly adv.
expressions of annoyance or exasperation: there wasn’t a blessed thing anybody could have done. —blessedly /'blesidli/ adv.
bless-ed-ness /blesidnis/ n. the state of being blessed with divine favor.

bles-sing /'blesiŋ/ n. God’s favor and protection: now God continue to give us his blessing. a prayer asking for such favor and protection: a priest gave a blessing as the ship was launched. grace said before or after a meal. a beneficial thing for which one is grateful; something that brings well-being: it’s a blessing we’re alive. a person’s sanction or support: he gave the plan his blessing even before it was announced.

blew (bloo) v. past of BLOW and BLOWED.

blet /blit/ n. a plant disease, esp. one caused by fungi such as mildews, rusts, and smuts: the vines suffered blight and disease. int. anything that causes a plant disease or interferes with the healthy growth of a plant. a thing that is diseased or damaged: something her condition could be a blight on that happiness. an ugly, neglected, or rundown condition of an urban area: the depressing urban blight that lies to the south of the city. —v. intr. (usu. be blighted) infect (plants or a planted area) with blight: a peach tree blighted by leaf curl. spoil, harm, or destroy: the scandal blighted the careers of several leading politicians. —adj. (blighted) his father’s blighted ambitions. —adj. (blighted) subject (an urban area) to neglect: plans to establish enterprise zones in blighted areas.

blimp /blimp/ n. adj. a small aeroplane airship. —n. an obese person: I could work out four hours a day and still end up a blimp. —blimpish adj.

blind /blind/ adj. 1. unable to see: sightless: she suffered from glaucoma, which has left her completely blind. (of a person, experiment, or test) done without being able to see or without being in possession of certain information: compare with DOUBLE-BLIND: a blind tasting of eight wines. —Aron. (of flying) using instruments only: blind landings during foggy conditions. 2. lacking perception or discernment: he’s ab-solutely blind where you’re concerned. isn’t he? —blind (to) unwilling or unable to appraise or notice something apparent to others; she was blind to the realities of her position. (of an action or state of mind) not controlled by reason or judgment: they left in blind panic. 3. concealed or closed, in particular: (of a corner or bend in a road) impossible to see around: two trucks collided on a blind curve in the road. —v. intr. 1. cause (someone) to be unable to see, permanently or temporarily: the injury temporarily blinded him. 2. deprive (someone) of understanding, judgment, or perception: a clever tactician blinded by passion. (blind someone with) confuse or overawe someone with something difficult to understand: they try to blind you with science.

blind alley n. an alley or road that is closed at one end. fig. a course of action leading nowhere: many technologies that show early promise lead up blind alleys.

blind date n. a social engagement or date with a person one has not previously met: a blind date arranged by well-meaning friends.

blind-ed-ness /'blindidnis/ n. a pair of small, flat, hinged screens attached to a horse’s bridle to prevent it seeing sideways or reacting. Also called BLINDEES (see BLINDER), fig. something that prevents someone from gaining a full understanding of a situation: they will wear their cultural blinders to the grave.

blindfold /'blindfold/ v. [tr. often be blindfolded] deprive (someone) of the use of their eyes by tying a piece of cloth around the head so as to cover the eyes. —n. a piece of cloth tied around the head to cover someone’s eyes. —adj. with a blindfold covering the eyes: the reporter was driven blindfold to meet the gangster. done with great ease and confidence, as if it could have been done wearing a blindfold: missing puts that he would normally hole blindfold.

blindman’s bluff /'blindmanz/ (also blindman’s buff) n. a children’s game in which a blindfolded player tries to catch others while being pushed about by them.

blind side n. a direction in which a person has a poor view, typically of approaching danger: a minor nearly clipped him on his blind side. —v. (blind-sided) [tr.] hit or attack (someone) on the blind side: Jenkins blindsided Adams, knocking him to the sidewalk. —(often be blindsided) catch (someone) unprepared; attack from an unexpected position; protection against being technologically blinded.

blind spot n. 1. Anat. the point of entry of the optic nerve on the retina, sensitive to light. 2. an area where a person’s view is obstructed: the single unguarded mirror eliminates blind spots on both sides of the car. an area in which a person lacks understanding or impartiality; hid from a blind spot where these ethical issues were concerned. 3. Telecomm. a point within the normal range of a transmitter where there is unusually weak reception.

blind stitch n. a sewn stitch visible on one side only.

blink /blinks/ v. intr. 1. shut and open the eyes quickly: she blinked, momentarily blinded. —[tr.] he blinked his eyes nervously. —[intr. clear (dust or tears) from the eyes by this action: she blinked away her tears. —[tr. or intr. blink back to control or prevent (tears) by such an action: Elizabeth blinked back tears. —[blink at] fig. react to (something) with surprise or disapproval: he didn’t blink at the unsavory aspects of his subject. —fig. back down from a confrontation: it seemed the Tragos had blinked and that the likelihood of an immediate invasion had decreased. 2. (of a light or light source) shine intermittently or unsteadily: the icon for his e-mail was blinking.

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blindspot /'blindspot/ n. a device that blinks, esp. a vehicle’s turn signal. 2. (blinders) another term for BLINDERS (see BLINDER).

blip /blip/ n. 1. a short high-pitched sound made by an electronic device. 2. a flashing point of light on a radar screen representing an object, typically accompanied by a high-pitched sound. 3. an unexpected, minor, and typically temporary deviation from a general trend: an upward blip in house prices. 4. a brief segment, esp. of a telecast: the media fire unอดated blips of information at us | the blips on the evening news.

bliss /bles/ n. perfect happiness; great joy: she gave a sigh of bliss. —something providing such happiness: the steam room was bliss. —a state of spiritual blessedness, typically that reached after death. —blissful adj. —blissfully adv.

blister /'blister/ n. see A-liST.

blister /'blister/ n. a small bubble on the skin filled with serum and caused by friction, burning, or other damage. —a similar swelling, filled with air or fluid, on the surface of a plant, heated metal, painted wood, or other object.

v. intr. form swellings filled with air or fluid on the surface of something: the surface of the door began to blister [as adj. (blistered)] he had blisters on his feet. —cause blisters to form on the surface of: a caustic liquid that blisters the skin. —fig. criticize sharply: they came out and blistered the girl for pulling leaves off a chestnut tree.

blister pack n. a type of packaging in which a product is sealed in plastic, often with a cardboard backing.


blitz /'blit/ n. an intensive or sudden military attack. —inf. a sudden, energetic, and concerted effort, typically on a specific task: a major press blitz. —Football a charge of the passer by the defensive linebackers just after the ball is snapped. —(the Blitz) the German air raids on Britain in 1940.

v. intr. (often be blitzed) attack or damage (a place or building) in a blitz: news came that Rotterdam had been blitzed | the organizations blitzed Capitol Hill with e-mails and postcards. —Football attack (the passer) in a blitz.

blitzkrieg /'blitskriŋ/ n. an intense military campaign intended to bring about a swift victory.

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blot /'blot/ v. intr. cause to swell with fluid or gas: the fungus has bloated his fingers. —[intr.] become swollen with fluid or gas: as n. (blotting) she suffered from abdominal bloating.
blew-up /ˈblʊˌʌp/ (also blow-up) n. 1. an enlargement of a photograph. 2. int. an outburst of anger.

blew-a-way adj. inflatable: a blow-up neck pillow.

BLT n. int. a sandwich filled with bacon, lettuce, and tomato.

blub-ber /ˈblʌbər/ n. the fat of sea mammals, esp. whales and seals.

blug-berry adj. (pi. -berries) 1. n. sob noisily and uncontrollably: he was blubbing like a child.

blug-gon /ˈblʌɡn/ n. a thick stick with a heavy end, used as a weapon: fig. a rhetorical bluggon in the war against liberalism.

blow 1 n. 1. a strong wind: we're in for a blow. 2. an act of blowing on an instrument: a number of blows on the whistle. 3. an act of blowing one's nose: give your nose a good blow. 4. int. a spell of playing jazz or rock music. 5. [in steelmaking] an act of sending an air or oxygen blast through molten metal in a converter.

blow-bird, blow-bust n. 1. a color intermediate between green and violet, as of the sky or sea on a sunny day. 2. n. a person's skin feeling or turning such a color, esp. with cold or breathing difficulties.

blow-down or blow-off (pi. blow-downs or blow-offs) 1. (of a project) disrupted by some circumstance. 2. (blow-down of the water fig.) (of a person, idea, or project) be project to lack all credibility. 3. blow a gasket int. lose one's temper. 4. blow hot and cold vaclate. 5. blow one's lid (or top or stack or cool) int. lose one's temper. 6. blow someone's mind int. affect someone very strongly. 7. blow one's nose int. clear one's nose of mucus by blowing forcefully through it. 8. blow something to bits (or pieces or smithereens) use bombs or other explosives to destroy something, typically a building, completely.

blow-dried adj. 1. adj. dried (also blow-dried)

blow-er /ˈblʌər/ n. 1. a person or thing that blows, typically a mechanical device for creating a current of air used to dry or heat something.

blow-fish /ˈblʌufiʃ/ n. 1. (pi. same or -fishes) any of a number of fishes that are able to inflate their bodies when alarmed, such as a globefish.

blow-fly /ˈblʌufi/ n. 1. (pi. flies) a large and typically metallic-colored fly (family Calliphoridae) that lays its eggs on meat and carcasses.

blow-gun /ˈblʌugʌn/ n. a primitive weapon consisting of a long tube through which an arrow or dart is propelled by pressure of the breath.

blow-hard /ˈblʌohɑrd/ n. 1. a person who blusters and boasts in an unpleasant way: a bunch of pompous blowhards trying to get on the news.

blow-hole /ˈblʌuhɔl/ n. a hole for blowing or breathing through, in particular: the nostril of a whale on the top of its head. 2. a hole in ice to which seals, whales, and other aquatic animals come to breathe.

blown /ˈblɔn/ adj. destroyed; spoiled: a blown fuse. 2. int. extremely surprised; flabbergasted. 3. adv. blown away by the place.

blow-out /ˈblɔʊət/ n. 1. a sudden rupture or malfunction of a part or apparatus due to pressure, in particular: a bursting of an automobile tire. 2. fig. an outburst of anger; an argument: that exchange led to a big blowout five years ago. 3. a surge of oil or gas from a well. 4. int. a melting of an electric fuse. 5. int. an easy victory in a sporting contest or an election: they had lost seven games—four by blowouts. 6. int. a large or lavish meal or social gathering. 7. a hollow eroded by the wind, esp. in a sand dune.

blow-pipe /ˈblɔʊpɪp/ n. a long tube by means of which molten glass is blown into the required shape. 2. a tube used to intensify the heat of a flame by blowing air or other gas through it at high pressure.

blows-y /ˈblɔuzi/ (also blowzy) adj. (of a woman) coarse, untidy, and red-faced: a blowzy woman wearing Bermuda shorts.

blow-torch /ˈblɔʊtɔrč/ n. 1. a portable device producing a hot flame that is directed onto a surface, typically to solder metal.
blue-green algae

It is widely grown for fodder, esp. in Kentucky and Virginia. 2 a kind of country music influenced by jazz and blues and characterized by virtuosic playing of banjos and guitars and high-pitched vocals.

blue-green algae  p.l. n. another term for CYANOBACTERIA.

blue jay  n. a common North American jay (Cyanocitta cristata) with a blue crest, back, wings, and tail.

blue jeans  n. jeans made of blue denim.

blue mold  n. a bluish fungus (Penicillium) and other genera, phylum Ascomycota, that grows on food. Blue molds are deliberately introduced into some cheeses, and some kinds are used to produce antibiotics such as penicillin.

blue-pencil  v. [tr.] edit or make cuts in (a manuscript, movie, or other work).

blue-print  [ˌbluːˈprɪnt]  n. a design plan or other technical drawing.

blue-ribbon  adj. of the highest quality; first-class: blue-ribbon service.

blue-eyed  adj. of a jury or committee carefully or selectively.

blue  [blu]  p.t. n. 1 [treated as sing. or pl.] (often the blues) melancholy music regarded as lacking in subtlety and precision; blue 30-06 a folk origin, typically in a twelve-bar sequence. 2 (the blues) int. feelings of melancholy, sadness, or depression: she got the blues.

blue-shift  [ˈbluːʃift] (also blue shift) n. Astron. the displacement of the spectrum to shorter wavelengths in the light coming from distant celestial objects moving toward the observer. Compare with redshift.

blue-stocking  adj. of or relating to a woman, especially a literary or intellectual woman.

blue whale  n. a migratory, mottled blue-gray roqual (Balaenoptera musculus), found in all oceans of the world. It is the largest animal ever to inhabit the earth.

bluff  [bluf] n. an attempt to deceive someone into believing that one can or will do something: the offer was denounced as a bluff.

blur  [blur] n. a small blackened dense-haired gun with a flared muzzle, used at short range.

blue  [blu]  n. 1 blue powder used to preserve the whiteness of laundry. 2 a grayish-blue finish on metal produced by heating.

blunder  [ˈbludər] n. a stupid or careless mistake.

blunder-buss  [ˈbludərˌbʌs] n. a short-barreled large-bore gun with a flared muzzle, used at short range.

blunt  [blʌnt] adj. 1 of a knife, pencil, etc. having a worn-down edge or point; not sharp.

blue  [blu]  n. a steep cliff, bank, or promontory.

blurry  adj. (of a cliff or a ship's bow) having a vertical or steep broad front.

blueing  [ˈbluːɪŋ] (also bluey) n. 1 blue powder used to preserve the whiteness of laundry. 2 a grayish-blue finish on metal produced by heating.

boast  [bəʊst] v. 1 talk with excessive pride and self-satisfaction about one's achievements, possessions, or abilities; [with direct speech] Ted...
bode [bod] v. [intr.] (bode well ill) be an omen of a particular outcome: their argument did not bode well for the future.

bo-de-ge [bo'de-ga] n. a grocery store in a Spanish-speaking neighborhood.

bo-dice [bo'dis] n. the part of a woman's dress (excluding sleeves) that is above the bust; a woman's vest, esp. a laced vest worn as an outer garment.

bo-dily [bo'di-lish] adj. of or concerning the body: children learn to control their bodily functions.

bo-dy [bo'di] n. (pl. bodies) 1 the physical structure of a person or an animal, including the bones, flesh, and organs: it is important to keep your body in good condition. 2 a corpse: they found his body washed up on the beach. 3 the physical and moral aspect of a person as opposed to the soul or spirit; a duality of body and soul. 4 a person's body regarded as an object of sexual desire: he was just after her body. 5 the trunk: the body of a car or aircraft: the body of the aircraft was filled with smoke. 6 a large or substantial amount of something: a rich body of Canadian folklore. 7 (in pottery) a clay used for making the main part of ceramic ware, as distinct from a glaze. 3 a group of people with a common purpose or function acting as an organized unit: a regulatory body. 4 technical a distinct material object: the path taken by the falling body. 5 a full or substantial quality of flavor in wine. 6 body: the main section of a car or aircraft: the body of the aircraft was filled with smoke. 7 the main part of a garment: a large piece of something; a rich body of Canadian folklore. 8 (in pottery) a clay used for making the main part of ceramic ware, as distinct from a glaze.

bo-dy-guard [bo'di gärd] n. a person or group of persons hired to escort and protect another person, esp. a dignitary.

bo-dy-language [bo'di la-n′gij] n. the process of communicating nonverbally through conscious or unconscious gestures and movements: his intent was clearly expressed in his body language.

bo-dy-pol-i-tic [bo'di pol'i-tik] n. (usu. the body politic) the people of a nation, state, or society considered collectively as an organized group of citizens.

bo-dy-shop [bo'di shop] n. a garage where repairs to the bodies of vehicles are carried out.

bo-dy-stock-ing [bo'di stock-ing] n. a woman's one-piece Undergarment that covers the torso and legs.

bo-dy-suit [bo'di suit] n. a close-fitting one-piece stretch garment for women, typically worn for sports.

bo-dy-work [bo'di work] n. 1 the metal outer shell of a vehicle. 2 therapies and techniques in complementary medicine that involve touching or manipulating the body. 3 the main body of a vehicle. 4 the main section of a car or aircraft: the body of the aircraft was filled with smoke. 5 a large or substantial amount of something: a rich body of Canadian folklore. 6 (in pottery) a clay used for making the main part of ceramic ware, as distinct from a glaze.

Boer [bōr] n. chiefly hist. a person; a member of the Dutch and Huguenot population that settled in southern Africa in the late 17th century.

bog [bōg] n. wet muddy ground too soft to support a heavy body: the island is a wilderness of bog; a peat bog; fig. a bog of legal complications.

bog-ey [bog'e] n. 1 a badger; a small badger. 2 a badger; a small badger. 3 (usu. boggy) adj. heavy and slow-moving; boggy ground; a boggy path. 4 (usu. boggy) adj. heavy and slow-moving; boggy ground; a boggy path. 5 (usu. boggy) adj. heavy and slow-moving; boggy ground; a boggy path.
bo-gy /'bɒɡi/ G0lf n. (pl. -geys) a score of one stroke over par at a hole.

v. (geys, geeled) tr. play (a hole) in one stroke over par.

bo-gy /'bɒɡɪ/ (also bogi) n. (pl. -geys) a person or thing that causes fear or alarm: the bogey of recession. n. an evil or mischievous spirit.

int. an enemy aircraft.

bo-gy-man /'bɒɡi-ˌmæn/ n. (also bogey-man, bogey-man) n. (pl. -men) (usu. the bogeyman) an imaginary evil spirit, referred to typically to frighten children: with the blankets pulled over our heads to keep out the bogeyman. a person or thing that is widely regarded as an object of fear: the violent criminal has replaced the communist as the bogeyman.

bo-gle /'bɒɡəl/ v. (intr.) int. (of a person or a person's mind) be astonished or overwhelmed when trying to imagine something: the mind boggles at the spectacle. [tr.] cause (a person or a person's mind) to be astonished in such a way: the inflated salary of a CEO boggles the mind.

bo-gus /'bɒɡəs/ adj. not genuine or true: fake: a bogus insurance claim.

bo-gus-ly adv. —bo-gus-ness n.

bo-gy-man n. variant spelling of BOGEMAN.

Bo-hem-ian /boʊˈhɛmɪən/ n. 1 a native or inhabitant of Bohemia.

2 also bo-hem-ian a person who has informal and unconventional social habits, esp. an artist or writer: the young bohemians with their art galleries and sushi bars.

adj. 1 of or relating to Bohemia or its people.

2 also bo-hem-ian having informal and unconventional social habits: the bohemian writer's draft action excites everyone.

boil /boil/ v. 1 [tr.] heat (a liquid) to the temperature at which it bubbles and turns to vapor: we tried to get people to boil their drinking water.

2 [of a liquid] be at or reach this temperature: he waited for the water to boil.

3 heat (a container) until the liquid in it reaches such a temperature: [tr.] she boiled the kettle and took down a couple of mugs. [intr.] (of a container) be heated until the liquid in it reaches such a temperature: the kettle boiled and he filled the teapot. 2 [tr.] subject (something) to the heat of boiling liquid, in particular: cook (food) by immersing in boiling water; boil the potatoes until well done. [as adj. (boiled)] two boiled eggs.

3 [intr.] (of food) be cooked in boiling water: make the sauce while the lobsters are boiling. 3 [intr.] (of the sea or clouds) be turbulent and stormy: a huge cliff with the black sea boiling below.

4 of (a person or strong emotion) be stirred up or inflamed: he was boiling with rage.

phrase vb. □ boil down to: be in essence a matter of: everything boiled down to cash in the end.

□ boil over (of a liquid) flow over the sides of the container in boiling.

□ fig. (of a situation or strong emotion) become so excited or tense as to get out of control: one woman's anger boiled over.

□ n. 1 the temperature at which a liquid bubbles and turns to vapor; stir in cream and bring to a boil.

2 an act or process of heating a liquid to such a temperature.

□ fig. a state of vigorous activity or excitement.

□ an area of churning water.

□ Fishing a sudden rise of a fish at a fly.

2 an outdoor meal at which seafood is boiled: everything for a traditionally Louisiana seafood boil can be carried down to the beach: a blend of seasonings added to water to enhance the flavor of boiled seafood: a salt-free seafood boil.

boil /boil/ n. an inflamed pus-filled swelling on the skin, typically caused by the infection of a hair follicle.

boiler /ˈboɪlər/ n. a fuel-burning apparatus or container for heating water, in particular: a household device providing a hot-water supply or serving a central heating system.

□ a tank for generating steam under pressure in a steam engine.

boiling /ˈboɪlɪŋ/ adj. (for fresh water at sea level) at 212°F (100°C).

§ int. extremely hot: Saturday is forecast to be boiling and sunny.

□ n. the action of bringing a liquid to the temperature at which it bubbles and turns to vapor; the temperature at which such an event occurs: heat gently to just below boiling.

boiling point n. the temperature at which a liquid boils and turns to vapor.

□ fig. the point at which anger or excitement breaks out into violent expression: racial tension surges to boiling point.

bois-ter-ous /ˈboɪz-ərəs/ adj. (of a person, event, or behavior) noisy, energetic, and cheerful; rowdy: the boisterous conviviality associated with taverns of that period.

□ (of wind, weather, or water) wild or stormy: the boisterous wind was howling.


bock choy /bæk ˈchoi/ n. Chinese cabbage of a variety with smooth-edged tapering leaves.

bo-la /ˈboʊə/ (also bolas) n. (esp. in South America) a weapon consisting of a number of balls connected by strong cord, when thrown entangles the limbs of the quarry.

bold /bɔld/ adj. 1 (of a person, action, or idea) showing an ability to take risks: confident and courageous: a bold attempt to solve the crisis; he was the only one bold enough to air his dislike.

□ dated (of a person or manner) so confident as to suggest a lack of shame or modesty: she tossed him a bold look.

□ of (color or design) having a strong or vivid appearance: a coat with bold poka dots.

□ of (a typeface) having thick strokes.

□ of (a cliff or coastline) steep or projecting: bold, craggy edges on the lip of the plateau.

□ a typeface with thick strokes: difficult words and phrases are highlighted in bold.

—boldly adv. —bold-ness n.

bo-le-ro /boʊˈleɪroʊ/ n. (pl. -ros) 1 a Spanish dance in simple triple time.

□ a piece of music for this dance.

□ a woman's short open jacket.

bol-lard /ˈbɒlərd/ n. a short, thick post on the deck of a ship or on a wharf, to which a ship's rope may be secured.

bole-woo-vil /boʊˈvɪl/ n. a small, weevil (Anthonomus grandis, family Curculionidae) that feeds on the fibers of the rounded seed capsule (the boll) of a cotton plant. It is a major pest of the American cotton crop.

□ int. in the U.S., a conservative Southern Democrat, esp. a member of Congress.

bo-lo-gna /boʊˈloʊnə/ (also bologna sausage) n. a large smoked, seasoned sausage made of various meats, esp. beef and pork.

bo-lo-ne-y n. variant spelling of BALONEY.

Bol-she-vik /ˈbolˌʃɛvɪk/ n. hist. a member of the majority faction of the Russian Social Democratic Party, which was renamed the Communist Party after seizing power in the October Revolution of 1917.

□ chiefly derog. (in general use) a person with politically subversive or radical views: a revolutionary.

□ adj. of, relating to, or characteristic of Bolsheviks or their views or policies.

□ Bol-she-vism /bɒlˈʃɛvɪzən/ n. —Bol-she-vist /ˈvɪst/ n.

bolster /ˈbɒlstər/ n. (also bolster pillow) a long, thick pillow that is placed under other pillows for support.

□ a part, as of a vehicle or tool, providing structural support.

□ v. [tr.] support or strengthen; prop up: the fall in interest rates is starting to bolster confidence.

□ he wished to bolster up his theories with hard data.

□ provide (a seat) with padded support: [as adj. (bolstered)] I snuggled down into the heavily bolstered seat.

bol-t /ˈbɒlt/ n. 1 a metal pin or bar, in particular: a bar that slides into a socket to fasten a door or window. a thread pin that screws into a nut and is used to fasten things together.

□ the sliding piece of the breech mechanism of a rifle. □ [in rock climbing] a long pin that is driven into a rock face so that a rope can be attached to it.

□ a short heavy arrow shot from a crossbow.

□ a flash of lightning leaving a jagged line across the sky.

□ v. [tr.] fasten (something) with a metal pin or bar, in particular: fasten a door or window with a bar that slides into a socket: all the doors were locked and bolted.

□ [tr.] fasten (an object) to something else with a bolt: a camera was bolted to the aircraft.

□ a bolt from (or out of) the blue a sudden and unexpected event or piece of news: the job came like a bolt from the blue.

□ bolt upright, with the back rigid and straight: she sat bolt upright in bed.

carriage bolt hex-head bolt toggle bolt

bolts

bolt /ˈbɔlt/ n. 1 [intr.] (of a horse or other animal) run away suddenly out of control: the horses shied and bolted.

□ [of a person] move or run away suddenly: they bolted down the stairs.

□ of (a plant) grow tall quickly and stop flowering as seeds develop: the lettuce has bolted.

2 [tr.] (often bolt something down) eat or swallow (food) quickly: it is normal for puppies to bolt down their food.

□ make a bolt for try to escape by moving suddenly toward (something). Elsie made a bolt for the door.

bol-t /ˈbɒlt/ n. a roll of fabric, originally as a measure: the room is stacked with bolts of cloth.

bomb /bɔm/ n. 1 a container filled with explosive, incendiary materials, smoke, gas, or other destructive substance, designed to explode on impact or when detonated by a time mechanism, remote-control device, or lit fuse: an explosive device fitted into a specified object:
bong | n. Mountain climbing, a large piton.

bongo | n. (pl. better -gos or -gos) either of a pair of small, long-bodied drums typically held between the knees and played with the fingers.

bon-homie | n. cheerful friendliness; geniality: he exuded good humor and bonhomie.

bon-i-te | n. (pl. -tes) a smaller relative of the turtles (Sarda and others), with dark oblique stripes on the back and important as a food and game fish.

bonk | v. 1. [tr.] knock or hit (something) so as to cause a reverberating sound: he bonked his head on the plane’s bulkhead. 2. [intr.] have sexual intercourse with (someone).

book | n. 1. an act of knocking or hitting something that causes a reverberating sound: give it a bonk with a hammer. 2. a reverberating sound caused in such a way. 3. an act of sexual intercourse.

book-end | n. a bookish or -ness n.

book-end | adj. mad: crazy: and the fans go bookers | he’s driving me bookers.

book | n. 1. a written or printed work consisting of pages glued or sewn together along one side and bound in covers: a book of selected poems. 2. a literary composition that is published or intended for publication as such a work: the book is set in the 1940s. 3. [the books] used to refer to studying: he is so deep in his books he would forget to eat. 4. a main division of a classic literary work, an epic, or the Bible: the Book of Genesis. 5. [the book] the local telephone directory: is your name in the book? 6. [the Book] the Bible. 7. [a book] a magazine. 8. an imaginary record or list (often used to emphasize the thoroughness or comprehensiveness of someone’s actions or experiences): she felt every emotion in the book of love. 9. a bound set of blank sheets for writing or keeping records in: an accounts book. 10. [books] a set of records or accounts: he can balance the books. 11. a bookmaker’s record of bets accepted and money paid out. 12. a set of tickets, stamps, matches, checks, samples of cloth, etc., bound together: a pattern book. 13. [the book] the first six tricks taken by the declarer in a hand of bridge.

book | v. [intr.] 1. reserve (accommodations, a place, etc.); buy (a ticket) in advance: I have booked a table at the Swan. 2. reserve accommodations for (someone); his secretary had booked him into the Howard Hotel. 3. engage (a performer or guest) for an occasion or event: [be booked up] have all appointments or places reserved: be full. 4. make an official record of the name and other personal details of a criminal suspect or offender: the cop booked me and took me down to the station.

book | n. 1. by the book strictly according to the rules: a cop who doesn’t exactly play it by the book. 2. close the book on lay aside: expend no further energy on: Congress closed the book on wool subsidies.

book | v. [intr.] 1. throw the book at in charge or punish (someone) as severely as possible. 2. write the book be the leader of the field: John wrote the book on extreme skiing.

book | n. 1. a person who binds books as a profession.

book-end | n. a set of shelves for books set in a surrounding frame or cabinet.

book-end | n. a support for the end of a row of books to keep it upright, often one of a pair.

book | v. [intr.] usu. be booked (extended) occurred or be positioned at the end or on either side of (something): the narrative is bookended by a pair of essays.

book | n. 1. informal term for BOOKMAKER.

book | n. an act of reserving accommodations, travel, etc., or of buying a ticket in advance: the hotel does not handle group bookings.

bookish | adj. of (a person or way of life) devoted to reading and studying rather than worldly interests: by comparison I was very bookish, intellectual, and worldly in a wrong way.

bookish | adj. of (language or writing) literary in style or allusion: long bookish scholarship.

book | adv. bookishly

book | n. knowledge gained from books or study: mere theory: knowledge based on experience rather than book learning.

book | n. a small book containing a few sheets, typically with paper covers.
bookmaker /ˈbʊkməkər/ n. a person who takes bets (esp. on horse races), calculates odds, and pays out winnings. —book-making n.

book-mark /ˈbʊkmɑːrk/ n. a strip of leather, cardboard, or other material, used to mark one's place in a book. v. Comput. a record of the address of a file, web page, or other data used to enable quick access by a user.

book-plate /ˈbʊklət/ n. a decorative label stuck in the front of a book, bearing the name of the book's owner.

book-seller /ˈbʊksɛlər/ n. a person who sells books, esp. as the owner or manager of a bookshop.

book-store /ˈbʊksstɔːr/ (also chiefly Brit. book-shop /ˈbʊksʃɒp/, -shop) n. a store where books are sold.

book value n. the value of a security or asset as entered in a company’s books. Often contrasted with market value.

book-worm /ˈbʊkwʊrm/ n. 1. int. a person devoted to reading. 2. the larva of a wood-boring beetle that feeds on the paper and glue in books.

Boo-lean /ˈbuːleɪn/ adj. denoting a system of algebraic notation used to represent logical propositions, esp. in computing and electronics.

Boo-lean logic n. a system in which the logical operators 'and', 'or', 'not' are used in retrieving information from a computer database.

boom /bʊm/ n. 1. a loud, deep, resonant sound: the deep boom of the bass drum; the characteristic resonant call of the bimtern. v. [intr.] make a loud, deep, resonant sound: thunder boomed in the sky. —boom-y adj.

boom n. 1. a period of great prosperity or rapid economic growth: a boom in precious metal mining; [as adj.] a boom economy.

boom n. 1. a long pole or rod, in particular; 2. a spar which the foot of a vessel’s sail is attached. v. [intr.] undergo a period of great prosperity or rapid economic growth: business is booming.

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boom box n. int. a portable sound system, typically including radio and cassette or CD player, capable of powerful sound: teenagers dance to boom boxes on warm April nights.

boom-erang /ˈbʊməræŋ/ n. a curved flat piece of wood that can be thrown so as to return to the thrower, traditionally used by Australian Aborigines as a hunting weapon.

v. [intr.] (of a plan or action) return to the originator, often with negative consequences: misleading consumers about quality will eventually boomerang on a cumcarn.

boom town (also boom-town) n. 1. a town undergoing rapid growth due to sudden prosperity.

boom n. 1. a thing that is helpful or beneficial: the navigation system will be a boom to both civilian and military users.

boom n. 1. a thing that is helpful or beneficial: the navigation system will be a boom to both civilian and military users.

boon /bʊn/ adj. (of a companion or friend) close; intimate; favorite: he debated the question with a few boon companions in the barroom.

boon /bʊn/ n. 1. a regional temporary tent or structure, used esp. for the sale or display of goods at a market or fair; 2. a booth offering every item from books to food to health care.

book box n. int. a portable sound system, typically including radio and cassette or CD player, capable of powerful sound: teenagers dance to boom boxes on warm April nights.

booster /ˈboʊstər/ n. 1. a person or thing that helps increase or promote something, in particular: a keen promoter of a person, organization, or cause: [as adj.] athletic booster club; 2. a source of help or encouragement: job fairs are a great morale booster.

boost /ˈboʊst/ v. [tr.] help or encourage (something) to increase or improve: a range of measures to boost tourism; push from below; assist: people they were trying to boost over a wall; amplify (an electrical signal); informal, esp. by shoplifting or pickpocketing.

boost n. a source of help or encouragement leading to increase or improvement; the cut in interest rates will give a further boost to the economy; an increase or improvement: [as adj.] boost in employment; a push from below.

boost cable n. n. another term for JUMPER CABLE.

boot /bʊt/ n. 1. a sturdy item of footwear covering the foot, ankle, and sometimes the leg below the knee; walking boots; a covering or sheath to protect a mechanical connection, as on a gearshift.

 unlaw /ˈbʊt/ (also Denver boot) a clamp placed by the police on the wheel of an illegally parked vehicle to make it immobile.

v. [tr.] (also book up) [usu. as adj.] the process of starting a computer and putting it into a state of readiness for operation; a boot disk.

boot /bʊt/ n. 1. a long pole or rod, in particular; 2. a spar which the foot of a vessel’s sail is attached. v. [intr.] undergo a period of great prosperity or rapid economic growth: business is booming.

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bowling people over in his haste. • (usu. be bowled over) int. completely overwhelm or astonish someone, for example by one's good qualities or looks: when he met Angela, he was just bowled over by her.

bowler [boʊˈlər] n. 1 a player at tenpin bowling, lawn bowling, or skittles. 2 Cricket a member of the fielding side who bowls or is bowling.

bowler-hat [ˈboʊlərˌhæt] n. a man's hard felt hat with a round domeshaped crown.
owling [ˈboʊlɪŋ] n. 1 a rope attached to the weather leech of a square sail and leading forward, thus helping the ship sail nearer the wind. 2 a non-binding knot for forming a nonslipping nonjamming loop at the end of a rope.

bowling ball [ˈboʊlɪŋ bɔːl] n. a large, heavy ball with holes for the thumb and two fingers, used in tenpin bowling.

bowling green [ˈboʊlɪŋ ˈɡriːn] n. an area of closely mown grass on which the game of lawn bowling is played.

bowman [ˈboʊmen] n. pl. -men an archer.

bow-wow [ˈboʊʊwɔː] n. a necktie in the form of a bow or a knot with two loops.

bow-wow [ˈboʊwɔː] n. int. an imitation of a dog's bark.

box [ˈbɑks] n. 1 a container with a flat base and sides, typically square or rectangular and having a lid: a cereal box. • the contents of such a container: she ate a whole box of chocolates that night. • int. a casing containing a computer. • int. a coffin: I always thought I'd be in a box when I finally left here. • vulgar slang a woman's vagina. 2 a space or area enclosed within straight lines, in particular: an area on a printed page that is to be filled in or that is set off by a border: a picture of Sandy was in the upper right-hand box. • an area on a computer screen for user input or displaying information. • (the box) also the batter's box. Baseball the rectangular area occupied by the batter. • baseball the rectangular area behind home plate for the catcher (catcher's box), or those near first and third bases, in foul territory, for each base coach (coach's box). • (the box) Soccer the penalty area: he curled in a shot from the edge of the box. • a small structure or building for a specific purpose, in particular: a separate section or enclosed area within a larger building: esp. one reserved for a group of people in a theater or sports venue: or for witnesses or the jury in a law court: a box at the opera; the jury was now in the box. • a protective casing for a piece of a mechanism. • a mailbox at a post office, newspaper office, or other facility where a person may arrange to receive correspondence: write to me care of PO Box 112.

boxing [ˈbɑksɪŋ] n. the sport or practice of fighting with the fists, esp. with padded gloves in a roped square ring according to prescribed rules.

boxing glove [ˈbɑksɪŋ ˈɡlov] n. a heavily padded mitten worn in boxing.

box kite [ˈbɑks kɪt] n. a tailless kite in the form of a long box open at each end.

box lunch [ˈboʊlkʌntʃ] n. an individual lunch carried in a box rather than a bag.

box office [ˈboʊkəfɪs] n. a place at a theater or other arts establishment where tickets are bought or reserved. • used to refer to the commercial success of a movie, play, or actor in terms of the audience size or takings they command: as adj. this movie was a huge box-office hit.

box score [ˈboʊksɔr] n. the tabulated results of a baseball game or other sporting event, with statistics given for each player's performance.

box seat [ˈboʊksɛt] n. a seat in a box in a theater or sports stadium.

box spring [ˈboʊksprɪŋ] n. each of a set of vertical springs housed in a frame in a mattress or upholstered chair base.

boxwood [ˈbɑksˌwud] n. see box (sense 1).

boy [boʊ] n. 1 a male child or young man: a group of six boys. • a son: she put her little boy to bed. • a male child or young man who does a specified job: a delivery boy. • used informally or lightheartedly to refer to a man: the inspector was a local boy. • dated used as a friendly form of address from one man to another, from one older man to a young man: my dear boy, don't say another word! • used as a form of address to a male dog: down boy, down!

boyfriend [ˈboʊfrend] n. a regular male companion with whom one has a romantic or sexual relationship.

Boyle's law [ˈbuolz lɔːr] n. a law stating that the pressure of a given mass of an ideal gas is inversely proportional to its volume at a constant temperature.

Boy Scout [ˈboʊ ˈskæt] n. A member of an organization of boys, esp. the Boy Scout movement.
Scouts of America, that promotes character, outdoor activities, good citizenship, and service to others. • an honest, friendly, and typically naive man: [as adj] his trademark Boy Scout smile.

boy-sen-ber-y /ˈboɪzənˌbɛr/ n. (pl. -ies) 1 a large red edible blackberrylike fruit. The shrubby plant (Rubus loganobaccus) that bears this fruit, which is a hybrid of several kinds of bramble.

bo-zo /ˈbɒzə/ n. (pl. -zo-s) int. a stupid, rude, or insignificant person, esp. a man.

BP • abbr. before the present (era) 18,000 years BP. • blood pressure. • baseball batting practice. • boiled point.

b-p • abbr. baptized. • Biochem. base pair(s), as a unit of length in nucleic acid chains. • Finance basis point(s). • (b.p.) boiling point.

b-cus • abbr. bits per second.

BR • abbr. bedroom(s). • bills receivable.

Br • symb. the chemical element bromine.

bra /brɑː/ n. an undergarment worn by women to support the breasts. • (also auto bra or car bra) a carbon-based cover that fits over the front bumper of a car, absorbing the microwaves used in police radar equipment to minimize the risk of detection for the speeding motorists.

—bra-less adj.

brace /brɑːs/ n. 1 a device that clamps things tightly together or that gives support, in particular: a device fitted to a weak or injured neck, or leg, or other part of the body for support. • (braces) a wire device fitted in the mouth to straighten the teeth. • a strengthening piece of iron or timber used in building and carpentry. • a tool in carpentry having a crank handle and a socket to hold a bit for boring. • a rope leading aft from each yardarm, used for trimming the sail. • (braces) British term for suspenders. 2 either of the two marks ( and ) used: either to indicate that two or more items on one side have the same relationship as each other to the single item to which the other side points, or in pairs to show that words between them are connected.

—brace•less adj.

bracelet /ˈbrɑːsl/ n. an ornamental band, hoop, or chain worn on the wrist or arm. • (bracelets) int. handcuffs.

bracer /ˈbrɑːsər/ n. int. an alcoholic drink intended to prepare one for something difficult or unpleasant.

bra-chial /bɹəˈʃɪəl/ • braky /ˈbrɑːkɪ/ • adj. Anat. of, or relating to, the arm, specifically the upper arm, or an armlike structure: the brachial artery. • like an arm.

bra-chi-a-tion /bɹəˈʃɪəʃən/ • braky /ˈbrɑːkɪ/ n. of certain apes move by using the arms to swing from branch to branch: the gibbons brachiate energetically across their enclosure.

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bra-chi-a-pod /ˈbrɑːkɪəˌpɒd, ˈbrɑːkɪə-/ • braky /ˈbrɑːkɪ/ n. any of various marine invertebrates, esp. a fossil one, having an unsegmented bivalve shell that is calcified and often has many long and thin legs.

bra-chi-o-saur /ˈbrɑːkɪoˌsɔːr, ˈbrɑːkɪoˌsɔːr-/ • braky /ˈbrɑːkɪoˌsɔːr, ˈbrɑːkɪoˌsɔːr-/ n. a large herbivorous dinosaur (genus Brachiosaurus, order Sauischia) of the late Jurassic to mid Cretaceous periods, with forelegs much longer than the hind legs.

—bra-chi-o-saur-i-an /ˈbrɑːkɪəˌsɔːrən/ • adj.

bracken /ˈbrækən/ n. a tall fern (Pteridium aquilinum, family Dennstaedtiaceae) with coarse lobed fronds that occurs worldwide and can cover large areas. • (loosely) any large coarse fern resembling this.

bracket /ˈbrækət/ n. 1 each of a pair of marks [- - ] used to enclose words or figures so as to separate them from the context: symbols are given in brackets. 2 a category of people or things that are similar or fall between specified limits: those in a high income bracket. 3 a right-angled support attached to and projecting from a wall for holding a shelf, lamp, or other object. • a shelf fixed with such a support to a wall.

—(et-ed, -et-ing) [tr.] 1 (usu. be bracketed) place (one or more people or things) in the same category or group: he is sometimes bracketed with the “new wave” of film directors. 2 enclose (words or figures) in brackets: [as adj] (bracketed) the relevant data are included as bracketed points.

—Math. enclose (a complex expression) in brackets to denote that the whole of the expression rather than just a part of it has a particular relation, such as multiplication or division, to another expression.

3 hold or attach (something) by means of a right-angled support: pipes should be bracketed.

4 Mil. establish the range of a target by firing two preliminary shots, one short of the target and the other beyond it.

—Photog. establish (the correct exposure) by taking several pictures with slightly more or less exposure.

brackish /ˈbrɑːkɪʃ/ • adj. (of water) slightly salty, as is the mixture of river water and seawater in estuaries. • (of fish or other organisms) living in or requiring such water. • unpleasant or distasteful: the lighting in the movie is brackish. —brack-ish-ness n.

bract /ˈbrækt/ • n. Bot. a modified leaf or scale, typically small, with a flower or flower cluster in its axil. Bracts are sometimes larger and more brightly colored than the true flower, as in a poinsettia.

—bract•eate •-tēt; -tēt; -ēt/ adj.

brad /ˈbræd/ • n. a small wire nail with a small head.

brady-card-ia /ˈbrædɪˌkɑrdiə/ n. Med. abnormally slow heart action.

brag /bræɡ/ v. (bragged, bragging) say in a boastful manner: [with direct speech] “I found them,” she bragged. • [int] they were bragging about how easy it had been.

• n. 1 a gambling card game that is a simplified form of poker. 2 a boastful statement; an act of talking boastfully.

—adj. int., excellent; first-rate: that was my brag heifer. —brag•ger n.

—brag-gingly adv.

—brag-ging-ly adv.

braggadocio /ˈbræɡəˈdoʊsɪə/, -doʊ/ n. boastful or arrogant behavior.

braggart /ˈbræɡərt/ • n. a person who boasts about achievements or possessions: [as adj] braggart men.

Brah-ma /ˈbrɑːmə/ • the creator god in later Hinduism, who forms a triad with Vishnu the preserver and Shiva the destroyer. 2 another term for BRAHMAN (sense 2).

Brah-ma bull /ˈbrɑːməl/ • another term for BRAHMAN sense 3.

Brah-man /ˈbræmən/ (also Brah-min /ˈbræmɪn/) • n. (pl. -mans or -mins) 1 a member of the highest Hindu caste, that of the priesthood. 2 (in Hinduism) the ultimate reality underlying all phenomena.

3 an ox (Bos indicus) of a humped breed originally domesticated in India that is tolerant of heat and drought. It is often included under the name B. taurus with other domestic cattle. Also called BRAHMA BULL. • ZEBU.

—Brah-man•ic /ˈbrɑːmənɪk/ • adj.

—Brah-ma•nical /ˈbrɑːmənɪkəl/ • adj.

Brah-min /ˈbrɑːmɪn/ • n. 1 variant spelling of BRAHMAN. 2 a socially or culturally superior person, esp. a member of the upper classes from New England.

—Brah-ma•ni-cal /ˈbrɑːmɪnɪkəl/ • adj.

braid /bræd/ n. 1 threads of silk, cotton, or other material woven into a decorative band for edging or trimming garments: a coat trimmed with gold braid. 2 a length of hair made up of three or more interlaced strands: women with long black braids. 3 a length made up of three or more interlaced strands of any flexible material: a flexible copper braid. • braids of garlic.

—v. [tr.] interface three or more strands of (hair or other flexible material) to form a length: their long hair was tightly braided. 2 (often as adj) (braided) edge or trim (a garment) with braid: braided red trousers. 3 (usu. as adj) (braided) of a river or stream) flow in shallow interwoven channels divided by deposits of sediment.

Braille /brɛl/ n. a form of written language for the blind, in which characters are represented by patterns of raised dots that are felt with the fingertips.

brain /breɪn/ • n. 1 an organ of soft nervous tissue contained in the skull of vertebrates, functioning as the coordinating center of sensation and intellectual activity. 2 the substance of such an organ, typically that of an animal, used as food. • int. an electronic device with functions comparable to those of the human brain.

—intellectual capacity: I didn’t have enough brains for the sciences. • the brains n. int. a clever person who supplies the ideas and plans for a group of people: Tom was the brains of the outfit. • a person’s mind: a tiny alarm bell began to ring in her brain. • an exceptionally intelligent person: he was known more as a snappy dresser than a brain.

—v. [tr.] hit (someone) hard on the head with an object: she braigned me with a rolling pin.

brain death • n. irreversible brain damage causing the end of independent respiration, regarded as indicative of death.
brain drain  n. int. the emigration of highly trained or intelligent people from a particular country.

brain-pan  n. intr. a person's skull.

brain-power  n. mental intelligence: ability.

brain-stem  n. Anat. the central trunk of the mammalian brain, consisting of the medulla oblongata,pons, and midbrain, and continuing downward to form the spinal cord, the seat of basic reflexive bodily functions.

brain-storm  n. 1 a spontaneous group discussion to produce ideas and ways of solving problems. 2 int. a sudden clever idea.

brain-teaser  adj. 1 a problem or puzzle, typically one designed to be solved for amusement. 2 adj. a group of experts appointed to advise a government or politician.

brain-wash  n. int. a sudden clever idea.

brain-wave  n. (us. brainwaves) an electrical impulse in the brain.

bran  n. 1 a mass of fragments, in particular: loose broken ice.

brand  n. 1 a yellow alloy of copper and zinc; as adj. a brass plate on the door of a decorative object made of such an alloy; shining brasses or in the mouth of a lit candle. 2 an article or the name of such an alloy: a light-bulb or a book made of brass.

branch  n. 1 an archaic term for BRACKEN.

brake  n. a device for slowing or stopping a moving vehicle, typically by applying pressure to the wheels; he slammed on his brakes.

brake drum  n. a broad, very short cylinder attached to a wheel, against which the brake shoes press in a drum brake.

brake horse-power  n. the available power of an engine, assessed by measuring the force needed to brake it: the net brake horse-power is always over six by six.

brake lining  n. a layer attached to a brake shoe to increase friction against the brake drum.

brake-man  n. pl. men 1 a railroad worker responsible for a train's brakes and other aspects of its operation. 2 a person in charge of brakes, for instance in a bobsled.

brake shoe  n. either of the long curved blocks that press against the inside of the brake drum.

bramble  n. 1 a prickly scrambling wild shrub of the rose family, esp. a blackberry or huckleberry; a dog rose; any rough, prickly vine or shrub. 2 adj. bramble-like.

bran  n. 1 pieces of grain husk separated from flour after milling.

branch  n. 1 a part of a tree that grows out from the trunk or from a branch.

branch  n. 1 a lateral extension or sub-division extending from the main part of something, typically one extending from a river, road, or railroad: a branch of the Susquehanna River. 2 a division of an office or a large business or organization, operating locally or having a particular function; he went to work at our Boston branch.

brass  n. 1 a metal alloy of copper, zinc, and tin; as adj. a brass plate on the door of a decorative object made of such an alloy; shining brasses or in the mouth of a lit candle. 2 an article or the name of such an alloy: a light-bulb or a book made of brass.

brassy  adj. as brass, brass-like, or brass-ier; resembling brass, in particular: bright or harsh yellow; something like a brass musical instrument; harsh and loud. 2 of a person, typically a woman: tastelessly showy or loud in appearance or manner: her brass, audacious exterior.

brat  n. 1 a small child, typically a badly behaved one. 2 adj. bratty.

brand  n. 1 a magic word or goal that someone strives for: Willis went for the brass ring, joining the firm at a whaling salary.

brand  n. 1 one of a group of musicians playing brass instruments and sometimes also percussion.

brand-er  n. 1 a plant of the cabbage family's genus Brassica, which includes cabbage, turnip, Brussels sprouts, and mustard.

brand-euse  n. pl. -euses an informal restaurant, esp. one in France or modeled on a French one and with a large selection of drinks.

brand-si-ca  n. a plant of the cabbage family's genus Brassica, which includes cabbage, turnip, Brussels sprouts, and mustard.

brass  n. 1 a metal alloy of copper, zinc, and tin; as adj. a brass plate on the door of a decorative object made of such an alloy; shining brasses or in the mouth of a lit candle. 2 an article or the name of such an alloy: a light-bulb or a book made of brass.

brand  n. 1 a magic word or goal that someone strives for: Willis went for the brass ring, joining the firm at a whaling salary.

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breastbone /ˈbreɪstbɒn/ • n. a thin, flat bone running down the center of the chest and connecting the ribs. Also called sternum.

breast-feed /ˈbreɪstfed/ • v. (past and past part. fed) [tr.] (of a woman) feed (a baby) with milk from the breast: she breast-fed her first child. [intr. (of a baby) feed from the breast: the child began to breast-feed.

breast-plate /ˈbreɪstpleɪ/ • n. a piece of armor covering the chest.

breast-stroke /ˈbreɪststrɔk/ • n. a style of swimming on one's front, in which the arms are pushed forward and then swept back in a circular movement, while the legs are tucked in toward the body and then kicked out in a corresponding movement. (the breaststroke) a race, typically of a specified length or kind, in which such a style of swimming is used: she won the breaststroke.

breastwork /ˈbreɪstwɜːrk/ • n. a temporary defense or parapet.

breath /breθ/ • n. 1 an inhalation or exhalation of air from the lungs: she drew in a quick breath. 2 an exhalation of air by a person or animal that can be seen, smelled, or heard: he sighed, his breath hanging like a cloud in the icy air. 3 the physiological process of taking air into the lungs and expelling it again, esp. the ability to breathe easily: she paused for breath. 4 the air taken into or expelled from the lungs: I was gasping for breath. 5 a brief moment; the time required for one act of respiration: in Las Vegas, they marry you in a breath. 6 a slight movement of air: the weather was balmy, not a breath of wind. 7 a sign, hint, or suggestion: he avoided the slightest breath of scandal.

- a breath of fresh air a refreshing change: the company's no-nonsense attitude is a breath of fresh air.
- catch one's breath 1 cease breathing momentarily in surprise or fear. 2 rest after exercise to restore normal breathing: she stood for a few moments, catching her breath.
- don’t hold your breath used hyperbolically to indicate that something is likely to occur: I won’t hold my breath about how fast they’ll get the job done.
- hold one's breath cease breathing temporarily. • fig. be in a state of suspense or anticipation: France held its breath while the Senate chose its new president.
- in the same (or next) breath at the same time: he congratulated Simon on his victory but in the same breath dismissed it.
- out of breath gasping for air, typically after exercise: he arrived on the top floor out of breath.
- save one’s breath stop wasting time in futile talk: save your breath, I know all about it.
- take someone’s breath away to astonish or inspire someone to the point of admiration.
- under (or below) one’s breath in a very quiet voice: almost inaudibly.
- waste one’s breath talk or give advice without effect: I have better things to do than waste my breath arguing.

breathalyzer /ˈbreθəlaɪzər/ • trademark Breathalyser • n. a device used by police for measuring the amount of alcohol in a driver's breath.

breathe /briːθ/ • v. [intr.] take air into the lungs and then expel it, esp. as a regular physiological process, she was wheezing as she breathed! [intr.] we are polluting the air we breathe.
- breathe back to be alive because of this: at least I’m still breathing.
- breathe in [with direct speech] say something with quiet intensity: “We’re together at last,” she breathed. (of an animal or plant) respire or exchange gases: plants breathe through their roots.
- breathe in (of material or soil) admit or emit air or moisture: let your lawn breathe.
- breathe out [tr.] allow (a horse) to rest after exertion.
- breathe down someone’s neck follow closely behind someone.
- breathe in through one’s nose.

breathing /ˈbreθɪŋ/ • n. the process of taking air into and expelling it from the lungs: his breathing was shallow.

breathless /ˈbreθlɪs/ • adj. gasping for breath, typically due to exertion: the climb left me breathless. 2 short of breath or appearing this way because of excitement or other strong feelings: a breathless story about risking death to steal the truth. 3 (of air or weather) unstrained by a wind or breeze; stiflingly still: the warm, breathless air. • adv. breathlessly.

breath-taking /ˈbreθt̩ˌkeɪɪŋ/ • adj. astonishing or awe-inspiring in quality, as to take one’s breath away: the scene was one of breathtaking beauty.

breath test • n. a test in which a driver is made to blow into a breathalyzer to check the amount of alcohol that has been drunk.

breathy /ˈbreθi/ • adj. (breathier, breathiest) producing or causing an audible sound of breathing, often related to physical exertion or strong feelings: a breathy laugh.

brief-cia /ˈbreʃcɪə/ • Geol. rock consisting of angular fragments cemented together.

brief /briːf/ • past and participle of brief.

brief adj. [usu. in comb.] (of a person or animal) reared in a specified environment or way: a city-bred man.

briefcase /ˈbreʃkɛs/ • n. the part of a cannon behind the bore. • the back part of a rifle or gun barrel.

brief birth (also brief delivery) • n. a delivery of a baby so positioned in the uterus that the buttocks or feet are delivered first.

briefcases /ˈbreʃkɛz/ • pl. n. short trousers fastened just below the knee. • pl. short trousers.

- too big for one’s briefs see big.

brief loader • n. a gun designed to have ammunition inserted at the breech rather than through the muzzle.

brief-loading adj.

brief /briːf/ • v. (past and past part. bred) [tr.] cause (an animal) to produce offspring, typically in a controlled and organized way: hitches may not be bred from more than once a year. [intr.] (of animals) mate and then produce offspring: toads are said to return to the pond of their birth to breed [as adj.] (breeding) the breeding season.

brief • n. a sort or kind of person or thing: a new breed of entrepreneurs.

- a dying breed a sort or kind of person that is slowly disappearing: the country’s dying breed of elder statesmen.

brief er • n. a nuclear reactor that creates fissile material (typically plutonium-239 by irradiation of uranium-238) at a faster rate than it uses another fissile material (typically uranium-235) as fuel.

briefing /ˈbreʃɪŋ/ • n. the mating and production of offspring by animals: some worms use the moon to time their breeding.

brief • v. [intr.] come or go in a casual or lighthearted manner: I breezed in as if nothing were wrong. [intr.] deal with something with apparently casual ease: the computer has the power to breeze through huge documents.

brezoʊ /ˈbrezoʊ/ • adj. (brezier, breziest) • 1 pleasantly windy: it was a bright, breezy day. 2 appearing relaxed, informal, and charmingly brisk: the text is written in a breezy, matter-of-fact manner.

breezy-ly /ˈbreziˌli/ adv. • breezy-ness n.

brother • n. 1 fellow Christians or members of a male religious order. • used for humorous or rhetorical effect to refer to people belonging to a particular group: our brethren in the popular press.

breton • n. 1 a native of Brittany. 2 the Celtic language of Brittany; related to Cornish.

- of or relating to Brittany or its people or language.

breve /breʊv/ • n. [usu.] of music, rarely used in modern music, having the time value of two semibreves or whole notes. 2 a written or printed mark (“) indicating a short or unstrained vowel.

breve • n. [often as adj.] a former type of military commission conferred esp. for outstanding service by which an officer was promoted to a higher rank without the corresponding pay: a brevet lieutenant.

breviary /ˈbreviəri/ • n. [pl. -aries] a book containing the service for each day, to be recited by those in orders in the Roman Catholic Church.

brevi-ly /ˈbreviˌli/ • adj. concise and exact use of words in writing or speech. • brevity of time: the brevity of human life.

brew /brʊ/ • v. [tr.] 1 make (beer) by soaking, boiling, and fermentation. 2 make (tea or coffee) by mixing it with hot water. I’ve just brewed some coffee! [intr. he did a crossword while the tea brewed. • [intr.] (of an unwanted event or situation) begin to develop: there was more trouble brewing as the airline pilots went on strike | a storm was brewing.

n. 1 beer: nonalcoholic brews. 2 a serving of beer. 3 a cup or mug of beer that is not filtered.
tea or coffee. 3 a mixture of events, people, or things that interact to form a more potent whole: a dangerous brew of political turmoil and violent conflict. —brew-er n.

brew-ery [ˈbrʊərə] n. (pl. -eries) a place where beer is made commercially.

bri-ari [ˈbriəri] n. variant spelling of brier. 2 adj. variant spelling of brier.

bri-be [ˈbriβ] v. [tr] persuade (someone) to act in one's favor, typically illegally or dishonestly, by a gift of money or other inducement: [fr] you weren't willing to be good to your sister without being bribed with a lollipop. 2 n. a sum of money or other inducement offered or given in this way.


bri-ba-crae [ˈbrɪəkərə] n. miscellaneous objects and ornaments of little value.

brick n. a small rectangular block typically made of fired or sun-dried clay, used in building. 2 bricks collectively as a building material: this wall was built of brick. 3 a small, rectangular object: a brick of ice cream.


bri-coll [ˈbrɪkəl] n. the bricks in a wall, house, or other structure, typically in terms of their type or layout: the patterned brickwork of the gables.

bri-xford [ˈbrɪxfɔrd] n. the bricks in a wall, house, or other structure, typically in terms of their type or layout: the patterned brickwork of the gables.

bri-xford [ˈbrɪxfɔrd] n. the bricks in a wall, house, or other structure, typically in terms of their type or layout: the patterned brickwork of the gables.

bri-dal [ˈbrɪdəl] adj. of or concerning a bride or a wedding: the bridal party came out into the church porch.

bri-dle [ˈbrɪdəl] n. a woman on her wedding day just before and after the event.

bri-eng [ˈbrɪn] n. a man on his wedding day just before and after the event.

bri-brid [ˈbrɪbrid] n. a girl or woman who accompanies a bride on her wedding day.

bri-dge [ˈbrɪdʒ] n. 1 a structure carrying a road, path, railroad, or canal across a river, ravine, road, railroad, or other obstacle: a bridge across the river. 2 a railroad bridge. 3 something that makes a physical connection between two other things. 4 something that is intended to reconcile or form a connection between two things: a committee that was formed to create a bridge between rival parties. 5 a partial denture supported by natural teeth on either side. See also bridgework. 6 the support formed by the hand for the forward part of a billiard cue. 7 a long stick with a frame at the end that is used to support a cue for a shot that is otherwise hard to reach. 8 Mus. an upright piece of wood on a string instrument over which the strings are stretched. 9 Mus. a bridge passage. 10 the elevated platform on a ship from which the captain and officers direct operations. 11 the upper bony part of a person's nose: he pushed his spectacles further up the bridge of his nose. 12 the central part of a pair of glasses, fitting over this: these sunglasses have a special nose bridge for comfort. 13 an electric circuit with two branches across which a detector or load is connected.

1 v. [tr] be a bridge over (something): a covered walkway that bridged the garden. 2 bridge building over (something): earlier attempts to bridge the channel had failed. 3 make (a difference between two groups) smaller or less significant: bridging the gap between avant garde art and popular culture. —bridge-able adj.

bridge n. a card game descended from whist, played by two partnerships of two players who at the beginning of each hand bid for the right to name the trump suit, the highest bid also representing a contract to make a specified number of tricks with a specified suit as trumps.

bridge-head [ˈbrɪdʒhɛd] n. a strong position secured by an army inside enemy territory from which to advance or attack.
broach /broʊʃ/  n. 1 a skewer or spit on which chunks of meat or fish are barbecued, grilled, or roasted: beef and lamb on a brochette.

brochure /broʊʃər/  n. 1 a small book or magazine containing pictures and information about a product or service.

brochure-ware /broʊʃə-ˈwɔr/  n. Web sites or Web pages produced by converting, a company's marketing or advertising material into an Internet format, typically providing little or no opportunity for interactive contact with prospective customers.

broque  /brok/  n. a strong outdoor shoe with ornamental perfumed patterns in the leather.

brook  /broot/  v. [tr.] 1 to go for broke risk everything in an all-out effort.

broken  /brəkən/  adj. having completely run out of money: many farmers went broke.

broken down  adj. worn out and dismantled by age, use, or ill-treatment: a broken-down car.

brok-en-hearted  /brəkən-/  adj. overwhelmed by grief or disappointment.

brok-er  /brəkər/  n. a person who buys and sells goods or assets for others.

broadcast /broadkast/  v. [past -cast, past part. -cast, past. -cast] 1 to transmit (a program or some information) by radio or television: the announcement was broadcast live.

broad-cast /ˈbrɔːdˌkɑːst/  v. [intr.] (often be broadcast) transmit [a program or some information] by radio or television: the 1920s saw the dawn of broadcasting.

broad-day  /ˈbroʊdˌdeɪ/  adv. 1 in general and with the exception of minor details: the climate is broadly similar in the two regions.

broaden /ˈbroʊdən/  v. [intr.] 1 to become larger in distance from side to side: broaden your horizons, broaden your outlook; 2 to expand to encompass more people, ideas, or things: his interests broadened as he grew up.

broad-loom /ˈbroʊdˌlʊm/  n. carpet woven in wide widths: wall-to-wall broadloom.

broad-minded  /ˈbroʊdˌmɪndɪd/  adj. tolerant or liberal in one's views and reactions, not easily offended: a broad-minded approach to religion.

broadside /ˈbroʊdˌsайд/  n. 1 a nearly simultaneous firing of all the guns from one side of a warship; 2 a sheet of paper printed on one side only, forming one large page: a broadside of Lee's farewell address.

broad-mindedness /ˈbroʊdˌmɪndɪd-/  n. breadth of spirit, capacity for enlarged and unprejudiced thought.

broad-sword /ˈbroʊdˌsɔr/  n. a sword with a wide blade, used for cutting than thrusting.

broccoli /ˈbrəkəl/  n. a rich fabric, often silk, woven with a raised pattern, often with gold or silver thread: a heavy brocade curtain.

broccoli  /ˈbrəkəli/  n. a vegetable of a variety similar to the cauliflower, bearing heads of green or purplish flower buds; the flower stalk and head eaten as a vegetable.

broccoli  /ˈbrəkəli/  n. a vegetable that is a hybrid of broccoli and kale, with small florets on slender stalks.

brochette /ˈbrɔʃət/  n. a skewer or spit on which chunks of meat or fish are barbecued, grilled, or roasted: beef and lamb on a brochette.

Bronchitis /ˈbrɔŋkətɪs/  n. inflammation of the mucous membrane in the bronchi.
the bronchial tubes. It typically causes deep and severe coughing.

bronchitis /brɒŋkˈsɪtɪs/ adj. & n.

broncho-/ˈbrɒŋkɔ-] n. a fiber-optic cable that is passed through the windpipe in order to view the bronchi.

broncho-scope /ˈbrɒŋkəʊsəʊk/ n. —broncho-scopy /ˈbrɒŋkəʊsəʊkpi/ n.

bronchus /brɒŋkəs/ n. (pl. -chi /-kɪ; -kəʊ/) any of the major air passages of the lungs that diverge from the windpipe.

bronco /ˈbrɒŋkoʊ/ n. (pl. -cos) a wild or half-tamed horse, esp. of the western U.S.

bron-to-saur /ˈbrɒntoʊsɔr/ (also bron-to-saurus /ˈbrɒntoʊsɔrəs/) n. another term for Pterosaur.

bron-to-saur-i-an /ˈbrɒntoʊsɔrɪən/ adj.

bron-to-spher-e /ˈbrɒntoʊsɛfr/ (also bron-to-sphere /ˈbrɒntoʊsɛfr/ ) n. a large ungulate mammal (Emblemotherium Andrews) of the Eocene epoch with a horn-like bony growth on the nose.

Bronx cheer n. a sound of derision or contempt by made by blowing through closed lips with the tongue between them; a raspberry.

bronze /brɒns/ n. a yellowish-brown alloy of copper with up to one third tin. • a yellowish-brown color: rich, gleaming shades of bronze. • a work of sculpture or other object made of bronze.

bronze adj. made of or colored like bronze: a bronze statue.

bronze vb. [tr.] (usu. be bronzed) make (a person or part of the body) sunburnt: Alson was bronzed by outdoor life. • give a surface of bronze or something resembling bronze to: the doors were bronzed with sculpted relief. • mid 17th cent. (as a verb); from French bronze (noun), bronze (verb); from Latin bronze, probably from Persian biryān ‘brass.’ —bronzy adj.

Bronze Age n. a prehistoric period that followed the Stone Age and preceded the Iron Age, when certain weapons and tools came to be made of bronze rather than stone.

brooch /brʊʃ; brʊʃ/ n. an ornament fastened to clothing with a hinged pin and catch.

brood /brʊd/ n. a family of young animals, esp. of a bird, produced at one hatching or birth: a brood of chicks. • bee or wasp larva. • int. all of the children in a family: she was brought up by a loving stepfather as part of a brood of eight. • a group of things or people having a similar character: a remarkable brood of writers.

brood vb. [intr.] think deeply about something that makes one unhappy: he brooded over his need to find a wife. • [tr.] (of a bird) sit on (eggs) to hatch them. • (of a fish, frog, or invertebrate hold (developing eggs) within the body. • [usu. foll. by over] (of silence, a storm, etc.) hang or hover closely: a winter storm broods over the lake.

brood-er /ˈbrʊdər/ n. a heated house for chicks or piglets. • a person who broods about something.

brook /brʊk/ n. a small stream. —brooklet /ˈbrʊklɛt/ n.

brook vb. [intr.] formal tolerate or allow something: typically, dissident or opposition: [n]enny would brook no criticism of Matthew.

broom /brʊm; brʊm/ n. a long-handled brush of bristles or twigs used for sweeping. • a shrub (genera Cistus and Genista) of the pea family, with long, thin green stems and a profusion of flowers.

bros pl. n. brothers (in names of companies): Hills Bros. coffee.

brot /brɔt; brɔt/ n. soup consisting of meat or vegetable chunks, and often rice, cooked in stock. • meat or fish stock. • Microbiology liquid medium containing proteins and other nutrients for the culture of bacteria: [as adj. ] brot cultures of intestinal tissue.

brotel /ˈbrɔtel/, ‘brɔtel/ n. a house where men can visit prostitutes.

brother /ˈbrʌðər/ n. 1 a man or boy in relation to other sons and daughters of his parents. • a half-brother, stepbrother, or foster brother. • a brother-in-law. • a male associate or fellow member of an organization: fraternity brothers. • int. a black man (chiefly used as a term of address among black people). • a fellow human being. • a thing that resembles or is connected to another: the machine is almost identical to its larger brother. • 2 (pl. also broth-en /ˈbrɔθən/) Christian Church: (a) a fellow Christian. (b) a member of a religious order or congregation of men: a Benedictine brother.

brotherly adj. —brotherliness n.

brotherhood /ˈbrʌðərˌhʊd/ n. 1 the relationship between brothers. • the feeling of kinship with and closeness to a group of people or all people: a gesture of solidarity and brotherhood. • an association, society, or community of people linked by a common interest, religion, or trade: a religious brotherhood. • a trade union.

brother-in-law n. (pl. brothers-in-law) the brother of one’s wife or husband. • the husband of one’s sister or sister-in-law.

brought /brɔt/ v. past and past participle of brings.

bruah-ha-ha /ˈbruəhˌhɑː, ˈbruəhˌhɑː/ n. a noisy and overexcited critical response, display of interest, or trail of publicity: 24 members resigned over the bruah-ha-ha at all election bruah-ha-ha.

brow [brɔʊ] n. 1 a person’s forehead: he wiped his brow. • (usu. brows) an eyebrow: his brows lifted in surprise. • 2 the summit of a hill or pass: the cottages were built on the brow of a hill.

brow-beat /ˈbrɔʊˌbeɪt/ v. (past-beat, past-part. beaten) [tr.] intimate (someone), typically into doing something, with stern or abusive words: a witness is being brow-beaten under cross-examination.

brow n. adj. of a color produced by mixing red, yellow, and black, as of dark wood or rich soil: an old brown coat. • dark-skinned or suntanned: his face was brown from the sun. • of bread) made from a dark, unsifted, or unleavened flour.

brow color or pigment: the brown of his eyes. • the print is rich with velvety browns.

brow vb. make or become brown, typically by cooking: [tr.] a skillet in which food has been browned. • [intr.] bake the pizza until the cheese has browned.

browning vb. n. the practice of bringing one’s own packed lunch to work. • the practice of bringing one’s own liquor to a restaurant or club that cannot sell alcoholic beverages.

brown bear n. a large bear (Ursus arctos) with a coat color ranging from cream to black, occurring chiefly in forests in Eurasia and North America.

brownian motion /ˈbrʌnwiən/ n. Physics the erratic random movement of microscopic particles in a fluid, as a result of continuous bombardment from molecules of the surrounding medium.

brownie /ˈbrʌni/ n. pl. (pl. -ies) 1 a member of the junior branch of the Girl Scouts, typically aged between about 6 and 8. • brownie a small square of rich cake, typically chocolate cake with nuts. • brownie a benevolent elf supposed to haunt houses and do housework secretly.

brownie point int. humorous an imaginary award given to someone who does good deeds or tries to please: his policy will win brownie points with voters.

brown-nose (also brown-nose) n. int. (also brown-noser) a person who acts in a grossly obsequious way.

brown-out /ˈbrʌnˌɔut/ n. a partial blackout.

brown rice n. unpolished rice with only the husk of the grain removed.

brown-shirt /ˈbrʌnˌʃɜrt/ n. chiefly hist. a member of an early Nazi militia founded by Hitler in Munich in 1921, with brown uniforms resembling that of Mussolini’s Blackshirts. They aided Hitler’s rise to power. Also called STORM TROOPS.

brownstone /ˈbrʌnˌstɔn/ n. a kind of reddish-brown sandstone used for building. • a building faced with such sandstone.

brown sugar n. unrefined or partially refined sugar. • a consumer product made by adding molasses to white sugar.

browse /ˈbrɔズ/ v. [intr.] survey objects casually, esp. goods for sale: he stopped to browse around a sporting goods store. • scan through a book or magazine superficially to gain an impression of the contents: she browsed through the newspaper. • patrons can browse the shelves of the library. • [tr.] Comput. read or survey (data files), typically via a network. • 2 (of an animal) feed on leaves, twigs, or other high-growing vegetation: they reach upward to browse on bushes.

browse vb. [intr.] 1 a act of casual looking or reading: the browsing is well worth a browse. • a vegetable, such as twigs and young shoots, eaten by animals. —brows-a-ble adj.

browser /ˈbrɔzər/ n. a person who looks casually through books or magazines or at things for sale. • Comput. a program with a graphical user interface for displaying HTML files, used to navigate the World Wide Web; a Web browser.

bru-in /ˈbruɪn/ n. a bear, esp. in children’s fables.

bruise /brjuːz/ n. an injury appearing as a discoloration on the body, caused by a blow or impact rupturing underlying blood vessels. • a similar area of damage on a fruit, vegetable, or plant.

bruise vb. [v. [often as adj.] (bruised) inflict an injury on (someone or something): a bruised knee. • hurt (someone’s feelings): she tried to bolster her bruised pride. • [intr.] be susceptible to bruising: potatoes bruise easily, so treat them with care. • crush or pound (something): bruise the rubies before adding to the mixture.
bruise /ˈbruːz/ n. inf. chiefly derog. a person who is tough and aggressive and enjoys a fight or argument. n. a professional boxer.

bruit /bruːt/ n. [tr] spread (a report or rumor) widely: I didn't want to have our relationship bruited about the office.

brunch /ˈbrʌntʃ/ n. a late morning meal eaten instead of breakfast and lunch.

bru-nette /ˈbruːnət/ also brunet/ adj. having dark brown hair: a fresh-faced brunette woman in her thirties. n. (of hair) dark brown; her hirsute brunette brows.

brush /brʌʃ/ n. 1 an implement with a handle, consisting of bristles or wire set into a block, used for cleaning or scrubbing: applying a liquid or powder to a surface, the hair, or other purposes: a paint brush. n. an act of wiping, applying, or arranging such an implement or with one's hand. v. [usu. brushes] a thin stick set with long wire bristles, used to make a soft hissing sound on drums or cymbals. 2 a slight and fleeting touch: the lightest brush of his lips against her cheek. n. a brief and typically unpleasant or unwelcome encounter with someone or something: a brush with death.

brushing /ˈbrʌʃɪŋ/ n. 1 [tr] remove (dust or dirt) by wiping or scrubbing: we'll be able to brush the mud off easily. n. [tr] use a brush or one's hand to remove dust or dirt from (something): she brushed down her best coat. v. [tr] clean (one's teeth) by scrubbing with a brush. v. [tr] arrange (one's hair) by running a brush through it. n. [tr] apply a liquid to (a surface) with a brush: the potatoes with oil. v. apply (a liquid or substance) to a surface: brush: brush on a floor for a long-lasting base coat. v. [tr] touch lightly and gently: stems of grass against her legs. n. [past] touch fleetingly and in passing: she brushed past him to leave the room. n. [tr] push (something) away with a quick movement of the hand: she brushed a wisps of hair away from her face. n. [tr] brush something aside dismiss (something) curtly and confidently: people brushed aside the possibility of imminent war. n. [tr] brush someone/something off dismiss in an abrupt, contemptuous way: the president brushed off a reporter's question about terrorism.

brush up v. [no obj.] improve one's previously good knowledge or skill at a particular thing: brush up on your telephone skills.

brushwood /ˈbrʌʃwʊd/ n. undergrowth, small trees, and shrubs. —brush-y adj.

brush-off /ˈbrʌʃˌɒf/ n. int. a rejection or dismissal in which someone is treated as unimportant: he's been giving her the brush-off.

brush-stroke /ˈbrʌʃˌstroʊk/ n. 1 the stroke of a brush, especially a hair brush or paintbrush. n. the mark or effect created by this: an errant brushstroke doesn't necessarily destroy a painting. n. an individual action that contributes to an overall effect or work. you write in broad, inaccurate brushstrokes.

brush-up /ˈbrʌʃˌəp/ n. undergrowth, twigs, and small branches, typically used for firewood or kindling.

brush-work /ˈbrʌʃˌwɜrk/ n. the way in which painters use their brush, as evident in their paintings: canvases characterized by lively, flowing brushwork.

brusque /brʌsk/ adj. abrupt or offhand in speech or manner: she could be brusque and impatient. —brusquely adv. —brusqueness n.

brus-sels sprout (also brussel sprout) n. a vegetable consisting of the small compact bud of a variety of cabbage. n. the plant that yields this vegetable, bearing many such buds along a tall single stem.

brut /brʊt/ adj. (of sparkling wine) unsweetened; very dry.

brutal /brʊtəl/ adj. savagely violent: a brutal murder. n. punishingly hard or uncomfortable: the brutal winter wind. n. without any attempt to disguise unpleasantness: the brutal honesty of his observations. —brutal-ly adv.

brutal-tism /ˈbrʊtəlˌtɪzəm/ n. a style of architecture or art characterized by a deliberate plainness, crudity, or violence of imagery. The term was first applied to functionalist buildings of the 1950s and 1960s that made much use of steel and concrete in starkly massive blocks.

brutal-tize /ˈbrʊtəlˌtaɪz/ v. [tr] attack (someone) in a savage and violent way: they brutalized and tortured persons in their custody. n. (often be brutalized) desensitize (someone) to the pain or suffering of others by exposing them to violent behavior or situations: he had been brutalized in prison and became cynical. n. brutalizing the brutalizing of effects of war.

brutal-tity /ˈbrʊtəlˈtɪtɪ/ n. —brutal-tly adv.

brute /brʊt/ n. a savagely violent person or animal: he was a cold-blooded brute. n. inf. cruel, unpleasant, or insensitive person: what an
buck 114

frame on which to cook or cure meat,' from Tupi makek. —buck-er-neering adj.

buck /bak/ n. 1. the male of some antlered animals, esp. the fallow deer, roe deer, reindeer, and antelopes. 2. a male hare, rabbit, ferret, rat, or kangaroo. 2 a. a vertical jump performed by a horse, with the head lowered, back arched, and back legs thrown out behind. 3 a. a fashionable and typically bell-ringing young man. 4. [int.]. a black or American Indian man.

buckskin /'baksken/ n. an oxford shoe made of buckskin.

buck-saw /'baksə/ n. a hand tool for cutting wood, esp. a hand saw with a shorter handle than a common saw.

buck-etooth /'bʌktəθ/ n. an upper tooth that projects over the lower lip. —buck-toothed adj.

buckwheat /'bʌkwet/ n. an Asian plant (Fagopyrum esculentum) of the dock family. Cultivated in the U.S., it produces starchy seeds that are used for fodder and milled into flour.

buck-toothed adj.

buck-thorn /'bʌktərn/ n. a thorny North American shrub or small tree (Bumelia lycoides) of the sapodilla family, with clusters of small white flowers.

buck-toothed adj.

buff /bʌf/ n. 1. a yellowish-beige color. 2. a dull yellow leather with a velvety surface.

buffalo /'bɔfələʊ/ n. 1. a heavily built wild ox (genus Bubalus) with backsweped horns, found mainly in the Old World tropics. See also WATER BUFFALO. 2. the North American bison.

buffalo /'bʌfəloʊ/ n. (pl. same, -oes or -los) 1. a heavily built wild ox (genus Bubalis) with backsweped horns, found mainly in the Old World tropics. See also WATER BUFFALO. 2. the North American bison.

Buddha /'bʊdə/; bōdha/ (often the Buddha) a title given to the founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama (563-468 BC). Born an Indian prince, he renounced wealth and family to become an ascetic, and after achieving enlightenment while meditating, taught all who came to listen to him. A modern Buddhist a person who has attained full enlightenment. —Buddhism n. & adj.

Buddhist /'bʊdɪst/ n. & adj. a person who is enthusiastically interested in and very knowledgeable about a particular subject: a computer buff.
buffalo fish: a large grayish-olive freshwater sucker (genus Ictiobus) with thick lips, common in North America.

Buffalo wings (also buffalo wings) n. deep-fried chicken wings coated in a spicy sauce.

buffer /bafər/ n. 1. a person or thing that prevents incompatible or antagonistic people or things from coming into contact with or harming each other; family and friends can provide a buffer against stress. 2. (often be buffered) adj. affected or hindered by (someone); she didn't like being buffered. n. (of someone): the problem has buffered the advertising effort.

buffalo wings (also buffalo wings) n. deep-fried chicken wings coated in a spicy sauce.

buffer zone n. a neutral area serving to separate hostile forces or nations. an area of land designated for environmental protection; oyster harvesters are not allowed in certain buffer zones.

buffet /bafet/ v. (past & past part. buffeted) [tr. or prep.] to buffet or be buffeted about. 1. a meal consisting of several dishes from which guests serve themselves. n. a buffet lunch. 2. a room or counter in a station, hotel, or other public building selling light meals or snacks. 3. a cabinet with shelves and drawers for keeping cutlery and table linens.

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bug-eyed /ˌbug-

building /ˈbilding/ (abbr.: build.) n. 1. a structure with a roof and walls, such as a house, school, store, or factory. 2. the process of constructing something: the building of highway [as adj.] building materials. 3. the construction of something, typically a vehicle. 4. the process of constructing something, typically a vehicle. 5. an error in a computer program or system. 6. (of) or typical of Italian comic opera: a buffo character.

bugged, buffering [tr.] often be buffered] to conceal a miniature microphone in (a room, telephone, etc.) in order to monitor or record someone's conversations, record or monitor (a conversation) in this way. 2. inf. or metaphorically, to be annoyed or bothered (by someone).

bug-a-boo /bɪgəˈboʊ/ n. a ridiculous but amusing person: a clown.

bug-eyed adj. & adv. with bulging eyes: [as adj.] bug-eyed monsters [as adv.] he stared bug-eyed at John.

bugger /ˈbʌɡər/ n. a comical or pranks-playing person, typically a man. 2. a person with a particular negative quality or characteristic: [a] man who has a reputation for being rude. 3. a type of affection or respect, typically rudely: all right, let's join the little buggers come in. 4. a derogatory term for someone who commits buggery.

bug-eyed adj. & adv. with bulging eyes: [as adj.] bug-eyed monsters [as adv.] he stared bug-eyed at John.

bullfrog /ˈbʌlfroʊg/ n. 1. a small insect. 2. a harmful microorganism, as a bacterium or virus. 3. an illness caused by such a microorganism. 4. fig. an enthusiastic, almost obsessive, interest in something: they caught the bug of football. 5. (also true bug) Entomol. an insect of a large order (Hemiptera) distinguished by having mouthparts that are modified for piercing and sucking. 6. a concealed microphone used for surveillance. 7. an error in a computer program or system.

buggy /ˈbɪɡi/ adj. & adv. with bulging eyes: [as adj.] bug-eyed monsters [as adv.] he stared bug-eyed at John.

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bulgarian /'bɔːɡɪərən, boʊl-/ n. 1 a native or national of Bulgaria. 2 the South Slavic language spoken in Bulgaria. adj. of or relating to Bulgaria, its people, or their language.

bulge /'bɔːlɪ/ n. a rounded swelling or protuberance that distorts a flat surface. int. a temporary unusual increase in number or size: a bulge in the birth rate.

bulgur /'bɔːlɡər/-adj. of or relating to Bulgaria, its people, or their language.

bulimia /bəˈlɪmɪə/-n. insatiable overeating as a medical condition, in particular: (also bulimia nervosa) an emotional disorder involving distortion of body image and an obsessive desire to lose weight, in which bouts of extreme overeating are followed by depression and self-induced vomiting, purging, or fasting. Also called binge-purge syndrome. -bulimic adj. & n.

bulk /bʌlk/ n. the mass or magnitude of something large: the sheer bulk of the bag. a large mass or shape, for example of a building or a heavy body: he moved quickly in spite of his bulk. [as adj.] large in quantity or amount: bulk orders of more than 100 copies. [the bulk] the majority or greater part of something: the bulk of the traffic had passed. [bulky] roughage in food: bread and potatoes supply energy, essential protein, and bulk. [cargo] that is an unpackaged mass such as grain, oil, or milk.


bull /'bʊl/ n. 1 an uncastrated male bovine animal: [as adj.] bull calves. a large male animal, esp. a whale or elephant. [the bull] the zodiacal sign or constellation Taurus. 2 Stock Market a person who buys shares hoping to sell them at a higher price later. Often contrasted with bear.

bull-ae /'bʊlɪ/ v. [tr.] push or drive powerfully or violently: he bullied the motorcycle clear of the tunnel.

take the bull by the horns deal bravely and decisively with a difficult, dangerous, or unpleasant situation.

bull-. bull- n. n. a papal edict.

bull-. bull-. bull- n. int. stupid or untruthful or writing: nonsense: much of what he says is sheer bull.

bull-dog /'bʊl,dɒɡ/-n. a dog of a sturdy smooth-haired breed with a large head and powerful protruding lower jaw, a flat wrinkled face, and a broad chest. a person noted for courageous or stubborn tenacity: [as adj.] the bull-dog spirit.

dogged, dogging /'dɒgd,-dɑːɡɪŋ/ v. [tr.] wrestle (a steer) to the ground by holding its horns and twisting its neck: [as n.] bulldogging. cows compete in bulldogging and hurdle riding.

bull-doze /'bʊl,dəʊz/-v. [tr.] clear (ground) or destroy (buildings, trees, etc.) with a bulldozer: developers are bulldozing the site. fig., inf., use insensitive force when dealing with someone or something: she believes that to build status you need to bulldoze everyone else.

bulldozer /'bʊl,dəʊzər/-n. a powerful tractor with a broad upright blade at the front for clearing ground. fig., a person, army, or other body exercising irresistible power, esp. in disposing of obstacles or opposition: he was a political bulldozer.

bull-et /'bʊlət/-n. 1 a projectile for firing from a rifle, revolver, or other small firearms, typically of metal, cylindrical and pointed, and sometimes containing an explosive. used in similes and comparisons to refer to someone or something that moves very fast: the bull sped across the grass like a bullet. [in a sporting context] a very fast ball.

bull-fight /'bʊlfɪt/-n. a public spectacle, particularly in Spain, Portugal, and Latin America, at which a bull is baited in a highly stylized manner and then usually killed.

bull-finch /'bʊl,finʃ/-n. a stocky Eurasian finch (genus Pyrrhula) with a short, thick bill, and typically with gray or plinkish plumage, dark wings, and a white rump.

bull-frog /'bʊl,frɒɡ,-frɔːɡ/-n. a very large frog (genera Rana and Pelophylax) that has a deep booming croak and is often a predator of smaller vertebrates.

bull-head /'bʊl,hed/-n. 1 (also bullhead catfish) an American freshwater catfish with four pairs of barbels around the mouth. 2 a small, mainly freshwater Eurasian fish (genera Cottus and Taurlus) of the scalpin family, with a broad flattened head and spiny fins. 3 (also bullhead liy) a North American water lily (Nuphar variegatum) with globular yellow flowers.

bull-headed /'bʊl,hedɪd/-adj. determined in an obstinate or unthinking way: a bullheaded belief that she is right.

bull-headed-ly adv. 

bull-necked /'bʊl,nɪkt/ n. a dividing wall or barrier between compartments in a ship, aircraft, or vehicle.

bulky-ly /'bʌlkɪ-li/ adv. bulky-er, bulky-est taking up much space, typically inconveniently; large and unwieldy: a bulky piece of luggage. 

bulk-bought /'bʌlk,bɒt/ v. [tr.] purchase or produce powerfully or violently: he bullied the motorcycle clear of the tunnel.

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bully

v. (lies, lied) [tr] use superior strength or influence to intimidate (someone), typically to force him or her to do what one wants.

adj. bully, very good; first-rate; the statue really looked bully.

bully boy n. a tough or aggressive man; [as adj.] bully-boy tactics.

bully-rush: bull-rush, also bull-rush n. 1 another term for STUPEFY. Native to temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, it is used for weaving and is grown as an aid to water purification. 3 in biblical use a papyrus plant.

bulwark: 'bullwark' n. a defensive wall. 2 fig. a person, institution, or principle that acts as a defense: the security forces are a bulwark against the breakdown of society.

bum [bam] v. (bumped, bum-ming) 1 [intr] travel, with no particular purpose or destination: he bumped around Florida for a few months. 2 pass one's time idly; we spent most of the summer just bumping around. 2 [itr] get by asking or begging; they tried to bum money off us. 3 [itr] get (someone) to feel upset or disappointed; it really bumped me off when I forgot my birthday.

adj. of poor quality; bad or wrong: not one bum note was played.

give someone (or get) the bum's rush forcibly eject someone (or be forcibly ejected) from a place or gathering, abruptly dismiss someone (or be abruptly dismissed) for a poor idea or performance.

bumble: 'bambia' v. [intr] move or act in an awkward or confused manner: they bumbled around the house [as adj] (bumbling) his bumbling interventions. 2 [intr] speak in a confused or indistinct way: the succeeding speakers bumbled. 3 [of an insect] buzz or hum: she watched a bee bumble among the flowers. —bum-bier, -bilest adj.

bumble-bee: 'bamba, bee' n. a large hairy bee (genus Bombus, family Apidae) with a loud hum, living in small colonies in hollow undergrounds.

bum-mer: 'bamma' n. int. (a bummer) a thing that is annoying or disappointing; the party was a real bummer. 2 an unpleasant reaction to a hallucinogenic drug. 2 a loafer or vagrant.

interj. int. used to express frustration or disappointment, typically sympathecically: You lost your wallet! Bummer!

bump: [bamp] n. 1 a light blow or a jolting collision: a nasty bump on the head. 2 the dull sound of such a blow or collision. 3 aeron. a rising air current causing an irregularity in an aircraft's motion. 2 a protuberance on a level surface: bumps in the road. 3 a swelling on the skin, esp. one caused by injury or illness.

v. (bumped, bumping) 1 [intr] knock or run into someone or something, typically with a jolt: I almost bumped into him. 2 [v] move or travel with much jolting and jarring: the car bumped along the rutted track. 3 [intr] push (someone) forcibly: he was bumped into a run. 4 send (someone) away hurriedly or unceremoniously: he was bundled off into exile. 5 [intr] esp. of a group of people move clumsily or in a disorganized way: they bundled out into the corridor.

adj. bumpy, uneven; subject to unexpected difficulties; bumpy market conditions.

bumpy-ly: -ly adv. bumpy-ness n.

bum rap n. intr. a false charge, typically one leading to imprisonment: he's been banded a bum rap for handling stolen goods. 2 fig. an unfair punishment or scolding.

bum steer n. intr. a piece of false information or guidance: apparently, those who recommended your good service gave you a bum steer.

burn: [bany] n. 1 a bread roll of various shapes and flavors, typically sweetened and often containing dried fruit. 2 a hairstyle in which the hair is drawn back into a tight coil at the back of the head. 3 [buns] int. a person's buttocks.

bunch: [banch] n. a number of things, typically of the same kind, growing or fastened together: a bunch of grapes. 2 int. a group of people.

bunch of [adjective] a large number or quantity; a lot: I had to turn down a bunch of well-paid jobs.

v. [tr] collect or fasten into a compact group: she bunched the curtains together.

gather (cloth) into close folds. 2 [intr] form into a tight group or crowd: he halted, forcing the rest of the field to bunch up behind him.

—bunchy adj.

bunk-co: 'bunka' (also bunk-o) int. n. (pl. -cos) [often as adj] a swindle or confidence trick: a bunko artist.

bunk-combe: 'bunka' n. variant spelling of BUNKUM.

bun-dle: [bandl] n. a collection of things, or a quantity of material, tied or wrapped up together: a thick bundle of envelopes. 2 fig. a large quantity or collection, typically a disorganized one: a bundle of facts. 3 int. a person displaying a specific characteristic to a very high degree: he was an enthusiastic bundle of energy.

adj. a set of nerve, muscle, or other fibers running close together in parallel. 2 Comput. sell items of hardware and software as a package. 2 [often as bundle] int. push or carry forcibly: he was bundled into a run. 3 send (someone) away hurriedly or unceremoniously: he was bundled off into exile. 2 [intr] esp. of a group of people move clumsily or in a disorganized way: they bundled out into the corridor.

Bundt cake: [bant] n. trademark a ring-shaped cake made in a fitted tube pan, called a Bundt pan.

bung: [bang] n. a stopper for closing a hole in a container.

v. [tr] close with a stopper; the casks are bunged before delivery. 2 [bungs something up] block (something), typically by overfilling it; you let vegetable peelings bung up the sink. 3 [intr] ruin something.

bun-galow: 'bangalou' n. a low house having either no upper floor or upper rooms set in the roof, typically with dormer windows.

bun-gee: 'bang' (also bun-gee cord) a long nylon-cased rubber band, used typically in bungee jumping or for securing luggage.

v. [intr] (as a sport) leap from a great height, typically a bridge or crane, while secured by such a band around the ankles.

bun-gee-jump-ing n. the sport of leaping from a height while secured by a long nylon-cased rubber band from the ankles.

bun-gle: 'bangal' v. [tr] carry out (a task) clumsily or incompetently, leading to failure or an unsatisfactory outcome: she had bungled every attempt to help. [as adj] (bungled) a bungled bunk raid. 2 [intr] (as adj.) (bungling) make or be prone to making many mistakes: the work of a bungling amateur.

n. a mistake or failure, typically one resulting from mismanagement or confusion.

—bungle-ly adv. bungle-ness n.

bunk: [bang] n. int. sleep in shared quarters as a temporary arrangement: they bunk together in the dormitory.

n. n. nonsense; anyone with a brain would never believe such bunk.

bunk bed n. a piece of furniture consisting of two beds, one above the other, that form a unit.

bunker: 'bangker' n. 1 a large container or compartment for storing
burn

through exposure to the sun: my skin tans easily but sometimes "burns," I feel or cause to feel sore, hot, or inflamed, typically as a result of illness or injury. (of a person's face) feel hot and flushed from an intense emotion such as shame or indignation: her face burned with humiliation.

burst with something: be possessed of a desire or an emotion: Martha was burning with curiosity. 3) [vb] use (a type of fuel) as a source of heat or energy: a diesel engine converted to burn natural gas. 4) [vb] (of a person) convert (calories) to energy: the speed at which your body burns calories. 4) [vb] produce (a compact disc or DVD) by copying from an original or master copy.

burst [bərθ] 1. a rough sound of the mouth; belch. 2. [vb] make (a baby) belch after feeding, typically by patting its back.

n. a noise made by air released from the stomach through the mouth; belch. 2) [vb] make a baby belch after feeding, typically by patting its back.

burr [bar] 1. a rough edge or ridge left on an object (esp. of metal) by the action of a tool or machine. 2) [vb] make a thorough inquiry: investigate: journalists are burning into the president's business affairs.

burn [bərθ] 1. [vb] make a thorough inquiry: investigate: journalists are burning into the president's business affairs.

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burnt [bərθt] 1. of a container) break suddenly and violently apart, spilling the contents, typically as a result of an impact or internal pressure: we inflated dozens of balloons and only one burst. 2) [vb] cause to break, esp. by puncturing: he burst the balloon in my face. 3) [vb] of contents break open (a container) from the inside by growing too large to be held: the swollen river was expected to burst its banks. 4) [vb] suffer from the sudden breaking of (a body organ or vessel): he burst a blood vessel during a fit of coughing. 5) be so full as almost to break open: the drawers were bursting with clothes. 6) feel a very strong or irrepressible emotion or impulse: he was bursting with joy and excitement.

burst [bərθ] 1. [vb] make a thorough inquiry: investigate: journalists are burning into the president's business affairs.

burner [bərθər] 1. a thing that burns something or is burned, in particular: a part of a stove, lamp, etc., that emits and shapes a flame. 2) an apparatus in which a fuel is used or an aromatic substance is heated. 3) an activity that uses something of a specified kind as energy: puffing walking is a great calorie burner.

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Cc | /sɛ/ (also /s/) n. (pl. Cs or C's) 1. the third letter of the alphabet. 2. denoting the third in a set of items, categories, sizes, etc. 3. denoting the third of three or more hypothetical people or things. 4. the third highest class of academic grades. 5. Chess denoting the third file from the left of a chessboard, as viewed from White's side of the board. 6. (usu. c) the third fixed constant to appear in an algebraic expression, or a known constant. 7. denoting the lowest soil horizon, comprising parent materials. 2. a shape like that of a letter C: [in comb.] C-springs.

3 (usu. C) Mus. the first note of the diatonic scale of C major, the major scale having no sharps or flats. 3 a key based on a scale with C as its keynote. 4. the Roman numeral for 100. 5 (C) a high-level computer programming language originally developed for implementing the UNIX operating system.

C. abbr. (C.) Cape (chiefly on maps). 2. Celsius or centigrade (in Germany, centigrade is no longer used).

(©) copyright. --c vol dry battery size.

3 sym. Physics. capacitance. 4. the chemical element carbon.

C abbr. cent. 2. (in units of measurement) centi: centimeters (cm). 3 (c.) century or centuries: a witch cax, 19th c. (preceding a date or amount) circa: approximately; Isabella was born c. 1759. 4 (of water) cold; all cubs have h c. 5. cold.

3 sym. Physics. the speed of light in a vacuum: E = mc².

CA abbr. Chief accountant.

Ca sym. The chemical element calcium.

Ca (also ca). abbr. (preceding a date or amount) circa.

CAB abbr. Civil Aeronautics Board.

cab-'kab-ē n. 1 short for TAXICAB. 2 hist. a horse-drawn vehicle for public hire. 3 the driver's compartment in a truck, bus, or train.

v. cabbed, cabbing [intr.] travel in a taxi: Roger cabbied home.

ca-bal 'ka-bəl- 'ba-lish adj. a secret political clique or faction. --ca-bal-ly adv. --ca-bal-ist n. --ca-bal-ist-ic adj.

ca-ban-a 'ka-bal-ya- n. a cabin, hut, or shelter, esp. one at a beach or swimming pool.

ca-are-t ['ka-bə-ˌrät] 'kə-bə-ˌrät-n. entertainment held in a nightclub or restaurant while the audience eats or drinks at tables. 2 a nightclub or restaurant where such entertainment is performed. mid-17th cent. (denoting a French inn) from Old French, literally 'wooden structure.' via Middle Dutch from Old Picard cabaret 'little room.' Current sense dates from the early 20th cent.

cab-bage 'ka-bij- n. a cultivated plant (Brassica oleracea) eaten as a vegetable, having thick green or purple leaves surrounding a spherical heart or head of young leaves. The cabbage family (Cruciferae, or Brassicaceae) includes the mustards and cresses together with many ornamentals. 2 the leaves of this plant, eaten as a vegetable. 3 adj. of or relating to cabbages or to their cultivation.

cab-bage white n. a mainly white butterfly (genus Pieris, family Pieridae) that has caterpillars that are pests of cabbages and related plants.

cab-ba-la 'ka-bal-ə (also Cab-al-ə) n. variant spelling of KABALAH.

cab-bie ['ka-bal-či] (also cab-by) n. (pl. -bies) int. a taxicab driver.

cab-in 'kab-in- n. 1 a private room or compartment on a ship. 2 the area for passengers in an aircraft. 3 a small shelter or house, made of wood and situated in a wild or remote area.

cab-in-net 'kab-in- n. 1 a cupboard with drawers or shelves for storing or displaying articles: a medicine cabinet. 2 a wooden container or piece of furniture housing a radio, television set, or speaker. 3 (in the U.S.) a body of advisers to the President, composed of the heads of the executive departments of the government: [as adj.] a cabinet meeting.

CABINET (in the UK, Canada, and other Commonwealth countries) the committee of senior ministers responsible for controlling government policy. 3 archaic a small private room.

ca-blé ['kab-lə] n. 1 a thick rope of wire or nonmetallic fiber, typically used for construction, mooring ships, and towing vehicles. 2 the chain of a ship's anchor. 3 a nautical length of 200 yards (182.9 m) or, in the U.S. 240 yards (219.4 m). 4 (also cable molding) Archit. a molding resembling twisted rope. 2 a insulated wire or wires having a protective casing and used for transmitting electricity or telecommunication signals. 3 a cablegram. 4 access to television and the Internet over a system of cables: local commissions are supposed to determine what kind of cable service best suits each community. 5 short for CABLE TELEVISION.

v. [v.] 1 contact or send a message to (someone) by cablegram. 2 send a cablegram. 3 (often be cabled) provide (an area or community) with power lines or with the equipment necessary for cable television. 4 Middle English: from an Anglo-Norman French variant of Old French cablé, from Late Latin capulum 'halter.'

ca-blé car n. 1 a transportation system, typically one traveling up and down a mountain, in which cabins are suspended on a continuous moving cable driven by a motor at one end of the route. 2 a cabin on such a system. 3 a cabin on a car railroad.

ca-blé-gram ['kab-lə-gram] n. 1 hist. a telegraphic message sent by cable.

ca-blé mod-ern n. 1 a type of modem that connects a computer or local network to high-speed Internet service through the same cable that supplies cable television service. 2 the service connection made via a cable modem: a broadband Internet connection, such as DSL or cable modem.

ca-blé-ready adj. adapted for cable television.

ca-blé tele-visor-ion n. a system in which television programs are transmitted to the sets of subscribers by cable rather than by a broadcast signal.

ca-blé-way ['kab-lə-waj] n. a transportation system in which goods are carried suspended from a continuous moving cable.

ca-ban-man ['kab-man] n. (pl. -men) a taxicab driver. 2 hist. the driver of a horse-drawn hackney carriage.

ca-boch-on ['ka-bo-ˌshən] n. a gem polished but not faceted: [as adj.] a necklace of cabochon rubies.

C en cabochon [ˌkab-ən] (of a gem) in this way.

ca-bood-le ['ka-ˌbūd-lə] (also ka-boodle) n. (in the phrase the whole caboodle or the whole kit and caboodle) int. the whole number or quantity of people or things in question.

ca-boose ['kə-ˌboos] n. dated a railroad car with accommodations for the train crew, typically attached to the end of the train. 2 (often int. typically referring to a woman) butts; she got a sexy caboose.

ca-bril-lie ['ka-bril-ə] n. Ballet a jump in which one leg is extended into the air forward or backward, the other is brought up to meet it, and the dancer lands on the second foot.

ca-bril-lie ['ka-bril-ə] n. a car with a roof that folds down. 2 a light, two-wheeled carriage with a hood, drawn by one horse.

ca-ca-o ['ka-ˈkoʊ] (also cacao) beanlike seed from which cocoa, cocoa butter, and chocolate are made. 2 the small tropical American evergreen tree (Theobroma cacao, family Sterculiaceae) that bears these seeds in large, oval pods.
calisthenics

derivatives and integrals of functions, by methods originally based on the summation of infinitesimal differences. The two main types are differential calculus and integral calculus. 2 (pl. -luses) Math. & Logic a particular method or system of calculation or reasoning. 3 (pl. -li, -l/i) Med. a concretion of minerals formed within the body, esp. in the kidney or gallbladder. another term for TARTAR.

cal-de-ra [kal-de-ra] n. a large volcanic crater, typically one formed by a major eruption leading to the collapse of the mouth of the volcano.

cal-dron n. variant spelling of CAULDRON.

cal-e-donian [kəl-ə’don-ən] adj. (chiefly in names or geographical terms) of or relating to Scotland or the Scottish Highlands: the Ca- ldonian Railway.

n. humorous or poetic/fict. a person from Scotland.

cal-en-dar [kələ’ndər] (abbr. cal. or caI.) n. a chart or series of pages showing the days, weeks, and months of a particular year, or giving particular seasonal information. a datebook. a system by which the beginning, length, and subdivisions of the year are fixed. a timetable of special days or events of a specified kind: the college calendar. a list of people or events con- nected with particular dates, esp. canonical saints and cases for trial.

v. (tr.) enter (something) in a calendar or timetable. —cal-en-dric adj. —cal-en-dric-al adj.

cal-len-dar month n. see MONTH.

cal-en-der [kalə’ndər] n. a machine in which cloth or paper is pressed by rollers to glaze or smooth it.

v. (tr.) press in such a machine.

cal-en-ds [kələ’nids] (pl. of kalendor) n. pi. the day first of the month in the ancient Roman calendar.

cal-len-du-la [kələ’nudələ] n. a Mediterranean plant (genus Calendula) of the daisy family that includes the common (or marigold).

calf n. (pl. calves) kəl]/v. in transit. —cal-li-per n. or —cal-li-per adj. (esp. also caliper) n. or —cal-li-per adj. a young bovine animal, esp. a domestic animal or bull in its first year. the young of some other large mammals, such as elephants, rhinoceroses, large deer and antelopes, and whales. a short for CALFSKIN. a floating piece of ice detached from an iceberg. —cal-li-ke -li’k/ adj.

calf v. (pl. calves) kəl’vaı-z] the fleshy part at the back of a person’s leg below the knee.

calfskin kəl’skin] n. leather made from the hide or skin of a calf, used chiefly in bookbinding and shoemaking.

cal-li-ber [kəl’lə-br] (Brit. cal-i-bre) (abbr. cal. or cal.) n. 1. the quality of someone’s character or the level of someone’s ability: they could ill afford to lose a man of his calibre. 2. the standard reached by something: educational facilities of a high calibre. 2. the internal diameter or bore of a gun barrel: in [comb] a .22 calibre rifle. the diameter of a bullet, shell, or rocket. the diameter of a body of circular section, such as a tube, vessel, or fiber. —cal-li-bered adj. (also comb.)

cal-li-brate [kəl’lə-brat] v. (tr.) often be calibrated mark (a gauge or instrument) with a standard scale of readings. correlate the readings of an instrument with those of a standard in order to check the instrument’s accuracy. adjust (experimental results) to take external factors into account or to allow comparison with other data. —cal-li-bre’tion [kəl’lə-brə’shən] n. —cal-li-bre-tor ‘-tor n.


adj. (of an animal, typically a cat) multicolored or mottled.

cal-li-for-ni-um [kəl’lə-fər-ni-əm] n. the chemical element of atomic number 98, a radioactive metal of the actinide series. (Symbol: Cf)

cal-li-per [kəl’lə-pər] (also cal-li-per) n. (calipers) an instrument for measuring external or internal dimensions resembling a pair of compasses, having two hinged legs and in-turned or out-turned points. (also calipers rule) n. a instrument performing a similar function but having one linear component sliding along another, with two parallel jaws and a vernier scale. (also brake caliper) a motor vehicle or bicycle brake consisting of two or more hinged components.


cal-i-sis-then-ics [kəl’ə-si-theniks] ( Brit. cal-i-sis-then-ics) pl n. gymnastic exercises to achieve bodily fitness and grace of movement. —cal-i-sis-then-ic adj.

Pronunciation Key 9 ogo, up or over, fur; a hat; ã at; ã ear; ç ch; e ci; ë see; ë air; ë fr; ë fr; ë ar; ë na; ë ng; ë go; ë law; for; ë oy; ë o good; ë o go; ë ou; ë s; ë she; ë sh; ë th; ë thin; ë th; ë then; ë th; ë why; ë vision……
calumniate

1 [tr] cry out to (someone) in order to summon them or attract their attention: she heard Terry calling her | [int] I distinctly heard you call. 2 cry out (a word or words): he said an instant voice calling his name | Meredith was already calling out a greeting. 3 shout out or chant (the steps and figures) to people performing a square dance or country dance. 4 [int] of (an animal) cry; a word making its characteristic cry. 5 telephone a person or telephone number; could I call you back? 6 summon (something, esp. an emergency service or a taxicab) by telephone: call the police. 7 bring (a witness) into court to give evidence. 8 [tr] archaic inspire or urge (someone) to do something. 9 fix a date or time for (a meeting, strike, or election). 10 guess the outcome of tossing a coin: "You call," he said. "Heads or tails?" 11 predict the result of a (future event, esp. an election or a vote): in the Northeast, the race remains close. 12 [int] of (a person) pay a brief visit. 13 [call for] to stop at pick up (someone) at the place they are living or working. 14 [tr] give (an infant or animal) a specified name: they called their daughter Hannah. 15 address or refer to (someone) by a specified name, title, endearment, or term of abuse: please call me Lucy. 16 refer to, consider, or describe (someone or something) as being: he’s the only person I would call a friend. 17 of (an umpteen or other official in a game) pronounce (a ball, stroke, or other action), to be the thing specified: the linesman called the foul.

call phrasal v call for make necessary: desperate times call for desperate measures. 1 draw attention to the need for: the report calls for an audit of endangered species. 2 call someone in enlist someone’s aid or services. 3 call something in require payment of a loan or promise of money. 4 call something off cancel an event or agreement. 5 call on have recourse to: we are able to call on academic staff with a wide variety of expertise. 6 demand that (someone) do something: he called on the government not to respond. 7 call someone up (call someone) on telephone someone. 8 summon someone to serve in the army. 9 select someone to play in a team: he was called up from Columbus to finish the season with the Yankees. 10 call something up summon for use something that is stored or kept available: icons that allow you to call up a graphic. 11 evoke something.

n. 1 a cry made as a summons or to attract someone’s attention: in response to the call, a figure appeared. 2 the characteristic cry of a bird or other animal. 3 a series of notes sounded on a brass instrument as a signal to do something: a bugle call to rise at 5:30. 4 a telephone communication or conversation. 5 I’ll give you a call at around five. 6 [call for] an appeal or demand for: the call for action was welcomed. 7 a summons: his call to the throne. 8 a vocation: his call to be a disciple. 9 a powerful force of attraction: hikers can’t resist the call of the Sierras. 10 [call for] a demand or need for (goods or services): there was little call for Turkish food in Milltown. 11 [call] an act of executing a subroutine. 12 a shout by an official in a game indicating whether the ball has gone out of play, if a rule has been breached, etc., the decision or ruling made: the umpire made a bad call. 13 bridge a bid, resulting (esp. from a doubled or trebled hand) in a square dance given by the caller. 14 a demand for payment of lent or unpaid capital. 15 [Stock Market] Short for CALL OPTION. 16 a player’s right or turn to make a bid in a card game. 17 a brief visit: we paid a call on Howard. 18 a visit or journey made in response to an emergency appeal for help: the doctor was out on a call.

1 [call something into (or in) question] doubt something about; these findings cast doubt on the legitimacy of the proceedings. 2 call the shots take the initiative or control in something. 3 call something/someone/something to mind notice and think about something, esp. through similarity. 4 remember something or someone I cannot call to mind where I have seen you. 5 on call (of a person) able to be contacted in order to provide a professional service if necessary, but not formally on duty. 6 (of money lent) repayable on demand.

Cal-la-la /kal-ə-lə/ n. [usu. calla lily] a plant (genus Zantedeschia) of the arum family, with a large showy white spathe.

caller /kəˈlɛr/ n. 1 a person who makes a telephone call or pays a brief visit. 2 a person who calls out numbers in a game of bingo or directions in a dance.


calling /ˈkɔlnɪŋ/ n. 1 the loud cries or shouts of an animal or person: the calling of a cuckoo. 2 a strong urge toward a particular way of life or career; a vocation: those who have a special calling to minister to others’ needs. 3 a profession or occupation.

calling card n. a card bearing a person’s name and address, sent or left in lieu of a formal social or business visit. 2 fig. an action or the result of an action by which someone or something can be identified: a dog whose calling card is a savage nip at the nearest ankles. 3 a card that allows the user to make telephone calls from any phone and charge the cost to their home telephone number. 4 a prepaid card that allows the user to make telephone calls up to a specified value.

call-on kal-ə-ˈlɑn/ n. British spelling of CALLISTHENICS.

call option /kəˈlɑlnən/ n. Stock Market an option to buy assets at an agreed price on or before a particular date.

callous /ˈkələs/ adj. showing or having an insensitive and cruel disregard for others: his callous comments about the murder made me shiver.

callow /ˈkələ/ adj. (esp. of a young person) inexperienced and immature. —Old English (n) ‘bald; probably from Latin calvis ‘bald.’ This was extended to mean ‘unfledged,’ which led to the present sense ‘immature.’ —callowly adv. —callowness n.

callus /ˈkələs/ n. a thickenened and hardened part of the skin or soft tissue, esp. in an area that has been subjected to friction.

Med. the bony healing tissue that forms around the ends of broken bone. Bot. a hard formation of tissue, esp. new tissue formed over a wound.

calm /kæl(ə)m/ adj. 1 (of a person, action, or manner) not showing or feeling nervousness, anger, or other emotions: keep calm, she told herself | his voice was calm. 2 (of a place) peaceful, esp. in contrast to recent violent activity: the city was reported to be calm, but army patrols remained. 3 (of the weather) pleasantly free from wind: the wind was clear and calm. 4 (of the sea) not disturbed by large waves.

—calmly adv. —calmness n.

calorie /ˈkələri/ n. —lär/ adj. technical of or relating to heat; calorific: a caloric value of 7 calories per gram.

n. hist. Physics (in the late 18th and early 19th centuries) a hypothetical fluid substance that was thought to be responsible for the phenomena of heat. —calor-cal-adv

calorie /ˈkələri/ n. —lär/ pl. —ries either of two units of heat energy: also small calorie. 2 abbr. Cal) the energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 gram of water through 1 °C (now usually defined as 4.1868 joules). 3 also large calorie (abbr. Cal): the energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 kilogram of water through 1 °C, equal to one thousand small calories and often used to measure the energy value of foods.

calorific /ˈkələrɪfɪk/ adj. chiefly Brit. relating to the amount of energy contained in food or fuel: she knew the calorific contents of every morsel. 2 (of food or drink) containing many calories and so likely to be fattening.

cal-tractive /ˈkælˈtræktɪv/ adj. /ˈkæltrɪk/ adv.

cal-trop /ˈkæltʃp/ n. a creeping plant (genus Tribulus, family Zygophyllaceae) with woody carpels that typically have hard spines.

calum-ni-ate /kəˈləmnət/ v. calumniate make false and defamatory statements about.

cal-um-ny [kal'mən-ı] ♦ n. (pl. -nies) the making of false and defamatory statements in order to damage someone's reputation; slander. ♦ a false and slanderous statement. —cal-um-nious [kal'am-neıs] adj.


cam [kam] ♦ n. a projection on a rotating part in machinery, designed to make sliding contact with another part while rotating and to impart reciprocal or variable motion to it. ♦ short for CAMSHAFT. ♦ short for CAMERA.

cam-bone-dian [kam'bo-dean] ♦ adj. of or relating to Cambodia, its people, or their language.

Cam-chri-an [kam'-ri-an] ♦ n. 1 a native or national of Cambodia, or a person of Cambodian descent. 2 another term for KHMER (the language).

Cam-bria-nian [kam'brē-an] ♦ n. (chiefly in names or geographical terms) Welsh. 2 Geol. of, relating to, or denoting the first period in the Paleozoic era, between the end of the Precambrian eon and the beginning of the Ordovician period. —[as n] (the Cambrian) the Cambrian period or the system of rocks deposited during it.

cam-bric [kam'brık] ♦ n. a lightweight, closely woven linen or cotton fabric.

cam-cord-er [kam'kord-ər] ♦ n. a portable combined video camera and video recorder.

cam-e [kam] ♦ past tense of COME.

cam-el [kaməl] ♦ n. a large, long-necked ungulate mammal (genus Camelus) of arid country, with long slender legs, broad cushioned feet, and either one or two fat-storing humps on the back. The camel family (Camelidae) also includes the llama and its relatives. ♦ a fabric made from camel hair. ♦ a yellowish-fawn color like that of camel hair.

cam-ell-a [kam'əl-ə] ♦ n. an evergreen eastern Asian shrub (genus Camelia) of the tea family, grown for its showy flowers.

Cam-emb-ert [kaməm-bē-ért] ♦ n. a kind of rich, soft, creamy cheese with a whitish rind, originally made near Camembert in Normandy.

cam-e-o [kam'é-ə] ♦ n. (pl. -oes) 1 a piece of jewelry, typically oval in shape, consisting of a portrait in profile carved in relief on a background of a different color. 2 a short descriptive literary sketch that neatly encapsulates someone or something; canons of street life. ♦ a small character part in a play or movie, played by a distinguished actor or a celebrity: [as adj] he played numerous cameo roles.


cam-e-ra-ob-scu-ra [ab'skərəb'ərə] ♦ n. a darkened box with a convex lens or aperture for projecting the image of an external object on a screen inside. It is important historically in the development of photography. ♦ a small round building with a rotating angled mirror at the apex of the roof, projecting an image of the landscape onto a horizontal surface inside.

cam-e-ra-re-a-d-y ♦ adj. Printing (of matter to be printed) in the right form and of good enough quality to be reproduced photographically onto a printing plate: camera-ready copy.

Cam-i-sole [kam'ı-söl] ♦ n. a woman's loose-fitting underwear for the upper body, typically held up by shoulder straps and having decorative trim.

Cam-o-mile ♦ n. an antonym of CHAMOMILE.

Cam-o-flage ♦ n. the disguising of military personnel, equipment, and installations by painting or covering them so as to make them blend in with their surroundings. ♦ the clothing or materials used for such a purpose: figures dressed in army camouflage. ♦ an animal's natural coloring or form that enables it to blend in with its surroundings: the whiteness of polar bears provides camouflage. ♦ fig. actions or devices intended to disguise or mislead: much of my apparent indifference was merely protective camouflage.

Cam-pa ♦ n. 1 a place with temporary accommodations of tents, or other structures, typically used by soldiers, refugees, prisoners, or travelers: the enemy camp. ♦ the place chosen by a group to camp in; a group of travelers: for a few days' camping. ♦ a recreational institution providing facilities for outdoor activities, sports, and other special interests and typically featuring rustic overnight accommodations. ♦ temporary overnight lodging out of doors, typically in tents: we camped at a beach in the woods. ♦ a facility at which athletes train during the off-season. ♦ the supporters of a particular party or doctrine regarded collectively: his views were rooted in the conservative camp.

Cam-pa-gn ♦ n. 1 live a life in a camp, tent, or camper: as when on vacation: parks in which you can camp or stay in a tent. 2 to organize and carry out a campaign: the political campaign of 1860. 3 to organize and carry out a campaign: the campaign for the health of the country. 4 to organize and carry out a campaign: the army campaign in the southwest. ♦ to participate in the military campaign: he served in the campaign. ♦ to participate in the military campaign: he served in the campaign.

Cam-pan-i-an ♦ adj. deliberately exaggerated and theatrical in style, typically for humorous effect. ♦ of a man or his manner: ostentatiously and extravagantly effeminate; a manly made-up and highly camp actor. ♦ to style or designate; to style or designate: to style or design
canker /'kankər//n. 1 a necrotic, fungal disease of apple and other trees that results in injury to the bark. • an open lesion in plant tissue caused by infection or injury. • fungal rot in some fruits and vegetables, e.g., parsnips and tomatoes. 2 med. an ulcerous condition or disease, in particular also canker sore, a small ulcer of the mouth or lips. • fig. a malign and corrupting influence that is difficult to eradicate: racism remains a canker.

• v. [tr. usu. as adj.] (cankered) infect with a pervasive and corrupting bitterness: he hated her with a cankered, shameful affection.

—can-ker-ous /-kərəs//adj.

canker-worm /'kankə,warm//n. the caterpillar of a North American moth of the family Geometridae (esp. Phalacrocorax punctatus) that can be a major pest of fruit and shade trees.

can-nab-is /'kanəbəs//n. a plant (Cannabis sativa, family Cannabaceae) used to produce hemp fiber and as a mildly psychoactive drug. Also called HEMP, MARIJUANA. • a dried preparation of the flowering tops or other parts of this plant, or a resinous extract of it (cannabis resin).

canned /'kanid// adj. 1 (of food or drink) preserved or supplied in a sealed can: canned beans. 2 inter. often derog. (of music, laughter, or applause) prerecorded and therefore considered to be lacking in freshness and spontaneity.

can-nel-o-ni /'kan'onal//n. n. rolls of pasta stuffed with a meat or vegetable mixture. • (treated as sing.) an Italian dish consisting of such rolls of pasta cooked in a cheese sauce.

can-ner-y /'kanəri//n. n. (pl. -neries) a factory where food is canned.

can-ni-bal-ize /'kanəbaliz//v. [tr.] (can-ni-bal-ized, can-ni-bal-izing) (of a person) eat the flesh of human beings; (of a person or thing) eat flesh. • (of a person or thing) devour flesh.

can-ni-bal-ism /'kanəbilizəm//n. • can-ni-bal-istic /'kanəbilistik//adj. • can-ni-bal-ist-i-cal-ly /'kanəbilistikalē//adv.

can-ni-bal-i-ze /'kanəbilıž//v. [tr.] use a machine as a source of spare parts for another, similar machine. • use the creative work of others in one's own art: high culture should cannibalize mass culture. • (of a company) reduce the sales of one of its products by introducing a similar competing product. 2 (of an animal) eat an animal of its own kind.

can-ni-bal-i-za-tion /'kanəbailižən//n.

can-ni-bal /'kanəbəl//n. n. a large, heavy piece of artillery, typically mounted on wheels, formerly used in warfare. • an automatic heavy gun that fires shells from an aircraft or tank. 2 Engineering a heavy cylinder or hollow drum that is able to rotate independently on a shaft.

can-non-a-de /'kanənəd//n. n. a period of continuous heavy gunfire.

• v. [intr.] discharge heavy guns continuously: as n. (cannonading) the daily cannonading continued.

can-non-ball /'kanənbal//n. n. a round metal or stone projectile fired from a cannon in former times. • also cannonball dive. • a jump into water performed upright with the knees clasped to the chest.

can-non fodder /'kanənˈfədr//n. soldiers regarded merely as material to be expended in war.

can-not /'kanət//n. contr. of can not.

can-nula /'kanənə//n. (pl. -lae; -li or -la) Surgery a thin tube inserted into a vein or body cavity to administer medicine, drain off fluid, or insert a surgical instrument.

can-ny /'kanəi//adj. (-nier, -niest) having or showing shrewdness and good judgment, esp. in money or business matters: canny shoppers came early for a bargain. • canny-ly /'kanəli//adv. • can-ni-ness /'kanənəs//n.

can-oa /'kaə/ /'kaə//n. a narrow, keelless boat with pointed ends, propelled by a paddle or paddles.

• v. (now. -noed, -noing) (intr.) travel in or paddle a canoe: he had once caned down the Nile.

—can-oa-ist /-əist//n.

can-oa /'kaə//n. oilseed rape of a variety developed in Canada and grown in North America. It yields a valuable culinary oil.

canon /'kanən//n. n. 1 a general law, rule, principle, or criterion by which something is judged: the canons of fair play and equal opportunity. • a church decree or law: a set of ecclesiastical canons. 2 a collection or list of sacred books accepted as genuine; the formation of the biblical canon. • the works of a particular author or artist that are recognized as genuine: the Shakespeare canon. 3 a list of literary or artistic works considered to be permanently established as being of the highest quality: Hopkins was established in the canon of English poetry. 3 (also canon of the Mass) (in the Roman Catholic Church) the part of the Mass containing the words of consecration. 4 Mus. a piece in which the same melody is begun in different parts successively, so that the imitations overlap.

canon-ize /'kanənˌiz//v. [tr.] (often be canonized) (in the Roman Catholic Church) officially declare a dead person to be a saint: he was the last English saint to be canonized prior to the Reformation. • fig. regard as being above reproach or of great significance: we have canonized freedom of speech. • accept into the literary or artistic canon. • sanction by Church authority. • canon-ic-al-ly /'kanənˌikəli//adv.

canon law /'kanənlɔ//n. ecclesiastical law, esp. (in the Roman Catholic Church) that laid down by papal pronouncements.

can-o-py /'kanəpi//n. n. (pl. -pies) an ornamental cloth covering hung or held up over something, esp. a throne or bed. • fig. something hanging or perceived as hanging over a person or scene: the canopy of stars.

• Archit. a rooflike projection or shelter: they mounted the steps under the concrete canopy. • the transparent cover of an aircraft's cockpit. • the expanding, umbrellashaped part of a parachute, made of silk or nylon. • the uppermost trees or branches of the trees in a forest, forming a canopy of less continuous layer of foliage.

• v. (pied, -pied) [tr.] us. as adj. (canopied) cover or provide with a canopy; a canopied bed. • the river was canopied by overlapping trees.

—canopleum /'kanəpləm//n. • from medieval Latin canopleum 'ceremonial canopy' of the Roman canopem 'mosquito net over a bed,' from Greek kōnepon 'couch with mosquito curtains.' from Κόνιας 'mosquito.'

canst /'kanst//n. • archaic second person singular present of CANT.

cant /'kant//n. 1 hypocritical and sanctimonious talk, typically of a moral, religious, or political nature. • [as adj] denoting a phrase or catchword temporarly current or in fashion: they are misrepresented as, in the cant word of our day, uncaring. • language peculiar to a specified group or profession and regarded with disparagement: thieves' cant.

• v. [intr.] dated talk: *hypocritically and sanctimoniously about something: if they'd stop canting about "honest work," they might get some done.

cant /'kant//v. [intr.] cause (something) to be in a slanting or oblique position: tilt; he canted his head to look at the screen. • [intr.] take or have a slanting position: mismatched slate roofs canted at all angles.

canoe /'kanə//n. 1 a slope or tilt: the outward cant of the curving walls. 2 a wedge-shaped block of wood, esp. one remaining after the better-quality pieces have been cut off.

can-ta-bile /'kanərəbələ//Mus. • adv. & adj. in a smooth singing style.

can-talooupe /'kanələp//also cantaloupe melon//n. a small, round melon of a variety with orange flesh and ribbed skin.

can-tan-ker-ous /'kanənəkoərəs//adj. bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative. • can-tan-ker-ous-ly /-li//adv. • can-tan-ker-ous-ness /-nəs//n.

can-ta-la /'kanəla//n. a medium-length narrative or descriptive piece of music with vocal solos and usually a chorus and orchestra.

can-teen /'kanən//n. a restaurant provided by a military or academic institution, such as a military camp, college, factory, or company for its students or staff. 2 a small water bottle, as used by soldiers or campers.

can-teer /'kanətər//n. a three-beat gait used by a horse or other quadruped between a trot and a gallop: 1 ride away at a canter. • a ride on a horse at such a speed.

Pronunciation Key
• a as in ago; up; or ever; fur; a hat; a tit; a car; ch chin; o let; o see; o(ə) air; i; j; /j; k; r; sound; go; o; law; for; by; is; ood; g good; ggg; ou out; sh she; th thin; th them; h why; zh vision...
as starting a company or investing; the senior partner would provide the
initial capital. • the excess of a company's assets over its liabilities.
• people who possess wealth and use it to control a society's economi-
cal activity, considered collectively: a conflict of interest between capital
and labor. • fig. a valuable resource of a particular kind: investment in human
capital 3 (also capital letter) a letter of the size and form used to begin
sentences and names: he wrote the name in capitals.
> adj 1 (of an offense or charge) liable to the death penalty: murder was
a capital crime. 2 of or relating to wealth: capital losses. 3 of greatest po-
litical importance: the capital city. 4 (of a letter of the alphabet) large
in size and of the form used to begin sentences and names. 5 int.
distinguished.
> interj. Brit., int. dated used to express approval, satisfaction, or delight:
That's splendid! Capital!
capital [kapital] n. Archit. the distinct, typically broader section at the head of
a pillar or column.
capital gain n. (often capital gains) a profit from the sale of pro-
perity or of an investment.
capitalism [kapitalizəm] n. an economic and political system
in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private
owners for profit, rather than by the state.
capitalist [kapitalist] n. a wealthy person who uses money to invest
in trade and industry for profit in accordance with the principles of
capitalism.
> adj practicing, supporting, or based on the principles of capitalism:
The global economy is essentially capitalist. —capitalistic [kapitalistiK] adj
—capitalistically adv
capitalize [kæpɪtaɪlaɪz] v. 1 [intr] capitalize on take the chance to
gain advantage from: an attempt by the opposition to capitalize on the
government's embarrassment. 2 [tr] provide (a company or industry) with
capital. 3 realize (the present value of an income): convert into capital
or reckon (the value of an asset) by setting future benefits against the
cost of maintenance: a trader will want to capitalize on repairs expend-
titure. 4 [tr] write or print (a word or letter) in capital letters: begin (a
word) with a capital letter. —Capitalization [kæpɪtaɪlaIzæʃən], capital-
ization [kæpɪtaɪlæzən] n.
capitol [kæpɪtol] (usu. the Capitol) 1 the seat of the U.S. Congress in
Washington, D.C. —capitol n. a building housing a legislative as-
sembly: 50,000 people marched on New Jersey's state capital. 2 the temple
of Jupiter on the Capitol Hill in ancient Rome.
capitulate [kæpɪtjuːleɪt] v. [intr] capitulate to cease to resist an opponent or an
unwelcome demand; surrender. 3 mid 16th cent. (in the sense 'parley,
draw up terms'); from French capituler, from medieval Latin capitulare
draw up under headings,' from Latin capitalium, diminutive of caput
'head.' —capitu-lation [kæpɪtjuːleɪʃən] n.
capitulation [kapɪˈtjuːleɪʃən] n. the action of surrendering or cease-
ting to resist an opponent or demand: a capitulation to wage demands.
> capitulations n. pl. capitulations his/ an agreement or set of conditions.
capn [kæpɑːn] n. informal contraction of CAPTAIN, used in represent-
ing speech.
capo [ˈkæpoʊ] n. the head of a crime syndicate, esp. the Mafia, or a
branch of one.
capon [ˈkæpən; -pən] n. a castrated domestic cock fattened for eating.
—caponize [ˈkæpənaɪz] v.
cappuccino [ˈkæpuʃkɪnəʊ], [ˈkapuʃkɪnəʊ], [ˈkapuʃkɪnəʊ] n. (pl. -nos) coffee made with milk
that has been frothed up with pressurized steam. • 1940s: from Italian,
literally 'Capuchin,' because its color resembles that of a Capuchin's
habit.
capriccio [koˈprɛtʃʃoʊ; -ʃoʊ] n. (pl. -os) a lively piece of music, typi-
cally one that is short and free in form. • a painting or other work of
art representing a fantasy or a mixture of real and imaginary features.
capricious [kaprɪˈʃeɪs; -ˈʃeɪs; -ˈʃiːs] adj. given to sudden and unaccount-
able changes of mood or behavior: a capricious and often brutal adminis-
tration; a capricious climate. —capriciously adv. —capricious-ness n.
capricorn [kaprɪˈkɔrn] Astr. the tenth sign of the zodiac (the Goat),
which the sun enters at the northern winter solstice about December
21. • (a Capricorn) a person born when the sun is in this sign.
> □ tropic of Capricorn see TROPIC.
cariole [ˈkærəˌləʊ, -əˌleɪ] n. a movement performed in classical riding,
in which the horse leaps from the ground and kicks out with its hind
legs. • a leap or caper in dancing, esp. a cabriole.
caprice [ˈkærɪps] n. (also caprice) pl. n. close-fitting calf-length tux-
dered trousers, usually worn by women and girls.
capsicum [ˈkæpsɪkəm] n. (pl. capsicums) a tropical American pepper
plant (genus Capsicum) of the nightshade Family with fruits containing
many seeds. Several species and varieties, in particular C. annum var.
amatum, the cultivated forms of which include sweet peppers and chili
peppers.
capside n. Microbiology the protein coat or shell of a virus particle, sur-
rounding the nucleic acid or nucleoprotein core.
capsize [ˈkæpsɪz] n. (of a boat) overturn in the water: [intr] the
craft capsized in heavy seas. [tr] a gale-force gust capsized the dinghies.
> n. an instance of capsizing.
capstan [ˈkæpstæn] n. a revolving cylinder with a vertical axis used for
winding a rope or cable, powered by a motor or pushed by hand by
brakes, the motor-driven spindles on a tape recorder that makes the
tape travel past the head at constant speed.
capsule [ˈkæpsəl] n. a small case or container, esp. a round or
cylindrical one. a small, soluble case of gelatin containing a dose of
medicine, swallowed whole. a top or cover for a bottle, esp. the
foil or plastic covering the cork of a wine bottle. —short for SPACE CAP-
sule. —[as adj.] lg. (of a piece of writing) shortened but retaining the
essence of the original: a capsule review of the movie. —Anat. a tough
sheath or membrane that encloses something in the body, such as a
kidney, a lens, or a synovial joint. —Bot. a gelatinous layer forming the
outer surface of some bacterial cells. —Bot. a hairy fruit that releases its
seeds by bursting open while ripe, such as a pea pod. —Bot. the spore-
producing structure of mosses and liverworts, typically borne on a
caption [ˈkæptʃən] n. a written or printed commentary or explana-
tion attached to an article, illustration, cartoon, or poster. • a piece of text appearing on a
movie or television screen as part of a movie or broadcast.
> v. [tr] (usu. be captioned) provide (an illustration) with a title or
explanation: the drawings were captioned with humorous text. —Middle
English in the sense 'seizing, capture'; from Latin capitis, from cap-
tum 'take, seize.' Early senses 'arrest' and 'warrant for arrest' gave rise to
'statement of where, when, and by whose authority a warrant was issued
(mid 18th cent.). this was usually applied to a legal document,
where the sense 'heading or appended wording' (late 18th cent.).
captious [ˈkæptʃəs] adj. formal (of a person) tending to find fault or
raise petty objections. —captiously adv. —captious-ness n.
captivate [ˈkæptɪvət] v. [tr] attract and hold the interest and
Pronunciation Key a ago, up: our, fur; a hat: a hat; a car: ch chin;
e let: s see; e (ər) air; i (ə) r; s: i by; if (ər) air; eg sing: ə go; law; for: ə toy;
60 good; ə go; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; (ə) why; ə vision
attention of; charm: he was captivated by her beauty. —cap-tiv-a-tion 

[1. vātopānē adjective. —cap-tiv-a-tion [kap'ti-vā'shən] /n. 1. a person or animal that has been captured. —cap-tiv-a-tor /n. a person or thing that has been captured. —cap-tur-er /n. 1. a person or animal that catches or confines another.

Cap-uchin [kap-chi-oun] /n. 1. a friar belonging to a strict branch of the Franciscan order. 2. (capuchin or capuchin monkey) a South American monkey (genus Cebus) with a cap of hair on the head that has the appearance of a cow. 

cap-y-bar-a [kap-bar-a] /n. (pl. same or capybaras) a South American mammal (Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris, family Hydrochoeridae) that resembles a large guinea pig. It is the largest living rodent.

car [kahr] /n. 1. a road vehicle, typically with four wheels, powered by an internal combustion engine and able to carry a small number of people. 2. a vehicle that runs on rails, esp. a railroad car. 3. a railroad car of a specified kind: the first-class cars. 4. the passenger compartment of an elevator, cableway, airship, or balloon. 5. poetici a chariot.

—car-full /-fəl] /n. (pl. -fus.)

car-a-bi-ner [ka're-bi'ner] /n. a coupling link with a safety closure, used by rock climbers.

car-a-cal [ka're-kal] /n. a long-legged lynxlike cat (Felis caracal) with black tufted ears and a uniform brown coat, native to Africa and western Asia. Also called AFRICAN LYNX (see Lynx).

car-a-cole [ka're-kol] /n. a half turn to the right or by a horse. —v. [intr. or inter.] (of a horse) perform a caracole.

car-a-cul /n. variant spelling of KARAKUL.

car-a-ra-fee [ka're-rəf] /n. an open-topped glass flask typically used for serving wine or water.

car-a-mel [ka're-mel] /n. 1. sugar or syrup heated until it turns brown, used as a flavoring or coloring for food or drink. 2. the light brown color of this substance: the liquid turns a pale caramel. 3. a caramel sweater. 4. a soft candy made with sugar and butter that have been melted and further heated.

—car-a-mel-ize [ka're-məl-iz] /v. [intr.] (of sugar or syrup) be converted into caramel. —v. [tr.] (usu. as adj.) (caramelized) cook (food) with sugar so that it becomes coated with caramel. —car-a-mel-iza-tion [ka're-məl-iz-shən] /n.

car-a-pace [ka're-pəs] /n. the hard upper shell of a turtle or crustacean.

car-a-rat [ka're-rat] /n. 1. a unit of weight for precious stones and pearls, now equivalent to 200 milligrams: a half-carat diamond ring. 2. chiefly British spelling of karat. 3. (karat) [late Middle English (sense 2); from French; from Italian carato, from Arabic karat (a unit of weight), from Greek kar-ation 'fruit of the carob' (also denoting a unit of weight), diminutive of keras 'horn,' with reference to the elongated seepend of the carob.

car-a-van [ka're-van] /n. 1. a group of people, esp. traders or pilgrims, traveling together across a desert in Asia or North Africa. 2. any large group of people, typically with vehicles or animals traveling together, in single file: a caravan of cars and trucks. 3. Brit. a recreational vehicle; a trailer or camper. 4. a covered horse-drawn wagon: a gypsy caravan. 5. a covered truck: a van.


car-a-way [ka're-wa] /n. (also caraway seed) the seeds of a Mediterranean plant (Carum carvi) of the parsley family, used for flavoring and as a source of oil.

car-bide [ka'r-bid] /n. Chem. a binary compound of carbon with an element of lower or comparable electronegativity. 2. calcium carbide, used to generate acetylene by reaction with water and frequently used in portable lamps: [as adj.] a carbide lamp.

car-bine [ka'r-bin] /n. a short rifle or musket used by cavalry.

car-bo-hy-drate [ka'r-bə-hi-drət] /n. Biochem. any of a large group of organic compounds occurring in foods and living tissues and including sugars, starch, and cellulose. They contain hydrogen and oxygen in the same atomic ratio as water (2:1).


car-bon [ka'r-bən] /n. 1. the chemical element of atomic number 6, a nonmetal that has two main forms (diamond and graphite) and that also occurs in impure form in charcoal, soot, and coal. Symbol: C. 2. Chem. an atom of this element. 3. a piece of carbon paper or a carbon copy.

car-bon-14 /n. a long-lived naturally occurring radioactive carbon isotope of mass 14, used in carbon dating and as a tracer in biochemistry.

car-bon-ate [ka'r-bə-nät] /n. 1. a salt of the anion CO₃²⁻, typically formed by reaction of carbon dioxide with bases.


car-bo-nic acid /n. a very weak acid. H₂CO₃, formed in solution when carbon dioxide dissolves in water.

—car-bo-nifer-ous [ka'r-bə-nifərəs] /adj. Geol. of, relating to, or denoting the fifth period of the Paleozoic era, between the Devonian and Permian periods. —car-bo-nifer-ous /[the Carboniferous] /[as n.] the Carboniferous period or the system of rocks deposited during it.

—car-bo-nize [ka'r-bə-niz] /v. [tr.] convert into carbon, typically by heating or burning, or during fossilization: the steak was carbonized on the outside. —car-bo-niza-tion [ka'r-bə-nə-zə-shən] /n.

car-bo-mon-oxide /n. a colorless, odorless gas, CO₂, produced by burning carbon and organic compounds and by respiration. It is naturally present in air (about 0.03 percent) and is absorbed by plants in photosynthesis.

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—car-bo-nic acid /n. a very weak acid. H₂CO₃, formed in solution when carbon dioxide dissolves in water.

—car-bo-nifer-ous /adj. Geol. of, relating to, or denoting the fifth period of the Paleozoic era, between the Devonian and Permian periods. —car-bo-nifer-ous /[the Carboniferous] /[as n.] the Carboniferous period or the system of rocks deposited during it.

—car-bo-nize [ka'r-bə-niz] /v. [tr.] convert into carbon, typically by heating or burning, or during fossilization: the steak was carbonized on the outside. —car-bo-niza-tion [ka'r-bə-nə-zə-shən] /n.

car-bo-mon-oxide /n. a colorless, odorless gas, CO₂, produced by burning carbon and organic compounds and by respiration. It is naturally present in air (about 0.03 percent) and is absorbed by plants in photosynthesis.

—car-bo-nic acid /n. of or relating to carbon or its compounds, esp. carbon dioxide.
carcass /ˈkɑrkəs/ (Br. also carcase) n. the dead body of an animal.
1. the trunk of an animal such as a cow, sheep, or pig, for cutting up as meat. 2. the remains of a cooked bird after all the edible parts have been removed. 3. derog. or humorous a person's body, living or dead.
4. the structural framework of a building, ship, or piece of furniture.
5. adj. the remains of something being discarded, dismembered, or worthless: the floor is littered with the carcasses of newspapers.

卡斯

card-cin-o-gen-ic /kɑrd’sɪnəˈdʒen-ɪk/ adj. having the potential to cause cancer.

卡森

cardi-a-goma /ˈkærdɪəˌɡəmə/ n. a tumor of muscle activity within the heart made by a cardiologist.

克拉

cardio-gram /ˈkɑrdɪəˌɡræm/ n. a record of muscle activity within the heart made by an electrocardiograph.

克拉

cardio-graph /ˈkærdɪəˌɡrɑf/ n. an instrument for recording heart muscle activity, such as an electrocardiograph.

克拉

cardio-logy /ˈkɑrdɪəˌlɑɡi/ n. the branch of medicine that deals with diseases and abnormalities of the heart.

克拉

cardio-vas-cu-lar /ˈkærdɪəˌvæskjʊələr/ adj. of or relating to the heart and blood vessels.

克拉

card sharp (also card sharp-er or card shark) n. a person who cheats at cards in order to win money.

克拉

CARE /keəri/ n. 1. abbreviation for Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, a large private organization that provides emergency assistance. 2. adj. the provision of what is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance, and protection of someone or something: the care of the elderly. 3. n. serious attention or consideration applied to doing something correctly or to avoid damage or risk: he planned his departure with great care; an object of concern or attention: the cares of family life.

克拉

care・free /ˈkeəriəfri/ adj. free from anxiety or responsibility.

克拉

careful /ˈkeərfl/ adj. 1. making sure of avoiding potential danger, mishap, or harm; cautious: I begged him to be more careful. 2. (careful of/about) anxious to protect (something) from harm or loss; solicitous; he was very careful of his reputation. 3. prudent in the use of something, esp. money: Ali had always been careful with money. 4. done with or showing thought and attention: a careful consideration of the facts.

克拉

career /ˈkeərɪər/ n. an occupation undertaken for a significant period of a person's life and with opportunities for progress; the time spent by a person in such an occupation or profession: the end of a distinguished career in the navy. 2. the progression through history of an institution or organization; the court has had a checkered career. 3. (as adj.) working permanently in or committed to a particular profession: a career diplomat. 4. (as adj.) of a woman interested in pursuing a profession rather than devoting all her time to child care and housekeeping.

克拉

carefree /ˈkeərfrɪ/ adj. move swiftly and in an uncontrolled way in a specified direction: the car careened across the road and went through a hedge.

克拉

careless /ˈkeərlɪs/ adj. not giving sufficient attention or thought to avoiding harm or errors; of an action or its result; showing or caused by a lack of attention: He was careless of his own safety. 2. (careless of/about) not particularly concerned or worried about: he was careless about his own safety. 3. showing no interest or effort; casual: she gave a careless shrug.

克拉

caress /ˈkɛris/ v. 1. touch or stroke gently or lovingly: she caressed the girl's forehead. 2. adj. (caressing) the caressing warmth of the sun.

克拉

caressing-ly /ˈkærəsɪŋli/ adv. 

克拉

pronunciation key

克拉

克拉
carat /'karət/ n. a mark (•, †) placed below the line to indicate a proposed insertion in a printed or written text.

care-taker /'keətəkər, tækər/ n. 1 a person employed to look after a public building or a house in the owner’s absence. 2 a caretaker regime. 2 a person employed to look after people or animals. —care-take v.

care-worn /'keətərn, wɔrn/ adj. tired and unhappy because of prolonged worry: a careworn expression.

cargo /'kærəʊ/ n. (pl. goes or -gos) goods carried on a ship, aircraft, or motor vehicle: transportation of bulk cargo | a cargo of oil.

Carib /'karɪb/ n. 1 a member of an indigenous South American people living mainly in coastal regions of French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, and Venezuela. 2 the Cariban language of this people. —adj. of or relating to the Caribs or their language. —of or relating to Is- land Carib or Black Caribs.

caribou /'kærɪboʊ/ n. (pl. same or caribous) a large North American reindeer (genus Rangifer), esp. the woodland caribou (R. caribou) and the barren ground caribou (R. tarandus).

carnation /ˈkærnəʃən/ n. 1 a pink or crimson flower: [fig.] a rosy pink color: [adj.] carmine roses. 2 a vivid crimson pigment made from cochineal.

carriage /ˈkærɪdʒ/ n. 1 the killing of a large number of people. 2 a vehicle for carrying people: a carload of passengers. 3 the quantity of goods that can be carried in a railroad freight car.

carloving /ˈkærəlɒvɪŋ/ adj. adj., n. another term for CAROLINGIAN.

car-melite /ˈkærəmlaɪt/ n. a friar or nun of a contemplative Catholic order founded at Mount Carmel during the Crusades. —adj. of or relating to the Carmelites.

carminative /ˈkærəmɪnətɪv/ adj. Med. (chiefly of a drug) relieving flatulence. —n. a drug of this kind.

carminate /ˈkærəmɪnət/ v. [trans.] to carry out a carmination.

carnival /ˈkærənvəl/ n. a period of public revelry at a regular time each year, typically during the week before Lent in Roman Catholic countries, involving processions, music, dancing, and the use of masques. —fig. an exciting or riotous mixture of something: the whole evening was a carnival of fun. 2 a traveling amusement show or circus. —car-ni-val-ic /ˈkærənvəlɪk/ adj.

carnivore /ˈkærənvoʊr/ n. an animal, esp. a mammal, that feeds on flesh.

carnivorous /ˈkærənvoʊrəs/ adj. of (an animal) feeding on other animals. —of (a plant) able to trap and digest small animals, esp. insects. —car-ni-vor-ous-ly adv. —car-ni-vor-ous-ness n.

carob /ˈkærəb/ n. 1 a powder extracted from the carob bean, used as a substitute for chocolate. 2 (also carob tree) a leguminous Arabic evergreen tree (Ceratonia siliqua) that bears long brownish-purple edible pods. Also called locust tree. —of (also carob bean) the edible pod of this tree.

carlo /ˈkærəloʊ/ n. a religious folk song or popular hymn, particularly one associated with Christmas. —v. (caroled, caroling; caroled, caroling) [intr.] to sing Christmas songs or hymns, esp. in a group.

carolingian /ˈkærəlɪŋiən/ adj. (also Carolin-gian) of or relating to the Frankish dynasty, founded by Charlemagne’s father (Pepin III), that ruled in western Europe from 750 to 987. —denoting or relating to a style of minuscule script developed in France during the time of Charlemagne, on which modern lower-case letters are largely based. —n. a member of the Carolingian dynasty.

carom /ˈkærəm/ n. Billiards a stroke in which the cue ball strikes two balls, one successively. —of (also carom billiards) any of the billiard games played on a table without pockets. —v. [intr.] to make a carom; strike and rebound.

carouse /ˈkærərɔʊs/ v. [intr.] to drink plentiful amounts of alcohol and enjoy oneself with others in a noisy, lively way: they danced and caroused until the dance ran out | [as n.] carousing a night of carousing. —n. a noisy, lively drinking party: corporate carouses. —caro-sal /ˈkærəsɔl/ adj. —carouser n.

carousel /ˈkærəsɔrl/ n. —of (also caroussel) a merry-go-round.

carpet /ˈkærəpt/ n. 1 a rotating machine or device, in particular a conveyor system at an airport from which arriving passengers collect their luggage. 2 each of these arteries. —early 17th cent.: from French carotide or modern Latin carotides, from Greek karotides, plural of karotis ‘drowsiness,’ from karos ‘stupify’ (because compression of these arteries was thought to cause stupor).

carouse /ˈkærərɔʊs/ v. [intr.] to drink plentiful amounts of alcohol and enjoy oneself with others in a noisy, lively way: they danced and caroused until the dance ran out | [as n.] carousing a night of carousing. —n. a noisy, lively drinking party: corporate carouses. —caro-sal /ˈkærəsɔl/ adj. —carouser n.

carpen-ter /ˈkærɪntər/ n. a person who makes and repairs wooden objects and structures. —adj. of or relating to these bones.

carpenter /ˈkærɪntər/ n. a person who makes and repairs wooden objects and structures. —adj. of or relating to these bones.

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carpetbag

fabric, typically shaped to fit a particular room; the house has fitted carpets throughout | the floor was covered with carpet.  a large rug, typically an oriental; priceless Persian carpets.  fig. a thick or soft expanse of layer of something; carpets of snowdrifts and crocus.  and carpets of artificial playing surface on a tennis court or an athletic field.

v (pet-ened) [tr. (usu. be carpeted)] (a) carpet cover a (floor or stairs) with a carpet.  fig. cover with a thick or soft expanse or layer of something: the room was carpeted with flowers.

carpet-bag [kär'pət, bag] n. a traveling bag of a kind originally made of carpeting or carpet-like material.

v [intr.] act as a carpetbagger.  [adj.] carpetbagging, carpetbagging developer.

carpet-bag-ger [kär'pət, bag'er] n. derog. a political candidate who seeks election in an area where they have no local connections.  hist. in the U.S. a person from the northern states who went to the South after the Civil War to profit from Reconstruction.  a person perceived as an unscrupulous opportunist.

car-pool [kär'pōl] n. an arrangement between people to make a regular journey in a vehicle, typically with each person taking turns to drive the others.  a group of people with such an arrangement.

v [intr.] form or participate in a carpool.  —car-pooler n.

car-port [kär'pərt] n. a shelter for a car consisting of a roof supported on posts, built beside a house.

car-pus [kär'pəs] n. (pl. -pi -pi -pe) the group of small bones between the main part of the forearm and the metacarpus in terrestrial vertebrates. The eight bones of the human carpus form the wrist and part of the hand.

car-ra-geen [kär'a-jen] (also car-ra-geen or carrageen moss) n. a red seaweed (Chondrus crispus) found in both Eurasia and North America, used to produce an edible thickening or emulsifying agent (carrageenan).

car-rel [kar'əl] n. a small cubicle with a desk for the use of a reader or student in a library.  hist. a small enclosure or study in a cloister.

carriage [kär'ij] n. 1. a means of conveyance, in particular: a four-wheeled passenger vehicle pulled by two or more horses: a horse-drawn carriage.  a baby carriage.  a shopping cart.  a wheeled support for moving a heavy object such as a gun.  Brit. a passenger car of a train: the first-class carriages.  2. the transporting of items or merchandise from one place to another.  3. the cost of such a procedure.  3. moving part of a machine that carries other parts into the required position: a typewriter carriage.  4. a person's bearing or deportment: her carriage was graceful.

carriage house n. a building for housing a horse-drawn carriage, typically such a building that has been converted into a dwelling.

car-ri-er [kär'ē-ər] n. 1. a person or thing that carries, holds, or conveys something; water carriers.  2. a person or company that undertakes the professional conveyance of goods or people: Pan Am was the third U.S. carrier to cease operations in 1991.  3. a vessel or vehicle for transporting people or things, esp. goods in bulk: the largest timber carrier.  4. an aircraft carrier.  5. a person or company that provides facilities for telecommunications messages.  6. a person or animal that transmits a disease-causing organism to others. Typically, the carrier suffers no symptoms of the disease.  7. a person or other organism that possesses a particular gene, esp. as a single copy whose effect is masked by a dominant allele, so that the associated characteristic (such as a hereditary disease) is not displayed but may be passed to offspring.  8. a substance used to support or convey another substance such as a pigment, catalyst, or radioactive material.  Biochem. a molecule that transfers a specified molecule or ion within the body, esp. across a cell membrane.

car-ri-er pigeon n. a homing pigeon trained to carry messages tied to its neck or leg.

car-ri-on [kär'ē-ən] n. the decaying flesh of dead animals.

carrot [kär'ət] n. 1. a tapering orange-colored root eaten as a vegetable.  2. a cultivated plant (Daucus carota) of the parsley family with featherly leaves, which yields this vegetable.  3. an offer of something enticing as a means of persuasion.  —car-rot-y adj.

car-rousel n. variant spelling of CAROUSEL.

carry [kär'ë] v. [ries, -ried] [tr.] 1. support and move (someone or something) from one place to another: mules were carrying a wounded man on a stretcher.  2. transport: the train service carries 20,000 passengers daily.  3. have on one's person and take with one wherever one goes: the money he was carrying was not enough to pay the fine.  4. fig. she had carried the secret all her life.  5. conduct; transmit: nerves carry visual information from the eyes.  6. be infected with (a disease) and liable to transmit it to others; ticks can carry Lyme disease.  7. transfer (a figure) to an adjacent column during an arithmetical operation (esp. when a column of digits adds up to more than ten).  8. support the weight of: the bridge is capable of carrying even the heaviest loads.  9. be pregnant with; she was carrying twins.  10. carry oneself stand and move in a specified way; she carried herself straight and tall.  11. assume or accept (responsibility or blame).  12. be responsible for the effectiveness or success of; they relied on dialogue to carry the plot.  13. have as a characteristic or outcome: being a combat sport, karate carries with it the risk of injury.  14. take or accept (an idea or activity) to a specified point: he carried the criticism much further.  15. (of a gun or similar weapon) propel (a missile) to a specified distance.  16. (of a ball) move or be hit a specified distance: the balls seen to carry well in that ballpark.  17. Golf hit the ball over and beyond a particular point.

5. often be carried (approve a proposal) by a majority of votes: the question was voted by a two-thirds majority.  6. persuade (colleagues or followers) to support someone's policy: she did not carry the cabinet.  7. gain (a state or district) in an election.  8. (of a newspaper or a television or radio station) publish or broadcast: the paper carried a detailed account of the current crisis.  9. (of a retail outlet) keep a regular stock of [particular goods for sale].  10. have visible on the surface: the product does not carry the "UL" symbol.  11. be known by (a name); some products carry the same names as overseas beers.  12. [intr.] or (of a sound or a person's voice) be audible at a distance: his voice carried clearly across the room.

phrase 1. be/get carried away by self-control; I got carried away when describing the final game.  2. carry something off in doing something difficult: he could not have carried it off without his brother's help.

3. continue an activity or task: carry on with what you were doing.  4. [int.] behave in an extreme way; she carries on about television programming.

3. be engaged in a love affair, typically one of which the speaker disapproves: she was carrying on with young Adam.

4. carry on in a logical conversation.

5. carry something out perform a task or planned operation.

6. carry over extend beyond the normal or original area of application: his artistic practice is clearly carrying over into his real thought.

7. carry something over retain something and apply or deal with it in a new context: much of the wartime economic planning was carried over into the next decade.

8. postpone an event: the match had to be carried over till Sunday.

9. carry something through bring a project to completion.

10. carry something safely out of difficulties: he was the only one who could carry the package.

11. carry (pt. -ries) 1. an act of lifting and transporting something from one place to another; we did a carry of equipment.

12. a football act of running with the ball from scrimmage.

13. the action of keeping something; esp. a gun, on one's person: this pistol is the right choice for on-duty or off-duty carry.

14. hist. a place or route between navigable waters over which boats or supplies had to be carried.

15. the transfer of a figure into an adjacent column (or the equivalent part of a computer memory) during an arithmetical operation.

16. Finance the maintenance of an important position in a securities market, esp. with regard to the costs and profits associated.

17. in golf the distance a ball travels before reaching the ground.

18. in (golf) the distance a ball travels after it has reached a certain destination.

19. the range of a gun or similar weapon.

20. carry the day be victorious or successful.

21. carry weight be influential or important.

carry-back note [kär'ē-bak'] n. Finance a negotiable promissory note representing the value of real estate when the seller has provided the financing.

carry-out adj. & n. another term for TAKEOUT (sense 1).

car-sick [kär'sik] adj. affected with nausea caused by the motion of a car or other vehicle in which one is traveling.

cart [kārt] n. 1. a strong open vehicle with two or four wheels, typically used for carrying loads and pulled by a horse.

2. a light two-wheeled open vehicle, pulled by a single horse and used as a means of transport.

3. a shallow open container on wheels that may be pulled or pushed by hand, or a shopping cart.

v [tr.] 1. offer (someone or something that is used) in a cart or similar vehicle: the produce was packed in crates and carted to Kansas City.  2. [pt. or carry off (someone or something that is used) elsewhere unceremoniously; they carted off the refugees in the middle of the night.


—put the cart before the horse reverse the proper order or procedure of something.

Pronunciation

Key

a [æ] ou [au] or [ər] fur: fur; hat: hət; and: ənd; car: ər; chin: ən; let: ət; sec: əkər; air: ər; it: ɨt; (ə)car: nu ə; sin: ən; go: ə go; law; for: ər; toy: ə; good: əd; goo: əu ət; sh: əu; thin: ət; then: ətn; (ə)why: ə; vision: əvən; varying: əvərər; said: əd; judged: əd.  

135
plastic, joined in pairs by a cord and clicked together by the fingers as a rhythmic accompaniment to Spanish dancing. 

Early 17th cent.: from Spanish castañeta, diminutive of castaña, from Latin castanea 'chestnut'.

castaway /'kastəw/ n. a person who has been shipwrecked and stranded in an isolated place; an outcast.

caste /'kast/ n. each of the hereditary classes of Hindu society, distinguished by relative degrees of ritual purity or pollution and of social status; the system of dividing society into such classes; a class or group of people having certain privileges or are perceived as socially distinct; those educated in private schools belong to a privileged caste. 

Entomol. (in some social insects) a physically distinct individual with a particular function in the society. 

mid 16th cent. (in the general sense 'race, breed'); from Spanish and Portuguese casta 'lineage, race, breed', feminine of casto 'pure, unmixed', from Latin castus 'chaste'.

cast-i-le /'kastəl/ adj. 1 having battlements: a castellated tower. 2 (of a nut or other mechanical part) having grooves or slots on its upper face. 2 having a castle or several castles; the castellated hills.

cast-le /'kastəl/ n. a large building or group of buildings fortified against attack with thick walls, battlements, towers, and in many cases a moat. A magnificent and imposing mansion, esp. one that is the home or former home of a member of the nobility. [In names] Castle Howard. 

Misc. old-fashioned term for room.

V. [intr.] often as n. (casting) Chess make a special move (no more than once in a game by each player) in which the king is transferred from its original square two squares along the back rank toward the corner square of a rook, which is then transferred to the square passed over by the king. 

adj. 

n. [usu. castles] something, esp. a garment, that is no longer wanted.

Castor /'kastər/ 1 Greek Mythol. the twin brother of Pollux. 2 Astron. the second brightest star in the constellation Gemini, close to Pollux. It is a multiple star system, the three components visible in a moderate telescope being close binaries.

castor oil /'kastə(r)əl/ n. a pale yellow oil obtained from castor beans, used as a purgative and a lubricant and in manufacturing oil-based products.

cast-trate /'kast,rɛt/ v. [tr.] remove the testicles of (a male animal or man). 

fig. deprive of power, vitality, or vigor: [as adj.] (castrated) the nation is a castrated giant, afraid to really punish subversives.

n. a man or male animal whose testicles have been removed.

Castration /'kæstrəʃən/ n. 

Castrator /'kæstrətor/ n. 

Castro /'kæstrə/ to v. [pl. -tros] hist. a male singer castrated in boyhood so as to retain a soprano or alto voice.

casu-al /'kæsəwəl/ adj. 1 relaxed and unconcerned: he tried to make his voice sound casual. 

made or done without much thought or premeditation: a casual remark. 

done or acting without sufficient care or thoroughness: the casual way in which victims were treated. 

2 not regular or permanent: the tent is ideal for casual outdoor use. 

(of a worker) employed on a temporary or irregular basis. 

(of a sexual relationship or encounter) occurring between people who are not regular or established sexual partners. 3 happening by chance: accidental: he pretended it was a casual meeting. 

4 without formality of style, manner, or procedure, in particular: (of clothes or a style of dress) suitable for everyday wear rather than formal occasions. 

Casually adv. —casu-al-ness n.

Casually /kæzəˈli/ n. (pl. -lies) a person killed or injured in a war or accident. 

fig. a person or thing badly affected by an event or situation. 

the building industry has been one of the casualties of the recession.

chiefly in insurance] an accident, mishap, or disaster.

CAT /'kæt/ n. 1 a small domesticated carnivorous mammal (Felis catus), with soft fur, a short snout, and retractile claws. 

The cat family (Felidae) also includes the ocelot, serval, margay, lynx, and the big cats.

[O: a wild animal of the cat family. Used in names of cat-like animals of other families, e.g., ring-tailed cat. 2 (particularly among jazz enthusiasts) a person, esp. a man.

v. [catted, catting] [vtr.] Naut. raise (an anchor) from the surface of the water to the cathead.

Cat /'kæt/ n. short for CATAMAN.

cata-cre-sis /'kætəkrəsɪs/ n. (pl. -ses/-'siz) the use of a word in a way that is not correct, for example, the use of mitigate for militate. —cata-cre-tic /-krətɪk/ adj.

cata-clysm /'kætəklɪzm/ n. a large-scale and violent event in the natural world. 

a sudden violent upheaval, esp. in a political or social context: the cataclysm of the First World War. 

Cata-clys-mic /'kætəklɪzmɪk/ adj.

cata-comb /'kætəkɒm/ n. (usu. catacombs) an underground cemetery consisting of a subterranean gallery with recesses for tombs, as constructed by the ancient Romans. 

an underground construction resembling or compared to such a cemetery.

cata-lobby /'kætəˌləbərɪ/ n. [archaic] Zool. (of a fish such as the eel) migrating down rivers to the sea to spawn.

Cata-falque /'kætəfaIk/ n. (-Falke) a decorated wooden framework supporting the coffin of a distinguished person during a funeral or while lying in state.

cata-lep-sy /'kætəlɛpsɪ/ n. a medical condition characterized by a trance or seizure with a loss of sensation and consciousness accompanied by rigidity of the body. —cata-leptic /-leptɪk/ adj. & n.

cata-log /'kætəlɒg/ n. (also cata-logue) a complete list of items, typically one in alphabetical or other systematic order, in particular: 

a list of all the books or resources in a library. 

a publication containing details and often photographs of items for sale, esp. one produced by a mail-order company. 

a descriptive list of works of art in an exhibition or collection giving detailed comments and explanations. 

a list of courses offered by a university or college. 

a series of unfortunate or bad things: his life was a catalog of familial failures.

V. [logs, -logged, -logging] also -logues, -logged, -logging [vtr.] make a systematic list of items of the same type. 

enter (an item) in such a list. 

list (similar situations, qualities, or events) in succession: the report catalogs dangerous work practices. —cata-logger (also cata-logu-er) n.

cata-lpa /'kætalpa/ n. a tree (genus Catalpa, family Bignonieae) with large heart-shaped leaves, clusters of trumpet-shaped flowers, and slender bean-like seedpods, native to North America and Eastern Asia.

cataly-sis /'kætaləsɪs/ n. Chem. & Biochem. the acceleration of a chemical reaction by a catalyst. 

mid 19th cent.: from modern Latin, from Greek katalysis, from katalaiv 'dissolve, from kata- 'down' + leivn 'loosen'.

catalyst /'kætalɪst/ n. a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. 

fig. a person or thing that precipitates an event.

catalytic /'kætalɪtɪk/ adj. relating to or involving the action of a catalyst.

-catalytic /-lɪtɪk/ adv.

catalytic-con-verter /'kætalɪtɪkˌkɒnˈvɜər/ a device incorporated in the exhaust system of a motor vehicle, containing a catalyst for converting pollutant gases into less harmful ones.

catalyze /'kætəlaɪz/ v. [tr.] cause or accelerate (a reaction) by acting as a catalyst. 

fig. cause (an action or process) to begin.
catch-up

n. a meeting for catching up with friends or colleagues; esp. after a long absence.

catch-up v. 1. to catch up with (someone) or something; to make up for lost time. 2. to make up for lost time; to catch up with work, studies, etc.

catch-up adj. 1. of or relating to catching up; a catch-up meeting. 2. n. a meeting for catching up with friends or colleagues; esp. after a long absence.

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catchword...catch-ther-ize /ka'tha.tē.rīz/ v. [tr.] Med. insert a catheter into (a patient or body cavity). —catch-ther-i-za-tion /ka'thā.tēr.i-za.shən/ n.
catch-ode /ka'thəd, ōd/ n. the negatively charged electrode by which electrons enter an electrical device. The opposite of ANODE. 1 the positively charged electrode of an electrical device, such as a primary cell, that supplies current. —catch-odal /ka'thə.dəl/ adj. —catch-o-lic /ka'thə.lĭk/ adj.
catch-ode ray n. a beam of electrons emitted from the cathode of a high-vacuum tube.
catch-ode-ray tube (abbr.: CRT) also cathode-ray tube n. a high-vacuum tube in which cathode rays produce a luminous image on a fluorescent screen, used chiefly in televisions and computer terminals.
cat-e-lic /ka'tə.lĭk/ adj. 1 esp. of a person's tastes including a wide variety of things: all-embracing. 2 (Catholic) of the Roman Catholic faith. 3 of or including all Christians. 4 of or relating to the historic doctrine and practice of the Western Church.

cat-ion /kaˈtɪ.ən/ n. Chem. a positively charged ion, i.e., one that would be attracted to the cathode in electrolysis. The opposite of ANION. —cat-ion-ic /kaˈtɪ.ənɪk/ adj.
cat-kin /ˈkaθkiːn/ n. a flowering spike of trees such as willow and hazel. Catskins are typically downy, pendulous, composed of flowers of a single sex, and wind-pollinated.
cat-litter n. see LITTER (sense 3).
cat-nap /ˈkætnæp/ n. a short, light sleep; a doze.

v. (napped, -napping) [intr.] have such a sleep.
cat-nip /ˈkætnɪp/ n. a plant (genus Nepeta) of the mint family, with downy leaves, purple-spotted white flowers, and a pungent smell attractive to cats.
cat-o-nine-tails n. hist. a rope whip with nine knotted cords, formerly used (esp. at sea) to flog offenders.
cat-scan n. an X-ray image made using computerized axial tomography. —CAT scan n.
cat's-cradle n. a child's game in which a loop of string is put around and between the fingers and complex patterns are formed.
cat's-eye n. a semiprecious stone, esp. chalcedony or chrysoberyl.
cat's-paw n. a person who is used by another, typically to carry out an unpleasant or dangerous task.
cat-sup /ˈkætsəp/ n. [also为之] /ˈkætsəp/ variant spelling of KETCHUP.
cat-tail /ˈkættəl/ n. a tall marsh plant (genus Typha, Family Typhaceae) with long, reedlike leaves and brown, velvety cylindrical spikes of numerous tiny flowers. Also called BULrush.
cat-tle /ˈkætl/ pl. n. 1 large ruminants (bovines) with horns and cloven hoofs, domesticated for meat or milk, or as beasts of burden; cows. 2 similar animals of a group related to domestic cattle, including yak, bison, and buffalo. The cattle family (Bovidae) also includes the sheep, goats, antelopes, and antelopes.
cat-ter-man /ˈkæt.təman/ n. (pl. men) a person who tends or rears cattle.
cat-tly /ˈkætlɪ/ adj. (cat-tier, cat-tiest) deliberately hurtful in one's remarks; spiteful. 2 of or relating to cats; cathie.

—cat-tily /ˈkætlɪ/ adj. —cat-tiness n.
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something around/on) cause an argument or discussion to focus on (a specified issue); he is centering his discussion on an analysis of patterns of mortality. a (be centered in) (of an activity) occur mainly in or around (a specified place). 2 [tr] place in the middle: to center the needle, turn the knob. Football pass the ball back from the ground to another player to begin a down; snap. —center-most [-məst] adj.

> the center of attention a person or thing that draws general attention.

center-board [ˈsentər,bɔrd] n. a pivoted board that can be lowered through the keel of a sailboat to reduce sideways movement.

center field (also center-field) [ˈsentər,fild] n. Baseball the central part of the outfield, behind second base. the position of an outfielder in this area —center-fielder n.

centerfold [ˈsentərfəld] n. the two middle pages of a magazine, typically taken up by a single illustration or feature. an illustration on such pages, typically a picture of a naked or scantily clad model.

centering [ˈsentərnɪŋ] n. Arch. framing used to support an arch or dome while it is under construction.

center of gravity n. a point from which the weight of a body or system may be considered to act. In uniform gravity it is the same as the center of mass.

centerpiece [ˈsentər,pi:] n. a decorative piece or display placed in the middle of a dining or serving table. an item or issue intended to be a focus of attention: the tower is the centerpiece of the park.

centesimal [ˌsentəsəˈmil] adj. of or relating to division into hundredths.

centigrade [ˈsentər,ɡræd] n. another term for CÉLÉSUS. having a scale of one hundred degrees.

centigrade [ˈsentər,ɡræd] n. a monetary unit of Switzerland and certain other countries including France, Belgium, and Luxembourg. the currency of one hundredth of a gram.

centimeter [ˈsentər,metər] n. a metric unit of length, equal to one hundredth of a meter.

centimeter [ˈsentər,metər] n. a metric unit of capacity, equal to one hundredth of a liter.

centiliter [ˈsentəl,ˈlɛtər] (Br. centiliter) [ˌsentəlˈlɛtər] n. a metric unit of mass, equal to one hundredth of a gram.

centime re [ˈsentərməˌsentərmə] abbr. (cm) n. a metric unit of length, equal to one hundredth of a meter.

centipede [ˈsentəpɛd] n. a predatory myriapod invertebrate (class Chilopoda, several orders) with a flattened elongated body composed of many segments. Most segments bear the same number of legs.

centripetal [ˈsentripəˌtəl] adj. of or relating to a centripetal force.

centripetal force [ˈsentripəˌtəl] force n. Physics an apparent force that acts outward on a body moving around a center, arising from the body’s inertia.

Pronunciation Key: a ago; w<t> or over; fur; hiat; ūd; a ntc; a cm; wgl; ẹ let; ẹ see; e(o)ar; i j; i b; i j(o)ar; go; g; o; l; wo; y; o; y; ọ; go; go; ou out; ọ; u; th; th; th then; (b) who; ụ vision.
cer-vice (sər'viks) n. pl. -vices (-va'sēz) the narrow necklike passage forming the lower end of the uterus.

cesse-ran (sēz'ər-ən) also cæs-sar-e-an, Cæs-sar-e-an, or Cæs-sar-ian n. [L., a cesarean section: from Cæsar, the name of Julius Cæsar] a section of the body made by cutting through the wall of the mother's abdomen.

cess-a-um (sə'sē-əm) [Brit. Cæs-si-um] n. the chemical element of atomic number 55, a soft, silvery, extremely reactive alkalai metal. (Symbol: Cs)

ces-sa-tion (sə'sə-sən'shən) n. a ceasing: an end. the cessation of hostilities.

ces-sion (sə'sə-shən) n. the formal giving up of rights, property, or territory, esp. by state: the cession of twenty important towns.

cess-pool (səs'pōl) n. an underground container for the temporary storage of liquid waste and sewage. fig. a disgusting or corrupt place.

ces-tode (səstōd') n. any of the group of flatworms that includes tapeworms.

cete-cean (si'ta-shən) n. any of various marine mammals with a streamlined hairless body, a horizontal tail fin, and a dorsal blowhole for breathing, including whales, dolphins, and porpoises.

cetane (sətān') n. Chem. a colorless liquid alkane hydrocarbon used as a solvent.

cetane number (sətən' nəmər) n. a measure of the ignition properties of diesel fuel relative to cetane as a standard.

cy-con (si-kōn) n. a red seaweed (Gracilariar lichenoides) of the Indian subcontinent, the main source of agar.

cf abbr. carried forward. cost and freight. cystic fibrosis.
cf sybm. the chemical element calcium.

cfig. abbr. compare with (used to refer to a reader to another written work or another part of the same written work).

cfA also CFA franc n. the basic monetary unit of Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, and the Central African Republic, equal to 100 centimes.

cFIC abbr. chartered financial analyst.

chain (chān) n. 1 a connected flexible series of metal links used for fastening or securing objects and pulling or supporting loads.

chain (chān) n. 2 such as a series of links, or a set of them, used to confine a prisoner: kept in chains. such a series of links worn as a decoration; a necklace. chiefly Brit. such a series of links worn as a badge of office.

chain (chān) n. 3 fig. a force or factor that binds or restricts someone: the chains of illness. 2 a sequence of items of the same type forming a line: he kept the chains of buckles supplied with water. 1 a sequence or series of connected elements: a chain of events. 2 a group of establishments, such as hotels, stores, or restaurants, owned by the same company: the nation's largest hotel chain. 3 a range of mountains. 4 a part of a molecule consisting of a number of atoms (typically carbon) bonded together in a linear sequence. 5 a figure in a quadrille or similar dance, in which dancers meet and pass each other in a continuous sequence. 3a jointed measuring line consisting of linked metal rods. b the length of such a measuring line (66 ft.). c Football a measuring chain of ten yards, used in the determination of first downs. d v. [tr.] fasten or secure with a chain: she chained her bicycle to the railing. c confine with a chain: he had been chained up! fig. as an actuary you will not be chained to a desk.

chain (chān) n. 4 a group of convicts chained together while working outside the prison.

chain (chān) n. 5 one of a sequence of letters, each recipient in the sequence being requested to send copies to a specific number of other people.

chain (chān) n. 6 hist. armor made of small metal rings linked together.

chain (chān) n. 7 a chemical reaction or other process in which the products themselves promote or spread the reaction, which under certain conditions may accelerate dramatically. the self-sustaining fission reaction spread by neutrons that occurs in nuclear reactors and bombs. fig. a series of events, each caused by the previous one: an article in one publication sets off a chain reaction in the media.

chain (chān) n. 8 a powerful driving tool with teeth set on an endless chain that moves around the edge of a blade.

chain (chān) n. 9 smoke continually, esp. by lighting a new cigarette from the butt of the one last smoked.

chair (chār) n. 1 a separate seat for one person, typically with a back and four legs. hist. a sedan chair. short for CHAIRLIFT. 2 the person in charge of a meeting or organization (used as a neutral alternative to chairman or chairwoman). an official position of authority, for example on a board of directors: the editorial chair. (also chair umpire) Tennis another term for UMPIRE. a professorship: he held a chair in physics. a particular seat in an orchestra: as adj., in combination with she was fourth-chair trumpet. 5 (the chair) short for ELECTRIC CHAIR.

chair (chār) v. [tr.] 1 act as chairperson of or preside over (an organization, meeting, or public event). 2 Brit. carry (someone) aloft to celebrate a victory.

chair (chār) n. pl. -lies another term for CHAIRMAN.

chair (chār) n. 1 a series of chairs hung from a moving cable, typically used for carrying passengers up and down a mountain. 2 a device for carrying people in wheelchairs from one floor of a building to another.

chair (chār) n. pl. -men 1 a person, esp. a man, designated to preside over a meeting. 2 the permanent or long-term president of a committee, company, or other organization. (Chairman)

chair (chār) Pronunciation Key a, ago, up, or over, fur, a hat; æ, ä, or æ; a ear; ch chin; e let; è, see; œ (a) air; i fi; i by; (a) ear; ng sing; 6 o, 6 how, for; o, oil; 60 good; 600 go; ou out; 5 sh; th thin; th thin; (h) why; zh vision
chaise [ʃɛːz] n. 1 chiefly hist. a horse-drawn carriage for one or two people, typically one with an open top and two wheels. 2 short for CHAISE LONGUE.

chaise longue [ʃɛəz ˈloŋɡ] n. (pl. chaises longues) [ʃɛəz ˈloŋɡis] a reclining chair with a lengthened seat forming a leg rest.

chal-ced-on-y [ˈkælsidənɪ] n. 1 [Middle Latin, from Greek χαλκός + δέος, i.e. 'dear to copper']. 2 a type of quartz occurring in several different forms, including onyx, agate, and Jasper. 3 [Middle Latin, from Greek χαλκός + δέος, i.e. 'dear to copper'].

chal-de-an [ˈkæladæn] n. 1 a member of an ancient people who lived in Chaldea. 2 the Semitic language of the ancient Chaldeans. 3 a language related to Aramaic and spoken in parts of Iraq.

chal-let [ʃaˈlet] n. an isolated building or cottage usually found in the Swiss Alps.

chal-lice [ˈkælɪs] n. hist. a large cup or goblet, typically used for drinking wine.

chalk [ʃɔkl] adj. 1 a soft white limestone. 2 a type of stone made from the skeletal remains of sea creatures. 3 a similarity of calcium carbonate, made into white or colored sticks used for drawing or writing.

v. 1 draw or write with chalk. 2 make a mark or spot with chalk. 3 a kind of clay used in making bricks.

chalk-board [ˈkæklbɔːd] n. another term for blackboard.

chalk-stripe [ˈkæklstri] adj. (of a garment or material) having a pattern of thin white stripes on a dark background.

chalk-white [ˈkæklwaɪt] adj. resembling chalk in texture or paleness of color.

challenge [ˈkænlɪdʒ] n. 1 a call to take part in a contest or opposition, esp. as a duel: he accepted the challenge. 2 a task or situation that tests someone's abilities. 3 an attempt to win a contest or championship in a sport: a world title challenge.

v. 1 invite (someone) to engage in a contest: he challenged one of my men to a duel. 2 enter into competition with or opposition against. 3 make a rival claim or threaten someone's hold on (a position): they challenged his leadership. 4 [tr] invite (someone) to do something that one thinks will be difficult or impossible: dare: I challenged them to make up their own minds. 5 juss. as adj. (challenging) test the abilities of: challenging and rewarding employment.

shoulder [ˈʃəʊldər] n. 1 a part of the body that meets in such a hall. 2 any of the houses of a legislature. 3 poet. lit. or archaic a private room, typically a bedroom. 4 (chambers) Law a judge's room used for official proceedings not required to be held in open court. 5 an enclosed space or cavity: an echo chamber. 6 a large underground cavern. 7 the part of a gun bore that contains the ammunition.

chamber [ˈʃæmbər] n. 1 a hall used by a legislative or judicial body. 2 the body that meets in such a hall. 3 any of the houses of a legislature. 4 poet. lit. or archaic a private room, typically a bedroom. 5 (chambers) Law a judge's room used for official proceedings not required to be held in open court. 6 an enclosed space or cavity: an echo chamber. 7 a large underground cavern. 8 the part of a gun bore that contains the ammunition.
the clergy and choir, and typically separated from the nave by steps or a screen.

chancelry /'chasələri/ n. (pl. -laries) 1. the position, office, or department of a chancellor. 2. the official residence of a chancellor.

chancellor /'chasələn/ n. 1. a senior state or legal official. 2. the head of the government in some European countries, such as Germany. 3. the presiding judge of a chancery court. 4. the chancellor, or chief administrative officer of a college or university. 5. a bishop's law officer.

Chancellorship /'chasələnʃəship/ n. short for chancellorship of the Exchequer. —chancel-

Italian: 1. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, responsible for preparing the nation's annual budgets.

chancery /'chasərri/ n. (pl. -ceries) 1. a court of equity. 2. synonym for chancellor, or chief administrative officer of a college or university. 3. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a division of the High Court of Justice. 4. in the Roman Catholic Church the office of a diocese. 5. Chiefly Brit. an office attached to an embassy or consulate. 6. a public records office.

chancery law /'chasərri/ n. the law relating to chancery courts.

change /tʃeindʒ/ v. 1. make or become different; [tr. (intrans) a proposal to change the law] [intr. A Virginia crepe just beginning to change from green to gold.

changeable /tʃeindʒəbl/ adj. subject to unpredictable changes and circumstances: the screening process was likely to be changeable and uncontrollable. —change-ability n.

changeable /tʃeindʒəbl/ adj. having the ability to change or adapt, especially in a flexible or versatile way.

changeable /tʃeindʒəbl/ adj. water that is not entirely clear or pure.

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young unmarried girl at social occasions. a person who takes charge of a child or group of children in public.

v. [tr] accompany and look after or supervise. —chap-er-on-age /-ro-nij/, —chap-er-on-ly

chaplain /'chæplən/ n. a member of the clergy attached to a private chapel, institution, ship, branch of the armed forces, etc. —chaplain-cy

chapel /'kæpəl/ n. 1 a garland or wreath for a person's head. 
2 a string of 55 beads (one third of the rosary number) for counting prayers, or as a necklace. —chapel-let-ed adj.

chaps /kæps, -aps/-pl. n. leather pants without a seat, worn by a cowboy over ordinary pants to protect the legs.

to /'kæpt/ n. a main division of a book, typically with a number or title. a fig. a period of time or an episode in a person's life, a nation's history, etc. a tragic chapter in history.

a local branch of a society. the governing body of a religious community, esp. a cathedral or a knighthood order. a series or sequence: the latest episode in a chapter of problems.

chapter and verse an exact reference or authority.

char [char] v. (charred, char-ring) [intr.] (usu. be charred) partially burn (an object) so as to blacken its surface: their bodies were badly charred in the fire. [intr.]: (of an object) become burned and discolored in such a way.

n. material that has been charred.

charlie /'kærli/ Brit. inf. n. a charwoman.

v. (charred, char-ring) [intr.] work as a charwoman.

char [char] pl. (same) a freshwater or marine fish (genus Salvelinus) of the salmon family, occurring in northern countries and widely valued as a food fish. Its several species include the North American brook trout (S. fontinalis) and the red-bellied Arctic char (S. alpinus).

char-a-banc /'ʃærə,bæŋk,-bæŋk/-n. Brit. an early form of bus, used typically for pleasure trips.

character /'kærəktər/ n. 1 the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual: running away was not in keeping with her character. the distinctive nature of something: gas lamps give the area its character. the quality or being of individual, typically in an interesting or unusual way: the island is full of character. strength and originality in a person's nature: she had character as well as beauty. a person's good reputation. dated a written statement of someone's good qualities: a recommendation. 2 a person in a novel, play, or movie. a part played by an actor. a person seen in terms of a particular aspect of character: shady characters. int. an interesting or amusing individual.

3 a printed or written letter or symbol. Compute a symbol representing a letter or number. Compute, the bit pattern used to store such a symbol.

4 chiefly Biol. a characteristic, esp. one that assists in the identification of a species.

v. [v. archaic] inscribe; engrave. describe; characterize. Middle English from Old French caractère, from Late Latin characteris: a stamping tool. From the early sense 'distinctive mark' arose 'token, feature, or trait' (early 16th cent.), and from this a 'description, esp. of a person's qualities,' giving rise to 'distinguishing qualities.'

—character-ful /-fəl/ adj. —character-fully adv. —character-less adj.

in (or out of) character in (or out of) keeping (or not in keeping) with someone's usual pattern of behavior.

character-istic /-istik/ adj. typical of a particular person, place, or thing: large farms are characteristic of this area.

n. 1 a feature or quality belonging typically to a person, place, or thing and serving to identify it: inherited characteristics such as blood groups. 2 Math. the whole number or integral part of a logarithm, which gives the order of magnitude of the original number.

characteristically adv.

character-ize /-riz/ v. [tr.] 1 describe the distinctive nature or features of. 2 (often be characterized) (of a feature or quality) be typical or characteristic of: the disease is characterized by weakening of the immune system.

character-iza-tion /-ˌrɪzaˈʃən/ n. an absurd pretense intended to create a pleasant or respectable appearance: talk of unity was nothing more than a charade.

charades /'kærədəz/-pl. n. a game in which players guess a word or phrase from pantomimed clues.

charcoal /'kærəul/ n. a porous black solid, consisting of an amorphous form of carbon, obtained as a residue when wood, bone, or other organic matter is heated in the absence of air. briquettes of charcoal used for barbecuing: lamb grilled on charcoal. a crayon made of charcoal and used for drawing. a drawing made using charcoal. a dark gray color: his charcoal sweater [as adj.] charcoal gray.

charcoal-er /-ər/-n. a person who takes charge of a child or group of children in public.

charcoal-ed /-əd/ adj.ook over charcoal: charcoal loaf.

charcoal-er /-ər/-n. a person who takes charge of a child or group of children in public.

charcoal-er /-ər/-n. a person who takes charge of a child or group of children in public.

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can inspire devotion in others. 2 (pl. -matas, -matas) also charism /karizəm/ a divinely conferred power or talent.

charismatic /karizmatik/ adj. exercising a compelling charm that inspires devotion in others. 2 of or relating to the charismatic movement in the Christian Church. 3 of a (power or talent) divinely conferred.

> n. an adherent of the charismatic movement. 2 a person who claims divine inspiration. -charismatic-ally adv.

charismatic movement n. a movement within some Christian churches that emphasizes gifts believed to be conferred by the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and healing of the sick.

charitable /'charətəbl/ adj. 1 of or relating to the assistance of those in need. 2 of an organization or activity, officially recognized as devoted to the assistance of those in need; generous in giving to those in need. 2 apt to judge others leniently or favorably. -charitably adv.

charity /'karizəti/ n. (pl. -ties) 1 the voluntary giving of help, typically in the form of money, to those in need. 2 help or money given in this way: an unemployed teacher living on charity. 2 an organization set up to provide help and raise money for those in need. 3 such organizations viewed collectively as the object of fund-raising or donations; the proceeds of the sale go to charity. 4 kindness and tolerance in judging others. 5 a sense of love of humankind, typically in a Christian context: faith, hope, and charity.

charlatan /'karətən; 'karətən/ n. a person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill; a fraud. -charlatanism /'karətənizəm; 'karətənizəm/ n. -charlatan-ry /'karətənəri; 'karətənəri/ n.

Charleston (also charleston) n. a lively dance of the 1920s that involved turning the knees inward and kicking out the lower legs.

charley horse /'charli haʊs/ n. int. a cramp or feeling of stiffness in an arm or leg.

charming /'karəm/ adj. 1 the power or quality of giving delightful or arousing admiration: he was captivated by her youthful charm. 2 (usu. charms) an attractive or alluring characteristic: the charms of the city. 2 a small ornament worn on chains or bracelets. 3 an object, act, or saying believed to have magic power. 4 an object kept or worn to ward off evil and bring good luck. 4 Physics one of six flavors of quark. 5 v. [tr.] delight greatly: the books have charmed children the world over. 2 gain or influence by charm: be charmed her into going out. 2 control or achieve by or as if by magic: pretending to charm a cobra she will charm your wares away. 3 Middle English in the sense 'incantation or magic spell' and 'to use spells': from Old French charme (noun), charmer (verb), from Latin carmen 'song, verse, incantation.' -charmer n. -charmed adj.

 combustion /'kɔmbəuzhən/ n. 1 the act of pursuing someone or something: they captured the youths after a brief chase. 2 (the chase) hunting as a sport: she was an avid follower of the chase. 2 Brit. an area of unenclosed land formerly reserved for hunting. 3 (chase) a hunted animal.

> v. [int.] dance the Charleston.

charly horse /'charli haʊs/ n. int. a cramp or feeling of stiffness in an arm or leg.

charter /'kɔtər/ n. 1 a written grant by a country's legislative or sovereign power, by which an institution such as a company, college, or city is created and its rights and privileges defined. 2 a written constitution or description of any organization's functions. 3 the reservation of an aircraft, boat, or bus for private use: a plane charter to a multinational company. 4 an aircraft, boat, or bus that is reserved for private use. 5 a trip made by an aircraft, boat, or bus under charter.

> v. [tr.] 1 grant a charter to (a city, college, or other institution). 2 reserve an aircraft, boat, or bus for private use.

charter member n. an original or founding member of an organization.

charterism /'kɔtəriizəm/ n. a UK parliamentary reform movement of 1837–48, the principles of which were set out in a manifesto called The People's Charter. -charterist n. & adj.

charterlet /'kɔtərlit/ n. a small chart, as for navigation, highlighting a particular feature.

char-teuse /'kɔtəroʊz; 'tros/ n. a pale green or yellow liqueur made from brandy and aromatic herbs. 3 a pale yellow or green color resembling this liqueur.

char-woman /'kɔrəwəmən/ n. (pl. -women) Brit. dated a woman employed to clean houses or offices.

char-y /'ka(r)i/ adj. (char-ier, char-iest) cautious, wary: most people are chary of allowing themselves to be photographed. 2 cautious about the amount one gives or reveals. -charily adv.

chase /ˈkæʃ/ v. [tr.] 1 pursue in order to catch or catch up with: police chased the stolen car | the dog chased after the stick. 2 seek to attain: seventy candidates chasing a single job. 3 seek the company of a member of the opposite sex in an obvious way: [tr.] drive or cause to go in a specified direction: she chased him out of the house. 2 try to make contact with (someone) in order to get something owed or required: chasing customers who had not paid their bills. 4 make further investigation of (an unresolved matter): investigators got a warrant to chase down the case.

> n. an act of pursuing someone or something: they captured the youths after a brief chase. 2 (the chase) hunting as a sport: she was an avid follower of the chase. 2 Brit. an area of unenclosed land formerly reserved for hunting. 3 (chase) a hunted animal.

> v. [int.] give chase go in pursuit.

chart /ˈkært/ v. [tr.] usu. as adj. (charted) engraved (metal, or a design on metal): a miniature container with a delicately chased floral design.

chart /ˈkært/ n. (in letterpress printing) a metal frame for holding the composed type and blocks being printed at one time.

chart /ˈkært/ n. 1 the part of a gun enclosing the bore. 2 a groove or furrow cut in the face of a wall or other surface to receive a pipe.

chart /ˈkært/ n. (pl. charts) 1 the base frame of a motor vehicle or other wheeled conveyance. 2 the outer structural framework of a piece of audio, radio, or computer equipment.

chart /ˈkært/ n. abstraining from extramarital, or from all sexual intercourse. 2 not having any sexual nature or intention: a chaste, con- sequing embrace. 3 without unnecessary ornamentation, simple or restrained: the dark, chaste interior. -chastely adv. -chasteness n.

chasten /ˈkæsten/ v. [tr.] (of a reproof or misfortune) have a restraining or moderating effect on: the director was somewhat chastened by his recent flings. -chasten-er n.

chasteness /ˈkæstənəs/ n. - chasten-er n. 1 the part of a gun enclosing the bore. 2 a groove or furrow cut in the face of a wall or other surface to receive a pipe.

chaste /ˈkætst/ adj. abstraining from extramarital, or from all sexual intercourse. 2 not having any sexual nature or intention: a chaste, con- sequing embrace. 3 without unnecessary ornamentation, simple or restrained: the dark, chaste interior. -chastely adv. -chasteness n.

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including a New World warbler, (genera lekera and Granatellus),
which typically has a yellow or pink breast.

chateau [sho-tay] (also chateau) n. (pl. -teaux, -toi) a large French
country house or castle often giving its name to wine made in its
neighborhood; [lit. 'castle, Chateau Margaux'.

chateau-ti-ri-and [sho-tay-tye-ruh-n/ a thick tenderloin of beef,
typically served with Béarnaise sauce.

chat-e-laine [sho-tel, an] n. dated a woman in charge of a large house.

chat-tel [sho-tel] n. (in general use) a personal possession. Law an item
of property other than real estate.

chat-ter [chat-tar] v. [chat] talk rapidly or incessantly about trivial
matters. of a bird, monkey, or machine) a series of quick,
high-pitched sounds: the chatter of a typewriter. undesirable vibration in
a mechanism: the windshield wipers should operate without chatter.

chat-ter-er n. -chat-ter-y adj.

chat-ter-box [sho-tar,boks] n. int. a person who talks at length about
trivial matters.

chat-ty [sho-tie] adj. (chat-ti-er, chat-ti-est) of (a person) fond of
talking in an easy, informal way. of a conversation, letter, etc.) informal
and lively.


chaufeur [sho-fayr, -fa-chor] n. a person employed to drive a private
or rented automobile.

v. [fr] drive (a car or a person in a car), typically as part of one's job.

chauvin-ism [sho-veen-izm] n. exaggerated or aggressive patriotism.

excessive or prejudiced loyalty or support for one's own cause,
group, or gender; a bastion of male chauvinism. late 19th cent.: named
for Nicolas Chauvin, a Napoleon veteran noted for his extreme patri-

ticism, popularized as a character by the Cogniard brothers in
Carde Tricolore (1831).

chaus-son [sho-son] n. a person displaying aggressive or exagger-
ated patriotism. a person displaying excessive or prejudiced loyalty
or support for a particular cause, group, or gender: what a male chau-
vinist that man is!

v. adj. showing or relating to such excessive or prejudiced support or
loyalty: a chauvinist slur. -chaus-son-ty [shoh-son-ty] adj. -chaus-son-

check [chek] adv. (of an item for sale) low in price; worth more than
its cost. Charging low prices: a cheap restaurant. of prices or other
charges) low: my rent was really cheap. inexpensive because of iner-

terior or quality: cheap, shoddy goods. int. miserably; stingy. of little worth
because achieved in a discriminative way requiring little effort: her moment
of triumph: deserving of contempt: a cheap trick.

adj. at or for; low price: a house that was going cheap. -cheap-ly adv.

-cleanness n.

v. [fr] 1. to make dirty; to have dirt or grime on something.

chat-ter [chat-tar] v. [chat] act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain
an advantage, esp. in a game or examination: she always cheat at cards.

v. [tr] deceive or trick: he had cheated her out of everything she had. use
inferior materials or methods unobtrusively in order to save time or
money: they cheat by photographing mashed potatoes instead of ice cream.

int. be sexually unfaithful: his wife was cheating on him. 2. [tr] avoid
(simultaneous undesirable) by luck or skill: she cheated death in a spec-

tacular crash.

archaic help (time) pass.

n. person who behaves dishonestly in order to gain an advantage: a liar
and a cheat. an act of cheating; a fraud or deception.

check [chek] v. [chek] v. [tr] examine (something) in order to determine
its accuracy, quality, or condition, or to detect the presence of something:
customs officers have the right to check all luggage. | [intr] a simple blood test to
check for anemia. verify or establish one's satisfaction: check the ex-

clusion date on your passport.

n. examine with a view to rectifying any fault or problem discovered: check the oil and fluid levels again.

check against verify the accuracy of something by comparing it with
(something else): keep your receipt to check against your statement.

another way of saying CHECK SOMETHING OFF. another way of saying CHECK SOME-

THING IN.

n. [intr] agree or correspond when compared. 2. stop or slow down
the progress of (something undesirable); efforts were made to check
the disease. curb or restrain (a feeling or emotion): he learned to check his

eagerness.

n. (someone) master an involuntary reaction: Chris took one step backward then checked himself.

Hockey hamper or neutralize (an opponent) with one's body or stick. [intr] (check against) provide a

means of preventing: processes to check against deterioration in the quality of the data held.

n. [intr] 1. check move a piece or pawn so that (the opposing

king) is under attack. [intr] (in poker) choose not to make a bet when
called upon, allowing the action to move to another player.

phrasal v. check in (or check someone in) arrive and register at
a hotel or airport. check something in have one's baggage weighed
and put aside for consignment to the hold of an aircraft on which one is
booked to travel. register and leave baggage in a left-luggage

department. check into register one's arrival at (a hotel).

check something off mark an item on a list with a check mark to show
that it has been dealt with. check on 1 verify, ascertain, or monitor
the state or condition of. 2. another way of saying CHECK UP ON.

check out settle one's hotel bill before leaving. int. die. check some-

one/something out 1 establish the truth or inform oneself about
someone or something: they decided to check out a local restaurant.

check something over inspect or examine something closely in
order to determine the truth about or of. 1. an examination to test or ascertain accuracy, quality, or
satisfactory condition. 2. a stopping or slowing of progress: there was no check to the expansion of the market.

means of control or restraint: a permanent check upon the growth of central authority. Hockey an act of hamper-

ing or neutralizing an opponent with one's body or stick. a temporary loss of the scent in hunting: a part of a piano that

catches the hammer arms and prevents it from retouching the strings. 3. a piece of which a pawn directly attacks
the opponent's king. if the defending player cannot counter the attack, the king is checkmated.

the bill in a restaurant. [also baggage/luggage check] a token of

identification for left luggage. a counter used as a stake in a gamin-
gle game. 5. short for CHECK MARK. 6. a crack or flaw in timber.

int. express assent or agreement. used by a chess player to
announce that the opponent's king has been placed in check.

checkable adj.

n. in check under control: a way of keeping inflation in check. 2. Chess

of (a king) directly attacked by an opponent's piece or pawn; (of a play-
er) having the king in this position.

check [check] n. a written order to a bank to pay a stated sum from
the drawer's account: awarded a check for $1,000. the printed form

on which such an order is written.

check [check] n. a pattern of small squares: a fine black-and-white check. a gar-
mament or fabric with such a pattern.

adj. having such a pattern: a black check T-shirt.

recording checks written.

checked [checkd] adj. 1. of clothes or fabric) having a pattern of small

squares: a checked shirt. 2. phone (of a vowel) followed by one or more
consonants in the same syllable.

checkered [check-er] adj. 1. a pattern of squares, typically

alternately colored: [as adj] a checkered design. 2. [checkers]

[treated as sing] a game for two players, with twelve pieces each,
played on a checkerboard. of (a checker) a round flat piece, usually
red or black, used to play checkers.

check-er-board [check-er,bord] n. a board for playing checkers and cer-

tain other games, with a regular pattern of squares in alternating
colors, typically black and white. a pattern resembling such a board.

checkered [checkered] adj. having a pattern of alternating squares
of different colors. [fig] marked by periods of varied fortune or discre-

table incidents: his checkered past might hurt his electability.

check accounting (Can. cheq-uing account) n. an account at a bank
against which checks can be drawn by the account depositor.

check-list [checklist] n. a list of items required, things to be done, or
points to be considered, used as a reminder.
chénéille (ʃəˈnɛl] n. a tufted velvety cord or yarn, used for trimming furniture and making carpets and clothing. • fabric made from such yarn.

cheong-sam ʃʰəŋˌsæm] n. a close-fitting dress with a high neck and a slit skirt, worn traditionally by Chinese women.


chequer ['kjuːkər] n. (pl. chequers) 1. the act or skill of playing chess. 2. a chessboard. 3. a checkered or tartan-like pattern or cloth. 4. a device for indicating that a financial transaction is completed. • used as a suffix in compounds: chequered, chequerboard.

cherish ['kɛərɪʃ] v. [tr] protect and care for (someone) lovingly; he cared for me beyond measure and cherished me in his heart. • hold (something) dear: I cherish the letters she wrote. • (of a hope, idea, or memory) think of longingly or lovingly: we will cherish your memory.

Chero-kee ʃə'roʊki] n. (pl. same or -kees) 1. a member of an American Indian people of the southeastern U.S., now living on reservations in Oklahoma and North Carolina. 2. the Iroquois language of this people, which has had its own script since 1820. • adj. of relating to this people or their language.

cherub ['kɛərəb] n. (pl. cherubs) 1. a winged angel being described in biblical tradition as attending God. 2. (pl. cheruby(s) or cherubs) a representation of a cherub in art. • pl. cherubs a beautiful or innocent-looking child. —cherubic adj. [chəˈrəbɪk] adj.

chervil ['kɛrvɪl] n. a plant ( Anthriscus cerefolium) of the parsley family, with small white flowers and delicate fernlike leaves that are used as a culinary herb.

Cheshire ['kɛəʃər] also Cheshire cheese n. a kind of firm crumbly cheese, originally made in Cheshire, England.

chess ['kɛs] n. a board game for two players, played on a checkered board. Each player begins with sixteen pieces that are moved according to precise rules. The object is to put the opponent's king under a direct attack from which escape is impossible.

chess-board ['kɛs,bɔːrd] n. a square board divided into sixty-four alternating dark and light squares, used for playing chess or checkers.

chess-man ['kɛs,men; -men] n. (pl. -men) a solid figure used as a chess piece.

chest ['kɛst] n. 1. the front surface of a person's or animal's body between the neck and the abdomen. • the whole of a person's upper trunk, esp. with a reference to physical size: a 42-inch chest. • a 2nd meaning is the female breast. 2. a large strong box, typically made of wood and used for storage or shipping: an oak chest. • a small cabinet for medicines, toiletries, etc.: the medicine chest. • (also chest of drawers) a piece of furniture consisting of a set of drawers in a frame, typically used for storing clothes. —chested adj. [in combination] a bare-chested youth.

• get something off one's chest n. say something that one has wanted to say for a long time, resulting in a feeling of relief. • play or keep one's cards close to one's chest n. to be secretive and cautious about one's intentions.

chest-terfield ['kɛstər,fɛld] n. 1. a sofa with padded arms and back of the same height and curved outward at the top. • chiefly Can. any sofa or couch. 2. a man's plain straight overcoat, typically with a velvet collar.

chestnut ['kɛstnə] n. 1. a glossy brown nut that may be roasted and eaten. • cultivation of chestnuts (Castanea sativa) of the beech family that produces the edible chestnut, which develops within a bristly case, with serrated leaves and hard shell. • short for HORSE CHESTNUT. • used in names of trees and plants that produce similar nuts, e.g., water chestnut. • a deep reddish-brown color. • a beast of a particularly chosen for its chestnut coat or tail. • 4. a small horn patch on the inside of each of a horse's legs. • coloqq. a stale joke or anecdotale.

chesty ['kɛstɪ] adj. int. 1. (of a sound) produced deep in the chest. 2. (of a woman) having large or prominent breasts. • concaved and arrogrant. —chest-ly ['kɛstɪl] adv. —chest-ness n.

cheval glass ʃəˈvɔl] also cheval mirror n. a tall mirror fitted at its middle to an upright frame so that it can be tilted.

chev-aller /,ʃəˈvɛlər/ n. hist. a knight. • a chivalrous man. • a member of certain orders of knighthood or of modern French orders such as the Legion of Honor. • (Chevalier Brit.) Brit., hist. the title of James and Charles Stuart, pretenders to the British throne.

che-vre /ʃəˈvru/ n. cheese made with goat's milk.

chev-ron /ʃəˈvruːn/ n. a line or stripe in the shape of a V or an inverted V, esp. on one of the sleeves of a uniform indicating rank or length of service. • Archit. a molding of continuous V-shaped pattern, commonly in Norman Romanesque architecture. • late Middle English (in heraldic use): from Old French, based on Latin capronis (diminutive of caper) used to mean 'pair of rafters."

chev-ro-tain /'ʃɛvˌroʊˌtɛn/ n. a small deerlike mammal (genus Moschus) and Hyemoschus, family Tragulidae) with short tusks, typically nocturnal and found in the tropical rain forests of Africa and South Asia.

chew /ˈtʃuː/ v. [tr] bite and work (food) in the mouth with the teeth, esp. to make it easier to swallow: he was chewing a mouthful of toast [instr.]: he chewed it to a finger tip. • chew someone out n. reprimand someone severely. • chew something over v. discuss or consider something at length. • chew a reputed bitting or gnawing of something. • something other than food that is meant for chewing: a dog chew, a chew of tobacco. —chew-able adj. —chew-er n. jussu, in combination: a tobacco-chewer.

• chew the fat n. chew (at) something persistently, typically as a result of worry or anxiety: he chewed his lip reflectively [instr.]: she chewed at a finger nail.

• phraseal v. chew someone out n. reprimand someone severely.

chewy /ˈtʃuːi/ adj. chewy, or chewing adj. soft: food needing to be chewed hard or for some time. • suitable for chewing: pasta should be chewy, never soft. —chewy-ness n.

Chey-enne /ˈtʃiən/ n. (pl. same or -ennes) 1. a member of an American Indian people formerly living between the Missouri and Arkansas rivers but now on reservations in Montana and Oklahoma. 2. the Algonquian language of this people. • adj. of or relating to the Cheyenne or their language.

chi /khi/ n. the twenty-second letter of the Greek alphabet (Χ, χ), transliterated in the traditional Latin style as ‘ch’ (as in Christ) or in the modern style as ‘kh’ (as in Khanyit).

chi-an-li /ˈtʃiənˌl̩i/ also chi-an-ti /ˈtʃiənˌtiː/ n. (pl. -ti) a dry red wine, originally produced in Tuscany, Italy.

chi-ar-oscuro /ˈkʃiəˌrɒskəroʊ/ n. the treatment of light and shadow in drawing or painting: the effects of contrasting light and shadow created by light falling unevenly or from a particular direction on something: the chiaroscuro of cobble streets.

chic /ʃɪk/ adj. (chic, chic-est) elegantly and stylishly fashionable. • n. style and elegance, typically of a specified kind: French chic, biker chic. —chic-ly adv.

chicane /ʃɪkən/ n. a device to make a course (in a stadium) more difficult, e.g., a chicane for passing or overtaking cars, with high, black-topped railings.

chicken /ˈtʃɪkən/ n. 1. a small bird, esp. one newly hatched. • a newly hatched domestic bird for petting. • a small, soft, unattractive person. —chicken-dragging v. /ˈtʃɪkənˌdræɡɪŋ/ n. a North American idiom, in particular the black-capped chickadee (Parus atricapillus), with distinctive black cap and throat.

Chickasaw /ˈtʃɪkəsɔ/ n. (pl. same or -saws) 1. a member of an American Indian people formerly resident in Mississippi and Alabama, and now in Oklahoma. 2. the Muskogean language of this people. • adj. of or relating to this people or their language.
chicken /'kichen/ n. 1 a domestic fowl kept for its eggs or meat, esp. a young one. 2 meat from such a bird: roast chicken. 2 intr. a game in which the first to lose nerve and withdraw from a dangerous situation is the loser. 3 coward. 3 adj. (among homosexuals) an adolescent male.

chicken feed n. food for poultry. fig. int. an insignificant amount of money: the pay was chicken feed for the work I put in.

chicken-hearted (also chicken-livered) adj. easily frightened: cowardly.

chicken pox (also chicken-pox) n. an infectious disease causing a mild fever and a rash of itchy inflamed blisters. It is caused by the varicella-zoster virus and mainly affects children.

chicken wire n. light wire netting with a hexagonal mesh.

chicken pea /'chik,pē/ n. a round yellowish seed, used widely as food. 2 the leguminous Old World plant (Cicer arietinum) that bears these seeds.

chicory /'chik-ərē/ n. 1 a blue-flowered Mediterranean plant (Cichorium intybus) of the daisy family, cultivated for its edible salad leaves and carrot-shaped root. 2 the root of this plant, which is roasted and ground for use as an additive or substitute for coffee. 2 another term for ENDIVE.

chide /chid/ v. [past chided or archaic chid] v. past part. chided or archaic chide-dn /'chid-dn/ intr. scold or reprove: she chided him for not replying to her letters. —chider n. —chiding-ly adv.

chief /chif/ n. 1 a leader or ruler of a people or clan: the chief of the village. 2 the person with the highest rank in an organization: the chief of police. 3 an informal form of address, esp. to someone of high rank or status: it's quite simple, chief.

chiefdom /'chief-dom/ n. —chiefship /'ship/ n.

chief-justice /'chif-ju-stis/ n. (the title of) the presiding judge in a supreme court.

Chief Justice of the United States /'chif ju-stis av the United States/ (the formal title) of the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

chiefly /'chief-li/ adv. above all; mainly: remembered chiefly for his sonatas.

Chief of staff /'staf/ n. the senior staff officer of a service or command.

Chief of staff /'staf/ n. the leader of a people or clan. inf. a powerful member of an organization. —chief-tain /'stain/ n. —chief-tain-ship /'ship/ n.

chiffon /'shif-an/ n. a light, sheer fabric typically made of silk or nylon: [as adj.] a chiffon blouse. [as adj.] of a cake or dessert made with beaten egg whites to give a light consistency: chiffon cake.

chimney /'shaunti-ni/ n. a tall stack of drawers, often with a mirror on top.

chigger /'chig-ar/ n. also jigger 1 a tiny mite (genus Trombicula, family Trombiculidae) whose parasitic larvae live on or under the skin of warm-blooded animals, where they cause irritation and dermatitis.

chignon /'shen-yon/ n. a knot or coil of hair arranged on the back of a woman's head.

chi-hua-hua /'chē-wāwā/ n. —wag n. a small dog of a smooth-haired, large-eyed breed originating in Mexico.

chill /chil/ n. 1 a moderate but unpleasant coldness: there was a chill in the air. 2 (often chills) a lowered body temperature, often accompanied by shivering. 3 a feverish cold. 4 fig. a coldness of manner: the sudden chill in China's relations with the West. 5 fig. a depressing influence: his statements have cast a chill over this whole country. 6 a sudden and powerful unpleasant feeling, esp. of fear: his words sent a chill of apprehension down my spine.

—v. [intr.] 1 (often be chilled) make someone cold: I'm chilled to the bone. 2 cool (food or drink) in a refrigerator. 3 (often be chilled) bornify or frighten (someone): the city was chilled by the violence. 4 (also chill out) intr. calm down and relax. 5 pass time without a particular aim or purpose, esp. with other people: we had a week at home and we chilled out.

—adj. chilly: the chill gray dawn. fig. the chill winds of public censure. —chill-ly /'chil-li/ adv. —chill-ness /'nés/ n.

—take the chill off warmly.

chilly /'chil-i/ adj. (chill-i-er, chill-i-est) uncomfortably cool or cold: a chilly day. 2 (of a person) feeling cold: I felt a bit chilly. 3 unfriendly: a chilly reception. —chill-i-ness /'nés/ n.

chime /'kaim/ n. 1 (often chimes) a bell or a metal bar or tube, typically one of a set tuned to produce a melodious series of ringing sounds when struck. 2 a sound made by such an instrument: I heard the chimes of the hour from the courthouse. 3 a set of tuned metal rods used as an orchestral instrument. 4 a set of tuned bells used as a doorbell.

—v. [intr.] 1 (of a bell or clock) make melodious ringing sounds, typically to indicate the time. 2 (of a clock) make such sounds in order to indicate (the time): the clock chimed eight. 3 be in agreement: harmony: his poem chimes with our modern experience of loss.

choral /'korf-al/ adj. in 1 interject a remark. 2 join in harmoniously. —chor-al-ly /'al-i/ adv. —chor-al-ness /'nés/ n.

chimney /'chaunti-ni/ n. 1 the projecting rim at the end of a cask. 2 (also chim) n. a vertical channel or pipe that conducts smoke and combustion gases up from a fire or furnace and Pronunciation Key a ago, up, or over, fur; a hut; a eat; a ear; cha chim; e let; e sec; e(or) air; i fit; i by; i(or) ear; ng sing; o go; o law; for; o oy; o good; o six go; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; (h) why; zh vision
chimney sweep

n. a person whose job is to clear the soot out of the chimney.

chimney

n. informally the term for CHIMNEY-PHAZEE.

chim-pa-nzé• /,klim,pa'NZ/ • n. a great ape (genus Pan) with large ears, mainly black coloration, and lighter skin on the face, native to the forests of western and central Africa.

chin /χɪn/ • n. the protruding part of the face below the mouth, formed by the apex of the lower jaw.

v. [tr.] 1. to draw one's body up so as to bring one's chin level with or above (a horizontal bar) with one's feet off the ground, as an exercise.


- keep one's chin up int. remain cheerful in difficult circumstances: keep your chin up, we're not lost yet. • take it on the chin endure or accept misfortune courageously or stoically.

china • /'χɪnə/ • n. 1. a fine white or translucent vitrified ceramic material: a plate made of china [as adj.]. 2. a china cup.

chink /χɪnk/ • n. household tableware or other objects made from this or a similar material: the breakfast china.

china clay • /'χɪnə,kl/ • n. another term for KAOLIN.

China-town • /'χɪnə,touN/ • n. a district of any non-Chinese town, esp. a city or seaport, in which the population is predominantly of Chinese origin.

chinch • /χɪŋ/ • n. 1. a plant-eating ground squirrel (genus Callospermophilus) that forms large swarms on grasses and rushes.

chinchilla • /'χɪŋ,ʃɪlə/ • n. 1. a small South American rodent (genus Chinchilla, family Chinchillidae) with soft grey fur and a long bushy tail. 2. a cat or rabbit of a breed with silver-grey or grey fur. 3. the highly valued fur of the chinchilla, or of the chinchilla rabbit.

chink • /χɪnk/ • n. 1. a backbone, esp. that of an animal as it appears in a cut of meat. 2. a cut of meat containing all or part of this.

v. [intr.] Brit. a deep, narrow ravine formed by running water.

Chinese • /'χɪnɨz/ • adj. of or relating to China or its language, culture, or people. • belonged to or relating to the people forming the dominant ethnic group of China and widely dispersed elsewhere.

Also called Han.

-chinese adj. [of] (a) Chinese language. 2. a native or national of China. 3. a person of Chinese descent.

chinese cabbage • /'χɪnɨz,kæbɪdʒ/ • n. an oriental cabbage (genus Brassica) that does not form a firm heart.

chink! • /χɪnk/ • n. Brit. a narrow opening or crack, typically one that admits light: a chink in the curtains. • a narrow beam or patch of light admitted by such an opening: I noticed a chink of light under the door.

chink! • v. [intr.] a chink in someone's armor a weak point in someone's character, arguments, or ideas, making them vulnerable to attack or criticism.

chirp • v. [intr.] (typically of a small bird or an insect) utter a short, sharp, high-pitched sound. (of a person) say something in a lively and cheerful way: "Good morning!" chirped Alex.

chirrup /χɪrəp/ • v. [intr.] (esp. of a small mammal) a short, sharp, high-pitched sound. • chirper n.

chirpy /χɪrəp/ • adj. (chirper, chirpiest) int. cheerful and lively. • chirpy-ly /χɪrəpɪl/ adv. • chirpy-ness n.

chirr /χɪr/ • v. [intr.] (esp. of an insect) make a long, low trilling sound.

chirrup! /χɪrəp/ • v. [intr.] (esp. of a small mammal) a short, sharp, high-pitched sound.
circulation

arkeology (abbr.: cir. or circ.) n. 1 movement to and fro or around something, esp. that of fluid in a closed system: an extra pump for good water circulation. 2 the continuous motion by which the blood travels through all parts of the body under the action of the heart. 2 the public availability or knowledge of something: his music has achieved wide circulation. 3 the movement, exchange, or availability of money in a country: the new coins go into circulation today. 4 the number of copies sold of a newspaper or magazine: the magazine had a large circulation.

in (or out of) circulation available (or unavailable) to the public; in (or not in) general use there is a huge volume of video material in circulation. used of a person who is seen (or not seen) in public: Anne had made a good recovery and was back in circulation.

circu-lar-to-ty /'sarkvəla.tɔrəl/ adj. of or relating to the circulation of blood or sap.

circum. a. abbr. circumference.

circum-cise /sərkəm'siz/ v. tr. cut off the foreskin of a young boy or man, esp. a baby, as a religious rite, esp. in Judaism and Islam, or as a medical treatment. cut off the clitoris, and sometimes the labia, of a girl or young woman as a traditional practice among some peoples. 1 use of a part of the body, especially the phallic region, in a manner or with a purpose other than its natural function: the practice of circumcision in young boys or men.

circum-fer-ence /sərkəm'fərəns/ n. the enclosing boundary of a curved geometric figure, esp. a circle, the distance around something. the edge or region that entirely surrounds something: petals on the circumference are larger than those in the center.

circum-fen-terial /sərkəm'fɛn.tərɪəl/ adj. circumferentially adv.

circum-flex /sərkəm'fleks/ n. (also circumflex accent) a mark (°) placed over a vowel in some languages to indicate contraction, length, or pitch or tone.

adj. Anat. bending around something else; curved: circumflex coronary arteries.

circum-lo-ca-tion /sərkəm'loʊkətʃən/ n. the use of many words where fewer would do, esp. in a deliberate attempt to be vague or evasive: his admission came after years of circumlocution he used a number of poetic circumlocutions.

circum-navi-gate /sərkəm'nəvəɡeɪt/ v. tr. sail all the way around (something, esp. the world). humorous go around or across (something): he helped her to circumnavigate a frozen puddle.

circum-navi-gation /sərkəm'nəvə'geɪʃən/ n. —circum-naviga-tor /sərkəm'nəvərətər/ n.

circum-scribe /sərkəm'skrɪb/ v. tr. (often be circumscribed) 1 restrict (something) within limits: their movements were strictly monitored and circumscribed. 2 Geom. draw (a figure) around another, touching it at points but not cutting it. Compare with INScribe. —circum-scrib-er n. —circum-scrip-tion /sərkəm'skripʃən/ n.

circum-spect /sərkəm'spekt/ adj. wary and unwilling to take risks: the officials were very circumspect in their statements.

circum-spect-ly adv.

circum-stance /sərkəm'stænds/ n. 1 (usu. circumstances) a fact or condition connected with or relevant to an event or action: we wanted to marry but circumstances didn’t permit. an event or fact that causes or helps to cause something to happen, typically something undesirable: he was found dead but there were no suspicious circumstances they were thrown together by circumstance. 2 one’s state of financial or material welfare: living in reduced circumstances.

circum-stanced /sərkəm'stændst/ adj. 1 under no circumstances never, whatever the situation is or might be: C the circumstances of the situation: she had every right to be angry under the circumstances.

circum-stan-tial /sərkəm'stændʃəl/ adj. 1 (of evidence or a legal case) pointing indirectly toward someone’s guilt but not conclusively proving it. 2 (of a description) containing full details: the picture was circumstantial and therefore convincing.

circum-stan-tially adv.

circum-vent /sərkəm'vent/ v. tr. find a way around (an obstacle).

adj. overcome a problem or difficulty, typically in a clever and surreptitious way: terrorists found the airport checks easy to circumvent. 2 archaic deceive with craft or deceit: to circumvent the city council.

cir-cus /'sɜrkuəs/ n. (pl. -cuses) 1 a traveling company of acrobats, trained animals, and clowns that gives performances, typically in a large tent, in a series of different places. 2 (in ancient Rome) a round- ed or oblong arena lined with tiers of seats, used for equestrian and other sports and games. inf. a public scene of frenetic and noisy intrusive activity: a media circus. 2 in the same city: Brit. a rounded open space in a city where several streets converge: Piccadilly Circus.

cir-cho-sis /sɪrˈkɒʊəs/ n. a chronic disease of the liver marked by degeneration of cells, inflammation, and fibrous thickening of tissue. it is typically a result of alcoholism or hepatitis. 3 early 19th cent. modern Latin, from Greek khrínos ‘tawny’ (because this is the color of the liver in many cases). —cir-cho-tic /khrɪˈtɪk/ adj.

cirri-ped /ˈsaɪrɪpɪd/ n. any crustacean of the group that includes the barnacles.

cirrus /sɪrəs/ n. (pl. cirri /ˈsaɪrɪ/ || s-irə) cloud forming wispy filamentous tufted streaks (‘mare’s tails’) at high altitude, usually 16,500–45,000 feet (5–13 km).

cis-al-pine /sɪsəlˈpaɪn/ adj. on the southern side of the Alps.

cis-atlan-tic /ˈsaɪəsətəntɪk/ adj. on the same side of the Atlantic as the speaker.

cis-co /sɪsko/ n. (pl. -oes) a freshwater whitefish (genus Coregonus) of northern countries. Most species are migratory and are important food fishes.

cist /sɪst/ n. a coffin or burial chamber made from stone or a hollowed tree.

cis-tersian /sɪsˈtɜʃən/ n. a monk or nun of an order founded in 1998 as a stricter branch of the Benedictines. The monks are now divided into two observances, the strict observance, whose adherents are known popularly as Trappists, and the common observance, which has certain relaxations.

cit-a-tion /sɪtəˈteɪʃən/ n. a reference to or relating to this order: a Cistercian abbey.

cit-er-n /sɪtərn/ n. a tank for storing water, esp. one supplying taps or as part of a flushing toilet. an underground reservoir for rainwater.

cit. a. abbr. citation. cited. citizen.

cit-a-ble adj.

cit-Hed /sɪt-hɛd/ also city-fied adj. often derog. characteristic of or adjusted to an urban environment: black-hatted, citied cowboys.


cit-izen /sɪtɪzn/ n. a legally recognized subject or national of a state or commonwealth, either native or naturalized: a Polish citizen. an inhabitant of a particular town or city: the citizens of Los Angeles.

citi-zen-ry /sɪtɪˈzənri/ n. —citi-zen-ship /sɪtɪˈzənʃɪp/ n.

citi-zen’s arrest n. an arrest by an ordinary person without a warrant, allowable in certain cases.

citr-acid /sɪtrəkˈɪd/ n. Chem. a sharp-tasting crystalline acid, C6H2O7, present in the juice of lemons and other sour fruits. it is made commercially by the fermentation of sugar and used as a flavoring and setting agent.

citr-on /sɪtrən/ n. a shrub, usually Citrus medica (Citrus delicata) that bears large fruits similar to lemons, but with flesh that is less acid and peels that are thicker and more fragrant. the fruit of this tree.

citronella /sɪtəˈnɛlə/ n. 1 (also citronella oil) a fragrant natural oil used as an insect repellent and in perfume and soap manufacture. 2 the South Asian grass (Cymbopogon nardus) from which this oil is obtained.

citrus /sɪˈtrəs/ n. (pl. -ruses) a tree of the rue family belonging to the genus Citrus, which includes citron, lemon, lime, orange, and grapefruit. (also citrus fruit) a fruit from such a tree.

adj. of or relating to these trees or their fruits. —citrus-y adj.

city /sɪtɪ/ n. (pl. cities) 1 a large town: [as adj] the city center. an incorporated municipal city. 2 inf. a place or situation characterized by a specified attribute: panic city. Middle English: from Old French cite, from Latin civitas, from civis ‘citizen.’ Originally denoting a town, and often used as a Latin equivalent to Old English burh ‘borough,’ the term was later applied to foreign and ancient cities and to the more important English boroughs.


city-yied adj. variant spelling of citified.
clam | klap | n. a brace, band, or clasp used for strengthening or holding things together.

v. [tr. (often be clamped)] fasten (something) in place with a clamp. ■ fasten (two things) firmly together: the two frames are clamped together. ■ hold (something) tightly against or in another thing: Maggic had to clamp a hand upon her mouth to stop herself from laughing.

phasal | v. clamp down suppress or prevent something, typically in an oppressive or harsh manner: police clamped down on a pro-democracy demonstration.

-clamp | p. n. inf. a severe or concerted attempt to suppress something: a clamp-down on crime.

clan | klæn | n. a group of close-knit and interrelated families (esp. associated with families in the Scottish Highlands). ■ often int. a family, esp. a large one: the Kennedy clan gathered for the celebration. ■ a group of people with a strong common interest: New York's gormand clan of artists.

clan-des-tine | klæn-des-tyn | adj. kept secret or done secretly, esp. because illicit.


clasp | klæsp | n. a load, resonant metallic sound or series of sounds.

v. make or cause to make such a sound: [intr.] she turned the faucet on and the clinking clanged | [tr.] the bell still clangs its bell at noon.

clang-or | klæng-or | Brit. clangour | n. a continuous loud banging or ringing sound: the clanger of the steam hammer.

clang-or-ous-ly | klæng-or-ous-lı | adv. —clangor-ous

clasp | klæsp | v. [clap] (clapped, clapping) [tr.] strike the palms of (one’s hands) together repeatedly, typically in order to applaud. Agnes clapped her hands in glee | [intr.] the crowd was clapping and cheering. ■ show approval of (a person or action) in this way. ■ strike the palms of (one’s hands) together once, esp. as a signal. ■ slap (someone) encouragingly on the back or shoulder. ■ place (a hand) briefly against or on one’s mouth or forehead as a gesture of dismay or regret: he swore and clapped a hand to his forehead.

■ (of a bird) flap its wings audibly.

■ an act of striking together the palms of the hands, either once or repeatedly.

■ a friendly slap or pat on the back or shoulder.

■ an explosive sound, esp. of thunder: a clap of thunder echoed through the valley.

clap | n. (usu. the clap) inf. a venereal disease, esp. gonorrhea.

clap-der | klæp-dr | n. the free-swinging metal piece inside a bell that is made to strike the bell to produce the sound.

clap-trap | klæp-trap | (also clap-trap) n. absurd or nonsensical talk or ideas: such sentiments are just pious claptrap.

claque | klæk | n. a group of people hired to applaud (or heckle) a performer or public speaker. ■ a group of sycophantic followers.

claret | klær-ät | n. a red wine from Bordeaux, or wine of a similar character made elsewhere. ■ a deep purplish-red color.

clar-i-fy | klær-i-fı | v. (flied, -flied) [tr.] make (a statement or situation) less confused and more clearly comprehensible.

■ 2 [often as adj.] clarified melt (butter) in order to separate out the impurities. —clar-i-fic-a-tion | klær-i-fik-a-shı-nı |

■ clar-i-fy | klær-i-fı | v. (flied, -flied) [tr.] make (a statement or situation) less confused and more clearly comprehensible.

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■ clar-i-net | klær-i-net | n. a woodwind instrument with a single-reed mouthpiece, a cylindrical tube of dark wood with a flared end, and holes stopped by keys.

■ clar-i-net | klær-i-net | n. a woodwind instrument with a single-reed mouthpiece, a cylindrical tube of dark wood with a flared end, and holes stopped by keys.

■ clar-i-netist | brit. | n. a clarinetist.

clar-o-n | klær-ın | n. chiefly hist. a shrill, narrow-tubed war trumpet. ■ an organ stop with a quality resembling that of such a trumpet.

■ adj. loud and clear: clarion trumpeters.

■ clarion call a strongly expressed demand or request for action.

clar-i-ty | klær-i-tı | n. the quality of being clear, in particular:

■ the quality of coherence and intelligibility: for the sake of clarity, each of these strategies is dealt with separately. ■ the quality of being easy to see or hear: sharpness of image or sound: the clarity of the picture. ■ the quality of being certain or definite: it was clarity of purpose that he needed.

■ the quality of transparency or purity: the crystal clarity of water.

clash | klæsh | v. 1 [tr.] meet and come into violent conflict: protesters demanding self-rule clashed with police. ■ have a forceful disagreement.

■ 2 [intr. (of colors) appear discordant or ugly when placed close to each other. ■ inconveniently occur at the same time: [tr.] strike (symbols) together, producing a loud discordant sound. —clasher n.

clasp | klæsp | v. [tr.] grasp (something) tightly with one’s hand.

■ place (one’s arms) around something so as to hold it tightly: Kate’s arms were clasped around her knees. ■ hold (someone) tightly: he clasped fannie in his arms.

■ clasps one’s hands press one’s hands together with the fingers interlaced. ■ lay on his back with his hands clasped behind his head. ■ archaic fasten (something) with a small device, typically a metal one.

■ n. a device with interlocking parts used for fastening things together: a handbag with a golden clasp. ■ a silver bar on a medal ribbon, inscribed with the name of the battle at which the wearer was present.

■ 2. an embrace. ■ a grasp or handshake.

class | klæs | n. 1 a set or category of things having some property or attribute in common and differentiated from others by kind, type, or quality: the accommodations were good for a hotel of this class.

■ 2 Bio. a principal taxonomic grouping that ranks above order and below phylum or division, such as Mammalia or Insecta. ■ 3 the system of ordering a society in which people are divided into sets based on perceived social or economic status: people who are socially disenfranchised by class.

■ a set in a society ordered in such a way: the two classes (the classes) archaic the rich or educated. ■ intuit. impressive stylishness in appearance or manner: she’s got class—she looks like a princess.

■ a group of students who are taught together. ■ an occasion when students meet with their teacher for instruction; a lesson: I was late for a class.

■ a course of instruction: I took classes in Italian music. ■ all those graduating from a school or college in a particular year: the class of 1907.

■ [tr.] (often be classed) assign or regard as belonging to a particular category: conduct that is classed as criminal. ■ adj. showing stylish excellence: he’s a class player.

■ adj. class act a person or thing displaying impressive and stylish excellence. ■ inf. in a class of (or on) its (or one’s) own unprecedented. esp. in excellence or performance: the delicacy of English roses puts them in a class of their own.

class-con-sci-ous | klæs-kon-sıssııs | adj. awareness of one’s place in a system of social classes, esp. (in Marxist terms) as it relates to the class struggle.

class-con-scious | klæs-kon-sıssııs | adj. —class-con-scious

class-sic | klæs-ıkıs | adj. judged over a period of time to be of the highest quality and outstanding of its kind: a classic car. ■ of a garment or design of a simple elegant style not greatly subject to changes in fashion. ■ remarkably and instructively typical: I had the classic symptoms.

■ 2 a work of art of recognized and established value: his books have become classics. ■ a garment of a simple, elegant, and long-lasting style.

■ a thing that is memorable and a very good example of its kind: he’s hoping that tomorrow’s game will be a classic.

■ 2 (usu. Classics) a school subject that involves the study of ancient Greek and Latin literature, philosophy, and history. ■ (usu. the classics) the works of ancient Greek and Latin writers and philosophers. ■ dated a scholar of ancient Greek and Latin.

■ 3 a major sports tournament or competition. as in golf or tennis.

class-si-cal | klæs-ıkıs-ıkıs | adj. 1 of or relating to ancient Greek or Latin literature, art, or culture: classical mythology. ■ of art or architecture that is influenced by ancient Greek or Roman forms or principles. ■ of (a language) having the form used by the ancient standard authors. ■ based on the study of ancient Greek and Latin: a classical education.

■ typically of a form of art) regarded as representing an exemplary standard: traditional and long-established in form or style: a classical ballet. ■ of relating to or founded upon concepts and theories that preceded the theories of relativism and quantum mechanics: Newtonian: classical physics. —class-si-cal-ly | klæs-ıkıs-lı | adv. —class-si-cal | klæs-sı-cal

class-si-cism | klæs-sı-sım | n. the following of ancient Greek or Roman
principles and style in art and literature, esp. from the Renaissance to the 18th century. Often contrasted with ROMANTICISM. • the following content refers to classicals in music:

**class-classicize** /'klæs,siz/ v. intr., usu. as adj. [classicism] • to imitate a classical style: the classicizing strains in Guerra's art.

**class-sifted** /'klæs,fi:t/ adj. arranged in classes or categories. • (of newspapers or magazine advertisements or the pages on which these appear) organized in categories according to what is being advertised. • (of information or documentation) designated as officially secret and to which only authorized people may have access.

**class-suffix** /'klæs,fiʃ/ n. • a suffix forming nouns such as article, particle, which were originally diminutives.

**clean** /klein/ adj. • free from dirt, marks, or stains. • (of clothes) washed since last worn or used: a clean blouse. • (of paper) not yet marked by writing or drawing. • (of a person) attentive to personal hygiene. • free from pollutants or other impurities. • free from producing relatively little radioactive contamination. • morally uncontaminated; pure: innocent. • not sexually offensive or obscene. • showing or having no record of offenses or crimes: a clean driving license is essential for the job. • played or done according to the rules: it was a clean fight. • not possessing or containing anything illegal as drugs or stolen goods. • searched his luggage and he was clean. • (of a person) not taking or having taken drugs or alcohol. • free from irregularities; having a smooth exterior or surface: a clean fracture of the leg. • having a simple, well-defined, and pleasant shape: the clean lines of modernism. • (of an action) smoothly and skillfully done: I still hadn't made a clean takeoff. • (of taste, sound, or smell) giving a clear and distinctive impression to the senses; sharp and fresh. • free from knots.

**adv.** • so as to be free from dirt, marks, or unwonted matter: the room had been washed clean. • int. used to emphasize the completeness of a reported action, condition, or experience: he had knocked clean off his feet.

**claw** /kla:/ n. • (of an animal or person) scratch or tear something with the claws or the fingernails: the kitten was clawing at Lowell's trouser leg. • her hands clasped his shoulders: clutch something with the hands. • a mechanical device resembling a claw, used for gripping or lifting.

**claw** /'klei/ n. • a curved pointed horn nail on each digit of the foot in birds, lizards, and some mammals. • either of a pair of small hooked appendages on an insect's leg. • the pincer of a crab, scorpion, or other arthropod. • a mechanical device resembling a claw, used for gripping or lifting.

**claw** /'klei/ n. • a curved pointed toenail or fingernail on each digit of the foot in birds, lizards, and some mammals. • either of a pair of small hooked appendages on an insect's leg. • the pincer of a crab, scorpion, or other arthropod. • a mechanical device resembling a claw, used for gripping or lifting.

**claw hammer** /'klei, hammer/ n. • a hammer with one side of the head split and curved, used for extracting nails. • (clawhammer) a style of bang playing in which the thumb and fingers strum or pluck the strings in a downward motion.

**clay** /klei/ n. • a stiff, sticky fine-grained earth, typically yellow, red, or bluish gray in color and often forming an impermeable layer in the soil that cannot be molded when wet, and is dried and broken to make bricks, pottery, adhesive agents, and technical sediment with particles smaller than silt. • a hardened clay-like surface for a tennis court. • poetics: the substance of the human body: this lifeless clay. • clayey /'klei, i:// adj. • clay-like /'klei, lik/ adj.

**clay pig-eon** /'klei, pig- uin/ n. • a saucer-shaped piece of baked clay or other material thrown up in the air from a trap as a target for shooting.

**clean** /klein/ adj. • free from dirt, marks, or stains. • having been washed since last worn or used: a clean blouse. • (of paper) not yet marked by writing or drawing. • (of a person) attentive to personal hygiene. • free from pollutants or other impurities. • free from producing relatively little radioactive contamination. • morally uncontaminated; pure: innocent. • not sexually offensive or obscene. • showing or having no record of offenses or crimes: a clean driving license is essential for the job. • played or done according to the rules: it was a clean fight. • not possessing or containing anything illegal as drugs or stolen goods. • searched his luggage and he was clean. • (of a person) not taking or having taken drugs or alcohol. • free from irregularities; having a smooth exterior or surface: a clean fracture of the leg. • having a simple, well-defined, and pleasant shape: the clean lines of modernism. • (of an action) smoothly and skillfully done: I still hadn't made a clean takeoff. • (of taste, sound, or smell) giving a clear and distinctive impression to the senses; sharp and fresh. • free from knots.

**adv.** • so as to be free from dirt, marks, or unwonted matter: the room had been washed clean. • int. used to emphasize the completeness of a reported action, condition, or experience: he had knocked clean off his feet.

**claw** /'klei/ n. • a curved pointed horn nail on each digit of the foot in birds, lizards, and some mammals. • either of a pair of small hooked appendages on an insect's leg. • the pincer of a crab, scorpion, or other arthropod. • a mechanical device resembling a claw, used for gripping or lifting.

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cleanse |klenz| v. [tr.] make (something, esp. the skin) thoroughly clean: this preparation will cleanse and tighten the skin. 2 rid [a person, place, or thing] of something seen as unpleasant, unwanted, or defiling: the mission to cleanse the nation of subversives. 3 [free (someone)] from sin or guilt. 4 arcanne [a biblical translation] cure (a leper).

cleanse-er n., a substance that cleanses, in particular: a powder or liquid for scouring sinks, toilets, and bathtubs. 2 a cosmetic product for cleansing the skin.

clean slate n. an absence of existing restraints or commitments: no government starts with a clean slate.

clean-up |'klen-əp| [also clean-up] n. 1 an act of making a place clean or tidy: an environmental cleanup. 2 an act of removing or putting an end to disorder, immorality, or crime. 2 [us. as adj.] Baseball the fourth position in a team's batting order, typically reserved for a power hitter likely to clear the bases by enabling any runners to score: L.A.'s cleanup hitter [as advertised] playing right field and batting cleanup.

clear |'kler| adj. 1 easy to perceive, understand, or interpret: clear and precise directions. 2 leaving no doubt; obvious or unambiguous: a clear case of poisoning. 3 having or feeling no doubt or confusion: every student must be clear about what is expected. 4 free of anything that marks or darkens something, in particular: (of a substance) transparent: a stream of clear water. 5 free of cloud, mist, or rain: the sky was clear and sunny. 6 clear of [a person's skin] free from blemishes. 7 of (a person's eyes) unclouded; shining: I looked into her clear gray eyes. 8 [of a color] pure and intense: a clear blue sky. 9 free of any obstructions or unwanted objects: I had a clear view in both directions. 10 of a period of time) free of any appointments or commitments: the following Saturday Mattie had a clear day. 11 of (a person) free of something undesirable or unpleasant: he was clear of TB. 2 (of a person's mind) free of something that impairs logical thought: in the morning, with a clear head, she wouldn't tackle her problems. 3 (of a person's conscience) free of guilt. 4 [clear of] not touching; away from: the truck was wedged in the ditch, one wheel clear of the ground. 5 (of a sum of money) net: a clear profit of $1,100. 6 [Phonet.] denoting a palatalized form of [l] (as in salad) or [w] (as in willing) in some southern U.S. accents or as [l] in Irish accents.

adv. 1 so as to be out of the way of or away from: stand clear, I'll start the plane up. 2 so as not to be obstructed or cluttered: the floor had been swept clear of litter. 3 with clarity; distinctly: she had to toss her head to see the lake clear again. 4 completely: he had time to get clear away. 5 (clear to) all the way to: you could see clear to the bottom of the lagoon.

v. 1 [intr.] become free of something that marks, darkens, obstructs, or covers something, in particular: (of the sky or weather) become free of cloud or rain: we'll go out if the weather clears. 2 (of a liquid) become transparent: a wine that refuses to clear. 3 (of a person) become free of something: the boy's hands cleared and he began to breathe more easily. 4 gradually go away or disappear: the fever clears in two to four weeks. 5 (of a person's face or expression) assume a happier aspect following previous confusion or distress: for a moment, Sam was confused; then his expression cleared.

6 (of a person's mind) regain the capacity for logical thought: become free of confusion: his mind cleared and he began to reflect. 2 [tr.] make (something) free of marks, obstructing materials, or unwanted objects: in particular: remove an obstruction or unwanted item or items from: the driveway had been cleared of snow. 2 free (land) for cultivation or building by removing vegetation or existing structures. 3 [free (one's mind) of unpleasantness or confusion: cause people to leave (a building or place): the police shouted a warning and cleared the streets. 3 [tr.] remove (an obstruction or unwanted item) from somewhere: snow was cleared from the storm drains. 4 [cleat (the ball)] away from the area of a check (charge) on a bank by putting a cleat in the bank. 5 the city of 1938 was cleared of the plague. 5 (of a person) free of something: the person cleared the table.

phrasal v. clear out int. leave quickly. clear something out remove the contents from something so as to tidy it or free it for alternative use. clear up 1 (of an illness or other medical condition) become cured. 2 (of the weather) become brighter. 3 [of (rain)] stop. clear something up 1 (also clear up) tidy something up by removing trash or other unwanted items. 2 remove trash or other unwanted items to leave something tidy. 3 solve or explain something: he wanted to clear up some misconceptions. 4 cure an illness or other medical condition.

—cleanly adv.

clear as mud |mud| adj. as clear as mud. 2 clear the air make the air less sultry. 3 or (as) clear as a bell see BELL1. 4 (as) clear as day very easy to see or understand. 5 clear the name of show to be innocent.

clear one's throat cough lightly so as to speak more clearly, attract attention, or to express hesitancy before saying something awkward. 2 clear the way remove an obstacle or hindrance to allow progress; the ruling could be enough to clear the way for impeachment proceedings. 3 in the clear no longer in danger or suspected of something: the latest information put her in the clear.

out of a (the) clear blue sky as a complete surprise.

clearance |'kler-ərดน| n. 1 the action or process of removing or getting rid of something or of something's dispersing: there will be sunny intervals after clearance of any early mist. 2 the removal of buildings, people, or trees from land so as to free it for alternative uses: shn clearance accelerated during the 1960s. 3 official authorization for something to proceed or take place: a delay in obtaining diplomatic clearance to over-fly Israel. 4 (also security clearance) official permit for someone to have access to classified information. 5 permission for an aircraft to take off or land at an airport. 6 the clearing of a person or ship by customs. 7 a certificate showing that such clearance has been granted.

8 the process of clearing checks through a clearinghouse. 3 clear space allowed for a thing to move past or under another: always give cyclists plenty of clearance.

clearing |'kler-ərดน| n. an open space in a forest, esp. one cleared for cultivation.

clearing-house |'kler-ər-house| (also clearing-house) n. (abbr.: c.h. or C.H.) a bankers' establishment where checks and bills from member banks are exchanged, so that only the balances need be paid in cash. 2 an agency or organization that collects and distributes something, esp. information.

clear-story |'kler-stör| n. (pl. -ries) variant spelling of CLERESTORY.

cleat |klet| n. 1 a T-shaped piece of metal or wood, esp. on a boat or ship, to which ropes are attached. 2 one of a number of projecting pieces of metal, rubber, or other material on the sole of a shoe, designed to prevent the wearer from losing their footing. 3 (cleats) athletic shoes with a cleated sole, typically used when playing football.

—projection on a spar or other part of a ship, to prevent slipping. —cleat-ed adj.

cleaver |'klevər| n. a tool with a heavy broad blade, used by butchers for chopping meat.

clef |klet| n. Mus. any of several symbols placed at the left-hand end of a staff, indicating the pitch of the notes written on it.

cleft |klet| adj. past and past participle of CLEAVE1.

—split, divided, or partially divided into two: a cleft chin.

cleft |klet| n. a fissure or split, esp. one in rock or the
climb v. 1 make or cause to make a short, sharp sound; [int] the key clicked in the lock and the door opened; [intr] she clicked off the light. 2 [intr] move with such a sound: Louise turned on her three-inch heels and clicked away. 3 [intr] Comput. press (a mouse button): click the left mouse button twice. 4 [int] (click on) Comput. select an item represented on the screen or a particular function by pressing one of the buttons on the mouse when the window or the icon in question is under the appropriate symbol. 2 [intr] intl. become suddenly clear or understandable. Finally, it clicked what all the fuss has been about. 5 become very comfortable with someone at the first meeting: we just clicked, and I found myself falling in love. 6 become successful or popular: I don't think this issue has clicked with the voters. —click-er n.

click rate (also click-through rate) n. Comput. the percentage of people visiting a Web page who access a hyperlink text to a particular advertisement.

clicks and mortar n. used to refer to a traditional business that has extended its activities to operate also on the Internet: a clicks-and-mortar strategy.

client [ˈkliɛnt] n. 1 a person or organization using the services of a lawyer or other professional person or company. 2 a person receiving social or medical services. 3 also [client state] a nation that is dependent on another, more powerful nation. 2 Comput. (in a network) a desktop computer or workstation that is capable of obtaining information and applications from a server. 4 also [client application or program] a program that is capable of obtaining a service provided by another program. 3 (in ancient Rome) a plebeian under the protection of a patrician. 5 [archaic] a dependent; a hanger-on. —client-ship [ˈkliɛntʃip] n.

clientele [ˈklɛntəl] n. treated as sing or pl. clients collectively: an upscale clientele; the customers of a shop, bar, or place of entertainment: the doctors don't mix with the clientele.

client-serve r adj. Comput. denoting a computer system in which a central server provides data to a number of networked workstations.

client-server relationship n. a relationship in which a central server provides data to a number of networked workstations.

cliclamatic-klicmatik/ [klɪˈklemətɪk] adj. a critical period or event: the first major climatic event in twentieth-century poetry. 2 Med. the period of life when fertility and sexual activity are in decline; (in women) menopause. 3 Bot. the ripening period of certain fruits such as apples, involving increased metabolism and only possible while the tree is alive. 4 adj. having extreme and far-reaching implications or results; critical. 5 adv. occurring at, characteristic of, or undergoing the climactic; (in women) menopausal. 6 Bot. (of a fruit) undergoing a climactic.

climatic-klimatik/ [ˈklimətik] adj. the weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period: nor cold, wet climate. 1 a region with particular prevailing weather conditions: vacating in a warm climate. 2 the prevailing trend of public opinion or of another aspect of public life: the current economic climate. 3 Lat. Middle English: from Old French climat or late Latin clima, clima-. From Greek klima 'slope, zone,' from klinein 'to slope.' The term originally denoted a zone of the earth between two lines of latitude, then any region of the earth, and later, a region considered with reference to its atmospheric conditions. —cli-ma-tic-klimatik/ adj. —cli-ma-ti-cal-klimatikal/ adj. —cli-ma-ti-cal-ly-klimatikəli/ adv.

climatic change n. long-term, significant change in the climate of an area or of the earth, usually seen as resulting from human activity. Often used as a synonym for GLOBAL WARMING.


climactic-klimatik/ [ˈklɪmətɪk] adj. the most intense, exciting, or important point of something; a culmination or apex; the climax of her speech; an orgasm. —Ecol. the final stage in a succession in a given environment; a point at which a plant community reaches a state of equilibrium. [as adj.] a mixed hard-wood climax forest. —Rhetoric a sequence of propositions or ideas in order of increasing importance, force, or effectiveness of expression. 1 [intr] culminate in an exciing or impressive event: reach a climax. 2 [intr] bring (something) to a climax. 3 [intr] have an orgasm. —climate [ˈklɪmət] n. 1 [intr] go or come up (a slope, incline, or staircase) esp. by using the feet and sometimes the hands; ascend: we began to climb the hill. [intr] the air became colder as they climbed higher. 2 [int] of an

Pronunciation Key a ago, up, or over, fur, a flat; a lit; a ear; ch chin; e let; e see; e(e)r air; f if; h h; i ee; i ear; n sing; o go; o low, for; oi toy; oo good; oo great; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; th why, th vision


coc-o-a too /ko'kə-tā/ n. [Ar.] an alcoholic drink consisting of a spirit or several spirits mixed with other ingredients, such as fruit juice, lemonade, or cream; [as adj.], cocktail parties. —mixture of substances or factors, esp. when dangerous or unpleasant in its effects: a cocktail of drugs that inhibits replication of HIV. 2 a dish consisting of small pieces of seafood or fruits, typically served cold at the beginning of a meal as an hors d’oeuvre: a shrimp cocktail.

cock-tail lounge n. a bar, typically in a hotel, restaurant, or airport, where alcoholic drinks are served.

cock-y /'kak/ adj. (cock-i-er, cock-i-est) conceited or arrogant, esp. in a bold or impudent way. —cock-ily /'kak'le/ adv. —cock-i-ness n.

coc-coa /'kəkə/ n. 1. a chocolate powder made from roasted and ground cocoa seeds. 2 a hot drink made from such a powder mixed with sugar and milk or water.

coc-coa but-ter n. a fatty substance obtained from cocoa beans and used esp. in the manufacture of confectionery and cosmetics.

coc-coon /'kəkən/ n. 1. the large, oval brown seed of a tropical palm, consisting of a hard shell lined with edible white flesh and containing a clear liquid. 2 the flesh of a coconut, esp. when used as food. 2 also coconut palm or tree, the tall palm tree (Cocos nucifera) that yields this nut.

coc-coon /'ko'kən/ n. 1. a silky case spun by the larvae of many insects for protection as pupae. 2 a similar structure made by other animals. 3 a covering that prevents the corrosion of metal equipment. 4 something that envelops or surrounds, esp. in a protective or comforting way: the cocoon of her kinnowo/fig. a warm cocoon of love.

cod /kəd/ also cod-flish n. (pl. same) a large marine fish with a small barbel on the chin. The cod family (Gadidae) comprises many genera and species, in particular the North Atlantic Gadus morhua, of great commercial importance as a food fish and as a source of cod liver oil.

cod-da /'kədə/ n. a fish, esp. of the cod family. The cod was the subject of the concluding passage of a piece or movement, typically forming an additional to the basic structure. 1 the concluding section of a dance, esp. of a pas de deux or the finale of a ballet in which the dancers parade before the audience. 2 a concluding event, remark, or section: his new novel is a kind of codda to his previous book.

cod-dle /'kəd/ v. [tr.] 1. treat in an indulgent or overprotective way: I was coddled and spoiled. 2 cook (an egg) in water below the boiling point.

code /ko'd/ n. 1. a system of words, letters, figures, or other symbols substituted for other words, letters, etc., esp. for the purposes of secrecy. 2 a system of signals, such as sounds, light flashes, or flags, used to represent messages. 3 Morse code. a series of letters, numbers, or symbols, assigned to something for the purposes of classification or identification: the genetic code. 4 a set of conventions governing behavior or activity in a particular sphere or dress code. 5 a set of rules and standards adhered to by a society, class, or individual: a stern code of honor.

code /ko'd/ v. [tr.] 1. [usu. be coded] convert (the words of a message) into a particular code in order to convey a secret meaning; only Mitchell knew how to read the message when the time was codda. 2 express the meaning of (a statement or communication) in an indirect or euphemistic way: [as adj.], coded phrases that meant jazz. 3 assign a code to (something) for the purposes of classification, analysis, or identification: she coded the samples and sent them down for dissection.

code /ko'd/ v. [intr. or code for Biochem. specify the genetic
codeine /'kɔɪdɛn/ n. Med. a sleep-inducing and analgesic drug, C_{19}H_{27}NO_3, derived from morphine.

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codeine /'kɔɪdɛn/ n. Med. a sleep-inducing and analgesic drug, C_{19}H_{27}NO_3, derived from morphine.
cohe-sion /ko'he-zi-ən/ n. 1. the action or fact of forming a united whole; the work of present lacks cohesion.
2. n. cohesion.

co-he-sive /ko'he-siv/ adj. characterized by or causing cohesion.

co-he-sively adv.

co-he-sive-ness /ko'he-siv-nis/ n.

co-ho /'ko(h)/ also coho salmon or co-hoe n. (pl. same as co-hoe) a deep-bodied North Pacific salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) with small black spots.

co-hor-t /'ko(h)ort/ n. 1. a group of people banded together or treated as a group: a cohort of civil servants.
2. a group of people with a common characteristic.

co-i-tal /'koi-təl/ adj. occurring in a single act.

coif /'koif/ n. 1. a woman’s close-fitting cap, now only worn under a veil by nuns.
2. v. [coiffed, coif-fing; also coifed, coif-ing] tr. style or arrange (someone’s hair), typically in an elaborate way: as adj. (coifed) elaborately coiffed hair.

coif-feur /'koif′fər/ n. a hairdresser.

coif-ure /'koif′tər/ n. a person’s hairstyle, typically an elaborate one.

coiled adj.

coi/lo/ n. a length of something wound or arranged in a spiral or sequence of rings.

coin /koin/ n. 1. a flat, typically round piece of metal with a standard stamp, used as money.
2. money in the form of coins: large amounts of coin and precious metal.
3. one of the suits in some tarot packs, corresponding to pentacles in others.

coi-nage /'koi-nij/ n. 1. coins collectively: the volume of coinage in circulation.
2. the action or process of producing coins from metal.

co-in-ci-dence /'koi-nis′əndəs/ n. 1. a remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances without apparent causal connection: they met by coincidence.
2. the concurrence of events in nature or in time of occurrence: the coincidence of interest between the mining companies and certain politicians.

co-in-ci-dent /'koi-nis′ənt/ adj. occurring together in space or time: liberty is an idea coincident with the spread of Christianity.

co-in-ci-dent-ly /'koi-nis′ənt-lē/ adv.

coir /'koir/ n. fiber from the outer husk of the coconut, used for making ropes and matting.

co-itus inter-rup-tus /in′tə rə-pəts/ n. sexual intercourse in which the penis is withdrawn before ejaculation.
crayons, paints, or dyes. In [int] take on a different color: the foliage will not color well if the soil is too rich. Use crayons to fill (a particular shape or outline) with color. Fig. make vivid or picturesque. In [int] (of a person or their skin) show embarrassment or shame by becoming red or blushing: everyone stared at him, and he colored slightly. In [tr] cause (a person or their skin) to change in color: rosy colored his pale complexion. In [tr] (of a particular color) imbue (a person's skin): a pink flush colored her cheeks.

- **color** (of an emotion) imbue (a person's voice) with a particular tone. In [tr] influence, esp. in a negative way; distort: the experiences had colored her whole existence. Misrepresent by distortion or exaggeration: witnesses might color evidence to make a story saleable.

Show one's true colors reveal one's real character or intentions, esp. when these are disreputable or dishonest.

**Colorado potato beetle** n., a yellow and black-striped leaf beetle (Leptinotarsa decemlineata, family Chrysomelidae) native to North America. The larvae are highly destructive to potato plants.

**coloration** [kəˈlərəˈtʃən] n. 1 a visual appearance with regard to color: some bacterial structures take on a purple coloration. 2 the natural color or variegated markings of animals or plants: the red coloration of many maple. 3 a scheme or method of applying color. 2 a specified pervading character or tone of something; the movement has taken on a fundamental coloration. 3 a variety of musical or vocal expression: a skillful singer can do much with coloration.

**coloratura** [kəˈlərətəˈrɑː] n. elaborate ornamentation of a vocal melody, esp. in operatic singing by a soprano. (Also coloratura soprano) a soprano skilled in such singing.

**color-blind** (Also color-blind) adj. 1 unable to distinguish certain colors, or (rarely in humans) any colors at all. 2 not influenced by racial prejudice: a color-blind society.

**colorful** [ˈkələrˌful] adj. 1 having much or varied color; bright. 2 full of interest; lively and exciting. 3 (of a person's life or background) involving various disparate activities. 4 (of language) vulgar or rude.

**colorfully** [ˈkələrfləli] adv. 1 having much or varied color; bright. 2 full of interest; lively and exciting. 3 (of a person's life or background) involving various disparate activities. 4 (of language) vulgar or rude.

**coloring** [ˈkələrɪŋ] n. 1 a process or skill of applying a substance to something so as to change its original color. 2 the process of filling in a particular shape or outline with crayons. As adj. a coloring book. 3 a drawing produced in this way. 2 visual appearance with regard to color; in particular: the arrangement of colors and markings on an animal. 3 the natural hues of a person's skin, hair, and eyes: her fair coloring. 4 fig. the pervading character or tone of something. 5 a substance used to give a particular color to something, esp. food.

**colorist** [ˈkələrɪst] n., a colorist (Brit. colourist) is a colorist or designer who uses color in a special or skillful way. A person who is skilled at painting using colors, photography, or movies, or a hairdresser who specializes in dyeing people's hair.

**colorize** [ˈkələrˈzaɪz] v. [tr] add color to (a black-and-white movie) by means of computer technology. (Also colorization) [ˈkələrəˈtʃən] n. trademark. Colorizer trademark.

**colorless** [ˈkələrˌləs] adj. 1 (esp. of a gas or liquid) without color. 2 dull or pale in hue. 3 lacking distinctive character or interest; dull.

**colorlessly** adv.

**color-saturation** n. see saturation.

**color scheme** n. an arrangement or combination of colors, esp. as used in interior decoration; a color, simple color scheme.

**color separation** n. Photog. & Printing any of three negative images of the same subject taken through green, red, and blue filters and combined to reproduce the full color of the original.

**color-salad** adj. extremely large; a colossal mistake. *Sculture* (of a statue) at least twice life size.

**color-sus** [ˈkələrˌsʌs] n. (pl. *los-sus*ˈləsəs, *los-sus*ˈləsəs) a psychologic disorder characterized by prolonged exposure to active warfare, esp. being under bombardment. 2 combat fatigue a uniform type of a war.
combat-ive /kom'bativ/ adj. ready or eager to fight: pugnacious.
—comb-at-ively adv. —comb-at-ive-ness n.
comber /kom'ber/ n. 1 a long curling sea wave. 2 a person or machine that separates and straightens the fibers of cotton or wood.
combination /kəm'bən-ʃən/ n. 1 the act or instance of combining: the process of being combined. □ [adj.] combining different uses, functions, or ingredients: a combination garnish bag and backpack. □ the state of being joined or united in such a way: these four factors work together in combination. □ Chem. the joining of substances in a compound with new properties. □ Chem. the state of being in a compound. 2 a set of people or things that have been combined: a combination of boys and girls; an arrangement of elements: the canvasses may be arranged in any unusual combinations. □ a sequence of numbers or letters used to open a combination lock. □ in various sports and games) a coordinated and effective sequence of movements. 3 Math. selection of a given number of elements from a larger number without regard to their arrangement. —com-bi-na-tion-al /-ən-əl/ adj. —com-bi-na-tive /kəm'ba-nətiv/ adj. □ com-bi-na-tori-al /kəm-bi'na-tər-əl/ adj. □ com-bi-na-to-ry /kəm-bi'na-tər-ə/ adj. (Math.) —com-bi-na-to-ri-aly adv. (Math.) —com-bi-na-to-ry-ness n. —com-bi-na-tion-lock n. a lock that is opened by rotating a dial or set of dials, marked with letters or numbers, through a specific sequence.
combine /kəm'bain/ v. v. □ [trans.] unite; merge: the band combines a variety of musical influences. □ [intr.] high tides and winds combined to bring chaos to the East Coast. □ Chem. unite to form a compound: oxygen and hydrogen do not combine at room temperatures. □ unitize for a common purpose: groups of teachers combined to tackle a variety of problems. □ engage in simultaneously: combine shopping and sightseeing.
□ n. /kəm'ba:n/ a group of people or companies acting together for a commercial purpose. —com-bi-na-ble /kəm-bi'na-bal/ adj.
combiner /kom'binər/ n. any of various electronic devices that combine signals, in particular: □ a device that couples different frequencies to a single antenna. □ a component of a circuit that combines two data sources to encrypt text. □ an electrical transformer comprising several smaller ones.
combin-er form /kəm-bi'ner/ n. Gram. a linguistic element used in combination with another element to form a word (e.g., Anglo-English) in Anglo-American; bio- "life" (biologist).
combo /kom'bo/ n. (pl. -bos) int. 1 a small jazz, rock, or pop band. 2 a combination, typically of different foods; [as adj.] the combo platter.
combo drive n. □ Comput. an optical disk drive that can read and record CDs and can also read DVDs.
combus-tible /kəm'bəstə-bal/ adj. □ able to catch fire and burn easily: highly combustible paint thinner. □ fig. excitable; easily annoyed.
□ n. a combustible substance. —com-bus-ti-bil-i-ty /kəm'bəstə-bi'lit-ə/ n.
combus-tion /kəm'bəshən/ n. the process of burning something: the combustion of fossil fuels. □ Chem. rapid chemical combination of oxygen with things, involving the production of heat and light.
combus-tion-chamber /kəm-bəshən-kam'ber/ n. an enclosed space in which combustion takes place, esp. in an engine or furnace.
Commdr. □ abbr. commander.
come /kəm/ v. □ past came /kəm/; past part. come /kəm/ [intr. 1 move or travel toward or into a place thought of as near or familiar to the speaker: Jessica came into the kitchen; they came here as immigrants; he came rushing out. □ arrive at a specified place: we walked along till we came to a stream (it was very late when she came back) my trunk hasn't come yet. □ (of a thing) reach or extend to a specified point: women in slim dresses that came all the way to their shoes: the path came straight down. □ (be coming) approach: someone was coming; she heard the train coming; □ travel in order to be with a specified person: someone coming, or to be present at an event: the police came; come and live with me! the electrician came to fix the stove; fig. we have certainly come a long way since Aristotle. □ join someone in participating in a specified activity or course of action: do you want to come fishing tomorrow? □ come along (on) make progress; develop: he's coming along nicely; she asked them how their garden was coming on. □ [in imper. also come, come] said to someone when correcting, reassuring, or urging them on: "Come, come, child, no need to think me. 2 occur; happen; take place: twilight had not yet come when the sun was hidden; □ (a crash that never came): a chance like this doesn't come along every day; □ be heard, perceived, or experienced: a voice came from the kitchen; "No, the reply: it came as a great shock. 3 (of a quality) become apparent or noticeable through actions or performance: as an actor your style and
personality must come through. 4 come across or off or Brit. over (of a person) appear or sound in a specified way; give a specified expression: he'd always come across as a decent guy. 5 (of a thought or memory) enter one's mind: the basic idea came to vie while reading an article. □ passage from a novel came back to Adam. 6 take or occupy a specified position in space, order, or priority: prisons came far down the list of priorities. □ for sure my kids come first. 7 achieve a specified place in a race or contest: she came second in the 100-yard. 8 pass into a specified state, esp. one of separation or disassembly: his shirt had come undone. □ (come to/io) reach or be brought to a specified situation or state: you will come to no harm [staff who come into contact with the public]. □ reach eventually a certain condition or state of mind: he had come to realize she was no puppet. 9 be sold, available, or found in a specified form: the cars come with a variety of extras. □ (come in) three sizes. 10 int. have an 
organ. —come /kəm/ a past tense and past participle of com-}
come-back /'kam.berk/ n. 1 a return by a well-known person, esp. an entertainer or sports player, to the activity in which they have formerly been successful. 2 a return to fashion of an item, activity, or style: stirrup pants have made a comeback. 3 a quick reply to a critical remark. 4 the opportunity to seek redress.

come-on /'kem.o.n/ n. 1 a thing that is intended to lure or entice, 2 a gesture or remark that is intended to attract someone sexually. 3 a marketing口号, such as a free or cheap offer.

come-meet /'kem.riit/ v. 1 a person who arrives somewhere: feeling every comer is still a sacred duty. See also LATECOMER, NEWCOMER. 2 inf. a person or thing likely to succeed.

come-net /'kam.dons/ v. 1 a celestial object consisting of a nucleus of ice and dust and, when near the sun, “a tail” of gas and dust particles point- ing away from the sun. —com-net-i-cal /'kam.dons.ik.al/ adj.

come-up /'kem.up/ v. 1 an punishment or fate that one deserves: he got his comeuppance.

come-on /'kem.on/ a. 1 a state of physical ease and freedom from pain or constraint. 2 the comforts things that contribute to physical ease and well-being. 3 pressure to feel the pleasant lifestyle secured by it. 4 consolation for grief or anxiety: a few words of comfort. 5 reassurance: they should take comfort that help is available. 6 a person or thing that gives consolation: his friendship was a great comfort. 7 a person or thing that gives satisfaction: I felt a great comfort in the relationship to the moon of my astrological sign. 8 dial. a warm quilt.

by [i] soothe in grief; console; help (someone) feel at ease; reassure.


come-on-a-bale /'kam.ont.a.bol.3/ kam-forti-abal adj. 1 (esp. of clothes or furni- shings) providing physical ease and relaxation. 2 of a person physically relaxed and free from constraint: he would not be comfortable in any other clothes. 3 not in pain (esp. of a hospital patient). 4 free from stress or fear: they appear very comfortable in each other’s company. 5 free from financial worry; having an adequate standard of living. 2 as large as is needed or wanted: a comfortable income. 3 with a wide margi: a comfortable victory.

come-on-dial. a warm quilt. —com-n-bli-bes-30. n. —com-n-bli-bly adv.

come-for/t er /'kam.forter/ n. 1 a warm quilt. 2 a person or thing that provides consolation. —Comforter the Holy Spirit. 3 dated a woolen scarf.

come-frey /'kam.fr/ n. (pl. -eys) a Eurasian plant (genus Sympyton) of the borage family, with large hairy leaves and clusters of purplish or white bell-shaped flowers. It is commonly used in herbal medicine.


come-in /'kam.in/ a. 1 causing or meant to cause laughter: comic and fantas- tic exaggeration. 2 relating to or in the style of comedy: a comic actor. 3 a comedian, esp. a professional one. 4 (comic) strips.


come-in book /'kam.in.buk/ n. a magazine comprised of stories presented as comic strips.

come-in-opera /'kam.in.o.pe.rə/ n. an opera that portrays humorous situations and characters. a. the genre of such opera.

come-in-strip /'kam.in.strip/ n. a sequence of drawings in boxes that tell an amusing story, typically printed in a newspaper or comic book.

come-in /'kam.in/ adj. 1 due to happen or just beginning: work is due to start in the coming year. 2 likely to be important or successful in the future: he was the coming man of French racing. 3 an arrival or an approach: the coming of a new age.

come-in-ty /'kam.in.ti/ n. (pl. -ties) 1 courtesy and considerate behavior toward others. 2 an association of nations for their mutual benefit. 3 (also comity of nations) the mutual recognition by nations of the laws and customs of others.

come-ma /'kam.ə/ n. 1 a punctuation mark (.) indicating a pause between parts of a sentence. It is also used to separate items in a list and to mark the place of thousands in a large numeral. 2 a butterfly (genus Polyommatus family Lycaenidae) that has wings with irregular, ragged edges and typically a comma-shaped mark on the underside of each wing hind wing.

come-mand /'kamænd/ v. [tr.] 1 give an authoritative order; a grievous voice commanding us to enter. 2 [intrans.] give orders; she commands and we obey. 3 [intrans.] have authority; someone born to command. 4 Mil. have authority over; be in charge of (a unit). 5 dominate (a strategic position) from a superior height: the two castles commanded the harbor. 6 archaic control or restrain (oneself or one’s feelings). 7 be in a strong enough position to secure: no party commanded a majority. 8 deserve and receive: a moral force demands that he command and respect.

—come-mand-ly adv. —come-mand-ment /'kamænd.mənt/ n. 1 an authoritative order. 2 Comput. an instruction or signal that causes a computer to perform one of its basic functions. 3 authority, esp. over armed forces: an officer took command. 4 the ability to use or control something: he had a brilliant command of English. 5 treated as sing. or
in response to such an order. 2 a group of people officially charged with a particular function: the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. 3 an amount of money, typically a set percentage of the value involved, paid to an agent in a commercial transaction: foreign banks may charge a commission. 4 a warrant conferring the rank of officer in an army, navy, or air force: he has resigned his commission. 5 the act of committing a crime or offense.

sy [t]. 1 give an order for or consent to the production of (something such as a building, piece of equipment, or work of art). 2 order or authorize (a person or organization) to do or produce something: they commissioned an architect to manage the building project. 3 give (an artist) an order for a piece of work. 4 bring (something newly produced, such as a factory or machine) into working condition. 5 bring (a warship) into readiness for active service. 6 issue be commissioned (ap- point [someone] to the rank of officer in the armed services, [as adj]. (commissioned) a commissioned officer. —commission-sion-able adj.

6 in commission (of a ship, vehicle, machine, etc.) in use or in service. 7 out of commission not in service; not in working order. 8 (of a person) unable to work or function normally, esp. through illness or injury.

commission-er [ka'mis'ənər] [abbr.: comm.] n. a person appointed by a commission to perform a specific task: the traffic commissioner. 2 a person appointed as a member of a government commission: the New York State Health Commissioner. 3 a person appointed to regulate a particular sport: the baseball commissioner. 4 a representative of the supreme authority in a particular area: the commis-sion-ship, -ship (,ship). n.

com-mit [ka'mit] v. (mit-ted, mitting) [tr.] 1 carry out or perpetrate (a mistake, crime, or immoral act). 2 pledge or bind (a person or organization) to a certain course or policy: they were reluctant to commit themselves to an opinion. 3 pledge or set aside (resources) for future use: manufacturers will have to commit substantial funds to developing new engines. 4 be committed to be in a long-term emotional relationship with (someone). 5 be committed to be dedicated to (something): it is a modern Marxist party committed to democratic socialism. 6 send, entrust, or consign, in particular: consign (someone) officially to prison, esp. on remand; send (a person or case) for trial; send (someone) to be confined in a psychiatric hospital. 7 commit something to transfer something to a state or place; he composed a letter but didn’t commit it to paper. 8 refer (a legislative bill) to a committee. —com-mit-ting-ly adv. —com-mit-ter n.

com-mit-ment [ka'mit-mənt] n. 1 the act of committing or the state of being committed. 2 dedication; application. 3 a pledge or undertaking; I cannot make such a commitment at the moment. 4 an act of pledging or setting aside something; there must be a major commitment of money and time. 5 (usu. commitments) an engagement or obligation that restricts freedom of action: business commitments.

com-mit-tal [ka'mit-təl] n. 1 the action of sending a person to an institution, esp. prison or a psychiatric hospital. 2 the burial of a corpse.

com-mittee [ka'mit-ə] n. [treated as sing. or pl.] a group of people appointed for a specific function, typically consisting of members of a larger group: the housing committee; [as adj.]. a committee meeting. 3 such a person appointed by a legislature to consider the details of proposed legislation: there was much scrutiny in committee.

com-mode [ka'mod] n. 1 a piece of furniture containing a concealed chamber pot; a toilet. 2 nist, movable washstand. 3 a chest of drawers or chest of books, a type popular in the 18th century.

com-mo-dious [ka'mədēəs] adj. 1 formal (esp. of furniture or a building) roomy and comfortable. 2 archaic convenient. —com-mo-dious-ly adv. —com-mo-dious-ness n.

com-mo-dity [ka'mədi-tē] n. [pl. -ties] a raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold, such as copper or coffee. 2 a useful or valuable thing, such as water or time.

com-mo-dore [ˈkærəm,ˌdɔr] n. a naval officer of high rank, in particular an officer in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ranking above captain and below rear admiral. 2 the president of a yacht club. 3 the senior captain of a shipping line.

com-mon [ˈkærəm] adj. (mon-er, mon-est) 1 occurring, found, or done often; prevalent. 2 (of an animal or plant) found living in relatively large numbers; not rare. 3 ordinary; of ordinary quality without special rank or position: the dwellings of common people. 4 (of a quality) of a sort or level to be generally expected: common decency. 5 of the most familiar type: the common or vernacular name. 6 denoting the most widespread or typical species of an animal or plant: the common blue spruce. 7 showing a lack of taste and refinement; vulgar. 8 shared by, coming from, or done by more than one: problems common to both communities belonging to, open to, or affecting the whole of a community or the public: common land. 9 belonging to two or more quantities. 4 Gram. in (Latin and certain other languages) of or denoting a gender of nouns that are conventionally regarded as masculine or feminine, contrasting with neuter. —in (English) denoting a noun that refers to individuals of either sex (e.g., teacher). 5 Proside (of a syllable) able to be either short or long. 6 a piece of open land for public use, esp. in a village or town. —com-mon-ly adv. —com-mon-ness n.

com-mon good the benefit or interests of all. 2 common ground a point or argument accepted by both sides in a dispute. 3 ideas or interests shared by different people: artists from different cultural backgrounds found common ground. 4 common knowledge something known by most people. 5 in common 1 in joint use or possession; shared: car engines have nothing in common with aircraft engines. 2 of joint interest: the two men had little in common. 3 in common with in the same way as: in common with other officers, I had to undertake guard duties.

com-mon-al-ty [ˈkærəm,al-tē] n. [pl.-ties] 1 the state of sharing features or attributes: a commonality of interest. 2 a shared feature or attribute. 3 the commonality another term for commonality.

com-mon-ly [ˈkærəm-li] adv. chiefly bstrt. people without special rank or position; common people: a petition by the earls, barons, and commonalty of the realm. 2 the general body of a group.

com-mon de-nom-i-nator n. Math. a shared multiple of the denominators of several fractions. See also LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR.

com-mon-er [ˈkærəm-ər] n. 1 an ordinary person, without rank or title. 2 (at some British universities) an undergraduate who does not have a scholarly title.

com-mon Era n. (the Common Era) another term for CHRISTIAN ERA.

com-mon law n. the part of English law that is derived from custom and judicial precedent rather than statutes. 2 the body of English law as adopted and modified separately by the different states of the U.S. and by the federal government. Compare with CIVIL LAW. —as adj. denote a partner in a marriage by common law (which recognized unions created by mutual agreement and public behavior), not by a civil or ecclesiastical ceremony: a common-law husband.

com-mon mar-ket n. a group of countries imposing few or no duties or trade restrictions and having a common tariff on trade with other countries. 2 (the Common Market) a name for the European Economic Community or European Union, used esp. in the 1960s and 1970s.

com-mon noun n. Gram. a noun denoting a class of objects or a concept as opposed to a particular individual. Often contrasted with PROPER NOUN.

com-mon-place [ˈkærəm,plās] adj. not unusual; ordinary: unemploy ment was commonplace in his profession. 2 not interesting or original; trite: the usual commonplace remarks.

com-mon dis-irer or com-mon no-thing n. a usual or ordinary thing. 2 a trite saying or topic; a platitude. 3 a notable quality or characteristic. 4 a commonplace book. —mid 17th cent. (originally commonplace); translation of Latin a locus communis, rendering Greek koinos topos 'general theme.' —com-mon-place-ness n.

com-mons [ˈkærəmənz] pl. n. 1 a dining hall in a residential school or college. 2 [treated as sing.] land or resources belonging to or affecting the whole of a community. 3 a public park of a town or city. 4 (the Commons) short for HOUSE OF COMMONS. 5 nist. the common people regarded as a part of a political system, esp. in Britain. 6 archaic provisions shared in common; rations.

com-mon salt n. see SALT (sense 1).

com-mon sense n. good sense and sound judgment in practical matters; use your common sense. —as adj. a common-sense approach. —com-mon-sen-sical [ˈkærəm,sen,səklə] adj.

com-mon stock pl. n. also com-mon stocks shares entitled their holder to dividends that vary in amount and may even be missed, depending on the fortunes of the company. Compare with PREFERRED STOCK.

com-mon-wealth [ˈkærəm,we:lθ] n. 1 an independent country or community, esp. a democratic republic. 2 an aggregate or grouping of countries or other bodies. 3 a community or organization of shared interests in the commonwealth, such as the Christian Commonwealth. 4 a self-governing unit voluntarily group, with the commonwealth, such as the Hawaiian Islands. 5 a formal title of some of the states of the U.S., esp. Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. 6 the title of the federated Australian states. 7 the Commonwealth of Nations an international association consisting of the UK together with states that were previously part of the British Empire, and dependencies. 8 the Commonwealth archaic the general good.

com-mon-ly [ˈkærəm,li] adv. a state of confused and noisy disturbance: she was distracted by a commotion across the street. 2 civil insurrection.
compact

he comp with an open, singly sound. 2 give (something) away free, esp. as part of a promotion. 3 short for COMPOSITE.

adj. 1 complimentary; free. 2 compensatory: comp time.

compact

adj. [kam'pakt; käm ‚käm'pakt] 1 closely and neatly packed together; dense: a compact cluster of houses. 2 having all the necessary components or features neatly fitted into a small space; a compact car. 3 of [a person or animal] small, solid, and well-proportioned.

v. [kam'pakt; käm ‚käm'pakt] v. [tr.] (often be compacted) exert force on (something) to make it more dense; compress: the soil may be compacted by iron oxide. [intr.] (of a substance) become compressed in this way: the snow hardened and compacted. [archaic form] by pressing its component parts firmly together. [esp. in news: See condensation.]

compact car n. a medium-sized car.

compact disc (also compact disk) (abbr.: CD) n. a small plastic disc on which music or other digital information is stored, and from which the information can be read using reflected laser light. See also CD-ROM.

compan-ion

n. 1 a person or animal with whom one spends a lot of time or with whom one travels. 2 a person who shares the experiences of another, esp. when these are unpleasant or unwelcome: my companions in misfortune. 3 a person with similar tastes and interests to one's own and with whom one has a friendly relationship: drinking companions. 4 a person's long-term sexual partner outside marriage. 5 a person, esp. an unmarried or widowed woman, employed to live with and assist another.

Astron. a star, galaxy, or other celestial object that is close to or associated with another. 1 one of a pair of things intended to complement or match each other: [as adj.]: a companion volume. 2 [usu. in names]: a book that provides information about a particular subject: the Oxford Companion to English Literature. 3 Chiefly Brit. dated a piece of equipment containing objects used in a particular activity: a traveler's companion. 4 [Companion] a member of the lowest grade of certain orders of knighthood.

v. [tr.] formal accompany: he is accompanied by a pageboy.

compan-ion-ate


compan-ion-ate-ly adv.

compan-ion-ate-ly adv.

compan-ion-ate adv. [tr.] one word: a companionate marriage.

compan-ion-ship n. formal [of a marriage or relationship] between partners or spouses as equal companions. 2 of [a person] acting as a companion.

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compan-ion-ship n. formal [of a marriage or relationship] between partners or spouses as equal companions. 2 of [a person] acting as a companion.

compan-ion-way n. a feeling of fellowship or friendship.

compan-ion-ship n. a feeling of fellowship or friendship.

compan-ny

n. (pl. -nies) 1 a commercial business. 2 the fact or condition of being with another or others, esp. in a way that provides friendship and enjoyment: I could do with some company. 3 a person or people seen as a source of such friendship and enjoyment: she is excellent company. 4 the person or group of people whose society someone prefers over all others: a distinguished company. 5 a visiting person or group of people: I'm expecting company. 6 a number of individuals gathered together, esp. for a particular purpose. 7 a body of soldiers. 8 the smallest subdivision of an infantry battalion, typically commanded by a major or captain. 9 a group of actors, singers, or dancers who perform together.

v. -nies, -nied [intr.] (with company with) poetic. associated with; keep company with.

adj. (in good company) be in the same situation as someone important or respected: if you spot the ghost, you are in good company: King George V saw it too. 2 in company with (together with): keep someone company. 3 company to accompany or spend time with someone in order to prevent them from feeling lonely or bored. 4 engage in the same activity as someone else in order to sociable: I'll have a drink myself, just to keep you company. 5 keep company with associate with habitually.

compan-ry

n. 1 (also magnetic compass) an instrument containing a magnetized pointer that shows the direction of magnetic north and bearings from it. 2 (also pair of compasses) an
instrument for drawing circles and arcs and measuring distances between points, consisting of two arms linked by a movable joint, one arm ending in a point and the other usually carrying a pencil or pen. 3 the range or scope of something: the event had repercussions that went beyond the compass of this book. 4 the enclosing limits of an area: the region had within its compass many types of agriculture. 5 the range of notes that can be produced by a voice or a musical instrument.

**compass card** n. a card or rotating card showing the 32 principal bearings, forming the indicator of a magnetic compass. **compassion** /ˌkamˈpæsən/ n. sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others: victims treated with compassion. **compasionate** /ˌkampəˈsænət/ adj. feeling or showing sympathy and concern for others. **compasionately** adv.

**compatible** /ˈkæmpətəbl/ adj. (of two things) able to exist or occur together without conflict: the fruitiness of Beaufort is compatible with a number of meat dishes. (of two people) able to have a harmonious relationship: well-suited. (of one thing) consistent with another: the software can be compatible with all the programs. (of a computer, a piece of software, or other equipment) able to be used with a specified piece of equipment or software without special adaptation or modification. **compatriot** /ˈkæmpətrɪət/ n. a citizen or national of another country. **compel** /ˈkæmpəl, -pəl/ v. [pel, -peld, -pelting] [tr.] force or obligate (someone) to do something: a sense of duty compelled Harry to answer her questions. **compass** /ˈkæmpəs/ n. a computer that uses software designed for another make or type. **compatability** /ˈkæmpətəbiliti/ n. **compatably** adv.

**compensate** /ˌkæmpəˈzenit/ v. 1 [tr.] recom pense (someone) for loss, suffering, or injury, typically by the award of a sum of money: payments were made to farmers to compensate them for cuts in subsidies. pay (someone) for work performed: he will be richly compensated for his efforts. **compensation** /ˌkæmpəˈzeniʃən/ n. something, typically money, awarded to someone for loss, injury, or suffering; seeking compensation for injuries suffered at work: the government will consider claims to make employers pay for work-related injuries. the action or process of making such an award: the compensation of victims. the money received by an employee from an employer as a salary or wages. something that counterbalances or makes up for an undesirable or unwelcome state of affairs: getting older has some compensations. Psychol. the process of concealing or offsetting a psychological difficulty by developing in another direction. **compensational** [səˈnənəl] adj. **compensatory** [ˌkæmpəˈseptərē] adj. providing, effecting, or amounting as compensation, in particular: (of a payment) intended to compensate someone who has experienced loss, suffering, or injury, reducing or offsetting the unpleasant or unwelcome effects of something.

**compete** /ˌkæmˈpɛt/ v. [intr.] strive to gain or win something by defeating or establishing superiority over others who are trying to do the same: universities are competing for applicants. take part in a contest. **competence** /ˌkæmpəˈtens/ n. the ability to do something successfully or efficiently. the scope of a person's or group's knowledge or ability. a skill or ability. the legal authority of a court or other body to deal with a particular matter. the ability of a criminal defendant to stand trial, as gauged by their mental ability to understand the proceedings and to assist defense lawyers. Linguistic or language proficiency. Linguistics a speaker's unconscious, intuitive knowledge of their language. 2 dated an income large enough to live on, typically unemployed. **competing** /ˌkæmpəˈtɪŋ/ n. the activity or condition of competing. an event or contest in which people compete: beauty competition. the action of participating in such an event or contest: in the heat of competition. the person or people with whom one is competing, esp. in a commercial or sporting arena: the opposition; I walked around to check out the competition. Ecol. interaction between organisms: populations, species, or species, in which birth, growth and death depend on gaining a share of a limited environment. a strong desire to be more successful than others. as good as or better than others of a comparable nature: a car industry competitive with any in the world. (of prices) low enough to compete well with those of rival merchants.

**compensate** /ˌkæmpəˈzenit/ v. 1 [tr.] express dissatisfaction or annoyance about a state of affairs or an event: local authorities complained that they had insufficient resources [intr.]. we all complained about the food. [intr.] a state of dissatisfaction: complaining of headaches [intr.]. state a grievance: they complained to the French government. [intr.], [poetic] to make a mournful sound. [intr.] (of a structure or mechanism) groan or creak under strain. **compel** /kæmpəl/ n. **compellingly** adv.

**complain** /ˈkæmplən/ n. a plaintiff in certain lawsuits. **complaint** /ˈkæmplənt/ n. a statement that a situation is unsatisfactory or unacceptable. a reason for dissatisfaction: I have no complaints about the hotel. the expression of dissatisfaction: a letter of complaint. a law that lays the reasons for proceeding in a civil action. 2 an illness or medical condition, esp. a relatively minor one: she is receiving treatment for her skin complaint. **complaisant** /ˌkæmpləˈzænt/ adj. willing to please others; obliging. **compliance** /ˌkæmpləˈsændi/ n. **compliantly** adv.

**complement** /ˌkæmplənt/ n. & v. archaic spelling of COMPLETE. **completing** /ˌkæmplənt/ n. a thing that completes or brings to perfection: the libretto proved a perfect complement to the music. 2 a number or amount of something required to make a group complete: we have a full complement of staff. the number of people required to crew a ship. the amount in thousands by which a given angle is less than 90°. Math. the members of a set that are not members of a given subset. 3 Gram one
comput- er [kəmˈpjuːtər] n. (often as adj.) a digital device for performing operations according to instructions. It is capable of processing information and performing calculations. • adj. relating to computers or computing.

com- pute [kəmˈpjuːt] vb. [tr. or as adj.] 1. to find the result of a calculation or computation. 2. to calculate an amount or a value. • adj. calculated; reckoned.

com- put- er- ize [kəmˈpjuːtəˌraɪz] vb. [tr. often as adj.] to convert or equip with computer equipment. • adj. computerized.

con- ceit [kənˈsiːt] n. a light, fancy, or fanciful idea; an opinion without sufficient foundation. • adj. conceited.

con- ceiv- a- ble [kənˈsiːvəbəl] adj. capable of being imagined or grasped mentally; imaginable. • adv. conceivably.

con- ceive [kənˈsiːv] vb. [tr. (often as adj.)] 1. to bring to mind as an idea or fact; to imagine; to picture. 2. to make a plan or design. 3. to bring forth. 4. to cause to exist.

con- cent- ric [kənˈsɛntrɪk] adj. having the same center; concentric.

con- cent- trate [kənˈsentrət] vb. [tr. or as adj.] 1. to direct one’s attention to a particular subject or area. 2. to accumulate or gather; to focus. 3. to become intense or concentrated.

con- cent- tric- ly [kənˈsentrɪkli] adv. in a concentric manner; concentrically.

con- cent- tr- ator [kənˈsentrətr] n. a device for concentrating on a particular subject or area.

con- cen- tr- at- ing [kənˈsentrətɪŋ] prep. on or in connection with; about.

con- cert [kənsərt] n. 1. a musical performance given in public, typically by several performers or of several separate compositions; a symphony concert. 2. an event or a meeting of people for a common purpose.

con- cent- rate [kənsəˈreɪt] vb. [tr.] to focus or concentrate one’s attention or effort.

con- cent- r- at- ing [kənsəˈreɪtɪŋ] adj. concentrated.
theater on its own without the accompanying dramatic action: the concerted version of the fourth interlude from the opera. 2 formal arrangement, agreement, or harmony.

concerted [kon'sert] adj. formal arrangement (something) by mutual agreement or coordination. late 16th cent. (in the sense 'unite, cause to agree'); from French concert, from Italian concerto 'harmonize.' The noun use, dating from the early 17th cent. (in the sense 'a combination of voices or sounds'), is from French concert, from Italian concerto, from concerto.

- in concert acting jointly: he made his decision in concert with his snr.
- concerted [kon'sertid] adj. 1 jointly arranged, planned, or carried out; coordinated: determined to begin a concerted action against them; strenuously carried out; done with great effort: it would take a concerted effort for a burglar to break into my home. 2 (of music) arranged in several parts of equal importance: concerted secular music for voices.
- concert grand n. the largest size of grand piano, up to 12 feet (2.75 m) long.
- concertina [kansart'nən] n. a small musical instrument, typically polygonal in shape, played by stretching and squeezing between the hands, to work a central bellows that blows air over reeds, each note being sounded by pushing a button. [as adj.] opening or closing in multiple folds: concertina doors.

concertedly

concertina [kán'sart'mist-rəz] n. the leading first-violin player in some orchestras.

concerto [kon'serto] n. (pl. -tos or -tēs) a musical composition for a solo instrument or instruments accompanied by an orchestra, esp. one conceived on a relatively large scale.

concert pitch n. Mus. a standard for the tuning of musical instruments, internationally agreed upon in 1960, in which the note A above middle C has a frequency of 440 Hz. [fig.] a state of readiness, efficiency, and keenness.

concerted action [kon'seis-dı̂-kən] n. 1 a thing that is granted, esp. in response to demands; a thing conceded; i.e., the action of conceding, granting, or yielding something; i.e., a concession to a gesture, esp. a token one, made in recognition of a demand or prevailing standard; her only concession to fashion was her ornate silver ring. 2 a preferential allowance or rate given by an organization: tax concessions. 3 the right to use land or other property for a specified purpose, granted by a government, company, or other controlling body: new logging concessions.

- a commercial operation within the premises of a larger concern, typically selling refreshments. 4 can. a piece of land into which subdivided is itself further divided into lots.

concertive [kon'sesiv] adj. 1 characterized by, or tending to concert: we must look for a more concertive approach. 2 Gram. (of a preposition or conjunction) introducing a phrase or clause denoting a circumstance that might be expected to preclude the action of the main clause, but does not (e.g., in spite of, although). [of a phrase or clause] introduced by a concessive preposition or conjunction.

conch [kæŋk] n. (pl. conchs kon'sks or conches kan'chiz) 1 also conch shell) a tropical marine mollusk (Strombus and other genera, family Strombidae) with a spiral shell that may bear long projections and have a flared lip; a shell of this kind blown like a trumpet to produce a musical note, often depicted as played by Tritons and other mythological figures. 2 Arch. the roof of a semicircular apse, shaped like half a dome.

concierege [kon'syerj] n. 1 (esp. in France) a caretaker of an apartment complex or a small hotel, typically living on the premises. 2 a hotel employee whose job is to assist guests by arranging tours, making theater and restaurant reservations, etc.

conciliator [kon'sile'tər] v. [tr.] 1 stop (someone) from being angry or discontented; placate; pacify. [intr.] act as a mediator. [formal reconcile; make compatible; all complaints about charges will be concluded if possible.

conciliator [kon'sile'tər] n. a hard solid mass formed by the local accumulation of matter, esp. within the body or within a mass of sediment. 2 the formation of such a mass. [conciliatory] adj.

concubine [kon'sebyōn] n. chiefly hist. (in polygamous societies) a woman who lives with a man but has lower status than his wife or concubine.
wives. × archaic a mistress. —concu-bi-na-ry [kan’kyōōb,neré, kán-]/ adj.
con-cu-pis-cence [kan’kyōōp’so:nz, kan-]/ n. formal strong sexual desire
—in con-cu-pis-cent adj.
con-cur [kan’kyō:], v. intr. (cur-′ing, -cur′ed) [intr.] 1. be of the same opinion; agree: the authors concurred with the majority. —con-cur with agree with (a decision, opinion, or finding); we strongly concur with this recommendation. 2. happen or occur at the same time: coincide; in tests, cyto- genetic determination has been found to concur with enzymatic determination.
con-cur-ent [kan’karənt] adj. existing, happening, or done at the same time; there are three concurrent art fairs around the city. —con-cur-ent-ly adv.
con-cus-sion [kan’kas’shən] n. 1. temporary unconsciousness caused by a blow to the head. The term is also used loosely of the aftereffects such as confusion. 2. a violent shock as from a heavy blow.
con-demn [kan’dəm] v. tr. 1. express complete disapproval of, typically in public; censure. 2. find (someone) guilty of a criminal act or wrong. —sentence (someone) to a particular punishment, esp. death: the rebels had been condemned to death. (usu. be condemned) officially declare (something, esp. a building) to be unfit for use. —prove or show the guilt of (of circumstances) force (someone) to endure something unpleasant or undesirable: the physical ailments that condemned him to a lonely childhood. —con-dem-nation [kan’de-mən’shən] n.
con-dens-a-tion [kan’dens’shən] n. 1. water that collects as droplets on a cold surface when humid air is in contact with it. 2. the process of becoming more dense, in particular: the conversion of a vapor or gas to a liquid. —condensation reaction Chem. a reaction in which two molecules combine to form a larger molecule, producing a small molecule such as H₂O as a byproduct. 3. a concise version of something, esp. a text.
con-dens-e [kan’dens] v. 1. [tr.] make (something) denser or more concentrated: the limestones of the Jurassic age are condensed into a mere 11 feet. (usu. as adj.) condensed thicken (a liquid) by reducing the water content, typically by heating: condensed soup. —express (a piece of writing or speech) in fewer words; make concise: he condensed the plays into a three-hour production. (in word processing) [of character spacing] reduced. 2. [intr.] be changed from a gas or vapor to a liquid: the moisture vapor in the air condenses into droplets of water. —cause (a gas or vapor) to be changed to a liquid. —con-dens-able adj.
con-dens-er [kan’densər] n. a person or thing that condenses something, in particular: an apparatus or container for condensing vapor.
—another term for CAPACITOR.
con-de-scend [kan’dəsend] v. tr. show feelings of superiority; patronize: take care not to condescend to your reader. —do something in a haughty way: as though it is below one’s dignity or level of importance: we’ll be waiting for twenty minutes before she condescends to appear.
con-dign [kan’din] adj. formal (of punishment or retribution) appropriate to the crime or wrongdoing; fitting and deserved. —con-dign-ly adv.
con-diment [kan’dəment] n. a substance such as salt or ketchup that is used to add flavor to food.
con-dition [kan’dishən] n. 1. the state of something, esp. with regard to appearance, quality, or working order; the wiring is in good condition. 2. the bridge is in an excellent condition. 3. the person’s or animal’s state of health or physical fitness: he is in fairly good condition. 4. she was in a serious condition. 5. an illness or other medical problem: a heart condition. 6. a particular state of existence: a condition of misery. 7. a social position or rank. 2. conditions the circumstances affecting the way in which people live or work, esp. with regard to their safety or well-being: harsh living conditions. 3. the factors or prevailing situation influencing the performance or the outcome of a process: present climate conditions. 4. the prevailing state of the weather, ground, sea, or atmosphere at a particular time, esp. as it affects sports, events. 5. a state of affairs that must exist or be brought about before something else is possible or permitted: for a member to borrow money, these conditions have to be met.
—v. [tr.] 1. often be conditioned have a significant influence on or determine (the manner or outcome of something): national choices are conditioned by the international political economy. train or accustom (someone or something) to behave in a certain way or to accept certain circumstances: the child is conditioned to dislike food. (as n.) 3. condition social conditioning. 2. bring something into the desired state for use: a product for conditioning leather. 6. condition (adj.) conditioned (adv.) make (a person or animal) fit and healthy: he was six feet two of perfectly conditioned muscle and bone. 8. apply something to (the skin or hair) to give it a healthy or attractive look or feel. (intr.) of a beer or stout undergo such a process. 3. set prior requirements on (something) before it can occur or be done.
— in (or out of) condition in a fit or unfit physical state. 2. in no condition to do something certainly not fit or well enough to do something. 3. on condition that with the proviso or clause, for example should die in if I should die.
con-di-tion-er [kan’dishən-ər] n. a substance or appliance used to improve or maintain something’s condition: add a water conditioner to neutralize chlorine. 2. a liquid applied to the hair after shampooing to improve its condition: conditioner will protect your hair from damage. —con-don’/kan’dən] adj. 1. approve or sanction (something), esp. with reluctance: the practice is not officially condemned by any airline. —con-don-able adj.
con-dign [kan’din] adj. formal (of punishment or retribution) appropriate to the crime or wrongdoing; fitting and deserved. —con-dign-ly adv.
con-duse [kan’dyosəv] v. [intr.] to conduct to formal help bring to about (a particular situation or outcome); every possible care was taken that could conduct to their health and comfort.
con-du-cive [kan’dəvısiv] adj. making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible: the music was conducive to a relaxed atmosphere.
con-duct [n. /kan’dakt/ 1. the manner in which a person behaves, esp. on a particular occasion or in a particular context; the conduct of the police. 2. the action or manner of managing an activity or organization.
—archaic the art of leading; guidance.
—v. [tr.] 1. direct the performance of (a piece of music or a musical ensemble): my first attempt to conduct a great work. —con-duct (n. /kan’dakt/ adj. conductible [kan’daktə-bəl] adj. /kan’daktə-bal/ n. /kan’daktə-bal/.
con-du-cit-ance [kan’daktəns] n. the degree to which an object conducts electricity, calculated as the ratio of the current that flows to the potential difference present. This is the reciprocal of the resistance, and is measured in siemens or mhos. (Symbol: G)
con-du-cion [kan’dəkshən] n. the process by which heat or electricity is directly transmitted through a substance when there is a difference
of temperature or of electrical potential between adjoining regions, without movement of the material. \(\text{\textit{conduction}}\) the process by which sound waves travel through a medium, \(\text{\textit{conduction}}\) the transmission of impulses along nerves, \(\text{\textit{convection}}\) the conveying of fluid through a pipe or other channel.

\[\text{\textit{condutive}}\] adj.

\[\text{\textit{conductivity}}\] /\textit{kan\'do\'ktir}/ n. 1. a person who directs the performance of an orchestra or choir. 2. a person in charge of a train, streetcar, or other public conveyance, who collects fares and sells tickets.

\[\text{\textit{conductor}}\] n. (pl. \textit{conductors}) also \textit{conductive} (also \textit{electrical conductivity}) the degree to which a specified material conducts electricity; calculated as the ratio of the current density in the material to the electric field that causes the flow of current. \(\text{\textit{conductive}}\) also \textit{thermal conductivity} the rate at which heat passes through a specified material, expressed as the amount of heat that flows per unit time through a unit area with a temperature gradient of one degree per unit distance.

\[\text{\textit{conductor}}\] n. 1. a person who performs or conducts music in an orchestra or choir. 2. a person in charge of a train, streetcar, or other public conveyance, who collects fares and sells tickets.

\[\text{\textit{conducted}}\] adj. (intrans.) usual of someone who conducted a meeting, engaged in discussions.

\[\text{\textit{conference}}\] n. 1. a formal meeting for discussion. 2. a formal meeting that typically takes place over a number of days and involves people with a shared interest, esp. held regularly by an association or organization: an international conference on the environment. 3. a formal meeting of representatives of two or more countries, esp. to settle a dispute.

\[\text{\textit{confederation}}\] n. 1. a group of states or nations that have united for a common purpose, such as defense or economic development. 2. a group of states or nations that have united for a common purpose, such as defense or economic development.

\[\text{\textit{confederacy}}\] n. 1. a group of states or nations that have united for a common purpose, such as defense or economic development. 2. a group of states or nations that have united for a common purpose, such as defense or economic development.
con-fusion /kənˈfjuːzɪən/ n. 1 lack of understanding: uncertainty: there seems to be some confusion about which system does what. 2 a situation of panic: a breakdown of order: the shocks were so great that they were confused. 3 a disorderly jumble: all I can see is a confusion of brown cardboard boxes. 4 the state of being bewildered or unclear in one’s mind about something: she looked about in confusion. 5 the mistaking of one person or thing for another: there is some confusion between “Blissful” and “illegal.”

con-fu-ble /kənˈfjuːbəl/ v. [intr.] formal prove a person or an assertion to be wrong. —con-fu-bil-i-ty /kənˈfjuːbɪlɪtɪ/ n.

con-ga /kənˈgə/ n. 1 a Latin American dance of African origin, usually with seven people in a single line, one behind the other. 2 (also conga drum) a tall, narrow, low-toned drum beaten with the hands.

con-ga-drum /kənˈɡədrʌm/ n. —con-ga-drum-like adj.

con-geal /kənˈgɛəl/ v. [intr.] solidify or congeal, esp. by cooling: the blood had congealed into blobs as adj. [congealed] congealed egg white; fig. to shape or coalesce, esp. to form a satisfying whole. —con-gea-late /kənˈɡɛəleɪt/ v. —con-gea-late-ment /kənˈɡɛələt(ə)m/ n. (archaic).

con-ge-a-lation /kənˈɡɛəleɪʃən/ n. the process of congealing or the state of being congealed: the component of metals that causes their congealing.

con-gen-ial /kənˈdʒenjəl/ adj. of (a person) pleasant because of a personality, qualities, or interests that are similar to one’s own: his need for some congenial company. 2 of (a thing) pleasant or agreeable because suited to one’s taste or inclination: a climate more congenial to his cold stony soil. —con-gen-i-al-ly adv.

con-gen-i-tal /kənˈdʒenɪtəl/ adj. esp. of a disease or physical abnormality present from birth. —con-gen-i-tal-ly adv.

con-gen-er /kənˈdʒenər/ also conger eel n. a large edible predaceous eel (Conger and other genera, family Congridae) of shallow coastal waters.


con-gen-ia-ly /kənˈdʒenəlɪ/ adv.

con-gen-i-tal /kənˈdʒenəl/ adj. (esp. of a disease or physical abnormality) present from birth. —con-gen-i-tal-ly adv.

con-gen-i-ter /kənˈdʒenɪtər/ n. a large edible predaceous eel (Conger and other genera, family Congridae) of shallow coastal waters.

con-glo-me-rate /kənˈɡlɑːmərət/ n. 1 a number of different things or parts that are put together to form a whole: a large distinct and separate form. 2 a large corporation formed by the merger of separate and diverse firms. —con-glo-me-rate-bus-ness /kon-ɡləˈmərətətəs/ n.

con-glo-me-rate /kənˈɡlɑːməraɪt/ adj. of or relating to a conglomerate, esp. a large corporation: conglomerate businesses.

con-glute /kənˈɡlʌt/ v. [intr.] gather together into a compact mass: atoms that conglute at the center. —con-glute-ate /kənˈɡlʌtət/ v. to conglute different objects. —con-glute-ate-bus-ness /kon-ɡlʌtətətəs/ n.

con-ju-ga-tion /kənˈdʒuːʒəʃən/ n. 1 a group of people assembled for religious worship. 2 a gathering or collection of people, animals, or things. 3 the action of gathering together in a crowd. —con-ju-ga-tion-al /kənˈdʒuːʒəˈʃənal/ adj. 1 of or relating to a congregation: congregational singing. 2 (Congregational) of or relating to Congregationalism and the Congregational Church.

con-ju-ga-tion-al-ism /kənˈdʒuːʒəˈʃənalɪzəm/ n. a system of organization among Christian churches whereby individual local churches are largely self-governing. —con-ju-ga-tion-al-ist /kənˈdʒuːʒəˈʃənalɪst/ n. & adj.

con-gress /kənˈɡrɛs/ n. 1 the national legislative body of a country. 2 (Congress) the national legislative body of the U.S., meeting at the Capitol in Washington, DC. It is composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate. 3 a particular session of the U.S. Congress: the 104th Congress. 4 a formal meeting or series of meetings for discussion between delegates, esp. those from a political party or trade union or from without, a particular discipline: an international congress of mathematicians. 5 a society or organization, esp. a political one: the National Congress of American Indians. 6 the action of coming together: sexual congress. —con-gres-sion-al /kənˈɡrɛʃənal/ adj.

con-gres-sion-ai-medal-of-honor /kənˈɡrɛʃənalˈmedələvʌnɔr/ n. see Medal of Honor.

con-gres-sion-man /kənˈɡrɛʃənmən/ n. (pl. men) a member of the U.S. Congress (also used as a form of address), usually specifically a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

con-gruent /kənˈɡruənt/ adj. in agreement or harmony: the rules are congruent with the requirements of the law. 2 Geom. (of figures) identical in form: coinciding exactly when superimposed. —con-gruent-ly adv.

con-gru-ous /kənˈɡruəs/ adj. in agreement or harmony: this explanation is congruent with earlier observations. —con-gru-ous-ly adv.

con-ni-culate /kənˈnikəl/ adj. of or like a cone.

con-ni-cal /kənˈnikəl/ adj. having the shape of a cone. —con-ni-cal-ly /kənˈnikəlɪ/ adv.

con-cise /kənˈsɪs/ adj. (often with a following noun) brief: a concise summary. —con-cisely adv.

con-cis-er-ty /kənˈsɪsərɪtɪ/ n. an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information: conjectures about the newcomer. —con-cis-er-ta-bility /kənˈsɪsətəˈbɪlɪtɪ/ n.

con-join /kənˈdʒɔɪn/ v. [intr.] formal join: combine.

con-joined-twin /kənˈdʒɔɪntwɪn/ n. either of a pair of twins who are physically joined at birth, sometimes sharing organs, and sometimes separable by surgery.

con-joint /kənˈdʒɔɪnt/ adj. combining all or both people or things involved: conjoint family therapy. —con-joint-ly adv.

con-ju-ga-gal /kənˈdʒuːʒəɡəl/ adj. of or relating to marriage or the relationship between husband and wife: conjugal loyalty. —con-ju-ga-gal-ly adv.

con-ju-ga-tion /kənˈdʒuːʒəʃən/ n. Law a visit by the spouse of a prisoner, especially for sexual relations.

con-ju-gate /kənˈdʒuːʒət/ v. 1 [intr.] Gram. give the different forms of a verb in an inflected language: as they vary according to voice, mood, tense, number, and person. 2 [intr.] Biol. (of bacteria or unicellular organisms) become temporarily united in order to exchange genetic material: E. coli only conjugate when one of the cells possesses fertility genes. 3 [intr.] Chem. become combined with or joins to: the aldehyde is conjugated with the enzyme aldehyde dehydrogenase. 4 [adj.] coupled, connected, or related, esp. in particular.

con-ju-ga-tion /kənˈdʒuːʒəʃən/ n. 1 the act of conjugating; he began conjugating the hand of his son in congratulation. —con-ju-ga-tion-al /kənˈdʒuːʒəˈʃənal/ adj. 1 of or relating to a group of people assembled for religious worship. 2 a gathering or collection of people, animals, or things. 3 the action of gathering together in a crowd.

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consensus

worried about a particular matter: they were growing increasingly scanty-conscious. • (of an action or feeling) deliberate and intentional. • (of the mind or a thought) directly perceptible to and under the control of the person concerned. —con-sci-ously adj.

con-sci-ous-ness /kən'seɪnəs/ n. the state of being awake and aware of one's surroundings, the awareness or perception of something by a person. • the fact of awareness or the mind of itself. and the world. • a person who is fully aware of something, typically put into the army services.

con-scrip-tion /'konˌskripʃən/ n. compulsory enlistment for state service, typically into the armed forces. • early 19th cent.: via French (conscription was introduced in France in 1798), from late Latin conscribere 'write down together, enroll', from comes, com- 'together' + scribere 'write'.

con-se-crate /'kɒnsɪkrət/ [tr.] (usu be conscripted) make or declare (something, typically a church) sacred; dedicate formally to a religious or divine purpose: the present Holy Trinity Church was consecrated in 1845.[as adj. (consecrated] consecrated ground. • in Christian belief) make (bread or wine) into the body or blood of Christ: [as adj. (consecrated] the consecrated wine. • ordain (someone) to a sacred office, typically that of bishop: in 1669 he was consecrated bishop of Northern Uganda. • int. describe (something) exclusively to a particular purpose.

con-se-que-nt /'kɒnsɪkwənt/ adj. following continuously; five consecutive months of severe decline; in an unbroken or logical sequence. • Gram expressing consequence or result: a consecutive clause. • Mus. denoting intervals of the same kind (esp. fifths or octaves) occurring in succession between two or more voices.

con-se-que-tive /'kɒnsɪkwətɪv/ adj. following continuously; five consecutive months of severe decline; in an unbroken or logical sequence. • Gram expressing consequence or result: a consecutive clause. • Mus. denoting intervals of the same kind (esp. fifths or octaves) occurring in succession between two or more voices.

con-sent /'kɒnsent/ [tr.] give permission for something to happen or agreement to do something: he consented to a search by a detective. • agree to do something. —con-sent-ual /'kɒnsentjuəl/ adj.

con-sent-ing adult n. an adult who willingly agrees to engage in an act, esp. a sexual act.

con-se-quence /'kɒnsɪkwəns; -kwəns/ n. 1 a result or effect of an action or condition; many have been laid off work as a consequence of the administration's policies. • 2 importance or relevance; the past is of no consequence; he didn't say anything of great consequence. • dated social distinction: a woman of consequence.

— in consequence as a result. • take the consequences accept responsibility for the negative results of one's action.

con-se-quent /'kɒnsɪkwənt/ adj. following as a result or effect; labor shortages would create with a consequent increase in wages. • Geol. (of a stream or valley) having a direction or character determined by the original slope of the land before erosion. • archaic logically consistent.

— in a thing that follows another. • Logic the second part of a conditional proposition, whose truth is stated to be conditional upon that of the antecedent.

con-se-quent-ial /'kɒnsɪkwəntjʊəl/ adj. following as a result or effect; a loss of confidence and a consequential withdrawal of funds. • Law resulting from an act, but not immediately and directly: consequential damages. • important; significant.

con-se-quent-ly /'kɒnsɪkwəntli/ adv.

con-se-rve-an-cy /'kɒnsərvənsi/ n. [pl. -cies] 1 [in names] a body concerned with the preservation of nature, specific species, or natural resources: the Nature Conservancy. • 2 the conservation of something, esp. wildlife and the environment.

con-se-rvation /'kɒnsərveɪʃən/ n. the action of conserving something, in particular: preservation, protection, or restoration of the natural environment, natural ecosystems, vegetation, and wildlife. • preservation, repair, and prevention of deterioration of archaeological, historical, and cultural sites and artifacts. • prevention of excessive or wasteful use of a resource. • Physics the principle by which the total value of a physical quantity (such as energy, mass, or linear or angular momentum) remains constant in a system. —con-se-rvation-ist n.

con-se-rvative /'kɒnsərvətɪv/ adj. holding to traditional attitudes and values and cautious about change or innovation, typically in relation to politics or religion. • (of dress or taste) sober and conventional. • (of an estimate) purposely low for the sake of caution. • (of surgery or medical treatment) intended to control rather than eliminate a condition, with existing tissue preserved as far as possible. • (Conservative) of or relating to the Conservative Party of Great Britain or a similar party in another country.

— n. a person who is averse to change and holds to traditional values and attitudes in relation to politics. • (Conservative) a supporter of the Conservative Party of Great Britain or a similar party in another country.

con-se-rva-tion-ism /'kɒnsərvətreɪʃənɪzəm/ n. —con-se-rva-tion-ist n.

con-se-rva-tion-shop (or consignment store) n. a store that sells secondhand items or on behalf of the original owner, who receives a percentage of the selling price.

con-sist v. [kon'sist] [int. 1 (of) be composed of or made up of; the exhibition consists of 180 drawings. • consist in have as an essential feature: his duties consist in taking the condition of the barrier. • consist with be consistent with: the information consists with our account. • consist-ency /'kɒnsɪstənsi/ (also con-sist-ence) [nouns] (pl. -cies) 1 conformity in the application of something, typically that which is necessary for the sake of logic, accuracy, or fairness; the grading system.

Pronunciation Key • ago, uy, or over, fur: a hat; a ate; a ear; ch chin; e let; e see; e(s) air; i fht; i by; i(ə) ear; ng sing; o go; o law; for; o toy; o good; o good; oo goon; ou out; s sh she; th thin; th thorn; th why; th vision
is to be streamlined to ensure greater consistency. ■ the achievement of a level of performance that does not vary greatly in quality over time.

2. the way in which a substance, typically a liquid, holds together; its thickness or viscosity: the sauce has the consistency of creamed butter.

consistent [kan'sistant] adj. (of a person, behavior, or process) unchanging in achievement or effect over a period of time; manufacturing processes require a consistent approach. ■ compatible or in agreement with something: the injuries are consistent with falling from a great height. ■ (of an argument or set of ideas) not containing any logical contradictions: a consistent explanation. —consistently adv.

consolation [kan'so-la-tion] n. comfort received by a person after a loss or disappointment: there was consolation in knowing that others were worse off. ■ a person or thing providing such comfort: the church was the main consolation in a hard life. ■ Sports a round or contest for tournament entrants who have been eliminated before the finals, often to determine third and fourth place. —consolatory [kan'so-tor-ee] adj.

consolation prize n. a prize given to a competitor who narrowly fails to win or who finishes last.

consolable adj. —consoler n. —consolingly adv.

consolé [ken'so-lé] n. 1 a panel or unit accommodating a set of controls for electronic or mechanical equipment. ■ a cabinet for television or radio equipment. ■ the cabinet or enclosure containing the keyboards, stops, pedals, etc. of an organ. ■ a monitor and keyboard in a multistation computer system. 2 an ornamented bracket with scrolls or corbels supporting a cornice, shelf, or tablet. 3 a support between the seats of an automobile that has a compartment and indentations for holding small items.

consolidate [kan'so-lid-at] v. 1 [tr.] make (something) physically stronger or more solid; consolidate the outside walls. ■ reinforce or strengthen (one’s position or power): the company consolidated its position in the international market. ■ combine (a number of things) into a single more effective or coherent whole: all manufacturing activities have been consolidated in new premises. ■ combine (a number of financial accounts or funds) into a single overall account or set of accounts. ■ combine (two or more legal actions involving similar questions) into one for action by a court. 2 [intr.] one’s or one’s company becomes stronger or more solid. —consolidation [kan'so-lid-a-tion], consolidate [kan'so-lid-at].

consommé [kan'so-mé] n. a clear soup made with concentrated stock.

consonance [kan'sonans] n. agreement or compatibility between opinions or actions: consonance between conservation measures and existing agricultural practice. ■ the recurrence of similar sounds, esp. consonants, in close proximity (chiefly as used in prosody). ■ Mus. the combination of notes that are in harmony with each other due to the relationship between their frequencies. ■ the mechanical or psychological matching of qualities.

consistant [kan'sistant] n. a basic speech sound in which the breath is at least partly obstructed and which can be combined with a vowel to form a syllable. Contrasted with VOWEL. ■ a letter representing such a sound.

adj. 1 denoting or relating to such a sound or letter: a consonant phoneme. 2 (consonant with) in agreement or harmony with: the findings are consonant with other research. ■ Mus. making a harmonious interval or chord: the tone is consonant with all the upper notes. —consonantal [kan'son-an-tal], consonantly adj.

consort [kan'sort] n. 1 a wife, husband, or companion, in particular the spouse of a reigning monarch. ■ v. [kan'sort; kan'sort; int.] (conspire with) habitually associate with (someone), typically with the disagreement of others: you chose to consort with the enemy. ■ (consort with/to) archaic agree or be in harmony with.

consort • 1,2 n. a small group of musicians performing together, typically playing instrumental music of the Renaissance period: a consort of viols.

consortium [kan'sort-ee-um] n. [pl. -tia/-thea] 1 a collective body of voters in a specified area who elect a representative to a legislative body, chiefly Brit. the area represented in this way. ■ a body of customers or suppliers.

consolidating [kan'sistant] adj. 1 being a part of a whole: the constituent minerals of the rock. ■ 2 being a voting member of a community or organization and having the power to appoint or elect: the constituent body has a right of veto. ■ able to make or change a political constitution: a constituent assembly.

consti-tute [kan'stI-tat] v. 1 [tr.] be (a part of) a whole: single parents constitute a great proportion of the poor. ■ (of people or things) combine to form (a whole): there were enough members present to constitute a quorum. ■ be or be equivalent to (something): his failure to act constituted a breach of duty. 2 [usu. be constituted] give legal or constitutional form to (an institution): established by law.

consti-tu- tion [kan'stI-tI-shan] n. 1 a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed. ■ a written record of this: the preamble to the constitution of UNESCO. ■ (the Constitution) the basic written set of principles and precedents of federal government in the U.S., which came into operation in 1789 and has since been modified by twenty-seven amendments. 2 the composition of something: the genetic constitution of a species. ■ the forming or establishing of something.

constituency [kan'stI-tI-ens-tee] n. 1 a group or body of voters in a specified area who elect a representative to a legislative body, chiefly Brit. the area represented in this way. ■ a body of customers or suppliers.

person to another by close contact: the rooms held no risk of contagion. a disease spread in such a way. fig. the spreading of a harmful idea or practice: the contagion of disgrace. a contagium.

conta-gious /kanˈtāsij/ adj. (of a disease) spread from one person or organism to another by direct or indirect contact. (of a person or animal) likely to transmit a disease by contact with other people or animals. fig. (of an emotion, feeling, or attitude) likely to spread to and affect others. —conta-giously adv. —conta-gious-ness n.

conta-in /kanˈtān/ v. [tr.] 1. we have or hold (someone or something) within. 2. we be out of context. (of a number of things) consist of: hordes can contain mainly beasts or a number of vegetables. (of a number) be divisible by (a factor) without a remainder. 2. control or restrain oneself or a feeling. 3. prevent a (severe problem) from increasing in extent or intensity; a new western policy to contain the conflict in Bosnia. —conta-in-able adj.

conta-in-ment /kanˈtānman/ n. the action of keeping something harmful under control or within limits: the containment of the AIDS epidemic. the action or policy of preventing the expansion of a hostile country or influence: the containment of communism.

conta-in-ate /kanˈtānät/ v. [tr.] (often be contaminated) (make) something impure by exposure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance: the site was found to be contaminated by radioactive ... fig. the entertainment industry is able to contaminate the mind of the public. —conta-in-a-ble adj.


con-tem-pla-tion /ˈkanˌtəmpləˈʃən/ n. —con-tem-pla-tive /kanˌtəmpləˈtiv/ adj. expressing or involving prolonged thought: she regarded me with a contemplative eye. —con-tem-pla-tory /kanˌtəmpləˈrē/ adj. living or occurring at the same time: the event was recorded by a contemporary historian. dating from the same period of time. works of paintings is contemporary with other works in an early style. belonging to or occurring in the present: the tension and complexities of our contemporary society. following modern ideas or fashion in style or design: contemporary art. —con-tem-pla-tor /ˈkanˌtəmpləˈtər/ n. —con-tem-pla-tor-y /kanˌtəmpləˈtərē/ adv. —con-tem-pla-tor-ly /kanˌtəmpləˈtərēl/ adv. —con-tem-pla-tor-ness n.

con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous /kanˈtempərəˈnēəs/ adj. existing or occurring in the same period of time: Pythagoras was contemporaneous with Buddha. —con-tem-po-ra-ne-ity /raɪˈnɪtɪ; ˈrəʊnɪtɪ/ n. —con-tem-po-ra-ne-ously /kanˌtempərəˈneɪslɪ/ adv. —con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous-ly adv. —con-tem-po-ra-ne-ous-ness n.

con-tem-po-ra-ry /kanˈtempərərē/ adj. 1. living or occurring at the same time: the event was recorded by a contemporary historian. dating from the same period of time. works of paintings is contemporary with other works in an early style. belonging to or occurring in the present: the tension and complexities of our contemporary society. following modern ideas or fashion in style or design: contemporary art. —con-tem-po-ra-ri-ty /ˈkanˌtempərəˈrɪtɪ/ n. —con-tem-po-ra-ri-ly /ˈkanˌtempərəˈrɪlɪ/ adv. —con-tem-po-ra-ri-ness n.

con-tem-plate /ˈkanˌtəmplət/ v. [tr.] look thoughtfully for a long time at. think about: the results of a trade war are too horrifying to contemplate. —[int.] think profoundly and at length; meditate: he sat morosely contemplating. have in mind as a probable though not certain intention: she was contemplating a gold mining venture. —con-tem-pla-tion /ˌkænˈtəmpləˈʃən/ n. —con-tem-pla-tor /ˈkænˌtəmpləˈtər/ n. —con-tem-pla-tor-y /ˈkænˌtəmpləˈtərē/ adv. —con-tem-pla-tor-ly /ˈkænˌtəmpləˈtərēl/ adv. —con-tem-pla-tor-ness n.

con-tent /ˈkæntənt/ n. 1. heated disagreement: the captured territory was one of the main areas of contention between the two countries. 2. an assertion, esp. one maintained in argument: statistics bear out his contention that many runners are not well-trained for this event. —in contention having a good chance of success in a contest. —con-ten-tious /kanˈtensij/ adj. causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial; involving heated argument. (of a person given to arguing or provoking argument. —con-ten-tious-ly adv. —con-ten-tious-ness n.

con-tent-pro-vider /ˈkæntəntprəˈvaɪdər/ n. a person or organization who supplies information for use on a Web site.

con-ter-minious /kanˈtærminəs; kan/ adj. sharing a common boundary: the forty-eight contiguous United States. having the same area, context, or meaning. —con-ter-minious-ly adv.

con-test /ˈkæntəst/ n. 1. an event in which people compete for supremacy in a sport, activity, or particular quality: a beauty contest. 2. a competition for a political position: the mayoral contest. 3. a dispute or conflict: a contest between traditional and liberal views. —in contest having a good chance of success in a contest. —con-test-able /ˈkæntəstəbəl/ adj. —con-test-er /ˈkæntəstər; ˈkæntəsər/ n. —con-test-er-ly /ˈkæntəstərli/ adv. —con-test-er-ness n.

con-ter-ter /ˈkæntənt/ adj. 1. he pleads no contest to two misdemeanor counts. 2. a competition, comparison, or choice of which the outcome is a foregone conclusion: when the two teams faced each other it was no contest. 3. a decision by the referee to declare a boxing match invalid on the grounds that one or both of the boxers are not making serious efforts.

con-test-ant /ˈkæntəstənt/ n. a person who takes part in a contest or competition.

con-text /ˈkænteks/ n. the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed: the decision was within the context of planned spending. the parts of something written or spoken that immediately precede and follow a word or passage and clarify its meaning. —con-text-adj. —con-text-ual /ˈkænteksəˈjuəl/ adj. —con-text-ual-ly adv. —con-text-less adj. —con-text-u-al-ly adv. —con-texted /ˈkæntekstəd/ adj. —con-text-ual-ly adv. —con-textual-ly adj. —con-text-u-al-ly adv. —con-textual-ly adj.

con-tig-u-ous /kanˈtɪgjuəs/ adj. sharing a common border; touching; the 48 contiguous states. next or together in sequence: five hundred contiguous dictionary entries. —con-tig-u-ous-ly /ˌkænˈtɪgjuəˈslɪ/ adv. —con-tig-u-ous-ness n.

con-ti-nent /ˈkæntənt/ n. any of the world’s main land mass or mass of land: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America. a mainland contrasted with islands. —con-ti-nent-adj. 1. able to control movements of the bowels and
contraction /kantræk'seɪʃn/ n. the process of becoming smaller. • the process in which a muscle becomes or is made shorter and tighter.

[usu. contractions] a shortening of the uterine muscles occurring at intervals before and during childbirth. • A word or group of words resulting from shortening an original form: “goodbye” is a contraction of “God be with you.” • the process of shortening a word by combination or elision.

controller /ˈkɒntrələr/ n. a person or company that undertakes a contract to provide materials or labor to perform a service or do a job.

contrac-tual /kənˈtræktʃl/ adj. agreed in a contract: a contractual obligation. • having similar characteristics to a contract: the contractual nature of the shareholder's rights. -contrac-tual-ly adv.

con-tra-dict /ˌkɒntrəˈdɪkt/ v. [tr] deny the truth of (a statement), esp. by asserting an opponent's point. • assert the opposite of a statement made by someone. • be in conflict with; that evaporation seems to contradict one of the most fundamental principles of physics. -con-tra-dict-ion n. -con-tra-dict-ory /ˌkɒntrəˈdɪktərɪ/ adj.

con-tra-di-ci-tion /ˌkɒntrəˈdɪʃn/ n. distinction made by contrasting the different qualities of two things: the bacterium is termed “rough” in contradiction to its ordinary smooth form.

con-trail /ˈkɒntrɛɪl/ n. a trail of condensed water from an aircraft or rocket at high altitude, seen as a white streak against the sky.

con-train-di-ca-tion /ˌkɒntrəɪnˈdaɪkeɪʃn/ n. (usu. be contraindicated) Med. (of a condition or circumstance) suggest or indicate that (a particular technique or drug) should not be used in the case in question.

con-tra-ind-i-cation /ˌkɒntrəˈɪndaɪkeɪʃn/ n. con-train-di-ca-tion.

con-trap-to-ry /ˌkɒntrəˈpətrɪ/ adj. Mus. of or in counterpoint. • (of a piece of music) with two or more independent melodic lines.

con-trary /ˈkɒntrəri/ adj. 1 opposite in nature, direction, or meaning. • (of two or more statements, beliefs, etc.) opposed to one another: his mother had given him contrary messages. • (of a wind) blowing in the opposite direction to one's course; unfavorable. 2 [kən'trë(a)re] perversely inclined to disagree or to do the opposite of what is expected or desired.

contrar-i-ty /ˌkɒntrərɪˈteɪti/ - contra-riness n.

• contrary to conflicting with; counter to: contrary to his expectations, he found the atmosphere exciting. • on (or quite) the contrary used to intensify a denial of what has just been implied or stated: there was no malice in her; on the contrary, she was very kind. • to the contrary with the opposite meaning or implication: he continued to drink despite medical advice to the contrary.

con-strast /ˈkɒnstræst/ n. 1 [ˈkɒnstræst] the state of being strikingly different from something else, typically something in juxtaposition or close association: a contrast between rural and urban trends; the degree of difference between tones in a television picture, photograph, or other image. • enhancement of the apparent brightness or clarity of a design provided by the juxtaposition of different colors or textures; the action of calling attention to notable differences. • a thing or person having qualities noticeably different from another: the castle is quite a contrast to other places where the singer has performed.

v. /ˈkɒnstræst, ˈkənstræst/ [intr.] differ strikingly: his friend's success contrasted with his own failure. • [tr.] compare in such a way as to emphasize differences. • late 17th cent. (as a term in fine art, in the sense 'juxtapose so as to bring out differences in form and color'); from French contraste (noun), contraster (verb), via Italian from medieval Latin contrastare, from Latin contra- 'against' + stare 'stand.' -con-strast-ing-ly /ˌkɒnstræstɪŋlɪ/ adv. -con-strast-ly /ˌkɒnstræstli/ adv. -con-strast-ive /ˌkɒnstræstɪv/ adj.

con-tra-ve-nence /ˌkɒntrəˈvɛnəns/ n. adj. violated the prohibition or order of a law, treaty, or code of conduct: this would contravene the rule against hearsay. • conflict with a (right, principle, etc.), esp. to its detriment; this contravened Washington's commitment to its own proposal. -con-tra-ven-er n.

con-tra-ven-tion /ˌkɒntrəˈvɛnʃn/ n. an action that violates a law, treaty, or other ruling: young persons who commit offenses bear responsibility for their contraventions.

con-tre-coup /ˌkɒntrəˈkɒp/ n. (pl. -coupes /-ˈkɒps/) a continuation resulting from the brain contacting the skull on the side opposite from where the disturbance occurs. Compare with coup.

con-tre-temps /ˌkɒntrəˈtempz/ n. (pl. same -ˌtɛmpz(2); -ˌtɛmpz(-z)) an unexpected and unfortunate occurrence. • a minor dispute.

con-tri-bu-tion /ˌkɒntrəˈbeɪʃn/ n. a gift or payment to a common fund or collection: charitable contributions. • the part played by an author or thing in bringing about a result or helping something to advance. • an article or other piece of writing submitted for publication in a collection.

con-tri-bu-tor-ry /ˌkɒntrəˈbeɪtərɪ/ adj. 1 playing a part in bringing something about: smoking may be a contributory cause of lung cancer. 2 (of or relating to a pension or insurance plan) operated by means of a fund into which people pay: contributory benefits.

con-tri-ble /ˌkɒntrəˈble/ adj. feeling or expressing remorse or penitence; affected by guilt. -con-tri-ble-ly adv. -con-tri-bleness n. -con-tri-ble-ness n.

con-triv-an-ces /ˌkɒntrəˈvɛnz/ n. a thing that is created skillfully and inventively to serve a particular purpose: an assortment of electronic equipment and mechanical contrivances. • the use of skill to bring something about or create something: the requirements of the system, by happy chance and some contrivance, can be summed up in an acronym. • a device, esp. in literary or artistic composition, that gives a sense of artificiality.

con-trive /ˈkɒntrɪv/ v. [tr] create or bring about (an object or a situation) by deliberate use of skill and artifice: his opponents contrived a crisis. • manage to do something foolish or create an undesirable situation: the poor guy contrived to hang himself. -con-trive-able adj.

con-trived /ˈkɒntrɪvd/ adj. deliberately created rather than arising naturally or spontaneously; giving a sense of artificiality.

cutrol /ˈkɒntrol/ n. 1 the power to influence or direct people's behavior or the course of events: the whole operation is under the control of a production manager. • the ability to manage a machine or other moving object: he lost control of his car. • the restriction of an activity, tendency, or phenomenon: pest control. • the power to restrain something: esp. one's own emotions or actions: get control of your emotions. • control (of a machine) a device that limits or regulating something: growing controls on spending. • a switch or other device by which a machine is regulated: the volume control. • the place where a particular item is verified: passport control. • the base from which a system or activity is directed: mission control. • Bridge a high card that will prevent opponents from establishing a particular suit. -controller n. -com-pu-tor n. -con-trol-key /kənˈtroʊlki/ n. -con-troll-er /kənˈtroʊlər/ n. -con-trol-ship /ˈkɒntrolʃip/ n.

controller /ˈkɒntrələr/ n. a person or company that undertakes a contract to provide materials or labor to perform a service or do a job.

controller /ˈkɒntrələr/ n. a person or company that undertakes a contract to provide materials or labor to perform a service or do a job.
be submitted by the beginning of the month. ■ material for a newspaper or magazine article: bad news makes good copy. ■ the text of an advertisement: "No more stables—no more trouble," trumpeted their ad copy.

> v. (copies, copied) [tr] make a similar or identical version of; reproduce. ■ Comput. reproduce (data stored in one location) in another location: the command will copy a file from one disc to another. ■ write out (information that one has read or heard; he copied the details into his notebook. ■ behave in a similar way to; do the same as: she was such fun that everybody wanted to copy her. ■ imitate or reproduce (an idea or style) rather than creating something original: lifestyles copied from Miami and Fifth Avenue. ■ art students copied from approved old masters.

■ copy something to send a copy of a letter to (a third party). ■ Middle English (denoting a transcript or copy of a document): from Old French copie (noun), copier (verb), from Latin copia (abundance) (in medieval Latin 'transcript,' from such phrases as copiam desiderabili facer give permission to transcribe).

copy-book /ˈkɔpiˌbuk/ n. a book containing models of handwriting for learners to imitate.

■ adj. exactly in accordance with established criteria: perfect. ■ tritely conventional: out come the copybook maxims.

copy-cat /ˈkɔpiˌkat/ n. int. derog. (esp. in children's use) a person who copies another's behavior, dress, or ideas. ■ as adj. denoting an action, typically a crime, carried out in imitation of another.

copy-desk /ˈkɔpiˌdesk/ n. a desk in a newspaper office at which copy is edited for print.

copy-edit /ˈkɔpiˌedit/ [also copy-edit] v. [tr] edit (text to be printed) by checking its consistency and accuracy. ■ copy-edit-tor /ˌɛdɪˈtɔr/ n. as adj. editor.

copy-ist /ˈkɔpiˌɪst/ n. a person who makes copies, esp. of handwritten documents or music. ■ a person who imitates the styles of others, esp. in art or literature.

copyright /ˈkɔpiˌrɔftp/ n. the exclusive legal right, given to an originator or an assignee to print, publish, perform, film, or record literature, art, musical, or theatrical material, and to authorize others to do the same.

■ v. [tr] secure copyright for (such material).

copy-writer /ˈkɔpiˌriːtər/ n. a person who writes the text of advertisements or publicity material.


couquet /ˈkoʊˈket/ n. a woman who flirts. ■ coquet-tish adj. ■ coquet-tish-ness n.

couqui /ˈkoʊki/ n. a singing tree frog (Eleutherodactylus coqui), native to Puerto Rico, that has become an invasive pest in Hawaii.

coral /ˈkɔrəl/ n. 1 a hard stony substance secreted by certain marine coelenterates as an external skeleton, typically forming large reefs in warm seas. ■ precious red coral, used in jewelry. ■ the pinkish-red color of red coral. ■ 2 a sedentary, typical colonial coelenterate of warm and tropical seas, with a carapace, horny or soft skeleton. ■ 3 the unfertilized egg of a lobster or scorpion. ■ coralline adj. (chiefly Biol. Zool.):

■ n. (coralline alga or coralline seaweed) a branching reddish seaweed (family Corallinaceae) with a calcareous stem, in particular Corallina officinalis, common on the coasts of the North Atlantic. ■ a sedentary colonial marine animal, esp. a bryozoan. ■ adj. resembling coral: coralline sponges.

coral line /ˈkɔrəl,liːn/ n. (also coralline alga or coralline seaweed) a branching reddish seaweed (family Corallinaceae) with a calcareous stem, in particular Corallina officinalis, common on the coasts of the North Atlantic. ■ a sedentary colonial marine animal, esp. a bryozoan. ■ adj. resembling coral: coralline sponges.

coral snake /ˈkɔrəl,neɪk/ n. a brightly colored venemous snake (Micrurus and other genera) of the cobra family, typically having conspicuous bands of yellow, red, white, and black.

cor-bel /ˈkɔrˌbel/ n. a projection jutting out from a wall to support a structure above it.

■ v. [beleld, -belting chiefl Brit. -beled, -belting] (often corbelled out) support (a structure such as an arch or balcony) on corbels.

cord /ˈkɔrd/ n. 1 long thin flexible string or rope made from several twisted strands. ■ a length of such material, typically one used to fasten or move a specified object. ■ an anatomical structure resembling a length of cord (e.g., the spinal cord, the umbilical cord). ■ a flexible insulated cable used for carrying electric current to an appliance. ■ ribbed fabric, esp. corduroy: [as adj] cord jackets. ■ (cords) int. corduroy pants. ■ a cordlike rib on fabric. ■ a measure of cut wood, usually 128 cubic feet (3.62 cu m). ■ cord-like adj. ■ lik adj. ■ cordage /ˈkɔrdˌdʒeɪ/ n. cords or ropes, esp. in a ship's rigging.


cord blood n. blood from the human umbilical cord, a source of stem cells.

cordial /ˈkɔriˌəl/ adj. warm and friendly. ■ strongly felt.

■ n. 1 another term for *liqueur. 2 a comforting or pleasant-tasting medicine. ■ cordial-ity /ˈkɔrdiələti/ n. ■ cordial-ly adv.

cord-lier-ly /ˈkɔrdliərˌli/ n. a system or group of parallel mountain ranges together with the intervening plateaus and other features, esp. in the Andes or the Rockies.

cord-ite /ˈkɔrˌdait/ n. a smokeless explosive made from nitrocellulose, nitroglycerin, and petroleum jelly, used in ammunition.

cordless /ˈkɔrdəls/ adj. (of an electrical appliance or telephone) working without connection to a main supply or central unit.

cordless telephone n. a telephone that can be moved freely without being connected to a phone line.

cord-don /ˈkɔrdən/ n. a line or circle of police, soldiers, or guards preventing access to or from an area or building. 2 an ornamental cord or braid.

■ v. [tr] (cordon off) prevent access to or from (an area or building) by surrounding it with police or other guards.

cord-don bleu /ˈkɔrdən bлю/ adj. Cooking. the highest class: a cordon bleu chef. ■ denoting a dish consisting of an escalope of veal or chicken rolled, filled with cheese and ham, and then fried in breadcrumbs.

■ n. a cook of the highest class.

cord-du-roy /ˈkɔrdəˌri/ n. a thick cotton fabric with velvety ribs. ■ (cor-duroys) pants made of corduroy.


core /ˈkɔr/ n. 1 the tough central part of some fruits, containing the seeds: an apple core. 2 the central or most important part of something, in particular: often as adj. the part of something that is central to its existence or character: managers can concentrate on their core activities. ■ the plan has the interests of children at its core. ■ an important or unchanging group of people forming the central part of a larger body.

■ the dense central region of a planet, esp. the nickel-iron inner part of the earth. ■ the central part of a nuclear reactor, which contains the fissile material. ■ a tiny ring of magnetic material used in a computer memory to store one bit of data, now superseded by semiconductor memories. ■ the inner strand of an electrical cable or rope. ■ a piece of soft iron forming the center of an electromagnet or an induction coil. ■ an internal mold filling a space to be left hollow in a casting. ■ a cylindrical sample of rock, ice, or other material obtained by boring with a hollow drill. ■ Archaeol. a piece of flint from which flakes or blades have been removed.

■ v. [tr] remove the tough central part and seeds from (a fruit).

cor-es /ˈkɔrəs/ n. a plant (genus Coreopsis) of the daisy family, cultivated for its rayed, typically yellow, flowers.

cor-es-pon-dent (also core-respondent) n. 1 a joint defendant in a lawsuit, esp. one on appeal. 2 a person cited in a divorce case as having committed adultery with the respondent.

cor-gi /ˈkɔrˌgi/ n. (pl. cor-gis) short for welsh corgi.

cor-li-der /ˈkɔrˌlɪdər, ˈkɔrˌliːdər/ n. an aromatic Mediterranean plant (Coriandrum sativum) of the parsley family, the leaves and seeds of which are used as culinary herbs.

Cor-in-thian /ˈkɔrəˌθiən/ adj. 1 belonging or relating to Corinth, esp. the ancient city. ■ relating to or denoting the lightest and most ornate of the classical orders of architecture (used esp. by the Romans), characterized by flared capitals with rows of acanthus leaves. ■ involving or displaying the highest standards of sportsmanship: a club embodying the Corinthian spirit.

■ n. 1 a native of Corinth. ■ hist. a wealthy amateur of sport. 2 the Corinthian order of architecture.

cork /ˈkɔrk/ n. the buoyant, light brown substance obtained from the outer layer of the bark of the cork oak: [as adj] cork tiles. ■ a bottle stopper, esp. one made of cork. ■ a piece of cork used as a float for a swimming line. ■ Bot. a protective layer of dead cells immediately below the bark of woody plants.

■ v. [tr] (often be corked) 1 close or seal (a bottle) with a cork. ■ as adj. (corked) (of wine) spoiled by tannin from the cork. ■ draw with burnt cork. ■ illicitly hollow out (a baseball bat) and fill it with cork to make it lighter. ■ cork-like adj.

cork oak (also cork tree) n. an evergreen Mediterranean oak (Quercus suber), the outer layer of the bark of which is the source of cork.

cork-screw /ˈkɔrkˌskrɔː/ n. a device for pulling corks from bottles, consisting of a spiral metal rod that is inserted into the cork and a handle that extracts it. ■ [usu. as adj.] a thing with a spiral shape or movement: a girl with corkscrew curls.

■ v. [intr.] move or twist in a spiral motion.

corky /ˈkɔrkə/ adj. (cordier, corkiest) cordlike. ■ (of wine) corked.

corm /ˈkɔrm/ n. a rounded underground storage organ present in
cough drop  n. a medicated lozenge sucked to relieve a cough or sore throat.
cough syrup  n. liquid medicine taken either to suppress or expectorate a cough.
could  [kould] adj. modal verb past of can. 1. used to indicate possibility: they could be right. 2. used in making polite requests: could I use the phone? 3. used in making suggestions: you could always phone him. 4. used to indicate annoyance because of something that has not been done: they could have told me! used to indicate a strong inclination to do something: he intends me so much that I could scream.
could n't  [koudnt] contr. of could.
cou-lo-mb  ['kouloamb] n. Physics the SI unit of electric charge, equal to the quantity of electricity conveyed in one second by a current of one amperc.
coun-cil  ['kounsil] n. 1. an advisory, deliberative, or legislative body of people formally constituted and meeting regularly. 2. a body of people elected to manage the affairs of a city, county, or other municipal district. 3. an ecclesiastical assembly. 4. an assembly or meeting for consultation or advice: that evening she held a family council.
coun-cil-man  ['kounsilman] n. (pl. -men) a person, esp. a man, who is a member of a council, esp. a municipal one.
coun-ci-lor  ['kounsilor] also chiefly Brit. 1. a member of a council. 2. -ship a council.
coun-sel  ['kounsel] n. 1. advice, esp. that given formally. 2. consultation, esp. to seek or give advice. 3. (pl. same) the lawyer or lawyers conducting a case: the counsel for the defense.
v. 1. (seled, -sling) chiefly Brit. 2. (to) 1. give advice to (someone). 2. give professional psychological help and advice to (someone). 3. recommend (a course of action). 4. -sling n.
  a. keep one's own counsel say nothing about what one believes, knows, or plans: take counsel discuss a problem.
coun-se-lor  ['kounselor] also chiefly Brit. 1. a person trained to give guidance on personal, social, or psychological problems: a marriage counselor. 2. a person who gives advice on a specified subject: a debt counselor. 3. a person who supervises children at a camp. 4. a trial lawyer. 5. a senior officer in the diplomatic service.
count  [kaunt] v. 1. [tr] determine the total number of (a collection of items). 2. [intr] recite numbers in ascending order, usually starting at the number one. 3. [intr] (count down) recite or display numbers backward to zero to indicate the time remaining before the launch of a rocket or the start of an operation. 4. [tr] take into account; include: the staff has shrunk to four, or five if you count the summer interns. 5. (count someone in) include someone in an activity or the plans for it. 6. consider (someone or something) to possess a specified quality or fulfill a specified role: I count myself fortunate to have known him. 7. [intr] be regarded as possessing a specified quality or fulfilling a specified role: the rebate counts as taxable income. 8. [intr] be significant; it did not matter what the audience thought—it was the critics that counted. 9. (of a factor) play a part in influencing opinion or for against someone or something: his spontaneous attitude will count in his favor. 10. [count for] be worth (a specified amount); his views count for little. 11. (count toward) be included in an assessment of (a final result or amount). 12. [on/upon] rely on.
  a. phrasal v. count someone out 1. complete a count of ten seconds over a fallen boxer to indicate defeat. 2. (intr) exclude someone from an activity or the plans for it.
  n. 1. an act of determining the total number of something. 2. the total determined by such an action: a moderate increase in the white cell count. 3. an act of reciting numbers in ascending order, up to the specified number: hold the position for five counts. 4. Boxing an act of reciting numbers up to ten by the referee when a boxer is knocked down, the boxer being considered knocked out if still down when ten is reached. 5. Law a separate charge in an indictment. 6. the measure of the fine nervous system expressed as the weight of a given length or the length of a given weight. 7. a measure of the fineness of a woven fabric expressed as the number of warp or weft threads in a given length.
  a. count one's blessings be grateful for what one has.  b. count the days (or hours) be impatient for time to pass.  c. loose count forget how many of something there are, esp. because the number is so high.  d. count by hand a European nobleman whose rank corresponds to that of an English earl.  e. -ship a council.
coun-tess  [kauntis] n. able to be counted.
count down  [kaunt,daun] n. an act of counting numerals in reverse
counteract /'koun'te-rækt/ v. [intr.] act against (something) in order to reduce its force or neutralize it. —counteraction /'koun'te-ri-æk'shən/ n. —counter-active /'koun'te-ri-aktiv/ adj.
counterattack /'koun'te-rə-tek/ n. an attack made in response to one enemy or another.
v. [intr.] attack in response. —counter-attacker n.
counterbalance /'koun'te-rə-bal/ n. a weight that balances another weight. adj. a factor having the opposite effect to that of another and so preventing it from exercising a disproportionate influence.
v. [intr.] a weight (another weight). n. neutralize or cancel by exercising an opposite influence.
countercharge /'koun'te-rə-chur/ n. an accusation made in turn by someone against another. n. a charge by a police or an armed force in response to one made against them.
counterclaim /'koun'te-rə-kle̊m/ n. a claim made to rebut a previous claim. n. Law a claim made by a defendant against the plaintiff. v. [intr.] chiefly Law make a counterclaim for something.
counter-clockwise /'koun'te-rə-klɔk-ˌwis/ adv. & adj. in the opposite direction to the way in which the hands of a clock move around.
counter-culture /'koun'te-rə-kələr/ n. a way of life and set of attitudes opposed to or at variance with the prevailing social norm.
counter-es-pio-nage /'koun'te-rə-espə-ənij/ n. activities designed to prevent or thwart spying by an enemy.
counterfeit /'koun'te-rə-fit/ adj. made in exact imitation of something valuable or important with the intention to deceive or defraud: passing counterfeit $10 bills. v. pretended: sham.
adv. in a fraudulent imitation of something else: a forgery.
v. [intr.] imitate fraudulently. n. pretend to feel or possess (an emotion or quality).
ought /'pət.int/ resemable closely: sleep counterfeited Death so well. Middle English (as a verb): from Anglo-Norman French contreftuer, from Old French controftier, past participle of controftier, from Latin contrahere 'in opposite make.' - a feature making.
counter-intelligence /'koun'te-rənˌtaɪn-dʒəns/ n. activities designed to prevent or thwart spying, intelligence gathering, and sabotage by an enemy or other foreign entity.
countermand /'koun'te-rə-mænd/ n. a ham that is dry-cured with salt before smoking.
counterman /'koun'te-rə-mən/ n. a person or thing having a position or performing a function that corresponds to that of another person or thing in another place: the minister held talks with his French counterpart.
counter-part /'koun'te-rə-pərt/ n. 1 a person or thing holding a position or performing a function that corresponds to that of another person or thing in another place: the minister held talks with his French counterpart. 2 Law one of two or more copies of a legal document.
counterpoint /'koun'te-rə-point/ n. 1 Mus. the art or technique of setting, writing, or playing a melody or melodies in conjunction with another, according to fixed rules. 2 an argument, idea, or theme used to create a contrast with the main element.
adv. [intr.] often be counterpointed emphasize by contrast: the cream walls and maple floors are counterpointed by black accents. n. compensate for.
counter-poise /'koun'te-rə-poz/ n. a factor, force, or influence that balances or neutralizes another. n. aarchia a state of equilibrium, a counterbalancing weight.
v. [intr.] have an opposing and balancing effect on. bring into contrast: the stories counterpoint a young recruit with an old-timer.
counter-pro-ductive /'koun'te-rə-prə-duktiv/ adj. having the opposite of the desired effect: they believe they are helping animals but their extremist behavior is actually counterproductive.
counter-refo-ra-tion /'koun'te-rə-refərə-ʃən/ n. the reform of the Church of Rome in the 16th and 17th centuries that was stimulated by the Protestant Reformation.
counter-rev-o-lu-tion /'koun'te-rəˌrevəˌlooʃən/ n. a revolution opposing a former one or reversing its results. —counter-revolutionary /'koun'te-rəˌrevəˌloʊˈʃənri/ adj. & n.
counter-sign /'koun'te-rə-sigan/ v. [intr.] add a signature to (a document already signed by another person): each check had to be signed and counter-signed.
counter-signature /'koun'te-rəˌsaŋk-tiʃər/ n. n. —counter-sink /'koun'te-rə-singk/ v. (past and past part. -sunk), -sank/ [tr.] enlarge and bevel the rim of a drilled hole so that a screw, nail, or bolt can be inserted flush with the surface. drive (a screw, nail, or bolt) into such a hole.
counter-te-nor /'koun'te-rə-tənor/ n. Mus. the highest male adult singing voice (sometimes distinguished from the male alto voice by its strong, pure tone), a singer with such a voice.
counter-ter-ror-ism /'koun'te-rəˌterəˌrəzəm/ n. political or military activities designed to thwart terrorism. —counter-terrorist /'koun'te-rəˌterəsɪst/ n. & adj.
counter-top /'koun'te-rəˌtæp/ n. a flat surface for working on, esp. in a kitchen.
counter-vail /'koun'te-rəˌvæil/ v. [usu. as adj.] (countervailing) offset the effect of (something) by countering it with something of equal force; their 'dissent was mediated by a number of countervailing factors.
counter-weight /'koun'te-rəˌweɪt/ n. another term for COUNTERBALANCE.
countess /'koun'teθ/ n. the wife or widow of a count or earl.
count /'koun't/ n. a woman holding the rank of count or earl in her own right.
counting-house /'koun'tiŋˌhouz/ n. hist. an office or building in which the accounts and money of a person or company were kept.
countless /'koun̄təls/ adj. too many to be counted; very many: she'd apologized countless times before.
count-tri-fied /'kʌntrɪˌfɪd/ also country-fied adj. reminiscent or characteristic of the country, esp. in being unsophisticated.
country /'kəntrɪ/ n. (pl. -tries) 1 a nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory. the country the people of a nation. the kind of a person's birth or citizenship; both my native and adopted countries are at war with you! 2 (often the country) districts and small settlements outside large towns, cities, or the capital; the unfied is right out in the country! as [adj] a country lane. 3 an area or region with regard to its physical features: a tract of wild country. a region associated with a particular person, esp. a writer, or with a particular work: Steinbeck country includes the Monterey Peninsula. 4 short for COUNTRY MUSIC.
country and western n. another term for COUNTRY MUSICT. as [adj] country-and-western.
country club n. a club with sporting and social facilities, set in a suburban area.
country-fied adj. variant spelling of COUNTRYFIED.
country ham n. a ham that is dry-cured with salt before smoking.
country-man /'kəntrɪˌmæn/ n. (pl. -men) 1 a person living or born in a rural area, esp. one engaged in a typically rural occupation. 2 a Pronunciation Key a ago, up; e ever, fur; b; a at; c; ch chin; o let; s; see; (ə) air; i; r; it; h; i; (ə) ear; ng sing; go; go; law; for; of; oy; oo good; oo good; oo out; sh she; th thin; th then; (th)i why; 2a vision
person from the same country or region as someone else: they trust a fellow countryman.

country music n. a form of popular music originating in the rural southern U.S. It is typically played characteristically on fiddle, guitar, steel guitar, drums, and keyboard. Also called country and western.

countryside n. the land and scenery of a rural area. • the inhabitants of such an area.

country n. pl. -ties 1 a political and administrative division of a state, providing certain local governmental services; a territorial division of some countries, forming the chief unit of local administration. 2 the people of such a territorial division collectively. • countrywide adj. & adv.

county seat n. the town that is the governmental center of a county.

coup [koo̞p] n. (pl. coups [koo̞ps]) 1 (also coup d'état) a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power by a government. 2 a notable or successful stroke or move: an unusual or unexpected but successful tactic in card play. 3 hist. (among North American Indians) an act of touching an armed enemy in battle as a deed of bravery, or an act of first touching an item of the enemy's in order to claim it.

coup de grâce [koo̞ dəˈɡʁa:s] n. a final blow or shot given to kill a wounded person or animal: fig. the party won another term and delivered the coup de grâce to socialism.

coup d'état [koo̞ dəˈtä] (pl. coups d'état [koo̞ dəˈtä(z)]) another term for coup (sense 1).

couple [koo̞p] (also couple [koo̞p]) n. a car with a fixed roof and two doors.

couple n. 1 two individuals of the same sort considered together: a couple of girls. 2 intr. an indefinite small number: a couple of days [as pron.]; we got some eggs—would you like a couple? [as adj.]; just a couple more. 3 pl. couplets of salt. 4 [treated as sing. or pl.] two people who are married, engaged, or otherwise closely associated romantically or sexually. • a pair of partners in a dance or game. • Mechanics a pair of equal and parallel forces acting in opposite directions, and tending to cause rotation about an axis perpendicular to the plane containing them.

v. [tr] (often be coupled with) combine: a sense of hope is coupled with a palpable sense of loss. • connect (a railroad vehicle or a piece of equipment) to another. • couple up to form a pair. • intr. dated have sexual intercourse. —couple-dom [ˈkʌpəldom] n.

coupler [ˈkʌpələr] n. something that connects two things, esp. mechanical components or systems: a hydraulic coupler. • Mus. a device in an organ for connecting two manuals so that they both sound when only one is played. • Mus. (also octave coupler) a similar device for connecting notes with their octaves above or below. • Photog. a compound in a developer or an emulsion that combines with the products of development to form an insoluble dye, part of the image.

couplet [ˈkʌpəlt] n. two lines of verse, usually in the same meter and joined by rhyme, that form a unit.

coupling [ˈkʌpəlɪŋ] n. 1 a device for connecting parts of machinery. 2 a fitting on the end of a railroad vehicle for connecting it to another. 3 the pairing of two items. • sexual intercourse. • an interaction between two electrical components by electromagnetic induction, electrostatic charge, or optical link.

coupon [ˈkʌpən] n. 1 a voucher entitling the holder to a discount for a particular product. • a detachable portion of a bond that is given up in return for a payment of interest. 2 a form in a newspaper or magazine that may be filled in and sent as an application for a purchase or information.

courage n. [ˈkærədʒ] 1 the ability to do something that frightens one; she called on all her courage to face the ordeal. 2 strength in the face of pain or grief. • Middle English [denoting the heart, as the seat of feelings]. 3 from Old French courage, from Latin cor 'heart' or 'instinct'. • have the courage of one's convictions act on one's beliefs despite danger or disapproval.

courageous [ˈkærədʒəs] adj. not deterred by danger or pain; brave. —courageously adv. —courageous-ness n.

courier [ˈkɔrɪər] n. 1 a messenger who transports goods or documents, in particular. • a company or employee of a company that transports commercial packages and documents. • a messenger for an underground or espionage organization. 2 a person employed to guide and assist a group of tourists.

courteous adj. polite, respectful, or considerate in manner. —courteously adv. —courteous-ness n.

courtier [ˈkɔrɪər] n. 1 a building in which a judicial court is held. 2 a building containing the administrative offices of a county.

courtliness [ˈkɔrtiliːn] n. a polite or refined manner: noble courtly: one received a courtly bow. 2 given to flattery: obsequious.

courtly [ˈkɔrtili] adj. (li.-ier; -liest) polished or refined, as befitting a royal court: he gave a courtly bow.

course [kɔːs] n. 1 the route or direction followed by a ship, aircraft, road, or river. • the way in which something progresses or develops: the course of history. • a procedure adopted to deal with a situation: the wisest course of action. • the route of a race or similar sporting event. • an area of land set aside and prepared for racing, golf, or another sport. 2 a dish, or a set of dishes served together, forming one of the successive parts of a meal. 3 a series, in particular of lessons or a set of lectures, usually leading to a qualification: a business-studies course. • Med. a series of repeated treatments or doses of medication. 4 Archit. a continuous horizontal layer of brick, stone, or other material in a building. 5 a pursuit of game (esp. hares) with greyhounds: many of the hares coursèd escaped unharmed. • in the course of — 1 undergoing the specified process: a textbook was in the course of preparation. 2 during the specified period: he was a friend to many people in the course of his life. • during and as a part of the specified activity: they became friends in the course of their long walks. • of course used to introduce an idea or turn of events as being obvious or to be expected. • used to give or emphasize agreement or permission: "Can I see you for a minute?" "Of course."

run (or take) its course complete its natural development without interference: his illness had run its course.

court [kɔːt] n. 1 also court of law a tribunal presided over by a judge, judges, or a magistrate in civil and criminal cases: a settlement was reached during the first sitting of the court | she will take the matter to court | as [adj.] a court case. • any of various other tribunals, such as military courts. • the place where such a tribunal meets. • the court the judge or judges presiding at such a tribunal. • a quadrangular area, either open or covered, marked out for ball games such as tennis or basketball: an indoor tennis court. • a quadrangular area surrounded by a building or group of buildings. • a subdivision of a building, usually a large hall extending to the ceiling with galleries and staircases. • the establishment, retinue, and courtiers of a sovereign; the emperor is shown with his court. • a sovereign and his or her counselors, constituting a ruling power: relations between the king and the imperial court. • a sovereign's residence.

drop at or to court legal action. • pay court to pay flattering attention to someone in order to win favor.

courteously [ˈkɔrtiliːs] adv. —courteous-ness n.

courthouse [ˈkɔrtilhaus] n. 1 a building in which a judicial court is held. 2 a building containing the administrative offices of a county.

courtly adj. (li.-ier; -iest) polished or refined, as befitting a royal court: he gave a courtly bow. 2 given to flattery: obsequious.
court-martial > n. (pl. courts-martial or court-martials) a judicial court for trying members of the armed services accused of offenses against military law; they appeared before a court-martial.

courier > v. (militarized, -military) Brit. -military-adj. try (someone) by such a court.

court order > n. a written direction issued by a court or a judge requiring a person to do or not do something.

court record > n. see RECORD. sense 1.

court reporter > n. a stenographer who makes a verbatim record and transcription of the proceedings in a court of law.

court-room > /ˈkɜːt,ˈrʊm,-ˈrəʊm/ n. the place or room in which a court of law meets.

courts-shipping > /ˈkʊt,ˈʃɪp/ n. a period during which a couple develop a romantic relationship, esp. with a view to marriage.

cousin > /ˈkʌzn/ n. (also first cousin) a child of one's uncle or aunt; a person belonging to the same extended family. a thing related or analogous to another; the new motorcycles are not proving as popular as their four-wheeled cousins.

cou-ture > /ˈkɔːtʃər/ n. the design and manufacture of clothes to the specific requirements and measurements.

cov-alent > /ˈkəʊvələnt/ adj. Chem. of, relating to, or denoting chemical bonds formed by the sharing of electrons between atoms. -cov-alen-tly adv.

cove > /kəv/ n. 1. a small sheltered bay. 2. a sheltered recess, esp. one in a mountain.

cove-nant > /ˈkɑːvənt/ n. an agreement. -cova-nent (also chiefly Law cove-nant) n.

cover > /ˈkʌvər/ v. [tr. | cover for] (often be covered) put something such as a cloth or lid on top of or in front of (something) in order to protect or conceal it. 2. envelop in a layer of something, esp. dirt. 3. scatter a layer of loose material over (a surface, esp. a floor), leaving it completely obfuscated; be over or adhered to (a surface), as decoration or to conceal something. 4. protect (someone) with a garment or hat; [as adj.] covered; -cove-led > adj. kept children covered with T-shirts. 5. extend over (an area). 6. travel (a specified distance); it took them four days to travel 150 miles. 7. deal with (a subject) by describing or analyzing its most important aspects or events. 8. investigate, report on, or publish or broadcast pictures of (an event). 9. work in, have responsibility for, or provide services to (a particular area). 10. (of a rule or law) apply to (a person or situation). 11. (of a sum of money) be enough to pay (a bill or cost); there are grants to cover the cost of materials for loft insulation. 12. (of insurance) protect against a liability, loss, or accident involving financial consequences; your contents are now covered against accidental loss or damage in transit. -cove-nant > -cove-nental > adj. -cove-nan-tial > n. (also chiefly Law cove-nant-ial) n.

covetous > adj. having or showing a great desire to possess something.
something, typically something belonging to someone else. —co-vet-ous-ly adv. —co-vet-ous-ness n.

co-vet /'kævət/ n. (pl. -eys) a small party or flock of birds, esp. partridge.

— fig. a small group of people or things.

co-w /'kau/ n. a fully grown female animal of a domesticated breed of ox, used as a source of milk or beef: a dairy cow. See CATTLE. (loosely) a domestic bovine animal, regardless of sex or age. (in farming) a female domestic bovine animal that has borne more than one calf. Compare with HEIFER. the female of certain other large animals, for example elephant. rhinoceros, whale, seal, or reindeer. int. derog. a woman, a fat or stupid one: what does he see in that cow?

— have a cow int. become angry, excited, or agitated. — till the cows come home int. for an indefinitely long time.

cow /'kau/ v. [tr.] usu. be cowed cause (someone) to submit to one’s wishes by intimidation: the intellectuals had been cowed into silence.

cow-ard /'kau-ərd/ n. a person who lacks the courage to do or endure dangerous or unpleasant things.

— adj. poetically, excessively afraid of danger or pain.

cow-ard-ice /'kau-ərd-əs/ n. lack of bravery.

cow-ard-li-ly /'kau-ərd-i-ləl/ adv. lacking courage. of (an action) carried out against a person who is unable to retaliate.

— adv. arcahaic in a way that shows a lack of courage. — coward-li-ness n.

cow-bell /'kau-bəl/ n. a bell hung around a cow’s neck in order to help locate the animal by the noise it makes. a similar bell used as a percussion instrument, typically without a clapper and struck with a stick.

cow-boy /'kau-boi/ n. 1. a man, typically one on horseback, who herds and tends cattle, esp. in the western U.S. and as represented in westerns and novels. 2. int. a person who is reckless or careless.

— [intr.] work as a cowboy: Sonora, Mexico, where he learned to cowboy.

— cowboy up int. mount a brave effort to overcome a formidable obstacle.

cow-catch-er /'kau-kætʃər/ adj. to catch a metal frame at the front of a locomotive for pushing aside cattle or other obstacles on the line.

cow-er /'kau-ər/ v. [intr.] crouch down in fear.

cow-hand /'kau-hænd/ n. a person employed to tend or ranch cattle: a cowboy or cowgirl.

cow-herd /'kau-ərd/ n. a person who tends grazing cattle.

cow-hide /'kau-haid/ n. a cow’s hide. a hide made from such a hide.

— a whip made from such leather.

cow-l /'kau/ n. a large loose hood, esp. one forming part of a monk’s habit: a monk’s hooded, sleeveless habit. a cloak with wide sleeves worn by members of Benedictine orders. the hood-shaped covering of a chimney or ventilation shaft. the part of a motor vehicle that supports the windshield and houses the dashboard. — cow-lid adj.

cow-lack /'kau-læk/ n. a lack of hair that grows in a direction different from the rest and that resists being combed flat.

cow-worker /'kəw-ərkwərk/ n. a fellow worker.

cow-pea /'kau-pi/ n. a plant (Vigna unguiculata) of the pea family, native to the Old World tropics and cultivated in the southern U.S. for animal feed and human consumption. the seed of this plant as food.

cow-poke /'kəu-pək/ n. int. a cowboy.

cow-pox /'kəu-poks/ n. a viral disease of cows’ udders which, when contracted by humans through contact, resembles mild smallpox, and was the basis of the first smallpox vaccines.

cow-punch-er /'kəu-pʌŋtʃər/ n. int. a cowboy.

cow-rie /'kəu-rē/ n. also cowry, also cowry. (pl. -ries) a marine mollusk (genus Cypraea, family Cypraeidae) that has a smooth, glossy, domed shell with a long narrow opening, typically brightly patterned. the flat-topped yellowish shell of the money cowrie (C. moneta), formerly used as money in parts of Africa and the Indo-Pacific area.

cow-shed /'kəu-ʃed/ n. a farm building in which cattle are kept when not in a pasture, or in which they are milked.

cow-slip /'kəu-slip/ n. 1. a European primula (Primula veris) with clusters of drooping fragrant yellow flowers in spring. 2. any of a number of herbaceous plants, in particular the marigold and the Virginias bluebell.

cox /kɔks/ n. a coxswain, esp. of a racing boat.

— v. [tr.] act as a coxswain for (a racing boat or crew): the winning eight was coxed by a woman. — cox-less adj.

cox-comb /'kɔks-kɔmb/ n. 1. a dated and conceited man; a dandy.

— 2. variant spelling of cockcomb (sense 2). — cox-comb-ry n. (pl. -ries)

— cox-comb-ness n.

cox-swan /'kɔks-wɔn/ n. the steersman of a ship’s boat, lifeboat, racing boat, or other boat. — cox-swan-ship /-swip/ n.

coy /kɔj/ adj. (coy-er, coy-est) esp. of a woman) making a pretense of shyness or modesty that is intended to be alluring but is often regarded as irritating. reluctant to give details, esp. about something regarded as sensitive: he is coy about his age. dated quiet and reserved. shy. — coy-ly adv. — coy-ness n.

coy-o-te /'kɔii-o-tət/ n. (pl. same or coyotes) a wolflike wild dog (Canis latrans) native to North America. 2. int. a person who smuggles Latin Americans across the U.S. border, typically for a high fee.

coy-put /'kɔii-pʌt/ n. (pl. -pus) another term for NUTRIA.

crazy /'kæzi/ Brit. cos-ey /adj. (zi-er, zi-est) giving a feeling of comfort, warmth, and relaxation. of (a relationship or conversation) intimate and relaxed. avoiding or not offering challenge or difficulty; compliant: a rather crazy assumption among lenders that they would never go bust. of (a transaction or arrangement) working to the mutual advantage of those involved (used to convey a suspicion of corruption). of (pl. -ties) a cover to keep a tepid hot.

— [intr.] cosy up to snug up to. — [intr.] (cozy up to) ingratiate oneself with. — co-zily /'kɔzi-li/ adv. — co-zi-ness n.


CPA /'kæpi/ abbr. certified public accountant.

cpd. /'kæpi/ abbr. compound.

CPI /'kæpi/ abbr. consumer price index.

Cpl. /'kæpi/ abbr. corporal.

CPR /'kæpi/ abbr. cardiopulmonary resuscitation, emergency medical procedures for restoring normal heartbeats and breathing to victims of heart failure, drowning, etc.

cps also c.p.s. /'kæpi/ abbr. Comput. characters per second. cycles per second.

Cpt. /'kæpi/ abbr. Captain.


Cr /'kæri/ symb. the chemical element chromium.

crab /kræb/ n. 1. a crustacean with a broad carapace, stalked eyes, and five pairs of legs, the first pair of which are modified as pincers. the flesh of a crab as food. (the Crab) the zodiacal sign or constellation Cancer. 2. any of the crab louse (Pthirus pubis, family Pediculidae) that infests human body hair, esp. in the genital region, causing extremely irritation. of (crabs) an infestation of crab lice.


— crab-ber /'kæpi/ n. short for CRAB APPLE.

— crab /'kæpi/ int. an irritating person.

— [crabbed, crab-bing] int. [intr.] grumble, typically about something petty. act so as to spoil: you’re trying to crab my act.

— crab-apple (also crab-apple) n. (also crab) 1. a small, sour apple. 2. the small tree (genus Malus) of the rose family that bears this fruit.

— crab-bed /'kræb-bed/ adj. of (handwriting) ill-formed and hard to decipher. of (style) contorted and difficult to understand: crabbed legible language. 2. ill-humored. — crab-bed-ly adv. — crab-bed-ness n.


— crab-grass /'kræb-græs/ n. a creeping grass (Digitaria and other genera) which can become a serious weed.

— crab /'kreb/ n. 1. a line on the surface of something along which it has split without breaking into separate parts. a narrow space between two surfaces, esp. ones that have broken or been moved apart: the door opened a tiny crack. a fig. a vulnerable point; a flaw. 2. a sudden sharp or explosive noise: a loud crack of thunder. a sharp blow, esp. one that makes a noise. a sudden harshness or change in pitch in a person’s voice. act as a joke, typically a critical or unkind one. an attempt to gain or achieve something; I thought I had a crack at winning. a chance to attack or compete with someone: he wanted to have a crack at the enemy. a crack cocaine (also crack cocaine) a hard, crystalline form of cocaine broken into small pieces and smoked.

— v. break or cease to break without a complete separation of the parts: [intr.] the ice all over the lake had cracked. [tr.] a stone cracked the headlight. break or cease to break open or apart: [tr.] the landmasses have cracked up and moved around. fig. [intr.] his face cracked into a smile. [tr.] she cracked an egg into the pan. [tr.] break (wheat or corn) into coarse pieces. [tr.] open slightly; gingerly, he cracks open his door. fig. give way
crank

crack

crackle
crank

v. intr. [of a moving object] collide violently with an obstacle or another moving object. [tr.] cause (a moving object) to collide in this way. [tr.] cause (an aircraft) to fall from the sky and violently hit the land or sea. [tr.] cause (an aircraft) to fall from the sky in this way.

n. a violent collision resulting from one moving object with another or with an obstacle: a car crash.

a sudden loud noise as of something breaking or hitting another object. a sudden disaster in the value or price of something, esp. shares of stock, the sudden collapse of a business.

adj. done rapidly or urgently and involving a concentrated effort:

- a crash course in Italian
- a crash diet

adv. with a sudden loud sound: crash went the bolt.

adj. lacking sensitivity, refinement, or intelligence.

- crass-studude
- crass-studecrass-study adj.

n. a slatted wooden case used for transporting or storing goods.

adj. a mixture of two or more components, typically mixed in small quantities, used for transportation or storing bottles:

- milk crate

often crated pack (something) in a crate for transportation.

n. a large, bowl-shaped cavity in the ground or on the surface of the planet or the moon, typically one caused by an explosion or the impact of a meteorite or other celestial body. a large pit or hollow forming the mouth of a volcano.

a cavity or hole in any surface.

a large bowl used in ancient Greece for mixing wine.

form a crater in the ground or on a planet; he has the offensive power to crater the enemy's runways.

n. a short, wide strip of fabric worn by men around the neck and tucked inside an open-necked shirt.

n. mid 17th cent.; from French crayat, Cravate 'Croat' (from German Krabat, from Serbo-Croat Hrvat), because of the scarf worn by Croatian mercenaries in France.

adj. feeling a powerful desire for (something): a program to give the infants the human touch they crave.

n. dated beg for (something): I must crave your indulgence.

adj. contemptibly lacking in courage; cowardly.

n. a cowardly person.

n. a powerful desire for something: a craving for chocolate.

v. intr. (of a person) move forward on the hands and knees or by dragging the body close to the ground. (of an insect or small animal) move slowly along a surface. (of a vehicle) move at an unusually slow pace. swim using the cramp.

n. behavior obsequiously or ingratiatingly in the hope of gaining someone's favor: don't come crawling back to work when you realize your mistake.

technical (of paint or other liquid) move after application to form an uneven layer over the surface below:

clay can crawl away from a crack in the piece.

with be covered or crowded with insects or people, to an extent that is disgusting or objectionable: the place was crawling with soldiers.

n. an act of moving on one's hands and knees or dragging one's body along the ground.

n. a slow rate of movement, typically that of a vehicle: he reduced his speed to a crawl.

n. a swimming stroke involving alternate overarm movements and rapid kicks of the legs.

adj. — crawlingly adv.

n. a thing that crawls or moves at a slow pace, esp. an insect.

n. (in full crawler tractor) a tractor or other vehicle moving on an endless caterpillar track.

n. a program that searches the World Wide Web, typically in order to create an index of data.

n. a nocturnal freshwater crustacean (Astacus, Cambarus, and other genera) that resembles a small lobster and inhabits streams and rivers.

another term for SPINY LOBSTER.

n. a pencil or stick of colored chalk or wax, used for drawing.

n. draw with a crayon or crayons: Jeff crayoned a picture on a legal pad | child crayoning in a coloring book.

n. an enthusiasm for a particular activity or object that typically appears suddenly and achieves widespread but short-lived popularity:

the latest craze for bungee jumping.

v. intr. 1 (usu. as adj.) crazily wildly insane or excited: a crazed killer

power-crazed dim-putt dictators.

often be crazed) produce a network of fine cracks on a surface; the lake was frozen over but crazed with cracks.

adj. mentally deranged, esp. as manifested in a wild or aggressive way. extremely annoyed or angry: the noise they made was driving me crazy.

foolish; it was crazy to hope that good might come out of this mess.

extremely enthusiastic: I'm crazy about Cindy.

(3 of an angle) appearing absolutely out of place or in an unlikely position.

n. a ship or building) full of cracks or flaws; unsound or shaky.

n. (pl. -ies) a mentally deranged person.

- crazily /'zi-er, -zi-est/ adv.

- craziness n.

n. like crazy to a great degree: I was laughing like crazy.

n. of an object, typically a wooden one) make a harsh, high-pitched sound when being moved or when pressure or weight is applied.

n. show weakness or frailty under strain; stock prices creaked to a mixed finish today.

n. a harsh scraping or squeaking sound: the crack of a floorboard broke the silence.

- creakingly adv.

n. of an object, typically a wooden one) making or liable to make a harsh, high-pitched sound when being moved or when pressure or weight is applied: I elbowed the crazy stairs.

n. of a voice) producing such a sound:

n. appearing old-fashioned; decrepit: the country's crazy legal system.

n. adj. — creakily /'kre-itki/ adv.

- creakiness n.

n. the thick white or pale yellow fatty liquid that rises to the top when milk is left to stand and that can be eaten as an accompaniment to desserts or used as a cooking ingredient:

n. a cream sauce

n. the part of a liquid that gathers at the top.

n. the very best of a group of people or things:

n. the paper's readership is the cream of American society.

n. a sauce, soup, dessert, or similar food containing cream or milk: the consistency of cream:

n. cream of mushroom soup.

n. a candy of a specified flavor that is creamy in texture, typically covered with chocolate: a peppermint cream.

n. a thick liquid or semi-solid cosmetic or medical preparation applied to the skin: shaving cream.

n. a very pale yellow or off-white color:

n. a cream linen jacket.
cream cheese • n. soft, rich cheese made from unskimmed milk and cream.

cream-er [k瑞m'r/ • n. 1. a cream or milk substitute for adding to coffee or tea. 2. a small jug for cream. 3. a machine used for separating cream from milk.

cream-ery [k瑞m'r/e/ • n. (pl. -eries) a place where butter and cheese are produced. • v. dated a spot where dairy products are sold.

cream puff • n. 1. a cake made of light pastry filled with cream. 2. a weak or ineffectual person. • [as adj.] denoting something of little consequence or difficulty. a cream-puff assignment. 3. a secondhand car or other item maintained in excellent condition.

cream-ly [k瑞m'l/ • adj. (cream-ier, cream-iest) resembling cream in consistency or color. • containing a lot of cream. —cream-ily adv. —cream-iness n.

creas-e [k瑞z'is/ • n. 1. a line or ridge produced on paper or cloth by folding, pressing, or crushing it: khaki trousers with knife-edges creases. 2. a wrinkle or furrow in the skin, typically of the face, caused by age or a particular facial expression. 3. (usu. the crease) an area around the goal in ice hockey or lacrosse that attacking players may not normally enter unless the puck or ball has already done so. 4. (of a number) marked on the pitch at specified places.

v. [tr. 1 make a crease in (cloth or paper): he sank into the chair, careful not to crease his dinner jacket. • [as adj.] a creased piece of paper.

crease (a face or something, typically as a result of the expression of an emotion or feeling. • 2. (of a bullet) graze (someone or something), causing little damage.

crape [k瑞pt/ • v. [tr.] bring (something) into existence: jobs were created. • cause (something) to happen as a result of one's actions: divorce creates problems for children. • bring a character into being. • invest (someone) with a new rank or title.

creati-on [k瑞'se-on] • n. 1. the action or process of bringing something into existence. • a thing that has been made or invented, esp. something showing artistic talent: she treats fictional creations as if they were real people. 2. (the Creation) the bringing into-ness of the universe, esp. when regarded as an act of God. • everything so created; the universe. 3. the action or process of investing someone with a new rank or title.

creati-on-ism [k瑞'se-on-izm] • n. the belief that the universe and living organisms originate from specific acts of divine creation, as in the biblical account, rather than by natural processes such as evolution.

—another term for CREATION SCIENCE. • —creati-on-ist n. & adj.

creati-on-science • n. the interpretation of scientific knowledge in accord with belief in the Bible, esp. the creation of matter, life, and humankind in six days.

crea-tive [k瑞'ativ] • adj. relating to or involving the imagination or original ideas, esp. in the production of an artistic work: change unleashes people's creative energy. • of a person having good imagination or original ideas: Homer, the creative genius of Greek epic.

—crea-tively adv. • —crea-tive-ness n.

crea-tor [k瑞'tor] • n. 1. a person who is credited with being an individual context. • the Creator used as a name for God.

crea-ture [k瑞'char] • n. 1. an animal, as distinct from a human being. • an animal or person. • a fictional or imaginary being, typically a frightening one: a creature from outer space. • any living or existing thing: dress, jewels, and other trinity creatures. • a person of a specified kind, typically one viewed with pity, contempt, or desire: you heartless creature! • a person or organization considered to be under the complete control of another: the village teacher was expected to be the creature of his employer.

—creature-ly adj.

—creature of habit a person who follows an unwavering routine.

crea-ture com-forts • pl. n. material comforts that contribute to physical ease and well-being, such as good food and accommodations.

creche [k瑞'esh] • n. 1. a model or tableau representing the scene of Jesus Christ's birth in various settings or places at Christmas.
a crew of computer geeks. n. int a group of rafters, breakdancers, or graffiti artists performing or operating together. 2. n. an illegal gang;
               
   v. [tr.] (often be crews) provide (a craft or vehicle) with a group of people to operate it. [int.] act as a member of a crew, subordinate to a captain: I've never crewed for a world-famous yachtsman before. -crewman /ˌkruːmən/ n. (pl. -men).
crewed [ˈkruːd] chiefly Brit. past of crew.
crew cut • n. a thin, reasonably twisted, worsted yarn used for tapestry and embroidery.
crew neck • n. a close-fitting, round neckline, esp. on a sweater or T-shirt; [adj.]* crew-neck sweater. n. a sweater with such a neckline.
crib /krɪb/ 1. a young child's bed with barred or latched sides. n. a barred container or rack for a pet. 2. n. a manager. 2. adj. unfair use of notes on an examination or schoolwork. 3. n. an English crib of Caesar's Gallic Wars. 4. n. a thing that has been plagiarized.
cribbage /ˈkriːbɪdʒ/ n. 1. adj. a heavy timber framework used in foundations for a building or to line a mine shaft.
               
   v. cribbed, cribbing [tr.] 1. adj. copy (another person's work) illicitly or without acknowledgment. he was taking an exam and didn't want anybody to crib the answers from him. [int.]* cribbed from other researchers. 2. n. archaic theft.
cribber /ˈkriːbər/ n.
cribbage • n. a card game for two or four players, in which the objective is to earn points by playing the value of the cards played reaches exactly 15 or 31.
cried death • n. informal term for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.
cricket /ˈkrɪkt/ 1. n. a painful stiff feeling in the neck or back.
               
   v. [trans. & intr.]* twist or strain (one's neck or back), causing painful stiffness: [adj.]* cricked (of adj.)* cricked he suffered a cracked neck during jewel practice.
crick • n. 1. adj.
               
   v. twisted. 2. n. a card game for two or four players, in which the objective is to earn points by playing the value of the cards played reaches exactly 15 or 31.
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crick • n. dia. creek.
cricket • n. an insect (familly Gyllididae) related to the grasshoppers. the male produces a characteristic rhythmic chirping sound.
cricket • n. an open-air game played on a large grass field with ball, bats, and two wickets, between teams of eleven players, the object of the game being to score more runs than the opposition. -cricketer n. 1. n. a card game for two or four players, in which the objective is to earn points by playing the value of the cards played reaches exactly 15 or 31.
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crossbar

personal value or indicating rank in some orders of knighthood: the Military Cross. 3 an animal or plant resulting from crossing: a hybrid: a Devon and Holstein cross. 4 a cross between two things: a cross between Emmaus and a conventional railroad. 5 a sideways or transverse movement or pass, in particular: a Soccer pass of the ball across the field toward the center closer to one opponent's goal. 6 boxing: a blow delivered across and over the opponent's lead.

p. v. 1 go or extend across or to the other side of (a path, road, stretch of water, or area): he has crossed the Atlantic twice. 2 fig. a shadow of apprehension cross her face. 3 intr. we crossed over the bridge. 4 so across or climb over (an obstacle): he was required to cross over Jordan. 5 intr. we crossed over a fence. 6 esp. over a headland or ridge. 7 pass (the ball) across the field toward the center when attacking. 8 cross (an animal or species, breed, or variety) to interbreed with one of another species, breed, or variety. 9 cross-fertilize (a plant): this new rose crossed with a hybrid rose: 10 oppose or stand in the way of (someone): no one dared cross him.

p. adj. 1 at cross purposes misunderstanding or having different aims from one another: we had been talking at cross purposes. 2 cross one's fingers (or keep one's fingers crossed) put one's fingers across another as a sign of hoping for good luck. 3 hope that someone or something will be successful. 4 cross one's mind (of a thought) occur to one, esp. transiently: it never crossed my mind to leave the tent and live in a house. 5 cross someone's path meet or encounter someone.

cross-bar 1 n. a horizontal bar fixed across another bar or between two upright bars, in particular: in (sport): the bar between the two upright posts of a goal. 2 the horizontal metal bar between the handlebars and saddle on a man's or boy's bicycle. 3 crossbill 1 n. a thickset finch (genus Loxia) with a crossed bill adapted for extracting seeds from the cones of conifers. 4 crossbones 1 n. see SKULL and CROSSBONES at SKULL. 5 crossbow 1 n. a medieval bow of a kind that is fixed across a wooden support and has a groove for the bolt and a mechanism for drawing and releasing the string. 6 cross-bow-man /'krɔs.bɔ:man/ n. (pl. -men).

cross-breed /'krɔs.bred/ n. an animal or plant produced by mating or hybridizing two different species, breeds, or varieties.

cross-check 1 v. intr. 1 verify (figures or information) by using an alternative source or method: always try to cross-check your bearings. 2 cross-checking (n.) no cross-checking has been done. 2 Ice Hockey obstruct (an opponent) illegally with the stick held horizontally in both hands.

n. an instance of verifying something by using an alternative source or method. 2 Ice Hockey an illegal obstruction using the stick held horizontally in both hands.

cross-claim 1 Law: a claim brought by one defendant against another in the same proceeding.

cross-con-tem-plate 1 n. the process by which bacteria or other microorganisms are unintentionally transferred from one substance or object to another with harmful effect. 2 cross-con-taminate v.

cross-country 1 adj. 1 across fields or countryside, as opposed to on roads or tracks: cross-country walking. 2 relating to, or denoting the sport of running, riding, or driving along a course in the countryside, as opposed to around a track. 3 of or relating to, or denoting skiing over relatively flat or mountainous terrain, as opposed to skiing only downhill. 4 across a region or country, in particular: not keeping to main or direct roads, routes, or railroad lines: cross-country hiker. 5 as adv. if you are traveling cross-country, choose where you walk with care. 6 traveling to many different parts of a country: a whirlwind cross-country tour.

p. n. a cross-country race or competition. 2 the sport of cross-country running, riding, skinning, or driving.

cross-dress v. intr. wear clothing typical of the opposite sex. —cross-dresser n.

cross /krɔs/ n. the stick used in lacrosse.

cross-ex-am-ine v. intr. question a witness called by the other party in a court of law to discredit or undercut testimony already given. 2 question (someone) aggressively or in great detail. —cross-ex-am-in-er n.

cross-eyed adj. having one or both eyes turned inward toward the nose, either from focusing on something very close, through temporary loss of control of focus, or as a permanent condition (convergent strabismus).

cross-fertilize v. [intr.] fertilize (a plant) using pollen from another plant of the same species. 2 [intr. (of two plants) fertilize each other.

cross-fertilization n. —cross-fertilization.

cross-fire /'krɔs.fər/ n. gunfire from two or more directions passing through the same area, often killing or wounding noncombatants. 2 fig. used to refer to a situation in which two or more groups are attacking or arguing with each other.

cross-fertilization n. —cross-fertilization.

cross-hairs /'krɔs.hɛəz/ pl. n. a pair of fine wires or lines crossing at right angles at the focus of an optical instrument or gun sight, for use in positioning, aiming, or measuring.

cross-fertilization n. —cross-fertilization.

cross-hatch /'krɔs.hætʃ/ v. intr. [often n. (crosshatching) (drawing or graphics) shade (an area) with intersecting sets of parallel lines.

crossing /'krɔsɪŋ/ n. 1 a place where two roads, two railroad lines, or a road and a railroad line cross. 2 the action of moving across or over something: a journey across water in a ship. 3 a place at which one may safely cross something, esp. a street. 4 a place at which one can cross a border between countries. 5 an intersection of a church nave and the transept. 6 crossing.

cross legged /'krɔs.lɛgd/ adj. & adv. (of a seated person) with the legs crossed at the ankles and the knees bent outward.

cross-match /'krɔs.mætʃ/ v. intr. (often n. (crossmatching) test the compatibility of (a donor's and a recipient's blood or tissue).

n. an instance of such testing.

cross-over /'krɔs.əuvər/ n. 1 a point or place of crossing from one side to the other. 2 the process of achieving success in a different field or style, esp. in popular music. 3 a jazz-classical crossover album. 4 a person who votes in a different political party than the one they usually support: a jazz-classical crossover voter. 5 relating to or denoting trials of medical treatment in which experimental subjects and control groups are exchanged after a set period: a crossover study.

cross-piece /'krɔs.piːʃ/ n. a beam or bar fixed or placed across something else.

cross-pollinate v. v. intr. pollinate (a flower or plant) with pollen from another flower or plant. —cross-pollination n.

cross-post (also cross-post) Comput. v. intr. post a single message to multiple Internet newsgroups or reading lists. 2 repost a message appearing on one list or newsgroup to another.

n. a message posted to more than one newsgroup or reading list.

cross-question v. intr. question (someone) in great detail; cross-examine: it seemed ungrateful to cross-question him. —cross-questioning n. (cross-questioning) the cross-questioning of Lopez.

cross-rate n. Finance: an exchange rate between two currencies computed by reference to a third currency, usually the U.S. dollar.

cross-reference n. a reference to another text or part of a text, typically given in order to elaborate on a point.

cross-referenced (also cross-referenced) (adj.) provide with cross references to another part of a text: entries are fully cross-referenced.

crossroads /'krɔsˌrɔdəz/ pl. n. an intersection of two or more roads. 2 a point at which a crucial decision must be made that will have far-reaching consequences: we stand again at a historic crossroads. 3 a road that crosses a main road or joins two main roads.

cross section n. a surface or shape that is or would be exposed by making a straight cut through something, esp. at right angles to an axis. 2 a thin strip of organic tissue or other material removed by making two such cuts. 3 a diagram representing what such a cut would reveal. 4 a typical or representative sample of a larger group, esp. of...
cross-stitch

People: □ Physics a quantity having the dimensions of an area which expresses the probability of a given interaction between particles.

v. (cross-section) [f] to make a cross section of (something); as n.

Cross-sectioning complex triangular terrain models for contour cross-sectioning.

Cross-sectional adj.

cross-stitch Needlework n. a stitch formed of two stitches crossing each other; needlework done using such stitches.

v. [tr.] sew or embroider using such stitches.

cross-walk /'krɔːs,waːk/ n. a marked part of a road where pedestrians have right of way to cross.

cross-ways /'krɔːs,waɪz/ □ adv. another term for crosswise.

cross-wind /'krɔːs,wɪnd/ n. a wind blowing across one's direction of travel.

cross-wise /'krɔːs,wɪz/ □ adv. in the form of a cross. □ diagonally; transversely.

cross-word /'krɔːs,wɜːrd/ also cross-word puzzle n. a puzzle consisting of a grid of squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically and horizontally are written according to clues. □ said to have been invented by the journalist Arthur Wynne, whose puzzle (called a "word-cross") appeared in a Sunday newspaper, The New York World, on December 21, 1913.

crotch /'krɔːtʃ/ n. the part of the human body between the legs where they join the body; the part of a garment that passes between the legs; a fork in a tree, road, or railway line; intrans. and adv. /'krɔːtʃi,n/ adj. irritating. -crotch-i-ness n.

crot-tion /'krɔːtiən/ n. 1 a strong-scented tree, shrub, or herbaceous plant (genus Crotom) of the spurge family, native to tropical and warm regions. Its numerous species include C. laccifera, the host plant for the lac insect. 2 a small Indo-Pacific evergreen tree or shrub (genus Codiaeum) of the spurge family; grown for its colorful ornamental foliage.

crouch /'krouʃ/ v. [intr.] adopt a position where the knees are bent and the upper body is brought forward and down, sometimes to avoid detection or to defend oneself.

n. a crouching stance or posture.

croup /'kruːp/ n. inflammation of the larynx and trachea in children, causing breathing difficulties. -croup-y adj.

croup /'kruːp/ n. the rump or hindquarters, esp. of a horse.

croup-i-er /'kruːpi,ə; -pər/ □ n. the person in charge of a gaming table, gathering in and paying out money or tokens. 2 hist. the assistant chairman at a public dinner, seated at the lower end of the table.

crou-ten /'kruːtən; kruːtən/ n. a small piece of fried or toasted bread served with soup or used as a garnish.

Crow /'kruː/ n. (pl. same or Crows) 1 a member of an American Indian people inhabiting eastern Montana. 2 the Siouan language of this people.

adj. of or relating to this people or their language.

crow /'kruː/ n. a large perching bird (genus Corvus) with mostly glossy black plumage, a heavy bill, and a raucous voice. The crow family (Corvidae) also includes the ravens, Jays, and magpies.

□ as the crow flies in a straight line.

eat crow intr. be humiliated by having to admit one's defeats or mistakes.

crow /'kruː/ n. a large number of people gathered together, typically in a disorganized or unruly way; an audience; an inf. often derog. a group of people who are linked by a common interest or activity. I've broken away from that whole junkie crowd. [the crowd] the mass or multitude of people, esp. those considered to be drearily ordinary or anonymous. A large number of things regarded collectively: the crowd of tall buildings.

v. [tr.] often be crowded (of a number of people) fill (a space) almost completely. leaving little or no room for movement. [intr.] crowded into (of a number of people) move into (a space, esp. one that seems too small). [intr. crowded around (of a group of people) form a tightly packed mass around (someone or something). move too close to (someone), either aggressively or in a way that causes discomfort or harm. crowded someone/something out exclude someone or something by taking their place: grass invading the canyon has crowded out native plants. baseball (of a batter) stand very close to (the plate) when batting. old English cridan 'press, hasten,' of Germanic origin; related to Dutch kruien 'push in a wheelbarrow.' In Middle English the senses 'move by pushing' and 'push one's way' arose, leading to the sense 'congregate,' and hence (mid 16th cent.) to the noun. -crowd-led-ness n.

crowd-pleaser n. a person or thing with great appeal.

crowd-pleasing adj.

crow-foot /'krɔː,fʊt/ n. a plant (genus Ranunculus) of the buttercup family, typically having lobed or divided leaves or white or yellow flowers. Many kinds are aquatic with flowers held above the water.

crown /'kraʊn/ n. 1 a circular ornamental headress worn by a monarch as a symbol of authority, usually made of or decorated with precious metals and jewels. [the crown] the reigning monarch, representing a country's government. [usu. the crown] the power or authority residing in the monarchy. an ornament, emblem, or badge shaped like a crown. a wreath of leaves or flowers, esp. that worn as an emblem of victory in ancient Greece or Rome. an award or distinction gained by a victory or achievement, esp. in sports: the world heavyweight crown. 2 the top or highest part of something: the crown of the hill. 3 the top part of a person's head or a hat. 4 the part of a plant just above and below the ground from which the roots and shoots branch out. 5 the upper branch or spreading part of a tree or other plant. 6 the upper part of a cut gem, above the girdle. 7 the part of a tooth projecting from the gum. 8 the artificial replacement or covering for the upper part of a tooth. 9 the point of an anchor at which the arms reach the shaft. 10 (also crown piece) a British coin with a face value of five shillings or 25 pence, now minted only for commemorative purposes. a foreign coin with a name meaning 'crown,' esp. the krona or korone. 11 (in full metric crown) a paper size, now standardized at 384 x 504 mm. (in full crown octavo) a book size, now standardized at 186 x 133 mm. (in full crown quarto) a book size, now standardized at 246 x 189 mm.

v. [tr.] (usu. be crowned) ceremonially place a crown on the head of (someone) in order to invest them as a monarch. declare or anoint (someone) as the best, esp. at a sport: he was crowned world champion. in (checkers) promote (a piece) to king by placing another on top of it. rest on or form the top of: the distant knoll was crowned with trees. fit a crown to (a tooth). hit on the head. be the triumphant culmination of an effort or endeavor, esp. a prolonged one; years of struggle were crowned by a state visit to Paris. 3 [intr.] (of a baby's head during labor) fully appear in the vaginal opening prior to emerging.

□ crowning glory the best and most notable aspect of something.

crown jewels pl. n. the crown and other ornaments and jewelry worn by or carried by the sovereign on certain state occasions. [crown jewel] a prized asset, achievement, or person.

crown prince n. (in some countries) a male heir to a throne.

crown prin-cess n. the wife of a crown prince. [in some countries] a female heir to a throne.

crow's-foot /'kruːz,fʊt/ (pl. feet) [n. 1 (usu. crown's-feet) a branching wrinkle at the outer corner of a person's eye. 2 a mark, symbol, or design formed of lines diverging from a point, resembling a bird's footprint.

crow's-nest n. a shelter or platform fixed near the top of the mast of a vessel as a place for a lookout to stand.

crozier /'kruːzər/ also crozier n. a hooked staff carried by a bishop as a symbol of pastoral office.

cruces pl. n. plural form of crux.

crucial /'kruʃiəl/ adj. crucial or critical, esp. in the success or failure of something; negotiations were at a crucial stage. of great importance: this game is crucial to our survival. 'early 18th cent. (in the sense 'crucially important'): from French, from Latin crux, cruci, 'cross.' The sense 'decisive' is from Francis Bacon's Latin phrase instantia crucis 'crucial instance,' which he explained as a metaphor from a crux or signpost marking a fork at a crossroad; Newton and Boyle took up the metaphor in experimentum crucis 'crucial experiment.'

crucial-ity /'kruʃiəlɪti/ n. -crucially adv.

crucible /'kruːsibəl/ n. a ceramic or metal container in which metals or other substances may be melted or subjected to very high temperatures. □ a place or occasion of severe test or trial. □ a place or situation in which different elements interact to produce something new.

crucif-er-ous /'kruːsɪfərəs/ adj. Bot. relating to, or denoting plants of the cabbage family (Brassicaceae, formerly Cruciferae).

crucifix /'kruːsɪfɪks/ n. □ a representation of a cross with a figure of Jesus Christ on it.
by nailing or binding them to a cross. • (the Crucifixion) the killing of Jesus Christ in such a way. • (Crucifixion) an artistic representation or musical composition based on this event.

**cruci-form** /ˈkrəkjɪfiːrm/ adj., having the shape of a cross: a cruciform sword. • of or denoting a church having a cross-shaped plan with a nave and transepts.

• n. a thing shaped like a cross.

**cruci-fi-er** /ˈkruːkjɪfiːr/ • v. a slice (of lady. — a c.

**crum-ble** /ˈkrʌmbl/ v. (lies, lied) (often be crucified) chiefly hist. put (someone) to death by nailing or binding them to a cross. • criticize (someone) severely and unrelentingly. • cause anguish to (someone). — crucifix-er n.

**crude** /ˈkrʌd/ adj. 1. in a natural or raw state; not yet processed or refined: crude oil. • Statistics (of figures) not adjusted or corrected: the crude mortality rate. • (of an estimate or guess) likely to be only approximately accurate. 2. constructed in a rudimentary or makeshift way. • (of an action) showing little fineness or subtlety and as a result unlikely to succeed. 3. (of language, behavior, or a person) offensively coarse or rude, esp. in relation to sexual matters.

• n. natural petroleum. — crudely adv. — crudeness n. — crud-i-ty NOUN: mass, count

**crudi-tés** /ˈkrʌdɪtəs/ pl. n. assorted raw vegetables served as a hors d'oeuvre, typically with a sauce into which they may be dipped.

**crue-l** /ˈkruːəl/ adj. (e-ler, -elest Brit. -eler, -elest) causing pain or suffering: people are cruel to animals. • having or showing a sadistic disregard for the pain or suffering of others: a cruel face. — cruel-ly adv.

**crue-lty-free** /ˈkruːətɪfr/ n. (pl. -ties) callous indifference to or in causing pain and suffering. • behavior that causes pain or mental harm to another. • Law behavior that causes physical or mental harm to another. • esp. a spouse, whether intentionally or not.

**crue-lty-free** /ˈkruːəlti-fr/ adj. (of cosmetics or other commercial products) manufactured or developed by methods that do not involve experimentation on animals.

**crue, kruet** /ˈkruː/, /ˈkruːt/ • n. a small container for salt, pepper, oil, or vinegar for use at a dining table.

**cruise** /kruːz/ • v. [intr] sail about in an area without a precise destination, esp. for pleasure: they were cruising off the California coast. • [intr] the cruised the canals of France. • take a vacation on a ship or boat following a predetermined course, usually calling in at several ports. • (of a vehicle or person) travel or move slowly around without a specific destination in mind: a police van cruised past us. • (of a motor vehicle or aircraft) travel smoothly at a moderate or economical speed. • achieve an objective with ease, esp. in sports: he cruised to an easy victory. • [intr] wander about (a place) in search of a sexual partner. • [intr] attempt to pick up (a sexual partner).

• n. a voyage on a ship or boat taken for pleasure or as a holiday and usually calling in at several places: a cruise down the Nile. — cruise-er n. — cruise-like adj.

**cruise control** n. an electronic device in a motor vehicle that can be switched on to maintain a selected constant speed without the use of the accelerator.

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cucumber

**cucumber** /'kraʊs-/ n. any arthropod of the group including crabs, lobsters, and shrimps, having a hard shell and usu. aquatic.

- **adj.** of or related to the cucumae.

**cruet** /'kroʊt/ adj. (cruet-er, cruet-est) 1 having a crisp or hard outer layer or covering: crusty bread. b (of a substance) acting as a hard outer layer or covering: Lake Manuya was ringed by crusty salt deposits.

- **n.** (esp. of an old person) outspoken and irritable: a crusty old grand-father. - **adj.** /'kroʊt/ adv. - **n.** /'kroʊt/ n.

**crutch** /ˈkʌtʃ/ n. 1 a long stick with a crosspiece at the top, used as a support under the armpit by a lame person. f fig. a thing used for support or reassurance: we use the Internet as a crutch for their loneliness.

- **v.** [intrans.] move by means of or as if by means of crutches.

**crux** /kraks; kruks/ n. (pl. crux-es or cruces /'kroʊs, ˈsɪks/ the (crux) the decisive or most important point at issue: the crux of the matter is that attitudes have changed. a a particular point of difficulty.

**cry** [kri] v. (cries, cried) [intrans.] shed tears, esp. as an expression of distress or pain: don't cry—it'll be all right [tr.]; you'll cry tears of joy. b shout or scream, esp. to express one's fear, pain, or grief: the little girl fell down and cried for her mother. c say something in an excited or anguished tone of voice: “Where will it end?” he cried out. d cry out for [tr.] demand as a self-evident requirement or solution: the present system cries out for reform. e (of a bird or other animal) make a loud characteristic call.

- **n.** (of a hawk or other animal) proclaim (wares) for sale in the street.

- **n.** (pl. cries) a spell of weeping. b a loud inarticulate shout or scream expressing a powerful feeling or emotion: a cry of despair. c a distinctive call of a bird or other animal. d the loud excited utterance of a word or words: there was a cry of “Silence!” e the call of a hawk's selling mares on the street. f an urgent appeal or entreaty. g a demand or opinion expressed by many people: peace became the popular cry.

- **v.** [intrans.] cry one's eyes (or heart) out weep bitterly and at length. for crying out loud [intrans.] used to express one's irritation or impatience: why do you have to take everything so personally, for crying out loud?

**cry-a-by** /'kri, bɛʔ/ n. pl. -bies a person, esp. a child, who sheds tears frequently or readily.

**cry-er** /'kriər/ n. archaic spelling of CRIER.

**crying** /'kriŋ/ adj. very great: it would be a crying shame to let some other woman have it.

**cry-o-gen-i-cs** /'kraɪədʒənɪks/ n. pl. -ics [treated as sing.] the branch of physics dealing with the production and effects of very low temperatures. a another term for CRYSVONICS. - **adj.** /'kraɪədʒənɪk/ adv.

**cry-on-i-cs** /'kraɪənɪks/ n. pl. -ics [treated as sing.] the practice or technique of deep-freezing the bodies of those who have died of an incurable disease, in the hope of a future cure. - **adj.** /'kraɪənɪk/.

**crypt** /kript/ n. 1 a underground room or vault beneath a church, used as a chapel or burial place. 2 a recess or secret place. 3 a secret or private chamber or room. 4 the place of secret or occult significance.

- **crypt-ic** /'kraɪp-tɪk/ adj. 1 having a meaning that is mysterious or obscure. b (of a crossword) having difficult clues that indicate the solutions indirectly. 2 Zool. (of coloring or markings) serving to camouflage an animal. -cryptic adj.

**crypt-ography** /'kraɪp-tə'rɪə-dʒi/ n. the art of writing or solving codes. - **adj.** /'kraɪp-tə'rɪə-dʒɪk/ adj.

**cryptographer** /'kraɪp-tərɪə-dʒər/ n. a person skilful in cryptography. - **adj.** /'kraɪp-tərɪə-dʒɪk/ adj.

**crypt-a-line** /'kraɪp-tə-lɪn/ adj. having the structure and form of a crystal; composed of crystals: a crystalline rock. - **n.** /'kraɪp-tə-lɪn/.

**crypt-al-ize** /'kraɪp-tə-lɪz/ v. [intrans.] form or cause to form crystals: when most liquids freeze they crystallize. 2 fig. make or become definite and clear; vague meanings of crystalized into something more concrete: [tr.] writing can help to crystallize your thoughts. - **adj.** /'kraɪp-tə-lɪz-ət/ (crystal-ized) coat and impregnate (fruit or petals) with sugar as a means of preserving them: crystallized fruits.

**crypt-al-o-gy** /'kraɪp-təlo-ˈdʒi/ n. the branch of science concerned with the structure and properties of crystals. - **crypt-al-o-graph-ic** /'kraɪp-təlo-ˈɡrɑfɪk/ adj. - cryp-tal-o-graph-ic-ally /-ˌɡrɑfɪk-əlɪ/ adv.

**crytal-meth** n. see METH (sense 1).

**Cu** symb. the chemical element copper.

**cu** abbr. cubic (in units of measurement: for example, cu. ft. = cubic feet).

**cub** /'kʌb/ n. the young of a fox, bear, lion, or other carnivorous mammal. a archaic a young man, esp. one who is awkward or ill-mannered.

- **v.** (cubbed, cubbing) [intrans.] give birth to cubs.

**cube** /'kjuːb/ n. a symmetrical three-dimensional shape, either solid or hollow, contained by six equal squares. a short for CUBICLE. b a block of something with six sides: a sugar cube. c Math. the product of a number multiplied by its square, represented by a superscript figure 3: a body increasing in weight by the cube of its length. a [tr.] 1 Math. raise (a number or value) to its cube. 2 cut (food) into small cubes. 3 tenderize (meat) by scoring a pattern of small squares into its surface: [as adj.] cubed cubed steaks.

**cube farm** n. a large open-plan office divided into cubicles for individual workers.

**cube root** n. the number that produces a given number when cubed.

**cu-bic** /'kjuːbɪk/ adj. having the shape of a cube: a cubic room. a denoting a unit of measurement equal to the volume of a cube whose side is one of the linear unit specified: 15 billion cubic meters of water. c measured or expressed in such units. d involving the cube (and no higher power) of a quantity or variable: a cubic equation. e of or denoting a crystal system or three-dimensional geometric arrangement having three equal axes at right angles. - **cu-bically** /'kjuːbɪk-əlɪ/ adv.

**cu-bicle** /'kjuːbɪk(ə)l/ n. a small partitioned-off area of a room, for example one containing a bed in a dwelling or one containing a desk in an office.


**cu-bis-m** /'kjuːbɪz-/ n. an early 20th-century style and movement in art, esp. painting, in which use was made of simple geometric shapes, interlocking planes, and, later, collage. - **cu-bis-t** n. & adj. - **cu-bis-tic** /'kjuːbɪs-tɪk/ adj.

**cuck-old** /'kʌkəld; -əld/ n. archaic the husband of an adulteress, often regarded as an object of derision.

- **v.** [tr.] (of a man) make (another man) a cuckold by having a sexual relationship with his wife. b (of a man's wife) make (her husband) a cuckold. c late Old English, from Old French cuco(o), probably from cucc'oo' (from the cuckoo's habit of laying its egg in another bird's nest). The equivalent words in French and other languages applied to both the bird and the adulterer; cuckold has never been applied to the bird in English. - **cuck-oldry** /-dri/ n.

**cuckoo** /'kʊkʊʊ/ n. 1 a medium-sized long-tailed bird, typical of which is gray or brown back and barred or pale underparts. The cuckoo family (Cuculidae) also includes roadrunners. 2 int. a crazy person.

- **adj.** /'kʊkʊʊ/ adj. cuckoo-clock n. a clock that strikes the hour with a sound like a cuckoo's call and typically has a mechanical cuckoo that emerges.

**cu-cum-ber** /'kjuːkəmbər/ n. 1 a long, green-skinned fruit with waxy flesh, usually eaten raw in salads or pickled. 2 the widely
curly

- n. a lock of hair having a spiral or coiled form. — a thing having a spiral or inwardly curved form. — a curling movement. — (with reference to a person's hair) a state or condition of being curled. — a weightlifting exercise involving movement of only the hands, wrists, and forearms. — curly adj.

curlytail /'ka:rlətal/ n. 1. (usu. curlers) a roller or clasp around which a lock of hair is wrapped to curl it. 2. a player in the game of curling.
curlew /'kərləu/ n. 1. (pl. same or curlies) a large wading bird (genus Numenius) of the sandpiper family, with a long-down-curved bill and brown streaked plumage.
curling /'ka:rləiŋ/ n. 1. a game played on ice, esp. in Scotland and Canada, in which large, round, flat stones are slid toward a mark. Players use brooms to sweep the ice in the path of the stone to control it.
curling stone n. 1. a large, polished, circular stone with an iron handle on top, used in the game of curling.
curly-mountain /'ka:rməʊntən/ n. 1. a bad-tempered or surly person. — curly-mountainliness n. — curly-mountainly adj.
current /'ka:rent/ adv. belonging to the present time; happening or being used or done now; keep abreast of current events. — in common or general use: the other meaning of the word is still current.

- n. a body of water or air moving in a definite direction, esp. through a surrounding body of water or air in which there is less movement: ocean currents. — a flow of electricity which results from the ordered direction movement of electrically charged particles. — a quantity representing the rate of flow of electric charge, usually measured in amperes. — the general tendency or course of events or opinion: the student movement for a political agenda.

currently /'ka:rentli/ adv. at the present time.

curriculum /'ka:rikləm/ n. 1. (pl. -la or -lums) the subjects comprising a course of study in a school or college. — curricular /-lər/ adj.
curriculum vitae /'ka:riklərum 'vətə/ n. (abbrev. CV) n. a brief account of a person's education, qualifications, and experiences, typically sent with a job application.

curry /'ka:ri/ n. 1. (pl. -ries, -ried) [conj. as adj. or curried] prepare or flavor with a sauce of hot-tasting spices: curried chicken.

currycombing /'ka:ri-kəmbən/ n. a hand-held metal device with serrated ridges, used for removing dirt out of a horse's coat or for cleaning brushes with which a horse is being groomed. — also rubber curry-comb a similar device of flexible rubber, used for grooming horses.

curry-powder /'ka:ripədə/ n. a mixture of finely ground spices, such as turmeric, ginger, and coriander, used for making curry.

curse /kərs/ n. 1. a solemn utterance intended to invoke supernatural power to inflict harm or punishment on someone or something; she'd put a curse on him. — a cause of harm or misery: impatience is the curse of our day and age. — the curse int. menstruation. — an offensive word or phrase used to express anger or annoyance.

- v. [inf.] invoke or use a curse against. — be cursed with be afflicted with: many owners have been cursed with a series of bankruptcies. — utter offensive words in anger or annoyance. — [inf.] address with such words. — cursed n.
cursed /'ka:rsid/ adj. int. dated used to express annoyance or irritation; he didn't smile about his cursed fate. — cursedly /'ka:rsideli/ adv.
cursory /'ka:səri/ adj. written with such a style. — cursively adv.
cursing /'ka:sən/ n. a movable indicator on a computer screen identifying the point that will be affected by input from the user, for example showing where typed text will be inserted. — the transparent slide engraved with a hairline that is a part of a slide rule.
curse /kərs/ [adj. rudely brief. — cursely adv. — curseness n.
cursing /'ka:səng/ n. — often be cursed Tail reduce in extent or quantity; impose a restriction on: curtail someone of necessary deprive someone of (something). — curtailment /'ka:ritəlmənt/ n.
curtain /'ka:ritən/ n. 1. a piece of material suspended at the top to form a covering or screen, typically one of a pair at a window: fig. through the curtain of falling snow. she could just make out gravestones. — the curtain a screen of heavy cloth or other material that can be raised or lowered at the front of a stage. — the raising or lowering of such a screen at the beginning or end of an act or scene. — curtains int. a disastrous outcome. — it looked like curtains for me.

- v. [tr.] provide with a curtain or curtains. — conceal or screen with a curtain.

- v. bring down the curtain on bring to an end.
curtain call n. the appearance of one or more performers on stage after a performance to acknowledge the audience's applause.
curity /'ka:riti/ (also curtesy) n. 1. a woman's or girl's formal greeting made by bending the knees with one foot in front of the other; she bobbed a curtsey. — [inf.] perform such an action; she curtseyed onto the stage. — a snooty, snide, or condescending courtesy, from Old French cortesie, from corteis 'courteous, courteous', based on Latin color, 'yard, return'. — both forms were used to denote the expression of respect or courtesy by a gesture, esp. in phrases such as do curtesy, make and from this arose the current use (late 16th cent.).
curva-ceous /'ka:vəsəs/ adj. (esp. of a woman or a woman's figure) having an attracively curved shape.

curvalure /'ka:vələr/ adj.
curvaceus /'ka:vəsəs/ adj. n. the fact of being curved or the degree to which something is curved: spindal curvature.

curved /'ka:vrd/ adj. (curved) a bending or bending of a straight line, or a curved surface deviates from a plane.

- a numerical quantity expressing this.
curve /'ka:v/ n. 1. a line or outline that gradually deviates from being straight or for some or all of its length. — a place where a road deviates from a straight path. — curves a curving a contour of a woman's figure. — a line on a graph (whether straight or curved) showing how one quantity varies with respect to another: the population curve. — a system in which grades are assigned to students based on their performance relative to other students, regardless of their actual knowledge of the subject; grades were marked on a curve.

- v. form or cause to form a curve: [inf.] her mouth curved in a smile. — [tr.] starting with arms outstretched, starting the body sideways.
curvature /'ka:vətʃər/ n.
curvature-linear /'ka:vətʃər-liən/ adj. contained by or consisting of a curved line or lines. — curvetine /'ka:vət.ərnik/ adj.
curbed /'ka:rbəd/ adj. (curved) having many curves.

- n. (esp. of a woman's figure) shapely and voluptuous.
curiosity /'ka:riəsəti/ n. a pillow or pad stuffed with a mass of soft material, used as a comfortable support for sitting or leaning on. — something providing support or protection against impact; the pad forms a cushion between carpet and floor. — fig. a pill showed the candidate with a 14-point cushion.

- the layer of air supporting a hovering or similar vehicle.

- [tr.] soften the effect of an impact on: the bag cushions equipment from inevitable knocks. — fig. mitigate the adverse effects of: he called for federal assistance to cushion the blow for farmers. — Middle English: from Old French cusion, based on a Latin word meaning 'cushion' or 'the hip' from cosa 'hip, thigh'. — cushioned adj. — cushiony adj.

cushtic /'ka:sətik/ adj., n. a group of East African languages of the Afro-Asiatic family spoken mainly in Ethiopia and Somalia.

- of or relating to this group of languages. — early 20th cent. from Cus, an ancient country in NE Africa.
cushy /'ka:ʃei/ adj. (cushier, curshiest) int. 1. undemanding, easy. — secure: cushy jobs that pay you to ski. — 2. (of furniture) comfortable.
cush-nose /'ka:ʃənəs/ n.
cusp /'ka:spl/ n. 1. a pointed end where two curves meet, in particular: — arch: a projecting point between small arcs in Gothic tracery. — a cone-shaped prominence on the surface of a tooth, esp. of a molar or Pronunciation Key a as a; up as a; over as a; fur as a; hat as a; at as a; cur as a; chin as a;

6 as e; a as a; i as i; j as j; k as k; n as n; s as s; o as o; a as a; law as a; toy as a; good as a; good as a; ou as o; un as a; thin as a; thin as a; why as a; vision as a;
cut

adj. made or done to order for a particular customer: a custom guitar.

adv. according to the customs or usual practices associated with a particular society, place, or set of circumstances: according to a person's habitual practice: I put the kettle on for our customary cup of tea.

n. one's or someone's: an established or based on custom rather than by law or statute.

adj. another term for custom-made.

cus-tom-ize /ˈkəstəˌmaɪz/ v. (often be customized) modify (something) to suit a particular individual or task.

cus-tom-made /ˈkəstəˌmɛnd/ adj. to order for a particular customer's.

cut /kət/ v. (cutting, past and past part. cut) make an opening, incision, or wound in something: he cut his big toe on a sharp stone | fig. cut a man down | remove (something) from something larger by using a sharp implement: cut his photograph out of the paper. | cut something (out) separate something from another: cut off my head. | cut something out separate something from another: cut something out of a piece of leather. | cut something down make something smaller: cut the size of the book. | cut something new make something new: cut a new song.

n. one's or someone's: an established or based on custom rather than by law or statute.

n. an act of cutting, in particular: a haircut. | stroke or blow given by a sharp-edged implement or by a weapon or tool: he could skin an animal with a single cut of the knife. | cut a wounding remark or act. | a reduction in amount or size: the size of a piece of furniture. | a long narrow incision in the skin made by something sharp. | cut a recording of a piece of music: a cut from his album. | a version of a movie after editing: the director's cut. | a passage cut or dug out, as a railroad cutting or a new channel made for a river or other waterway. | a woodcut. | a style in which something is cut, especially a garment or someone's hair. | cut a particular individual or task.

n. the elegant cut of his dinner jacket. | Middle English (probably existing, although not recorded, in Old English); probably of Germanic origin and related to Norse kuta 'cut, to cut or rip up' and Icelandic kuta 'cut, to cut or rip up'.

adj. above or exceeding in size or amount: a cut above.

adj. to cut out to cut out or eliminate: a cut throat. | cut a deal to make a deal.

v. to cut down to size or below size: cut someone down to size. | cut oneself into something: to cut oneself down to size.

adj. exactly right for the qualities of a particular role, task, or job. | cut above the rest.
cut and paste n. a process used in assembling text on a word processor or computer, in which items are removed from one part and inserted elsewhere.

adj. capable of doing something; the cutting blades of the hedge trimmer.

adj. (cutting-edge) at the latest or most advanced stage of development: innovative or pioneering: cutting-edge technology.

cutting edge n. edge of a tool's blade, the latest or most advanced stage in the development of something: researchers at the cutting edge of molecular biology, a person or factor that contributes a dynamic or invigorating quality to a situation and thereby puts one at an advantage: the campaign began to lose its cutting edge.

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cutting-edge adv.
Dad-dy long-legs n. any of numerous arachnids with a globular body and long thin legs. Also called HARVESTMAN.

Dad-do /dad-də/ n. (pl. -dos) the lower part of the wall of a room, if it has a different color or covering than the upper part.  A groove cut in the face of a board, into which the edge of another board is fixed.  A key based on a scale with D as its keynote. A shape like that of a capital D.  In comb: the D-shaped handle. A loop or ring of this shape.

Dad-ge [D] n. the second note of the diatonic scale of C major. A key in which the fundamental is C. A note that is a key based on a scale with D as its keynote. The Roman numeral for 500.

Dad-ge [D] n. Dad's or D's the lower part of the wall of a room, if it has a different color or covering than the upper part. A groove cut in the face of a board, into which the edge of another board is fixed. A key based on a scale with D as its keynote. A shape like that of a capital D.  In comb: the D-shaped handle. A loop or ring of this shape.

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Dad-a/ [D] n. 1. the fourth letter of the alphabet. The fourth highest in a set of items, categories, sizes, etc. The fourth highest category of academic mark. A key based on a scale with D as its keynote. A key based on a scale with D as its keynote. The Roman numeral for 500.
many ornamental garden varieties. Old English dæges éage ‘day’s eye.’

- pushing up (the) daisies inf. dead and buried.

dai-scy-ter 

- n. inf. an immensely powerful aerial bomb.

dakota 

- n. (pl. same or -tas) 1 a member of a North American Indian people of the upper Mississippi Valley and the surrounding plains. 2 the Sioux language of this people. Also called SIOUX.

- adj. of or relating to this people or their language. Early 19th cent.: the name in Dakota, literally ‘allies.’

dalai-lama 

- n. the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism and, formerly, the temporal ruler of Tibet.

dale 

- n. a valley, esp. a broad one.

dali-ance 

- n. a casual romantic or sexual relationship; brief or casual involvement with someone. Show a casual interest in something, without committing oneself seriously: dallying with the idea of opening a new office.

Dal-ma-tian 

- n. 1 a dog of a white, short-haired breed with dark spots. 2 a native or inhabitant of Dalmatia.

dam 

- v. am. dam up (a stream) to provide a dam or dam. n. any barrier resembling a dam.

- v. (dammed, damming) [tr. v.] dam a dam (a river or lake). 2 hold back or obstruct (something): the closed lock was dammed up the canal.

dam 

- n. the female parent of an animal, esp. a domestic mammal.

damage 

- n. 1 physical harm caused to something in such a way as to impair its value, usefulness, or normal function. 2 unwelcome and detrimental effects: damage to his reputation.

- v. (damaged, damming) [tr.] 1 inflict physical harm on (something) so as to impair its value, usefulness, or normal function: the car was badly damaged. 2 [as adj.] (damaging) heat can be damaging to color film. 3 have a detrimental effect on: the scandal could damage his career. n. am. damaging adj.

- what’s the damage? int. humorous used to ask the cost of something.

damask 

- n. 1 a figured woven fabric with a pattern visible on both sides, typically used for table linen and upholstery. 2 a tablecloth made of this material. 3 short for DAMASK ROSE.

- adj. made of or resembling damask. n. poet. lit. having the velvet pink or light red color of a damask rose.

- v. [tr. v.] weave with figured designs. n. poet. lit. decorate with or as if with a variegated pattern.

damask rose 

- n. a sweet-scented rose (Rosa damascena) that is typically pink or light red in color. The velvety petals are used to make attar.

dame 

- n. 1 (Dame) (in the UK) the title given to a woman equivalent to the rank of knight. 2 a woman holding this title. 3 a woman, archaic or humorous an elderly or mature woman.

- n. 1 a zone (of mina, zid) n. a growth retardant sprayed on vegetables and fruit, esp. apples, to enhance the quality of the crop. The use of daminozide has been restricted due to potential health risks.

- n. 1 interj. used to express anger and frustration. 2 v. [tr.] (in Christian belief) (of God) condemn (a person) to suffer eternal punishment in hell. be damned doomed to misfortune or failure: the enterprise was damned. condone, esp. by the public expression of disapproval, curse (someone or something).

- adj. interj. expressing anger, surprise, or frustration: Dammit! I forgot!

- adj. interj. used for emphasis, esp. to express anger or frustration: turn that damn thing off! don’t be so damn silly!

- not be worth a damn interj. have no value or validity at all.

damnable 

- adj. extremely bad or unpleasant. 2 subject to or worthy of divine condemnation.

- n. (in Christian belief) condemnation to eternal punishment in hell.

- interj. expressing anger or frustration.

- damn adj. 1 (in Christian belief) condemned by God to suffer eternal punishment in hell; [as pl. n.] the damned. 2 inf. used for emphasis, esp. to express anger or frustration: it’s none of your damned business! she’s too damned arrogant. damnedest used to emphasize the surprising nature of something: the damnedest thing I ever saw.

- adv. extremely; exceedingly: called her one damned fine pilot.

- do (or try) one’s damnedest do or try one’s utmost.

damp 

- adj. slightly wet: hair still damp from the shower.
dangerous /ˈdeɪndʒərəs/ adj. able or likely to cause harm or injury.
- likely to have adverse or unfortunate consequences; risky; likely to cause problems or difficulty. [of a drug] addictive or otherwise harmful.
- dangerously adv. —dangerous ness n.

dangle /ˈdeɪndʒl/ v. [intr.] hang or swing loosely: saucepans dangled from a rail; [tr.] they were dangling their legs over the water. [br.] fig. offer an enticing incentive to someone.
- dangler /ˈdæŋglər/ n. —dangly /ˈdæŋglɪ/ adj.

danish /ˈdeɪnɪʃ/ adj. or of relating to Denmark or its people or language.
- n. 1. the North Germanic language of Denmark, which is also the official language of Greenland and the Faeroes. [as pl. d. or the Danish] the people of Denmark. 3 int. short for DANISH PASTRY.

danish pas t ry n. a pastry made of sweetened yeast dough with toppings or fillings such as fruit, nuts, or chocolate.

dank /dænk/ adj. disagreeably damp, musty, and typically cold.
- dankly adv. —dankness n.

daphnia /ˈdeɪnəʊə/ n. (pl. same) a tiny and semitransparent freshwater crustacean with long antennae and prominent eyes, often used as food for aquarium fish. Also called W TER F L E A.

dapper /ˈdeɪpər/ adj. (typically of a man) neat and trim in dress, appearance, or bearing. —dapp er ly adv. —dapper ness n.

dappled /ˈdæpəld/ v. [tr.] usu. dappled mark with spots or rounded patches: [as adj.] (dappled) sunlit ray upon her hair.
- a patch or spot of color or light.
- an animal whose coat is marked with patches or spots.

dappled gray /ˈdæpləd / adj. (of a horse) gray or white with darker ringlike markings.
- n. a horse of this type.

dar /ˈdeər/ Daughters of the American Revolution.
dare /dəər/ v. (3rd sing. present usu. dare before an expressed or implied infinitive without to) 1. have the courage to do something; a story he dare not write down that he learned forward as far as she dared. 2. [tr.] defy or challenge (someone) to do something. 3. [pr.] poet. take the risk of; brave; few dared their wrath.
- daredevil /ˈdeərdevəl/ n. a person who enjoys doing dangerous things.
- adj. reckless and daring. —dare devil ly /r. /adv. — dare devil ness n.

daring /ˈdeərɪŋ/ adj. (of a person or action) adventurous or audaciously bold: a daring crime; boldly unconventional.
- n. adventurous courage: the zeal and daring of climbers. —daring ly adv.

dark /dɑrk/ adj. 1. with little or no light.
- hidden from knowledge: mysterious; a dark secret.
- archaic ignorant; unenlightened.
- of (a theater) closed: not in use.
- of (a color) not reflecting much light; approaching black in shade: dark green.
- of (someone's skin, hair, or eyes) brown or black in color.
- of (person) having such skin, hair, or eyes; my father and I are very dark.
- of (a sound or taste) having richness; drunk with only a little or no milk or cream.
- of (a period of time or situation) characterized by tragedy, unhappiness, or unpleasantness.
- gloomily pessimistic.
- of (an expression) angry; threatening; a dark look.
- suggestive of or arising from evil characteristics or forces; sinister: dark deeds.
- Phon. den. a veiled or somber form of the letter l as in pull.
- n. 1. the dark) the absence of light in a place: sitting in the dark; scared of the dark.
- nightfall; home before dark.
- a dark color or shade, esp. in a painting.
- darkly adv. —darkness n.
- in the dark) in a state of ignorance about something; we're clearly being kept in the dark. a shot or stab; in the dark) an act whose outcome cannot be foreseen; a mere guess.

Dark Ages the period in western Europe between the fall of the Roman Empire and the high Middle Ages, c. 500–1100, during which Germanic tribes swept through Europe and North Africa, often attacking and destroying towns and settlements. a period of sup posed unenlightenment. (the dark ages) humorous or derog. an obscure or little-regarded period in the past, esp. as characterizing an outdated attitude or practice; the judge is living in the dark ages.

darken /ˈdɑrkən/ v. [phr.], [intr.] 1. make or become dark; darken: [as adj.] (dark ened) a darkened room.
- [tr.] fig. cast a shadow over something; the smoke darkened the rest of the forest.
- make or become gloomy, angry, or unhappy: [intr.] his mood darkened.
- [intr.] (of someone's eyes or expression) show anger or another strong negative emotion; his face

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database

daylight

for reference or analysis. See also DATUM, the quantities, characters, or symbols on which operations are performed by a computer, stored and transmitted in the form of electrical signals. Philos. things known or assumed as facts, making the basis of reasoning or calculation.

da-ta-base /'dætəbæs/ n. a structured set of data held in a computer, esp. one that is accessible in various ways.

da-ta-link /'dætəlink/ n. an electronic connection for the exchange of information.

da-ta-processing /'dætə-prəsərniŋ/ n. a series of operations on data, esp. by a computer, to retrieve, transform, or classify information. —da-ta-proces-sor

da-ta /'dætə/ n. 1 the day of the month or year as specified by a number.

da-ta /'dætə/ n. 1 a particular day or year when a given event occurred or will occur: significant dates like 1776 and 1789 [they've set a date for the wedding].

da-tes /'dætiz/ v. intr. the years of a person's birth and death or of the beginning and end of a period or event; the period of time to which an artifact or structure belongs. w. written, printed, or stamped statement on an item giving the day, month, and year of writing, publication, or manufacture.

da-tive /'dætiv/ adj. 1 the day of a person's birth or the day of the event: a date with a specialist.

da-tive /'dætiv/ adj. 1 a musical or theatrical engagement or performance, esp. as part of a tour: possible live dates in the near future.

Davy Jones's locker /'dævi jɒnz(ə)lɒkər/ n. inf. the bottom of the sea, esp. regarded as the grave of those drowned at sea.

dawdle /'dɔdəl/ v. intr. waste time; be slow. —dawdler /'dɔdələr/ n.

dawn /dɔn; dæn/ n. 1 the first appearance of light in the sky before sunrise; fig. the beginning of a phenomenon or period of time. esp. one marked by a change in the environment: the dawn of civilization.

Day /dæi/ n. 1 a period of twenty-four hours as a unit of time, reckoned from one midnight to the next, corresponding to a rotation of the earth on its axis. 2 the period of the year: the first day of spring. 3 the period of time: the days of the week. 4 a day associated with a particular event or purpose: graduation day, a day in the life of a person.

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The severity or thoroughness of an action: he beat the living daylight out of them.

— see daylight begin to understand what was previously unclear.

daylight saving time (also daylight savings time) n. time as adjusted to achieve longer evening daylight, esp. in summer; by setting the clocks an hour ahead of the standard time.

daylight saving time /dāˈlaɪt/ the time of the day between sunrise and sunset. 
day-to-day adj. happening every day; day-to-day management of the classroom.

• ordinary: day-to-day domestic life. • short-term: without consideration for the future: the struggle for day-to-day survival.

• Sports (of a player) not playing owing to a minor injury that is being treated and evaluated on a daily basis: their shortstop is listed as day-to-day.

day trip n. a journey or excursion completed in one day. — day-trip

(day trip or day tripper) n.
daze [daz] v. tr. (usu. be dazed) make (someone) unable to think or react properly; stupefy, bewilder.

• n. a state of stupefaction or bewilderment: he was walking around in a daze. — dan-dy adj.
dazle [dazle] v. tr. (of a bright light) blind (a person) temporarily.

• fig. amaze or overthrow someone (with) a particular impressive quality: dazzled by the beauty of the exhibition.

• n. brightness that confuses someone (vision) temporarily: a dazzle of green and red spotlights. — daze-ment n. — dazler n. — dazling adj.

db symb. the chemical element dubium.

dB abbr. decibel(s).

dC abbr. M. da capo. • direct current. • Doctor of Chiropractic.


D-Day n. the day (June 6, 1944) in World War II on which Allied forces invaded northern France; landing in Normandy.

• the day on which an important operation is to begin or to happen: death. • day: the day after

DDT abbr. a synthetic chloro-containing compound introduced in the 1940s as an insecticide and now widely banned.

DE abbr. Football defensive end.

deacon (deˈkən) n. (in Catholic, Anglican, and Orthodox churches) an ordained minister of an order ranking below that of priest. • (in some Protestant churches) a lay officer appointed to assist a minister, esp. in secular affairs.

• v. intr. appoint or ordain as a deacon. — deaconship n.

deacon-ess (deˈkənəs) n. (in some churches) a woman with duties similar to those of a deacon.

dead-end (deadˈend) v. tr., intr. make (something, typically technical equipment or a virus) inactive by disconnecting or destroying it.

• 2 tr. Mil. remove from active duty. — dead-endation (deˈe-nə-shən) n. — dead-endation (vəˈtārən) n.
dead (deˈd) adj. 1 no longer alive. • of (a part of the body) having lost sensation; numb. • having or displaying no emotion, sympathy, or sensitivity: a cold, dead voice. • no longer current, relevant, or important: a dead issue. • devoid of living things: a dead planet. • resembling death: a dead faint. • of (a place or time) characterized by a lack of activity or excitement. • of (money) not financially productive. • of (sound) without resonance; dull. • of (a color) not glossy or bright. • of (a piece of equipment) no longer functioning: the phone had gone dead.

• of (an electric circuit or conductor) carrying or transmitting no current. • no longer burning: the fire had been dead for days. • of (air or water) not circulating; stagnant. • of (the ball in a game) out of play. • of (a playing field, ball, or other surface) lacking springiness or bounce. 2 complete; absolute; we sat dead silent.

• adv. absolutely; completely: you're dead right. • exactly: dead on time. • straight: directly; flies were seen dead ahead.

• n. [as pl. n.] (the dead) those who have died. — deadness n.

dead and buried adj. finished: the incident is dead and buried.

dead from the neck up adj. stupid. • dead in the water (of a ship) unable to move. • fig. unable to function effectively. • dead meat int. in serious trouble: if anyone finds out, you're dead meat. • the dead of night the quietest, darkest part of the night. • the dead of winter the coldest part of winter. • dead on exactly right; her judgment was dead on.

dead on arrival used to describe a person who is declared dead immediately upon arrival at a hospital. • fig. (of an idea, etc.) declared ineffective without ever having been put into effect.

• dead on one's feet adj. extremely tired. • dead set against int. strongly opposed to.

• dead to rights int. fast asleep. • wouldn't dead to the world int. fast asleep. be seen (or caught) dead int. used to express strong dislike for a particular thing; wouldn't be caught dead wearing a bib.

dead-beat n. intr. a person who tries to evade paying debts.

(also deadbeat) n. a man who avoids paying child support. • an idle, feckless, or disreputable person.

dead-bolt [ˈdedˌbəlt] n. a bolt engaged by turning a knob or key, rather than by spring action.

dead duck n. int. 1 an unsuccessful or useless person or thing. • a person who is beyond help: one who is doomed.

• v. tr. (also deaden) make (a noise or sensation) less intense. • deprive of the power of sensation. • deprive of force or vitality: stupefy. • of [adj.] (deadening) a deadening routine. • make (someone) insensitive to something: laughter might deaden us to the moral issue. — dead-en-er n.

dead end n. an end of a road or passage from which no exit is possible.

• a road or passage having such an end. • a situation offering no prospects of progress or development: [as adj.] a dead-end job.

• v. tr. (also dead-end) clear a passage by removing obstructions. — dead-end-ly adv.

dead-head [ˈdedˌhed] (also dead-head) n. a fan and follower of the rock group The Grateful Dead. • v. intr. a commercial carrier with no paying passengers or freight on a trip. • a passenger or member of an audience with a free ticket. • int. a boring or unentertaining person. • 3 a sunken or partially submerged log.

• v. intr. (of a commercial driver, etc.) complete a trip without paying passengers or freight: trucks deadheading into California. • ride in (a plane or other vehicle) without paying for a ticket. • tr. remove dead flowers from a plant to encourage further blooming.

dead heat n. a situation in or result of a race in which two or more competitors are exactly even.

• v. intr. (also dead heat) run or finish a race exactly even.

dead letter n. 1 a law or treaty that has not been repealed but is ineffective or defunct in practice. • fig. a thing that is impractical or obsolete. • 2 a letter that is undeliverable and unreturnable.

dead-line /ˈdedˌlайн/ n. 1 the latest time or date by which something should be completed. • hist. a line drawn around a prison beyond which prisoners were liable to be shot.

dead load n. the intrinsic weight of a structure or vehicle, excluding the weight of passengers or goods. • often contrasted with live load.

dead-lock [ˈdedˌlək] n. a situation, typically involving opposing parties in which no progress can be made.

deadlocked [ˈdedˌləkt] adj. (of a situation or opposing parties) at a point where no progress can be made because of disagreement: jurors were deadlocked.

• adj. (of a contest or game) tied, esp. at a point when a winner would normally have been decided.

deadly [ˈdedli] adj. (dier, -iest) causing or able to cause death.

• filled with hate. • (typically in the context of shooting or sports) extremely accurate, effective, or skillful. • int. extremely boring. • complete: total; she was deadly earnest.

• adv. resembling or suggesting death: her skin was deadly pale. • extremely.

deadliness n.

deadly night-shade n. a poisonous Eurasian plant (Atropa belladonna) of the nightshade family, with drooping purple flowers and black cherry-like fruit. • Also called Belladonna.

deadly sin n. (in Christian tradition) a sin regarded as leading to damnation, esp. one of a traditional list of seven. • see seven deadly sins.

dead-pan [ˈdedˌpæn] adj. deliberately impassive or expressionless.

• adv. in a deadpan manner.

• v. intr. (panned, -panning) say something amusing while affecting a serious manner.

dead reck-on ing n. the process of calculating one's position by estimating the direction and distance traveled rather than by using landmarks, astronomical observations, or electronic navigation methods.

deadweight (also dead weight) n. the weight of an inert person or thing.

• a heavy or oppressive burden: the past was so much dead weight.

• the total weight of cargo, stores, etc., that a ship carries or can carry at a particular draft. • another term for dead load.

• adj. or dead-weight sold by the estimated weight of salable meat that they will yield.

Pronunciation Key A ə; ago; up; or; fur; jaw; a etc; a car; ch chin; e let; e sec; é e air; i fit; i by; í e car; n sing; ő go; low; for; ou toy; őö good; őö go; ou out; sh she; th thin; ðs then; ðs by; zh vision
defense mechanism

from or resisting attack. • attempted justification or vindication of something: he spoke in defense of a disciplined approach. • an instance of defending a title or seat in a contest or election. • military measures or resources for protecting a country: [as adj] defense policy. • a means of protecting something from attack. • [defenses] fortifications or barriers against attack. • (in sports) the action or role of defending one's goal against the opposition; we played solid defense. • (the defense) the players in a team who perform this role. 2. the case presented by or on behalf of the party being accused or sued in a lawsuit. 3. one or more defendants in a trial. • (usu. the defense) [treated as sing. or pl.] the counsel for the defendant in a lawsuit; the defense requested more time to prepare their case. • defenseless adj.

defense mechanism n. an automatic reaction of the body against disease-causing organisms. • a mental process (e.g., repression or projection) initiated, typically unconsciously, to avoid conscious conflict or anxiety.

defenseless adj. • justifiable by argument; a morally defensible penal system. 2. able to be defended: a fort with a defensible yard at its feet. • defenselessly adv.

defensive adj. • used or intended to defend or protect; troops in defensive positions. • (in sports) relating to or intended as defense. 2. very anxious to challenge or avoid criticism; he was very defensive about that side of his life. • defensively adv. • defenselessness n.

• on the defensive expecting or resisting criticism or attack.

defend (def-end) v. (-fended, -ferring) [tr.] put off (an action or event) to a later time; postpone: they deferred the decision until February. • hist. postpone the conscription of (someone); he was no longer deferred from the draft. • defended n. • defendable adj. • deferral [-fér-əl] n.

defender (def-end-ər) n. a person who defends something; in particular: • a plate or other attachment for deflecting a flow of air, water, heat, etc. • an electrode in a cathode-ray tube whose magnetic field is used to deflect a beam of electrons onto a screen to form an image.

defence (def-uns) n. (pl. -cesses) a lack or shortage. • a failing or shortcoming.

deficient adj. • not having enough of a specified quality or ingredient: this diet is deficient in vitamin B. • insufficient or inadequate.

deficit (def-i-sit) n. the amount by which something, esp. a sum of money, is too small. • an excess of expenditure or liabilities over income or assets in a given period: an annual operating deficit. • (in sports) the amount or score by which a team or individual is losing: came back from a 3-0 deficit.

defile (def-il) v. [tr.] sully, mar, or spoil; desecrate or profane (something sacred). • archaic violate the chastity of (a woman). • defilement n. • defiler n.

defile (def-il) v. [tr.] defile a steep-sided, narrow gorge or passage (originally one requiring troops to march in single file).

define (def-i-n) v. [tr.] 1. state or describe exactly; the nature, scope, or meaning of; give the meaning of (a word or phrase); esp. in a dictionary. • make up or establish the character of: the football team defines their identity. 2. mark out the boundary or limits of; make clear the outline of; delineate. • defined adj. • definer n.

definite (def-i-nit) adj. • clearly stated or decided; not vague or doubtful; definite plans. • clearly true or real; unambiguous; (of a person) certain or sure about something. • clear or undeniable (used for emphasis): a definite asset. • having exact and discernible physical limits or form. • definiteness n.

definite article (def-i-t) n. Gram. a determiner (the in English) that implies that the thing mentioned has already been mentioned, or is common knowledge, or is about to be defined (as in the book on the table; the art of government). Compare with INDEFINITE ARTICLE.

definite article (def-i-nit) adj. • without doubt (used for emphasis): I will definitely be at the airport to meet you. • in a definite manner; clearly.

definite-inition (def-i-nish-on) n. 1. a statement of the exact meaning of a word, esp. in a dictionary. • an exact statement or description of the nature, scope, or meaning of something: our definition of poetry. • the
Delicious /dɪˈliʃəs/ n. a red or yellow variety of eating apple with a sweet flavor and a slightly elongated shape.

delicious /dɪˈliʃəs/ adj. highly pleasant to the taste; delightful; a delicious irony; deliciously adv.; delicious-ness n.

delight /dɪˈlaɪt/ v. [tr.] please (someone) greatly; intr. (delight in) take great pleasure in: they delight in playing tricks.

n. great pleasure; a cause or source of great pleasure; delight-ed adj.

delight-ful /dɪˈlaɪtfəl/ adj. causing delight; charming; a delightful secluded garden.

delight-fully adv.; delight-ful-ly adv.; delight-ful-ness n.

delimit /dɪˈlaɪmɪt/ v. [v. -lim-ited, -lim-iting] [tr.] determine the limits or boundaries of: agreements delineating fishing zones.

delimit-a-tion n.; -lim-isation n.; -lim-i-ter n.

delin-ate /dɪˈliːnət/ v. [v. -delin-ated, -delin-ating] describe or portray (something) precisely.

n. indicate the exact position of (a border or boundary).

delin-a-tion /dɪˈliːnəʃən/ n.; delin-a-tor /dɪˈliːnətər/ n.

delinquent /dɪˈliŋkwənt/ adj. (typically of a young person or that person's behavior) showing or characterized by a tendency to commit crime, particularly minor crime. delinquent children, in arrears; delinquents; formal failing in one's duties.

n. a delinquent person; young delinquents.

delinquent-ly adv.

del-i-quesce /dɪˈliːkwəs/ v. [intr.] (of organic matter) become liquid, typically during decomposition. Chem. (of a solid) become liquid by absorbing moisture from the air.

n. deliquescence /dɪˈliːkwəsəns/ n.; deliquesc-cent /dɪˈliːkwəsənt/ adj.

delir-i-ous /dɪˈlaɪrɪəs/ adj. in an acutely disturbed state of mind resulting from illness or intoxication and characterized by restlessness, illusions, and incoherence of thought and speech; in a state of wild excitement or ecstasy: a delirious crowd.

delir-i-um /dɪˈlaɪrɪəm/ n. an acutely disturbed state of mind that occurs in fever, intoxication, and other disorders and is characterized by restlessness, illusions, and incoherence of thought and speech; wild excitement or ecstasy.

n. mid-16th cent.; from Latin, from delirare 'deviate, be deranged' (literally from the 'furrow'), from de- away + iu-ri 'ridge between furrows.'

delir-i-um tre-mens /dɪˈlaɪrɪəm ˈtrɛməns/ (abbr. DTs) n. a psychotic condition typical of withdrawal in chronic alcoholics, involving hallucinations, halucinations, hallucinations, and deranged behavior. delirium tremens.

deliver /dɪˈlɪvər/ v. [v. -delivered, -delivering] [tr.] being and handing over (a letter, parcel, or ordered goods) to the proper recipient or address; products delivered on time; [intr.] we deliver. formally hand over (someone); obtain a vote in favor of a candidate or cause: he had been able to deliver votes in huge numbers.

n. launch or aim (a blow, a ball, or an attack). provide (something promised or expected); she's waiting for him to deliver on his promise.

[br.] deliver something/something from; save, rescue, or set free from: deliver us from misery.

2. state in a formal manner: the president will deliver a speech.

n. of a judge or court) gives (a judgment or verdict).

3. assist in the birth of the village midwife delivered the baby.

n. give birth to.

n. assist (a woman) in giving birth.

deliver-able adj. provide what is promised or expected.

deliver-ance /dɪˈlɪvərəns/ n. 1. the act of being rescued or set free: prayers for deliverance.

2. a formal or authoritative utterance.

deliver-ery /dɪˈlɪvərɪ/ n. pl. -er-ies 1. the action of delivering letters, packages, or ordered goods; regular or scheduled occasion for this.

n. an item or items delivered on a particular occasion; Law the formal or symbolic handing over of property, esp. a sealed deed, to a grantee or third party.

2. the process of giving birth; most deliveries take place in a hospital.

n. an act of throwing or bowling a ball or striking a blow.

the style or manner of such action: limits to speed up his delivery.

4. the manner or style of giving a speech: her delivery was stilted.

5. the supply or provision of something: delivery of electricity.

dell /dɛl/ n. a small valley, usually among trees.

delphin-i-um /dɪˈfɪnɪəm/ n. a genus Delphinium of the buttercup family that bears tall spikes of typically blue flowers.

del-ta /ˈdɛltə/ n. 1. the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet (Δ, δ), transliterated as "d." [adj.] the fourth in a series of items, categories, etc. 2. a code word representing the letter D, used in radio communication.

symb. (b) Math. variation of a variable or function. [Δ] Math. a finite increment.
journey: the day of departure | she made a hasty departure. | a deviation from an accepted, prescribed, or traditional course of action or thought: a departure from their usual style.

depend (dipend) v. [intrans] 1 (depend on/upon) to be controlled or determined by: differences in earnings depended on a wide variety of factors. 2 (depend on/upon) rely on: the kind you could depend on. | need or require for financial or other support: a town that depended upon industry. | be grammatically dependent on. 3 archaic or poetic/it. hang down.

- depending on being conditioned by: contingent on: makes 8-10 burgers (depending on size). | it [or that] [all] depends used to express uncertainty or qualification in answering a question: How many people use each screen? it all depends.

dependable (dipendəbəl) adj. trustworthy and reliable. —dependably adv.

dependence (dipendəns) n. —dependently adv.

dependency (dipendənsi) n. (pl. -cies) 1 a dependent or subordinate thing, esp. a country or province controlled by another. 2 dependence: the country's dependency on the oil industry.

dependent (dipendənt) adj. 1 (depend on/upon) contingent on or determined by: benefits will be dependent on length of service. 2 requiring someone or something of financial, emotional, or other support: households with dependent children. | unable to do without: dependent on drugs. | adj. [Gram. of a clause, phrase, or word] subordinate to another clause, phrase, or word.

n. [Brit. also dependent] a person who relies on another, esp. a family member, for financial support. —dependently adv.

depict (dipikt) v. [tr.] to show or represent by a drawing, painting, or other kind of art, figure, or phrase in words; describe: youth is depicted as a time of vitality and good health.

depiction (dipikʃən) n. —depictor n.

depilate (dipilət) v. [tr.] to remove hair from. —depilation (dipiləˈʃən) n.

depilatory (dipilətərē) adj. used to remove unwanted hair.

n. (pl. -ries) a cream or lotion for removing unwanted hair.

deplane (diplen) v. [intr.] disembark from an aircraft.

deplete (diplēt) v. [tr.] to use up the supply of; exhaust the abundance of: fish stocks are severely depleted. | [intr.] diminish in number or quantity: supplies are depleting fast. | exhaust. —depletion (dipləˈʃən) n.

deploreable (diplopərəˈblərəbəl) adj. deserving strong condemnation. | shockingly bad in quality. —deploresably adv.

deplore (diploʊr) v. [tr.] feel or express strong disapproval of (something): we deplore this act of violence. —deploreably adv.

deploy (diploʊ) v. [tr.] move (troops) into position for military action. | [intr.] of troops: move into position for such action: the air force began to deploy forward. | bring into effective action; utilize: they are not always able to deploy this skill. —deployable adj. —deploying adj. —deployingly adv.

depoliticize (dipəˈlitəˌsīz) v. [tr. also -ized, -izing] remove from political influence; we have to depoliticize education. —depoliticization (dipəˌlitəˈsīzəˈshən) n.

depopulate (dipəˈp'yəlät) v. [tr.] substantially reduce the population of (an area). —depopulated (dipəˈp'yələtətəd) adj.

depor (depor) v. [tr.] expel (a foreigner) from a country, typically on the grounds of illegal status or by committing a crime: he was deported for violation of immigration laws. | [intr.] go (to another) to a country. 2 (deport oneself) act as if acting oneself: he has deported himself with great dignity. —deportable adj. —deportation (dipərˈtāʃən) n.

deporť (deporˈtē) n. a person who has been or is being expelled from a country.

departmental (dipərˈtāməntəl) adj.

deposition (dipəˈzəzhən) n. 1 a sum of money placed or kept in a bank account, usually to gain interest. | an act of placing money in a bank account: I'd like to make a deposit. 2 a sum payable as a first installment on the purchase of something or as a pledge for a contract, the balance being payable later: we've saved enough for a deposit on a house. | a renter's assumption of the payment of the rent of something, to cover loss or damage. 3 a list or account of accumulated matters: deposits of salt on the chrome. | a natural layer of sand, rock, coal, or other material.

v. (hied, -tīng) v. [tr.] put or set down (something) in a specific place: he deposited a pile of books on the kitchen table. | usu. be deposited (of water, the wind, or other natural agency) lay down (matter) gradually as a layer or covering; salt is deposited by the tide. | lay (an egg or group of eggs). 2 [tr.] store or entrust with someone for safekeeping. | pay (a sum of money) into a bank account. | pay (a sum) as a first installment or as a pledge for a contract.

deposition (dipəˈzəzhən) n. 1 the action of depositing someone, esp. a monarch. 2 Law the process of giving sworn evidence: the deposition of four expert witnesses. 3 Law the written record of a witness's out-of-court testimony: a formal, written statement, used to be an evidence outside court. 4 the action of depositing something; pebbles formed by the deposition of calcium in solution.

depositor (dipəˈzətər) n. a person who keeps money in a bank account.

depository (dipəˌzərē) n. (pl. -ries) a place where things are stored.

depot (dipət) n. a place for the storage of large quantities of equipment, food, or some other commodity: an arms depot. | a railroad or bus station. | a place where buses, trains, or other vehicles are housed and maintained.

deprecate (diprēkät) v. [tr.] make (someone) immoral or wicked: late Middle English (in the sense 'pervert the meaning of something': from Old French depreve or Latin depravare, from depr- 'down, thoroughly' + prævus 'crooked, perverse.' —depreciation (diprēˈkeiʃən) n. —depreciator n.

deprecation (diprēˈkeiʃən) n. (usu. depredations) an act of attacking or plundering; protecting grain from the depredations of rats and mice.

depress (diprēs) v. [tr.] make (someone) feel utterly or completely; reduce; cause to feel, or make feel, something: depress the value of a currency relative to others currencies. —depressed adj.

depression (diprēˈzhen) n. 1 severe despondency and depression, typically felt over a period of time and accompanied by feelings of hopelessness and inadequacy. | Med. a condition of mental disturbance characterized by such feelings to a greater degree than seems warranted by the external circumstances, typically with lack of energy and difficulty in maintaining concentration or interest in life. | a long and severe recession in an economy or market. | the Depression or the Great Depression: the financial and industrial slump of 1929 and subsequent years. | the lowering or reduction of something: the depression of prices. | the action of pressing down on something: depression of the plunger delivers two units of insulin. | a sunken place or hollow on a surface. | Astron. & Geog. the angular distance of an object below the horizon or a horizontal plane. | Meteorol. a region of lower atmospheric pressure, esp. a cyclonic weather system.

depressor (diprēˈsər) adj. causing feelings of hopelessness, despondency, or depression.

depression (diprēˈzhen) n. a person suffering from or with a tendency to suffer from depression.

depressurize (diprēˈsəriz) v. [tr.] release the pressure of the gas inside (a pressurized vehicle or container). | [intr.] (of a pressurized vehicle or container) lose pressure. —depres-surization (diprēˈsərəˌzaˈʃən) n.
deprive /drə'vaɪ/ v. [tr.] deny (a person or place) the possession or use of something: the city was deprived of its water supplies. —deprival /-vəl/ n. 1. the distance from the top or surface of something to its bottom: 12 feet in depth. 2. distance from the nearest to the farthest point of something or from the front to the back; the depth of the wardrobe. 3. used to specify the distance below the top or surface of something to which someone or something pertains or at which something happens: four feet to a depth of 8 inches. 4. the apparent existence of three dimensions in a picture, photograph, or other two-dimensional representation: perspective: texture in a picture gives it depth. 5. the lowness of pitch: my voice had not yet acquired husky depths. 6. complexity and profundity of thought. 7. extensive and detailed study or knowledge. 8. intensity of emotion, usually considered as a laudable quality: a man of compassion and depth of feeling. 9. intensity of color. 10. a point far below the surface; the worst or lowest part or state: the depths to which morality has sunk. 11. a time when one's negative feelings are at their most intense: in the depths of despair. 12. a place that is remote and inaccessible: a village somewhere in the depths of Russia. 13. Sports the strength of a team in its reserve of substitute players.

derange /də'ræŋ/ vt. vt. [tr.] to upset one's knowledge or ability to cope.

dep-th /dəp/ n. 1. an explosive charge designed to explode underwater at a preset depth. 2. used for attacking submarines.

dep-u-ta-tion /də'pju:taʃən/ n. a group of people appointed to undertake a mission or take part in a formal process on behalf of a larger group: he had been a member of a delegation to Napoleon III.

dep-u-tize /də'pju:taiz/ v. (v.) appoint or instruct (someone) to perform a task for which one is responsible: she had been deputized to look after her while Charissa was away. 2. delegate (authority or a task).

dep-u-ty /də'pju:ti/ n. (pl. -ties) a person whose immediate superior is a senior figure within an organization and who is empowered to act as a substitute for this superior.

dep-ut-y-ship /də'pju:tiʃip/ n. [sing.] temporary act or speak as a deputy.

de-rail /də'rel/ [v.] (tr.) cause (a train or trolley car) to leave its tracks. 2. [intr.] of a train or trolley car accidentally leave the tracks. 3. [fig.] obstruct (a process) by diverting it from its intended course; the plot is seen as an attempt to derail the negotiations. —derail-ment n.

de-rai-lleur /də'rælju:/ n. a bicycle mechanism that moves the chain out and up, allowing it to shift to different cogs.

der-der /də'dər/ n. a condition of the skin in which it becomes red, swollen, and sore, resulting from direct irritation of the skin by an external agent or an allergic reaction to it.

der-mat-o-gy /dər'mat'o-ji/ n. the branch of medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders. —der-mat-o-log-i-cal /-mat'o-log-i-kəl/ adj. —der-mat-o-log-ist /-o-lo'gist/ n. 2. technical the skin.

der-mis /dər'mis/ n. the thick layer of living tissue below the epidermis that forms the true skin, containing blood capillaries, nerve endings, sweat glands, hair follicles, and other structures. —der-mal /-mal/ adj. —der-mic /-mik/ adj. (rare)

der-o-gate /də'rɑ:gɑt/ v. [tr.] disparage (someone or something). 2. [intr.] derogate from: this does not derogate from his duty to act honestly and faithfully. 3. [intr.] derogate from: deviate from a set of rules or agreed form of behavior: one country has derogated from the Rome Convention.

der-o-ga-to-ry /də'rɑ:ɡətəri/ adj. showing a critical or disrespectful attitude: his derogatory remarks are hurtful. —der-o-ga-to-ri-ly /-tərəli/ adv.

der-dick /dərk/ n. 1. a kind of crane with a movable pivoting arm for moving or lifting heavy weights, esp. on a ship. 2. the framework over an oil well or similar boring that holds the drilling machinery.

der-li-re /dər'ləri/ n. adj. euphemistic term for a person's buttocks.

der-lic-tion /də'rəlkiʃən/ n. the state of having been abandoned and become dispossessed. 2. [usu.] deliction of duty) the shameful failure to fulfill one's obligations.


der-ri-gueur /du rə'gwar/ /dər'grə/ n. required by etiquette or current fashion; it was derrigueur for hands to grow their hair long.

der-i-sion /dər'zhən/ n. contemptuous ridicule or mockery.


der-i-so-nal /dər'i sən/ adj. 1. ridiculously small or inadequate; they were given a derisory pay rise. 2. another term for DERISIVE.

der-i-va-tion /dər'i və'shən/ n. 1. the obtaining or developing of something from a source or origin: the derivation of scientific laws from observation. 2. the formation of a word from another word or from a root in the same or another language. 3. Math. a sequence of statements showing that a formula, theorem, etc., is a consequence of previously accepted statements.

der-mis /dər'mis/ v. (typically of an artist or work of art) imitative of the work of another, and usually disapproved of for that reason.

der-rivation /dər'verə'shən/ n. 1. the process of deducing a new formula, theorem, etc., from previously accepted statements. 2. origin; extraction;: music of Turkish derivation. 3. something derived; a derivative: the derivation "sheepish" has six definitions. 4. an expression representing the rate of change of a function with respect to an independent variable.

der-ri-ve /dər'vi:v/ v. [intr.] (derive something from) obtain something from (a specified source); they derived great comfort from this assurance. 2. (derivation) born concept on a logical extension or modification of (another concept); Marx derived his philosophy of history from Hegel. 3. (derive from) (of a great word) have a specified word, usually of another language, that is derived from or originate in (a specified source); words whose spelling derives from Dr. Johnson's incorrect etymology.

der-ri-vative /dər'vi vətiv/ adj. (of a financial product) having a value deriving from an underlying variable asset.

pronunciation:
Key: kw, g, ə; tr, br, dr; cr, sc; sh; th, θ; zh; tʃ; j; fi; h; k; g; ng; ð; j; f; tʃ; n; ʃ; θ; s; k; t; w; parenthetical
way considered disloyal or treacherous: he deserted his wife and went back to England. [usu. as adj] (deserted) (of a number of people) leave (a place), causing it to appear empty; the lobby was virtually deserted. [of a quality or ability] fail (someone), esp. at a crucial moment when most needed; her luck deserted her. [intr. ] of (a soldier) illegally run away from military service. —des-erter n. —des-er-tion n. —des-er-tion-er n. desert /dezərt/ n. a dry, barren area of land, esp. one covered with sand that is characterized by desolate, waterless, and without vegetation. a lifeless and unpleasant place, esp. one used for Gemini or covered with a specified substance: the interior of Iceland is an ice desert. a situation or area considered dull and uninteresting; a cultural desert. adj. like a desert. uninhabited and desolate. —des-er-tic adj. desert /di'sert/ [usu. ] a person’s worthiness or entitlement to reward or punishment: the penal system fails to punish offenders in accordance with their deserts. —get (or receive) one’s just deserts receive the appropriate reward or (more usually) punishment for one’s actions. des-seve /di'səv/ v. [tr.] do something or have or show qualities worthy of (reward or punishment). — des-sevedly /-ədli/ adv. des-sever ing /di'səvariŋ/ adj. worthy of being treated in a particular way, typically of being given assistance. —des-sever ing-ly adv. des-is-cent /di'sesənt/ n. a substance used as a drying agent. des-is-cate /di'sekt/ adj. — des-is-cated /-ə'tid/ remove the moisture from (something, esp. food) typically in order to preserve it. [as adj] /des-is-cated/ fig. lacking interest, passion, or energy; desiccated ideas. —des-is-cation /-kə'shən/ n. —des-is-cative /-kətiv/ adj. des-is-dor-um /di'sədər-əm/ /di'sədər-əm/ n. [pl. -a] something that is needed or wanted: integrity was a desideratum. des-sig-nate /de'siɡnət/ v. /-iz/ [fr.J designate (someone) to a specified position: he was designated as prime minister. of officially assign a specified status or accede to a specified role or quality to [tr.] certain schools are designated “science schools.” signify; indicate: the term “brainstem” designates the medulla, pons, and mesencephalon. adj. -n-, -nated /-n/, appointed to an office or position but not yet installed: the director designate. —des-sig-nator /-nətər/ n. designated driver n. a member of a group who abstains from alcohol in order to drive the others safely. des-sig-nated-hitter n. Baseball a nonfielding player named before the start of a game to be in the batting order, typically in place of the pitcher. des-sig-nation /de'siznəʃən/ n. the choosing and naming of someone to be the holder of an official position. the action of choosing a place for a special purpose or giving it a special status: the designation of parts of Santa Ana as an “urban area” is a name, description, or title, typically one that is officially bestowed. des-sig-ned-ly /-ni/ adv. in order to produce a specific effect. des-sig-nar /de'siznər/ n. a person who plans the form, look, or workings of something before its being made or built, typically by drawing it in detail. [as adj] made by or having the expensive sophistication of a famous and prestigious fashion designer: designer label. [as adj] upscale and fashionable: designer food. des-sig-nar /de'siznər/ n. a person who plans the form, look, or workings of something before its being made or built, typically by drawing it in detail. [as adj] made by or having the expensive sophistication of a famous and prestigious fashion designer: designer label. [as adj] upscale and fashionable: designer food. des-sig-nar drug n. a synthetic analog of an illegal drug, esp. one devised to circumvent drug laws, a fashionable artificial drug. des-sing /de'sinz/ /-zən/ v. [tr., ] acting in a calculating, deceitful way. des-sir-a-ble /de'sərəbəl/ adj. wanted or wished for as being an attractive, useful, or necessary course of action: some social control over technology is desirable. [of (a person) arousing sexual desire. —n. a desirable person, thing, or quality. des-sir-a-ble-ness n. —des-sir-a-bly /-bli/ adv.
development

plane figure as if by unrolling. 2 start to exist, experience, or possess: [intr, | a strange closure developed] | [tr, | developed an interest in law] | [tr, | a graphic film with chemicals to make a visible image. —dev-o-lop-a-ble adj. —dev-o-loper n.
dev-o-lop-ment [dēv′ə-ləp-mənt] n. 1 the process of developing or being developed. a specialed state of growth or advancement: the wings attain full development hours after birth. a new and refined product or idea: the latest developments in technology. an event constituting a new stage or changing situation: any new developments? the process of converting land to a new purpose by constructing buildings or making use of its resources an area of land with new buildings on it: a major housing development. Cheese the process of bringing one's pieces into play in the opening phase of a game. the process of starting to experience or suffer from an ailment or feeling. the process of treating photographic film with chemicals to make a visible image. —dev-o-lop-a-ment-ly adv.
dev-o-ant [dēv′ə-ant] adj. departing from usual or accepted standards, esp. in social or sexual orientation. n. a deviant person or thing, —dev-i-ance n.
dev-i-at e v. [dēv′ə-ät] intr, depart from an established course; you must not deviate from the route. depart from usual or accepted standards. n. & adj. [dēv′ə-ät] old-fashioned term for deviant. —dev-i-a-tor n., adj.
dev-i-a-tion [dēv′ə-ā′shən] n. 1 the action of departing from an established course or accepted standard. 2 Statistics the amount by which a single measurement differs from a fixed value such as the mean. 3 the defection of a vessel's compass needle caused by iron in the vessel, which varies with the vessel's heading. —dev-i-a-tion-ism, -ism n., —dev-i-a-tion-ist n.
dev-o-ce [dēv′ə-sē] n. 1 thing made or adapted for a particular purpose, esp. a mechanical or electronic contrivance: a measuring device. an explosive contrivance: a bomb: an incendiary device. archein the design or look of something: works of strange device. 2 a plan, scheme, or trick with a particular aim: writing a public letter is a traditional device for gaining an advantage. a turn of phrase intended to produce a particular effect in speech or a literary work: a rhetorical device. 3 a drawing or design. 4 an emblematic or heraldic design. Middle English: from Old French devise, based on Latin dividere, 'divided,' from the verb dividere. the original sense was 'divide or separate,' found only now in leave a person to his or her own devices (which has become associated with sense 2). □ leave someone to his own devices leave someone to do as they wish without supervision.
dev-il [dē′vəl] n. 1 (usu. the Devil) (in Christian and Jewish belief) the chief evil spirit; Satan. an evil spirit; a demon. a very wicked or cruel person. a mischievously clever or self-willed person. int a person with specified characteristics: the poor devil a lucky devil. the devil fighting spirit; wildness: he was dangerous when the devil was in him. the devil. a thing that is very difficult or awkward to do or deal with: it's going to be the very devil to disentangle. the devil expressing surprise or annoyance in various questions or exclamations: "Where the devil is he?" an instrument or machine, esp. one fitted with sharp teeth or spikes, used for tearing or other destructive work. □ v. (dev-il-ed, dev-il-ing, Bnt. dev-il-der, dev-il-ling) [tr, | harass or worry (someone); he was deviled by a newsagent. a fear; Old English deifol (related to Dutch duivel and German Teufel), via late Latin from Greek daivlos 'accuser, slanderer' (used in the Septuagint to translate Hebrew šā'ān, 'Satan'), from da'bal 'to slander,' from da'bal 'to slander,' from da'bal 'to swill,'—bal·lin· 'to throw'.
dexterity

dext-er-i-ty [dextərˈɪti] n. skill in performing tasks, esp. with the hands; her dexterity with chopsticks | political dexterity.

dexterous /ˈdɛkstərəs/ (also dextrous) adj. demonstrating neat skill, esp. with the hands. • mentally adroit; clever; power users are dexterous at using software. —dexterously adv. —dexterous-ness n.

dextrose /ˈdɛkstrəs/ n. Chem. the predominantly naturally occurring form of glucose.

D.H. /ˈdeɪ.əl/ a Doctor of Humanities. • Baseball designated hitter.

Di /ˈdaɪ/ comb. form. two; double: dihormone.

Diabetes /ˌdaɪˈbiːtɪz, -tsi/ n. a disorder of the metabolism causing excessive thirst and the production of large amounts of urine. • mid 16th cent.: via Latin from Greek, literally ‘siphon,’ from diaphanein ‘go through.’

diabetic /ˈdaɪəbetɪk/ adj. having diabetes; relating to or designed to relieve diabetes: a diabetic diet | a diabetic diet.

a person suffering from diabetes.

diabetic-cal /ˌdaɪəbəˈtɪkəl/ (also dia-bolic) adj. belonging to or so evil as to recall the Devil: his diabolic cunning.

Diahbolic-ism /ˌdaɪəbəˈlɪzəm/ n. worship of the Devil. • devilish or atrociously wicked conduct. —dia-bolic list n.

diacritic /ˌdaɪəˈkrɪtɪk/ n. a sign, such as an accent or cedilla, which when written above or below a letter indicates a difference in pronunciation from the same letter when unmarked or differently marked.

adj. (of a mark or sign) indicating a difference in pronunciation.

dia-crit-cal /ˌdaɪəˈkrɪtɪkəl/ adj. (of a mark or sign) serving to differentiate pronunciations of a letter above or below which it is written.

—dia-critically /ˌdaɪəˈkrɪtɪkli/ adv.

diadem /ˈdaɪədəm/ n. a jeweled crown or headband worn as a symbol of sovereignty. • (the diadem) archaic: the authority or dignity symbolized by a diadem: the princely diadem.

—di-amed adj.

dia-er-sis /ˌdaɪəˈɛrɪs/ n. variant spelling of DERRIES.

diagnosis /ˌdaɪəˈɡnoʊsɪs/ n. [v.] to identify the nature of (an illness or other problem) by examination of the symptoms. • (usu. be diagnosed) identify the nature of the medical condition of (someone).

dia- log-ue /ˌdaɪəˈlɑɡ/ n. • a conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play, or movie. • a discussion between two or more people or groups, esp. one directed toward exploration of a particular subject or resolution of a problem.

—v. [intr.] to partake in a conversation or discussion to resolve a problem.

Dial tone n. a sound that a telephone produces indicating that a caller may start to dial.

di-a-log-sis /ˌdaɪəˈlɑɡəsɪs/ n. pl. -ses /ˌsaɪz/ Chem. the separation of particles in a liquid on the basis of differences in their ability to pass through a membrane. • Med. the clinical purification of blood by this technique, as a substitute for the normal function of the kidneys.

—dia-log-sically /ˌdaɪəˈlɑɡəsɪkəl/ adv.

di-am-eter /ˌdaɪəˈmɛtər/ n. a straight line passing from side to side through the center of a body or figure, esp. a circle or sphere.

—the length of this line. • a transverse measurement of something: width or thickness. • dia-metric-ally /ˌdaɪəˈmɛtrɪkəl/ adv.

di-a-met-ric /ˌdaɪəˈmetrɪk/ adj. used to emphasize how completely different two or more things are: he’s the diametrical opposite of Gabriel.

2 of or along a diameter. —dia-met-ric-ally /ˌdaɪəˈmetrɪkəli/ adv.

diam清单 /ˌdaɪəˈmɑnd/ n. 1 a precious stone consisting of a clear and typically colorless crystalline form of pure carbon, the hardest naturally occurring substance. • a tool with a small stone of such kind for cutting glass. • in extended and metaphorical use with reference to the brilliance, form, or hardness of diamonds: the air glitters like diamonds.

2 a figure with four straight sides of equal length forming two opposite acute angles and two opposite obtuse angles; a rhombus.

—diamonds one of the four suits in a deck of playing cards, denoted by a red figure of such a shape. • a card of this suit. • the area delimited by the four redces of a baseball field, forming a square shape. • a baseball field. • diamond-like (təˈdæmˌlaɪk) adj.

—diamond in the rough a person who is generally of good character but lacks manners, education, or style.

di-a-mond-back /ˌdaɪəˈmɒnd, ˈbæk/ n. 1 (also diamondback rattlesnake) a large, common North American rattlesnake (genus Crotalus) with diamond-shaped markings. • another term for TERRAPIN (sense 1).

di-an-thus /ˌdaɪəˈθəs/ n. pl. -thuses • a flowering plant of the pink family that belongs to the genus Dianthus, including the carnations.

dia-gram /ˈdaɪəˌɡram/ n. (abbr.: diag.) a simplified drawing showing the appearance, structure, or workings of something; a schematic representation.

—v. [gramed, -gram-]ing also -grammed -gram-ing [tr.] represent (something) in graphic form. • dia-gram-a-tic /ˌdaɪəˈɡræmətɪk/ adj. • dia-gram-a-ti-cal-ly /ˌdaɪəˈɡræmətɪkli/ adv.

dia-gram /ˈdaɪəˌɡram/ n. • a face of a clock, watch, or sundial that is marked to show units of time. • a similar face or flat plate with a scale and pointer for showing measurements of weight, volume, pressure, compass direction, etc. • a plate or disk on a radio, washing machine, or other piece of equipment that is tuned to select a wavelength or setting.
the is cast event has happened or a decision has been made that cannot be changed.

die-cast adj. (of a metal object) formed by pouring molten metal into a mold; a die-cast aluminum loudspeaker chassis.

difficult adj. needing much effort or skill to accomplish, deal with, or understand; she had a difficult decision to make; the questions are too difficult for the students to understand, but they handled the problems, a difficult economic climate; (of a person) not easy to please or satisfy; life could be difficult.

diff-in-cly adj. (of aikel) n. (pl. -ties) the state or condition of being difficult; Guy had no difficulty in making friends; she walks with difficulty.

dif-fu-sive adj. (of a liquid) spread or cause to spread over a wide area or among a large number of people; [int. technologies diffuse rapidly; [tr. the problem is how to diffuse power without creating anarchy.

diff-er-ent adj. differing widely differing in many respects; disagreement; the differences in price at the various stores; differences in ethical matters.

diff-er-ent adj. differing from one another; a disagreement, quarrel, or dispute; patching up their differences; a quantity by which amounts differ; the differences in height of the banks; the difference left after subtraction of one value from another.

diff-er-ence adj. a difference of degree or quality between persons, situations, or the like; no significant difference was found; a difference of opinion; differences in the way one expresses oneself; differences were found in the results of the two tests.

for difference.

diff-er-ent adj. different from the first; the results differed significantly; differences in taste; differences in opinion; differences in behavior; differences in the results of the two tests.

diff-er-ent adj. different from; differ from; one another; differences in the results of the two tests.

diff-er-ent adj. different from, differing from; differences in taste; differences in opinion; differences in behavior.

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news published elsewhere. a methodical summary of a body of laws.

2. Chem. A substance or mixture obtained by digestion: a digest of a food.

DNA — diges-ti-ble adj.

dige-si-on (dij'e-sish'an; di'ji)n. The process of breaking down food by mechanical and enzymatic action in the stomach and intestines into substances that can be used by the body. A person's capacity to break down food in such a way: a measure of the efficiency of digestion. A chyme.

Chem. in digestion: a process of treating a substance by means of heat, enzymes, or a solvent to produce decomposition or extract essential components.

dige-sive (dij'estiv) adj. Of or relating to the process of digesting food: stomach ulcers and other digestive disorders. Of or for medicine aiding or promoting the process of digestion; digestive mists.

1. A food or medicine that aids or promotes the digestion of food. — diges-tive-ly adv.

digi-cam (di'ji-kam) n. A digital camera.

digi (dij') adj. 1. Any of the numerals from 0 to 9, esp. when forming part of a number. 2. A finger (including the thumb) or toe. a Zool. An equivalent structure of many higher vertebrates.

digi-tal (dij'i-tal) adj. 1. Relating to or using signals or information represented by discrete values (digits) of a physical quantity, such as voltage or magnetic polarization, to represent arithmetic numbers or approximations to numbers from a continuum or logical expressions and variables; digital: TV. Often contrasted with analog. a (of a clock or watch) showing the time by means of displayed digits rather than hands or a pointer. 2. Of or relating to a finger or fingers. — digi-tal-ly adv.

digi-tal au-di-o-tape (abbr.: DAT) n. Magnetic tape used to digitize sound recordings of very high quality.

digi-tal cam-e-ra (n.) a camera that records and stores digital images.

digi-tals (dij'i-tals) n. A drug prepared from the dried leaves of foxglove and containing substances that stimulate the heart muscle.

digi-tal sub-scrip-tion line (n.) Comput. See DSL.

Digi-tal tel-e-vis-ion (abbr.: DTV) n. Television broadcasting in which the pictures are transmitted as digital signals that are decoded by a device in or attached to the receiving television set.

digi-tal vide-o re-cord-er (n.) (abbr. DVR) a programmable electronic device that writes audio and video input, typically from a television signal, to a rewritable hard disk.

digi-tize (dij'i-tiz) v. [fr. (t) us. as adj. digitized or digitizing; convert (pictures or sound) into a digital form that can be processed by a computer. — digi-ti-za-tion (dij'i-tiz'a-shan) n. — digi-tizer n.

digi-nified (dij'i-nif'id) adj. Having or showing a composed or serious manner that is worthy of respect. — digi-nif-id-ly adv.

digi-ni-ly (dij'i-ni-lê) adv. Of or relating to a digital camera.

dig-i-nor-a-tory (di-jin'o-ra'ter-e) adj. Of a person considered to be important because of high rank or office.

dig-i-nor-a-tory (di-jin'o-ra'tor-e) adj. Of or relating to a particular type of person or thing: that's a digital breakfast recipe.

dig-i-nor-a-tor-y (di-jin'o-ra'tor-e) adj. Of or relating to a person who has interest in the arts. — digi-nor-a-tor-ly adv.

dig-i-nor-a-tor-y (di-jin'o-ra'tor-e) adj. Of or relating to a person who is concerned with digital art and photography.

dig-i-nor-a-tor-ly (di-jin'o-ra'tor-e) adv. Of or relating to a particular type of person or thing: that's a digital breakfast recipe.

Dime [- dim] adj. (dim-mer, dim-mest) 1. Of a light, color, or illuminated object: not shining brightly or clearly. 2. (of an object or shape) made difficult to see by glare, darkness, shade, or distance. 3. (of a room or space) made difficult to see in the dark: dim corridors. 4. (of eyes) not able to see clearly. 5. Of a sound: indistinct or muffled. 6. (of prospects) not giving cause for hope or optimism. 7. Not clearly recalled or formulated in the mind: she had dim memories of that time.


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diseased (dis-i-zed) adj. suffering from disease; all the cattle have been removed. dis-fig-ure (dis-fi-gur) v. (tr.) to injure the appearance of; disfigurement. dis-ing-en-chant (dis-in'jent) v. (tr.) to make (someone) feel disillusioned; disenchanted. dis-ing-en-cum-ber (dis-in'kam-bar) v. (tr.) to free (someone) of (something) or (someone) from something; disencumber. dis-ing-en-fran-chise (dis-in'fran-kiz') v. (tr.) to deprive (someone) of the right to vote; disenfranchise (someone) or (something). dis-ing-en-fran-chised (dis-in'fran-kishd) adj. deprived of power; marginalized; a hard core of kids who are disenfranchised and don't feel connected to anyone. dis-ing-en-france (dis-in'frans) n. the process of separating or releasing something or of becoming separated or released. dis-ing-en-france-ment (dis-in'frans-mant) n. 1 the action or process of withdrawing from involvement in a particular activity, situation, or group; disengagement from politics and politicians. 2 the withdrawal of military forces or the cessation of military or political influence in a particular area. dis-ing-en-france-ment (dis-in'frans-mant) n. 1 the process of separating or releasing something or of becoming separated or released. 2 disengagement. dis-ing-en-france-ment (dis-in'frans-mant) n. 1 the action or process of withdrawing from involvement in a particular activity, situation, or group; disengagement from politics and politicians. dis-ing-en-france-ment (dis-in'frans-mant) n. 1 the process of separating or releasing something or of becoming separated or released. 2 disengagement. dis-ing-en-france (dis-in'frans) n. the process of separating or releasing something or of becoming separated or released. dis-ing-en-france-ment (dis-in'frans-mant) n. 1 the action or process of withdrawing from involvement in a particular activity, situation, or group; disengagement from politics and politicians. dis-ing-en-france-ment (dis-in'frans-mant) n. 1 the process of separating or releasing something or of becoming separated or released. 2 disengagement. dis-ing-en-france (dis-in'frans) n. the process of separating or releasing something or of becoming separated or released. dis-ing-en-france-ment (dis-in'frans-mant) n. 1 the action or process of withdrawing from involvement in a particular activity, situation, or group; disengagement from politics and politicians. dis-ing-en-france-ment (dis-in'frans-mant) n. 1 the process of separating or releasing something or of becoming separated or released. 2 disengagement.
nature: her mother tried to distance her from the others. | (distance oneself from) declare that one is not connected with or a supporter of (something or someone); he distanced himself from the proposals.

- go the distance Boxing complete a fight without being knocked out; the distance after being floored in the first round. | (of a boxing match) last the scheduled length. | (for a long time: this amplifier should go the distance. | keep one's distance stay far away. | maintain one's reserve: you had to say nothing and keep your distance.

distant /distənt/ adj. 1 far away in space or time. | (after a measurement) at a specified distance: the star is 30,000 light years distant from earth. | (of a sound) faint or vague because far away: the distant bark of some far-off dog. | fg. remote or far apart in resemblance or relationship: a distant acquaintance. | (of a person) not closely related: a distant cousin.

2 (of a person) not intimate; cool or reserved. | remote: abstracted. | (of a place) a distance from Latin distant: standing apart. | (from the verb distant, from dis-: apart, store stand. | -distant-ly adv.

distaste /di'stæst/ n. mild dislike or aversion. | -distasteful adv.

-distantly adv.

distemper /di'stempər/ n. 1 a viral disease of some animals, esp. dogs, causing fever, coughing, and catarrh. | 2 archaic a human disease: illness. | fg. political disorder: an attempt to illuminate the moral roots of the modern world's distemper.

distemper /di'stempər/ n. a kind of paint using glue or size instead of an oil base. | for use on walls or for scene-painting. | a method of mural and poster painting using this.

distend /di'stend/ v. [tense] cause (something) to swell by stretching it from inside out. | [distended] a distended belly. | [distend] well out because of pressure from inside. | (of a hose) to the amount of pressure.

-distensible /di'stensəl/ adj. -distension /dɪnˈʃən/ n.

distill /di'stɪl/ v. [tense] purify (a liquid) by vaporizing it, then condensing it by cooling the vapor, and collecting the resulting liquid: [as adj. | distilled] dip the slide in distilled water. | [usu. be distilled] make (something, esp. liquor or an essence) in this way: whiskey is distilled from a mash of grains. | [as n. | distilling] the distillation industry. | extract the essence of (something) by heating it with a solvent. | remove (a volatile constituent) of a mixture by using heat; the distillation of alcohol by boiling.

-distributive /di'strɪbjuˈtɪv/ adj. be distributed in a book | (as adj. | distributed] the report is a distributed version. | [intr. | distribute] emanate a vapor or in minute drops. | -distributive /di'strɪbjuˈtɪv/ adj. | -distributively adv. | -distribution /di'strɪbjuˈteɪʃən/ n. the action of sharing something out among a number of recipients. | the way in which something is shared out among a group or spread over an area: the distribution of wildlife. | the action of processes of supply of goods to stores and other businesses that sell to consumers. | the process of distributing cards of each suit in a player's hand. | -distributional /-ʃəl/ adj.

distributive /di'strɪbjuˈtɪv/ adj. concerned with the supply of goods to stores and other businesses that sell to consumers. | concerned with the way in which things are shared between people. | distributive justice. | 2 Gram. (of a determiner or pronoun) referring to each individual of a class, not to the class collectively, e.g., each, either. | 3 Math. (of an operation) fulfilling the condition that, when it is performed on two or more quantities combined by another operation, the result is the same as when it is performed on each quantity individually and the products then combined.

-distributive /di'strɪbjuˈtɪv/ adj. | [as n. | distributor /di'strɪbjuˈtər/ abbr.: distr. n. an agent who supplies goods to stores and other businesses that sell to consumers. | a wholesale liquor distributor. | 2 a device in a gasoline engine for passing electric current to each spark plug in turn.

district /distrɪkt/ abbr.: distr. an area of a country or city, esp. one regarded as distinct because of a particular characteristic: an elegant shopping district. | a region defined for administrative purposes.

-distract /di'strækt/ v. [intr. (dis)tract (someone) from doing something: to give full attention to something: don't allow noise to distract you from your work. | (as adj. | distracting) she found his nearness distracting. | (dis)tracting (attention) from something. | (dis)tract oneself divert one's attention from something); distracting oneself by doing something different or more pleasurable.

-distractibility /di'stræktaˈbɪləti/ n. a capacity to be distracted.

-distraction /di'strækʃən/ n. 1 a thing that prevents someone from giving full attention to something else: the company found passage travelers distracted. | a distraction from the main business of moving freight. | a diversion or recreation. | 2 extreme agitation of the mind or emotions.

-drive someone to distraction annoy someone intensely. | to distraction intensely: she loved him to distraction.

distraction /di'strækʃən/ adj. (temp. distract) diverted or absent-minded: he seemed oddly distracted.

distraught /di'strɔːt/ adj. deeply upset and agitated.

distress /di'stres/ n. extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain. | the state of a ship or aircraft when in danger or difficulty and needing help; vessels in distress. | suffering caused by lack of money or the basic necessities of life. | Med. a state of physical strain, exhaustion, or, in particular, breathing difficulty.

-distributed /di'strɪstɪd/ adj. (of a computer) distributed. | (of furniture, leather, or clothing) having simulated marks of age and wear. | (of goods) for sale at unusually low prices or at a loss due to a damage or loss of previous use.

-distributary /diˈstrɪbjuˈtərɪ/ n. (pl. -aries) a branch of a river that does not return to the main stream after leaving it (as in a delta).

-distributive /diˈstrɪbjuˈtɪv/ v. (dis)tribute (something) to give shares of (something); deal out.

-disburse /dɪˈbɜːs/ v. (as n. | disbursed] money, goods, or other matters.

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-disburse /dɪˈbɜːs/ v. (as n. | disbursed] money, goods, or other matters.
distrubing n. the interruption of a settled and peaceful condition: another: a semiole person or an animal that dives, in particular: a person who dives as a sport: a person who wears a diving suit to work under water: a police diver.

dive-bomb v. [tr.] bomb (a target) while diving steeply downward in an aircraft: (of a bird or flying insect) attack (something) by swooping down on it: the crow dive-bombed the vulture.

dive-bomber n.

dive /div/ n. a person or animal that dives, in particular: a person who dives as a sport: a person who wears a diving suit to work under water: a police diver.
dive /div/ v. [intr.] 1. (of a road, route, or line) separate from another route, esp. a main one, and go in a different direction: develop in a different direction: howler and spider monkeys diverged from a common ancestor. 2. (of an opinion, theory, approach, etc.) differ markedly: as adj. (diverging) studies from different viewpoints yield diverging conclusions.
diver /divər/ n. 1. (of a bird or diving insect) attack (something) by swooping down on it: the crow dive-bombed the vulture. 2. (of a bird or flying insect) attack (something) by swooping down on it: the crow dive-bombed the vulture.
diver /divər/ n.
diver-si-ty /di'versəti/ n. the breaking up of something such as a federation: his rejection of disunion was consistent with his nationalism. 
div-id-er /dīv'ard/ n. a device for separating a mixture into its component parts.
div-id-er-sy /di'verd̩s̩i/ n. 1. (of two or more things) markedly different from one another: subjects as diverse as architecture, language teaching, and the physical sciences. 2. (of two or more things) markedly different from one another: subjects as diverse as architecture, language teaching, and the physical sciences.
div-id-er-sify /di'verd̩s̩if/ v. -fied; -fying. 1. (of a company) enlarge or vary its range of product or field of operation: the company expanded rapidly and diversified into computers. 2. (of a company) enlarge or vary the range of products or the field of operation or company: the rise of the diversified corporation. 3. (of a company) enlarge or vary the range of products or the field of operation or company: the rise of the diversified corporation. 4. (of a company) enlarge or vary the range of products or the field of operation or company: the rise of the diversified corporation. 5. (of a company) enlarge or vary the range of products or the field of operation or company: the rise of the diversified corporation. 6. (of a company) enlarge or vary the range of products or the field of operation or company: the rise of the diversified corporation. 7. (of a company) enlarge or vary the range of products or the field of operation or company: the rise of the diversified corporation. 8. 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divest | B a l l e t a short dance within a ballet that displays a dancer's technical skill without advancing the plot or character development.

divest [dɪ'vest] | v. [tr.] deprive (someone) of powers, rights, or possessions; deprive (something) of a particular quality; he divested the original play of its charm. | [intr.] rid oneself of something that one no longer wants or requires, such as a business interest or investment; it appears easier to carry on in the business than to divest the government is divesting itself of state holdings. | [dated or humorous relieve (someone) of something being worn or carried; she divested him of his coat. —divestment n.

divide [dɪ'veid] | v. 1 separate or separate into parts: [tr.] magazines can be divided into a number of categories | [intr.] the cell clusters began to divide rapidly. | [tr.] separate (something) into portions and distribute a share to each of a number of people; jack divided up the rest of the cash the property was divided among his heirs. | [intr.] allocate (different parts of one's time, attention, or efforts) to different activities or places: the last years of her life were divided between Bermuda and Paris. | [tr.] form a boundary between (two people or things); (of a legislative assembly) separate or separate into groups for voting; [intr.] the House divided: 287 for, 196 against. | 2 disagree or cause to disagree: [tr.] the question had divided Frenchmen since the Revolution | [as adj. | divided] a divided party leadership | [intr.] cities where politicians frequently divide along racial lines. | 3 [tr.] Math. find how many times (a number) contains another: 36 divided by 2 equals 18 | [intr.] the program helps children to multiply and divide quickly and accurately. | [intr. | divide] of (a number) be susceptible to division without a remainder: 30 does not divide by 8 | find how many times (a number) (a number) is contained in another: divide 4 into 20 | [intr.] | be contained in a number without a remainder: 3 divides into 15.

>a. a wide divergence between two groups, typically producing tension or hostility: there was still a profound cultural divide between the parties. | b. boundary between two things. | ridge or line of high ground forming the division between two valleys or river systems.

divide and conquer the policy of maintaining control over one's subordinates by encouraging dissent between them. | divided against itself (of a group) split by factional interests.

dividend [dɪ'veind] | n. 1 a sum of money paid regularly (typically quarterly) by a company to its shareholders out of its profits or reserves; a payment divided among a number of people, e.g., members of a cooperative or creditors of an insolvent estate. | an individual's share of a dividend. | (dividends) a benefit from an action or policy: persistence pays dividends. | Math. a number to be divided by another number.

divider [dɪ'veidar] | n. 1 a person or thing that divides a whole into parts. | an issue on which opinions are divided: the big dividend was still nuclear weapons. | (also room divider) a screen or piece of furniture that divides a room into two parts. | (dividers) a measuring compass, esp. one with a screw for making fine adjustments.

divination [dɪ'veinənʃən] | n. the practice of seeking knowledge of the future or the unknown by supernatural means. —divinatory adj.

diviner [dɪ'veiner] | adj. (viner, vinest) 1 of, from, or like God or a god: heroes with divine powers; paintings of shipwrecks being prevented by divine intervention; devoted to God: sacred; divine liturgy. | 2 int. dated excellent; delightful: that phm tasted divine! | he had the most divine smile.

n. (the Divine) providence or God. | divinely adv. | divinity n.

divine [dɪ'vein] | v. [tr.] discover (something) by guesswork or intuition; have supernatural or magical insight into (future events); divine the future in entrails; discover (water) by dowsing. | —diviner n.

divine Office n. see: office (sense 4).

divin-ing rod n. a stick or rod used for dowsing.

divinity [dɪ'veiniθ] n. 1 the state or quality of being divine: Christian's divinity. | see the study of religion; theology: a doctor of divinity. | 2 a divine being; a god or goddess: Roman divinities. | (the Divinity) God. | 2 a fluffy, creamy candy made with slightly beaten egg whites.

divisible [dɪ'veizəbəl] | adj. capable of being divided. | Math. (of a number) capable of being divided by another number without a remainder: 24 is divisible by 4. | —divisibility n. | divisible n.

division [dɪ'veiʃən] | n. 1 the action of separating something into parts, or the process of being separated: the division of the land | cell division. | the distribution of something separated into parts: the division of his estates between the two branches of his family. | an instance of members of a legislative body separating into two groups to vote for or against a bill. | the act of splitting the roots of a perennial plant into parts to be replanted separately, as a means of propagation. | 2 disagreement between two or more groups, typically producing tension or hostility: ethnic and cultural divisions.

4. the process of skill or dividing one number by another. See also long division. | Math. the process of dividing a matrix, vector, or other quantity by another under specific rules to obtain a quotient. | 4. each of the parts into which something is divided: the main divisions of the book. | 4. a major unit or section of an organization, typically one handling a particular kind of work: a retail division. | 4. a group of army brigades or regiment: an infantry division. | 4. a number of teams or competitors grouped together in a sport for competitive purposes according to such characteristics as ability, size, or geographic location. | 4. a part of a county, country, or city defined for administrative or political purposes. | Bot. a principal taxonomic category that ranks above class and below kingdom, equivalent to the phylum in zoology. | 4. any subsidiary category between major levels of classification. | 4. a division that divides two groups or things. —divisional adj. |

do-sie-er [dōsēˈər, -ˈər] n. a collection of documents about a particular person, event, or subject: a dossier on Al | a dossier of complaints.

DOT [dōt] n. Department of Transportation.

dot (dāt) [dōt] n. a small round mark or spot. • such a mark written or printed as part of an i or j, as a diacritical mark, as one of a series of marks to signify omission, or as a period. • Mus. such a mark used to denote the lengthening of a note or rest by half, or to indicate staccato. • the shorter signal of the two used in Morse code. Compare with DASH (sense 3). • used to refer to an object that appears tiny because it is far away. • used in speech to indicate the punctuation separating parts of an electronic mail or Web site address.

v. [dōt, dot] (dotted, dotting) [dōt] mark a small dot or spot(s): wet spots of rain began to dot his shirt. • (of a number of items) be scattered over an area: churches dot the countryside. • place a dot over (a letter): you need to dot the i. • Mus. mark a note or rest to show that the time value is increased by half: [as adj.] (dotted) a dotted quarter note. —dot-ter n.

• dot the i’s and cross the t’s [dōt da tekz da t’s] ensure that all details are correct. • on the dot [dət] exactly on time: he arrived on the dot at nine o’clock.

b. n. aarchic a dowry, particularly one from which only the interest or annual income was available to the husband.

do-age [dōj] n. the period in which a person is old and weak: you could live here and look after me in my dotage. • the state of having the intellect impaired, esp. through old age: senility.

do-tard [dōtard] n. an old person, esp. one who has become weak or senile.

dote [dōt] v. [int. 1 (dote on/upon) be extremely and uncritically fond of: she doted on her children | [as adj:] doting she was spoiled outrageously by her doting father. • archaic be silly or feebleminded, esp. as a result of old age: the person is now old and dotes. —dot-ter n. —doting-ly adv.

dot-matrix printer [dōt mətriks ˈprɪntər] a printer that forms images of letters, numbers, etc., from a number of tiny dots.

dotted line [dōt təd] n. a line made up of dots or dashes (often used in reference to the space left for a signature on a contract).

dot-ty [dōtˈtē] adj. (doting, doting-est) int. of a person, action, or idea somewhat mad or eccentric. —dotty-ly [dōtˈti-li] adv. —dotti-ness n.

double [dōbəl] adj. 1 consisting of two equal, identical, or similar parts or things: the double doors. • having twice the usual size, quantity, or strength: she sipped a double brandy. • designed to be used by two people: a double bed. • having two different roles or interpretations, esp. in order to deceive or confuse: the fictive double life of a terrorist. • having some part of it the same as or almost the same as a flower variety having more than one circle of petals: large double blooms. • (of a domino) having the same number of dots on each half.

used to indicate that a letter or number occurs twice in succession: “ottor” is spelled with a double t. • Mus. to increase the time value by half: [as adj.] (dotted) a dotted quarter note. —dot-ter n. —doting-ly adv. —dotted line [dōt təd] n. a line made up of dots or dashes (often used in reference to the space left for a signature on a contract).

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falling, usually a decline in financial, economic, commercial, or personal status.

down-trodden /doun'troden/ adj. oppressed or treated badly by people in power; a downtrodden proletariat struggling for social justice.

down-turn /doun'tərn/ n. a decline in economic, business, or other activity; a downturn in the housing market.

down-under (also down under) int. adv. in or to Australia or New Zealand: talking as they do Down Under.

downward /doun'wərd/ adj. (also downwards) toward a lower place, point, or level. Fig. used to indicate that something applies to everyone in a certain hierarchy or set; it affects all: from managers downward.

-adj. moving or leading toward a lower place or level: the downward curve of the stairs; a downward trend in inflation.

-downward-ly adv.

downwind /doun'wind/ adj. & adv. in the direction in which the wind is blowing: as adj. I'm downwind of the fire; as adv. downwind headings.

down-y /doun'/ adj. (down-i-er, down-i-est) covered with fine soft hair or feathers; her downy cheek; filled with soft feathers; a downy pillow.

-downy /doun'/ adj. soft and fluffy; downy hair.

dow-y /doun'-i/ n. (pl. -ies) property or money brought by a bride to her husband on their marriage.

-dowse /douz/ v. [trans.] doing; performed doing; he dowse a spiral of energy on the stone. -dowser n.

dowse /douz/ v. [variant spelling of douse]

dowsing /douz'ing/ n. a technique for searching for underground water, minerals, or anything invisible by observing the motion of a pointer (traditionally a forked stick, now often paired bent wires) or the changes in a direction of a pendulum, supposedly in response to unseen influences; as adj. a dowser rod.

dox-o-lo-gy /daks'ələdʒi/ n. (pl. -gies) a liturgical formula of praise to God.

dox-o-log-i-cal /daksə'loj-i-kəl/ adj.

doy-en /də'pən/ n. the most respected or prominent person in a particular field the doyen of Canadian poetry.

doz. abbr. dozen.

doze /douz/ v. (intr.) sleep lightly; (doze off) fall lightly asleep.

-p. a short light sleep. Mid 17th century. (The sense 'stupify, bewildered, or make drowsy; perhaps related to Danish dose 'make drowsy.'

doz-en /də'zən/ abbr.: dz. n. 1 (pl. same) a group or set of twelve; a dozen bottles of beer. (dozens) int. a lot; she has dozens of admirers.

-doz (the) dozens an exchange of insults engaged in as a game or ritual among black Americans.

doz-y /dou'zi/ adj. (doz-i-er, doz-i-est) drowsy and lazy; he grew dozy at the end of a long day.

-doz- iz-i-zal/ adj. -doz-i-ness n.

DPT (also DTP) abbr. diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus, a combined vaccine given to small children.

Dr. abbr. (as a title) Doctor; Dr. Russell. (in street names) Drive.

-drab adj. [intr.] (of a company or organization) smaller by eliminating staff positions.

drab-bly adv. -drab-ness n.

drab-i /drab/ adj. drab-ber. drab-best) lacking brightness or interest; dully dull. 2 of a dull light brown color.

drab-bly /drab'/ adj. fabric of a dull brownish color.

Drachma /drak'mə/ n. (pl. -mas or -me) the basic monetary unit of Greece (until the introduction of the euro), notionally equal to 100 lepta. a silver coin of ancient Greece.

-dra-co-nian /draz'ə-nən/ adj. -dra-cy /'drez-i/ n. [of laws or their application] excessively harsh and severe. -dra-cy /'drez-i/ n.

draft /draft/ n. 1 a preliminary version of a piece of writing; a plan sketch, or rough drawing. (in full draft mode) Compute a mode of operation of a printer in which text is produced rapidly but with relatively low definition. 2 (the draft) compulsory recruitment for military service. e. a procedure whereby new or existing sports players are made available for selection or reselection by the teams in a league, usually with the earlier choices being given to the weaker players. 

draft /draft/ v. bp. or ovver. fur. a hat; a car; ət om; chm; e 5; e 6; s 0; air; a 1; i 1; by; i 1; a car; r g; sing; g 0; law; fur; onc; o 0; good; o 0; au; ow; sh 3 17; th 3; then; by 4; why; 2 shon
teams. rare a group or individual selected from a larger group for a special duty, e.g., for military service. [British] a current of cool air in a room or other confined space. [British] the action or act of pulling something along, esp. a vehicle or farm implement. a written order to pay a specified sum; a check. [British] a single act of drinking or inhaling. the amount swallowed or inhaled in one such act. [British] the depth of water needed to keep a ship: the shallow draft enabled her to get close to shore. [British] the drawing in of a fishing net. the fish taken at one drawing; a catch. [British] [v. (British) [tr.] 1 prepare a preliminary version of (a text). 2 select (a person or group of people) for a certain purpose. conscript (someone) for military service. select (a player) for a sports team through the draft. pull or draw. [intrans. Auto Racing benefit from reduced wind resistance by driving very closely behind another vehicle. [adj. (British) denoting beer or other drink that is kept in and served from a barrel or keg rather than from a bottle or can. denoting an animal used for pulling heavy loads. [draftee] [drafted] n. noun— [drafting (of beer or other drink) on tap: ready to be drawn from a barrel or tank; not bottled or canned. [draft] v. (dragged, drag-ling) [tr.] pull (someone or something) along forcefully, roughly, or by difficulty. take (someone) to or from a place or event, despite their reluctance. [draft oneself] go somewhere eagerly, reluctantly, or with difficulty. I have to drag myself out of bed each day. [drafting] (of something) across a computer screen using a tool such as a mouse. [intrans. (of a person other than an animal's tail) trail along the ground. [intrans. (draft at) catch hold of and pull (something). [intrans.] engage in a drag race: they were caught dragging on Francis Lewis Blvd. [tr.] of a ship trail (an anchor) along the seabed, causing the ship to drift. [tr.] search the bottom of a river, lake, or the sea) with grapnels or nets. [tr. (draft something up) int. deliberately mention or unweave an unpleasant or unpleasant fact. [draft someone/something into] involve someone or something in a situation or matter, typically when such involvement is inappropriate or unnecessary. [draft something in/into] introduce an irrelevant or inappropriate subject. [draft someone/something down] bring someone or something to a lower level or standard. [intrans. (of time, events, or activities) pass slowly and tedium. [intrans. (of a process or situation) continue at tedious and unnecessary length: the dispute dragged on for years. [intrans. (draft something out) protract something unnecessarily. [intrans. (draft on) int. of a person tooh the smoke from a cigarette. [phrasal v. (draft something out) extract information from a document. n. 1. the action of pulling something forcefully or with difficulty: the drag of the current. the longitudinal retarding force exerted by air or other fluid surrounding a moving object. a person or thing that impedes progress or development: Larry was turning out to be a drag on her career. fishing unnatural motion of a fishing fly caused by the pull of the line. archaic an iron shoe that can be applied as a brake to the wheel of a cart or wagon. int. a boring or tiresome person or thing. int. an act of inhaling smoke from a cigarette. clothing more conventionally worn by the opposite sex; esp. women's clothes worn by a man: men in drag. [as adj.] a live drag show. short for drag race. int. a street or road: the main drag. hist. a private vehicle like a stagecoach, drawn by four horses. a thing that is pulled along the ground or through water, in particular. hist. a harrow used for breaking up the surface of land. an apparatus for dragging a river or for recovering the bodies of drowned people from a river, a lake, or the sea. int. influence over other people; they had the education but they didn't have the drag. a strong desire or lure drawn before hounds as a substitute for a fox or other hunted animal; a hunt using such a lure. Mus. one of the basic patterns (rhythms) of drumming, consisting of a stroke preceded by two grace notes, which are usually played with the other stick. see also rupee. v. 1. drag one's feet walk slowly and wearily or with difficulty. also drag one's heels fig. (of a person or organization) be deliberately slow or reluctant to act. [drag someone/thing through the mud make damaging allegations about someone or something. [drag] v. [draft, net] n. a net drawn through a river or across ground to trap fish or game. fig. a systematic search for someone or something, esp. criminals or criminals at large. [drag-on] [dragan] n. a mythical monster like a giant reptile. [derog.] a fierce and intimidating person, esp. a woman. hist. a short musket carried on the belt of a soldier, esp. a mounted infantryman. a soldier armed with such a musket. [drag-on-fly] [dragonfly] n. (pl. -flies) a fast-flying long-bodied predatory insect with two pairs of large transparent wings that are spread sideways at rest. [dragon] n. a member of any of several species of invertebrates in the household of the British army. hist. a mounted infantryman armed with a short rifle or musket. [v. (tr.) coerce (someone) into doing something: draggoned into helping with the housework. 1 early 17th cent. (denoting a kind of carbine or musket, thought of as breathing fire): from French dragon 'dragon.' [dragon queen n. a woman who dresses up in women's clothes, typically for theatrical purposes of entertainment. a male homosexual transvestite. [drag race] n. a race between two or more cars over a short distance, usually a quarter of a mile, as a test of acceleration. [drag racer] n. [dragster] [dragster] n. a car built or modified to take part in drag racing. [drag] v. (dragged, drag-ling) [tr.] 1. cause the water or other liquid in (something) to run out, leaving it empty, dry, or dry. cause or allow (liquid) to run off or out of something; fry the pork and drain off any excess fat. make (land) drier by providing channels for water to flow away in. (of a river) carry off the superfluous water from a (district). [intrans. (of water or another liquid) flow away from, out of, or into something. [intrans.] (of a person) become dry or drier as liquid runs off or away. (of a person) drink the entire contents of a glass or other container. [intrans.] (of a feeling or emotion) become progressively less strong or felt: gradually the tension drained away. deprive of strength or vitality: his limbs were drained of energy. Ruth slipped in her seat, drained by all that had happened. cause (money, energy, or another valuable resource) to be lost, wasted, or used up: hospital bills are draining my income. [intrans.] (of such a resource) to be lost, wasted, or used up. int. Goll (of a player) hole a putt. n. 1. a channel or pipe carrying off surplus liquid, esp. rainwater or liquid waste. a tube for drawing off accumulating fluid from a body cavity or an abscess. 2. a thing that uses up a particular resource: a drain on the public purse. the continuous loss or expenditure of a particular resource. adj. go down the drain int. be totally wasted. [drainage] [drain] n. the action or process of draining something: the pot must have holes in the base for good drainage. the means of removing surplus water or liquid waste; a system of drains. [drain-board] [drain-board] n. a sloping grooved board or surface, on which washed dishes are left to drain, typically into a sink. [drain-er] [drainer] n. a device used to drain things; in particular a rack placed on a drainboard to hold washed dishes while they drain. [drainboard] n. a person or device that drains a flooded area. [drain-pipe] [drain-pipe] n. a pipe for carrying off rainwater or liquid refuse from a building. [drake] [drak] n. a male duck: ducks and drakes. [as adj.] a drake mallard. [DRAM] [dé, ram] n. Electr. a memory chip that depends upon an applied voltage to keep the stored data. [drum] [drum] n. a small drink of whiskey or other spirits. [drum] n. the basic monetary unit of Armenia, equal to 100 luma. [drum] n. a play for theater, radio, or television. such works as a genre or style of literature. an exciting, emotional, or unexpected series of events or set of circumstances. [drum-iac] [drum-iac] adj. 1. of or relating to drama or the performance or study of drama. 2. (of an event or circumstance) sudden and striking: a dramatic increase in crime. exciting or impressive. 3. (of a person or their behavior) intending or intended to create an effect, theatrical. [drum-iac-ally] [drum-iac-ally] adv. [drum-iac-ly] [drum-iac-ly] n. the effect, quality, tone, or nature of something that is the object of criticism, ridicule, or scorn. [drum-matics] [drum-matics] pl. n. the characters of a play, novel, or narrative; the participants in a series of events. [drum-a-list] [drum-a-list] n. a person who writes plays. [drum-atize] [drum-atize] v. [tr.] adapt (a novel) or present (a particular incident) as a play or movie; present in a vivid or striking way: he used scare tactics to dramatize the deficit. exaggerate the seriousness or importance of (an incident or situation): they have a tendency to dramatize things. [drum-a-za-thon] [drum-a-za-thon] n. [drum-a-za-thon] n. (pl. -dies) a movie, play, or broadcast program that combines elements of drama and comedy: it's a dramedy about a working-class dance prodigy. the style or genre of such types of
entertainment: the slapstick of his early career rarely shows up in the dramedy he delivers today.

drank [drangk] v. past of DRINK.

drape [drāp] v. [tr.] arrange (cloth or clothing) loosely or casually on or around something. n. (usu. be draped) cover, or wrap (someone or something) loosely with folds of cloth: the body was draped in a blanket. n. let (oneself or a part of one's body) rest somewhere in a casual or relaxed way: he draped an arm around her. [intr.] (of fabric) hang or be able to hang in loose, graceful folds: velvet drapes beautifully.

- n. 1 (drapes) long curtains: Katherine pulled back the heavy velvet drapes. 2 (draperies) long curtains of heavy fabric. 3 the artistic arrangement of clothing in sculpture or painting.

-dras-tic [drāstik] adj. likely to have a strong or far-reaching effect: radical and extreme. —dras-ti-cally adv.

drat [drāt] intrans. (often drat someone/something) a mild expression of anger or annoyance: "Drat!" said Mitt, kicking the fence. —drat-ed adj.

Dra-wid-i-an [drāv’i-dē-ən] adj. of, relating to, or denoting a family of languages spoken in southern India and Sri Lanka, or the peoples who speak them.

- n. 1 this family of languages. 2 any member of any of the peoples speaking a Dravidian language. 3 from Sanskrit drāvīḍa 'relating to the Dravidians.' (from Dravida 'Tamil')

draw [drō] v. [past drew (drōw), past part. drawn (drōwn)] (tr.) 1 produce a picture or diagram (usually by making lines and marks, esp. with a pen or pencil, on paper). 2 produce an image of (someone or something) in such a way: I asked her to draw me. 3 trace or produce (a line or mark) on a surface. 2 pull or drag (something such as a vehicle) so as to make it follow behind: a cart drawn by two horses. [tr.] pull or move (something) in a specified direction: I drew back the blanket. [intr.] gently pull or guide (someone) in a specified direction: "David," she whispered, directing him aside. [intr.] move in a slow steady way: the train drew into the station. [intr.] come or arrive at a point in time or a specified point in a process: the campaign drew to a close. 2 pull (curtains, blinds, or other such coverings) shut or open. 3 make (the) piece of metal through successively smaller holes. 3 extract (an object or liquid) from a container or receptacle: he drew his gun. 4 the children went down to the pond to draw water. 5 the syringe drew off most of the fluid. [as adj.] (drawn) he met them with a drawn sword. 6 run (a bath). 7 draw something from obtain something from (a particular source); an independent panel drawn from members of the public. 8 he draws inspiration from ordinary scenes. 9 draw on use (one's) experience, talents, or skills as a resource. 10 obtain or withdraw (money) from a bank or other source. 11 draw out (of) play cards (in a particular suit) by leading cards in that suit; before establishing his diamonds, declarer must draw trumps. 12 [intr.] suck smoke from (a cigarette or pipe). 13 [intr.] (of a chimney, flue, or fire) allow air to flow in and upward freely, so that a fire can burn, take in (a breath). 14 dissemble: he was hanged, drawn, and quartered. 15 be the cause of (a specified response): he drew criticism for lavish spending. 16 attract (someone) to come to a place or an event: you really drew the crowds with your playing. 17 (usu. be drawn) induce (someone) to reveal or do something; I would rather not be drawn into your argument. 18 direct or attract (someone's attention) to something. 19 reach (a conclusion) by deduction or inference from a set of circumstances: the moral to be drawn is that spending wins votes. 20 formulate or perceive (a comparison or distinction): the law drew a clear distinction between innocent and fraudulent misrepresentation.

- n. 1 a feature that renders something less acceptable: a disadvantage or problem: the main drawback is the cost. 2 an amount of excise or import duty remitted on imported goods that the importer makes. 3 select (a number from a list). 4 a bridge, esp. one over a castle's moat, that is hinged at one end so that it may be raised to prevent people's crossing or to allow vessels to pass under it.

draw-er [drō’ar] n. 1 a box-like storage compartment without a lid, made to slide horizontally in and out of a desk, chest, or other piece of furniture. 2 (drawers) dated or humorous underpants. 3 a person who draws something, in particular: a person who writes a check. 4 a person who produces a drawing or design.

draw-in [drō’in] v. [tr.] 1 a picture or diagram made with a pencil, pen, or crayon rather than painting, esp. one drawn in monochrome; the art or skill of making such pictures or diagrams. 2 the selection of a winner or winners in a lottery or raffle.

draw-in board n. a large flat board on which paper may be spread for artists or designers to work on.

- back to the drawing board used to indicate that an idea, scheme, or proposal has been unsuccessful and that a new one must be devised.

-draw-in room n. a room in a private house in which guests can be received and entertained. 2 a private compartment in a train, typically that is air-conditioned for two or three people.

- adj. adjectively refined, lighthearted, and elegant: drawing-room small talk. 1 of (a song or play) characterized by a polite observance of social proprieties: a stock figure of Thirty's drawing-room comedy.


- n. a slow, lazy way of speaking or an accent with unusually long vowel sounds: a Texas drawl. —drawl-er n. —drawl-y adj.

-drawn [drōn] v. past participle of draw.

- adj. of (a person or a person's face) looking strained from illness, exhaustion, anxiety, or pain: Catherine was pale and drawn.

-draw-string [drō’stren] n. a string in the seam of the material of a garment or a bag, which can be pulled to tighten or close it.

-dray [drē] n. 1 a truck or cart for delivering beer barrels or other heavy loads, esp. a low one without sides.

-draw horse n. a powerful horse used to pull heavy loads.

-dread [drēd] v. [tr.] anticipate with great apprehension or fear: I was dreading the party. 2 adj. great fear or apprehension.

- n. 1 great fear or apprehension. 2 adj. a person with dreadlocks.

- adj. dreadfully. 2 adj. dreadfully. 3 adj. causing or involving great suffering, fear, or unhappiness: extremely bad or serious. 4 extremely disagreeable. 5 used to emphasize the degree to which something is the case, esp. something regarded with sadness or disapproval: you're a dreadful flirt. 6 of (a person or their feelings) troubled. 7 of (a person or their appearance) bearing or looking ill. —dread-ful-ly adv. —dread-ful-ness n.


-dread-nought [drēd’nōt] n. 1 a type of battleship introduced in the early 20th century, larger and faster than its predecessors and equipped entirely with large-caliber guns.

-dream [drēm] n. 1 a series of thoughts, images, and sensations occurring in a person's mind during sleep. 2 a state of mind in which someone is or seems to be unaware of their immediate surroundings: he had
dress v. [past and past part. dreamed or dreamt] tr. 1 experience dreams during sleep. [intr. see, hear, or feel (something) in a dream; maybe you dreamed it. indulge in daydreams or fantasies, typically about something that you greatly desired. [intr. (dream time away) waste one’s time in a lazy, unproductive way. explore the possibility of doing something or that something might be the case: I wouldn’t dream of imposing.

phrase v. [dream on] [in imper.] int. used, esp. in spoken English, as an ironic comment on the unlikely or impractical nature of a plan or aspiration: Dean thinks he’s going to get the job. Dream on, babe.

dream something up imagine or invent something. [Middle English: of Germanic origin, related to Dutch droom and German Träum, and probably also to Old English drøym 'joy, music.' —dreamful adj. [poetic.] —dreamless adj. —dream-like [adj.]

in your dreams used in spoken English to assert that something much desired is not likely ever to happen. [like a dream int. very well or successfully.

dreamboat n. [int. a very attractive person, esp. a man.

dreamer n. a person who dreams or is dreaming.

dreamland n. sleep regarded as a world of dreams. [an imagined and unrealistically ideal world.

dreamy adj. [dreamy, dreamlike] reflecting a preoccupation with pleasant thoughts that distract one from one’s present surroundings; a dreamy smile. [of (a person) not practical; given to daydreaming: a dreamy boy who grew up thinking he was having a magical or dreamlike reality; peacefully gentle and relaxing. —dream-like [adj. —dream-likey [adv. —dream-li-ness n.

dreariness n. [adj. poetic/ literary term for DREAM.

dreach [dreach] v. [tr.] clean out the bed of (a harbor, river, or other area of water) by scooping out mud, weeds, and rubbish with a dredge.

dredged v. [tr.] [dredge] tr. and intr. clean up or clear (something) from a river, harbor, or other area of water with a dredge. [dredging something up] fig. bring to people’s attention an unpleasant or embarrassing fact or incident that had been forgotten: I don’t understand why you had to dredge up this story.

an apparatus for bringing up objects or mud from a river or seabed by scooping or dragging. [a dredger.

dredge v. [tr.] [dredge] n. a barge or other vessel designed for dredging harbors or other bodies of water.

dreses v. [tr.] the remnants of a liquid left in a container, together with any sediment or grounds: coffee dregs. [fig. the most worthless part or parts of something: the dregs of society. —dreggy [adj.

drench v. [tr.] [drench] tr. and intr. 1 (usu. be drenched) wet thoroughly; soak: I fell in the stream and got drenched. [as n.] (drenching) another drenching would kill the wheat. [fig. cover (something) literally or thoroughly: drenched in flowers] [as n.] (drenched) a sun-drenched clearing. 2 forcibly administer a drug in a liquid form orally to (an animal).

dress v. [tr.] [dres] put on one’s clothes: I’ll go and get dressed.

wear clothes in a particular way or of a particular type; she’s chic-looking and dresses well (be dressed) he was dressed in jeans and a thick sweater.

[tr.] put clothes on someone. [put clothes appropriate for a formal occasion. [fig. to design or supply clothes for a celebrity; for over four decades he dressed the royal family. [fig. to decorate (something) in an artistic or attractive way.

[tr.] treat or prepare (something) in a certain way, in particular: clean, treat, or apply a dressing to (a wound). [clean and prepare (food, especially for shellfish) for cooking or eating: [as adj] (dressed) crab. add dressing to (a salad). [apply a fertilizing substance to (a garden), plant, or field. [prepare or manufacture of (leather or fabric) by treating its surface in some way. [smooth the surface of (stone): [as adj] (dressed) a tower of dressed stone.

[tr.] arrange or style (one’s own or someone else’s hair), esp. in an elaborately way. [tr.] draw up (troops) in the proper alignment. [intr. (of troops) come into such an alignment.

[tr.] give (an artificial fly) for use in fishing; [as adj] (dressed) a dressed wet fly.

phrase v. [dress down] dress informally. [dress someone down int.] reprimand someone. [dress up] dress in smart or formal clothes.

dress in a special costume for fun or as part of an entertainment; he dressed up as a gorilla.

dress something up present something in such a way that it appears better than it really is.

n. 1 a piece of garment for a woman or girl that covers the body and extends down over the legs. 2 clothing of a specific kind for men or women: traditional African dress. [as adj] denoting military uniform or other clothing used on formal or ceremonial occasions: a dress suit.

[be dressed to kill wearing glamorous clothes intended to strike a dressing to the nines] dressed very elaborately.

dressage n. the art of riding and training a horse in a manner that develops obedience, flexibility, and balance.

dress-circle n. the first level of seats above the ground floor in a theater.

dress code n. a set of rules, usually written and posted, specifying the required manner of dress at a school, office, club, restaurant, etc.

dresser n. a dresser of a chest of drawers. [a sideboard with shelves above for storage and displaying plates and kitchen utensils.

dressing n. 1 a person who dresses in a specified way: a snappy dresser.

[be dressed] a person who habitually dresses in a smart or elegant way; she’s gorgeous—and she’s a dresser. 2 a person whose job is to look after the attire of performers and help actors to dress. 3 a person who prepares, treats, or finishes a material or piece of equipment.

dressing n. [n. a sauce for salads, typically consisting of oil and vinegar mixed together with herbs or other flavorings. [stuffing: turkey with apple dressing. [a piece of material placed on a wound to protect it; an antiseptic dressing. [a fertilizing substance such as compost or manure spread over or plowed into land.

dressing-down n. int. a severe reprimand.

dressing gown n. a long loose robe, typically worn after getting out of bed or bathing.

dressing-room n. a room in which actors change clothes before and after their performance. [a small room or cubicle in a clothing store, used by customers to try on clothes.

dressing table n. a table with a mirror and drawers for cosmetics, etc., used while dressing or applying makeup.

dressmaker n. a person whose job is making women’s clothes.

dress-making n. [n. a craft involving tailoring.

dressy adj. [dressy, dresslike] (of) clothes suitable for a festive or formal occasion. [requiring or given to wearing such clothes.

dress-down n. int. a severe reprimand.

drift v. [drift] [past and past part. drifted] past and past part. of DRAW.

dribble v. [dribble] [of liquid] fall slowly in drops or a thin stream.

[tr.] pour (a liquid) in such a way that he dribbled cream into his coffee. [intr.] allow saliva to run from the mouth: his mouth was open and he was dribbling. [chir. in soccer, field hockey, and basketball) take the ball) forward past opponents with slight touches of the feet or the stick, or (in basketball) by continuous bouncing: dribble the ball from the goal area. [intr.] he dribbled past Amos.

n. 1 a thin stream of liquid; a trickle: a dribble of blood. [saliva running from the mouth. [fig. foolish talk or ideas. nonsense. 3 (in soccer, hockey, and basketball) an act or instance of taking the ball forward with repeated slight touches or bounces. [dribbler n.

drabs and drabs [drab] and [drab] pl. n. in drabs and drabs int. in small scattered or sporadic amounts: doing the work in drabs and drabs.

dried v. [dried] adj. comparative of DRY.

drier adj. [drier] adj. variant spelling of DRYER.

driest adj. [driest] adj. superlative of DRY.

drift v. [drift] [past and past part. drifted] past and past part. of DRAW.

n. 1 be carried slowly by a current of air or water. [of a person) walk slowly, aimlessly, or casually; people began to drift away.

[move passively, aimlessly, or involuntarily into a certain situation or condition; I was drifting off to sleep | Lewis and his father drifted apart. [of a person or their attention) digress or stray to another subject. I noticed my audience’s attention drifting. 2 (esp. of snow or leaves) be blown into heaps by the wind.

n. 1 a continuous slow movement from one place to another; there was a drift to the towns. [the deviation of a vessel, aircraft, or projectile from its intended or expected course as the result of currents or winds. [a steady movement or development from one thing to another, esp. one that is perceived as unwelcome: the drift toward a more repressive style of policing. [a state of inaction or indecision. 2 the general intention or meaning of an argument or someone’s remarks: he didn’t understand much Greek, but he got her drift. 3 a large mass of snow, leaves, or other material piled up or carried along by the wind.
dross /dros/ n. something regarded as worthless; rubbish. • foreign
eater, drugs, or mineral waste, in particular scum formed on the
surface of molten metal. • -drossy adj.
drought /drout/ n. a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall;
shortage of water resulting from this. • fig. a prolonged absence
of something specified: he ended a five-game hitting drought. • archaic.
thirst.
drought-ness n. -droughty adj.
drove /driv/ past of drive.
drove. • a herd or flock of animals being driven in a body: a drove of
cattle. • a large number of people or things doing or undergoing
the same thing: tourists have stayed away in drove this summer. • -dover
n.
drown /drown/ v. [intr.] die through submersion in and inhalation of
water. • [tr.] deliberately kill a person or animal in this way. • [tr.] sub-
merge or flood an area. • [tr.] (of a sound) make (another sound) in-
audible by being much louder: his voice was drowned out by engine
noise.
phrasal v. drowned in be overwhelmed or enveloped by: drowned in his
work. • [of food] immersed in or covered by: ham drowned in syrup.
- • drown one's sorrows forget one's problems by getting drunk.
like a drowned rat extremely wet and bedraggled.
drowse /drouz/ v. [intr.] be half asleep; doze intermittently. • archaic be
sluggish or inactive: let not your prudence drowse.
- • a light sleep: a condition of being half asleep.
causing sleepiness: falling asleep. • [sp. of a place] very peaceful and
quiet. • -drowsily /-zalé/ ad.
drub /drub/ v. (drubbed, drubbing) [tr.] hit or beat (someone) repeatedly.
• int. defeat thoroughly in a match or contest. • -drubbing n.
drudge /draj/ n. a person made to do hard, menial, or dull work.
- • [intr.] archaic do such work. • -drudgy adj.
drug /drug/ n. a substance that has a physiological effect when inges-
ted or otherwise introduced into the body, in particular: • a medicine,
esp. a pharmaceutical preparation. • a substance taken for its nar-
cotic or stimulant effects, often illegally.
- • [drugged, drugging] [tr.] administer a drug to (someone) in order to
induce stupor or insensibility: they were drugged to keep them quiet. • add
a drug to (food or drink): [as adj.] he was drugged. • [int.] (usu. as n.)
drugging int. take illegally obtained drugs: fifteen years of drinking
and drugging. • Middle English: from Old Dutch drogen, possibly
from Middle Dutch droge rate, literally ‘dry vats’, referring to the
contents (i.e., dry goods).
- • do drugs int. take illegal drugs. • on drugs under the influence of
habitual or habitually taking illegal drugs.
drug ad-dict n. a person who is addicted to one or more narcotic
drugs.
drug-gle /drágil/ also drug-gy n. int. a drug addict.
drug-gist /drágest/ n. a pharmacist or retailer of medicinal drugs.
drug-store /drégstor/ n. a pharmacy that also sells toiletries
and other articles.
Dru-íd /dríd/ n. a priest, magician, or soothsayer in the ancient
Celtic religion. • a member of a present-day group claiming to rep-
resent or be descended from this religion. • -Dru-idic /drú-idik/ adj. • Drui-
dical /drú-idikal/ adj. • -Dru-id-ism /-ism/.
drum /drum/ n. 1. a percussion instrument sounded by being struck
with sticks or the hands, typically cylindrical, barrel-shaped, or bowl-
shaped with a head membrane on one or both ends. • drums a set of
drums. • drums the percussion section of a band or orchestra. • a sound
made by or resembling that of a drum: the drum of their feet.
2. something resembling or likened to a drum in shape, in particular:
• a cylindrical container or receptacle. • a rotating cylindrical part
in a washing machine, in which the laundry is placed. • a similar cylin-
drical part in certain other appliances. • Archit. the circular vertical
wall supporting a dome. • Archit. a stone block forming part of a col-
um.
- • drummed, drum-ming [intr.] play on a drum. • make a continuous
rhythmic noise: [as n.] (drumming) the drumming of hooves. • [tr.] beat
the fingers, etc. repeated on a surface, esp. as a sign of impa-
tience or annoyance: [of a woodpecker] strike the bill rapidly on a
dead trunk or branch. • [of a snipe] vibrate the outer tail feathers in a
diving display flight, making a throbbing sound.
phrasal v. drum something into drive a lesson into (someone) by
constant repetition: it had been drummed into them to dress correctly. • drum
someone out expel or dismiss someone with ignominy from a place
or institution: he was drummed out of the air force.
- • drum something up attempt to obtain something by canvassing or soliciting: hoping to

drum up support.
- • beat (or bang) the drum for (or against) be ostentatiously in sup-
port of (or in opposition to): beating the drum against PACs.
drum-gish /drumgish/ adj. • [pl. same or drumish] a fish (family Sciaenidae)
that, in drumming sound by vibrating its swim bladder, found
mainly in estuarine and shallow coastal waters.
drum-beat /drumbeit/ n. a stroke or pattern of strokes on a drum.
drum brake n. a type of vehicle brake in which brake shoes press
against the inside of a drum on the wheel.
drum-head /drumhed/ n. the membrane or skin of a drum.
• adj. carried out by or as if by an army in the field; improvised or sum-
mary; a drumhead court-martial.
drum-lin /drumlín/ n. Geol. a low oval mound or small hill, typically
one of a group, consisting of compacted boulder clay molded by past
glaciers.
drum major n. 1. a noncommissioned officer commanding the
drummers of a regimental band. 2. the male leader of a marching band,
who often twirls a baton. • a male member of a baton-waving
parading group.
drum major-ette n. the female leader of a marching band. • a girl
or woman who twirls a baton, typically with a marching band or
drum corps.
drum-mer /drummar/ n. 1. a person who plays a drum or drums. • int.
a traveling sales representative.
drum-stick /drumstik/ n. a stick, typically with a shaped or padded
head, used for beating a drum. • the lower joint of the leg of a cooked
chicken, turkey, or other fowl.
drumk /drumk/ past participle of DRINK.
• adj. affected by alcohol to the extent of losing control of one’s facul-
ties or behavior. • drunk with fig. overcome with (a strong emotion):
the crowd was high on drink and patriotism.
- • a person who is drunk or who habitually drinks to excess. • int.
a drinking bout, a period of drunkenness: he used to go on
drunks.
drunkard /drunkkard/ n. a person who is habitually drunk.
drunk-en /drunkon/ adj. drunk or intoxicated. • habitually or fre-
quently: his drunken father. • the effect of drinking: the man’s drunken
slurred speech. • -drunk-en-ly adv.
drunk-ness n.
drupe /dróop/ n. Bot. a fleshy fruit with thin skin and a central stone
containing the seed, e.g., a plum, cherry, almond, or olive. • mid 18th
cent.: from Latin drupa ‘overripe olive,’ from Greek druppa ‘olive.’
• dru-po-cal /dró-pós-cal/ adj.
drupe-let /drópel/ n. Bot. any of the small individual drupes forming
a fleshy aggregate fruit such as a blackberry or raspberry.
druse /dróoz/ n. Geol. a rock cavity lined with a crust of projecting
crystals. • the crust of crystals lining such a cavity. • -drussy adj.
druther /drúthe/ n. (usu. one’s druthers) a person’s preference in
a matter: if I had my druthers, I would prefer to be a writer.
dry /drí/ adj. • (drier, driest) 1. free from moisture or liquid; not wet or
moist. • having lost all wetness or moisture over a period of time: dry
paint. • for use without liquid: dry latrines. • with little or no rainfall or
humidity: two dry winters in a row. • of a river, lake, or stream) empty
of water as a result of evaporation and lack of rainfall. • (of a source)
not yielding a supply of water or oil; dry well. • thirsty or thirst-
makeing: working in the hot sun is making me dry. • dry work. • of a cow or other
domestic animal) having stopped producing milk. • without grease or
other moisturizer or lubricant: dry hair. • of bread or toast
unbuttered or other spreads: only dry bread and water. • fig. bare or lacking
adornment: the dry facts; unexciting; dull. • unmotional, undemon-
strative, or impassive: (of a joke or sense of humor) subtle, expressed
in a matter-of-fact way, and having the appearance of being uncon-
scious or unintentional. • prohibiting the sale or consumption of
alcoholic drink: the country is dry, in accordance with Islamic law.
• of a person) no longer addicted to or drinking alcohol. • (of an alcoholic
drink) not sweet: a dry red wine.
- • [dries, dried] [intr.] become dry: waiting for the socks to dry. • [tr.
cause to become dry: dry your hair. • [tr.] wipe tears from (the eyes): she
dried her eyes and blew her nose. • wipe dishes dry with a cloth after they
have been washed. • [tr.] (usu. as adj.] dried preserve by allowing or
encouraging evaporation of moisture from: dried flowers. • theatrical
stages forget one’s lines: he dried in the middle of a scene.

Pronunciation Key a ə, ag, au, or: ar, iar; ate, a ear; oh chin;
a let, e see; o(ə) air; ift, i by; i(ə) ear; o sing; o g, o law, for, oi toy;
oo good; oo goo, ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; (b) how why; 7h vision
dudgeon /ˈdʒʌdn/ n. a feeling of offense or deep resentment: the manager walked out in high dudgeon.

due /djuː/ adj. 1 expected or planned for at a certain time: the baby's due in August | he is due back soon | talks are due to adjourn tomorrow. 2 (of a payment) required at a certain time. 3 (of a person) having reached a point where the thing mentioned is required or owed: she was due for a raise. 4 (of a thing) required or owed as a legal or moral obligation: he was only taking back what was due to him | you must pay any income tax due. 2 of the proper quality or extent: adequate: driving without due care and attention.

n. 1 (one's due) a person's right; what is owed to someone: he attracts more criticism than is his due. 2 (dues) an obligatory payment; a fee.

adv. (with reference to a point of the compass) exactly: directly: we'll head due south again on the same road. 3 Middle English (in the sense 'payable'): from Old French den 'owed', based on Latin debitus 'owed'; from debeat 'owe'.

due to 1 caused by or ascribable to: unemployment due to automation. 2 because of; owing to: he had to withdraw due to a knee injury. 3 give someone their due to give him his due, he was a generous employer. 4 in due course at the appropriate time: Reynolds will respond in due course. 5 pay one's dues to fulfill one's obligations. 6 experience difficulties before achieving success: this drummer has paid his dues with the best.

v. make or become dull or less intense: [it] time dils the memory | [int.] Albert's eyes dulled a little. —dull-ness (also dullness) n. —dull-ly adv.

dull /dʌl/ adj. 1 lacking interest or excitement. 2 archaic (of a person) feeling bored and dispirited: she said she wouldn't be dull and lonely. 3 lacking brightness, vividness, or sheen. 4 (of the weather) overcast; gloomy. 5 (of sound) not clear; muffled: a dull thud. 6 (of pain) indistinctly felt; not acute. 7 (of an edge or blade) blunt. 8 (of a person) slow to understand; stupid. 9 archaic (of a person's senses) not perceiving things distinctly; insensitive. 10 (of activity) sluggish, slow-moving.

—v. make or become dull or less intense: [it] time dulls the memory | [int.] —dull-ness (also dullness) n. —dull-ly adv.

— dull as dishwater extremely dull. — dull the edge of to be less keenly felt; reduce the intensity or effectiveness of.

dullard /ˈdʌlərd/ n. a slow or stupid person.

dully /ˈdʌlli/ adv. in accordance with what is required or appropriate; following proper procedure or arrangement: a document duly signed and authorized by the inspector | the ceremony duly began at midnight. — as might be expected or predicted: I used the tent and was duly impressed.

dumb /dʌm/ adj. 1 chiefly of (of a person) unable to speak, most typically because of congenital deafness: he was born deaf, dumb, and blind. 2 (of animals) unable to speak as a natural state and thus regarded as helpless or deserving pity. 3 temporarily unable or unwilling to speak: she stood dumb while he poured out a stream of abuse. 4 resulting in or expressed by speechlessness; they stood in dumb amazement.

—v. (also of a computer terminal) able to transmit data to or receive data from a computer; having no independent processing capability.

—dumbly adv. —dumb-ness n.

dumbbell /ˈdʌmˌbɛl/ n. 1 a short bar with a weight at each end, used typically in pairs for exercise or muscle-building. 2 (as adj.) shaped like a dumbbell: a dumbbell molecule. 3 (as adj.) a stupid person.
dissatisfaction): dwell on the past. (dwell on/upon) (of one's eyes or attention) linger on (a part or object or place).


dwell-ing /dwel(ing) (also dwelling place) n. formal a house, apartment, or other place of residence.

dwin-dle /dwaundil v. [intr] diminish gradually in size, amount, or strength. > late 16th cent.: frequentative of Scots and dialect dwine 'fade away.' From Old English dwinan, of Germanic origin; related to Middle Dutch dwinen and Old Norse divna.

Dy 1 symb. the chemical element dysprosium.

dye /djaɪ v. 1 n. a natural or synthetic substance used to add a color to or change the color of something.

> v. (dyed, dye-ing) [tr] add a color to or change the color of (something) by soaking it in a solution impregnated with a dye: I dyed my hair red

> or take color well or badly during such a process: material that dyes well. —dye-able adj. —dye-r n.

> □ dyed in the wool unchanging in a particular belief or opinion; inveterate: she's a dyed-in-the-wool conservative.

dye-stuff /di'stafl/ n. a substance that yields a dye or that can be used as a dye, esp. when in solution.

dy-ing /'daɪiŋ/ adj. on the point of death. — occurring at or connected with the time that someone dies: dying words. — gradually ceasing to exist or function; in decline and about to disappear.

> □ to one's dying day for the rest of one's life.

dyke 1 n. variant spelling of OKE.

dyke2 /dik/ n. offens. a lesbian. —dyke-y adj.

dyn n. abbr. dyne.

dyn-a-mic /'daɪnamɪk/ adj. 1 (of a process or system) characterized by constant change, activity, or progress: a dynamic economy. — (of a person) positive in attitude and full of energy and new ideas. — (of a thing) stimulating development or progress: the dynamic forces of nature.

> Physics of or relating to forces producing motion. — Linguistics (of a verb) expressing an action, activity, event, or process. — Electr. of or relating to the volume of sound produced by a voice, instrument, or sound recording equipment. 2 Mus. relating to the volume of sound produced by an instrument, voice, or recording.

> n. 1 a force that stimulates change or progress within a system or process: the basic dynamic of the project. 2 Mus. another term for DYNAMICS (sense 3). —dy-nam-ic-al adj. —dy-nam-ic-al-ly adv.

dyn-a-mics /'daɪnamɪks/ pl. n. [treated as sing] the branch of mechanics concerned with the motion of bodies under the action of forces. — the branch of any science in which the study of forces is included: chemical dynamics. 2 the forces or properties that stimulate growth, development, or change within a system or process: the dynamics of changing social relations. 3 Mus. the varying levels of volume of sound in different parts of a musical performance. —dy-nam-i-cist [-'næmæst] n.

dy-na-mism /'daɪnəˌɪzəm/ n. the quality of being characterized by vigorous activity and progress: the dynamism and strength of the economy. — the quality of being dynamic and positive in attitude. —dy-nam-ist n.

dy-na-mite /'daɪnəˌmaɪt/ n. a high explosive consisting of nitroglycerine mixed with an absorbent material and typically molded into sticks. — fig. something that has the potential to generate extreme reactions or to have devastating repercussions: that policy is political dynamite.

> □ an extremely impressive or exciting person or thing: both her albums are dynamite. — as adj. a chick with a dynamite figure.

> v. [tn] blow up (something) with dynamite. —dy-na-miter n.

dy-na-mo /'daɪnəˌmoʊ/ n. (pl. -mos) a machine for converting mechanical energy into electrical energy, a generator. — int. an extremely energetic person: she was a dynamo in London politics.

dy-na-sty /'daɪnəˌstæ/ n. (pl. -ties) a line of hereditary rulers of a country: the Tang dynasty. — a succession of people from the same family who play a prominent role in business, politics, or another field: the Ford dynasty.


dyne /daɪn/ n. Physics a unit of force that, acting on a mass of one gram, increases its velocity by one centimeter per second every second along the direction that it acts.

dys-en-ter-y /'daɪsənˈtɛri/ n. infection of the intestines resulting in severe diarrhea with the presence of blood and mucus in the feces.

> — dys-en-ter-i-c /-ˌtɛrɪk/ adj.

> dys-func-tion /-fʌŋkʃən/ n. abnormality or impairment in the function of a specified bodily organ or system: bowel dysfunction. — deviation from the norms of social behavior in a way regarded as bad.

> — dys-func-tion-al /-ʃənəl/ adj.

> dys-lex-i-a /ˌdaɪsɪˈleksiə/ n. a general term for disorders that involve difficulty in reading or interpret words, letters, and other symbols, but that do not affect general intelligence. — dys-lex-ic /-lekɪk/ adj. & n. — dys-lex-i-cal-ly /ˌdaɪsɪˈleksaʊl/ adv.

> dys-men-or-rhea /ˌdaɪsmənəˈrhiə/ (Brit. dys-men-or-rhoea) n. Med. painful menstruation, typically involving abdominal cramps.

> dys-pep-sia /ˌdaɪsɪˈpɛsɪə/ n. indigestion.

> dys-pha-sia /ˌdaɪsɪˈfæsiə/ n. Med. language disorder marked by deficiency in the generation of speech, and sometimes also in its comprehension, due to brain disease or damage.

> dys-plas-sia /ˌdaɪsɪˈplæsɪə/ n. Med. the enlargement of an organ or tissue by the proliferation of cells of an abnormal type, as a developmental disorder or an early stage in the development of cancer.
earplug

ear-shot /'eərˌʃot/ n. the range or distance over which one can hear or be heard; she waited until he was out of earshot before continuing.

earth /eərθ/ 1 n. (also Earth) the planet on which we live, the third from the sun; the world: the diversity of life on earth. 2 n. the surface of the world as distinct from the sky or the sea: it plummeted back to earth at 60 mph. 3 n. the present abode of humankind, as distinct from heaven or hell; God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 4 n. one of the four elements in ancient and medieval philosophy and in astrology. 5 n. a stable, dense, non-volatile inorganic substance found in the ground. 6 n. the underground level or inhabitation of a bonager or fox.

> to come (or bring) back to earth return or cause to return to reality after a period of daydreaming or excitement. to on earth used for emphasis: who on earth would venture out in weather like this?

earthen /'eərθən/ adj. (of a floor or structure) made of compressed earth: the hillside adjacent to the earthen dam. 2 n. (of a pot) made of baked or fired clay.

earthen-ware /'eərθən,weə/ n. often as adj. pottery made of clay fired to a porous state that can be made impervious to liquids by the use of a glaze: an earthenware jug.

earling /'eərlɪŋ/ n. an inhabitant of the earth (used esp. in science fiction by members of alien species).

earthly /'eərθli/ adj. 1 of or relating to the earth or human life on the earth: water is liquid at normal earthly temperatures. 2 of or relating to humankind's material existence as distinct from a spiritual or heavenly one: all earthly happiness is but vanity. 3 n. used for emphasis: there was no earthly reason why she should not come too.

earthquake /'eərθkwɪk/ n. a sudden and violent shaking of the ground, sometimes causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action. 2 n. a great con

evulsion or upheaval: a political earthquake.

earth science n. the branch of science dealing with the physical constitution of the earth and its atmosphere. 2 n. the various branches of this subject, e.g., geology, oceanography, and meteorology.

earth-shatter-ing /eərθˈʃeɪtərɪŋ/ adj. (in hyperbolic use) very important, momentous, or traumatic: tell me this earth-shattering news of yours.

ear-shatter-ing-ly adv.

ear-work /'eərwɜrk/ n. 1 a large artificial bank of soil, esp. one made as a defense. 2 the process of excavating soil in civil engineering work. 3 a work of art consisting of modifying a large piece of land.

ear-worm /'eərwɜrm/ n. a burrowing annelid (Lumbricus, Allolobophora, and other genera, family Lumbricidae) that lives in the soil.

earth-y /'eərθi/ adj. (earth-ier, earth-iest) resembling or suggestive of earth or soil: an earthy smell. 2 n. (of a person) direct and uninhibited: hearty: the storefront is given over to a young, earthy crowd. 3 n. (of humor) somewhat coarse or crude: their good-natured vulgarity and earthy humor.

—earth-y-ly adj. —earth-ness n.

ear-wax /ˈeərwɒks/ n. the protective yellow waxy substance secreted in the passages of the outer ear.

earwig /ˈeərwiɡ/ n. 1 a small elongated insect with a pair of terminal appendages that resemble pincers.

ease /eɪs/ n. 1 absence of difficulty or effort: he gave up tobacco and alcohol with ease. 2 absence of rigidity or discomfort: poise: I was always viewed by her self-contained case. 3 freedom from worries or problems, esp. about one's material situation: a life of wealth and ease.

> v. 1 [tr.] make (something unpleasant, painful, or intense) less serious or severe: a huge road-building program to ease congestion. 2 [intr.] become less serious or severe: the pain didn't usually ease off for several hours. 3 [intr.] (to ease up) relax one's efforts; do something with more moderation: I'd ease up on the tread if I were you. 4 [make] make (something) happen more easily; facilitate. 5 [inc.; Finance] (of share prices, interest rates, etc.) decrease in value or amount: these shares should be bought and tucked away for when interest rates ease [as n.]. 6 n. (easing) a slight easing of in

flation. 7 [intr.] move carefully, gradually, or gently; I eased down the slope with care [in tr.]. 8 [tr.] the pilot eased the throttle back. 9 [tr.] (ease someone out) gradually exclude someone from a post or place, esp. by devious or subtle maneuvers; after the scandal he was eased out of his job.

> at (one's) ease free from worry, awkwardness, or problems, relaxed: she was never quite at ease with Phil. 2 [at ease] Mil. in a relaxed att

titude with the feet apart and the hands behind the back (often as a command). 3 (of) ease someone's mind alleviate someone's anxiety. 4 (usu. & (of) ease) holding an artist's work while it is being painted or drawn. 5 a similar frame for displaying charts, promotional materials, announcements, etc. 6 late 16th cent.: from Dutch eel 'ass'. The word "horse" is used in English in a similar way to denote a supporting frame.

ease-mouth /ˈeɪzi,məʊnt/ n. Law a right to cross or otherwise use someone else's land for a specified purpose.

easy /ˈezi/ adj. 1 without difficulty or effort: he climbed the mountain easily. 2 in a relaxed manner: he shrugged easily. 3 more quickly or frequently than is usual: they got bored easily. 4 without doubt: by far: English is easily the reigning language in the financial world. 5 very probably: events that could easily become stodgy and predictable.

east /eɪst/ 1 n. (usu. the east) 1 the direction toward the point of the horizon where the sun rises at the equinoxes, on the right-hand side of a person facing north, or the point on the horizon itself; a gale was blowing from the east. 2 n. the compass point corresponding to this. 3 n. the eastern part of the world or of a specified country, region, or town: a factory in the east of the city. 4 n. the regions or countries lying to the east of Europe, esp. China, Japan, and India. 5 n. (East) Bridge the player sitting to the left of North and partnering West.

> adj. 1 lying toward, near, or facing the east: the hospital's east wing. 2 n. the eastern part of a specified area, city, or country or its inhabitants: East Texas | East African.

—east-ward adv. toward the east: he went two men.

east-bound /ˈeɪst(ə)nd,bənd/ adj. leading or traveling toward the east: the eastbound lane.

Easter /ˈeɪstər/ n. the most important and oldest festival of the Chris

tian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and held (in the Western Church) between March 21 and April 25, on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the northern spring equinox.

—east-wards adj. in the direction of or facing toward the east: the eastern slopes of the mountain. 2 n. (East) living in or originating from the east, in particular the regions or countries lying to the east of Europe: an Eastern mystic.

eastern /ˈeɪstərn/ adj. 1 situated in the east, or directed toward or facing the east: the eastern slopes of the mountain. 2 n. (East) living in or originating from the east, in particular the regions or countries lying to the east of Europe: an Eastern mystic.

—eastern-est /ˈeɪstərnəst/ adj.

easterner /ˈeɪstənər/ (also east-ern-er) n. a native or inhabitant of the east, esp. of the eastern U.S.

Eastern time n. the standard time in a zone including the eastern states of the U.S. and parts of Canada, specifically: (Eastern Standard Time, abbrev.: EST), standard time based on the mean solar time at the meridian 75° W, five hours behind GMT. (Eastern Daylight Time, abbrev.: EDT) Eastern time during daylight saving time, four hours behind GMT.

east-north-east /eɪst-north-əʊt/ n. the direction or compass point midway between east and northeast.

east-south-east /eɪst-south-əʊt/ n. the direction or compass point midway between east and southeast.

eastward /ˈeɪstwaʊrd/ adj. in an easterly direction: they followed an east

ward course.

—east-wards adv. toward the east: the bus rattled its way eastward.

east-ward-ly /ˈeɪstwaʊrd-li/ adj.

easily /ˈezi/li/ adj. (east-ier, east-iest) 1 achieved without great effort; presenting few difficulties: an easy way of retrieving information. 2 (of an object of attack or criticism) having no defense; vulnerable: he was vulnerable and an easy target. 3 adj. (of a woman) open to sexual advances; sexually available; her reputation at school for being easy. 2 (of a period of time or way of life) free from worries or problems: promises of an easy life in the New World. 3 (of a person) lacking anxiety or awkwardness; relaxed: his easy and agreeable manner. 4 [interj.] be careful: easy, girl—you'll knock me over!

—east-ness n.

—be easier said than done be more easily talked about than put into
electron microscope

- **electron** n. Physics a microscope with high magnification and resolution, employing electron beams in place of light and using electron lenses.

- **electron vol(t) [vibrating]** n. Physics a unit of energy equal to the work done in accelerating one electron through a potential difference of one volt.

- **electron microscope** n. Physics a microscope with high magnification and resolution, employing electron beams in place of light and using electron lenses.

- **electron volt** [abbrev.: eV] n. Physics a unit of energy equal to the work done in accelerating one electron through a potential difference of one volt.

- **elec-tro-pho-re-sis** [e-lek'trof-o'res'sis] n. **Electrophoresis** a method of electrophoresis in a fluid or gel under the influence of an electric field. Early 20th cent. from electrophore-, rel. to, or caused by, electricity + Greek phorēs: carrying.

- **electroplate** [e-lek'tro-plát] n. [v. & adj.] electrophoretic depositing or relating to a deposit by electrophoretic means or related to stationary electric charges or fields as opposed to moving currents.

- **electro-thera-py** [e-lek'tro-ther'a-pé] n. the use of electric currents passed through the body to stimulate nerves and muscles, chiefly in the treatment of various forms of paralysis.

- **elec-tro-type** [e-lek'tro-típ] n. a copy made by the electrolytic deposition of copper on a mold.

- **ele-gant** [e-lej'ant] adj. pleasingly graceful and stylish in appearance or manner; she looks elegant in black. (of a scientific theory or solution to a problem) pleasingly ingenious and simple: the grand unified theory is compact and elegant in mathematical terms.

- **ele-gant-ly adv.

- **ele-giac** [e-le'jéak] adj. (esp. of a work of art) having a mournful quality: the movie score is a somber elegy.

- **ele-gy** [e-le'jé] n. a poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead. A piece of music in a mournful style.

- **ele-ment** [e-le'ment] n. 1. a part or aspect of something abstract, esp. one that is essential or characteristic: the death had all the elements of a great tableau story. 2. a small but significant presence of a feeling or abstract quality: it was the element of danger he loved in flying. (elements) the rudiments of a branch of knowledge; legal training may include the elements of economics and political science. (often elements) a group of people of a particular kind within a larger group or organization: extreme right-wing elements in the army. Math & Logic an entity that is a single member of a set. 2. (also chemical element) each of more than one hundred substances that cannot be chemically interconverted or broken down into simpler substances, and the primary constituents of matter. Each element is distinguished by its atomic number, i.e., the number of protons in the nucleus of its atom. Any of the four substances (earth, water, air, fire) regarded as the fundamental constituents of the world in ancient and medieval philosophy. A group of people, or an animal's natural environment: the animals are the ocean, the land, the kingdom, water, and their element.

- **ele-men-tar-i-ly adv.

- **ele-mentary** [e-le'men-ta'ri] adj. 1. primary or basic: elemental features from which all other structures are compounded. Concerned with chemical elements or other basic components: elemental analysis. Consisting of a single chemical element. Related to or embodying the powers of nature: a thunderstorm is the inevitable outcome of battling elemental forces.

- **ele-me-nary particle** n. any of various fundamental subatomic particles, including those that are the smallest and most basic constituents of matter (leptons and quarks) or are combinations of these (hadrons, which consist of quarks), and those that transmit one of the four fundamental interactions in nature (gravitational, electromagnetic, strong, and weak). Compare with subatomic particle.

- **ele-menta-ry school** n. a school for the first four to six grades, usually including kindergarten.

- **ele-phant** [e-lef'ant] n. (pl. same or elephants) a heavy plant-eating mammal (family Elephantidae) with a prehensile trunk, long curved ivory tusks, and large ears, native to Africa and southern Asia. It is the largest living land animal.

- **ele-phant-ia-sis** [e-lef'ant-é-sis] n. Med. a condition in which a limb or other part of the body becomes grossly enlarged due to obstruction of the lymphatic vessels, typically by nematode parasites.

- **ele-phant-tine** [e-lef'ant-tín] adj., n. [of, resembling, or characteristic of an elephant or elephants, esp. in being large, clumsy, or awkward: there was an elephantine thud from the bathroom.

- **ele-vate** [e-le-va't] v. (v. & adj.) raise or lift (something) up to a higher position. Raise to a more important or impressive level; in the 1920's he was elevated to secretary of state. Increase the level or amount of (something): high amounts of the drug can elevate blood pressure.

- **ele-vation** [e-le-va'shən] n. 1. the action or fact of elevating or being elevated: her sudden elevation to the cabinet. 2. augmentation of or increase in the amount or level of something: the raising of the conscripted elements for adoration, a given level, esp. sea level: a network of micromachines created by sharp differences in elevation; a total elevation gain of 3,959 feet. A high place or position: most early plantation development was at the higher elevations. The angle of something with the horizontal, esp. of a gun or of the direction of a celestial object. Balloon the ability of a dancer to attain height in height, or the use of a balloon: a balloonist; a balloonist's craft.

- **ele-ven** [i'leven] adj. one more than ten; 11. (Roman numeral: XI or xi). 11 years old: the eldest is only eleven. 2. eleven oclock; she often worked until eleven at night. 3. a size of garment or other merchandise denoted by eleven. 4. a group or unit of eleven people or things. 5. a sports team of eleven players.

- **ele-venth** [i'leventh] adj. ordinal number designating the number eleven in a sequence; 11th: the eleventh century. An (eleventh/eleventh) each of eleven equal parts into which something is or may be divided: the eleventh grade of a school. An interval or chord spanning an octave plus a fourth in the diatonic scale, or a note separated from another by this interval.

- **eleventh hour** the latest possible moment: he refused to take a public stand until the eleventh hour of the campaign.

- **elf** [elf] n. pl. elves (e'lvz) a supernatural creature of folk tales, typically represented as a small, elusive figure in human form with pointed ears, magical powers, and a capricious nature.

- **elide** [el'id] v. (i-lived, -liting) to evolve or draw out a response, answer, or fact from someone in reaction to one's own actions or questions; they invariably elicit explanations of one's actions from guests.

- **elicit** [el'i-sit] v. (i-lit, -litting) to make or elicit a response, answer, or fact from someone in reaction to one's own actions or questions; they invariably elicit explanations of one's actions from guests.
emollient /i'mo-lınt/ adj. having the quality of soothing or soothing the skin: an emollient cream. attempting to avoid confrontation or anger; soothing or calming: the president's emollient approach to differences.

n. a preparation that softens the skin: formulated with rich emollients.

emollience /i'mo-lıns/ n.}

e-mol-ument /i'ma-lıment/ n. (usu. emoluments) for a salary, fee, or profit from employment or office: the directors' emoluments.

e-mote /i'mot/ v. [inter.] (esp. of an actor) portray emotion in a theatrical manner. — e-moter n.

e-motion /i'meʃən/ n. a natural instinctive state of mind deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships with others: she was attempting to control her emotions. any of the particular feelings that characterize such a state of mind, such as joy, anger, love, hate, honor, etc.: fear had become his dominant emotion. instinctive or intuitive feeling as distinguished from reasoning or knowledge: responses have to be based on historical insight, not simply on emotion. — e-motion-less adj.

e-motion-al /i'meʃən-əl/ adj. of or relating to a person's emotions: children with emotional difficulties. arousing or characterized by intense feeling: the emotional spectre. (of a person) having feelings that are easily excited and openly displayed: he was a strongly emotional young man.

— e-motion-al-i-ly adv.

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— e-motion-al-i-ly adv.
endocrinology Biochem. (of a gene) be responsible for producing (a substance or behavior). —en-cod-a-ble adj. —en-coder n. —en-cod-ment n.
en-co-mi-mus [en-kōm'mūs] n. (pl. -mii or -mēs) informal a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly.
en-con-pass [en-kōn'pās] v. [tr.] surround and have or hold within: a vast hull encompassing the Milky Way galaxy. It includes comprehensively: an studies encompass all aspects of medical care. —en-con-pass-am-ent n.
en-core [en-kōr] n. a repeated or additional performance of an item at the end of a concert, as called for by audience.
en-deal [en'deal] v. (often en-deared) give or call for a repeated or additional performance of (an item) at the end of a concert.
en-counter [en'kounter] v. [tr.] unexpectedly experience or be faced with (something difficult or hostile); we have encountered one small problem.
en-cumber [en'kumber] v. [tr.] restrict or burden (someone or something) in such a way that free action or movement is difficult: she was encumbered by her heavy skirts.
en-cum-brance [en'kum-brans] n. a burden or impediment. —Law a mortgage or other charge on property or assets.
en-cyc-lo-pedia [en-sik'lō-pē'dē-ə] n. a book or set of books giving information on many subjects or on many aspects of one subject and typically arranged alphabetically.
en-cyc-lo-pedic [en-sik'lō-pid'ik] adj. comprehensive in terms of information: he has an almost encyclopedic knowledge of food. —relating to or containing names of famous people and places and information about words that is not simply linguistic: a dictionary with encyclopedic material.
en-end [en'end] v. 1 a final part of something, such as a period, or an activity, or a story: the end of the year. 2 a term for the end of a situation or state: the party called for an end to violence. 3 used to express that something typically a subject of discussion, is considered finished: you will go to church and that's the end of it. 4 death or ruin: if she's caught stealing again, it will be the end of her career. 5 archaic in biblical use an ultimate state or condition: the end of that man is peace. 6 the furthest or most extreme part or point of something: a length of wire with a hook at the end | as adj. the end house. 7 a specified extreme point on a scale: buyers at the lower end of the market. 8 the part or share of an activity with which someone is concerned: you're going to honor your end of the deal. 9 a goal or result that one seeks to achieve: each would use the other to further his own ends. 10 Football an offensive or defensive lineup positioned nearest to the sideline. —v. come or bring to a final point; finish: [intr.] when the war ended, policy changed | [s] she wanted to end the relationship. [intr.] perform a final act: the man ended by attacking a police officer. [intr. or end] in have as its final part, result, or point: one in three marriages is now likely to end in divorce. —[intr.] or [end up] eventually reach or come to a specified place, state, or course of action: I ended up in Connecticut.
en-end-at-the-end-of-the-day int. when everything is taken into consideration: at the end of the day, I'm responsible for what happens in the school. —end at it all commit suicide. —end at the end of the road (or line) the point beyond which progress or survival cannot continue: if a lawsuit has not dropped it could be the end of the road for the publisher. —end at one's rope (or tether) having no patience or energy left to cope with something: after enduring four years of mice in the house, we were at the end of our rope. —end at the end of the world int. a complete disaster: it's not the end of the world if you're not great at sports. —end at the end eventually or on reflection: in the end, I saw that she was right. —keep or hold one's end up perform well or be successful: make both ends meet earn enough money to pay off the debt. —never (or not) hear the end of be continually reminded of (an unpleasant topic or cause of annoyance). —no end int. to a great extent; very much: this cheered me up no end. —no end adj. a vast number or amount of (something): we shared no end of good times. —on end 1 continuing without stopping for a specific period of time; something: the rope was gone for days on end. 2 in an upright position; he brushed his hair, leaving a tuft standing on end.
en-end-ger [en'dən'ji] v. [tr.] put (someone or something) at risk or in danger: his driving was likely to endanger life. —end-ger-ment n.
en-dear [en'der] v. [intr.] cause to be loved or liked: Flora's spirit and character endeared her to everyone who met her.
en-dear-ing [en'diər'ing] adj. inspiring love or affection: an endearing little grin. —end-ear-ing-ly adv.
en-dear-ment [en'diər-ment] n. a word or phrase expressing love or affection. —love or affection; a term of endearment.
en-deav-or [en'div'ər] Brit. end-deav-our] v. [intr.] try hard to do or achieve something: he is endeavoring to help the Third World.
en-dear [en'dier] v. earn and industrious effort, esp. when sustained over a period of time: enthusiasm is a vital ingredient in all human endeavor. —an enterprise or undertaking politically conceived, set up, or maintained for getting into debt. —never (or not) hear the end of be continually reminded of (an unpleasant topic or cause of annoyance). —no end int. to a great extent; very much: this cheered me up no end. —no end adj. a vast number or amount of (something): we shared no end of good times. —on end 1 continuing without stopping for a specific period of time; something: the rope was gone for days on end. 2 in an upright position; he brushed his hair, leaving a tuft standing on end.
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end-odont /ˈendədɒnt/ n. Zoology & Embryology: the innermost layer of cells or tissue of an embryo in early development, or the parts derived from this, which include the lining of the gut and associated structures. Compare with ECTODERM and MESODERM. —end-odont-ic adj. —end-odont-ic-al adj. —end-odont-om-e-tric adj.

end-a-ble [ˈendəbəl] adj. withstanding pressure or force: he was engaged to endure him for so long. —en-dur-er n.

end-ways /endwəz/ also end-wise /ˌendwaɪz/ adv. with its end facing upward, forward, or toward the viewer. n. in a row with the end of one object touching that of another: strips of rubber cemented endways.

ENNE abbr. east-northeast.

en-e-ma /ˈenəmə/ n. (pl. -emas) a procedure in which liquid or gas is injected into the rectum, typically to expel its contents, but also to introduce drugs or permit X-ray imaging. n. a quantity of fluid or a syringe used in such a procedure.

en-gage /ɪnˈdʒeɪdʒ/ v. [tr.] (1) to involve or attach (someone) to something: (the enemy) [treated as sing. or pl.] a hostile nation or its armed forces or citizens, esp. in time of war: the enemy shut down four helicopters [as adj.] enemy aircraft. n. a thing that harms or weakens something else: routine is the enemy of art. Middle English: from Old French ennemi, from in- 'not' + ami Cons.'friend.'

en-er-gize /ɪnˈdʒəraɪz/ v. [tr.] give vitality and enthusiasm to: people were energized by his ideas. n. supply energy, typically kinetic or electrical energy, to (something). —ener-gizer n.

en-er-gy /ˈenərジ/ n. (pl. -gies) 1 the strength and vitality required for sustained physical or mental activity: changes in the levels of vitamins can affect energy and well-being. n. a feeling of possessing such strength and vitality. n. force or vigor of expression. n. a person's physical and mental powers, typically as applied to a particular task or activity. n. power derived from the transformation of physical or chemical resources, esp. to provide light and heat or to work machines. n. Physics the property of matter and radiation that is manifest as a capacity to perform work (such as causing motion or the interaction of molecules): a collision in which no energy is transferred. n. a degree or level of this capacity possessed by something or required by a process.

en-er-vate /ɪnˈervət/ v. [tr.] cause (someone) to feel drained of energy or vitality; weaken. —en-er-vation /ˌenərˈveɪʃən/ n. —en-er-ver n.

en-en-dorf-phin /enəˈdɔrfɪn/ n. Biochem. any of a group of hormones secreted within the brain and nervous system that activate the body's opiate receptors, causing an analgesic effect.

en-end-os-mant /enˈdɔndaɪsmænt/ n. 1 an act of giving one's public approval or support to someone or something. n. a recommendation of a product in an advertisement. n. a clause in an insurance policy detailing an exemption from or change in coverage. n. the action of endorsing a check or bill of exchange.

en-endoscope /ˈendəskəp/ n. Med. an instrument that can be introduced into the body to give a view of its internal parts. —en-endos-copy /ˈendəskəpi/ n.

en-endoskel-e-ton /ˈendəskeɪlətən/ n. Zool. an internal skeleton, such as the bony or cartilaginous skeleton of vertebrates. Compare with exoskeleton.

en-endosperm /ˈendəsperm/ n. Bot. the part of a seed that acts as a food store for the developing plant embryo, usually containing starch with protein and other nutrients.

en-end-the-li-um /ˈendθiːliəm/ [pl. -The-li-ae /ˈendθiːliəi/ n. the tissue that forms a single layer of cells lining various organs and cavities of the body, esp. the blood vessels, heart, and lymphatic vessels. It is formed from the embryonic mesoderm. Compare with epithelium. —late 19th cent.; modern Latin, from ENDO- 'within' (from Greek endon) + Greek theli 'nipple.'

en-end-thia /ˈendθia/ n. or adj. —en-end-thial adj.

en-end-th-on /ˈendθən/ v. [tr.] give or bequeath an income or property to (a person or institution): he endowed the church with lands. n. establish (a college post, annual prize, or project) by donating the funds needed to maintain it. n. [usu. be endowed with] provide with a quality, ability, or asset: he was endowed with tremendous physical strength. —en-dover n.

en-dow-ment /ˈendəmɛnt/ n. the action of endowing something or someone: he tried to promote the endowment of a Chair of Psychiatry. —en-endowment n. a quality or ability possessed or inherited by someone.

en-end-wers /ˈendəders/ n. (pl. -wars) a form of life insurance involving payment of a fixed sum to the insured person on a specified date, or to their estate should they die before this date: an endowment policy.

en-end-paper /ˈendpærəpəl/ also end-paper /ˈendpærəpəl/ n. a blanket or decorated leaf of paper at the beginning or end of a book, esp. one fixed to the inside of the cover.

en-en-du-rance /ˈendədjuːrəns/ n. the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way: she was close to the limit of her endurance. n. the capacity of something to last or to withstand wear and tear.

en-en-du-re /ˈendədjuər/ v. [tr.] suffer (something painful or difficult) patiently; it seemed impossible that anyone could endure such pain. n. tolerate (someone or something). I was a fool to endure him for so long. —en-endurance /ˈendədʒʊər/ adj. —en-endurer n.

en-end-ways /ˈendwɛz/ also end-wise /ˌendwaɪz/ adv. with its end facing upward, forward, or toward the viewer. n. in a row with the end of one object touching that of another: strips of rubber cemented endways.
entertain

entertain-er [ent’ter-nar] n. a person, such as a singer, dancer, or comedian, whose job is to entertain others.

entertain-ing [ent’ter-niŋ] adj. providing amusement or enjoyment; the magazine is both entertaining and informative.

entertain-ment [ent’ter-nment] n. the action of providing or being provided with amusement or enjoyment; everyone just sits in front of the TV for entertainment.

entertainment n. an event, performance, or activity designed to entertain others: a theatrical entertainment.

entrap [ent’trap] v. (trapped, -trapping) [tr.] (often be entrap) to take one's attention; to make someone do something: she missed her chance to entrap the elderly woman.

entrench [ent’rengk] v. (tr. or intr.) (often be entrenched) to make a pit or trench in the ground.

entrench-ment [ent’rengk-mant] n. a trench or pit dug into the ground.

entrecôte [an-trékòt] n. a cut of meat from the rib of a beef.

entremets [an-tray-mä̃] n. a sweet served after the main course of a meal.

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entremet [an-tré-mä̃] n. a sweet served after the main course of a meal.

entrepreneur [an-trä-prə-nər] n. a person who operates a business or manages a commercial activity.

entreat [an’tri:t] v. [tr.] ask someone to do something: he pleaded with me to come with him.

entreaty [an’tri-tē] n. a request or plea for someone to do something: a request for a favor.

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bleeding. • late 17th cent.: from French, from Old French argot 'cock's spur' (because of the appearance produced by the disease).

erte [jør] n. poetry, the sea eagle.

erode [jör'd] v. [tr.] (often to be eroded) [of wind, water, or other natural agents] gradually wear away (soil, rock, or land); the cliffs have been eroded by the sea. • [intr.] (of soil, rock, or land) be gradually worn away by such natural agents. • fig. gradually destroy or be gradually destroyed: [tr.] this humiliation has eroded what confidence jean has. • [intr.] profligate margins are eroding Med. • (of a disease) gradually destroy (bodily tissue). • [er-rod-i-bie] adj. • [er-rod-i-bil-i-ty] n.


erotic [jör'tik] adj. of, relating to, or tending to arouse sexual desire or excitement. • [er-rot-i-cal-ly] adv. • [er-rot-i-cal-ness] n.

eroticism [jör'ti-zam] n. • [er-rot-i-sim] n. (often erotic) desire or excitement.

er-fo-to-ma-na-c [jör'to-ma-nay-ka] n. Psychiatry a delusion in which a person (typically a woman) believes that another person (typically of higher social status) is in love with them. • excessive sexual desire. • [er-fo-to-ma-nia] n. • [er-fo-to-ma-niac] ['mén, aik] n.

err [er] v. [intr.] formal be mistaken or incorrect: make a mistake: the judge had erred in ruling that the evidence was inadmissible. • [er-en] adj. (er-en'ing) sin: do wrong: the erring brother who had wrecked his life. • [er-rant] adj. 1 erring or straying from the proper course or standards: he could never forgive his daughter's errant ways. 2 archaic or poetic: traveling in search of adventure: that same lady errant.

er-ratic [jör'tik] adj. not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable: her breathing was erratic. • deviating from the normal or conventional in behavior or opinions: neighbors were alarmed by increasingly erratic behavior.


error [ər'ər] n. a mistake; spelling errors. • the state or condition of being wrong in conduct or judgment: the crash was caused by human error. • Baseball a misplay by a fielder that allows a batter to reach base or a runner to advance. • technical a measure of the estimated difference between the observed or calculated value of a quantity and its true value. • Law a mistake of fact or of law in a court's opinion, judgment or order. • Philately a postage stamp or item of postal stationary showing a major printing or perforation mistake.

to err is human; to err is -vritv. realize or acknowledge one's wrong-doing.

er-sat [ə rat, sät, zätz] adj. [of a product] made or used as a substitute, typically an inferior one, for something else: ersatz coffee. • not real or genuine: ersatz emotion.

Erse [jørz] n. the Scottish or Irish Gaelic language.

erstwhile [er-stäyl've] adj. former: his erstwhile rivals.

erudite [i'rəd, dət] adj. having or showing great knowledge or learning. • [eruditely] adv. • [eru'dition] ['rəd, di'shan] n.

erupt [ir'upt] v. [intr.] (of a volcano) become active and erupt lava, ash, and gases. • be ejected from an active volcano: hot lava erupted from the crater. • [of a] (of an explosive weapon) explode with fire and noise resembling an active volcano: smoke bombs erupted everywhere. • break out or burst forth suddenly and dramatically: fierce fighting erupted between the army and guerrillas. • give vent to anger, enthusiasm, amusement, or other feeling in a sudden and noisy way: the soldiers erupted in fits of laughter. • (of a pimple, rash, or other prominent mark) suddenly appear on the skin. • (of the skin) suddenly develop such a pimple, rash, or mark. • (of a tooth) break through the gums during normal development. • [er-up-tion] n. • [er-up-tive] adj.


eryth-vo-cyte [i'ər-tho-kit] n. a red blood cell that (in humans) contains hemoglobin and transports oxygen and carbon dioxide from the lungs to the tissues. • [erythron] n. • [ery-thro-lysis] n.

Es symb. the chemical element einsteinium.

escala-tate [es-kál-at] v. [intr.]: increase rapidly: the price of tickets escalated. • become or cause to become more intense or serious: [tr.] the disturbance escalated into a full-scale riot. • [escala-tion] n.

escala-tor [es-ká-lat] n. a moving staircase consisting of an endlessly circulating belt of steps driven by a motor, conveying people between the floors of a public building.

escapade [es-ká-pá] n. an act or incident involving exciting, daring, or adventure.

escaper [es-kápər] n. • [escaper] v. [intr.]: break free from confinement or control: two burglars had escaped from prison. • [escaper] escape or get free from (someone): he drove along I-84 to escape the police. • [escaper] succeed in avoiding: the officer escaped with a broken knee. • [tr.] a baby boy narrowly escaped death. • [tr.] fail to be noticed or remembered by (someone): the name escaped him. • [of] a gas, liquid, or heat leak from a container. • [tr.] (of words or sounds) issue involuntarily or inadvertently from (someone or their lips): a sob escaped her lips.

escaper [es-ká-pér] n. a person who has escaped from somewhere, esp. prison.

escaper [es-ká-per] n. • [escaper] v. [intr.]: an act of breaking free from confinement or control: the story of his escape from a POW camp. • an act of successfully avoiding something dangerous, unpleasant, or unwelcome: the couple had a narrow escape from serious injury. • a form of transient distraction from reality or routine: romantic novels should present escape from the dreary realities of life. • a leakage of gas, liquid, or heat from a container. • [escaper] n. • [escaper] escape key. Comput. a key on a computer keyboard that either interrupts the current operation or converts subsequent characters to a control sequence. • a garden plant or pet animal that has gone wild and (esp. in plants) become naturalized.


escarpment [es-kár-pənt] n. a schedule in a clock or watch that alternately checks and releases the train by a fixed amount and transmits a periodic impulse from the spring weight or weight to the balance wheel or pendulum. • the part of the mechanism in a piano that enables the hammer to fall back as soon as it has struck the string.

escapement [es-ká-pəmant] n. a mechanism in a clock or watch that alternately checks and releases the train by a fixed amount and transmits a periodic impulse from the spring weight or weight to the balance wheel or pendulum. • the part of the mechanism in a piano that enables the hammer to fall back as soon as it has struck the string.

escapism [es-kápizəm] n. the tendency to seek distraction and relief from unpleasant realities, esp. by seeking entertainment or engaging in fantasy. • [escapist] n. & adj.

escort [es-kört] n. • [es-kört] v. [tr.]: a vehicle, ship, or aircraft, or a group of these, accompanying another for protection, security, or as a mark of rank: a police escort. • a man who accompanies a woman to a particular social event. • a person on whom, typically a woman, who may be hired to accompany someone socially: [as adj.] an escort agency.

es-crit-card [es-krít-kárd] n. • [es-krít-card] v. [intr.] accompany (someone or something) somewhere, esp. for protection or security, or as a mark of rank: Shima escorted Junice to the door.

es-crow [es-krow] Law n. a bond, deed, or other document kept in the
escutcheon

est·imate

custom of a third party, taking effect only when a specified condition has been fulfilled. • [usu. as adv.] a deposit or fund held in trust or as a security: an escrow account. • the state of being kept in custody or trust in this way: the board holds funds in escrow.

es·cut·cho·n [es-kuch-on] n. 1. a shield or emblem bearing a coat of arms. 2. (also es·cut·cho·nate) a flat piece of metal for protection and often ornamentation, around a keyhole, door handle, or light switch. • es·cut·cho·ned adj.

ESE • abbr. east-southeast.

es·ker [esk-e-ər] n. Geol. a long ridge of gravel and other sediment, typically having a winding course, deposited by meltwater from a retreating glacier or ice sheet.

Es·ki·mo [es-ki-mo] n. (pl. same or -mos) 1. often Eskimos a member of an indigenous people inhabiting northern Canada, Alaska, Greenland, and eastern Siberia, traditionally living by hunting and fishing. 2. either of the two main languages of this people (Inuit and Yupik), forming a major division of the Eskimo–Aleut family. • ag. of or relating to the Eskimos or their languages. • tra. French Esquimaux, possibly from Spanish espasmado, esquimal, from Montagnais ayskimne 'netter of snowshoes,' probably applied first to the Micmac and later to the Eskimo.

ESL • abbr. English as a second language.

es·o·fa·gus [es-of-ag-us] n. (pl. -gi -gi] [L. -ga- gi or -gos-es] the part of the alimentary canal that connects the throat to the stomach; the gullet. In vertebrates it is a muscular tube lined with mucous membrane.

es·o·ter·ic [es-o'ter-ik] adj. ag. intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest: esoteric philosophical debates. • es·o·ter·ic·al·ly adv. • es·o·ter·i·cism n.

ESP • abbr. • electrosensory perception.

es·pa·dril·le [es-pa-dril] n. a light canvas shoe with a padded fiber sole.

es·pal·li·er [es-pal·y-ar]-yā] n. a fruit tree or ornamental shrub whose branches are trained to grow flat against a wall, supported on a framework.

es·pe·cial·ly [es-pesh-əl-i-ə] adv. • [L. -ca] better or greater than usual; special: these traditions are of especial interest to feminists. • for or belonging chiefly to one person or thing: her outburst was for my especial benefit.

es·pe·cial·ly [es-pesh-əl-i-ə] adv. 1. used to single out one person, thing, or situation over all others: a new song, written especially for Jonathan. 2. to a great extent; very much: he didn't especially like dancing.

Es·per·anto [es-pa·rə-nto] n. an artificial language devised in 1887 as an international medium of communication, based on roots from the chief European languages.

es·per·an·ti·an n. • [Iberian] a person who speaks Esperanto.

es·pi·on·age [es-pé-on-age] n. the practice of spying or of using spies, typically by governments to obtain political and military information.

es·plan·ade [es-plan-ad; -néd] n. a long, open, level area, typically beside the sea, along which people may walk for pleasure.

es·pous·al [es-pou-zal; -sal] n. 1. an act of adopting or supporting a cause, belief, or way of life; his espousal of the leftist cause. 2. archaic a marriage or engagement.

es·pose [es-pouz] v. [tr.] 1. adopt or support (a cause, belief, or way of life); she espoused communism. 2. archaic marry: Edward had espoused the Lady Grey. • es·poser n.

es·press·o [es-pres-o] n. (pl. -so-s) strong black coffee made by forcing steam through ground coffee beans.

es·prit de corps [ee-spir de korp] n. a feeling of pride, fellowship, and common loyalty shared by members of a particular group.

es·py [es-py] v. (pi. es·pies, pied) [Sp. ] poetically: catch sight of: she espied her daughter rounding the corner.

es·qui·re [es-kwir] n. • [L.] 1. Esquire (abbr. Esq.) a title appended to a lawyer's surname. 2. Brit. a polite title appended to a man's name when no other title is used, typically in the address of a letter or other documents: Robert A. Pearson Esquire. 3. hist. a young nobleman who, in training for knighthood, acted as an attendant to a knight. 4. a landed proprietor or country squire.

es·say [es-sā] n. 1. a short piece of writing on a particular subject.

2 formal an attempt or effort: a misguided essay. • a trial design of a postage stamp yet to be accepted.

es·say·ist [es-sā·ist] n.

es·sen·ce [es-sen·s] n. the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, esp. something abstract, that determines its character: conflict is the essence of drama. • a property of something of which it would not exist or be what it is.

es·sen·tial·ly [es-sen·tial·l] adv. absolutely necessary; extremely important: it is essential to keep up-to-date records. • fundamental or central to the nature of something or someone: the essential weakness of the plaintiff's case. • Biochem. (of an amino acid or fatty acid) required for normal growth but not synthesized in the body and therefore necessary in the diet. • Med. (of a disease) with no known external stimulus or cause; idiopathic: essential hypertension.

es·sen·tial·ness n.

es·sen·tial·ly [es-sen·tial·l] adv. • es·sen·tial·ly [es-sen·tial·l] n.

es·sen·tial·ity n.

es·sen·tial·ly [es-sen·tial·l] adv. • es·sen·tial·ly [es-sen·tial·l] n.

es·sen·tial·ly oil n. a natural oil typically obtained by distillation and having the characteristic fragrance of the plant or other source from which it is extracted.

EST • abbr. Eastern Standard Time (see EASTERN TIME).

es·teem [es·tem] n. • a system for self-improvement aimed at developing a person's potential through intensive group awareness and training.

es·tab·lish [es-tab·lish] v. [tr.] 1. set up (an organization, system, or set of rules) on a firm or permanent basis: the British established a rich trade with Portugal. 2. initiate or bring about (contact or communication): the two countries established diplomatic relations. 3. achieve permanent acceptance for (a custom, belief, practice, or institution). 4. achieve recognition or acceptance for (someone) in a particular capacity: he had established himself as a film star. 5. introduce (of a plant) to take root and grow. 6. introduce (a character, set, or location) into a film or play and allow its identification: establish the location with a wide shot. 7. show (something) to be true or certain by determining the facts: the police established that the two passports were forgeries. 8. conduct or manage; to: a group in a society exercising power and influence over matters of policy or taste, and seen as resisting change. 9. an influential group within a specified profession or area of activity: rubbishes of discontent among the medical establishment.

es·ta·tate [es·та·t] n. 1. an area or amount of land or property, in particular: an extensive area of land in the country, usually with a large house, owned by one person or organization. 2. all the money and property owned by a particular person, esp. at death: in his will, he divided his estate between his wife and daughter. 3. Brit. a housing or commercial development. 4. a particular state, period, or condition in life: programs for the improvement of man's estate. 5. grandeur, pomp, or state.

es·teem [es·tem] n. • respect and admiration, typically for a person: he was held in high esteem by colleagues. • es·teem n.

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rich in nutrients and so supporting a dense plant population, the decrease of which kills animal life by depriving it of oxygen.

**EVA** > *adj.* 1. *ethylyl vinyl acetate, a material used as cushioning in running shoes, consisting of a rubbery copolymer of ethylene and vinyl acetate.* 2. *in (space) extravehicular activity.*

**vacuole** 1. *vacuólica [vakúó-líka] [v. [tr.] in someone’s home] from a place of danger to a safer place: several families were evacuated from their homes. 2. *leave or cause the occupants to leave (a place of danger): fire alarms forced staff to evacuate the building. 3. *technical* remove air, water, or other contents from (a container): when it springs a leak, evacuate the pond.*


**evacuate** 1. *evacúate [e-vakúō-te] v. [tr.] in someone’s home] from a place of danger to a safer place: several families were evacuated from their homes. 2. *leave or cause the occupants to leave (a place of danger): fire alarms forced staff to evacuate the building. 3. *technical* remove air, water, or other contents from (a container): when it springs a leak, evacuate the pond.*

**even** 1. *even as at the very same time as: even as he spoke, their baggage was being unloaded. 2. *even if despite the possibility that; no matter whether:*

**even-handed** 1. *even-handed [e-vān-händ-id] adj. fair and impartial in treatment or judgment: an even-handed approach.*

**evening** 1. *evening [e-vén-ing] n. the period of time at the end of the day, usually from about 6 p.m. to bedtime: it was seven o’clock in the evening.*

**even-handedness** 1. *even-handed-ness [e-vān-händ-id-nas] n.*

**evening star** 1. *evening star* the planet Venus, seen shining in the western sky after sunset.

**even-song** 1. *even-song* (also Even-song) n. in the Christian Church a service of evening prayers, psalms, and canticles, conducted according to a set form, esp. that of the Anglican Church: choral evensong.

**event** 1. *event [e-vent] n. a thing that happens, esp. one of importance. 2. *planned public or social occasion: to raise money for charity. 3. *of several particular contests making up a sports competition: a sprinter in the 100- and 200-meter events.*

**eventful** 1. *eventful [e-ventful] adj. marked by interesting or exciting events: his long and eventful life.*

**event horizon** 1. *event horizon* n. Astron. a theoretical boundary around a black hole beyond which no light or other radiation can escape. 2. *fig. any point of no return: we’re nearing the event horizon of the presidential election.*

**eventide** 1. *even, tid* n. archaic or poetical, the end of the day: evening the moon flower opens its white, trumpetlike flowers at evenside.

**eventing** 1. *eventing* (also Eventing) n. an equestrian sport in which competitors must take part in each of several contests, usually cross-country, dressage, and show jumping. 2. *1960s: from ev. in three-day event, horse trials held on three consecutive days.*

**even-tual** 1. *eventual [e-ventyul] adj. occurring at the end of or as a result of a series of events; final; ultimate: it’s impossible to predict the eventual outcome of the competition.*

**eventual-ity** 1. *eventual-ity* n. (pl. -ties) a possible event or outcome: you must be prepared for all eventualities.

**ever** 1. *ever* adv. 1. *ever* at any time, ever or ever as were said to ruffle her:* used in comparisons for emphasis: they felt better than ever before. 2. *at all times: always; remains as popular as ever.*

**evergreen** 1. *evergreen* n. (pl.-greens) adj. of or denoting a plant that retains green leaves throughout the year: the glossy laurel is hardly and evergreen evergreen shrubs. Often contrasted with deciduous.

**even-toed** 1. *even-toed* n. a plant that retains green leaves throughout the year: evergreens planted to cut off the east wind.
existentialism

existentialism /ig'zort/ n. the fact or state of living or having objective reality: the need to acknowledge the existence of a problem. 1. continued survival: she helped keep the company alive when its existence was threatened. 2. a way of living: living in a city was more expensive than a rural life for many of a person's supposed current, future, or past lives on this earth: reducing the consequences of evil deeds sown in previous existences. 3. existent /ig'zist/ adj. formal, having reality or existence: the technique has been existent for some years. 4. existentialism /ig'zistlizam/ n. a philosophical theory or approach that emphasizes the existence of the individual person as a reservoir. 5. the act of exploring a subject or options so fully that there is nothing further to be said or discovered: the total exhaustion of viable systematic alternatives. 6. existentialist /ig'zistl/ n. 1. having undergone exhausting tests since becoming ill. 2. a person who is exempt from something, esp. the payment of tax. 3. a person who is exempt from exercising their heart and lung power, a task or activity done or practiced: there are exercises at the end of each chapter to check comprehension. 4. a process or activity carried out for a specific purpose, esp. one concerning a specified area or skill: an exercise in public relations, exercises (v. exercises) ceremonies, graduation exercises. 5. the use or application of a faculty, right, or process: anyone receiving a suspect package should exercise extreme caution. 6. the act of engaging in physical activity to sustain or improve health and fitness: take exercise every day. 7. the part of the body to promote or improve muscular strength: raise your knee to exercise the upper leg and hip muscles. 8. an animal to engage in exercise: she exercised her dogs before breakfast. 9. the thoughts of: worry or perplex: the knowledge that a larger margin existed made exercise impossible. 10. a physical or mental effort: he needs to exercise himself to try to find an answer. 11. equipped /ek'sjend; ek'sjenz/ v. used as a stage direction in a printed play to indicate that a group of characters leaves the stage: exit Hamlet and Polonius. 12. of a material) come apart or be shed from a surface in scales or layers: the bark exfoliates in papery flakes. 13. cause to do this: salt solutions exfoliate rocks on evaporating. 14. wash or rub (a part of the body) with a granular substance to remove dead cells from the surface of the skin: exfoliate your legs to get rid of dead skin. 15. often be exfoliated (shed) in a material in scales or layers. 16. of or relating to, consisting of, or using exfoliation. 17. giving off (vapor or fumes): the jungle exhaled moist of early morning. 18. waste gases or air expelled from an engine, turbine, or other machine in the course of its operation: buses spewing out black clouds of exhaust (i.e., exhaust fumes). 19. the system through which such gases are expelled: [adj.] exhaust pipe. 20. drain (someone) of their physical or mental resources; tired out; her day trip had exhausted her. 21. use up (resources or reserves) completely: the country has exhausted its treasury resources. 22. expired or, written about, or explore (a subject or options) so fully that there is nothing further to be said or discovered: she seemed to have exhausted all permissible topics of conversation. 23. a state of extreme physical or mental fatigue: he was out of breath. 24. the act of something up or of being used up completely: the rapid exhaustion of fossil fuel
free and responsible agents determining their own development through acts of the will. —exit-ual-ist n. & adj.

exit /'eksit/ · 'ekst/ n. 1 a way out, esp. of a public building, room, or passenger vehicle: a fire exit. 2 a ramp where traffic can leave a highway, major road, or traffic circle: he pulled off at an exit. 3 an act of going out of or leaving a place: American baby—exit(ed. the portrait) —patreit/ by; ——political baby) tr. belief expect. tr. a document —adv. —ex-it-ed.

ex-o-dus /eks'odas/ · 'eksa.das/ the second book of the Bible, which recounts the departure of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, their journey across the Red Sea and through the wilderness led by Moses, and the giving of the Ten Commandments. The events have been variously dated by scholars between 1500 and 1200 BCE.

ex-o-dus /eks'odas/ · 'eksa.das/ n. a mass departure of people, esp. emigrants. (the Exod-us) the departure of the Israelites from Egypt.

ex-officio /eks 'a>fisho/ · 'ekso.fisho/ adv. & adj. by virtue of one's position or status: as adj., an ex officio member of the committee.

ex-o-g-a-my /eks 'a.gam/ · 'eksa.gam/ n. Anthropol. the custom of marrying outside a community, clan, or tribe. Compare with endogamy. Biol. the fusion of reproductive cells from directly related or unrelated individuals; outbreeding; cross-pollination. —ex-o-g-a-mous /-mas/ adj.

ex-o-g-e-nous /eks 'a.genesis/ · 'eksa.genesis/ adj. of, relating to, or developing from external factors. Often contrasted with endogenous. Biol. growing or originating from outside an organism: an exogenous hormone. —ex-o-g-e-nous-ly /-la/ adv.

ex-o-hor-mone /eks 'a.hormon/ · 'eksa.hormon/ n. a hormone that is produced outside of the body, such as ACTH, estrogen, or insulin.

ex-on-e-r ate /ig 'zam.ət/ · 'ig.zam.ət/ v. 1 (esp. of an official body) absolve (someone) from blame for a fault or wrongdoing, esp. after due consideration of the case: the court-martial exonerated me. 2 (exonerate someone from) release someone from a duty or obligation. —ex-on-e-ra-tion n. —ex-on-e-ration-ally /-la.te/ adv.

ex-on-i-tant /ig 'zor.bont/ · 'ig.zor.bont/ adj. (of a price or amount charged) unreasonable; the exorbitant price of tickets. —ex-on-i-tant-ly /-la.ti/ adv.

ex-on-cise /eks 'a.siz/ · 'eksa.siz/ v. 1 (also excise). v. [tr.] drive out or attempt to drive out (an evil spirit) from a person or place: an attempt to exorcise an unquiet spirit. 2 (often be exorcised) rid a person or place of an evil spirit: infants were exorcised prior to baptism. —ex-on-cising /-ski/ n.

ex-on-ske-le-ton /eks 'a.skle.ton/ · 'eksa.skle.ton/ n. 1 a rigid external covering for the body in some invertebrate animals, esp. arthropods, providing both support and protection. Compare with endoskeleton. —ex-on-ske-le-tal /-tal/ · 'eksa.skle.tal/ adj.

ex-on-tic /ig 'zitik/ · 'ig.zitik/ adj. originating in or characteristic of a distant foreign country; exotic birds. —ex-on-tically /-ti/ adv. —ex-on-tic-ism /ig 'zitik.sizm/ n.

ex-on-tic dancer n. a street dancer.

ex-pand /'k'spand/ v. become or make larger or more extensive: [intr.] their business expanded into other hotels and properties. [tr.] wild birds cannot expand and contract their lungs. [intr.] Physics (of the universe) undergo a continuous change whereby, according to theory based on observed redshifts, all the galaxies recede from one another. [intr. (expand)] give a fuller version or account of. Anne expanded on the theory.

expansion /ik 'span.shan/ · 'ikspan.shan/ n. 1 an area of something, typically land or sea, presenting a wide continuous surface: the green expanse of the forest. 2 the distance to which something expands or can be expanded: the moth has a wing expanse of 20 to 24 mm.

expansion-ism /-ism n.

ex-pansion-card /ad- (also expansion board) · 'eksa.span.resho/ n. Comput. a circuit board that can be inserted in a computer to give extra facilities or memory.

expansion-seive /ik 'span.shen/ · 'ikspan.shen/ adj. 1 covering a wide area in terms of space or scope: extensive or wide-ranging: deep, expansive conquered. 2 of a person or their manner) open, demonstrative, and communicative: she felt expansive and inclined to talk. 3 tending toward economic or political expansion: expansive domestic economic policies. —expansion-ise-ly /-siv/ adv. —expansion-ise-ness n. —expansion-ise-ly /-siv/ adj.

expansion-llate /ik 'span.shel,at/ · 'ikspanتصل/ v. [tr.] speak or write at length or in detail: she expatiated on working-class novélists. —expansion-late n.

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expedious

expedient [ik'spɛdɪnt] adj. done with speed and efficiency: an expedient investigation. —expeditiously adv. —expeditiousness n.

expele [ik'spel] v. [ex-pelled, ex-pelling] (often be-dept) deprive (someone) of membership or involvement in a school or other organization: she was expelled from school. ■ force (someone) to leave a place, esp. a country. ■ force out or eject (something), esp. from the body: she expelled a foreign body. —expelled adj. —expellee [ik'spelɪ] n. —ex-pel-lor n.

expend [ik'spend] v. [expenditure] spend or use up (a resource such as money, time, or energy): we do not need to expend energy working on our marriage.

expendable [ik'spendəbl] adj. (of an object) designed to be used only once and then abandoned or destroyed: the need for unmanned and expendable launch vehicles. ■ of little significance when compared to an overall purpose, and therefore able to be abandoned: the region is expendable in the wider context of national politics. —expenda-bili-ty [ik'spendə-bɪlɪ-teɪ] n. —expenda-bility adv. —expendable-ness n.

expenditure [ik'spendɪ-tʃər] n. the amount of spending funded: the expenditure of taxpayers' money. ■ an amount of money spent: cuts in public expenditure.

expenditure [ik'spendɪ-tʃər] n. the cost required for something: the money spent on something: we ordered a special task, esp. one undertaken for another person: his hotel and travel expenses. ■ a thing on which one is required to spend money: tolls are a daily expense. —expenditure [ik'spendɪ-tʃər] n. the cost required for something: the money spent on something: we ordered a special task, esp. one undertaken for another person: his hotel and travel expenses. ■ a thing on which one is required to spend money: tolls are a daily expense. —expenditure [ik'spendɪ-tʃər] n. the cost required for something: the money spent on something: we ordered a special task, esp. one undertaken for another person: his hotel and travel expenses. ■ a thing on which one is required to spend money: tolls are a daily expense.

■ at someone's expense paid for by someone: the document was printed at the taxpayer's expense. ■ with someone as the victim, esp. of a joke: my friends all had a good laugh at my expense. ■ at the expense of so as to cause harm to or neglect of: the pursuit of profit at the expense of the environment.

expenditure [ik'spendɪ-tʃər] n. an arrangement under which sums of money spent in the course of business by an employee are later reimbursed by their employer.

expen-sive [ik'spensɪv] adj. costing a lot of money: keeping a horse is expensive. —expen-sively adv. —expen-siveness n.

experien-ce [ik'spi-rəns] n. practical contact with and observation of facts or events: he had already learned his lesson by painful experience. ■ the knowledge or skill acquired by such means over a period of time, esp. that gained in a particular profession by someone at work: candidates with the necessary experience. ■ an event or occurrence that leaves an impression on someone: for the younger players it has been a learning experience.

■ v. [tr] encounter or undergo (an event or occurrence): the company is experiencing difficulties. ■ an emotion: an opportunity to experience the excitement of New York. —experien-cial adj. —experien-cer n.

experienced [ik'sspərənt] adj. having knowledge or skill in a particular field, esp. a profession or job, gained over a period of time: an experienced social worker.

experimental [ik'spɛrɪ'mentəl] adj. relating to or involving: the experimental learning associated with employment.

experimen-tal adj. —experimen-tally adv.

experiments [ik'sper-əmɛnts] n. [pl] a scientific procedure undertaken to make a discovery, test a hypothesis, or demonstrate a known fact: laboratory experiments on guinea pigs. ■ a course of action tentatively adopted without being sure of the eventual outcome: the previous experiment in liberal democracy had ended in disaster.

■ v. [ik'sper-əmr] [intr. or tr] perform a scientific procedure, esp. in a laboratory: to determine something: she experimented on chickens as well as mice. ■ try out new concepts or ways of doing things: the designers experimented with new ideas in lighting. —experi-men-ta-tion [ik'sper-əmɛntə-ʃən] n. —experimen-ter n.

explorative [ik'spɛrə-mətʰəl] adj. of a new invention or product based on untested ideas or techniques and not yet established or finalized: an experimental drug. ■ of a work of art or an artistic technique involving a radically new and innovative style: experimental music. ■ of or relating to scientific experiments: experimental results.

expert [ik'spɛrt] n. a person who has a comprehensive and authoritative knowledge of or skill in a particular area: a financial expert. ■ having or involving such knowledge or skill: an expert witness. —expertly adv. —expertness n.

expertise [ik'spɛr-tiz] n. expert skill or knowledge in a particular field: technical expertise.

expel [ik'spel] v. [tr] (esp.) to be expelled by sacrifice. —expel-able [ik'spel-əbəl] adj. —expel-a-tion [ik'spel-ə-ʃən] n. ■ the ending of the fixed period for which a contract is valid: the expiration of the lease. ■ the end of a period of time: the expiration of three years. ■ technical exhaling of breath.

expire [ik'spler] v. [intr.] (of a document, authorization, or agreement) cease to be valid, typically after a fixed period of time: the old contract has expired. ■ expire a period of time: to come to an end: the three-year period has expired. ■ (of a person) breathe (air) from the lungs.

explain [ik'splæn] v. make (an idea, situation, or problem) clear to someone by describing it in more detail or revealing relevant facts or ideas: they explained that their lives centered on the religious rituals. ■ account for (an action or event) by giving a reason as excuse or justification: Callie found it necessary to explain her blackened eye. —explain-a-ble adj.

■ explain oneself expand on what one has said in order to make one's meaning clear: give an account of one's motives or conduct in order to excuse or justify oneself: he was too panicked to stay and explain himself to the policeman.

explana-tion [ik'splə'næʃən] n. a statement or account that makes something clear: the birth rate is central to any explanation of population trends. ■ a reason or justification given for an action or belief: my application was rejected without explanation.


explor-ative [ik'splə-rətɪv] adj. allow, to be able to account for, or understand: the English class system is not entirely explainable in terms of money.

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eye-brow /ˈbrɒ/ n. the strip of hair growing on the ridge above a person’s eye socket.

eye contact n. the act of looking directly into one another’s eyes: make eye contact with your interviewers.

eyeful /ˈɪfʊl/ n. inf. a long, steady look at something: they wanted to get an eyeful of Lily. n. a visually striking person or thing: she was quite an eyeful.

a quantity or piece of something thrown or blown into the eye.

eye-glass /ˈglɑːs/ n. a single lens for correcting or assisting defective eyesight, esp. a monocle. n. (eyeglasses) another term for GLASSES.

eye-hole /ˈhoʊl/ n. a hole to look through, esp. in a curtain or mask. n. the eye socket. n. an eyelet.

eye-lash /ˈlɑːʃ/ n. each of the short curved hairs growing on the edges of the eyelids, serving to protect the eyes from dust particles.

eyelet /ˈlɛt/ n. a small round hole in leather or cloth for threading a lace, string, or rope through. n. a metal ring used to reinforce such a hole. n. a fabric pierced with holes in an ornamental pattern.

eye level n. the level of the eyes looking straight ahead: pictures hung eye level.

eye-rid /ˈɪrɪd/ n. each of the upper and lower folds of skin that cover the eye when closed.

eye-liner /ˈlɪnər/ n. a cosmetic applied to the edges of the eyelids to make the eyes appear larger or more noticeable.

eye-piece /ˈpiːs/ n. the lens or group of lenses that is closest to the eye in a microscope, telescope, or other optical instrument.

eye-shade /ˈʃeɪd/ n. a translucent visor used to protect the eyes from strong light.

eye-shadow /ˈʃəʊd/ n. a colored cosmetic, typically in powder form, applied to the eyelids or to the skin around the eyes to accentuate them.

eye-shot /ˈʃɔt/ n. the distance for which one can see: he is within eyeshot.

eye-sight /ˈsaɪt/ n. a person’s ability to see: poor eyesight ended his plans for a naval career.

eye-sore /ˈsɔr/ n. a thing that is very ugly, esp. a building that disfigures a landscape.

eye-spot /ˈspæt/ n. 1 Zool. a light-sensitive pigmented spot on the bodies of invertebrate animals such as flatworms, starfishes, and microscopic crustaceans, and also in some unicellular organisms. 2 a rounded eyelike marking on an animal, esp. on the wing of a butterfly or moth.

eye-strain n. fatigue of the eyes, such as that caused by reading or looking at a computer screen for too long.

eye-stripe /ˈstrɪp/ n. a stripe on a bird’s head that encloses or appears to run through the eye.

eye-tooth /ˈtəʊt/ n. (pl. -teeth) a canine tooth, esp. one in the upper jaw.

eye-tracking (also eye-tracking) n. a technology that monitors eye movements as a means of detecting abnormalities or of studying how people interact with text or online documents: a company that uses eye tracking to evaluate visual products.

eye-wear /ˈweər/ n. things worn on the eyes, such as spectacles and contact lenses.

eye-wit-ness /ˈwɪtnəs/ n. [often as adj.] a person who has personally seen something happen and so can give a first-hand description of it: eyewitness accounts of the London blitz.

eye-rice /ˈeɪri/ n. variant spelling of AERIE.
FF | ʃɛl f| n. (pl. Fs or F's). 1 the sixth letter of the alphabet; denoting the next after E in a set of items, categories, etc. 2 the sixth highest or lowest class of academic marks (also used to represent “Fail”).

F  | abbr. 1 Fahrenheit; °F. 2 failure. 3 false. 4 farad(s). 5 Chem. faraday(s). 6 February. 7 fellow. 8 female. 9 fighter (in designations of U.S. aircraft types); the F117 Stealth fighter. 10 fort. 11 franc(s). 12 France. 13 French.

*sym.: the chemical element fluorine. *Physics force: F = ma.

f  | abbr. 1 farad. 2 farthing. 3 father. 4 fatherhood. 5 feet. 6 fermo. 7 football. 8 form. 9 Mus. force. 10 (in racing results) furlong(s). 11 franc. 12 from. 13 Chem. denoting electrons and orbitals possessing three units of angular momentum: f-orbitals.

f  | abbr. Symbol f-number.

fa | fæ | n. Mus. (in solmization) the fourth note of a major scale. 2 the note F in the fixed-do system.

FAA | abbr. Federal Aviation Administration.

fab | fæb | adj. fabulously wonderful.

fab-ble | /'fab-əl/ | n. a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral. 2 a story, typically a supernatural one incorporating elements of myth and legend. 3 myth and legend: monsters of fab. 4 a false statement or belief.

−v. [intr.] archaic tell fictitious tales. −tr. fabricate or invent (an incident, person, or story). Middle English; from Old French fable (noun), from Latin fabula (‘story; from fari ‘speak.’ −fa-bler | /'fabler/ | n.

fab-ric | /'fabrɪk/ | n. 1 cloth, typically produced by weaving or knitting textile fibers. 2 the walls, floor, and roof of a building. 3 fig. the essential structure of anything: the fabric of society.

fab-rice-ate | /'fabrɪkeɪt/ | v. [tr.] invent or concoct (something), typically with deceitful intent: officers fabricated evidence. 2 construct or manufacture (something, esp. an industrial product), esp. from prepared components. −fab-ric-a- tion | /'fabrɪkeɪʃən/ | n. −fab-ric-ator | n.

fab-u-list | /'fæbjuːlɪst/ | n. a person who composes or relates fables. 2 a liar, esp. a person who invents elaborate, dishonest stories.

fab-u-lous | /'fæbjuːləs/ | adj. extraordinary, esp. extraordinarily large. 2 adj. amazingly good; wonderful: a fabulous two-week vacation. 3 having no basis in reality; mythical: fabulous creatures. −fab-u-lous-ly | adv. −fab-u-lous-ness | n.

fa-cade | /'fæsəd/ | (also façade) n. the face of a building, esp. the principal front that looks onto a street or open space. 2 fig. an outward appearance maintained to conceal a less pleasant or credible reality.

face | fes | n. 1 the front part of a person’s head from the forehead to the chin, or the corresponding part in an animal. 2 the face as expressing emotion; an expression shown on the face: the happy faces of children. 3 a manifestation or outward aspect of something. 4 a person conveying a particular quality or association: this season’s squad has a lot of old faces. 2 the surface of a thing, esp. one that is presented to the view or has a particular function, in particular: a Geom. each of the surfaces of a solid; the faces of a cube; a vertical or sloping side of a mountain or cliff; the side of a planet or moon facing the observer. 3 the front of a building. 4 the plate of a clock or watch bearing the digits or hands. 5 the distinctive side of a playing card. 6 the side of a coin showing the head or principal design.

−v. [tr.] 1 be positioned with the face or front toward (someone or something); he turned to face her. 2 [intr.] have the face or front pointing in a specified direction. 3 [intr.] (of a soldier) turn in a particular direction. 2 confront and deal with or accept: honestly faced her to face facts.

face someone/something down 1 overcome someone or something by a show of determination; he faced down hecklers at the rally. 2 have (a difficult event or situation) in prospect: each defendant faced a 10-year sentence. 3 (of a problem or difficult situation) present itself and require action from (someone): suddenly faced with an emergency. 3 usu. be faced with cover the surface of (a thing) with a layer of a different material: basement walls faced with granite slabs.

phasal | v. face off take up an attitude of confrontation, esp. at the start of a fight or game. −faced | /fast/ | adj. in comb. red-faced.

−v. [intr.] face down with the face or surface turned toward the ground; he lay face down on his bed. −face the music be confronted with the unpleasant consequences of one’s actions. −face up with the face or surface turned upward to view: place the panel face up before cutting. −get out of someone’s face [usu. as imper] stop harassing or annoying someone: shut up and get out of my face. −in one’s face directly at or against one; as one approaches; she slammed the door in my face. −in the face of when confronted with: resolution in the face of the enemy. −in spite of; reform introduced in the face of considerable opposition. −lose face suffer a loss of respect; be humiliated: the code of conduct required that he strike back or lose face. −make a face (or faces) produce an expression on one’s face that shows dislike, disgust, or some other negative emotion, or that is intended to be amusing. −put a good (or brave or bold) face on something act as if something unpleasant or upsetting is not as bad as it really is: he tried to put a good face on the financial picture. −save face retain respect; avoid humiliation; an outcome that allows them all to save face. −throw something back in someone’s face reject something in a brusque or ungracious manner. −to one’s face openly in one’s presence: you’re telling me to my face I’m a liar.

face card | n. a playing card that is a king, queen, or jack of a suit.

face-less | /'fæsliːs/ | adj. remote and impersonal; anonymous: the faceless bureaucrats who made the rules. −face-less-ness | n.

face-lift (also face-lift) | n. a surgical operation to remove unwanted wrinkles by tightening the skin of the face. −fig. a procedure carried out to improve the appearance of something.

face-off | n. a direct confrontation between two people or groups; a face-off for the championship title. −ice Hockey the start or a restart of play, in which the referee drops the puck between two opposing players.

face-pow-der | n. flesh-tinted cosmetic powder used to improve the appearance of the face by reducing shine and concealing blemishes.

face-sav-ing | adj. preserving one’s reputation, credibility, or dignity: a face-saving solution for both sides. −face-saver | n.

face-set | /'fæsɛt/ | n. one side of something many-sided, esp. of a cut gem.

−adj. a particular aspect or feature of something: participation by the laity in all facets of church life. −zool. any of the individual units that make up the compound eye of an insect or crustacean. −face-set-ed | /'fæsɛtɪd/ | adj.−face-set-ting | /'fæsɛtɪŋ/ | n.

face-tious | /'fæsɪtʃəs/ | adj. treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humor. −face-tious-ly | adv. −face-tious-ness | n.

face value | n. the value printed or depicted on a coin, banknote, postage stamp, ticket, etc. −fig. the superficial appearance or implication of something: she felt the lie was unconvincing, but he seemed to take it at face value.
falafel /fe(r)/ (the complete tr. loyal, high female Muslim n. person) forge with Middle kept healing navigable (of |fr.) was a children's fair faint falling failed fair

fail-ing [fælɪŋ] n. a weakness, esp. in character; a shortcoming.
prop. in default of; in the absence of: she longed to be with him and failing that, to be on her own.

fail-safe adj. causing a piece of machinery or other mechanism to revert to a safe condition in the event of a breakdown or malfunction.

fail ure [fælər] n. lack of success; an unsuccessful person, enterprise, or thing; crop failures.
lack of success in passing an examination or test.
the omission of expected or required action: their failure to comply with the basic rules.
a lack of deficiency of a desirable quality: a failure of imagination.
the action or state of not functioning; symptoms of heart failure. the collapse of a business.

fail n. a sudden loss of consciousness: she hit the floor in a dead faint. faintly adv. faint-way n.

fail not the faintest int. have no idea. I haven't the faintest what it means.

faint-hearted ed adj. lacking courage; timid: they were feeling faint-hearted at the prospect of success.
faint-hearted-ly adv. faint-heart-edness n.
fail [fæl] adj. 1. (of a sight, smell, or sound) barely perceptible: the faint murmur of voices.
2. (of a hope, chance, or possibility) slight: re-model: there is a faint hope that the country may flee.
3. weak and dizzy: close to losing consciousness: the heat made him feel faint.
appar-ently feeble or lacking in strength: the faint beat of a butterfly's wing.

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fair adj. and adv. 1. (of a sight, smell, or sound) barely perceptible: the faint murmur of voices.
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fair n. a gathering of stalls and amusements for public entertainment.
a competitive exhibition of livestock, agricultural products, and household skills held annually by a town, county, or state and also entertaining literature and educational displays.
a promotion of particular products; the Contemporary Art Fair.

fair game n. a person or thing that is considered a reasonable target for criticism, exploitation, or attack.

fair-ground /'fe(r)ground/ (often fair-grounds) n. an outdoor area where a fair is held.

fair-ly /'fe(r)li/ adv. 1. with justice: he could not fairly be accused of wasting police time.
2. to quite a high degree: I was fairly certain she had nothing to do with the affair.
3. to an acceptable extent: I get along fairly well with everybody.

fair-mind-ed adj. impartial in judgment; just: a fair-minded employer.

fair play n. respect for the rules or equal treatment of all concerned.

fair-way /'fe(r)/ n. 1. the part of a golf course between a tee and the corresponding green, where the grass is kept short. 2. a navigable channel in a river or harbor.

fair-weather friend n. a person who stops being a friend in times of difficulty.

fair y /ˈfe(e)ri/ n. (pl. fair-i es) 1. a small imaginary being of human form that has magical powers, esp. a female one.
2. int. omen, a female homosexual.

fail belonging to, resembling, or associated with fairies: fairy gold.

fair-ly /ˈfe(r)/ adv. a fair-ly strong adj. a strong, firm, or honest person.

feeble adj. faint, weak, or insufficient: an unsuccessful operation.
failing health; a feeble old man.

fear /fɛə/ n. 1. a feeling of anxiety, dread, or apprehensiveness about a threat or danger: fear of death.
2. the condition of being afraid: a person with a fear of flying.
3. the act or state of being afraid: the fear of losing their job.

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fearfully /ˈfeəli/ adv. 1. in a lonely manner.
2. in a manner that is true to the facts or the original; she translated the novel faithfully.

faith-healing n. healing achieved by religious belief and prayer, rather than by medical treatment.

faithfulness /ˈfeθwəlɪs/ n. 1. a condition of being true to one's word or promises.
2. the state of being faithful; a faithful servant.

fake /fæk/ n. 1. something that is not genuine; a forgery or sham.
2. a person who pretends to be something that they are not.

fak-er /ˈfækər/ n. a person who pretends to be something that they are not.

fak-er-ly /ˈfækərli/ adv. in a pretentious manner.

false /fɔːl/ adj. 1. not true; incorrect: a false statement.
2. not genuine; a forgery or sham.

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people. • inappropriate and often offensive infomation of behavior or language; the unnecessary familiarity made me dislike him at once.

familiarize [faˈmiələˌraɪz] v. [tr.] give (someone) knowledge or understanding of something: to familiarize students with the microscope and its uses. • make (something) better known or more easily grasped: exercises which will help to familiarize the terms used. —familiarization n.

family fəˈmiːli] n. 1 [treated as sing. or pl.] a group consisting of parents and children living together in a household, or a group of people related to one another by blood or marriage: friends and family can provide support. 2 the children of a person or couple; she has the sole responsibility for a large family. 3 a group of people united by an activity or affiliation. • fam. principal taxonomic category that ranks above genus and below order, usually ending in -iscus (in zoology) or -acie (in botany). 4 a group of objects united by a significant shared characteristic. 5 all the descendants of a common ancestor. 6 a race or group of people sharing a common stock. 7 all the languages ultimately derived from a particular early language, regarded as a group; the Austro-Asiatic family. • adj. designed to be suitable for children as well as adults; a family newspaper.

fam-i-ly-plan-n ing ˈfæməliˌplænɪŋ n. [often as adj.] the practice of controlling the number of children in a family and the intervals between their births, particularly by means of artificial contraception or voluntary sterilization; family planning clinic: artificial contraception.

fam-i-ly-tree ˈfæməliˌtri] n. a diagram showing the relationships between people in several generations of a family; a genealogical tree. • all of the descendants and ancestors in a family.

fam-i-ne ˈfæməni] n. extreme scarcity of food. the famine of 1921–22. • a shortage: the cotton famine of the 1860s. • archaic hunger.

fam-ished ˈfæmɪʃd] adj. extremely hungry.

fam-ous ˈfæməs] adj. known about by many people; the country is famous for its natural beauty; a famous star.

fam-ous-ly ˈfæməsli] adv. 1 int. excellently: he wasn’t difficult at all—we got on famously. indicating that the fact asserted is widely known: they have famously reckless lifestyles.

Fan fæn] n. • adj. advanced or relating to this people or their language.

fan n. 1 an apparatus with rotating blades that creates a current of air for cooling or ventilation. 2 a device, typically folding and shaped like a segment of a circle when spread out, that is held in the hand and waved so as to cool the person holding it by causing the air to move. • a thing or shape resembling such a device when open. 3 a device for winnowing grain.

v. (fanned, fan-ning) fæn] v. [tr.] cool (esp. a person or a part of the body) by waving something to create a current of air: he fanned himself with his hat. • (of breath or a breeze) blow gently on. • brush or drive away with a looking-glass of a veil of smoke which she fanned away with a jewelled hand. • [int.]. Baseball & Ice Hockey: a player waving a stick and missing the ball or puck. • [int.]. Baseball (of a batter) strike out. • Baseball (of a pitcher) strike out (a batter). • [int.]. increase the strength of (a fire) by blowing on it or stirring up the air near it: gusty wind fanned fires in Yellowstone Park. • cause (a belief or emotion) to become stronger or more widespread: long-range weather forecasts fanned fears of drought damage. • dispense or radiate from a central point to a cover of area: the arriving passengers began to fan out through the town in search of lodgings.

fan n. • a person who has a strong interest in or admiration for a particular sport, art form, or famous person: football fans. • fan-dom n.

fan-taic ˈfæntɪk] n. a person filled with excess and single-minded zeal, esp. for an extreme cause. • int. a person with an obsessive interest and enthusiasm for something, esp. an activity: a fitness fanatic.

adj. filled with or expressing excessive zeal: his fanatic energy. —fan-tic-al adj. —fan-tic-ism ˈfæntɪkɪzəm] n.

fan belt n. (in a motor vehicle engine) a belt that transmits motion from the driveshaft to the radiator fan and the generator or alternator.

fan-cier ˈfænˌsiər] n. a connoisseur or enthusiast of something, esp. someone who has a special interest in or breeds a particular animal: a pigeon fancier.

fan-ciful ˈfænfəsəl] adj. (of a person or their thoughts and ideas) imaginative and unrealistic: a fanciful story about a pot of gold; existing only in the imagination or fancy. • designed to be exotically ornamental rather than practical: fanciful bonnets. —fan-ciful-ly ˈfænfələli] adv. —fan-ciful-ness n.

fan-cy ˈfænsi] adj. • fancier, -ciest əˈfænˌsiər, -ˈfænsi] n. elaborate in structure or decoration: a fancy computerized system. • designed to impress: converted fishing boats with fancy new names. • (esp. of foodstuffs) of high quality: fancy goldfishes. • (of flowers) of two or more colors. • (of an animal) bred to develop particular points of appearance: fancy goldfish.

v. (cies, -cied) ˈfænsi] 1 feel a desire or liking for; do you fancy a drink? • fancy oneself inf. have an unduly high opinion of oneself, or of one’s ability in a particular area: he fancied himself an amateur psychologist. • imagine; think: he fancied he could smell the perfume of roses.

n. (pl. -cies) 1 a feeling of liking or attraction, typically one that is superficial or transient: this does not mean that the law should change with ever-changing fancy. 2 the faculty of imagination: my research assistant is prone to flights of fancy. • a thing that one supposes or imagines, typically an unformed or tentative belief or idea: notion or whim: scientific fads and fancies. —fan-ci-ly ˈfænsələri] adv. —fan-ci-ness n.

fan-cy-free ˈfænsiˌfri] adj. free from emotional involvement or commitment to anyone: her recent divorce meant that she was footloose and fancy-free.

fan-da-go fəˈndaʊɡə] n. (pl. -goes or -gos) 1 a lively Spanish dance for two people, typically accompanied by castanets or tambourine. 2 a foolish or useless act or thing: the Washington inaugural fandango.

fan-fare ˈfænfə] n. a short ceremonial tune or flourish played on brass instruments, typically to introduce something or someone important. • fig. an ostentatious or noisy display: he turned 25 on Saturday with little fanfare.

Fang fæŋ] n. (also Fan; fæn] n. (pl. same or Fangs) 1 a member of a people inhabiting parts of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon. 2 the Bantu language of this people.

adj. of or relating to this people or their language.

fan-ga ˈfæŋɡə] n. a large, sharp tooth, esp. a canine tooth of a dog or wolf. • the tooth of a venomous snake, by which poison is injected. • the biting mouthpart of a spider. —fanged adj. [also in comb]

fan-light ˈfænlɪt] n. a small semicircular or rectangular window over a door or another window.

fanny ˈfænə] n. (pl. -nies) int. a person’s buttocks.

fan-ny pack n. a small pouch on a belt for money and small articles, worn around the waist or hips.

fan-ta-sia ˈfæntəsə] n. 1 a musical composition with a free form and often an improvisatory style. 2 a musical composition that is based on several familiar tunes, or a thing that is composed of a mixture of different forms or styles: that theater is a Moorish fantasia.

fan-ta-size ˈfæntəsai] v. intr. indulge in daydreaming about something desired: he fantasized about leaving. • intr. imagine (something that one wants to happen): fantasize destruction. —fan-ta-sist ˈfæntəst] n.

fan-tas-tic ˈfæntəstɪk] adj. 1 imaginative or fanciful; remote from reality; novels capable of mixing fantastic and realistic elements. • a of extraordinary size or degree: fantastic reductions. • of a shape or design bizarre or fantastical: elements of a fantastic, macabre building. • int. extraordinarily good or attractive: your support has been fantastic. —fan-tas-ti-cal adj. —fan-tas-ti-cally ˈfæntəstɪkəli] adv.

fan-tas-tic-sy ˈfæntəstɪk] n. (pl. -sies) 1 the faculty or activity of imagining things, esp. things that are impossible or improbable: his research had moved into the realm of fantasy. 2 the product of this faculty or activity: the scene is clearly fantasy. • a fanciful mental image, typically one on which a person dwells at length or repeatedly and which reflects their conscious or unconscious wishes. • an idea with no basis in reality: it is a misleading fantasy to suggest that the bill can be implemented. • a genre of imaginative fiction involving magic and adventure, esp. in a setting other than the real world. 2 a musical composition, free in form, typically involving variation on an existing work or the imaginative representation of a situation or story: a fantasia.

fan-zine ˈfænˌziːn; fænˈzɛn] n. a magazine, usually produced by amateurs, for fans of a particular performer, group, or form of entertainment.

faqui r n. variant spelling of FAKIR.
fashion /ˈfæʃən/ n. 1 a popular trend, esp. in styles of dress or manners of behavior: his hair is cut in the latest fashion. 2 the production and marketing of new styles of goods, esp. clothing and cosmetics: [as adj.] a fashion magazine. 3 a manner of doing something; the work is done in a particular fashion.

v. [tr.] make into a particular or the required form: the bottles were fashioned from green glass. n. (fashion something into) to use materials to make into: the skins were fashioned into boots and shoes. Middle English (in the sense 'make, shape, appearance,' also 'a particular make or style'; from Old French façon, from Latin factus-, from facere 'to do, make.'

after a fashion to a certain extent but imperfectly or unsatisfactorily: he could read after a fashion. in (or out) of fashion popular (or unpopular) and considered (or not considered) to be attractive at any time.

fashionable /ˈfæʃənəbl/ adj. characteristic of, influenced by, or representing a current popular trend or style: fashionable clothes. of (or a person) dressing or behaving according to the current trend. —fashion-able-ly adv.

fast /fæst/ adj. 1 moving or capable of moving at high speed. per- formed or taking place at high speed: taking only a short time: the journey was fast and enjoyable. 2 allowing people or things to move at high speed: a wide, fast road. 3 performing or able to perform a particular type of action quickly: a fast reader. Sports (of a playing field) likely to make the ball bounce or run quickly or to allow competitors to reach a high speed. 4 of (or a person or lifestyle) engaging in or involving exciting or shocking activities: the fast life she led in London. 5 of a clock or watch: showing a time ahead of the correct time: I keep my watch fifteen minutes fast. 6 firmly fixed or attached: he made a rope fast to each corner. 7 of (or friends) close and loyal. 8 of (a dye) not fading in light or when washed. 9 (of a film) needing only a short exposure. adv. 1 at high speed: he was driving too fast. 2 within a short time: they think they’re going to get rich fast. 3 so as to be hard to move; firmly or securely: the ship was held fast by the anchor chain. 4 of something or somebody sleeping so as to be hard to wake: they were too fast asleep to reply. 5 pull a fast one int. try to gain an unfair advantage: he pulled a fast one on us.

fasten /fæstn/ v. [tr.] 1 close or join securely: fasten your seat belts. [intr.] be closed or done up in a particular place or part in a particular way: a blouse that fastens down the back. [intr.] fix or hold in place: she fastened her belt around her neck. 2 (fashion something on/upon) direct one’s eyes, thoughts, feelings, etc., at an object: Maggie fixed her eyes on him. 3 fasten something on/upon (or be responsible to) blame hadn’t been fastened on anyone. —fasten-er n.

fastening /ˈfæstnɪŋ/ n. a device that closes or secures something.

fast food /ˈfæst fʊd/ n. food that can be prepared quickly and easily and is sold in restaurants and snack bars at a quick meal or to be taken out: [as adj.] a fast-food restaurant.

fastidious /ˈfæstiʃəs/ adj. very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail: he chooses his words with fastidious care. very concerned about cleanliness: the child seemed fastidious about getting his fingers sticky or dirty. —fastid-i-ous-ly adv. —fastid-i-ous-ness n.

fastness /ˈfæstnəs/ n. 1 a secure refuge, esp. a place well protected by natural features: a remnant of Himalayan fastness. 2 the ability of a material or dye to maintain its color without fading or washing away.

fast-talk /ˈfæst talk/ v. [intr.] pressure (someone) into doing something using rapid or misleading speech: [as adj.] fast-talking a fast-talking confidence trickster.

fast track /ˈfæst track/ n. a route, course, or method that provides for more rapid results than usual: a career in the fast track of the civil service.

v. (fast-track) [tr.] accelerate the development or progress of (a person or project): fast-tracked to the top of the corporate ladder.

fat /fæt/ n. 1 a natural oily or greasy substance occurring in animal bodies, esp. when deposited as a layer under the skin around certain organs. 2 a substance of this type. 3 a similar one made from plant products, used in cooking. 4 the presence of an excessive amount of such a substance, in a person or animal, causing them to appear corpulent. Chem. any of a group of natural esters of glycerol and various fatty acids, which are solid at room temperature and are the main constituents of animal and vegetable fat. some mistaken or unnecessary; fat in the state budget.

adj. (fatter, fatest) of (a person or animal) having a large amount of excess flesh: the driver was a fat, wheezing man. of (an animal bred for food) made plump for slaughter. containing much fat: fat bacon. 2 large in bulk or circumference: a fat cigarette. 3 of (or an asset or opportunity) financially substantial or desirable: a fat profit. 4 used ironically to express the belief that there is none or very little of something: fat chance she had of influencing him; a fat lot of good that’ll do him. 5 of (wood) containing a lot of pitch: fat pine.

v. (fat-ted, fatt-ing) (fat-ted) make or become fat: [as adj.] fattened a fattened duck. —fatness n. —fatnish adj.

fat off (or on) the fat of the land have the best of everything.

fat-talking /ˈfæt tæktɪŋ/ adj. causing death: a fat accident. 2 leading to failure or disaster: there were three fat failures in the strategy. —fat-ti-ly adv.

fat-tism /ˈfætizəm/ n. the belief that all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable. [a] a submissive attitude to events, resulting from such a belief. —fat-ti-ly adj. —fat-ti-ly-ness n.

fat-tity /ˈfætəl-i-tee/ n. —fat-ti-ly adj.

fat-tly /ˈfætli/ adv. 1 an occurrence of death by accident, in war, or from disease. 2 a person killed in this way. 3 helplessness in the face of fate: the plot's darker sense of fatality to cover its absurdities.

fat cat /ˈfæt kat/ n. a wealthy man or woman, esp. one who has made or inherited a large amount of money.

fat-cat /ˈfæt kæt/ n. 1 the development of events beyond a person's control, regarded as determined by a supernatural power: his injury is a cruel twist of fate. 2 the course of someone's life, or the outcome of a particular situation for someone or something, seen as beyond their control: he suffered this fate as his companion. 3 the inescapable death of a person: the gods led her to her fate. 4 the (Fates) Greek & Roman Mythol. the three goddesses who preside over the birth and life of humans.

be fated to be destined to happen, turn out, or act in a particular way.

Middle English: from Italian fatto or Old French fait, later (from their source, Latin fatum 'that which has been spoken,' from fata 'speak'.

seal someone's fate make it inevitable that something unpleasant will happen to someone.

fateful /ˈfætəl/ adj. having far-reaching and typically disastrous consequences or implications: a fateful oversight. —fate-fu-ly adv. —fate-fu-ness n.

fat-head /ˈfæt hɛd/ n. a stupid, unwise person. —fat-head-ed adj. —fat-head-ed-ness n.

fat-her /ˈfæt hər/ n. 1 a man in relation to his natural child or children.

2 a man who has continuous care of a child, esp. by adoption: an adoptive father, or foster father, or legal father.

3 a male animal in relation to its offspring. (usu. fathers) poetic/lo, an ancestor.

4 (also founding father) an important figure in the origin and early history of something. a man who gives care and protection to someone or something; the prince is widely regarded as the father of the nation.

5 the oldest or most respected member of a society or other body.

6 (the Father) (in) the Christian belief the first person of the Trinity; God.

7 (Father) poetic/lo used in proper names, esp. when personifying time or a river, to suggest an old and venerable character. Father Thames.

2 (also Father) (often as a title or form of address) a priest: pray for me, Father.

v. (be fathe) he was the father of: he fathered three children. he treated with the protective care usually associated with a father. he be the source or originator of: a culture which has fathered half the popular music in the world. the (father someone on) make (a woman) pregnant: he fathered a child on a one-night stand. Old English fardian; from an Indo-European root shared by Latin pater and Greek pater. —fatherhood /ˈfæt hərd/ n. —father-less adj. —father-less-ness n.

father-in-law /ˈfæt hər ˈln-lə/ n. (pl. fathers-in-law) the father of one's spouse.

father-land /ˈfæt hər ˈln-land/ n. (often the Fatherland) a person's native country, esp. when referred to in patriotic terms.

fatherly /ˈfæt hər li/ adj. of, resembling, or characteristic of a father, esp. in being protective and affectionate: he gave me such a kind and fatherly look. —father-li-ness n.

Father Time n. see Time (sense 1).

Pronunciation Key a as in age; up; over, fur; a hat; a; a; car; ch; chin; e let; o as in air; i as in by; y as in car; ng; g; go; a; loan, for; oh; tow; oo; good; oo go; ou out; sh she; th thin; thi then; thw why; zh vision
fearful - adj. 1. feeling afraid; showing fear or anxiety, causing or likely to cause people to be afraid; horrifying; a fearful accident. 2. adj. very great: he could cause a fearful commotion. —fear-ful-ly adv. —fear-ful-ness n.

fearless - adj. lacking fear; a fearless defender of freedom. —fear-ly adv. —fear-less-ness n.

fear-some - adj. frightening, esp. in appearance: the cat growled, displaying a fearsome set of teeth. —fear-some-ly adv. —fear-some-ness n.

fear-able - adj. possible: it is not feasible to put most finds on excavations on public display. int. likely: probable: the most feasible explanation. —fear-ability n. —fear-ably adv.

fear - n. 1. a meal, typically one in celebration of something. a plentiful supply of something enjoyable, esp. for the mind or senses; the concert season offers a feast of classical music. an annual religious celebration: the feast of St. Joseph. v. [intr.], eat and drink heartily. [on] eat large quantities of: feasting on barbecued chicken. 

Feast one's eyes on: gaze at with pleasure. Feast or famine either too much of something or too little.

Feast - n. an achievement that requires great courage, skill, or strength: the new printing presses were considerable feats of engineering.

Feather - n. any of the flat appendages growing from a bird's skin and forming its plumage, consisting of a partly hollow horned shaft fringed with vanes of barbs, from the tips of barbs, from one of these appendages and the rachis, one of the feathers or feather-like vanes fastened to the shaft of an arrow or a dart. (feathers) a fringe of long hairs on the legs of a dog, horse, or other animal. v. [intr.], to rotate the blades of a propeller about their own axes in such a way as to lessen the air or water resistance. [trans.], to vary the angle of attack of (rotor blades). Rowing turn (an oar) so that it passes through the air edgewise: he turned, feathering one oar slowly. float, move, or wave like a feather: the green fronds feathered against a blue sky. shorten or taper the hair by cutting or trimming: he had his hair feathered. Old English: feather, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin penne 'feather' and Greek peto 'wing'. —feather-er n. —feather-iness n. —feather-ly adv.

a feather in one's cap: an achievement to be proud of. a feather one's own nest: make money illegally and at someone else's expense.

Feather-bed - n. also feather-bed: a bed that has a mattress stuffed with feathers.

Feather-bedger - n. also feather-head (for): provide (someone) with advantageous economic or working conditions. (usu. as n. featherbedding) deliberately limit production or retain excess staff in business (in order to create jobs or prevent unemployment, typically as a result of a union contract.

Feather-brain - n. also feather-head (for): a silly or absent-minded person. —feather-brained adj.

Feather edge - n. a fine edge produced by tapering a board or other object.

Feather-pencils - n. the plumage of a bird or part of a bird. (feather-like markings or structure: traditional finishes such as marbling and feathering; the feathers of an arrow; fringes of hairs on the appendages or body of a dog.

Feather-stitch - n. ornamental zigzag sewing.

Feather-weight - n. a weight in boxing and other sports intermediate between bantamweight and lightweight. It ranges from 118 to 126 pounds (53 to 57 kg). a boxer or other competitor of this weight. a very light person or thing. a person or thing not worth serious consideration: he is an intellectual featherweight.

Feature - n. 1. a distinctive or aspect of something: safety features like dual airbags. (usu. features) a part of the face, such as the mouth or eyes, making a significant contribution to its overall appearance. 2. a newspaper or magazine article or a broadcast program devoted to the treatment of a particular topic: a feature on Detroit's downtown fisheries. (also feature film) a full-length film intended as the main item in a movie program.


Febriile - adj. having or showing the symptoms of a fever: a febrile illness. having or showing a great deal of nervous excitement or energy: a febrile imagination. —febril-i-ty n.

February - n. the second month of the year; in the northern hemisphere usually considered the last month of winter.

Feast - n. 1. a meal, typically one in celebration of something. a plentiful supply of something enjoyable, esp. for the mind or senses; the concert season offers a feast of classical music. an annual religious celebration: the feast of St. Joseph. v. [intr.], to rotate the blades of a propeller about their own axes in such a way as to lessen the air or water resistance. [trans.], to vary the angle of attack of (rotor blades). Rowing turn (an oar) so that it passes through the air edgewise: he turned, feathering one oar slowly. float, move, or wave like a feather: the green fronds feathered against a blue sky. shorten or taper the hair by cutting or trimming: he had his hair feathered. Old English: feather, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin penne 'feather' and Greek peto 'wing'. —feather-er n. —feather-iness n. —feather-ly adv.

Feathered - adj. —feather-ly adv. —feather-less adj.

Fed - n. 1. a federal agent or official, esp. a member of the FBI: I don't think he has any friends since he rattled to the Feds. shorten for FEDERAL RESERVE.

Fed - adj. past and part participle of FEED.

Federal - adj. having or relating to a system of government in which several states form a unity but remain independent in internal affairs: Russia's federal and local governments. to, of, or denoting the central government as distinguished from the separate units constituting a federation: the federal agency that provides legal services to the poor. of, relating to, or denoting the central government of the U.S. n. federalism. adj. federalist. 

Federal Reserve - the federal banking authority in the U.S. that performs the functions of a central bank and is used to implement the country's monetary policy, providing a national system of reserve cash available to banks.

Federal Union - see UNION (sense 3).

Federalism - n. of a number of states or organizations forming a single centralized unit, within which each keeps some internal autonomy. n. usu. as adj. (federated) form (states or organizations) into such a centralized unit: the 20 federated states in Mindanao. of or relating to such an arrangement: federate armies. —federate adj. —federative adj.

Federalization - n. a group of states with a central government but independence in internal affairs: an organization or group within which smaller divisions have some degree of internal autonomy: [in names] the best tug team in the WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION, the action of forming states or organizations into a single group with centralized control: a first step in the federation of Europe.

Federal Reserve - the federal banking authority in the U.S. that performs the functions of a central bank and is used to implement the country's monetary policy, providing a national system of reserve cash available to banks.

FEDORA - a soft, felt hat with a curled brim and the crown creased lengthwise. (model for the original U.S.) from Fodora, the title of a drama (1882) written by the French dramatist Victorien Sardou (1831-1908).

Fed up - adj. annoyed or upset at a situation or treatment: he was fed up with doing all the work.

Fee - n. 1. a payment made to a professional person or to a professional of a public body for advice or services. money paid as part of a special transaction, e.g., for a privilege or for admission to something: an admission fee. n. money regularly paid (esp. to a school or similar institution) for continuing services: high tuition fees.

Pronunciation Key: o [oʊ]; up; or; far; a; hat; a; a; ch; chin; a; let; e; see; (e) (ə) (i) (y); it; i; (a) (e) i; ng; (o) go; (o) war; for; o; oy; oo; good; oo goo; ou; out; sh; she; th; thin; th; then; (h) why; th; vision
exchange for military service, and vassals were in turn tenants of the nobles, while the peasants (villeins or serfs) were obliged to live on their lord's land and give him homage, labor, and a share of the produce, notionally in exchange for military protection. — feu-dal-ist n. — feu-du-lis-tic adj.

feu-der /ˈfeʊdər/ n. an abnormally high body temperature, usually accompanied by shivering, headache, and in severe instances, delirium. — a state of nervous excitement or agitation. I was mystified, and in a fever of expectation. — the excitement felt by a group of people about a particular public event: election fever reaches its climax tomorrow.

feu-er-few /ˈfeʊərˌfiːw/ n. a bushy annual plant (Tanacetum parthenium) of the daisy family, with feathery leaves and daisy-like flowers. It is used in herbal medicine to treat headaches.

feu-er-ish /ˈfeʊərɪʃ/ adj. having or showing the symptoms of a fever. — displaying frenzied excitement or energy: the mood was spent in a whirl of feverish activity. — feu-er-ishly adv. — feu-er-ish-ness n.

few /fiː/ adj. & pron. 1 (a few) a small number of: [as adj.] may I ask a few questions? [as pron.] I will recount a few of the stories told me. 2 used to emphasize how small a number of people or things is: [as adj.] had few friends; [as pron.] few thought to challenge these assumptions: one of the few who survived: [comparative] a population of fewer than two million.

n. [as pl. n.] (the few) the minority of people; the elect; a world that increasingly belongs to the few. — Old English Teâne, fæowan; from an Indo-European root shared by Latin genus and Greek paous 'small'.

— every few in once in every small group of (typically units of time); she visits every few weeks. — few and far between scarce; infrequent: my inspired moments are few and far between.

— no fewer than used to emphasize a surprisingly large number; there are no fewer than seventy different brands.

— not few a considerable number; his fiction has caused not a few readers to see red.

— quite a few a fairly large number; quite a few people can do it.

fey /fɛɪ/ adj. giving an impression of vague unworldliness: his mother was a strange, Fey woman.

— having supernatural powers of clairvoyance.

fez /fɛz/ n. (pl. fezes) a flat-topped conical red hat with a black tassel on top, worn by men in some Muslim countries (formerly the Turkish national headdress).

— fezzed adj.

ff Mus. abbrev. fortissimo.

ff, abbr. folios. following pages.

FHA abbr. Federal Housing Administration.

fi-an-cée /fɪˈænsi/ n. a man who is engaged to be married.

fi-an-céé /fɪˈænsi/ n. a woman who is engaged to be married.

fi-as-co /fɪˈæskəʊ/ n. (pl. -cos) a thing that is a complete failure, esp. in a ludicrous or humiliating way: his plans turned into a fiasco.

fi-at /fɪˈeɪt/ n. a formal authorization or proposition; a decree: trying to regulate by fiat. — an arbitrary order: worthless by bureaucratic fiat.

fib /fɪb/ n. a lie, typically an unimportant one.

— fib-bled, fib-bing int. tell such a lie. — fib-ber n.

fi-ber /ˈfɪbr/ (Brit. fi-bre) n. 1 a thread or filament from which a vegetable tissue, mineral substance, or textile is formed. — a substance formed of such threads or filaments; ordinary syntheses don't breathe as well as natural fibers: high strength carbon fiber. — a threadlike structure forming part of the muscular, nervous, connective, or other tissue in the human or animal body: muscle fibers / fig. she wanted him with every fiber of her being. — fig. strength of character: a weak person with no fiber.

2 dietary material containing substances such as cellulose, lignin, and pectin, which are resistant to the action of digestive enzymes.

fi-ber-board /ˈfɪbərˌbɔːd/ (Brit. fi-bre-board) n. a building material made of wood or other plant fibers compressed into boards.

fi-ber-glass /ˈfɪbərˌɡlɑːs/ (Brit. fi-bre-glass) also trademark Fiberglas™ n. 1 a reinforced plastic material composed of glass fibers embedded in a resin matrix. 2 a woollike mass of glass filaments, used in insulation.

3 a textile fabric made from woven glass filaments.

fi-ber-optics /ˈfɪbərˌɒptɪks/ pl. n. [treated as sing.] the use of thin flexible fibers of glass or other transparent solids to transmit light signals, chiefly for telecommunications or for internal examination of the body. — [treated as pl.] the fibers and associated devices so used. — fi-ber-optic adj.

Fi-bo-nacci series (also Fibonacci sequence) n. Math. a series of numbers in which each number (Fibonacci number) is the sum of the two preceding numbers. The simplest is the series 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, etc.
thing off defend oneself against an attack by someone or something:
well-favored people are better able to fight off infectious disease.

> n. a violent confrontation or struggle. a boxing match, a battle or war: the country was not eager for a fight with the U.S. a vigorous struggle or campaign for or against something: a long fight against cancer. an argument or quarrel: she had a fight with her husband. the inclination or ability to fight or struggle: Ginny felt the fight trickle out of her.

> a fight with fire use the weapons or tactics of one's enemy or opponent, even if one finds them distasteful. a fight a losing battle be fated to fail in one's efforts: he was fighting a losing battle to win the war.

- fight & flight n. the instinctive physiological response to a threatening situation, which reads one either to resist forcibly or to run away.

- fighter /fiˈtər/ n. 1 a person or animal that fights, esp. as a soldier or a boxer. a person who does not easily admit defeat in spite of difficulties or opposition. 2 a fast military aircraft designed for attacking other aircraft: designers employ stealth to render a fighter invisible to radar.

- fighting chance n. a possibility of success if great effort is made: they still have a fighting chance of clinching the title.

- fig-ment /ˈfɪɡmənt/ n. a thing that someone believes to be real but that exists only in their imagination: it really was Rosal and not a figment of her overheated imagination.

- fig-u-rat-ion /ˈfɪɡyəˌreɪʃən/ n. 1 ornamentation by means of figures or designs. Mus. use of florid counterpoint: the figuration of the accompaniment comes out strongly. 2 allegorical representation: the open parable may be read as a figuration of the main idea behind the novel.

- fig-u-rat-ive /ˈfɪɡyəˌrətɪv/ adj. 1 departing from a literal use of words: metaphorical: gold, in figurative language, was "the tears wept by the sun." 2 (of an artist or work of art) representing forms that are recognizable from life. -fig-u-rat-ive-ly adv. -fig-u-rat-ive-ness n.

- fig-u-re /ˈfɪɡər/ n. 1 a number, esp. one that forms part of official statistics or relates to the financial performance of a company: official census figures. 2 a numerical symbol, esp. any of the ten in Arabic notation: the figure 7. 3 one of a specified number of digits making up a larger number, used to give a rough idea of the order of magnitude: their market price runs into five figures. [in comb. a six-figure salary] an amount of money: a figure of two thousand dollars. figures arithmetical calculations: she has no head for figures. 2 a person's bodily shape, esp. that of a woman: she had always been so proud of her figure. 3 a person of a particular kind, esp. one who is important or distinctive in some way: Williams became something of a cult figure. 4 a representation of a human or animal form in drawing or sculpture: starkly painted figures. 3 a shape defined by one or more lines in two dimensions (such as a circle or a triangle), or one or more surfaces in three dimensions (such as a sphere): a red ground with white and blue geometric figures. a diagram or illustrative drawing, esp. in a book or magazine. -fig-u-rate v. [aT] calculate or work out (an amount or value) arithmetically. 3 intr. think, consider, or expect to be the case: [for] years, teachers had figured him for a dullard. 4 [of a recent event or newly discovered fact] be logical and unsurprising: well, she supposed that figured.

- fig-u-rate v. [aT] on intr. count or rely on something happening or being the case in the future: anyone thinking of salmon fishing should figure on paying $200 a day. figure something out intr. solve or discover the cause of a problem: he was trying to figure out why the camera wasn't working. figure someone out reach an understanding of a person's actions, motives, or personality. Middle English (in the sense 'distinctive shape of a person or thing,' 'representation of something material or immaterial,' and 'numerical symbol': among others, from Old French figure (noun), figurer (verb), from Latin figura 'shape, figure, form'; related to figure 'form, contain.' -fig-u-re of speech v. a word or phrase used in a nonliteral sense to add rhetorical force to a spoken or written passage: calling her a crab is just a figure of speech.

- figure eight n. an object or movement having the shape of the numeral eight.

- figure-head /ˈfɪɡərˌhed/ n. 1 a nominal leader or head without real power. 2 hist. a carving, typically a bust or a full-length figure, set at the prow of a sailing ship.

- figure skating n. the competitive sport of ice skating in prescribed patterns (or layouts) and choreographed free skating. -fig-u-er-skater n.

- figure-ur-ine /ˈfɪgjərərɪn/ n. a statuette, esp. one of a human form.

- figure-wort /ˈfɪg.ərɔt/ n. a distributed herbaceous plant (genus Scrophularia) with purplish-brown two-flowered flowers. The figure family (Scrophulariaceae) includes the snapdragons, toadflaxes, foxgloves, and mulelins.

- fig-a-ment /ˈfɪgəˌment/ n. a slender threadlike object or fiber, esp. one found in animal or plant structures: a filament of cellulose. a conducting wire or thread with a high melting point, forming part of an electric bulb or vacuum tube and heated or made incandescent by an electric current. -fig-a-ment-ar-y /ˌfɪgəˌmentəri/ adj. -fig-a-ment-ous /ˌfɪɡəˌmentəs/ adj.

- fig-a-ris /ˈfɪgəˌrias/ n. Med. a tropical disease caused by the presence of threadlike parasitic nematodes, esp. in the lymph vessels, where heavy infestation can result in elephantiasis. The worms are transmitted by biting flies and mosquitoes.

- fig-bert /ˈfɪgbərt/ n. a cultivated hazel tree (genus Corylus) that bears edible oval nuts. the nut of this tree.

- fig-ch West /ˈfɪg.ət/ intr. pitter or steal (something, esp. a thing of small value) in a casual way. -fig-cher n.

- fig-file n. a folder or box for holding loose papers that are typically arranged in a particular order for easy reference: a file of correspondence. the contents of such a folder or box. Compu. a collection of data, programs, etc., stored in a computer's memory or on a storage device under a single identifying name: do you want to save this file?

- fig-v. [aT] place (a document) in a cabinet, box, or folder in a particular order for preservation and easy reference: fig. he still had the moment file away in his memory. submit (a legal document, application, or charge) to be placed on record by the appropriate authority: criminal charges were filed against the firm | [intr. the company had filed for bankruptcy. (of a reporter) send (a story) to a newspaper or news organization.

- fig- on file in a file or filing system.

- fig-file n. a line of people or things one behind another: Plains Cree warriors riding in file down the slopes. Mt. a small detachment of men: a file of English soldiers had ridden out from Perth.

- fig-v. [aT] [of a group of people] walk one behind the other, typically in an orderly and solemn manner: the mourners filed into the church.

- fig-file n. a tool with a roughened surface used for smoothing or shaping a hard material: it is possible to make the necessary notch with a file.

- fig-v. [aT] smooth or shape (something) with such a tool: when I have nothing else to do, I file my nails. remove something by grinding it off with a file: the engine numbers were filed away.

- fig-filed /ˈfɪgd/ adj. pounded or powdered sassafras leaves used to flavor and thicken soup, esp. gumbo. mid 19th cent.: from French, past participle of fileir 'to twist.'

- file-sharing n. the practice of or ability to transmit files from one computer to another over a network or the internet: file-sharing software.

- fig-filet /ˈfɪgfl/ n. 1 French spelling of FILLET, used esp. in the names of French or French-sounding dishes: filet de boeuf. 2 a kind of net or lace with a square mesh.
find (fînd) v. [tr.] 1. obtain (something) by devious or dishonest means: Ted attended all the football games he could finagle tickets for. 2. [intr.] act in a devious or dishonest manner: they wrangled and finagled over the fine points. —finagler n.

fin-al [fin/äl] adj. coming at the end of a series: the final version of the report. 2. reached or designed to be reached as the outcome of a process or a series of events: the final cost will run into six figures. 3. allowing no further doubt or dispute: the decision of the panel is final. n. 1. the last game in a sports tournament or other competition, which decides the winner; 2. a series of games constituting the final stage of a competition. 3. an examination at the end of a term, academic year, or particular class. 4. the principal note in a mode.

finale [fin/á-lé] n. the last part of a piece of music, a performance, or a public event, esp. when particularly dramatic or exciting: the festival ends with a grand finale.

final-ize [fi-nál-iz] v. [t. & i.] to produce or agree on a finished and definitive version of: efforts intensified to finalize plans for postwar reconstruction. —final-ization n.

final-ly [fin/a-lé] adv. after a long time. Typically involving difficulty or delay: he finally arrived to our sight. n. as the last in a series of related events or objects: a referendum followed by local, legislative, and, finally, presidential elections. 2. used to introduce a final point or reason: finally, it is common knowledge that the travel broadens the horizons. 3. in such a way as to put an end to doubt and dispute; to dispel finally the belief that auditors were clients of the company.

fin-an-ce [fi-nance] n. the management of large amounts of money, esp. by governments or large companies. 2. monetary support for an enterprise: housing finance. 3. (finances) the monetary resources and affairs of a country, organization, or person.

finan-cial [fi-nan/shal] adj. of or relating to finance: an independent financial advisor. —financially adv.

finan-cier [fin/ə nis/ər] n. a person concerned with the management of large amounts of money.

fin-back [fi-naf/bæk] n. a large baleen whale (Balaenoptera physalus) with a small dorsal fin, a dark gray back, and white underparts.

finc [fīn] n. a seed-eating bird that typically has a stout bill and colorful plumage. The true finches belong to the family Fringillidae (the finch family), which includes canaries and crossbills. Other finch species belong to the bunting or sparrow families.

find [fînd] v. (past found) 1. discover or perceive by chance or unexpectedly: Lindsey looked up to find Neil watching her. 2. discover (someone or something) after a deliberate search: in this drizzle it could be hard to find a bath. 3. [find oneself] discover oneself to be in a surprising or unexpected situation: phobia sufferers often find themselves in situations that are perceived as dangerous. 4. summon up (a quality, esp. courage) with an effort: I found the courage to speak. 5. [be found often be recognized or discover (someone or something) to be present: vitamin B12 is found in dairy products. 6. become aware of: discover to be the case: [tr.] the majority of staff find the magazine to be informative and useful. 7. ascertain (something) by study, calculation, or inquiry; find the solution: 8. [find oneself] discover the fundamental truths about one's own character and identity: I did psychotherapy for years—I wanted to find myself. 9. (Law) of a court formally declare to be the case: [tr.] he was found guilty of speeding. 10. (Law) of a court found that a police lab expert had fabricated evidence. 11. (of a thing) reach or arrive at, either of its own accord or without the human being known: water finds its own level. 12. find one's way reach one's destination by one's own efforts, without knowing in advance how to get there: he found his way to the front door. 13. (of a thing) come to be in a certain situation: each and every boy found his way into a suitable occupation.

fine adj. 1. of high quality, fine wines. 2. worthy of or eliciting admiration: what a fine human being he is. 3. good; satisfactory: relations in the group were fine. 4. used to express one's agreement with or acquiescence to something: he said such a solution would be fine. 5. in good health and feeling well: I'm fine, just fine. 6. and you? 7. (of the weather) bright and clear: it was another fine winter day. 8. (of speech or writing) sounding impressive and grand but ultimately insincere: fine words seemed to produce few practical benefits. 9. denoting or displaying a state of good, though not excellent, preservation in stamps, books, coins, etc. 10. (of gold or silver) containing a specified high proportion of pure metal; the coin is 90% fine gold. 11. (of a thread, filament, or person's hair) thin: I have always had fine and dry hair. 12. (of a point) sharp: I sharpened the leads to a fine point. 13. consisting of small particles: the soil was all fine silt. 14. having or requiring an intricate delicacy of touch: exquisitely fine work. 15. (of something abstract) subtle and therefore perceived only with difficulty and care: the fine distinctions between the new and old definitions of refine. 16. (of feelings) refined; elevated: you might appeal to their finer feelings.

adv. 1. in a satisfactory or pleasing manner; very well: "And how's the job-hunting going?" "Oh, fine."

(v) make or become thinner. —finely adv. —fineness n.

1. do be entirely satisfactory: an onlooker will do fine. 2. be healthy or well: the baby's doing fine. 3. do something in a satisfactory manner: he was doing fine acquiring all the necessary disciplines in finance. 4. the finer points of the more complex or detailed aspects of: he went on to discuss the finer points of his work. —one's finest int the polite of a particular city: Moscow's finest. 5. one's finest hour the time of one's greatest success. 6. one fine day at some unspecified or unknown time, you want to be the Chancellor one fine day.

fine n. a sum of money exacted as a penalty by a court of law or other authority: a parking fine.

v. (often be fined) punish (someone) by making them pay a sum of money, typically as a penalty for breaking the law. —fine-ably adv. —fine-able adj.

fine-ness [fin/ə nis] n. in (musical directions) the place where a piece of music finishes (when this is not at the end of the score but at the end of an earlier section that is repeated at the end of the piece).

fin-art n. 1. (also fine arts) creative art, esp. visual art, whose products are to be appreciated primarily or solely for their imaginative, aesthetic, or intellectual content. 2. an activity requiring great skill or accomplishment: he'll have to learn the fine art of persuasion.

fine print n. printed matter in small type. —informations or conditions printed in an agreement or contract, esp. ones that may prove unfavorable: the fine print of the loan document.

fin-ery [fīn/ə rē] n. expensive or ostentatious clothes or decoration.

fines herbes [fin/ər bez/ər] pl. n. mixed herbs used in cooking.

fin-nesse [fīn/əs] 1. intimate and refined delicacy: orchestral playing of great finesse. 2. artful subtlety, typically that needed for tactful handling of a difficulty; clients want advice and action that calls for considerable finesse. —finesse n. —finesse v. 1. (often finesse something) to do in a subtle and delicate manner.

fin-tooth comb (also fine-toothed comb) n. a comb with narrow teeth that are close together.

Pronunciation Key a as in ago, up; or as in fur; a as in hat; a as in ate; a as in car; ch as in chin; e as in let; 8 as in see; e as in ear; 8 as in if; i as in by; i as in car; ng as in sing; 8 as in go; h as in how; o as in to; 8 as in go; 8 as in out; sh as in she; th as in thin; th as in then; b as in why; 8 as in vision;
search or analysis of something: you should check the小微企业 print with a fine-tooth comb.

**fine-tune** v. [tr.] make small adjustments to (something) in order to achieve the best or a desired performance.

**fink** v. [intr.] one of the four slender joints associated with the pincer and used in a variety of activities or enterprises. 2 int. inform on (someone) to the police: you fingered me for those burglaries.

**finger** n. a slender part of the hand suitable for grasping objects.

**finger print** n. an impression or mark made on a surface by a person's fingertips, esp. as used for identifying individuals from the unique pattern of whorls and lines: the police had his fingerprints on file.

**finger tip** n. the tip of a finger.

**finger printing** n. the process of recording fingerprints.

**finger printing** n. the process of recording fingerprints.

**finger nail** n. the flat, hard part of the hand, typically used to point or press objects.

**finger paint** n. thick paint designed to be applied with the fingers, esp. by young children.

**finger print** n. [intr.] (esp. of children) apply paint with the fingers.

**finger-print** n. the tip of a finger.

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fish-net /fish, net/ n. a fabric with an open mesh resembling a fishing net: [as adj] black fishnet stockings.

fish-plate /fish, plæt/ n. a flat piece of metal used to connect adjacent rails in a railroad track: a flat piece of metal with ends like a fish's tail, used to position masory.

fish sauce n. a Thai and Vietnamese sauce used as a flavoring or condiment, prepared from fermented anchovies and salt.

fish stick n. a small, oblong piece of fish fillet, usually coated in breadcrumbs and fried.

fish story n. an incredible or far-fetched story.

fish-tail /ˈfish, tɛl/ n. [usu. as adj] an object that is forked like a fish's tail: an uncontrolled sideways movement of the back of a motor vehicle: he hit the brakes, sending the car into a fishtail.

fish-wr i /ˈfish, wɜːr/ (fish-er, fish-est) 1 of, relating to, or resembling fish or a fish; a fishy smell. 2 adj arousing feelings of doubt or suspicion: I'm convinced there is something fishy going on. —fishy adj.

fish-sickle /ˈfish, sɪlk/ n. (fishy) adj. (of an atom or element) able to undergo nuclear fission. (chiefly of rock) easily split. —fish-sil-i-ty /ˈfish, sɪl, ɪ, tɪ/ n.

fish-sion /ˈfish, ʃən/ n. the action of dividing or splitting something into two or more parts. short for NUCLEAR FISSION. Biol. reproduction by means of a cell or organism dividing into two or more new cells or organisms: bacteria divide by transverse binary fission. —fish-so-na-ble adj.

fish-sure /ˈfish, ʃər/ n. a long, narrow opening in the form of a crack or groove, especially at the edges of the plates or sections of a large marine vessel. —fish-sure adj.

fish-fight /ˈfiʃ, fɪt/ n. a fight with bare fists.

fish-cuffs /ˈfiʃ, kʌfz/ pl. n. fighting with the fists.

fish-tul-a /ˈfish, tʊlə, -tʊlə/ n. (pl. -tas or -təs) Med. an abnormal or surgically made passage between a hollow or tubular organ and the body surface, or between two hollow or tubular organs. —fish-tula-r /ˈfiʃ, tʊlər/ adj.

fishy adj. (fishier, fishiest) 1 of a kind or manner resembling fish or a fish; fishy smell. 2 adj arousing feelings of doubt or suspicion: I'm convinced there is something fishy going on. —fishy adj.
component or article: fitted with a new handle. join or cause to join together to form a whole: fit two pieces should fit the crime. of an attribute, qualification, or skill make (someone) suitable to fulfill a particular role or undertake a particular task.

phrasal v. fit in (of a person) be socially compatible with other members of a group; he feels he should become like fit in with his friends. fit into (of a thing) be in harmony with other things within a larger structure. produce ideas that fit in with an established approach. fit into (of a person or thing) constitute part of a particular situation or larger structure: where do your sisters fit in?

fit someone/something in (or into) find room or have sufficient space for someone or something: you're never too busy to fit exercise into your life. fit someone/something out (or up) provide with the necessary equipment, supplies, clothes, or other items for a particular function: the cabin had been fitted out to a high standard.

n. the particular way in which something, esp. a garment or component, fits around or into something: the dress was a perfect fit. the particular way in which a thing matches something else: a close fit between teachers' qualifications and their teaching responsibilities.

fitly adv. —fitness n.

fit to be tied adv. very angry: Daddy was fit to be tied when I separated from Hugh. see (or think) fit consider it correct or acceptable to do something: why did the company say fit to give you the job?

fit n. a sudden uncontrollable outbreak of intense emotion. laughter, complaint, rage, or other action; a fit of temper. a sudden attack of convulsions and/or loss of consciousness, typical of epilepsy, and some other medical conditions.

have (or throw) a fit be very surprised or angry: my mother would have a fit if she heard that.

in fits of laughter adv. highly amused: he had us all in fits.

in (or by) fits and starts with irregular bursts of activity: the machine tends to go forward in fits and starts.

fitful adj. active or occurring spasmodically or intermittently; not regular or steady: a few hours' fitful sleep. —fitfully adv. —fitfulness n.

fitly adv. 1. made or shaped to fill a space or to cover something closely or exactly: the blouse has a fitted bodice. 2. attached to or provided with a particular component or article; a pistol fitted with a match-grade barrel. 3. having the appropriate qualities or skills to do something: physicists may not be fitted for involvement in industrial processes.

fitter n. 1. a person who puts together or installs machinery, engine parts, or other equipment: a pipe fitter. 2. a person who supervises the cutting, fitting, or alteration of garments or shoes.

fitting (fit/ing) n. 1. (often fittings) a small part on a machine or a piece of furniture or equipment: wooden fittings made of walnut. 2. the action of forming something in particular; the installing, assembling, and adjusting of machine parts.

adj. suitable or appropriate under the circumstances; right or proper: a fitting reward. it was a fitting that he should reply. 2. (in comb.) fitted around or to something or someone in a specified way: loose-fitting trousers.

five adj. 1. cardinal number equivalent to the sum of two and three; one more than four, or half of ten. 2. a group or unit of five people or things: the planets are divided into five groups or five-inch balls.

five years old. five o'clock. a size of garment or other merchandise denoted by five. a playing card or domino with five spots or pips. a five-dollar bill. Old English fife, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch vijf and German fünf, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin quinque and Greek pente.

fivefold adj. five times as great or as numerous: a fivefold increase in funding. having five parts or elements.

fivefolds adj. to five times; to five times the number or amount: the unemployment rate rose almost fivefold.

Five Nations n. n. hst. the original Iroquois confederacy, comprising the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca peoples. Compare with Six Nations.

Five o'clock shadow n. a dark appearance on a man's face caused by the slight growth of beard that has occurred since he last shaved.

five-dollar bill n. a banknote of five dollars.

five-star adj. (esp. of a hotel or restaurant) given five stars in a grading system, typically one in which this denotes the highest class or quality: a luxury five-star hotel. (in the U.S. armed forces) having or denoting the highest military rank (awarded only in wartime), distinguished by five stars on the uniform: a five-star general.

fit [fit] v. [of] 1. fasten (something) securely in a particular place or position; fix the clump on a tail. lodge or implant (an idea, image, or memory) firmly in a person's mind: he turned back to fix the scene in his mind. 2. (of something on/upon) direct one's eyes, attention, or mind steadily or unswervingly toward: I fixed my attention on the tower. (of a person's eyes, attention, or mind) be directed steadily or unswervingly toward: her gaze fixed on him. attract and hold (a person's attention or gaze); their tense relationship fixed your attention.

fit someone with look at someone unwaveringly: she fixed her with an unwavering stare. mend, repair; fix something or attach something to do the necessary work to improve or adapt something; we want to fix up the house before we sell it. make arrangements for (something): organize: he's sent her on ahead to fix things up.

fit something to (or for) someone to have something; provide someone with something: I'll fix you up with a room. arrange for someone to do something: or go out with someone (be fixing to do something) intend or planning to do something: you're fix to get into trouble. decide or settle on (a specific price, date, course of action, etc.): no date has yet been fixed for a hearing. discover the exact location of (something) by using radar or visual bearings or astronomical observation: he fixed his position. make (something) permanent or static in nature: the rate of interest is fixed for the life of the loan. make (a dye, photograph, painting, or the like) permanent: fix. preserve or stabilize (a specimen) with a chemical substance prior to microscopy or other examination: specimens were fixed in buffered formalin. influence the outcome of (something; esp. a race, contest, or election) by illegal or underhanded means: the foundation denies fixing races. put (an enemy or rival) out of action, esp. by killing them: don't you tell, or I'll fix you good! take an injection of a narcotic drug. castrate or spay (an animal; neuter)

fit [fit] v. [of] 1. a difficult or awkward situation from which it is hard to extricate oneself: predicament; how on earth did you get into such a fix? 2. a dose of a narcotic drug to which one is addicted; he hadn't had his fix. 3. a solution to a problem, esp. one that is hastily devised or makeshift: representatives trying to find cheap fixes to meet their obligations.

fixation n. 1. an obsessive interest in or feeling about someone or something. Psychoanalysis the arresting of part of the libido at an immature stage, causing an obsessive attachment. technical direct one's eyes toward.

fixation n. 1. an obsessive interest in or feeling about someone or something. Psychoanalysis the arresting of part of the libido at an immature stage, causing an obsessive attachment. technical the action of concentrating the eyes directly on something.

fixative [fix/ə tiv] n. 1. a chemical substance used to preserve or stabilize biological material prior to microscopy or other examination. a substance used to stabilize the volatile components of perfume. a liquid sprayed on to a pastel or charcoal drawing to fix colors or prevent smudging. a substance used to keep things in position or stick them together.

fixer [fix/ə r] n. 1. a person who makes arrangements for other people, esp. of an illicit or devious kind. 2. a substance used for fixing a photographic image.

fixity [fix/ə tē] n. the state of being unchanged or permanent.
fizz /ˈfɪz/ v. [intr.] (of a liquid) produce bubbles of gas and make a hissing sound. ⇒ make a buzzing or crackling sound. ⇒ fig. move with or display excitement, exuberance, or liveliness: anticipation began to fizz through his veins.

ㄧ. n. effervescence: the champagne had lost its fizz. ⇒ int. an effervescent drink, esp. sparkling wine. ⇒ fig. exuberance: liveliness. ⇒ a buzzing or crackling sound: the fizz of 300 sparklers.

fizzle /ˈfɪzl/ v. [intr.] end or fail in a weak or disappointing way: the revolt fizzled out at yesterday's meeting. ⇒ make a feeble hissing or spluttering sound: the light fizzed and flickered.

ㄧ. n. a failure: in the end the fireworks were a fizzle. ⇒ a feeble hiss or spluttering sound.

fizzy /ˈfɪzɪ/ adj. (fizzy-er, fizzy-est) (of a beverage) containing bubbles of gas: effervescent. ⇒ fizzy-ly adv. —fizzy-ness n.

flame /fleɪm/ n. 1 a piece of equipment or furniture that is fixed in position in a building or vehicle: a light fixture. ⇒ (fixtures) articles attached to a house or land and considered legally part of it so that they normally remain in place when an owner moves. ⇒ int. a person or thing that is established in a particular place or situation: palm readers were a fixture in most 4th-nightclubs.

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flamenco v. [into] burn and give off flames. n. [trans] set (something) alight. adj. figurative. shine or glow like a flame: her hair flamed against the light. n. figurative (of an intense emotion) appears suddenly and fiercely: (of a person's face) suddenly become red with intense emotion: esp. anger or embarrassment. n. [trans] Compute send (someone) abusive or vitriolic electronic mail messages.

phraseal v. flame out (of a jet engine) lose power through the extinction of the flame in the combustion chamber. n. fail, esp. conspicuously. —flame-less adj. —flame-like adj. Noun phrase

v. in flames on fire; burning fiercely: the plane plunged to the ground in flames. n. old-fashioned.
flicker [flɪkər] n. [tr.] flicker. [intr.] a. a brief, rapid, intermittent change in light intensity or color. —flicker v. [intr.] to blink or move rapidly and erratically, as light or sound. —flickerless adj.

flesh [flɛʃ] n. 1. the soft, living tissue covering the body of humans and other animals. 2. the part of something that has a physical existence or a solid form. 3. the raw meat of a person or animal. 4. (esp. inf. n.) the body or physical appearance of a person. —flesh-ly adj. —flesh-less adj.

fleas [flɛz] n. pl. n.pl. 1. small, blood-sucking insects that live on the skin of animals. 2. (pl. or sing.) a flea bag. —flea-bit-ten adj. bitten by or infested with fleas.

fleecy [ˈflɪksi] adj. like wool or fur; soft and silky. —fleec-i-er, -i-est adj.

fleece [fleks] n. 1. a soft, thick, woolly fabric used for clothing. 2. (esp. inf. n.) a large sum of money. —fleece v. [intr. & tr.] to leave quickly or suddenly, often under stress or in an emergency. —fleeceless adj.


fleeting moment n. a moment that is very short and fleeting. —fleedi-ness n.

fleeting sight n. a brief glimpse of something that is quickly or suddenly seen.

fleshy [ˈflɛʃi] adj. relating to or characteristic of flesh; having to do with the body or its parts. —fleshi-er, -i-est adj.

fleshy-haired adj. having hair that is soft and silky, like wool.

flesh and blood n. a person or family; a real or human being.

flesh pot n. a place where people go to spend money and relax, often involving drinking and other forms of entertainment.


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flack - n. American woodpecker (genus Colaptes) that often feeds on ants on the ground, esp. the common flacker (C. auratus).

flack-er  n. a small handbill advertising an event or product.

2. a speculat-ive investment.

flight  n. 1. the action or process of flying through the air: an act of flying; a journey made through the air or space, esp. a scheduled journey made by an airline: the movement or trajectory of a projectile or ball through the air: a poetic/sift. swift passage of time. 2. a group of creatures or objects flying together, in particular: a flock or large body of birds or insects in the air, esp. when migrating: flights of Canada geese. 3. a group of aircraft operating together, esp. an air force unit of about six aircraft. 3. the action of fleeing or attempting to escape.

a. a series of steps between floors or levels: four flights of stairs.

b. an extravag-ant or far-fetched idea or account: ridiculous flights of fancy.

c. in full flight—escalating as fast as possible: having gained momentum in a run or activity: when this jazz pianist is in full flight he can be mesmerizing.

d. take flight 1. (of a bird) take off and fly. 2. fig. my celebrity took flight. 2. flee.

e. flight-attendant  n. a steward or stewardess on an aircraft.

f. flight deck  n. 1. the cockpit of a large aircraft. 2. the deck of an aircraft carrier, used for takeoff and landing.

flight-less  adj. (of a bird or an insect) naturally unable to fly.

flightless  adj. flight-less.

flight-y  adj. (flight-ier, flight-iest) fickle and irresponsible.

flight-ly adv. flight-ness.

fli-er  n. 1. a person or thing that flies, esp. in a particular way: a nervous flier. 2. a person who flies something, esp. an aircraft. 2. a small handbill advertising an event or product.

flick  v. (flipped, flitting) [tr.] swindle (someone) with a confidence game.

flick-flack  n. nonsensical or insincere talk.

flick-er  v. [intr.] —a n.:

a. a flick and flutter. —b. a n.

fling  v. (flung, flinging) [v. past flung] (flung) [tr.] throw or hurl forcefully; fig. I was flung into jail. 2. move or push (something) suddenly or violently.

fling oneself (also fling) throw oneself headlong: he flung himself down at her feet.

fling something (also fling) hoolishly engage in or begin on (an enterprise).

fling something on/off put on or take off clothes carelessly or rapidly.

utter (words) forcefully.

1. a. a short period of enjoyment or wild behavior.

b. a short, spontaneous sexual relationship.

2. short for HIGHLAND FLING.

flint  n. 1. a hard gray rock occurring chiefly as nodules in chalk. 2. a piece of this stone, esp. as flaked or ground in ancient times to form a tool or weapon.

a. a piece of flint used with steel to produce an igniting spark or in (modern use) a piece of an alloy used similarly, esp. in a cigarette lighter. 3. to use to express how hard and unyielding something or someone is: mean faces with eyes like flints.

flinty  adj.

flint-lock  n. 1. an old-fashioned type of gun fired by a spark from a flint. 2. [usu. as adj.] the lock on such a gun.

flit  v. (flipped, flitting) 1. turn over or cause to turn over with a sudden sharp movement. 2. [tr.] move, push, or throw (something) with a sudden sharp movement: she flitted a few coins on the bar. 3. turn (an electrical appliance or switch) on or off. 4. [tr.] toss a coin to decide an issue: [intr.] do you want to flip for it? 5. [tr.] buy and sell (a property) quickly and profitably using a fraudulent evaluation of its worth.

flit  v. [intr.] suddenly become deranged or very angry: he had clearly flipped under the pressure.

suddenly become very enthusiastic: I saw it and just flipped.

phraseal adv. flip through look or search quickly through (a volume or a collection of papers): just flip through the phone book and pick a number.

n. a sudden sharp movement.

adj. glib; flippantly.

flip one's lid (or one's wig) int. suddenly become deranged or lose one's self-control.

flip  n. another term for EGGNOG.

flip chart  n. a large pad of paper bound so that each page can be turned over at the top to reveal the next, used at presentations.

flip-flop  n. 1. a light sandal, typically of plastic or rubber, with a thong between the big and second toes.

2. a backward somersault or handspring.

3. int. an abrupt reversal of policy. 4. Elect: a switching circuit that works by changing from one stable state to another, or through an unstable state back to its stable state, in response to a trigger pulse.

v. [intr.] 1. perform a backward somersault or handspring: fig. Julie's stomach flip-flopped.

2. int. make an abrupt reversal of policy.

flip-pant  adj. not showing a serious or respectful attitude: a flippant remark.

flip-pcy  n. —adj. flip-pantly.

flip-per  n. a broad flat limb without fingers, used for swimming by various sea animals such as seals, whales, and turtles.

a. a flat rubber attachment worn on the foot for underwater swimming. b. a pivoted arm in a pinball machine, controlled by the player and used for sending the ball back up the table.

flip side  n. int. the less important side of a pop single record.

a. another aspect or version of something, esp. its reverse or its unwanted concomitant: virtues are the flip side of vices.

flirt  v. (florted, flitting) [tr.] behave as though attracted to or trying to attract someone, but without serious intentions: it amused him to flirt with her.

flirt with experiment with or show a superficial interest in (an idea, activity, or movement) without committing oneself to it seriously: a painter who had flirted briefly with Cubism. 2. with deliberately expose oneself to (danger or difficulty): to flirt with death.

flirt  v. [intr.] a person who habitually flirts.

flirtation  n. —adj. flirt-atory.


flirt-y  adj. —adv.

flit  v. (flitted, flitting) [intr.] move swiftly and lightly.

flitter  v. [intr.] move quickly in an apparently random or purposeless manner.

fluff  v. [intr.] a. a flitting movement.

float  v. [intr.] 1. rest or move on or near the surface of a liquid without sinking. 2. cause (a buoyant object) to rest or move in such a way: the trees were floated and flowed downstream. 3. be suspended freely in a liquid or gas. 4. move or hover slowly and lightly in a liquid or air, or drift. 5. float above or around (of a rumor, idea, or substance) object. 6. (of a sight or idea) come before the eyes and mind. 7. (in sports) make the ball travel lightly and effortlessly through the air: he floated the kick into the net. 3. put forward (an idea) as a suggestion or test of reactions. 4. [tr.] offer the shares of (a company) for sale on the stock market for the first time. 4. (of a currency) fluctuate freely in value in accordance with supply and demand in the financial markets: a policy of letting the pound float. 5. [tr.] allow (a currency) to fluctuate in such a way.

n. 1. a thing that is buoyant in water, in particular: a small object attached to a fishing line to indicate when a fish bites. 2. a cork or buoy supporting the edge of a fishing net. 3. a hollow or inflated organ enabling an organism (such as the Portuguese man-of-war) to float in the water. 4. a hollow structure fixed underneath an aircraft enabling it to take off and land on water. 5. a device floating on the surface of a liquid that forms part of a valve apparatus controlling flow in and out of the enclosing container, e.g., in a toilet tank or a carburetor. 2. a platform mounted on a truck and carrying a display in a parade. 3. a hand tool with a rectangular blade used for smoothing plaster or concrete.

4. a soft drink with a scoop of ice cream floating in it: root-beer floats.

float-a-ble  adj. —n. float-a-ble.

float-ation  n. variant spelling of FLOTA-TION.

float-ing  adj. —n. buoyant or suspended in water or air. 2. not settled in a definite place. Fluctuating or variable.

floating rib  n. any of the lower ribs that are not attached directly to the breastbone.

floc-cle  n. a small clump of material that resembles a tuft of wool.
flotsam /f³lôtsəm/ n. the wreckage of a ship or its cargo found floating on or washed up by the sea. Compare with JETSAM. 1 fig. people or things that have been rejected or discarded as worthless.
2 flotsam and jetsam useless or discarded objects.

flounce /flouns/ v. [intr] go or move in an exaggeratedly impatient or angry manner; he stood up in a fury and flounced out. 2 move with exaggerated motions; she flounced around, flinging.
1 n. an exaggerated action, typically intended to express one’s annoyance or impatience; she left the room with a flounce.

flounder /flouðər/ v. [intr] 1 struggle or stagger helplessly or clumsily in water or mud. 2 fig. struggle mentally; show or feel great confusion.
flounder-er /flouðərer/ n. a small flatfish (families Pleuronectidae and Bothidae) that typically occurs in shallow coastal water. See FLATFISH.

flour /flouər/ n. 1 a powder obtained by grinding grain, typically wheat, and used to make bread, cakes, and pastry. 2 fine soft powder obtained by grinding the seeds or roots of starchy vegetables; corn flour. 3 any fine powder; wood flour. —flour-y adj.

flour-ish /flouərɪʃ/ v. [intr] 1 [of a person, animal, or other living organism] grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way, esp. as the result of a particularly favorable environment: wild plants flourish on the banks of the lake. 2 develop rapidly and successfully; the organization has continued to flourish. 3 [of a person] be working or at the height of one’s career during a specific period; the caricaturist who flourished in the early years of this century. 4 [of an action or effort] happen or proceed in a way (something) around to attract the attention of others; flourishing a bottle of whiskey.
2 n. 1 a bold or extravagant gesture or action, made esp. to attract the attention of others; with a flourish, she whirled them inside. 2 an instance of suddenly performing or developing in an impressively successful way. 3 an elaborate rhetorical or literary expression. 4 an ornamental flowing curve in handwriting or scrollwork. 2 Mus. a fanfare played by brass instruments. 5 a flourish of trumpets. 6 an ornamental musical passage.

flourish-er /flouərɪʃər/ n. 1 an instrument that is played at the beginning or end of a composition. 2 Middle English; from Old French floweris-, lengthened stem of florir, based on Latin flore, from flus, flor-‘a flower’. The noun senses ‘ornamental curve’ and ‘floral expression’ come from an obsolete sense of the verb, ‘adorn (originally with flowers).’ —flourish-er n.

flout /flaut/ v. [intr] openly disregard (a rule, law, or convention): these companies still flout basic ethical practices. 1 [intr] archaic mock; scoff.

flow /flou/ v. [intr] 1 [esp. of a fluid] move along or out steadily and continuously in a current or stream. 2 (of the sea or tidal river) move toward the open sea: compare with EBB. 3 (of clothing or hair) hang loosely in an easy and graceful manner; her red hair flowed over her shoulders. 4 circulate continuously within a particular system; an electric current flows through a circuit. 5 (of people or things) go from one place to another in a steady stream, typically in large numbers: orders keep flowing in.
2 n. 1 the action or fact of moving along in a steady, continuous stream. 2 the rate or speed at which such a stream proceeds. 3 the rise of a tide or river. 4 compare with EBB. 5 a steady, continuous stream of something: the flow of traffic. 6 menstrual discharge. 7 the gradual permanent deformation of a solid under stress, without melting.

—flow (of) something: 1 go with the flow int. be relaxed and accept a situation, rather than trying to alter or control it. 2 in full flow v. tr. technical cause (a finely divided solid) to acquire the characteristics of a fluid by a process of flowing. 3 fluid-i-ty /flouˈdʒətɪ/ n. 4 fluid-i-dy /flouˈdʒɪdɪ/ adv.

fluel-horn /flouˈhɔːrn/ also fluel-gorn /fluˈɡɔːrn/ n. a valved brass musical instrument like a cornet but with a mellower tone.

fluid /ˈflɔɪd/ n. 1 a substance that has no fixed shape and yields easily to external pressure; a gas or (esp.) a liquid; a cleaning fluid. 2 adj. [of a substance] able to flow easily; a fluid medium; not settled or stable; likely or able to change; our plans are still fluid; somehow cleverly graceful; her movements were fluid and beautiful to watch. 3 of (a clutch or coupling) using a liquid to transmit power. —fluid-i-c /ˈflɔɪdɪk/ adj.

fluid-ize /ˈflɔɪdɪz/ v. intr. technical cause (a finely divided solid) to acquire the characteristics of a fluid by a process of flowing. —fluid-i-za-tion /ˈflɔɪdɪzaʃən/ n.

fluid ounce (abbr. fl. oz.) n. a unit of capacity equal to one sixteenth of a pint (approx. 0.03 liter).

fluke /flʌk/ n. 1 unlikely chance occurrence, esp. a surprising piece of luck; their triumph was no fluke. 2 fluky adj.

fluke2 /flʌk/ n. 1 a parasitic flatworm (classes Trematoda and Monogenea, phylum Platyhelminthes) that typically sucks and hookers for attachment to the host. 2 a flatfish, esp. a flounder.

flum-ox /flʌməks/ v. [usu. be flumoxed] intr. perplex (someone) greatly; bewildered: he was completely flumoxed by the question.
fly [flī] v. [flies, flown, flying] n. 1. the action or process of flowing or flowing out. 2. Med. an abnormal discharge of blood or other matter from within the body. 3. usu. the flux (archaic) diarrhea or dysentery. 4. continuous change: the whole political system is in a state of flux. 5. Physics the rate of flow of a fluid, radiant energy, or particles across a given area. 6. the amount of radiation or number of particles incident on an area in a given time. 7. the total electric or magnetic field passing through a surface. 8. a substance mixed with a solid to lower its melting point, as used in soldering or a substance added to a furnace to smelt glass or glassmaking that combines with impurities to form slag.

fly [flī] v. 1. fly back to New York this evening. 2. fly over; fly over the air: fly over a mountain. 3. fly past; fly past the time: fly past a day.

fly [flī] v. 1. fly attack: fly at something verbally or physically.

fly [flī] v. 1. an opening at the crotch of a pair of pants, covered with a zipper or buttons and typically covered with a flap. 2. a flap of material covering the opening or fastening of a garment or of a tent. 3. the flies the space over the stage in a theater. 4. Baseball short for fly ball.

flush [flōsh] v. 1. [flies, flown, flying] n. 1. of a person’s skin or face: becoming red and hot, typically as the result of illness or strong emotion. 2. of or relating to a person’s skin or face: becoming red and hot, typically as the result of illness or strong emotion. 3. of or relating to the body: becoming red and hot, typically as the result of illness or strong emotion.

flush [flōsh] adj. 1. completely level or even with another surface; the gates are flush with the adjoining fence. 2. of printed text: not indented or protruding; each line is flush with the margin. 3. of a door: having a smooth surface, without indented or protruding panels or moldings.

flush [flōsh] n. 1. the state of being flush; to be in the flush of youth. 2. the flush, a collection of ornamental features, esp. money: the hounds are flush with funds. 3. (of money) plentiful: the wars when cash was flush.

flush [flōsh] v. adv. so as to be level or even: the screw must flush with the surface. 4. as to be directly centered: squarely: hit the bull’s eye on the jaw. 5. flushness n.

flush [flōsh] v. n. in poker: a hand of cards all of the same suit.
fly

fly the coop n. make one's escape. fly high n. be very successful; prosper. fly in the face of n. to openly at variance with (what is usual or expected): to fly in the face of convention. fly into a rage (or temper) v. become suddenly or violently angry. fly off the handle adj. lose one's temper suddenly and unexpectedly. fly on the fly v. while in motion or progress: his deep shot was caught on the fly. Comput. during the running of a computer program without interrupting the run.

fly-by n. (pl. flies /fliz/) a flying insect of a large group characterized by a single pair of transparent wings and sucking mouthparts. used in names of flying insects of other orders, e.g., butterfly, dragonfly, firefly. a natural or artificial flying insect used as bait in fishing.

drop like flies n. die or collapse in large numbers. a fly in the ointment n. a minor irritation that spoils the success or enjoyment of something. fly on the wall n. an unnoticed observer of a particular situation.

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fly-a-way /flé,waɪ/ adj. (of a person's hair) fine and difficult to control.

fly ball n. Baseball a ball batted high into the air.

fly-by-night adj. unreliable or untrustworthy, esp. in business or financial matters: fly-by-night operators.

fly-catcher /'fli,kætʃər, ,kætʃər/ n. a bird that catches flying insects, esp. in short flights from a perch. Old World flycatchers belong to the families Muscicapidae and Tyrannidae. Most New World species belong to the family Tyrannidae (the tyrant flycatchers).

flyer /'fliər/ n. variant spelling of FLIER.

fly-fish-ing n. the sport of fishing using a rod and an artificial fly as bait. -fly-fish v.

fly-fishing /'fli,faɪʃɪŋ/ adj. moving or able to move through the air with wings: a flying ant. relating to airplanes or aviators. done while hurling oneself through the air: a flying kick. moving rapidly, esp. through the air: cut by flying glass. hasty; brief: a flying visit. used in names of animals that can glide by using winglike membranes or other structures, e.g., flying squirrel.

flyer /'fliər/ n. (pl. flyers /'fliəri/) a person who is an expert at something: a flying expert. flyer /'fliər/ n. a person who is an expert at something: a flying expert.

fly-in-sight /'fli,saɪt/ n. a short-sighted person.

fly-in-sight /'fli,saɪt/ n. a short-sighted person.

fly-sight /'fli saɪt/ n. a short-sighted person.

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foghorn \(\text{fog\text{-}horn}\) n. a device making a loud, deep sound as a warning to ships in fog. 

foil \(\text{foil}\) n. 1 metal hammered or rolled into a thin flexible sheet, used chiefly for covering or wrapping food: aluminum foil. 2 a person or thing that sharply contrasts with something else and emphasizes and enhances the qualities of another. 3 a thin leaf of metal placed upon a precious stone to increase its brilliance. 4 Arch. a leaf-shaped form carved by the casting of an arch or circle, typically occurring in groups of three or more in Gothic tracery. 

foil \(\text{foil}\) v. [tense/ed] v. [tr.] prevent something considered wrong or undesirable from succeeding. 

foi-ble \(\text{f"oi\text{-}bl}e\) adj. short for *fate de foi gras.* 

foil \(\text{foil}\) v. [tense/ed] v. [tr.] introduce someone or something surreptitiously or unwarningly into: he introduced a new delegate into the conference. 

fold \(\text{fold}\) v. [tense/ed] v. [tr.] 1 bend (something flexible and relatively flat) over on itself so that one part of it covers another: she folded her clothes and packed her bags. 

fold \(\text{fold}\) v. [tense/ed] v. [tr.] a. made of something: (of a piece of furniture or equipment) be able to be bent or rearranged into a flatter or more compact shape, typically in order to make it easier to store or carry: the deck chair folds flat | [adj.] (folding) a folding chair. 

fold \(\text{fold}\) v. [tense/ed] v. [tr.] (of a poker player) drop out of a hand; knowing when to fold and when to stay in. 

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fool [fʊl] n. a person who acts unwisely or imprudently; a silly person, nues; a jester or clown, esp. one retained in a noble household. • int. a person devoted to a particular activity: he is a running fool. • ar-chaic a person who is duped.

v. [tr.] trick or deceive (someone); dupe. • [intr.] act in a joking, frivolous, or teasing way: to stop fooling around. • [intr.](fool around) engage in casual or extramarital sexual activity.

phrasal v. to fool with; play idly with. • tease (a person).

adj. foolish or silly: that darn fool waiter.

no (or nobody's) fool be a shrewd or prudent person.

make a fool of trick or deceive (someone) so that they look foolish.

of oneself behave in an incompetent or inappropriate way that makes one appear foolish.

play (or act) the fool behave in a playful or silly way.

fool: n. chiefly Brit. a cold dessert made pure of fruit mixed or served with cream or custard: raspberry fool with cream.

fool-hardy [fʊl,-hɑːrdɪ] adj. (di-er, -diest) recklessly bold or rash; it would be foolhardy to go into the scheme without support. • fools-hardy adv. • fool-hardiness n.

fool-ish [fʊlˌɪʃ] adj. (of a person or action) lacking good sense or judgment: unwise: it was foolish of you to enter into correspondence. • silly; ridiculous: he'd been made to look foolish. • fool-ish-ly adv. • fool-ish-ness n.

fool-proof [fʊlˌprəʊf] adj. incapable of going wrong or being misled.

fool's gold n. a brassy yellow mineral, esp. pyrite, that can be mistaken for gold.

foot [fʊt] n. (pl. feet [fɪt]) 1 the lower extremity of the leg below the ankle, on which a person stands or walks. • a corresponding part of the leg in vertebrate animals. • foot, a locomotory or adhesive organ of an invertebrate. • the part of a sock or stocking that covers the foot.

foot-lie/ˈfʊl(ə)li/ adv. foot-lieness n.

foot-lish [fʊlˈɪʃ] adj. (of a person or action) lacking good sense or judgment: unwise: it was foolish of you to enter into correspondence. • silly; ridiculous: he'd been made to look foolish.

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force-feed

English: from Old French force (noun), forcer (verb), based on Latin for- 'strong.' —force-able adj.

> by force of by means of: exercising authority by force of arms. force someone’s hand make someone do something. force the issue compel the making of an immediate decision. in force 1 in great strength or numbers, birdwatchers were out in force. 2 in effect; valid.

force-feed v. [tr.] force (a person or animal) to eat. fig. impose or force (information or ideology) upon (someone).

force field n. (chiefly in science fiction) an invisible barrier of exerted strength or impetus: an electromagnetic force field.

force-ful [ˈfɔːrsfəl] adj. (esp. of a person or argument) strong and assertive; vigorous and powerful: forceful, imaginative marketing. —force-fully adv. —force-ful-ness n.

force-meat [ˈfɔːrˌmɛt] n. a mixture of meat or vegetables chopped and seasoned for use as a stuffing or garnish.

for-ceps [ˈfɔːrˌsɛps], -seps /ˈpɛps/ n. a pair of pincers or tweezers used in surgery or in a laboratory. a large instrument of such a type with broad blades, used to encircle a baby’s head and assist in birth; [as adj.] a forceps delivery.


ford [fərd] n. a shallow place in a river or stream allowing one to walk or drive across.

> v. [tr.] (of a person or vehicle) cross (a river or stream) at a shallow place. —ford-able adj. —ford-less adj.

fore [fər] adj. situated or placed in front: the fore and hind wings. interj. called out as a warning to people in the path of a golf ball.

prep. (also 'fore') nonstandard form of BEFORE.

> to the fore in or to a conspicuous or leading position.

fore and aft adv. at the front and rear (often used with reference to a ship or plane): we’re moored fore and aft. backward and forward.


fore-arm [ˈfɔːrˌərm] n. the part of a person’s arm extending from the elbow to the wrist or the fingertips.

fore-arm [ˈfɔːrˌərm] n. [tr.] (usu. be forearmed) prepare (someone) in advance for danger, attack, or another undesirable future event.

fore-bear [ˈfɔːrˌber] (also for-bear) n. (usu. one’s forebears) an ancestor.

fore-bode [ˈfɔːrbɒd] v. [tr. archaic or poetic tr. (of a situation or occurrence) act as a warning of (something bad). have a presentiment of (something bad): I foreboded mischief.

fore-boding [ˈfɔːrbɒdɪŋ] n. fearful apprehension; a feeling that something bad will happen: a sense of foreboding.

> adj. implying or seeming to imply that something bad is going to happen: his voice was dark and foreboding. —fore-boding-ly adv.

fore-brain [ˈfɔːrˌbriːn] n. Anat. the anterior part of the brain, including the cerebral hemispheres, the thalamus, and the hypothalamus.

fore-cast [ˈfɔːrkɑːst] v. (past cast or casted) [tr.] predict or estimate (a future event or trend). [tr.] coal consumption is forecast to increase.

> n. a prediction or estimate of future events, esp. coming weather or a financial trend. —fore-caster n.

fore-cast-er /ˈfɔːrkɑːsər/ n. the forward part of a ship below the deck, traditionally used as the crew’s living quarters.

a raised deck at the bow of a ship.

fore-close [ˈfɔːrkliːz] v. [intr.] take possession of a mortgaged property as a result of the mortgagor’s failure to keep up their mortgage payments: the bank was threatening to foreclose on his mortgage. [tr.] take away someone’s power of redeeming (a mortgage) and take possession of the mortgaged property. 2 [tr.] rule out or prevent (a course of action); the decision effectively foreclosed any possibility of his early rehabilitation. —fore-clo-sure [ˈfɔːrkloʊər] n.

fore-court [ˈfɔːrkɔːrt] n. 1 an open area in front of a large building. Tennis the part of the court between the service line and the net.

fore-doom [ˈfɔːrdəm] v. [tr.] (usu. be foredoomed) condemn beforehand to certain failure or destruction: the policy is foredoomed to failure.

fore-father [ˈfɔːrˌfaðər] n. (usu. one’s forefathers) a member of the past generations of one’s family or people; an ancestor. a precursor of a particular movement: the forefathers of rock ‘n’ roll.

fore-finger [ˈfɔːrˌfɪŋɡər] n. the finger next to the thumb; the first or index finger.

fore-foot [ˈfɔːrˌfʊt] n. (pl. feet) each of the front feet of a four-footed animal.

fore-front [ˈfɔːrˌfrʌnt] n. (the forefront) the leading or most important position or place: we are at the forefront of developments.

fore-gather [ˈfɔːrgəðər] v. variant spelling of FORGATHER.

fore-go [ˈfɔːrgo] v. variant spelling of FORGO.

fore-go [ˈfɔːrgo] v. (for-goes; past for-got; past part. for-gone) [tr.] archaic precede in place or time. —fore-goer [ˈfɔːrgoər] n.

fore-going [ˈfɔːrgəʊɪŋ] adj. just mentioned or stated; preceding: the foregoing discussion.

> n. (the foregoing) (treated as sing. or pl.) the things just mentioned.

fore-gone [ˈfɔːrgən] n. past participle of FOREGO.

> adj. archaic past: poets dream of lives foregone.

fore-gone conclusion a result that can be predicted with certainty.

fore-ground [ˈfɔːrgraʊnd] n. (the foreground) the part of a view that is nearest to the observer, esp. in a picture or photograph. the most prominent or important position or situation.

> v. [tr.] make (something) the most prominent or important feature.

fore-hand [ˈfɔːrˌhænd] n. 1 (in tennis and other racket sports) a stroke played with the palm of the hand facing in the direction of the stroke. Compare with BACKHAND 2 the part of a horse in front of the saddle.

fore-head [ˈfɔːrˌhɛd] n. the part of the face above the eyebrows.

fore-ign [ˈfɔːrɪŋ] adj. 1 of, from, in, or characteristic of a country or language other than one’s own. dealing with or relating to other countries: foreign policy. 3 of or belonging to another district or area. coming or introduced from outside: a foreign element imported into the work. (of a law or restriction) outside the local jurisdiction.

> 2 strange and unfamiliar: feels pretty foreign. 3 foreign to not belonging to or characteristic of: crime and brutality are foreign to our nature. —fore-ign-ness n.

fore-giver [ˌfɔːrgɪvər] n. a person born in or coming from a country other than one’s own. int. a person not belonging to a particular place or group; a stranger or outsider.

fore-change [ˈfɔːrchɛndʒ] n. the current of other countries. an institution or system for dealing in such currency.

fore-min-is-ter n. (in many countries) a government minister in charge of relations with other countries.

fore-know-edge [ˈfɔːrkəʊˈdʒɛdʒ] n. awareness of something before it happens or exists.

fore-leg [ˈfɔːrˌleg] n. either of the front legs of a four-footed animal.

fore-limb [ˈfɔːrlɪm] n. either of the front limbs of an animal.

fore-lock [ˈfɔːrˌlɑk] n. a lock of hair growing just above the forehead.

foremost [ˈfɔːrməst] adj. the part of the mane of (a horse or similar animal) that grows above or on the forehead.

fore-man [ˈfɔːrmən] n. (pl. -men) a worker, esp. a man, who supervises and directs other workers. in a court of law) a person, esp. a man, who presides over a jury and speaks on its behalf.

fore-mast [ˈfɔːrmɑst] n. the mast of a ship nearest the bow.

fore-most [ˈfɔːrməst] adj. most prominent in rank, importance, or position; one of the foremost art collectors of his day. adv. before anything else in rank, importance, or position; in the first place: O’Keefe’s work was foremost, an expression of feelings.

fore-name [ˈfɔːrnɛm] n. another term for FIRST NAME.

fore-sen-sic /fɔːrˈɛnʃɪk; -skɪk/ adj. of, relating to, or denoting the application of scientific methods and techniques to the investigation of crime: forensic evidence. of or relating to courts of law.

n. (forensics) scientific tests or techniques used in connection with the detection of crime. treated as sing. or pl. int. a laboratory or department responsible for such tests. —fore-nso-cal-ly [ˌfɔːrənˈsɔʊkəd(-ə)] adv.

fore-or-dain [ˈfɔːrərˌdeɪn] v. [tr.] (of God or fate) appoint or decree (something) beforehand: progress is not foreordained. —fore-or-di-na-tion [ˈfɔːrərˌdeɪnəʃən] n.

fore-paw [ˈfɔːrpɔː] n. either of the front paws of a quadruped.
for-south [för'south] adv. archaic or humorous indeed (often used ironically or to express surprise or indignation), used to give an ironic or self-derisory response to questions: what, forsooth, induced this transformation?

for-swear [for'swer] (past: swore; past part: sworn) v. [r.] formal agree to give up or do without (something). —forswear oneself (for-swear) sworn falsely; commit perjury. I do not mean to be forsworn.

for-syth-i-a [för'sith-ē-ə] n. a widely cultivated ornamental Eurasian shrub (genus Forsythia) of the olive family, whose bright yellow flowers appear in early spring before the leaves.

fort [fört] n. a fortified building or strategic position; a permanent army post; hist. a trading post.

forte [fôr'te, fört', fôrt'] n. 1. a thing at which one excels; small talk was not his forte. 2. Fencing the stronger part of a sword, from the hilts to the middle.

fortifican-tion [för-ti-fə-kān-ʃən] n. (often fortifications) a defensive wall or other reinforcement built to strengthen a place against attack.

for-tify [för-ti-fy] v. -fied; -fying [tr.] 1. strengthen or invigorate (someone) mentally or physically; I was fortiﬁed by the knowledge that I was in a sympathetic house. 2. (often fortiﬁed) strengthen (a drink) with alcohol; fortified wine. 3. increase the nutritive value of (food), esp. with vitamins.

for-tiﬁ-ca-tion [för-tiﬁ-kā-ʃən] n. action of fortifying or process of being fortified;

for-tiﬁc-a-tion [för-tiﬁ-kā-ʃən] n. (often fortifications) a defensive wall or other reinforcement built to strengthen a place against attack.

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Franklin Stove

Franklin stove n. a cast-iron stove for heating a room, resembling an open fireplace in shape.

Frankly /ˈfræŋklɪ/ adv. in an open, honest, and direct manner: she talks franky about herself; used to emphasize the truth of a statement, however unpalatable or shocking this may be: frankly, I was pleased to leave.

Franken-stein /'fræskənˌstɪn/ n. a character in the novel Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus (1818) by Mary Shelley. Baron Frankenstein is a scientist who creates and brings to life a manlike monster that eventually turns on him and destroys him. [also Frankenstein's monster] as n. a thing that becomes terrifying or destructive to its maker.

Frankfurter /ˈfrænsəkˌfɜːrər/ n. a seasoned smoked sausage typically made of beef and pork.

Frankly /ˈfræŋklɪ/ adv. open, honest, and direct speech or writing, esp. when dealing with unpleasant matters: a long and frank discussion.

Frankly /ˈfræŋklɪ/ adv. honest, straightforward, or unadorned in manner or appearance: Frank admiration.


Frankly /ˈfræŋklɪ/ adv. v. [tr.] (often be franked) stamp an official mark on (a letter or parcel), esp. to indicate that postage has been paid or does not need to be paid. [hst. sign (a letter or parcel) to ensure delivery free of charge.

Frankly /ˈfræŋklɪ/ adv. facilitate or pay the passage of (someone).

Frankly /ˈfræŋklɪ/ adv. n. an official mark or signature on a letter or parcel, esp. to indicate that postage has been paid or does not need to be paid. —Frankly /ˈfræŋklɪ/ adv. n. short for FRANKFURTER.

Fran-ken-stein /ˈfræskənˌstɪn/ n. a character in the novel Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus (1818) by Mary Shelley. Baron Frankenstein is a scientist who creates and brings to life a manlike monster that eventually turns on him and destroys him. [also Frankenstein’s monster] as n. a thing that becomes terrifying or destructive to its maker.

Frankfurter /ˈfrænsəkˌfɜːrər/ n. a seasoned smoked sausage typically made of beef and pork.

Frankin-sense /ˈfræskənˌsɛns/ n. an aromatic resin gum obtained from an African tree (Boswellia sacra) and burned as incense.

Franklin stove n. a cast-iron stove for heating a room, resembling an open fireplace in shape.
fret...the transport of goods by truck, train, ship, or aircraft. a charge for such transport. 2 (in full) freight train a train of freight cars. 3 a load or burden.

freight car n. a railroad car for carrying freight.

freight-car [frārtər] n. a ship or aircraft designed to carry goods in bulk.

a person who loads, receives, or forwards goods for transport.

French [frēzh] adj. of or relating to France or its people or language.

1 the Romance language of France, also used in parts of Belgium, Switzerland, and Canada, in several countries of northern and western Africa, and the Caribbean, and elsewhere. 2 [as pl. n.] (the French) the people of France collectively. —French-ly adv.

French bread n. white bread in a long, crimped loaf.

French Canadian n. 1 a Canadian whose principal language is French. 2 the form of French spoken in Canada.

French adj. of or relating to French-speaking Canadians or their language.

French cuff n. a shirt cuff that is folded back before fastening, creating a double-layered cuff.

French curve n. a template used for drawing curved lines.

french door n. a door with glass panels throughout its length. a window.

French window.

French dressing n. a salad dressing of vinegar, oil, and seasonings.

a sweet, creamy salad dressing commercially prepared from oil, tomato puree, and spices.

French fries (also French fried potatoes) pl. n. potatoes cut into strips and deep-fried.

French horn n. a brass instrument with a coiled tube, valves, and a wide bell, played with the right hand in the bell.

French kiss n. a kiss with contact between tongues. —French kissing n.

French leave n. int. dated an unauthorized or unannounced departure; absence without permission: he seems to have taken French leave.

Frenchman [frēzmən] n. (pl. -men) a person, esp. a man, who is French by birth or descent.

French toast n. bread coated in egg and milk and fried.

French-woman [frēzh,wōmən] n. (pl. -women) a female who is French by birth or descent.

French adj. fast and energetic in a rather wild and uncontrolled way; a frenetic pace of activity. —frenetically adv.

frenzy [frēnse] n. (pl. -zies) a state or period of uncontrolled excitement or wild behavior: a frenzy of rage. —frenzied adj.

free-on [frē,ən] (also fre-on) n. trademark an aerosol propellant, refrigerant, or organic solvent consisting of one or more of a group of chlorofluorocarbons and related compounds.

free-quen-cy mod-u-la-tion (abbr.; FM) n. the modulation of a radio or other wave by variation of its frequency, esp. to carry an audio signal. Often contrasted with AMPLITUDE MODULATION. the system of radio transmission using such modulation.

frequent adj. [frēkwent] occurring or done on many occasions, in many cases, or in quick succession. (of a person) doing something often; habitual: a frequent visitor. found at short distances apart: frequent roadblocks.

frequent adv. —frequent-ly adv.

freq-tna-tion [frēkwəntətān] n.

freq-tiv-taive [frēkwəntativ] Gram. adj. (of a verb or verbal form) expressing frequent repetition or intensity of action.

freq. n. a verb or verbal form of this type, e.g., chatter in English.

fresco [fresko] n. (pl. -coes or -cos) a painting done rapidly in watercolor on wet plaster on a wall or ceiling. this method of painting. used in Roman times and by the great masters of the Italian Renaissance including Giotto, Masaccio, and Michelangelo.

fresco adj. [as adj.] frescoed ceilings.

fresh [fresh] adj. 1 not previously known or used; new or different: fresh evidence. 2 recently created or experienced and not faded or impaired: the memory was still fresh. 3 (of food) recently made or obtained; not canned, frozen, or otherwise preserved. (of a person) full of energy and vigor. (of a color or a person's complexion) bright or healthy in appearance. (of a person) attractively youthful and inexperienced. (fresh from out of) (of a person) having just had a particular experience or come from (a particular place): fresh out of art school. 3 (of water) not salty. 4 pleasingly clean, pure, and cool; fresh air. 4 (of the wind) cool and fairly strong. 5 inf. presumptuous or impudent toward someone, esp. in a sexual way: some of the men tried to get fresh with the girls.

freshly adv. —freshness n.

freshen v. tr. to make (something) newer, cleaner, or more attractive; it didn't take long to freshen her makeup. add more liquid to (a drink); top off. 2 intr. (of wind) become stronger and colder.

freshen up v. to freshen oneself by washing or changing into clean clothes.

freshet n. the flood of a river from heavy rain or melted snow. a rush of fresh water flowing into the sea.

fresh-man [frēzhmən] n. pl. (men) a first-year student at a university, college, or high school. a newcomer or novice.

fresh-water [frēsh-wətər] n. fresh-water fish. fish. both ultimately of Germanic origin and related to Dutch vs. German frisch. —fresh-ly adv.

fret n. the fresh out of something. 2 tr. to make (something) newer, cleaner, or more attractive; it didn't take long to freshen her makeup. add more liquid to (a drink); top off. 2 intr. (of wind) become stronger and colder.

fret v. (fretted, fretting) v. tr. [usu. as adj. (fretted)] decorate with fretwork.

fret n. Art & Architect. a repeating ornamental design of interlaced vertical and horizontal lines, such as the Greek key pattern.

v. (fretted, fretting) [tr.] [usu. as adj.] (fretted) decorate with fretwork.

fret n. each of a sequence of bars or ridges on the fingerboard of some stringed musical instruments (such as the guitar), used for fixing the positions of the fingers to produce the desired notes.

v. (fretted, fretting) [tr.] [often as adj.] (fretted) 1 provide (a stringed instrument) with frets. 2 play (a note) while pressing the string down against a fret: fretted notes.

fretless adj.
front runner

n. a particular formation of troops for battle; a particular situation or sphere of operation; good news on the job front. 2 Meteorol., the forward edge of an advancing mass of air. See COLD FRONT. 3 an appearance or form of behavior assumed by a person to conceal genuine feelings; she put on a brave front. 4 a person or organization serving as a cover for subversive or illegal activities: a front for a terrorist group. 5 a well-known or prestigious person who acts as a representative, rather than an active member, of an organization. See also FRONTMAN. 6 archaic a person's face or forehead.

adj. 1 of or at the front: the front yard. 2 Phonet. (of a vowel sound) formed by raising the body of the tongue, excluding the blade and tip, toward the hard palate.

front yard

n. a building where pelota or jai alai is played.
fumigate [fyóomé-gát] v. to apply the fumes of certain chemicals to (an area) to disinfect it or to rid it of vermin. —fum-i-gate [fú-mi-gát] /-gát/ adj.

fun [fon] n. enjoyment, amusement, or entertained pleasure. a source of this: people watching is great fun. playful or good humor; she is a fun behavior or an activity that is intended purely for amusement: harmless fun. of (a place or event) providing entertainment or leisure activities: for children: a movie-themed fun park. adj. (fun-ner funnest) adj. amusing, entertaining, or enjoyable; it was a fun evening. late 17th cent. (denoting a trick or hoax): from obsolete fun to cheat or hoax, dialect variant of late Middle English fun make a fool of: to be a fool related to fun: a fool, of unknown origin.

fun and games n. enjoyable activities: the museum is full of fun and games. if in fun not seriously intended; as a joke: his speech was all in fun.

function [fúnk-shən] n. 1. an activity or purpose natural to or intended for a person or thing. practical use or purpose in design: building designs that prioritize style over function. a basic task of a computer, esp. one that corresponds to a single instruction from the user. 2. Math. a relationship or expression involving one or more variables: the function f(x) is a variable quantity regarded in relation to one or more variables in terms of which it may be expressed or on which its value depends. a thing dependent on another factor or factors: class function is a function of social power. a large or formal social event or ceremony; he was obliged to attend party functions.

function-al [fúnk-shə-nəl] adj. 1 of or having a special activity, purpose, or task; relating to the way in which something works or operates: important differences between left and right brain: designed to be practical and useful, rather than attractive. working or operating: the museum will be fully functional from the opening of the festival. of (a disease) affecting the operation, rather than the structure, of an organ. of (a mental illness) having no discernible organic cause: functional psychosis. 2. Math. of or relating to a variable quantity whose value depends on one or more other variables.

function-ally adv.

function-al-ism [fúnk-shə-nəl-izm] n. belief in or stress on the practical application of a thing, in particular: (in the arts) the doctrine that the design of an object should be determined solely by its function, rather than by aesthetic considerations, and that anything practically designed will be inherently beautiful. (in the sciences) the theory that all aspects of a society serve a function and are necessary for the survival of that society.


function-ary [fúnk-shə-nərē] n. (pl. -aries) a person who has to perform official functions or duties: an official.

fundo [fandō] n. a sum of money saved or made available for a particular purpose. funds financial resources: the misuse of public funds. a large stock or supply of something: a vast fund of information. the funds Brit. the stock of the national debt as a mode of investment.

fundamental [fundo-ment-əl] adj. forming a necessary base or core; of central importance: fundamental human rights. affecting or relating to the essential nature of something or the crucial point about an issue: the fundamental problem remains that of the housing shortage. so basic as to be hard to alter, resolve, or overcome: a fundamental error.

fundamentalism [fundo-ment-əl-izm] n. a form of Protestant Christianity that upholds belief in the strict and literal interpretation of the Bible, including its narratives, doctrines, prophecies, and moral laws. a strict maintenance of ancient or fundamental doctrines of any religion or ideology, notably Islam.

fund-raiser [fundo-raj-ər] n. a person whose job or task is to seek financial support for a charity, institution, or other enterprise.

funeral [fyóoonərəl] adj. relating to a funeral or the commemorating of the dead: funeral ceremonies.

funereal [fyóoonər-əl] adj. relating to a funeral or the commemorating of the dead: funeral ceremonies.

fungicide [fúnd-gí-sid] n. a chemical that destroys fungi.


fungous [fyóo-gəs] adj. resembling, caused by, or having the nature of a fungus.

fungus [fyóo-gəs] n. pl. [fj-i]-[-gii] or -guses any of a group of unicellular, multicellular, or syncytial spore-producing organisms feeding on organic matter, including molds, yeasts, mushrooms, and toadstools. fungal infection. used to describe something that has appeared or grown rapidly and is considered unpleasant or unattractive. —fung-ali [fyóo-gəl-ə] adj. —fung-ali-form [fyóo-gəl-form] adj.

funereal-ly adv.


funeral-home (also funeral parlor) n. an establishment where the dead are prepared for burial or cremation.


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or made from a particular type of fur: silky-furred lemons. 2 fix strips of wood to (floor joists, wall studs, etc.) in order to level them or increase their depth.

- **make the fur fly** *int.* cause serious, perhaps violent, trouble.

**fur-below** /[fo:rebəl/ (*n.)* a gathered strip or pleated border of a skirt or petticoat. **(furbelows)** showy ornaments or trimmings; frills and furbelows.

**fur-bish** /[fo:biʃ/ *v.* [as adj. or furbished] poetic/lit. adorn with trimmings.

**fur-cate** /[fo:kət/ ] *v.* [fur- cast, fur-kat] *intr.* divide into two or more branches; fork: lines of descent furnishing from a common source.

**fur-elow** /[fo:ˈrəʊl/ ] *n.* an eighth of a mile, 220 yards.

**fur-lough** /[fo:luː/ ] *n.* leave of absence, esp. that granted to a member of the armed services. 1 a temporary release of a convict from prison: weekend furloughs. 2 a layoff, esp. a temporary one, from a place of employment.

**fur-nace** /[fo:nəs/ ] *n.* an enclosed structure in which material can be heated to very high temperatures, e.g., for smelting metals. 1 an apparatus for burning gas, oil, or wood in which air or water is heated to be circulated through a building in a heating system. 2 used to describe a very hot place: her car was a furnace.

**fur-nish** /[fo:niʃ/ ] *v.* [as adj. or furnished] provide a house or room and fittings. 1 furnish someone with supply someone with (something); give (something) to someone; he was able to furnish me with details. 2 be a source of; provide: fish furnish protein.

**fur-nished** /[fo:niʃd/ ] *adj.* (of accommodations) available to be rented with furniture.

**fur-nishing** /[fo:niʃɪŋ/ ] *n.* 1 (usu. furnishings) furniture, fittings, and other decorative accessories, such as curtains and carpets, for a house or room. 2 the act of decorating a house or room and providing it with furniture and fittings.

**fur-niture** /[fo:niʃər/ ] *n.* 1 movable equipment, such as tables and chairs, used to make a house, office, or other space suitable for living or working. 2 (fig.) a person's habitual attitude, outlook, and way of thinking: the mental furniture of the European. 2 small accessories or furnishings for a particular use or piece of equipment.

**fur-row** *[fo:roʊ; -roʊ, -rəʊ] *n.* an outbreak of public anger or excitement: the article raised a furor among mathematicians. 2 a wave of enthusiastic admiration; a craze.

**fur-rer** /[fo:riər/ ] *n.* a person who prepares or deals in furs.

**fur-row** *[fo:roʊ; -roʊ, -rəʊ] *n.* a long narrow trench made in the ground by a plow, esp. for planting seeds or for irrigation. 1 a rut, groove, or trail in the ground or another surface. 2 a line or wrinkle on a person's face.

**fur-ry** /[fo:ri/ ] *adj.* (ri-, ri-) covered with fur; having a soft surface like fur: furry apple-green leaves. 2 a heavy or fierce storm.

**fur-ry** /[fo:ri/ ] *adj.* (ri-, ri-) covered with fur; having a soft surface like fur: furry apple-green leaves.

**fur-ther** /[fo:ðə, fo:θər/ ] *adv.* 1 (also farther) at, to, or by a greater distance (used to indicate the extent to which one thing or person is or becomes distant from another). 2 used to emphasize the difference between a supposed or suggested fact or state of mind and the truth: nothing could be farther from the truth. 3 (also farther) over a greater expanse of space or time; for a longer way: fig. wages have been driven down even further. 4 beyond the point already reached or the distance already covered: before going any further we need to define our terms. 4 beyond or in addition to what has already been done: ways to further increase customer satisfaction I shall not trouble you any further. 5 used to introduce a new point relating to or reinforcing a previous statement: Ethnic minorities are more prone to unemployment. Further, this disadvantage extends to other areas of life. 6 at or to a more advanced, successful, or desirable stage: at the end of three years they were no farther on.

**fur-th-er** *[fo:ðə, fo:θər/ ] *adj.* 1 (also farther) more distant in space than something else of the same kind. 2 more remote from a central point: the further reaches of the town. 3 additional to what already exists or has already taken place, been done, or been accounted for: cook for a further ten minutes. 4 help the progress or development of (something): promote: using them to further his own career. 5 (also farther) more distant in time than something else of the same kind: the further reaches of the town.

**fur-th-er-ance** /[fo:θərəns/ ] *n.* the advancement of a scheme or interest: acts in furtherance of an industrial dispute.

**fur-th-er-more** /[fo:ðə, muər/ ] *adv.* in addition; besides (used to introduce a fresh consideration in an argument): this species has a quiet charm and, furthermore, is an easy garden plant.

**fur-th-est** /[fo:ðəst/ ] *adj.* adv. variant form of FARTHEST.

**fur-tive** /[fo:ti:v/ ] *adj.* attempting to avoid notice or attention, typically because of guilt or a belief that discovery would lead to trouble; secretive: they spent afurtive day together a furitive glance. 2 suggestive of guilty nervousness: the look in his eyes became furitive.


**fury** *[fo:ri/ ] *n.* (pl. -ries) 1 wild or violent anger; tears of fury. 2 (a fury) a surge of violent anger or other feeling: in a fury, he lashed the horse. 3 violence; energy displayed in natural phenomena or in someone's actions: the fury of a gathering storm. 4 (Fury) Greek Mythol. a spirit of punishment, often represented as one of three goddesses who executed the curses pronounced upon criminals, tortured the guilty with stings of conscience, and inflicted famines and pestilences.

**fuse** *[fo:зу/ ] *n.* a safety device consisting of a strip of wire that melts and breaks an electric circuit if the current exceeds a safe level.

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**fuse** *[fo:зу/ ] *n.* a safety device consisting of a strip of wire that melts and breaks an electric circuit if the current exceeds a safe level.
v. [intr.] show unnecessary or excessive concern about something; she's always fussing about her food. □ move around or busy oneself restlessly. □ make a fuss become angry and complain. □ make a fuss over treat (a person or animal) with excessive attention or affection.

ass-budget /fəsˈbiɡət/ n. a person who habitually frets over minor matters.

ass-pot /ˈfɒs,pʌt/ n. int. a fussy person.

ass-y /ˈfəsə/ adj. (fuss-i-er, fuss-i-est) (of a person) fastidious about one's needs or requirements; hard to please. □ showing excessive or anxious concern about detail. □ full of unnecessary detail or decoration; fussy clothes. —fuss-i-ly /ˈfəsəli/ adv. —fuss-i-ness n.

ass-tian /ˈfʌstʃən/ n. 1 thick, durable twilled cloth with a short nap, usually dyed in dark colors. 2 pompous or pretentious speech or writing: a smoke screen of futian and fantasy.


ass-tile /ˈfʌstəl/ adj. incapable of producing any useful result; pointless: a futile attempt to keep fans from mounting the stage. —fustily /ˈfʌstəli/ adv. —fustiness n.

ass-ton /fəstən/ n. a cotton-filled mattress rolled out on the floor for use as a bed. 2 a type of low wooden sofa bed having such a mattress.

ass-tre /ˈfʌstrə/ adj. at a later time; going or likely to happen or exist; future generations. 2 (of a person) planned or destined to hold a specified position: his future wife. □ existing after death: expectation of a future life. □ Gram. (of a tense) expressing an event yet to happen. late Middle English: via Old French from Latin futuras, future participle of esse 'be' (from the stem ft-), ultimately from a base meaning 'grow, become'.

ass-ture per-fect /ˈfʌstəri pərˈfekt/ n. Gram. a tense of verbs expressing expected completion in the future, in English exemplified by will have done.

futures contract n. Finance an agreement traded on an organized exchange to buy or sell assets, esp. commodities or shares, at a fixed price but to be delivered and paid for later.

futu-re shock n. a state of distress or disorientation due to rapid social or technological change.

futu-rism /ˈfjuːtərɪzəm/ n. concern with events and trends of the future or which anticipate the future. □ (Futurism) an artistic movement begun in Italy in 1909 that violently rejected traditional forms so as to celebrate and incorporate into art the energy and dynamism of modern technology.

futu-ris-t /ˈfjuːtərɪst/ n. 1 (Futurist) an adherent of futurism. 2 a person who studies the future and makes predictions about it based on current trends.

adj. 1 (often Futurist) or of relating to futurism or the Futurists. 2 relating to a vision of the future, esp. one involving the development of technology.

futu-ris-tic /ˈfjuːtərɪstɪk/ adj. having or involving modern technology or design: a swimming pool and futuristic done. □ (of a film or book) set in the future, typically in a world of advanced or menacing technology. □ dated of or characteristic of Futurism. —futuristic-ally adv.

futu-ris-ti-cal-ly /ˈfjuːtərɪstɪkəli/ adv. the future time. □ a future event. □ renewed or continuing existence: the snowdrops were a promise of futurity.

fuz /ˈfjuːz/ n. variant spelling of fuse.

fuzzy /ˈfjuːz/ adj. n. a fluffy or frizzy mass of hair or fiber. □ a blurred image or area. □ a buzzing or distorted sound, esp. one deliberately produced as an effect on an electric guitar.

v. 1 make or become blurred or indistinct. 2 [intr.] (of hair) become fluffy or frizzy: her hair fuzzed out in the heat.

fuzz /fuz/ n. (the fuzz) int. the police.

fuzzy /ˈfjuːz/ adj. (fus-i-er, fuzzy-est) having a frizzy, fluffy, or frayed texture or appearance. □ difficult to perceive clearly or understand and explain precisely; indistinct or vague: that fuzzy line between right and wrong. □ (of a person or the mind) unable to think clearly; confused: my mind felt fuzzy. □ Comput. & Logic of or relating to a form of set theory and logic in which predicates may have degrees of applicability, rather than simply being true or false. It has important uses in artificial intelligence and the design of control systems. —fuzzy-ly /ˈfjuːzəli/ adv. —fuzzy-ness n.
Gg

Gg [gæ] (also g) n. (pl. Gs or G’s) 1 the seventh letter of the alphabet.
2 Music. the fifth note in the diatonic scale of C major.
3 abbr. Physics gauss. German. [in comb] (in units of measurement) giga- (10^9). int. grand (a thousand dollars). a unit of gravitational force equal to that exerted by the earth's gravitational field.
4 symb. Chem. Gibbs free energy. a general audience, a rating in the Voluntary Movie Rating System that all ages may be admitted.
5 Physics the gravitational constant, equal to 6.67 × 10^-11 N m^2 kg^-2.
6 abbr. Chem. gas. gelding. gram(s).
7 symb. Physics the acceleration due to gravity, equal to 9.81 m s^-2.

G8 abbr. Group of Eight.
Gá [gá] symb. the chemical element gallium.
Gab [gáb] v. (gabb, gabling) [intr] talk, typically at length, about trivial matters: Franny walked past a woman gabbling on the phone.
Gab-ar-dine [gábör'dan] n. a smooth, durable twill-woven cloth, typically of worsted or cotton.
Gab-ble [gáb'bl] v. [intr] talk rapidly and unintelligibly; utter meaningless sounds.
Gab-bly [gáb'bl] adj. excessively or annoyingly talkative.
Gabi-on [gábé'n] n. a wirework container filled with rock, broken concrete, or other material, used in the construction of dams, retaining walls, etc.
Gable [gáb'l] n. the part of a wall that encloses the end of a pitched roof.
Gable [gáb'l] adj. a gable-shaped canopy over a window or door. —gabled adj.

Gad [gad] (in the Bible) a Hebrew patriarch, son of Jacob and Zilpah.
Gadd [gad] v. (gad-ded, gad-ding) [intr] go around in the pursuit of pleasure or entertainment: gadding about the countryside.
Gad-a-bout [gad'a-bout] n. a habitual pleasure-seeker.
Gad-fly [gad'flī] n. (pl. flies) a fly that bites livestock, esp. a horsefly, warble fly, or botfly. fig. an annoying person, esp. one who provokes others into action by criticism.
Gad-get [gadjit] n. a small mechanical device or tool, esp. an ingenious or novel one: a state-of-the-art kitchen with every conceivable gadget. late 19th cent. (originally in nautical use): probably from French gâchet to 'lock mechanism' or from the French dialect word gâcée 'tool.'
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Gado-lin-i-um [gadə-lo'lin-yəm] n. the chemical element of atomic number 64, a soft silvery-white metal of the lanthanide series. (Symbol: Gd)

Gad-wall [gad'wāl] n. (pl. same or gad-walls) a brownish-gray freshwater duck (Anas strepera) found across Eurasia and North America.
Gad-zooks [gad′zəks] (also gad-zooks) n. interj. dated or humorous an exclamation of surprise or annoyance.
Gael-ic [gá̇lɪk] adj. of or relating to the Goidelic languages, particularly the Celtic language of Scotland, and the culture associated with speakers of these languages and their descendants.
Gaffe [gaf]; n. (also Scottish Gaelic) a Goidelic language brought from Ireland in the 5th and 6th centuries AD and spoken in the highlands and islands of western Scotland. (also Irish Gaelic) another term for finish (the language).
Gaff [gaf] n. 1 a stick with a hook, or a barbed spear, for landing large fish. 2 Sailing a spar to which the head of a fore-and-aft sail is bent. v. [intr] seize or impale with a gaff.
Gaffe [gaf] n. a slip up, an unintentional act or remark causing embarrassment to its originator; a blunder: an unforgivable social gaffe.
Gaffer [gafər] n. 1 the chief electrician in a motion-picture or television production unit. 2 int. an old man.
Gag [gag] n. a thing, typically a piece of cloth, put in or over a person's mouth to prevent speaking or crying out. fig. a restriction on freedom of speech or dissemination of information. a device for keeping the patient's mouth open during a dental or surgical operation.
v. [gagged, gagging] 1 [tr] (often be gagged) put a gag on (someone). fig. (of a person or body with authority) prevent (someone) from speaking freely or disseminating information: the administration is trying to gag its critics. 2 [intr] choke or retch.
Gaiety [gā̇tē] n. a joke or an amusing story or scene, esp. one forming part of a comedian's act or in a film or play. v. [intr] tell jokes.
Gaga [gā̇gə] adj. int. overexcited or irrational, typically as a result of infatuation or excessive enthusiasm; mentally confused; senile.
Gage [gā].n. a valued object deposited as a guarantee of good faith. v. [gaged, gaging] 1 [intr] offer a thing or one's life) as a guarantee of good faith.
Gage [gag] n. & v. variant spelling of GAUGE.
Gaggle [gagl] n. a flock of geese. int. a disorderly or noisy group of people: the gaggle of reporters and photographers that dogged his every step.
Gag rule n. a regulation or directive that prohibits public discussion of a particular matter.
Gaiety [gā̇tē] (also gay-ety) n. (pl. -ties) the state or quality of being lighthearted or cheerful: the sudden gaiety of children's laughter. merry-making or festivity.
Gaily [gā'lj] adv. in a cheerful or lighthearted way: he waved gaily to the crowd. without thinking of the consequences. with a bright or cheerful appearance: gaily colored sailors dot the lake.
gas-tric /gas'trik/ adj. of the stomach.
gas-tic juice n. a thin, clear, virtually colorless acid fluid secreted by the stomach glands and active in promoting digestion.
gas-tro-en-ter-i-tis /gas'tro,ent'i-tis/ n. inflammation of the stomach and intestines.
gas-tro-en-ter-o-gy /gas'tro,en'ter-o-jji/ n. the branch of medicine that deals with disorders of the stomach and intestines.
gas-tro-en-ter-o-lo-gy /gas'tro,en'ter-o-loj'ji/ n. the branch of medicine that deals with disorders of the stomach and intestines.
gas-tro-pod /gas'tro,pud/ n. any mollusk of the group including snails, slugs, and worms, often with a spiral shell, and that moves by means of a large muscular foot.
gas-works /gas'wórks/ pl. n. [treated as sing.] a place where gas is manufactured and processed.
gat /gat/ n. inf. a revolver or pistol.
gate /gat/ n. 1 a hinged barrier used to close an opening in a wall, fence, or hedge. 2 a gateway: she went out through the gate. 3 fig. a means of entrance or exit: they were opening the gates of their country wide to the enemy. 4 an exit from an airport building to a plane. 5 the number of people who pay to enter a sports facility, exhibition hall, etc., for any one event: [as adj] gate receipts. 6 the money taken for admission. 7 a device resembling a gate in structure or function, in particular: a hinged or sliding barrier for controlling the flow of water: a sluice gate. 8 Ski-ing an opening through which a skier must pass in a slalom course, typically marked by upright poles. 9 an electric circuit with an output that depends on the combination of several inputs: a logic gate.
gate-crash-er /gat'krash/'r/ n. a person who attends a party or other gathering without an invitation or ticket. —gate-crash v.
gate-fold /gat'fəld/ n. an oversized page in a book or magazine folded to the same size as the other pages but intended to be opened out. —gate-fold v.
gate-house /gat'hous/ n. a house or enclosure near a gateway.
gate-keeper /gat'képər/ n. an attendant at a gate who is employed to control who goes through it. —fig. a person or thing that controls access to something.
gate-keeping /gat'kép'ing/ n. 1 the activity of controlling, and usually limiting, access to something: Wal-Mart's cultural gatekeeping has served to narrow the mainstream for entertainment offerings. 2 Com-p. a function or system that controls access to or operation of files, computer systems, networks, or the like: a gatekeeping mechanism that allows users under some circumstances and blocks them under others.
gate-leg ta-ble /gat'leg/ n. a table with hinged legs that swing out from the frame to support drop leaves that make the surface of the table larger. —gate-legged /gat'legd/ adj.
gate-way /gat'wä/ n. an opening that can be closed by a gate. 1 a frame or arch built around or over a gate. 2 a means of access or entrance to a place: Mombasa, the gateway to East Africa. 3 a means of achieving a state or condition: death as the gateway to life. —Comput. a device used to connect two different networks, esp. a connection to the Internet.
gather /gath'ar/ v. 1 [int] come together; assemble or accumulate: a crowd gathered in the square. 2 [tr] bring together and take into scattered places or sources. 3 [tr] pick up from the ground or a surface: they gathered up the dirty plates and cups. 4 [collect](plants, etc.) for food. 5 draw together or toward oneself. 6 draw and hold together (fabric or a part of a garment) by running thread through it: the front is gathered at the waist. 7 [tr] infer; understand: her clients were, I gathered, a prosperous group. 8 [tr] develop a higher degree of; the green movement is gathering pace. 9 [tr] summon up (a mental or physical attribute such as one's thoughts or strength) for a purpose: he gathered himself for a tremendous leap. —gather-er n.
gathering /gath'ering/ n. 1 an assembly or meeting, esp. a social or festive one or one held for a specific purpose: a family gathering. 2 a set of printed signatures of a book, gathered for binding.
gat-ing gun /gat'ing/ also Gat-ling n. a rapid-fire, crank-driven machine gun with a cylindrical cluster of several barrels.
gastric /gas'trik/ adj. of the stomach.
gastric juice n. a thin, clear, virtually colorless acid fluid secreted by the stomach glands and active in promoting digestion.
gastritis /gas'tri-tis/ n. Med. inflammation of the lining of the stomach.
gastro-enteritis /gas'tro,ent'i-tis/ n. inflammation of the stomach and intestines.
gastroenterology /gas'tro,ent'er-o-jji/ n. the branch of medicine that deals with disorders of the stomach and intestines.
gastro-pod /gas'tro,pod/ n. any mollusk of the group including snails, slugs, and worms, often with a spiral shell, and that moves by means of a large muscular foot.
gas-works /gas'wórks/ pl. n. [treated as sing.] a place where gas is manufactured and processed.
gate /gat/ n. inf. a revolver or pistol.
gate /gat/ n. 1 a hinged barrier used to close an opening in a wall, fence, or hedge. 2 a gateway: she went out through the gate. 3 fig. a means of entrance or exit: they were opening the gates of their country wide to the enemy. 4 an exit from an airport building to a plane. 5 the number of people who pay to enter a sports facility, exhibition hall, etc., for any one event: [as adj] gate receipts. 6 the money taken for admission. 7 a device resembling a gate in structure or function, in particular: a hinged or sliding barrier for controlling the flow of water: a sluice gate. 8 Ski-ing an opening through which a skier must pass in a slalom course, typically marked by upright poles. 9 an electric circuit with an output that depends on the combination of several inputs: a logic gate.
gateau /gā'tō/ n. (pl. -teaux pronunciation same or -'tōz) a rich cake, typically one containing layers of cream or fruit.
gate-crasher /gat'krash/'r/ n. a person who attends a party or other gathering without an invitation or ticket. —gate-crash v.
gatefold /gat'fəld/ n. an oversized page in a book or magazine folded to the same size as the other pages but intended to be opened out. —gate-fold v.
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gazebo |gæ'zɛbə| n. (pl. -bos or -boes) a roofed structure that offers an open view of the surrounding area, typically used for relaxation or entertainment.

gazelle |gæ'zel| n. (pl. same or gazelles) a small slender antelope (Gazella and other genera) that typically has curved horns and a fawn-colored coat, found in open country in Africa and Asia. —early 18th cent.: from French, probably via Spanish from Arabic ghasil.

gazette |gæ'tez| n. (used in the names of periodicals) a newspaper.

gaz-te-tee |gæ'zite| n. a geographical index or dictionary.

gaz-pa|gæ'paʃo| n. (pl. -chos) a Spanish-style soup made from tomatoes and other vegetables and spices, served cold.

GB |kæbbr. n. Comput. (also GB) gigabyte(s). —Great Britain.

G clef n. another term for treble clef.

GDP |'əbɛρ| adj. gross domestic product.

gear |gɛə(ə)r| n. 1. (often gears) one of a set of toothed wheels that work together to alter the relation between the speed of a driving mechanism (such as the engine of a vehicle or the crank of a bicycle) and the speed of the driven parts (the wheels). 2. a particular function or state of adjustment of engaged gears; he was towing along in fifth gear. 2. int. equipment that is used for a particular purpose.

v. [tr.] design or adjust the gears in (a machine) to give a specified speed or power output: it's geared too high for serious off-road use. 2. gear something to adjust or adapt something to suit a particular purpose or need.

v. [intr.] gear up or prepare oneself: the region started to gear up for the tourist season.

n. in gear with a gear engaged: the captain revved the engines and put them in gear. 2. fig. done with more energy or effort. I've got to get my act in gear.

gear-box |gɛəˈbɒks| n. a set of gears with its casing, esp. in a motor vehicle; the transmission.

gear-ing |gɛəˈriŋ| n. the set or arrangement of gears in a machine: the mill's internal waterwheel and gearing survives.

gear-shift |gɛəˈʃif| n. a device used to engage or disengage gears in a transmission or similar mechanism.

gear-wheel |gɛəˈhwɛl| n. a toothed wheel in a set of gears. 

v. [intr.] gear up a command to a horse to go faster.

v. (gees, geed, gee-ing) tr. command (a horse) to go faster. —encourage (someone) to work more quickly: I was geeing people up.

v. [intr.] int. a thousand dollars: we paid five gees.

geek |ɡiːk| n. 1. an unfashionable or socially inept person. 2. a person with an eccentric devotion to a particular interest: a computer geek.

2. a carnival performer who does wild or disgusting acts. —geeky adj.

goose |gʊs| n. plural form of GOOSE.

guez |ɡiːz| n. int. a person who dresses and behaves in a way characteristic of the opposite sex.

gene |dʒiːn| n. Biol. (in informal use) a unit of heredity that consists of a distinct sequence of nucleotides forming part of a chromosome and is transferred from a parent to offspring. It determines some characteristic of the offspring: proteins coded directly by genes.

genealogical |dʒiːnəˈlɒɡɪkl| adj. of or relating to the study or tracing of lines of family descent; genealogical research.

genealogist |ˈɡiːnəlɒɡɪst| n. —genealogical adj.

genealogical |dʒiːnəˈlɒɡɪkl| adj. of or relating to the study or tracing of lines of family descent; genealogical research. —genealogist |ˈɡiːnəlɒɡɪst| n.

gene doping n. the nontherapeutic use of gene therapy to enhance athletic performance, such as the supplementation of muscle-building genes.

Pronunciation Key a əɡə, uː or ʌː, ðə; e ə, ɛə; aː ɛə; aːr ə; ɔː ɔː; aːt əːt; ɔːt əːt; ɔːr əːr; ɔːdʒ ɔːdʒ; ɔːl əːl; ɔː, ɔːt ouː; ə ə; ʊə thː thin; ə ə; ɪ th; ɪ hwhy; ɪ ɪ;
for raising and moving heavy weights. 3 (also gin trap) a snare for catching game.

v. (ginned, ginning) [see gine]. 1 treat (cotton) in a gin. 2 trap (a person or animal) in a gin. —ginner n.

gin-ger /'jiner/ n. 1 a hot fragrant spice made from the rhizome of a plant. 2 spirit; mettle. 2 the Southeast Asian plant (Zingiber officinale, family Zingiberaceae) from which this rhizome is taken. 3 adj. (chiefly of hair or fur) of a light reddish-yellow color.

v. [tr.] flavor with ginger.

i freely give a sentence

baby how

intr. Korda

a regular

a reveal

n.

treat

|tr.


girt-dle /'girdl/ n. a woman's elasticized skirt that is used as a support for trousers or a belt. —girdle v. [see gird] girdle the belt, to girdle one's loins:

girdle v. [past gav, past part given] /'givn/ 1 freely to give the possession of something to someone; hand over to: they gave her water to drink | the check given to the jeweler proved worthless | [tr.] he gave the papers back. 2 bestow (love, affection, or other emotional support); parents given him the encouragement he needed to succeed | [as adj.] (giving) he was very giving and supportive. 3 administer (medicine): she was given antibiotics. 4 hand over (an amount) in exchange or payment; how much did you give for that? 5 (give something for) place a specified value on something; he never gave anything for French painting. 6 used hyperbolically to express how greatly one wants to have or do something: I'd give my right arm to be in Othello. 7 communicate or impart (a message) to someone; give my love to all the girls. 8 commit, consign, or entrust: a baby given into their care. 9 freely devote, set aside, or sacrifice for a purpose: all who have given thought to the matter agreed. 10 committee members who gave so generously of their time.

n. (of a man) sanctioned the marriage of (his daughter) to someone; he gave her in marriage to an English noble. 11 pass on (an illness or infection) to someone; I hope I don't give you my cold. 12 in, in. make a connection to allow (someone) to speak to (someone else) on the telephone; give me the police. 13 cite or present when making a toast or in introducing a speaker or entertained; as for everyone's future, you can count on me to give you ... Mister Albert DeNiro! 14 cause or allow (someone or something) to have (something, for example, abstract): provide or supply with: give you such a fright | [tr.] thisleaflet gives our opening times; 15 allot or assign (a score) to: I gave it a five out of ten. 16 sentence (someone) to (a specified penalty); for the first offense I was given a fine; 17 concede or yield (something) as valid or deserved in respect of someone; give him his due. 18 allow (someone) to have (a specified amount of time) for an activity or undertaking; give me a second to bring the car around. 19 I'll give you until tomorrow morning. 20 inf. predict that (an activity, undertaking, or relationship) will last no longer than a specified time; this will not improve with time — I give it three weeks. 21 [tr.] yield as a product or result; milk is sometimes added to give a richer cheese. 22 [tr.] (give something off/out/forth) emit odor, vapor, or similar substances: it can be burned without giving off toxic fumes. 23 [tr.] carry out or perform (a specified action); I gave a bow. 24 utter or produce (a sound); he gave a gasp. 25 provide (a party or social meal) as host or hostess: a dinner given in honor of a Canadian diplomat. 26 Korda gave him a going-away party. 27 [tr.] state or put forward (information or argument); he did not give his name, pledge or assurance; I'll give you my word, I say to (someone) as an excuse or inapposite answer: don't give me any of your back talk; deliver (a judgment) authoritatively; I gave my verdict. 28 present (an appearance or impression); he gave no sign of life. 29 [intr.] int. tell what one knows: okay, give — what's that about? 30 [intr.] alter in shape under pressure rather than resist or break; that cushion doesn't give. 31 yield or give way to: the heavy door didn't give until the fifth push | hg. when two people who don't get on are thrust together, something's got to give. 32 [intr.] concede defeat; surrender; I give.

phrasal v. give someone away 1 reveal the true identity of someone; his strangely shaped feet gave him away. 2 reveal information that incriminates someone; he has been over a bride ceremonially to his bridegroom as part of a wedding ceremony. 3 (give something away) reveal something secret or concealed. 4 (give in cease fighting or arguing; yield; surrender; he reluctantly gave in to the pressure. 5 give out be completely used up: her energy was on the verge of giving out. 6 stop functioning; break down: he curses and swears till his voice gives out. 7 give something out distribute or broadcast something; I've been giving out leaflets. 8 give up cease making an effort; resign oneself to failure; give it up. 9 [intr.] int. applaud a performer or entertaineer; give oneself up to surrender oneself to law enforcement agents. 10 [give someone up deliever a wanted person to authority; a voice told him to come out and give himself up. 11 [give something up part with something that one would prefer to keep; she would have given up everything for love. 12 stop the habitual doing or consuming of something; I've decided to give up drinking.

Pronunciation Key a go, up, ar, fer, fur; a hat, a tie; a car; ch thin; ch let; c see, c (not air) it; i by; i (not air) no sing; o go; o law, for, o tie; o good; o go; ou out; su she; th thin; th then; th why; zh vision
expression] showing no interest or animation: dull and glazed.
—glassy·ly [glä'së-ë·lë·ë·lë] adv. —glassy·ness n.

Glauber's salt [gle'ë·berz'] n. (also Glauber's salts) a crystalline hydrated form of sodium sulfate, used chiefly as a laxative.

Glaucoc·ma [glä'kö-mä] n. Med. a condition of increased pressure within the eyeball, causing gradual loss of sight. -mid 17th cent.: via Latin from Greek glaukos, based on glaukos "bluish-green, bluish-gray" (because of the gray-green haze in the pupil). —glauco·mat·ous [mä'tä-sës] adj.

glaucous [glä'kös] adj. technical or poetic. 1. of a dull grayish-green or blue color. 2. covered with a powdery bloom.

glaze [gläz] v. [inr.]. 1. fit panes of glass into a window or doorframe or similar structure: windows can be glazed using laminated glass. 2. cover or cover with glass: the verduras were glazed in. 2. (often be glazed) cover with a glaze or similar finish. 3. [inr.] lose brightness and animation: the prospect makes my eyes glaze over with boredom. [as adj.] (glazed) she had that glazed look in her eyes again.

n. 1. a substance used to give a smooth, shiny surface to something, especially a vitreous or glassy substance fused on to the surface of pottery. 2. a liquid such as milk or beaten egg, used to form a smooth shiny coating on food. —chiefly Art a thin layer of transparent paint used to modify the tone of an underlying color. 3. a smooth, shiny surface formed by glazing: the glaze of the white cups. 4. a thin, glassy coating of ice. —glazer n.

glazer·ier [glä'zë-rë-ër] n. a person whose profession is fitting glass into windows and doors.

Glaumin·g [glä'min·g] v. [intr.] the action of installing windows. 1. glass windows; sealed protective glazing. 2. a material used to produce a glaze.

GLBT n. abbr. gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered: a planned GLBT cable channel.

gleam [gleım] v. [intr.] shine brightly, esp. with reflected light: light glanced off the chin. 2. (of a smooth surface or object) reflect light because well polished. [as adj.] (gleaming) sleek and gleaming black lenses. 3. (of an emotion or quality) appear or be expressed through the brightness of someone's eyes or expression: a hint of mischief gleaming in her eyes.

n. a faint or brief light, esp. one reflected from something. 2. a brief or faint instance of a quality or emotion, esp. a desirable one: the gleam of hope vanished. 3. a brightness in a person's eyes taken as a sign of a particular emotion. —gleam·ing·ly adv. —gleam·ing·ness n.

glean [glen] v. [inr.] extract (information) from various sources: the information is gleaned from press clippings. 2. collect gradually and bit by bit: objects gleaned from local markets. —glean·er n. —glean·ing·ly adv.

glee [glen] n. 1. great delight: his face lit up with impish gloom. 2. a song for men's voices in three or more parts.

glee·club n. a group organized to sing short choral works, esp. partsongs.

glee·ful [glen·fël] adj. exuberantly or triumphantly joyful: she gave a gleeful chuckle. —glee·ful·ly adv. —glee·ful·ness n.

glen [glen] n. a narrow valley.

glen·gar·ry [glen·gär·ë] n. (pl. -ries) a brimless boat-shaped hat with a cleft down the center worn as part of Scottish Highland dress.

glib [glib] adj. glib·ber, glib·best [of words or the person speaking them] fluent and voluble but insincere and shallow; she was careful not to sound too glib. —glib·ly adv. —glib·ness n.

glide [gled] v. 1. [inr.] move with a smooth continuous motion, typically with little noise: a few gondolas glided past. 2. [inr.] cause to move with a smooth continuous motion. 2. make an unpowered flight, either in a glider or in an aircraft with engine failure. [of a bird] fly through the air with very little motion of the wings.

n. 1. a smooth continuous movement. 2. a flight in a glider or unpowered aircraft. 2. Phonet a sound produced as the vocal organs move toward or away from articulation of a vowel or consonant, for example [my] in mute [më·të].

glider·er [gled·ë-rë] n. 1. a light aircraft that is designed to fly for long periods without using an engine. 2. a person or thing that glides. 3. a long swinging seat suspended from a frame in a porch.

glim·mer·ly [glim·ër·ë·lë] adv. /glim·ër·ë·lë/ shine faintly with a wavelight: the moonlight glimmered on the lawn. [as adj.] (glimmer·ing) pools of glimmering light.

global warming n. the gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere due to the greenhouse effect caused by...
golden oldie n. an old song or movie that is still well known and popular.
golden raisin n. a raisin made from a white grape.
golden retriever n. a retriever of a breed with a thick golden-colored coat.
golden rule n. a basic principle that should be followed to ensure success in general or in a particular activity; one of the golden rules in this class is punctuality. (often Golden Rule) the biblical rule of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
golden-field n. a district in which gold is found as a mineral.
gold-finch n. a brightly colored finch (genus Carduelis) with yellow feathers in the plumage.
gold-fish n. (pl. same or -fishes) a small reddish-golden Eurasian carp (Carassius auratus), popular in ponds and aquariums.
goldfish bowl n. a spherical glass container for goldfish.

• v. (gold-plate) [tr] cover (something) with a thin layer of gold.
gold rush n. a rapid movement of people to a newly discovered goldfield. The first major gold rush, to California in 1848–49, was followed by others in the U.S., Australia (1851–53), South Africa (1884), and Canada (Klondike, 1897–98).
goldsmith n. a person who makes gold articles.
gold standard n. hist. the system by which the value of a currency was defined in terms of gold, for which the currency could be exchanged. ■ fig. the best, most reliable, or most prestigious thing of its type; you can't rely on lab tests as being the gold standard.
golf n. play golf: [as n] (golfing) a week's golfing. ■ golf-er n.
golf ball n. a small hard ball used in the game of golf.
golf cart n. a small motorized vehicle for golfers and their equipment.
golf club n. 1 a club used to hit the ball in golf, with a heavy wooden or metal head on a slender shaft. 2 an organization of members for playing golf. ■ the premises used by such an organization.
golf course n. a course on which golf is played.
golf-gi appara-tus (also Golgi body) n. Biol. a complex of vesicles and folded membranes within the cytoplasm of eukaryotic cells, involved in secretion and intracellular transport.
gol-gy n. (also by golfy) interj. int. dated used to express surprise or delight; "Golly! Is that the time?"
gonad n. Physiol. & Zool. an organ that produces gametes; a testis or ovary. ■ gonadal adj.
gonadotro-pin pin n. Biochem. any of a group of hormones secreted by the pituitary that stimulate the activity of the gonads.
gondola n. a light flat-bottomed boat used on Venetian canals, high at each end and worked by one oar at the stern. ■ a cabin on a suspended ski lift. ■ (also gondola car) an open, flat-bottomed railroad freight car. ■ an enclosed compartment suspended from an airship or balloon.
good adj. n.

• adv. int. well; my mother could never cook this good. ■ good-ish adj.

• all to the good to be welcomed without qualification: ■ as good as very nearly — she's as good as here. ■ used of a result which will inevitably follow: if we pass on the information, he's as good as dead. ■ be any (or no) good have some (or none and much) merit: tell me whether that picture is any good. ■ be of some (or none or much) help in dealing with a situation: it was no good trying to ward things off. ■ be so good (or be good enough) to do something used to make a polite request: would you be so good as to answer? ■ come up with (or deliver) the goods int. do what is expected or required of one. ■ do good act virtuously, esp. by helping others. ■ make a helpful contribution to a situation: could the discussion do any good? ■ do someone good be beneficial to someone. ■ for (good and all) forever; definitely: the experience almost frightened me away for good. ■ get (or have) the goods on int. obtain (or possess) information about (someone) that may be used to their detriment. ■ good and — int. used as an intensifier before an adjective or adverb: it'll be good and dark by then. ■ as good as good (esp. of a child) extremely well behaved. ■ as good as new in a very good way.
the leaves of which are modified to form spines, native to western Europe and North Africa. —gory adj.
gory-ness n.
▷ \(\text{the gory details} \) humorous the explicit details of something.
gosh [gōsh] inter. int. used to express surprise or give emphasis: gosh, we envy you. ■ used as a euphemism for “God”: a gosh-awful thing.
gosling [gōslıŋ] n. a young goose.
gospel [gospel] n. 1. the teaching or revelation of Christ: it is the Church’s mission to preach the gospel. ■ (also gospel truth) a thing that is absolutely true: they say it's sold out, but don’t take that as gospel. ■ a set of principles or beliefs: the new economics unit has produced what it reckons to be the approved gospel. ■ 2 (Gospel) the record of Jesus’ life and teaching in the first four books of the New Testament. ■ each of these books. ■ a portion from one of these read at a church service. 3 (also gospel music) a fervent style of black American evangelical religious singing, developed from spirituals sung in Southern Baptist and Pentecostal churches: gospel singers.
gossamer [gōsəmər] n. 1. a fine, filmy substance consisting of cobwebs spun by small spiders. ■ used to refer to something very light, thin, and insubstantial or delicate: his hair was blond gossamer. ■ adj. made of or resembling gossamer. —gossam-ery adj.
gossip [gəspəp] n. casual or unconsidered conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true; he became the subject of much local gossip. ■ chieflly derog. a person who likes talking about other people’s private lives.
v. (sped··sip·ing) int. 1. engage in gossip: they would start gossiping about her as soon as she left. ■ gos-sip·er n. —gossipy adj.
gossip column n. a section of a newspaper devoted to gossip about well-known people. —gossip column·nist n.
gossip monger [gəspəp muŋ·gər] n. a person who habitually passes on confidential information or spreads rumors.
got [gət] past and past participle of get.
Goth [gōt] n. 1. a member of a Germanic people that invaded the Roman Empire from the east between the 3rd and 5th centuries. 2 (Goth) a style of rock music derived from punk. ■ a member of a subculture favoring black clothing, white and black makeup, and goth music.
Gothic [gōtık] adj. 1. of or relating to the Goths or their extinct East Germanic language, which provides the earliest manuscript evidence of any Germanic language (4th-6th centuries AD). 2. of or in the style of architecture prevalent in western Europe in the 12th-16th centuries. characterized by pointed arches, rib vaults, and flying buttresses, together with large windows and elaborate tracery. 3. belonging to or resembling the Dark Ages; portentously gloomy or horrifying: 19th-century Gothic horror. 4. (of lettering) of or derived from the angular style of handwriting with broad vertical descenders used in western Europe from the 13th century. 5 (gothic) of or relating to goths or their rock music.
■ n. 1. the language of the Goths. 2. the Gothic style of architecture. —Goth·i·cal·ly [gōth·i·kə·lē] adv. —Goth·i·cism [gōth·i·siz·əm] n.
gotta [gōtə] n. con. of have to (not acceptable in standard use); you gotta be careful.
gotten [gōtən] past participle of get.
gouache [gōosh] n. a method of painting using opaque pigments ground in water and thickened with a glueslike substance.
■ paint of this kind; opaque watercolor. ■ a picture painted in this way.
Gouda [gōdə] n. a flat round cheese with a yellow rind, originally made in the town of Gouda in the Netherlands.
gouge [gōg] n. 1. a chisel with a concave blade, used in carpentry, sculpture, and surgery. 2. an indentation or groove made by gouging.
v. [tr.] 1. make (a groove, hole, or indentation) with or as if with a gouge. ■ make a rough hole or indentation in (a surface), esp. as to mar or disfigure it. ■ (gouge something out) cut or force something out roughly or brutally: one of his eyes had been gouged out. ■ int. overcharge, swindle. —gouger n.
goulash [gōləsh] n. a highly seasoned Hungarian soup or stew of meat and vegetables, flavored with paprika.
unscrupulously: they used the law to effect a land grab. 2 a mechanical device for clutching, lifting, and moving things, esp. materials in bulk.
• [as adj] denoting a bar or strap for people to hold on to for support in a moving vehicle: for elderly people, grab rails are likely to prevent accidents.
• 3 Compute. a frame of video or television footage, digitized and stored as a still image in a computer memory for subsequent display, printing, or editing: a screen grab. —grabber n.

graft

graft [graft] vi. 1 up on: available: to great prices for grabs.

grafting [grafting] vi. a container from which a person chooses a wrapped item at random, without knowing the contents.

graftly [graftly] adv. [bier,-biest] int. having or showing a selfish desire for something; greedy.

grace [grace] n. 1 simple elegance or refinement of movement: she moved through the water with effortless grace.

gracious [gracious] adj. 1 [as adj] denoting a person who is considerate and pleasing to others.


graceless [graceless] adj. 1 lacking grace, elegance, or charm.

graciousness [graciousness] n. 1 a quality or state of being gracious.

grad [gra'd] n. informal term for GRADUATE.

graduate [gra'dit] vi. 1 pass or come to pass by graduations from one shade of color to another: the black background gradated toward a dark purple.

gradation [gra'dashən] n. a scale or a series of successive changes, stages, or degrees: within the woodpecker family, there is a gradation of drilling ability.

graduation [gra'dashən] n. 1 a minute change from one shade, tone, or color to another; subtle gradations of green and blue.

grade [gra'd] n. 1 a particular level of rank, quality, proficiency, intensity, or value: sea salt is usually available in coarse or fine grades.

graded [gra'did] adj. 1 [as adj] denoting a student or piece of work that has been graded with a rank or number: grade AA butter.

graduated [gra'did] adj. 1 a level of quality or size for food or other products: grade AA butter.

gradeless [gra'deləs] adj. 1 [as adj] denoting a quality or size for food or other products: grade AA butter.

grade school n. an elementary school.

grade-schooler n.

grade point [gra'de pənt] n. a numerical value assigned to a letter grade received in a course at a college or university, multiplied by the number of credits awarded for the course.

grade point average (abbr.: GPA) n. an indication of a student's academic achievement at a college or university, calculated as the total number of grade points received over a given period divided by the total number of credits awarded.

grade-rider [gra'dər/ridər] n. 1 a person or thing that grades.

grade school n. an elementary school.

grade-schooler n.

grade-point [gra'de pənt] n. 1 an inclined part of a road or railroad; a slope.

grades [gra'dz] vi. 1 [as adj] denoting a piece of work or a grade of quality: grade AA butter.

grade up [gra'dəp] vi. 1 up: to place: a policy of promotion rather than sudden change or revolution.

gradients [gra'deənts] n. 1 a policy of gradual reform rather than sudden change or revolution.

gradual-ly [gra'dəul-əl] adj. 1 [as adj] denoting a process that happens gradually.

gradualism [gra'dəul-əzəm] n. 1 a policy of gradual reform rather than sudden change or revolution.

graduate n. 1 a person who has successfully completed a course of study or training, esp. a person who has been awarded an undergraduate academic degree.

graduated [gra'did] adj. 1 [as adj] denoting a piece of work or a grade of quality: grade AA butter.

graduation [gra'dashən] n. 1 a minute change from one shade, tone, or color to another; subtle gradations of green and blue.

gradually [gra'dələdʒi] adv. 1 [as adj] denoting a piece of work or a grade of quality: grade AA butter.


gradual-ness [gra'dəul-nəs] n. 1 a quality or state of being gradual.

gradually [gra'dələdʒi] adv. 1 [as adj] denoting a piece of work or a grade of quality: grade AA butter.

graffiti [gra'fetɪ] n. 1 a songbird (esp. Quiscalus quiscula) of the American blackbird family, the male of which has shiny black plumage with a blue-green sheen.

granted [gra'did] adj. 1 [as adj] denoting a piece of work or a grade of quality: grade AA butter.

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gradients [gra'deənts] n. 1 a policy of gradual reform rather than sudden change or revolution.
grind /grind/ v. [intr.] to crush, batter, or press a solid substance into a fine powder by repeated or continuous pressure, as with a pestle and mortar; to cut or tear with repeated pressure. vi. to grind away at something. adj. of, or causing, grinding. n. the act or process of grinding; a thing ground or fitted, esp. a grinding wheel. n. a heavy, flat iron plate that is heated and used for cooking food.

grind-i-on /'grind/ n. a frame of parallel bars or beams, typically in two sets arranged at right angles, in particular: a field for football, marked with regularly spaced parallel lines. n. another term for grid (sense 1). n. a traffic jam affecting a whole network of intersecting streets. n. another term for deadlock (sense 1). adj. locked.

grief /grif/ n. the state or condition of great sorrow; sadness; a deep feeling of sorrow; anguish; distress; sorrow, esp. for something evil, bad, or undesirable. vi. to feel the pain or suffering of grief; to be affected by grief. adj. of sorrow; causing sorrow; lamentable. n. a state of being sorrowful; a feeling of sorrow or distress; a complaint or complaint against. n. the feeling of being upset; the feeling of being upset.

griev-ance /'grevens/ n. a real or imagined wrong or other cause for complaint or protest, esp. unfair treatment; failure to redress genuine grievances; an official statement of a complaint over something believed to be wrong or unfair; three pilots have filed grievances against the company.

griev-ous /'grævs/ adj. formal of something bad; very severe; serious; his death was a grievous blow; the American fleet suffered grievous losses.

griffin /'grifin/ n. also griffon, griff. a mythical creature with the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion.
grinder 395
gross

force: the truck was grinding slowly up the hill. 3 [intr. int. (of a dancer) rotate the hips: go-go girls grinding to dancing disco.

$n$. 1 a crushing or grinding sound or motion: the crunch and grind of bulldozers. 2 hard dull work: relief from the daily grind. 3 an excessively hard-working student. 4 the size of ground particles; of the right grind gives you all the fine flour. 2 int. a dancer's rotary movement of the hips: a bump and grind.

grinder [grindr] n. 1 a machine used for grinding something: a coffee grinder. 2 a person employed to grind cutlery, tools, or ceramics. 3 a molar tooth. [grinders] int. the teeth. 3 int. another term for MILLSTONE.

grind-stone [grind-ston] n. a thick disk of stone or other abrasive material mounted so as to revolve, used for grinding, sharpening, or polishing metal objects. 2 another term for MILLSTONE.

grind-go [gringo] n. (pl. -gos) int. often ovens. a white person from an English-speaking country (used in Spanish-speaking regions, chiefly Latin America). 5 mid-19th cent.: Spanish, literally foreign, foreigner, or gibbonish. "perhaps an alteration of griego 'Greek.'

grit [grit] v. (gripped, gripping) [tr.] 1 take and keep a firm hold of: grasp tightly: his knuckles were white as he gripped the steering wheel. 2 maintain a firm contact, esp. by friction: a sole that really grips well on wet rock. 2 of a feeling or emotion) deeply affect (someone): she was gripped by the feeling of excitement. 2 of (an illness or unwelcome situation) affect strongly: the country was gripped by recession. 2 capture the attention or interest of: [as adj. (gripping)] a gripping TV thriller.

$n$. 1 a firm hold: a tight grasp or clasp: his arm was held in a vice-like grip. 2 fig. the icy grip of winter. 3 a manner of grasping or holding something: I've changed my grip and my bagging. 4 the ability of something, esp. a wheel or shoe, to maintain a firm contact with a surface: these shoes have got no grip. 5 an effective form of control over something: our firm grip on inflation. 6 an intellectual understanding of something: you've got a pretty good grip on what's going on. 7 a part or attachment by which something is held in the hand: handlebar grip. 3 a traveling bag: a grip crammed with new clothes. 4 an assistant in a theater, a stagehand. 5 a member of a camera crew responsible for moving and setting up equipment. -griper n. -gripping-ly adv.

$\square$ come to grips with engage in combat with: they never come to grips with the enemy. 2 begin to deal with or understand; a real tough problem to come to grips with. 3 get a grip [usu. in suppr.] int. keep or recover one's self-control: get a grip, guys! 4 get a grip on take control of: the boy will have to act to get a grip on inflation. 5 in the grip of dominated or affected by something undesirable or adverse: people caught in the grip of a drug problem.

gripe [gripe] v. 1 int. express a complaint or grumble about something, esp. something trivial: [intr.] they gripe about the paperwork | [with direct speech] "Holidays make no difference to Simon," Pat grunted. 2 [tr.] affect with gastric or intestinal pain: it grinds my belly like a green apple. 3 [intr.] Sailing (of a ship) turn to face the wind in spite of the helm.

$n$. 1 a complaint, esp. a trivial one: his biggest grudge is that he has lost his sense of priority. 2 (usu. gripes) gastric or intestinal pain; colic.

grify-ly [grify-ly] adj. (-lier, -liest) causing horror or disgust: the town was shaken by a series of grisly crimes. -gris-li-ness n.

grist [grist] n. grain that is ground to make flour. 2 malt crushed to make brewing. 3 fig. useful material, esp. to back up an argument.

$\square$ grist for the mill useful experience, material, or knowledge.

gris-tle [gris-tle] n. cartilage, esp. when found as tough, inedible connective tissue in meat. -gris-tly (-lis) adj.

grit [grit] n. 1 small, loose particles of stone or sand: she had a bit of grit in her eye. 2 [as adj.] (with numeral) indicating the grade of fineness of an abrasive: 220-grit paper. 3 courage and resolve; strength of character.

$\square$ gritted, gritting [tr.] clench (the teeth), esp. in order to keep one's resolve when faced with an unpleasant duty or task: fig. Congress must grit its teeth and take action | [as adj.] (gritted) "Not here," he said through gritted teeth. -gritty adj.

grits [grits] pl. n. (also treated as sing.) a dish of coarsely ground corn kernels boiled with water or milk.

gri-zled [griz-ald] adj. having or streaked with gray hair: grizzled hair.


groan [groan] v. [intr.] make a deep inarticulate sound in response to pain or despair: Marty groaned and pulled the blanket over his head. 2 [with direct speech] say something in a despairing or miserable tone: "Oh God!" | groan. 3 complain: grumble: they were moaning and groaning about management. 4 [of a thing) make a low creaking or moaning sound when pressure or weight is applied: James slammed back into his chair, making it groan and judged. 5 groan under/beneath fig. be oppressed by: families groaning under mortgage increases.

$n$. 1 a deep, inarticulate sound made in pain or despair. 2 a complaint: to vent with sincerity to one's own pain. 3 moans. 4 a low creaking or moaning sound made by an object or device under pressure: the protesting groan of timbers. -groarer n. -groaning-ly adv.

grocer [grocer] n. a person who sells food and small household goods.

grocery [groceri] pl. n. (pl. -eries) also grocery store a grocer's store or business. -groceries items of food sold in such a store.

grog [grog] n. spirits (originally rum) mixed with water. 2 alcohol, drunk, esp. beer. 3 crushed unglazed pottery or brick used as an additive in plaster or clay.

grogg-ly [graggi] adj. [-gler, -gliest] dazed, weak, or unsteady, esp. from illness, intoxication, sleep, or a blow: the sleeping pills had left her feeling groggy. -grogg-lyly [grag-gli-ly] adv. -grogg-lyness n.

grogam [grogamn] n. a coarse fabric made of silk, often combined with Mohair wool and stiffened with gum.

groin [groin] n. 1 the area between the abdomen and the thigh on either side of the body. 2 int. the region of the genitals. 3 Archit. a curved edge formed by two intersecting vaults.

$n$. 1 a low barrier built out into the sea from a beach to check erosion and drifting.

grommet [gromit] n. an eyelet placed in a hole in a sheet or panel to protect or insulate a rope or cable passed through it or to prevent the sheet or panel from being torn.

groom [groom, groom] v. [tr.] 1 look after the coat of a horse, dog, or other animal by brushing and cleaning it; you must be prepared to spend time grooming your dog. 2 (of an animal) clean the fur or skin of; give a neat and tidy appearance to (someone): [as n.] (grooming) she puts great attention to makeup, grooming, and clothes. 3 prepare or train (someone) for a particular purpose or activity; star pupils who are groomed for higher things.

$n$. 1 a person employed to take care of horses. 2 a bridgroom.

groover [groovr] n. 1 a long, narrow cut or depression, esp. one made to guide motion or receive a corresponding ridge. 2 an established routine or habit: his thoughts were slipping into a familiar groove. 3 int. a rhythm in popular music or jazz music.

$n$. 1 [tr.] make a groove or grooves in: deep lines grooved her face. 2 [intr.] dance or listen to popular or jazz music, esp. that with an insistent rhythm: they were grooving to Motown. 3 enjoy oneself: Harley relaxed and began to groove.

-in (or into) the groove int. performing consistently well or confidently: it might take me a couple of races to get into the groove.


grope [grope] v. [intr.] feel about or search blindly or uncertainly with the hands: she got up and gropped for her spectacles. 2 grope for search mentally with hesitation or uncertainty for a word or answer: she was groping for the words which would express what she thought | [as adj.] (grop-ing) their groping attempts to create a more meaningful existence. 3 move along with difficulty by feeling objects as one goes: she blew out the candle and groped her way to the door. 4 [tr.] feel or fondle (someone) for sexual pleasure, esp. against their will.

$n$. 1 an act of fondling someone for sexual pleasure; she and Steve sneak off for a quick grope. -grop-ing-ly adv.

grosgrain [gros-grain] n. a heavy, ribbed fabric, typically of silk or rayon.

gros point [gros] n. a type of needlepoint embroidery consisting of stitches crossing two or more threads of the canvas in each direction.

gross [gros] adj. 1 unattractively large or blatant: I feel fat, gross—even my legs feel fatter! 2 large-scale: not fine or detailed at the gross anatomical level. 3 complete; blatant; a gross exaggeration. 4 vulgar, unrefined: the duties we felt called upon to perform toward our inferiors were only gross, material ones. 5 very unpleasant; repulsive. 2 (of income, profit, or interest) without deduction of tax or other contributions; total: the
gross domestic product 396

gross amount of the gift was $1,000 | the current rate of interest is about 6.1 percent gross. Often contrasted with net (sense 1).

> adv. without tax or other contributions having been deducted.

> [tr.] produce or resulting from an amount of money as gross profit or income.

> [phrasal] v. gross something out int. disgust someone, typically with repulsive or obscene behavior or appearance.

> n. 1 (pl. same) an amount equal to twelve dozen; 144; fifty-five gross of tins of processed milk. 2 (pl. grosses) a gross profit or income: the boxoffice grosses mounted. Middle English (in the sense 'thick, massive, bulky'); from Old French gros, large', from late Latin grossus.

> grossly adv. Freda was grossly overweight. — gross-ness n.

gross domestic product (abbr.: GDP) n. the total value of goods produced and services provided by a country during one year, equal to the gross domestic product plus the net income from foreign investments.

grotesque (grôtesk) [adj. comically or repulsively ugly or distorted: grotesque facial distortions. incongruous or inappropriate to a shocking degree: a lifestyle of grotesque luxury.

> n. a very ugly or comically distorted figure, creature, or image: the rods are carved in the form of a series of gargoyle faces and grotesques. (the grotesque) that which is grotesque: images of the macabre and the grotesque. a style of decorative painting or sculpture consisting of the interweaving of human and animal forms with flowers and foliage.

> grotesquely adv. — grotesqueness n.

grotesque (grôtsk) [n. (pt. -toes or -tos) a small picturesque cave, esp. an artificial one in a park or garden. — grotesqueen]

grouch (grouch) n. a habitually grumpy person: rock's foremost poet and ill-tempered grouch. a complaint or grumble: my only real grudge was that the children's chores was far less easy on the ear. a fit of grumbling or sulking: he's in a threatening grouch.

> v. [intr.] voice one's discontent in an ill-tempered manner; grumble.

> grouchily adv. — grouchiness n.

ground (ground) n. 1 the solid surface of the earth: he lay on the ground. a limited or defined extent of the earth's surface; land: an adjoining area of ground had been purchased. land of a specified kind: my feet squashed over marshy ground. an area of land or sea used for a specified purpose: shore dumping can pollute fishing grounds and beaches. grounds an area enclosed and surrounding a large house or other building: the house stands in seven acres of grounds. [as adj.] (in aviation) of or relating to the ground rather than the air (with particular reference to the maintenance and servicing of an aircraft on the ground); ground staff [ground crew. [as adj.] (of an animal) living on or in the ground. [as adj.] (of a fish) bottom-dwelling. [as adj.] (of a plant) low-growing. esp. in relation to similar plants. 2 an area of knowledge or subject of discussion or thought: third-year courses typically cover less ground and go into more depth; he shifted the argument onto theoretical grounds of his own choosing. 3 grounds factors forming a basis for action or the justification for a belief: there are some grounds for optimism; they called for a retrial on the grounds of the new evidence.

> 4 chiefly Art a prepared surface to which paint or decoration is applied. 5 (grounds) solid particles, esp. of ground coffee, that form a residue: sediment. 6 electrical connection of a circuit or conductor to the earth or other body, such as the frame of a vehicle, whose potential is taken as zero.

> v. [ir.] 1 (often be grounded) prohibit or prevent (a pilot or an aircraft) from flying: a bitter wind blew from the northeast, and the bombers were grounded. 2 (of a parent) refuse to allow (a child) to go out socially as a punishment: he was grounded for hitting her on the head. run a (ship) aground. 3 (usu. be grounded in) give (something) a firm theoretical or practical basis; the study of history must be grounded in a thorough knowledge of the past. instruct (someone) thoroughly in a subject.

> place or lay (something) on the ground or hit the ground with it. 5 (ground) electrical device with the ground wire. 6 [intr.] Baseball (of a batter) hit the pitched ball; it bounces on the ground; he grounded to second. 7 (ground out) (of a batter) hit out; hitting a ball on the ground to a fielder who throws it to or touches first base before the batter touches that base; he grounded out to shortstop.

> break new (or fresh) ground do something innovative that is considered an advance or positive benefit. from the ground up int. completely or completely: they needed to learn the business from the ground up.

> gain ground become more popular or accepted: new moral attitudes are gaining ground. get off the ground (or get the ground off the

> ground) start or cause to start happening or functioning successfully; he doesn't appreciate the steps he must take to get the negotiations off the ground. give (or lose) ground retreat or lose one's advantage during a conflict or competition; he refused to give ground on this issue. hold (or stand) one's ground not retreat or lose one's advantage during a conflict or competition; you will be able to hold your ground and resist the enemy's attack. work oneself into the ground exhaust oneself by working very hard.

> ground past and past participle of ground.

> adj. reduced to fine particles by crushing or mincing; ground cumin. shaped, roughened, or polished by grinding; the thick opaque ground perimer of the lenses.

> ground ball n. baseball a ball hit along the ground. also called grounder.

> ground-breaking [ground, brâki-k] adj. breaking new ground; innovative; pioneering. — ground-breaker n., — groundbreaker n.

> ground control n. [treated as sing. or pl.] the ground-based personnel and equipment that monitor and direct the flight and landing of aircraft or spacecraft. — ground-control n.

> ground cover n. low-growing, spreading plants that help to stop weeds from growing.

> ground glass n. 1 glass with a smooth ground surface that renders it transparent while retaining its translucency. 2 glass ground into an abrasive powder.

> groundhog n. groundhog, hâg, hâlg another term for woodchuck.

> groundless [ground-lis] adj. not based on any good reason; your fears are quite groundless. — groundlessly adv. — groundlessness n.

> ground mass [ground, mas] n. [in sing.] Geol. the compact, fine-grained material in which the crystals are embedded in a porphyritic rock.

> groundskeeper n. a person who maintains an athletic field, a park, or the grounds of a school or other institution.

> ground speed [ground, spéd] n. an aircraft's speed relative to the ground.

> ground squirrel n. a burrowing squirrel (Spermophilus and other genera) that is typically highly social, found chiefly in North America and northern Eurasia, where it usually hibernates in winter.

> ground swell [ground, swel] n. a buildup of opinion or feeling in a large section of the population: an unexpected groundswell of opposition developed.

> ground-water [ground, wòt-er; -wat-er] n. water held underground in the soil or in pores and crevices in rock.

> ground-work [ground, werk] n. preliminary or basic work.

> ground zero n. the point on the earth's surface directly above or below an exploding nuclear bomb. the site of the former World Trade Center in New York City in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. fig. a starting point or base for some activity; if you're starting at ground zero in terms of knowledge, go to the library.

> group [groop] n. [treated as sing. or pl.] a number of people or things that are located close together or are considered or classed together: these bodies fall into four distinct groups. a number of people who work together or share certain beliefs: I now belong to my local drama group. a commercial organization consisting of several companies under common ownership. a number of musicians who play popular music together. a combination of atoms having a recognizable identity in a number of compounds. Math. a set of elements, together with an associative binary operation, that contains an inverse for each element and an identity element.

> v. [tr.] (often be grouped) put together or place in a group or groups: three wooden chairs were grouped around a dining table. put into categories; classify. [intr.] form a group or groups.

> group dy-nam-ics [pl. n.] [also treated as sing.] Psychol. the processes involved when people in a group interact with each other, or the study of these processes.

> group er [groop'er] n. a large heavy-bodied fish (Epinephelus, Mytrop- era, and other genera) of the sea bass family, with a big head and wide mouth, found in warm seas.

> group-ie [groop'y] n. int. a person, esp. a young woman, who regularly follows a pop music group or other celebrity in the hope of meeting or getting to know them. very dense. an enthusiastic or uncritical follower: the contemporary art groupie.

> group ing [groop'ing] n. a set of people acting together with a common interest or purpose, esp. within a larger organization: a grouping
of Protestant churches. • the arrangement or formation of people or things in a group or groups: an alternative form of ability grouping.

group therapy • n. a form of psychotherapy in which a group of patients meet to discuss and their problems together under the supervision of a therapist.

grouse • [grouse] n. (pl. same) a game bird (Lagopus, Tetrao, and other genera) with a plump body and feathered legs, the male being larger and more conspicuously colored than the female. The grouse family (Tetraonidae, or Phasianidae) also includes ptarmigans.

grout • [grout] n. a mortar or paste for filling crevices, esp. the gaps between wall or floor tiles.

grow • [grow] v. [intr.] 1. to increase in amount, size, or height. 2. to develop or become. 3. to extend or develop gradually: to grow accustomed. 4. to develop or become gradually: to grow old.


growl • [growl] n. a harsh, rumbling sound, like that made by a dog.


grove • [grove] n. a small wood, orchard, or group of trees: an olive grove.

growlingly • adv.


growing • [growing] adj. 1. of or having to do with growing. 2. increasing in amount, size, or height. 3. developing or becoming: to grow old.


grower • [grower] n. 1. a person who grows a particular type of crop: a fruit grower. 2. a plant that grows in a specified way.


growing pains • pl. n. neuralgic pains that occur in the limbs of some young children.


growl • [growl] n. [intr.] 1. a harsh, rumbling sound, like that made by a dog.


growth • [growth] n. 1. the process of increasing in physical size: the upgrowth of plants. 2. the growth of the city affects the local climate. 3. the process of developing or maturing physically, mentally, or spiritually: keeping a journal can be a vital step in our personal growth. 4. the increase in number and spread of small or microscopic organisms: some additives slow down the growth of microorganisms. 5. the process of increasing in amount, value, or importance: the rates of population growth are lowest in the north. 6. increase in economic value or activity: the government aims to get growth back into the economy.


growly • adj. resembling a growl.


grotesque • adj. ugly or grotesquely.


grotto • [grotto] n. a small, natural cave or alcove.


growth • n. the act of growing.


grow-old • adj. growled.
G-string

G-string (also gee-string) n. A garment consisting of a narrow strip of cloth that covers the genitals and is attached to a waistband, worn as underwear or by striptease performers.

G-suit n. A garment with pressurized pouches that are inflatable with air or fluid, worn by fighter pilots and astronauts to enable them to withstand high forces of acceleration.


gua-ca-mole [gwakə'mɔlɛ] n. A dish of mashed avocado mixed with chopped onion, tomatoes, chili peppers, and seasoning.

gua-aiac [gwakəi] n. Brown resin obtained from guaiacum trees, used as a flavoring and in varnishes.

gua-a-cum [gwakəam] n. An evergreen tree (Guaiacum officinale and G. sanctum) of the Caribbean and tropical America, known for its hard, heavy, oily timber.

gua-nine [gwənə] n. Biochem. A purine derivative, one of the four constituent bases of nucleic acids.

gua-no [gwənə] n. (pl. -nos) The excrement of seabirds, occurring in thick deposits notably on the islands off Peru and Chile, and used as fertilizer.

Gua-ri-ni [gwərini] n. (pl. same) 1 A member of an American Indian people of Paraguay and adjacent regions. 2 The language of this people.

Gua-ran-tee [garənti] n. A formal promise or assurance (typically in writing) that certain conditions will be fulfilled, esp. that a product will be repaired or replaced if not of a specified quality and durability: we offer a 10-year guarantee against rusting. 2 Something that gives a certainty of outcome: past performance is no guarantee of future results.

>> variant spelling of Gauranty. 3 Less common term for Gaurantor.

v (-tees, teed, -teeing) intr. To provide a formal assurance or promise, esp. that certain conditions shall be fulfilled relating to a product, service, or transaction: the con artist guarantees that the dirt pile will yield at least 20 ounces of gold.

Intr. To provide such an assurance regarding something or someone that will be protected against loss or damage (guaranteed, guarantee).

guaranteed bonus is not very high.

Intr. To promise financial security for; underwrite: a demand that $100,000 be deposited to guarantee their costs.

Intr. To promise with certainty.

Guarantor [garəntor] n. 1 A person, organization, or thing that guarantees something: the role of the police as guarantors of public order.

Law. A person or organization who provides a guaranty.

Guaranty [garənti] n. (also Guarantee) pl. (guarantees) a formal pledge to pay another person's debt or to perform another person's obligation in case of default. 2 A thing serving as security for a debt or a pledge.

guard [gərd] v. intr. To keep watch and be on the lookout for danger; to watch over someone or something, esp. to prevent them from escaping. 2 To protect against something: take precautions against.

Guard against: protect against damage or harm: the company fiercely guarded its independence. 3 Basketball stay close to an opponent in order to prevent a good shot, pass, or drive.

House guard on duty to protect or equip (a part of a machine) with a device to protect the operator.

n. 1 A person who keeps watch, esp. a soldier or other person formally assigned to protect a person or to control access to a place: a security guard. 2 A body of soldiers serving to protect a place or person. 3 A defensive posture adopted in boxing, wrestling, or martial arts contest or in a fight. 4 A state of caution, vigilance, or preparedness against adverse circumstances.

† lower (or let down) one's guard relax one's defensive posture, leaving oneself vulnerable to attack. 2 Reduce one's level of vigilance or caution: she was not ready to let down her guard and confide in him.

Off guard unprepared for some surprise or oversight: the reinfection was caught off guard by the announcement.

On guard on duty to protect or defend something: also on one's guard prepared for any contingency; vigilant: we must be on guard against such temptation. 2 Under guard being guarded.

Guarded [gərdid] adj. Cautionous and having possible reservations: he has given a guarded welcome to the idea. 2 Of a person's medical condition: serious and of uncertain outcome: the surviving crewman was in stable but guarded condition.

Guardedly adv.guardedly

Guardedness n.

Guardhouse [gərdhous] n. A building used to accommodate a military guard or to detain military prisoners.

Guidance

guidance n. Advice or information aimed at resolving a problem or difficulty, esp. as given by someone in authority: he looked to his father for inspiration and guidance. 2 The directing of the motion or actions of a person or thing: give guidance.
guillemot /'gile.mat/ n. a black-breasted auk (genus Cepphus) with a narrow pointed bill, typically nesting on cliff ledges.

guil-lo-tine /'gila.ten, gëa'-/ n. a machine with a heavy blade sliding vertically in grooves, used for beheading persons. • A device for cutting that incorporates a descending or sliding blade, used typically for cutting paper, card, or sheet metal.

v. [tr] execute (someone) by guillotine. • late 18th cent.: from French, named after Joseph-Louis Guillotin (1738-1814), the French physician who recommended its use for executions in 1789.

guillotine /'gila.ten, gëa'-/ n. the fact of having committed a specified or implied offense or crime: It is the duty of the prosecution to prove the prisoner's guilt.

v. [tr] inf make (someone) feel guilty, especially in order to induce them to do something: Celeste had been guilted into going by her parents.

guiltless /'gilts./ adj. having no guilt; innocent: you don't need a pardon if you're guiltless.

guilty /'gilti/ adj. (guilt-i,-er, guilt-i-est) culpable of or responsible for a specified wrongdoing: the policeman will soon discover who the guilty party is; he was found guilty of manslaughter; he found them guilty on a lesser charge.

n. not guilty innocent, exp. of a formal charge: he pled not guilty to murder.

gum /'gam/ n. the firm area of flesh around the roots of the teeth in the upper or lower jaw; gum disease.

v. [guum'-gumming] [tr] chew with toothless gums.

gum /'gum/ n. (in phrase by gum) an exclamation used for emphasis.

gum-arabic n. a gum exuded by some kinds of acacia and used as an emulsifier, in glue, as the binder for watercolor paints, and in incense.

gumbo /'gambö/ n. (pl. -bos) 1 [in Cajun cooking] a spicy chicken or seafood soup thickened typically with okra or rice. 2 (Gumbo) a French-based patois spoken by some blacks and Creoles in Louisiana.

3 a fine, clayey soil that becomes sticky and impervious when wet.

4 a type of Cajun music consisting of a lively blend of styles and sounds.

gulf /'gal/ n. 1 a deep inlet of the sea almost surrounded by land, with a narrow mouth. 2 a deep ravine, chasm, or abyss. 

Guillemot /'gal/ n. a long-winged, web-footed seabird (Larus and other genera, family Laridae) with a raucous call, typically having white plumage with a gray or black mantle.

gull /'gul/ n. a person who is fooled or deceived.

Guillemot /'gal/ n. 1 a member of the black people living on the coast of South Carolina and nearby islands. 2 the Creole language of this people, having an English base with elements from various West African languages.

gull-let /'galit/ n. the passage by which food passes from the mouth to the stomach; the esophagus.

Guillemot /'gal/ n. also guile /'gail/ adv. easily persuaded to believe something; credulous.

Guillemot /'gal/ also guile /'gail/ n. (pl. -lies) a waterproof rainwear. 

n. a deep artificial channel serving as a gutter or drain.

v. [tr] usu. adj. (gulled) erode gullies into (land) by water action: he began to pick his way over the gullied landscape.

gulp /'galf/ n. [v. tr] swallow (drink or food) quickly or in large mouthfuls, often audibly: he smiled and gulped his milk.

n. a large mouthful of liquid hastily drunk: Titch took a gulp of beer and wiped his mouth on his sleeve.

n. an act of gulping food or drink: she swallowed the rest of the coffee with a gulp.

n. a large mouthful of liquid hastily drunk: Titch took a gulp of beer and wiped his mouth on his sleeve.

n. a swallowing movement of the throat.

n. a swallowing movement of the throat.

v. [gummed, gumming] [tr] cover with gum or glue: [as adj. (gummed) gummed paper. n. [tr] fasten with gum or glue: I was gumming small green leaves to a paper tree.

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H  [ˈhætʃ] (also h) n. (pl. Hs or H’s /ˈhætʃz/). 1 the eighth letter of the alphabet. 2 (H) a shape like that of a capital H.

H.  [ˈhæbr] abbr. hard (used in describing grades of pencil lead); a 2H pencil.

H.  [ˈhæbr] height (in giving the dimensions of an object). 2 Physics henry(s).

H.  [ˈhæbr] int. heroin.

H.  [ˈsɪmb] symb. Chem. enthalpy. 2 the chemical element hydrogen.

H.  [ˈhæbr] abbr. (in measuring the height of horses) hand(s). 2 [comb.] (in units of measurement) hecto: wine production reached 624,000 hl last year. 2 horse. 2 hour(s): breakfast at 07:00 h.

Hah!  [hɑh] (also hah) interj. used to express surprise, suspicion, triumph, or some other emotion.

Hah!  [ˈhektər] abbr. hectare(s).

Hab-eas-cor-pus  [hæb'eeəs ˈkɔrpuːs] n. Law a writ requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a judge or into court, esp. to secure the person’s release unless lawful grounds are shown for their detention. 2 the legal right to apply for such a writ.

Hab-er-dash-er  [ˈhæbər ˈdæʃər] 1 a dealer in men’s clothing. 2 Brit. a dealer in goods for dressmaking and sewing. —hab-i-er-dash-er-y  [-ər-i]-/n.

Hab-i-lit-ment  [ˈhæbiləmt]-/n. [usu. habitaments] archaic clothing.

Hab-i-tat  [ˈhæbit] n. 1 a settled or regular tendency or practice, esp. one that is hard to give up. 2 int. an addictive practice, esp. one of taking drugs: a cocaine habit. 2 Psychoi. an automatic reaction to a specific situation. 3 general shape or mode of growth, esp. of a plant or an animal: a shrub of spreading habit. 2 a long, loose garment worn by a member of a religious order or congregation. 2 archaic dress: attire.

Hab-i-tat-ion  [ˈhæbitəˈʃən]-/n. 1 Middle English: from Old French abit, habit, from Latin habitus ‘condition, appearance,’ from habitere ‘have, consist of.’ The term originally meant ‘dress, attire,’ later coming to denote physical or mental constitution.

Hab-i-tat  [ˈhæbi,tæt]-/n. 1 the habit stop engaging in a habitual practice. 2 habitable  [ˈhæbi,tæbl]-/adj. suitable or good enough to live in. —hab-i-tat-ility  [-ələti-/-]-/n.

Hab-i-tant  [ˈhæbatənt]-/n. 1 often as adj. an early French settler in Canada (esp. Quebec) or Louisiana: habitant farmhouses. 2 archaic an inhabitant.

Hab-i-tat  [ˈhæbi,tæt]-/n. the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism; a particular type of environment regarded as a home for organisms. 2 int. a person’s usual or preferred surroundings.

Hab-i-lat-i-on  [ˈhæbilətən]-/n. the state or process of living in a particular place. 2 formal a place in which to live: a house or home. —hab-i-lat-ive  [-ətəiv]-/adj.

Hab-it-form-ing  [ˈhæbit,fɔːr,ɪŋ]-/adj. (of a drug or activity) addictive.

Hab-it-ual  [ˈhæbɪtʃʊəl]-/adj. done or doing constantly or as a habit.

Hab-it-u-a-ble  [ˈhæbɪtʃʊəb(ə)l]-/adj. adv. regular; usual: his habitual dress. —hab-it-u-a-ble-ly  [-əbləli]-/adv.

Hab-it-u-a-te  [ˈhæbɪtʃʊəte]-/v. make or become accustomed or used to something. —hab-it-u-a-tion  [-ətʃʊəneʃən]-/n.

Hab-it-u-ite  [ˈhæbɪtʃʊət]-/n. (from Latin habituus) a person of or frequent visitor to a particular place: his uncle was a habitue of the French theater.

Hah!  [hɑh] (also hah) n. a diacritic mark (’’) placed over a letter to indicate modification of the sound in Slavic and other languages.

Hah!  [hɑh] n. [in Spanish-speaking regions] a large estate or plantation or a dwelling house. 2 the main house on such an estate.

Hah!  [hɑh] v. [tr.] cut with rough or heavy blows. 2 [intr.] use a computer to gain unauthorized access to data in a system: they hacked into a bank’s computer. 2 int. gain unauthorized access to (data in a computer). 2 hack it int. manage: cope: people leave because they can’t hack it.

Hah!  [hɑh] 1 a rough cut, blow, or stroke. 2 [intr.] a kick or hit inflicted on another player. 2 a cut or gash. 2 a tool for rough striking or cutting. e.g. a miner’s pick. 2 int. an act of computer hacking. 1 a piece of computer code that performs some function, esp. an unofficial alternative or addition to a commercial program.

Hah!  [hɑh] v. [tr.] cut or chop. 2 [intr.] cut or gash. 2 use a tool for rough striking or cutting. e.g. a miner’s pick. 2 int. an act of computer hacking. 1 a piece of computer code that performs some function, esp. an unofficial alternative or addition to a commercial program.

Hah!  [hɑh] n. a writer or journalist producing dull, unoriginal work. 2 a person who does dull routine work. 2 a horse for ordinary riding. 2 an inferior or worn-out horse. 2 a horse rented out for riding. 2 a taxicab.

Hack  [hæk] v. [intr.] uss. as n. (hacking) ride a horse for pleasure or exercise. —hack-er-y  [ˈhækəri]-/n.

Hacker  [ˈhækə]-/n. 1 int. an enthusiastic and skillful computer programmer or user. 2 a person who uses computers to gain unauthorized access to data. 2 a person or thing that hacks or cuts roughly.

Hak-ke-l  [ˈhækl]-/n. 1 hackles erectile hairs along the back of a dog or other animal that rise when it is angry or alarmed. 2 the hairs on the back of a person’s neck, thought of as being raised when the person is angry or hostile. 2 often hackles a long, narrow feather on the neck or saddle of a domestic rooster or other bird. 2 Fishing a feather wound around a fishing fly so that its filaments are splayed out. such feathers collectively. 3 a steel comb for separating flax fibers.

Hack-n-key  [ˈhækni]-/n. (pl. -neys) hist. a horse or pony of a light breed with a high-stepping trot, used in harness. 2 [usu. as adj.] a horse-drawn vehicle kept for hire: a hackney coach.

Hack-neyed  [ˈhækni:] adj. (of a phrase or idea) lacking significance through having been overused; trite: hackneyed sayings.

Hack-saw  [ˈhæk,sɔ:-] n. a saw with a narrow fine-toothed blade set in a frame, used esp. for cutting metal.

Hack  [ˈhæk]-/n. (past part. -sawn or -sawed) [tr.] cut (something) using a hacksaw.

Had  [hæd] v. [past and past participle of HAVE

Hacks  [ˈhæk]-/n. pl. (pl. -neys) hist. a horse or pony of a light breed with a high-stepping trot, used in harness. 2 [usu. as adj.] a horse-drawn vehicle kept for hire: a hackney coach.

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Hacks  [ˈhæk]-/n. v. [tr.] cut (something) using a hacksaw.
hagfish /ˈhægfɪʃ/ n. (pi. same or -fishes) a primitive jawless marine vertebrate (Myxine and other genera, family Myxinidae) distinctively related to the lampreys, with a slimy eel-like body, a slit-like mouth surrounded by barbels, and a rasping tongue used for feeding on dead or dying fish.

hag-gard /ˈhægərd/ adj. 1 looking exhausted and unwell, esp. from fatigue, worry, or suffering. 2 (of a hawk) caught for training as a wild adult of more than twelve months.

n. a haggard hawk. —hag-gard-ly adv. —hag-gard-ness n.

haggle /ˈhægəl/ v. [intr.] dispute or bargain persistently, esp. over the cost of something.

n. a period of such bargaining. —hag-gler /ˈhægələr/ n.

Hagi-ogra-pher /ˈhægiəˌɡrɑfər, ˈhægəˌɡrɑfər/ n. a writer of the lives of the saints. —hagi-ogra-pher /ˈhægiəˌɡrɑfər, ˈhægəˌɡrɑfər/ a person who writes in an admiral way, esp. in a biography.

Hagi-ogra-phy /ˈhægiəˌɡrɑfɪ, ˈhægəˌɡrɑfɪ/ n. the writing of the lives of saints. —hagi-ogra-pher /ˈhægiəˌɡrɑfər, ˈhægəˌɡrɑfər/ a biography idealizing its subject.

Hagi-ogra-phe /ˈhægiəˌɡrɑfɪ, ˈhægəˌɡrɑfɪ/ n. the worship of saints. —hagi-ogra-pher /ˈhægiəˌɡrɑfər, ˈhægəˌɡrɑfər/ derog. undue veneration of a famous person.

Hagi-o-log-y /ˈhægiəˌlɒdʒɪ, ˈhægəˌlɒdʒɪ/ n. literature dealing with the lives of saints. —hagi-o-log-i-cal /ˌhægiəˌlɒdʒɪˈkæl/ adj.

—hagi-o-log-i-cal-ly /ˌhægiəˌlɒdʒɪˈkælɪ/ adv.

hah /ˈhɑ/ inter. variant spelling of ha.

Ha-ha /ˈhæhə/ n. a ditch with a wall on its inner side below ground level, forming a boundary to a park or garden without interrupting the view.

Hahnium /ˈhænəm/ n. the name formerly proposed by the American Chemical Society for the chemical element of atomic number 105 (dubium), and by IUPAC for element 108 (hassium).

Hai-ku /ˈheiˌku, ˈhɛiˌku/ n. (pi. same or -kus) a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world.

Hair /ˈhɑr/ n. an English imitation of this.

Hail /ˈhæl/ n. pellets of frozen precipitation that fall in showers. —hail /ˈhæl/ a large number of things hurled forcefully through the air, esp. with intent to harm: a hail of bullets.

v. [intr.] it hails, it is hailing, etc. hail falls, it hailed so hard we had to stop.

Hail /ˈhæl/ v. 1 to call out to (someone) to attract attention; signal (an approaching taxicab) to stop. 2 often be hailed) acclaim enthusiastically as being a specified thing. 3 [intr.] (hail from) have one's home or origins in (a place).

—hail /ˈhæl/ inter. archaic expressing greeting or acclaim: hail, Caesar! —hail /ˈhæl/ a shout or call used to attract attention. —hail /ˈhæl/ n.

—within hail (or within hailing distance) at a distance within which someone may be called to: within earshot.

Hail Mary /ˈhælməri, ˈhælˌməri/ n. (pi. Hail Marys) a prayer to the Virgin Mary used chiefly by Roman Catholics. —a recitation of such a devotional phrase or prayer. —[usu. as adj.] Football a desperation long pass to try to score late in the game. —any attempt with a small chance of success: a Hail Mary pass.

Hair-stone /ˈhɑrstən/ n. a pellet of hail.

Hair-storm /ˈhɑrˌstɔrn/ n. a storm of heavy hail.

Hair /ˈhɑr/ n. any of the fine threadlike strands growing from the skin of humans, mammals, and some other animals. —a similar strand growing from the epidermis of a plant, or forming part of a living cell. —a hair a very small quantity or extent. —2 such strands collectively, esp. those growing on a person's head. —the styling or dressing of a person's hair: hair and makeup by Terry. —haided /ˈhɑrd/ adj. —hair-less /ˈhɑrlis/ adj. —hair-like /ˈhɑrli/ adj.

—hair of the dog int. an alcoholic drink taken to cure a hangover. —hair breadth a very small amount or margin. —in (or out of) someone's hair int. annoying (or ceasing to annoy) someone. —let one's hair down int. behave in an uninhibited or relaxed manner. —to make someone's hair stand on end int. alarm or horrify someone. —put hair on one's chest int. (of an alcoholic drink) be very strong. —split hairs make small and overt distinctions.

Hair-ball /ˈhærbɔll/ n. a compact ball of hair that accumulates in the stomach of a cat or other animal that grooms itself by licking its fur.

Hair-breadth /ˈhærbredθ/ n. see a hair's breadth at hair.

Hair-brush /ˈhærb्रʌʃ/ n. a brush for arranging or smoothing a person's hair.

Hair-cloth /ˈhærcloʊ/ n. stiff cloth woven with a cotton or linen warp and horsehair weft.

Hair-cut /ˈhærkʌt/ n. the style in which a person's hair is cut. —an act of cutting a person's hair.

Hair-do /ˈhærdoʊ, ˈhærdəʊ/ n. (pl. -dos) int. the style of a person's hair. —an act of styling a person's hair (used esp. of a woman's hair).

Hair-dress-er /ˈhærdrefə, ˈhærˌdrefə/ n. a person who cuts and styles hair as an occupation. —hair-dress-ing /ˈdrefɪŋ, ˈdrefɪŋ/ n.

Hair-dry-er (also hair drier) /ˈhærdriər/ n. an electrical device for drying a person's hair by blowing warm air over it.

Hair-line /ˈhɑrlin/ n. 1 the edge of a person's hair, esp. on the forehead. 2 a lay thin or fine line: a hairline fracture.

Hair-net /ˈhærnɛt/ n. a piece of fine mesh fabric for confining the hair.

Hair-piece /ˈhærpɛs/ n. a quantity or switch of detached hair used to augment a person's natural hair.

Hair-pin /ˈhɑrpɪn/ n. a U-shaped pin for fastening the hair. —a sharp U-shaped curve in a road.

Hair-raising /ˈhærəˈreɪŋ/ adj. extremely alarming, astonishing, or frightening.

Hair-split-ter /ˈhɑrsplɪtər/ n. a hair-splitting /ˈhɑrsplɪtɪŋ/ adj. characterized by or fond of small and overenthusiastic distinctions.

Hair-spray (also hairspray) /ˈhærˌsprɛɪ, ˈhærˌsprɛɪ/ n. a solution sprayed onto a person's hair to keep it in place.

Hair-spring /ˈhɑrˌsprɪŋ/ n. a slender flat coiled spring regulating the movement of the balance wheel in a watch.

Hair-style /ˈhærˌstila/ n. a particular way in which a person's hair is cut or arranged.

Hair trigger /ˈhɑrtɹɪɡər/ n. a trigger of a firearm set for release at the slightest pressure. —hair-trigger /ˈhɑrtɹɪɡər/ adj. liable to change suddenly and violently: a hair-trigger temper.

Hair-y /ˈhɑrɪ/ adj. (hairier, hairiest) 1 covered with hair, esp. thick or long hair. —having a rough feel or appearance suggestive of coarse hair. —int. alarming and difficult: we flew up a hairy mountain road.

Hair-ly /ˈhɑrəli, ˈhærəli/ adv. —hair-ness n.

Hajj /ˈhɑj/, also hajji or hadji /ˈhɑdʒi/ n. (pi. hajis) a Muslim who has been to Mecca as a pilgrim. [as title] Haji Hadi.

Hajj /ˈhɑj/, also hajji or hadji /ˈhɑdʒi/ n. the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca that takes place in the last month of the year, and that all Muslims are expected to make at least once during their lifetime.

Hake /hɑk/ (pi. same or hakes) n. 1 a large-headed elongated foodfish (genus Merluccius, family Merluccidae) with long jaws and strong teeth. 2 any of a number of similar relatedfishes, esp. those of the northwestern Atlantic genus (Opriphycis, family Phycidae).

Halal /ˈhɑləl, ˈhɑləl/ adj. denoting or relating to meat prepared as prescribed by Muslim law. —religiously acceptable according to Muslim law.

Halal meat.

Halberd /ˈhɑlберd/ n. —halberd /ˈhɑlberd/ a combined spear and battle-ax.

Halcyon /ˈhælsən/ adj. denoting a period of time in the past that was idyllically happy and peaceful.

n. 1 a tropical Asian and African kingfisher (genus Halcyon) with brightly colored plumage. 2 a mythical bird said by ancient writers to breed in a nest floating at sea at the winter solstice, charming the wind and waves into calm. —late Middle English: via Latin from Greek albukon "kingfisher".

Pronunciation Key - a (o a) as in fat; e (o e) as in let; i (o i) as in red; u (o u) as in cut; s (o s) as in vision.
half [haf] n. (pl. halves [havz]) either of two equal or corresponding parts into which something is or can be divided. n. either of two equal periods of time into which a sports game or a performance is divided.
  * Baseball either of the two parts of one inning: the top half of the third.
  * pron. & adj. an amount equal to a half: [as pron.] half of the lectures are delivered by him; [as adj.] the last half century. n. amounting to a part thought of as roughly a half: [as pron.] half of them are gate-crashers.
  * adv. to the extent of half: the glass was half full. [often in comb.] to a certain extent; partly: the chicken is half-cooked.
  * n. go halves share something equally.
  * the half of it int. the most important part or aspect of something: you don't know the half of it.
  * n. a past tense (two, etc.) of clock. n. not half 1 not nearly: not half such a fool as they thought. 2 int. not at all: the players are not ready.

half-and-half adv. & adj. in equal parts; [as adj.] half-and-half mixture.
  * n. a mixture of milk and cream.
  * a mixture of equal parts of beer and stout or of ale and porter.

half-back [haf, bæk] n. Football an offensive back usually positioned behind the quarterback and to the side of the fullback. n. a usually defensive player in a ball game such as soccer or field hockey whose position is between the line or the forward.

half-baked adj. (of an idea or philosophy) not fully thought through; lacking a sound basis.

half blood n. 1 dated the relationship between people having one parent in common.
  * a person related to another in this way. 2. [half-blood] oftens. another term for half-breed.

half-breed n. oftens. a person whose parents are of different races, esp. the offspring of an American Indian and a person of white European ancestry.
  * adj. denoting a person of such ancestry.

half-brother (also half brother) n. a brother with whom one has only one parent in common.

half-dozen (also half a dozen) n. a set or group of six.

half-hearted adj. [haf-heyt/ed] adv. without enthusiasm or energy.

half hitch n. a knot formed by passing the end of a rope around its standing part and then through the loop several times, often used in pairs.

half hour n. (also half an hour) a period of thirty minutes. n. a point in time thirty minutes after any full hour of the clock: the clock struck the half hour.

half-life n. the time taken for the radioactivity of a specified isotope to fall to half its original value.

half-mast n. the position of a flag that is being flown southwest of the top of its Staff as a mark of respect for a person who has died.

half-moon n. the moon when only half of its illuminated surface is visible from the earth: the first or last quarter.

half note (Brit. minim) n. Mus. a note having the time value of two quarter notes or half of a whole note, represented by a ring with a stem.

half-sisters (also half sister) n. a sister with whom one has only one parent in common.

half step n. Mus. a semitone.

half-time [haf, tin] n. the time at which half of a game or contest is completed, esp. when marked by an intermission.

half-tone [haf, tön] n. [usu. as adj.] a reproduction of a photograph or other image in which the various tones of gray are color produced by variously sized dots of ink; halftone illustrations.

half-truth n. a statement that conveys only part of the truth, esp. one used deliberately in order to deceive someone.

half-way [haf, wä] adv. & adj. at or to a point equidistant between two others.
  * in the middle of a period of time: [as adv.] halfway through the night.
  * [as adj.] to some extent: halfway decent.
  * v. [tr.] meet someone halfway compromise; concede some points in order to gain others.

half-way house n. a center for helping former drug addicts, prisoners, psychiatric patients, or others to adjust to life in general society.

half-wit [haf, wit] n. int. a foolish or stupid person.
  * half-witted adj.
  * half-wittedly adv.
  * half-witted ness n.

half-bred [haf, brød] n. (pl. same) a northern marine food fish (genus Hippoglossus, family Pleuronectidae) that is largest of the flatfishes.

halide [ˈhɑːlɪd] (pl. halides) n. Chem. a binary compound of a halogen with another element or group.

halite [ˈhɑːltɪt] n. [ˈhɑːltɪt] n. sodium chloride as a mineral, typically occurring as colorless cubic crystals; rock salt.

halo-to-sis [ˌhælətəsɪs] n. technical term for BAD BREATH.

hall [hɔl] n. 1 an area in a building onto which rooms open; a corridor; the room or space just inside the front entrance of a house or apartment.
  * a large room for meetings, concerts, or other events.
  * a large public room in a mansion or palace used for receptions and banquets.
  * Brit. the room used for meals in a college, university, or school; he dined in college hall.
  * a seminar offered by a university building containing classrooms, residences, or rooms for other purposes.
  * the principal living room of a medieval house. 3 [usu. in names] Brit. a large country house, esp. one with a landed estate: Darlington Hall.

hall-le-lujah [hæləˈlʌja] (also aleluia) n. interj. God be praised (uttered in worship or as an expression of rejoicing).

hall-mark [ˈhɔlˌmɑrk] n. a mark stamped on articles of gold, silver, or platinum used in Britain, certifying their standard of purity.
  * a distinctive feature, esp. one of excellence.

hall-o-lo [ˈhɑloʊ] n. exclam., n., & v. variant spelling of HELLO.

Hall of Fame n. a national memorial in New York City containing busts and memorials honoring famous Americans.
  * a similar establishment commemorating the achievements of a particular group of people, esp. athletes: the Hockey Hall of Fame.

hall-ooween [ˈhɔlˌoʊwɛn] n. interj. used to attract someone's attention.
  * used to incite dog to the chase during a hunt.

halo-v [ˈhɑlˈoʊ] v. [tr.] stamp with a hallmark.
  * designate as distinctive, esp. for excellence.

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molecule), usually in place of hydrogen. —hal-o-gen-a-tion [halo'je-nə'shən] n.

hal-on [hal-o'lon] n. any of a number of unreactive gaseous compounds of carbon with bromine and other halogens, used in fire extinguishers, but now known to damage the ozone layer.

hal-o-phyte [hal'o-fyt] n. Bot. a plant adapted to growing in saline conditions, as in a salt marsh.

halt [holt] v. bring or come to an abrupt stop. 1 [imp] used as a military command to bring marching soldiers to a stop. 2 n. a suspension of movement or activity, typically a temporary one.

halt-er /holtər/ n. 1 a rope or strap with a noose or headstall placed around the head of a horse or other animal, used for leading or tethering it. 2 archaic a rope with a noose for hanging a person. 3 [usu. as adj.] a strap by which the bodice of a sleeveless dress or top is fastened or held behind the neck, leaving the shoulders and back bare.

halt-ling /holt'ling/ adj. slow and hesitant, esp. through lack of confidence; faltering.

halt-ing-ly adv.

hal-vah [hāl'vā] also hal-va n. a Middle Eastern confection made of sesame flour and honey.

halve [hāl'v] v. [tr.] divide into two parts of equal or roughly equal size. 1 reduce or become reduced by half. 2 share (something) equally with another person: halving the bill. 3 Got use the same number of strokes as one's opponent and thus tie (a hole or match).

halves [hāl'vz] n. plural form of HALF.

hal-yard [hāl'yərd] n. a rope used for raising and lowering a sail, spar, flag, or yard on a sailing ship.

Ham [hām] (in the Bible) a son of Noah, traditional ancestor of the Hamites.

ham [hām] n. 1 meat from the upper part of a pig's leg salted and dried or smoked. 2 hams the backs of the thighs or the thighs and buttocks.

ham-bone /hām'bōn/ n. 1 an excessively theatrical actor. 2 int. an amateur radio operator.

hammer [häm] v. [hammed, hammering] [interj.] int. overact.

ham-a-dry-ad [häm'a-drē-ad] n. (also Ham-a-dry-ad) Greek & Roman Mythol. a nymph who lives in a tree and dies when the tree dies.

ham-burg-er /häm'bergər/ n. a round patty of ground beef, fried or grilled and typically served on a bun or roll.


ham-hand ed /häm'händ/ adj. clumsy; bungling: a ham-handed attempt.


Ham-it-ic [ham-it'ik] adj. hist. of or denoting a hypothetical language family formerly proposed to comprise Berber, ancient Egyptian, the Cushitic languages, and the Chadic languages. These are now recognized as independent branches of the Afro-Asiatic family.

Ham-let [ham'let] n. a legendary prince of Denmark, hero of a tragedy by Shakespeare.

ham-let [häm'let] n. a small settlement, generally smaller than one village.

ham-mer [häm'ər] n. 1 a tool with a heavy metal head mounted at right angles to the end of a handle, used for jobs such as breaking things and driving in nails. 2 a machine with a metal block for giving a heavy blow to something. 3 an auctioneer's mallet for indicating by a sharp tap that an article is sold. 4 a part of a mechanism that hits another part to make it work, such as one exploding the charge in a gun or one striking the strings of a piano. 5 a metal ball, typically weighing 16 pounds (13.5 kg), attached to a wire for throwing in an athletic contest. 6 (the hammer); the sport of throwing such a ball. 7 another term for MALLET.

v. [tr.] 1 hit or beat (something) with a hammer or similar object.

[v. intr.] strike or knock at or on something violently: she hammered on his door. [v. intr.] hammer away work hard and persistently: I have been hammering away at a plot. [v. tr.] drive or secure (something) by striking with or as if with a hammer. 2 hammer something in or drive or secure (something) by striking with or as if with a hammer.

hammer something out laboriously work out the details of a plan or agreement. —Old English hammer, hammer, of Germanic origin: related to Dutch hamer, German Hammer, and Old Norse hamr ‘rock’.

The original sense was probably ‘stone tool.’ —hammer-er n. —hammer-less adj. 1 [inf.] come (or go) under the hammer be sold at an auction. 2 hammer and togs n. energetically, enthusiastically, or with great vehemence.

hammer and sickle n. the symbols of the industrial worker and the peasant used as the emblem of the former Soviet Union and of international communism.

hammer-head /ham'ər-bed/ n. 1 (also hammerhead shark) a shark (genus Sphyraena, family Sphyridae) of tropical and temperate oceans that has flattened bladelike extensions on either side of the head, with the eyes and nostrils placed at or near the ends. 2 the striking head of a hammer.

hammer-lock /ham'ər-lək/ n. an armlock in which a person's arm is bent up behind the back.

hammer-toe /ham'ər-tō/ n. a toe that is bent permanently downward, typically as a result of pressure from footwear.

ham-mock /hām'ək/ n. a bed made of canvas or of rope mesh and suspended by cords at the ends.

ham-per /häm'pər/ n. a large basket with a lid used for laundry: a hamper. —ham-per ed adj. —ham-per ed ness n. —ham-per ing adj. —ham-per ing ly adv. —ham-per ing ness n. —ham-per ing-ly adv. —ham-per ing ness n.

ham-per ed /häm-pərd/ adj. hinder or impede the movement or progress of: their work is hampered by lack of funds.

ham-ster /ham'stər/ n. a solitary burrowing rodent (family Muridae) with a short tail and large check pouches for carrying food, native to Europe and northern Asia. Its several species include the golden hamster (Mesocricetus auratus), often kept as a pet or laboratory animal.

ham-string /ham'sträng/ n. any of five tendons at the back of a person's knee. 2 the large tendon at the back of a quadruped's hock. 3 (also Hamstring muscle) any of three long muscles at the back of a person's thigh.

Pronunciation Key: o ago, up; or over, fur; a hat, a hat; a car, a car; oh chu; e let; o see; (a)ir; i fit; i by; (a)er; uj sing; o go; o low; for, for; o good; o ood; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; (h)w why; zh vision.
Han 406

handwork

hand 406

v. (past and past part. -strung) [a.] cripple (a person or animal) by cutting their hamstrings. • severely restrict the efficiency or effectiveness of: we were hamstrung by a total lack of knowledge.

Han [han] 1 the Chinese dynasty that ruled from 206 BC until AD 220 with only a brief interruption. During this or Chinese rule was extended to Mongolia. Confucianism was recognized as the state philosophy, and detailed historical records were kept. the dominant ethnic group in China.

hand [hand] n. 1 the end part of a person's arm beyond the wrist, including the palm, fingers, and thumb: he was leading her by the hand; a similar prehensile organ forming the end part of a limb of various mammals, such as that on all four limbs of a monkey. (as adj. oper- ated by or held in the hand.) 2 [a.] a hand or hands of something; a hand of cards; a hand of players; a hand of time; a hand of work; a hand of players. 3 [hands] used in reference to the power to direct something: taking the law into their own hands. 4 [usu. a hand] an active role in influencing something: he had a hand in organizing the event. 5 help in doing something: do you need a hand? 6 [usu. hands] in (sports) skill and dexterity: a receiver with very good hands. 7 a person's workmanship, esp. in artistic work: attributing other work to his hand. 8 a person's handwriting. 9 a person who does something to a specified standard: I'm a great hand at inventing. 10 a person who engages in manual labor, esp. in a factory, on a farm, or on board a ship. 11 the set of cards dealt to a player in a card game. 12 a round or short spell of play in a card game. 13 Bridge the cards held by declarer as opposed to those in the dummy. 14 a unit of measurement of a horse's height, equal to 4 inches (10.16 cm). 15 the feel of goods, esp. textiles, when handled: fabrics with a softer hand.

v. 1 pick (something) up and give to (someone): he handed each man a glass. 2 make (abusive, untrue, or otherwise objectionable) remarks to (someone): all the yarbs you'd been handing me. 3 make (something) easily obtainable for (someone): a win handed him on a plate. 2 [tr.] hold the hand of (someone) in order to help them move in the specified direction. 3 [hand] hand to hand a hand into a hand. 4 phrase v. a hand something down pass something on to a younger person or a successor. 2 announce something, esp. a judgment or sentence, formally or publicly. 5 hand something in give something to a person in authority for their attention. 6 hand something on pass something to the next person in a series or succession. 7 pass responsibility for something to someone else; delegate. 8 hand something out give a share of something or one of a set of things to each of a number of people distributed. 9 impose or inflict a penalty or misfortune on someone. 10 hand someone/something over give someone something or something to someone else. 11 hand something around offer something to each of a number of people in turn. —handless adj.

at hand nearby, readily accessible when needed. close in time; about to happen: a breakthrough in combating the disease may be at hand.

at (or by) the hands (or hand of) through the agency of. bind (or tie) someone hand and foot: tie someone's hands and feet together. by hand by a person and not a machine. give (or lend) a hand assist in an action or enterprise. hand in glove in close collaboration or association. hand in hand (of two people) with hands joined, esp. as a mark of affection. fig. closely associated: she had the confidence that usually goes hand in hand with experience. (from) hand to mouth satisfying only one's immediate needs because of lack of money for future plans and investments. hands down clearly and decisively; without question. hands are used as a warning not to touch or interfere with something. (as adj.) involving requiring or requiring direct control or intervention. hands on involving a participation in an activity rather than theory. hands up used as an instruction to raise one's hands in surrender or to signify assent or participation. have one's hands full have as much work as one can do. have one's hands tied int. unable to act freely. have to hand it to someone int. used to acknowledge the merit or achievement of someone: I've got to hand it to you—you've got the magic touch. in hand receiving or requiring immediate attention: the work in hand. in progress. ready for use if required; available. 3 control: the police had the situation in hand. in safe hands protected by someone trustworthy from harm or damage. keep one's hand in become (or remain) practiced in something. make (or lose or spend) money hand over fist int. make (or lose or spend) money very rapidly. off someone's hands not having to be dealt with or looked after by the person specifically. • on every hand all around. on hand present. esp. for a specified purpose. readily available. needing to be dealt with. on someone's hands used to indicate that someone is responsible for dealing with someone or something: he has a difficult job on his hands. used to indicate that someone is to blame for something: he has blood on his hands. at someone's disposal: I've had more time on my hands. on the one (or the other) hand used to present factors that are opposed or that support opposing opinions. out of hand 1 not under control. 2 without taking time to think: they rejected negotiations out of hand. set (or put) one's hand to start work on. stay someone's hand restrain someone from acting. take a hand become influential in determining something: interfere; take a hand in the outcome. to hand within easy reach. turn one's hand to undertake (an activity different from one's usual occupation): a music teacher who turned his hand to writing books. wait on someone hand and foot attend to all of someone's needs or requests, esp. when this is regarded as unreasonable. with one hand (tied) behind one's back with serious limitations or restrictions. used to indicate that one could do something without any difficulty: I could do her job with one hand tied behind my back.

handbag /han(d)bag/ n. a woman's purse.

handball /han(d)ball/ n. 1 a game similar to squash in which a ball is hit with the hand in a walled court. 2 also team handball a team game similar to soccer in which the ball is thrown or hit with the hands rather than kicked. 3 the ball used in these games. 2 (as handball) Soccer a touching of the ball with the hand or arm, constituting a foul.

handbell /han(d)bell/ n. a small bell with a handle or strap, esp. one of a set tuned to a range of notes and played by a group of people.

handbook /han(d)book/ n. a book giving information such as facts on a particular subject or instructions for operating a machine.

handbrake /han(d)brak/ n. the emergency or parking brake on a motor vehicle. a brake operated by hand, as on a bicycle.

handcart /han(d)kärt/ n. a small cart pushed or drawn by hand.

handclap /han(d)klap/ n. a clap of the hands.

handcraft /han(d)craft/ n. 1 chiefly (usu. as adj.) handcrafted make skillfully.

handicraft /han(d)icraft/ n. another term for HANDICRAFT.

handcuff /han(d)köl/ n. (handcuffs) a pair of lockable linked metal rings for securing a prisoner's wrists.

handful /han(d)ful/ n. (pl. -fols) 1 a quantity that fills the hand. 2 a small number or amount. 2 int. a person who is very difficult to deal with or control.

hand grenade n. a hand-thrown grenade.

handgrip /han(d)grip/ n. 1 a handle for holding onto something. 2 a grasp with the hand, esp. considered in terms of its strength, as in a handshake.

handgun /han(d)gun/ n. a gun designed for use by one hand, chiefly either a pistol or a revolver.

hand-held (also hand-held) adj. designed to be held in the hand: a hand-held computer.

handhold /han(d)hôld/ n. something for a hand to grip. 2 a secure grip with a hand or the hands.

handicap /han(d)kap/ n. a condition that markedly restricts a person's ability to function physically, mentally, or socially. 2 a circumstance that makes progress or success difficult. 3 a disadvantage imposed on a superior competitor in sports such as golf, horse racing, and competitive sailing in order to make the chances more equal. 4 a race or contest in which such a disadvantage is imposed. 5 the extra weight to be carried in a race by a racehorse on the basis of its previous performance to make its chances of winning the same as those of the other horses. 6 the number of strokes by which a golfer normally exceeds par for a course (used as a method of enabling players of unequal ability to compete with each other). —handi-cap-per n.

handiwork /han(d)wôrk/ n. one's handiwork something that one
handkerchief

has made or done. 2 making things by hand, considered as a subject of instruction.

hand-ker-chief [hand/'ker/cheef], -chief n. a square of cotton or other finely woven material, typically carried one's pocket and intended for blowing or wiping one's nose.

handle [hand/'le] v. [tr.] 1 feel or manipulate with the hands. II drive or control (a vehicle). III [intr.] (of a vehicle) respond in a specified manner when being driven or controlled. 2 manage (a situation or problem). III deal with (someone or something). IV have the resources to cope with; have more than I can handle. V control or manage commercially. (handle oneself) conduct oneself in a specified manner: he handled himself with aplomb. (handle oneself) defend oneself physically or verbally: I can handle myself in a fight. 3 process: the airport expects to handle almost 250,000 people daily.

n. 1 the part by which a thing is held, carried, or controlled. (handle on) fig. a means of understanding, controlling, or approaching a person or situation: we'll give people some kind of handle on these issues. 2 int. the name of a person or place: there's some handle for a baby. 3 int. the total amount of money put over a particular time (typically at a casino) or at a particular sporting event.

hand-die [hand/'dij] adj. 

hand-die-bar [hand/'die, bar] n. (usu. handlebars) the steering bar of a bicycle, motorcycle, scooter, or other vehicle, with a handgrip at each end.

hand-die-bar-mustache [hand/'dij, ba-step/che] n. a wide, thick mustache with the ends curving slightly upward.

hand-dier [hand/'dij, ear] adj. 1 a person who handles or deals with certain articles or commodities. 2 a device that handles certain articles or substances. 3 a person who trains or has charge of an animal. 4 a person who trains or manages another person, in particular: a person who trains and acts as second to a boxer. 5 a public agent. 6 a person who advises on and directs the activities of a politician or other public figure.

hand-made [hand/'mekt] adj. made by hand, not by machine, and typically therefore of superior quality.

hand-maid-en [hand/'meidan] n. (also hand-maid) a female servant. (handmaid, handmair) n. a subordinate partner or element.

hand-me-down [hand/'mea, down] n. often hand-me-downs a garment or other item that has been passed on from another person.

adj. passed on from another person.

hand-off [hand, of, - of] n. Football an exchange made by handing the ball to a teammate.

hand-out [hand/'aut] n. 1 something given free to a needy person or organization. 2 printed information provided free of charge, esp. to accompany a lecture or advertise something.

hand-pick [hand/'pik] also hand-pick v. [tr.] select carefully with a particular purpose in mind. [as adj.] handpicked a handpicked term.

hand-print [hand/'print] n. the mark left by the impression of a hand.

handrail [hand/'rail] n. a rail fixed to posts or a wall for people to hold onto for support.

hand-saw [hand/'saw] n. a wood saw worked by one hand.

hand-set [hand/'set] n. the part of a telephone that is held up to speak into and listen to. a hand-held controller for a piece of electronic equipment, such as a television or video recorder.

hand-shake [hand/'shak] n. an act of shaking a person's hand with one's own, used as a greeting or to finalize an agreement. a person's particular way of doing this. 

adj. a person's particular way of doing this. 

Comput. an exchange of standardized signals between devices in a computer network regulating the transfer of data.

hand-some [hand/'soom] adj. (som'er, som,) 1 (of a man) good-looking. 2 (of a woman) striking and imposing in good looks, rather than conventionally pretty. 3 (of a thing) well made, imposing, and of obvious quality. 4 (of a number, sum of money, or margin) substantial; elected by a handsome majority. 5 generous; liberal. (hand-some-ly) adv.

hand-some-ness n.

hand-spring [hand/'spring] n. an acrobatic jump through the air onto one's hands followed by springing onto one's feet.

handstand [hand/'stand] n. an act of balancing on one's hands with one's feet in the air or against a wall.

hand-to-hand [hand/'to, hand] adj. (of fighting) at close quarters.

hand-work [hand/'work] n. work done with the hands: the transition from handwork to machine production.

hand-woven [hand/'vown] adj. woven by hand.

hand-writing [hand/'writ] n. writing with a pen or pencil, or a person's particular style of writing.

handwritten [hand/'written] adj. written with a pen, pencil, or other hand-held implement.

hand-y [hand/'e] adj. (hand-ier, hand-est) convenient to handle or use; useful. 2 close at hand; keep credit cards handy. placed or occurring conveniently. 3 skillful: he's handy with a needle. —handy-ly adv. —handy-ness n.

come in handy: turn out to be useful: the sort of junk that might come in handy one day.

hand-y-man [hand/'e, man] n. (pl. men) a person able or employed to do occasional domestic repairs and minor renovations.

hang [hang] v. (past hung) except in sense 2) 1 suspend or be suspended from above with the lower part dangling free. 2 attach or be attached to a wall. (be hung with) be adorned with pictures or other decorations. 3 exhibit or be exhibited, as in a museum. attach or be attached so as to allow free movement about the point of attachment. [tr.] a long time was spent hanging a couple of doors. [intr.] droop: she just sat with her mouth hanging open. [intr.] (of fabric or a garment) be arranged in folds so as to droop in a specified way; this blend of silk and wool hangs well. [tr.] paste (wallpaper) to a wall. informal way of saying: HANG AROUND (sense 2) or HANG OUT (sense 3). 2 (past hanged) [tr.] kill (someone) by tying a rope attached from above around the neck and removing the support from beneath (used as a form of capital punishment). [intr.] be killed in such a way: both men were sentenced to hang. 3 (past hanged) [tr.] be displayed in expression or as a mild oath: [intr.] they could all go hang! [tr.] I'm hanged if I know. 4 [tr.] (of a jury) prevent (a jury) from reaching a verdict by a dissenting vote. 5 Comput. cause or come to cause unexpectedly in a state in which no further operations can be carried out.

handy-woman [hand/'e, man] n. (pl. women) a person who hangs something: the hang of one's clothes. the way in which pictures are displayed in an exhibition.

get the hang of int. learn how to operate or do something.

hang by a thread see THREAD. hang fire delay or be delayed in taking action or progressing. hang one's hat int. be resident. hang heavily (or heavily) (of time) pass slowly.

hang a left (or right) int. make a left (or right) turn. hang loose see LOOSE. hang someone out to dry int. leave someone hanging in a difficult or vulnerable situation.

hang tough be or remain inflexible or firmly resolved: let it all hang out int. be very relaxed or uninhibited.

hang-ar [hang/'ar] n. a large building with extensive floor area, typically for housing aircraft. late 17th cent. (in the sense 'shelter': from French; probably from Germanic bases meaning 'hamlet' and 'enclosure'.

hang-ar-age [hang/'a, jar] n.

hang-dog [hang/'dog, dog)] adj. having a dejected or guilty appearance; shamefaced.

hang-er [hang/'er] n. 1 (in comb.) a person who hangs something: a wallpaper hanger. 2 (also coat hanger) a shaped piece of wood, plastic, Pronunciation Key a, u, p, or, over, fur; a: at, cat; e, y: let; 6: sec; s: 3; a: air; t: j; b: 3; s: ear; u: 3; o: law; j: for; o: toy; g: go; 3: go; ou: out; sh: she; th: thin; th: then; th: why; zh: vision
or metal with a hook at the top, from which clothes may be hung in order to keep them in shape and free of creases. 3 something from which another thing hangs, such as a hook.

**hang-er-on** n. (pl. hang-ers-on) a person who associates with another person or a group in a sycophantic manner or for the purpose of gaining some personal advantage.

**hang glider** n. an unpowered flying apparatus for a single person, consisting of a frame with a fabric sail stretched over it. The operator is suspended from a harness below and controls flight by body movement. a person flying such an apparatus. —**hang-gliding** n.

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**hang** [ˈhæŋ] v. [tr.] a. (esp. of a person) uninhibited. 2 to keep (a thought or feeling, typically a negative one) in one’s mind or secret. b. (of a person) not showing any signs of weakness; tough. c. (of information) reliable, esp. because based on something true or substantiated: hard facts. d. (of a subject of study) dealing with precise and verifiable facts: hard science. e. (of water) containing mineral salts that make water difficult to harden: hard water. f. (of prices of stock, commodities, etc.) stable or firm in value: hard currency. g. (of a consonant) pronounced as in cut or g in go. 2 requiring a great deal of endurance or physical or mental effort: hard work. 3 putting a lot of energy into an activity: a hard worker. 4 difficult to bear; causing suffering: times were hard. 5 not showing sympathy or affection; strict. 6 (of a season or the weather) severe: a long, hard winter. 7 harsh or unpleasant to the senses: the hard light of day. 8 done with a great deal of force or strength: a hard blow to the head. 9 potent, powerful, or intense, in particular: of liquor: strongly alcoholic; denoting distilled spirits rather than beer or wine. 10 hard to understand or enjoy: hard rock. 11 a. hard to hear: not able to hear. b. hard on (or upon) close to: following someone closely; followed hard on their heels. c. hard up int. short of money. d. the hard way through suffering or learning from the unpleasant consequences of missteps: his reputation was earned the hard way. e. play hard to get int. deliberately adopt an aloof or uninterested attitude, typically in order to make oneself more attractive or interesting.

**hard-back** [ˈhɑrdbæk] adj. & n. another name for **hardcover**.
progressions having a pleasing effect. — the study or composition of musical harmony. — the quality of forming a pleasing and consistent whole: cities where old and new blend in harmony. 2 agreement or concord: man and machine in perfect harmony.

har-ness /hɑːrˈnɪs/ n. a set of straps and fittings by which a horse or other draft animal is fastened to a cart, plow, etc., and is controlled by its driver. an arrangement of straps for fastening something to a person’s body, such as a parachute, or for restraining a young child.
v. [tr.] put a harness on [a horse or other draft animal].

har-ness some-thing to attach a draft animal to [something] by a harness. 2 control and make use of (natural resources), esp. to produce energy; attempts to harness solar energy.

harp /hɑːp/ n. 1. a musical instrument, roughly triangular in shape, consisting of a frame supporting a graduated series of parallel strings, played by plucking with the fingers. 2 int. short for HARMONICA. /hɑr-pɪst n.
v. [intr.] talk or write persistently and tediously on a particular topic. 2 archaic play on a harp.

har-poon /ˈhɑːpˌpʊn/ n. a barbed spear-like missile attached to a long rope and thrown by hand or fired from a gun, used for catching whales and other large sea creatures.
v. [tr.] use a harpoon with a harpoon. early 17th cent. (denoting a barbed, double-pointed spear): from French harpon, from harpe ‘dog’s claw, clamp,’ via Latin from Greek harpe ‘sickle.’

harpoon gun n. a type of gun used for firing harpoons.

harp seal n. a slender North Atlantic true seal (Phoca groenlandica) that typically has a dark harp-shaped mark on its gray back.

harp-si-chord /ˈhɑːpˌsɪˌkɔrd/ n. a keyboard instrument with horizontal strings that run perpendicular to the keyboard in a long tapering case and are plucked by points of quill, leather, or plastic operated by the keys.

harpy /ˈhɑːrpi/ n. (pl.-pies) Greek and Roman Mythol. a rapacious monster described as having a woman’s head and body and a bird’s wings or claws or depicted as a bird of prey with a woman’s face. a grasping, unscrupulous woman.

har-que-bus /ˈhɑːrkˌbəs/ (also arch-que-bus) n. hist. an early type of portable gun supported on a tripod or a forked rest.

har-ri-dan /ˈhɑːrriˌdæn/ n. a strict, bossy, or belligerent old woman.

har-rer /ˈhɑːrər/ n. a person engaged in persistent attacks or others on incursions into their land.

harrier /ˈhɑːrɪər/ n. a long-winged, slender-bodied bird of prey (genus Circus, family Accipitridae) with long circling flight.

har-row /ˈhɑːroʊ/ n. an implement consisting of a heavy frame set with teeth or tines that is dragged over plowed land to break up clods, remove weeds, and cover seed.
v. [tr.] 1 draw a harrow over (land). 2 cause distress to; [as adj] harrowing a harrowing film about racism and violence.

har-row-ly adv.

har-ry /ˈhɑːrɪ/ v. (ries, -ried) [tr.] persistently carry out attacks on [an enemy or an enemy’s territory]. persistently harass.

harsh /hɑːʃ/ adj. 1 unpleasantly rough or jarring to the senses; drenched white moon light | harsh gutural shouts. 2 cruel or severe; harsh military discipline. 3 of a climate or conditions difficult to survive in: hostile. 4 of (real or a fact) grim and unpalatable, having an undesirably strong effect. —harsh-ly adv. —harsh-ness n.

hart /hɑrt/ n. an adult male deer, esp. a red deer over five years old.

har-te-beest /ˈhɑtəˌbeɪst/, /ˈhɑrtəˌbeɪst/ n. a large African antelope (genera Alcelaphus, Damaliscus, and Siggomos) with a long head and sloping back, related to the gnus.

har-um-scar-um /ˈhɑrəmˌskɑrəm/ adj. [skeərəm] [tr.] a large African antelope (genera Alcelaphus, Damaliscus, and Siggomos) with a long head and sloping back, related to the gnus.

har-vest /ˈhɑrvest/ n. the process or period of gathering in crops. 2 a quantity of animals caught or killed for human use. fig. the product or result of an action.
v. [tr.] gather (a crop) as a harvest. catch or kill (animals) for human consumption or use. remove (cells, tissue, or an organ) from a person or animal for transplantation or experimental purposes.

— fig. gain (something) as the result of an action.

har-vest-able adj.

har-vest-er n.

har'-vest-man /ˈhɑrvestˌmæn/ n. (pl.-men) another term for DADDY LONGLEGS (sense 1).

has /hæs/ v. [inf. derog. a person or thing considered to be outnumbered or no longer of any significance.

has-had /ˈhæsˌhæd/ n. a dish of cooked meat cut into small pieces and re-cooked, usually with potatoes. a finely chopped mixture; a mixture of jumbled incongruous things; a mess.
v. [tr.] 1 make [meat or other food] into a hash. 2 [hash something] out come to agreement on something after lengthy and vigorous discussion.

has-ht /ˈhæsˌht/ n. short for HASHISH.

has-hi /ˈhæshɨ/ n. the sign #.

has-ish /ˈhæshɨʃ/ n. an extract of the cannabis plant, containing concentrations of the psychoactive resins.

has-sid /ˈhɑsˌsid/ (pi.hasi-dim /ˈhɑsiˌsid-im/; ḥasidim; hasú-séid; ḥāsú-séid; ḥāṣidí; α ḥāṣid) a member of a strictly orthodox Jewish sect.

has-sidic /ˈhɑsˌsidɪk/ adj.

has-n’t /ˈhæsənt/ n. contr. of has not.

hasp /hæsp/ n. a slotted hinged metal plate that forms part of a fastening for a door or lid and is fitted over a metal lock and secured by a pin or padlock. a similar metal plate on a trunk or suitcase with a projecting piece that is secured by the lock.
v. [tr.] archaic lock a door, window, or lid) by securing the hasp over the loop of the fastening.

has-sle /ˈhɑsəl/ n. irritating inconvenience. deliberate harassment. a disagreement; a quarrel.

has-ten /ˈhæstən/ v. [intr.] be quick to do something: hasten to the assertion. move or travel hurriedly: we hastened back to Paris. cause (something) to happen sooner than it would otherwise: a move that could hasten peace talks.

has-ty /ˈhæsti/ adj. (hast-ier, has-tiest) done or acting with excessive speed or urgency; hurried: a hasty attempt to defuse the situation. archaic. —has-ti-ly /ˈhæstəli/ adv. —has-ti-ness n.

hat /hæt/ n. 1 a shaped covering for the head worn for warmth, as a fashion item, or as part of a uniform. 2 used to refer to a particular role or occupation of someone who has more than one: wearing her scientific hat. —hat-ful /ˈhætfʊl/ n. (pl.-fuls) —hat-less adj.

— hat in hand used to indicate an attitude of humility. keep something under one’s hat keep something secret. pass the hat collect contributions of money for a specific purpose. pick something out of a hat select something at random. take one’s hat off to [or hats off to] used to state one’s admiration for [someone who has done something praiseworthy]; hats off to emergency services for prompt work in the storm. throw one’s hat in (or into) the ring express willingness to take up a challenge, esp. to enter a political race.

hat-band /ˈhætˌbænd/ n. a decorative ribbon encircling a hat, held in position above the brim.

hat-box /ˈhætˌbɒks/ n. a large cylindrical box used to protect a hat when being transported or stored.

hatch /hɑtʃ/ n. an opening of restricted size allowing for passage from one area to another, in particular: a door in an aircraft, spacecraft, or submarine. an opening in the deck of a boat or ship: a cargo hatch. an opening in a ceiling leading to a loft or attic. an opening in a kitchen wall for serving or selling food through. the rear door of a hatchback car.

— down the hatch n. used in a toast; drink up.

hatch v. [intr.] 1 a young bird, fish, or reptile emerges from its egg. of (an egg) open and produce a young animal. [tr.] incubate (an egg).

— hatch a young (animal) to emerge from its egg. 2 [tr.] conspire to devise a plot or plan: the little plot that you and Sylvia hatched up last night.

—a newly hatched brood.
someone conceived. — get something into one's (or someone's) head come or cause (head) to realize or understand. — one's head off talk, laugh, etc., unrestrainedly: singing his head off. — head over heels 1 turning over completely in forward motion, as in a somersault. 2 (also head over heels in love) madly in love. — a head start an advantage granted or gained at the beginning of something; our fine traditions give us a head start over the enemy. — head to head in open, direct conflict or competition. — in one's head by mental process without use of physical aids: the piece he'd already written in his head. — keep one's head remain calm. — keep one's head above water avoid succumbing to difficulties, typically debt. — lose one's head lose self-control; panic. — make head or tail of (or heads or tails) understand at all: we couldn't make head or tally of his answer. — off (or out of) one's head int. crazy. — extremely drunk or severely under the influence of drugs. — off the top of one's head without careful thought or investigation. — over someones' head beyond someone's ability to understand. — without someone's knowledge or involvement, esp. when they have a right to it. — with disregard for someone else's (stronger) claim: his promotion over the heads of more senior colleagues. — put their (or our or your) heads together consult and work together. — turn someone's head make someone conceived. — turn heads attract a great deal of attention or interest.

headache /ˈhed-ˌak/ n. a continuous pain in the head. — adj. of a thing or person that causes worry or trouble; a problem. — head-achy /ˈhed-ək/ adj.

head-band /ˈhed-band/ n. a band of fabric worn around the head as a decoration or to keep the hair or perspiration off the face.

head-board /ˈhed-bord/ n. an upright panel forming or placed behind the head of a bed.

head count n. an instance of counting the number of people present. — a total number of people, esp. the number of people employed in a particular organization.

head-dress /ˈhed-dres/ n. an ornamental covering or band for the head, esp. one worn on ceremonial occasions.

head-er /ˈhed-ər/ n. 1 Soccer a shot or pass made with the head. 2 inf. a headlong fall or dive. 3 a brick or stone laid at right angles to the face of a wall. 4 a line or block of text appearing, at the top of each page of a book or document. Compare with footer (sense 2). 5 a beam crossing and supporting the ends of joists, studs, or rafters. 6 (also header tank) a raised tank of water maintaining pressure in a plumbing system.

head-gear /ˈhed-gir/ n. hats, helmets, and other items worn on the head. — headgear (also head-gear) n.

head-hunter /ˈhed-hantər/ n. a person who identifies and approaches suitable candidates employed elsewhere to fill business positions. — a member of a society that collects the heads of dead enemies or animals as trophies.

head-line /ˈhed-lin/ n. 1 a title at the head of a page or section of a book. — a division or section of a subject; a class or category. 2 a direction or bearing: he crawled on a heading of 90 degrees. 3 a horizontal passage made in preparation for building a tunnel. — Mining a horizontal inclined passage formed following a mineral vein or coal seam.

head-land /ˈhed-lənd/ n. 1 a narrow piece of land that projects from a coastline into the sea. 2 a strip of land left unplowed at the end of a field.

head-light /ˈhed-lait/ (also head-lamp) n. a powerful light at the front of a motor vehicle or railroad engine.

head-line /ˈhed-lin/ n. a heading at the top of an article or page in a newspaper or magazine. — the headlines n. the most important items of news in a newspaper or on a broadcast news bulletin.

head-line-er /ˈhed-lin-ər/ n. a performer or act that is promoted as the star attraction on a program or advertisement.

head-lock /ˈhed-lak/ n. a method of restraining someone by holding an arm firmly around their head, esp. as a hold in wrestling.

head-long /ˈhed-long, -läng/ adv. & adj. 1 as adv. with the head foremost. 2 in a rush; with reckless haste: a headlong dash through the house.

head-master /ˈhed-mastər/ n. (esp. in private schools) the man in charge of a school: the principal. — head-masterly adj.

head-mistress /ˈhed-mistris/ n. (esp. in private schools) the woman in charge of a school: the principal.

head-on adj. & adv. 1 with or involving the front of a vehicle; a head-

on collision /ek oʊ ˈkɑɹləns/ n. a head-on crash. 2 with or involving direct confrontation: trying to avoid a head-on crash.

head-phones /ˈhed-fonz/ pl. n. a pair of earphones typically joined by a band placed over the head, for listening to audio signals such as music or speech.

head-piece /ˈhed-piːs/ n. 1 a device worn on the head as an ornament or to serve a function: her headpiece was a wreath of silk flowers / headpieces for carrying water. 2 an illustration or ornamental motif printed at the head of a chapter in a book. 3 the part of a halter or bridle that fits over the top of a horse's head behind the ears.

head-qui-ters /ˈhed-ˌkwıtərz/ n. [treated as sing. or pl.] the premises occupied by a military commander and the commander's staff. — the place or building serving as the managerial and administrative center of an organization.

head-rest /ˈhedрест/ n. a padded part extending from or fixed to the back of a chair or seat, designed to support the head.

head-room /ˈhed-ˌrʊm, -ˈrʊm/ n. the space above a driver's or passenger's head in a vehicle. — the space or clearance between the top of a vehicle and the underside of a bridge or other structure above it.

head-sail /ˈhed-saɪl/ n. a sail on a ship's forecast or bowsprit.

head-set /ˈhed-ˌset/ n. a set of headphones, typically with a microphone attached, used esp. in telephone and radio communication.

head-shrink-er /ˈhed-ˌsmaŋkər/ n. hist. inf. a clinical psychiatrist, psychologist, or psychotherapist.

head-stall /ˈhed-stɔl/ n. the part of a bridle or halter that fits around a horse's head.

head-stone /ˈhed-ston/ n. a slab of stone set up at the head of a grave, typically inscribed with the name of the dead person.

health /ˈhedl/ n. 1 forward movement or progress: they appear to be making headway. 2 the average interval of time between vehicles moving in the same direction on the same route.

head-wind /ˈhed-wind/ n. a wind blowing from directly in front, opposing forward motion.

head-word /ˈhed-ˌwɔrd/ n. a word that begins a separate entry in a reference work such as a dictionary.


health /ˈhedl/ n. 1 health; healthful. — healthful /ˈhed-fəl/ adj. & adv. — healthful-ness n.

health-ful /ˈhed-fəl/ adj. having or conducive to good health. — healthful-ness n.

health main-tenance organization (abbr.: HMO) n. a health insurance organization to which subscribers pay a predetermined fee in return for a range of medical services from physicians and healthcare workers registered with the organization.

health savings account n. a savings account used in conjunction with a high-deductible health insurance policy that allows users to save money tax-free against medical expenses. (abbr. HSA)

health-ful /ˈhed-fəl/ adj. (healthier, healthiest) in good health. — (of a part of the body) not diseased. — indicative of, conducive to, or promoting good health. — (of a person's attitude) sensible and well..
of capacity equal to one hundred liters, used esp. for wine, beer, grain, and other agricultural produce.

**hecto-** [hɛktə] **metre** [ˈmɛtər] (Brit. **hecto-metre**) (abbr. **hm**): a metric unit of length equal to one hundred meters.

**helic** [hɛlɪk] **tor** [tr] talk to (someone) in a bullying way: [as adj.] (hectorical) a brusque, hectorical manner. —**helicorously** [hɛktərələs] adv.

**he’d** [hɛd] **contr.** of he had: he would.

**hedge** [hɛдж] a fence or boundary formed by closely growing bushes or shrubs: a contract entered into or asset held as a protection against possible financial loss. a word or phrase used to allow for additional possibilities or to avoid overprecise commitment, for example, etc., often, usually, or sometimes.

> v. [tr] 1 surround or bound with a hedge. (hedges something) in close. 2 limit or qualify (something) by conditions or exceptions: experts usually hedge their predictions. [intr] avoid making a definite decision, statement, or commitment. 3 protect (one’s investment or an investor) against loss by making balancing or compensating contracts or transactions. —**hedge** n.

> n. **hedge** one’s bets avoid committing oneself when faced with a difficult choice.

**hedgehog** [hɛdʒhɔg]: a nocturnal insectivorous Old World mammal (family Erinaceidae) with a spiny coat and short legs, able to roll itself into a ball for defense. any other animal covered with spines, esp. a porcupine.

**hedge-row** [hɛdʒˈroʊ] n. a hedge of wild shrubs and trees, typically bordering a road or field.

**he-don-ism** [hɛdəˈnizəm] n. the pursuit of pleasure; sensual self-indulgence. the ethical theory that pleasure (in the sense of the satisfaction of desires) is the highest and good proper aim of human life. —**he-don-ist** n. —**he-don-istic** [hɛdəˈnistik] adj. —**he-don-istically** [hɛdəˈnistikli] adv.

**he-bie-jees** [ˈhebiˌdʒiːz] pl. n. (the heebie-jeebies) int. a state of nervous fear or anxiety.

**heed** [hɛd] v. [tr] pay attention to; take notice of: he should have heeded the warnings. —**heeded** [hɛd] adj. —**heeding** [ˈhɛdəŋ] adj.

> — n. careful attention: he paid no heed; take heed of the suggestions.

**hee-haw** [hɛˈhɔʊ] n. the loud, harsh cry of a donkey or mule. [as adj.] int. relating to or denoting unsophisticated rural humor and attitudes. [v. [intr] make the loud, harsh cry of a donkey or mule.

**heel** [hɛl] n. 1 the back part of the foot below the ankle. a corresponding part of the foot in vertebrate animals. the part of the palm of the hand next to the wrist. the part of a shoe or boot supporting the heel. the part of a sock covering the heel. [heels] high-heeled shoes. 2 a thing resembling a heel in form or position, in particular: the end of a violin bow at which it is held. the part of the head of a golf club nearest the shaft. a crusty end of a loaf of bread. or the rind of a cheese. a piece of the main stem of a plant left attached to the base of a cutting. 3 int. an inconsiderate or untrustworthy person.

> — v. [tr] fit or renew a heel on (a shoe or boot). (of a dog) follow closely behind its owner. 2 [intr] touch the ground with the heel when dancing. —**heeled** [hɛld] adj. —**heeling** [ˈhɛlɪŋ] adj.

> — n. 1 at the heels of (or at someone’s heels) following closely behind: he headed off with Sammy at his heels. bring someone to heel: bring someone under control. down at heel: (of a shoe) with the heel worn down. having a poor, shabby appearance. kick up one’s heels: have a lively, enjoyable time. on the heels of: following closely after.

> — set someone back on their heels: astonish or disconcert someone.

> — under the heel of: dominated or controlled by.

> — v. [tr] (of a boat or ship) be lifted temporarily by the pressure of wind or by an uneven distribution of weight on board. [intr] cause (a boat or ship) to lean over in such a way.

> — n. the degree of incline of a ship’s leaping measured from the vertical.

**heel-tap** [ˈhɛltæp] n. one of the layers of leather or other material of which a shoe heel is made.

**heft** [hɛft] v. [tr] lift or carry (something heavy). lift or hold (something) in order to test its weight.

> — n. the weight of someone or something: fig. ability or influence: his colleagues wonder if he has the intellectual heft for his new job.

**hefty** [ˈhɛfti] adj. (heftier, heftiest) large, heavy, and powerful. [of a number or amount] impressively large. —**heftily** [ˈhɛftɪli] adv. —**heftiness** n.

**he-gem-o-n-y** [heˈɡemənə] n. leadership or dominance, esp. by one country or social group over others.

**He-gri-ra** [hiˈɡriːə, ˈheɡriːə] (also **Hejirra** or **Hijra** [hiˈɡra]) n. Muhammad’s departure from Mecca to Medina in AD 622 marking the consolidation of the first Muslim community. the Muslim era reckoned from this date: the second century of the Hegira. See also AH. **(hegira)** an exodus or migration.

**heifer** [hiˈfər] n. a young female cow that has not borne a calf.

**height** [hɛt] n. 1 the measurement from base to top of (or a standing person) from head to foot. elevation above ground or a recognized level (typically sea level). the quality of being tall or high: his height seems to work to his advantage. 2 a high place or area: he’s terrified of heights. 3 the most intense part or period of something: the height of the tourist season. 4 an extreme instance or example of something: the height of bad manners.

**heighten** [hɛ̃tən] v. [tr] make (something) higher. make or become more intense: [as adj.] (heightened) the heightened color of her face.

**Heim-lisch ma-neu-ver** [ˈheɪmˌlɪʃ maˈnjuəvə] n. a first-aid procedure for dislodging an obstruction from a person’s windpipe in which a sudden strong pressure is applied on the abdomen, between the navel and the rib cage.

**hein-nous** [ˈheɪnəs] adj. (of a person or wrongful act, esp. a crime) utterly odious or wicked. —**hein-nously** adv. —**hein-nous-ness** n.

**heir** [ˈheər] n. a person legally entitled to the property or rank of another on that person’s death. fig. a person inheriting and continuing the legacy of a predecessor. —**heir-dom** [ˈherdəm] n. —**heir-ness** adj. —**heirship** [ˈheərsʃip] n.

**heir ap-parent** n. [pl. heirs ap-parent] an heir whose claim cannot be set aside by the birth of another heir. fig. a person who is most likely to succeed to the place of another.

**heir-ess** [ˈheərəs] n. a female heir, esp. to vast wealth: an old heiress.

**heirloom** [ˈeərˌloom] n. a valuable object that has belonged to a family for several generations.

**heist** [hɪst] int. n. a robbery.

> — v. [tr] steal: he heisted a Pontiac.

**Hej-ra** n. variant spelling of **Hegira**.

**held** [hɛld] adj. past and past participle of **hold**.

**he-lan-thus** [ˈheɪlənθəs] n. a genus of the plant genus **Helianthus** in the daisy family. esp. in gardening a sunflower.

**he-lcal** [ˈheləkəl] adj. having the shape or form of a helix: spiral. helical molecules. —**he-li-cal-ly** [ˈheləkəli] adv.

**he-lie-s** [ˈhelɪˌsiz] pl. n. (helixes) plural form of **helix**.

**he-li-copter** [helɪˈkɒptər] n. a type of aircraft that derives both lift and propulsion from one or two sets of horizontally revolving helicopter rotors. It is capable of moving vertically and horizontally, the direction of motion being controlled by the pitch of the rotor blades.

> — v. [tr] transport by helicopter.

> — n. fly somewhere in a helicopter. late 19th cent.: from French hélicoptère, from Greek ἥλικη 'spiral' + πτερόν 'wing.'
a curve on a conical or cylindrical surface that would become a straight line if the surface were unrolled into a plane. **Bochem.** an extended spiral chain of atoms in a protein, nucleic acid, or another polymeric molecule. **Archt.** a spiral ornament. —hel-i-coil (ˈhēl-ˌi-kōl) n. & adj.

**helix** (ˈhēl-iks) n. a place regarded in various religions as a spiritual realm of evil and suffering, often traditionally depicted as a place of perpetual fire beneath the earth where the wicked are punished after death; a state or place of great suffering; an unbearable experience.

**interj.** used to express annoyance or surprise or for emphasis: hell, no, we were all married. **(the hell)** interj. expressing anger, contempt, or disbelief: the hell you are! **Old English** hel, hell, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch hel and German Hölle, from an Indo-European root meaning 'to cover or hide.' —hell-ward (ˈhēl-ˌwārd) adj. & adv. & n.

—catch (or get) hell interj. be severely reprimanded: Paul kept his mouth shut and looked apologetic; we got hell. *come hell or high water* whatever difficulties may occur. —for the hell of it adv. just for fun: she walked on window ledges for the hell of it. —from hell interj. an extremely unpleasant or troublesome instance or example of something: I've got a hangover from hell. give someone hell interj. severely reprimand or make things very unpleasant for someone.

he'll (ˈhēl) n. contr. of he shall: he will.

hell-bent adj. determined to achieve something at all costs: why are you hell-bent on leaving?

hell-e-bore (ˈhēl-ˌe-bōr) n. a poisonous winter-flowering Eurasian plant (genus **Helleborus**) of the buttercup family, typically having coarse divided leaves and large white, green, or purplish flowers.

Hel-iene (ˈhē-lē-ən) n. an ancient Greek. **a native of modern Greece.** —Hel-ienic (ˈhē-lē-ə-nik) adj.

Hel-ien-ism (ˈhē-lē-ə-niz-əm) n. the national character or culture of Greece, esp. ancient Greece; the study or imitation of ancient Greek culture. —Hel-ien-ist n. —Hel-ien-iza-tion (ˌhē-lē-ə-ni-ə-ˈza-shən) n. —Hel-ien-ize (ˌhē-lē-ən-iz) v. —Hel-ien-izer (ˌhē-lē-ən-iz-ər) n. —Hel-ien-ist (ˈhē-lē-ə-ˈniz-t) adj. of or relating to Greek history, language, and culture; from the study of Alexander the Great to the defeat of Cleopatra and Mark Antony by Octavian in 31 BC. During this period Greek culture flourished, spreading through the Mediterranean and into the Near East and Asia and centering in Alexandria in Egypt and Pergamum in Turkey.

hell-fire (ˈhēlˌfr) n. the fire or fires regarded as existing in hell.

hell-hole (ˈhēlˌhōl) n. an oppressive or unbearable place.

hell-hound (ˈhēlˌhōnd) n. a demon in the form of a dog.

hell-ish (ˈhēlˌiθ) adj. of or like hell. *ent. extremely difficult or unpleasant: it had been a hellish week.* —hell-ish-ly adv. —hell-ish-ness n.

hell-o (ˈhēlˌō) n. **interj.** (also hell-o or chiefly Brit hullo) interj. used as a greeting. **Brit.** used to express surprise: hello, what's all this then? *used as a cry to attract someone's attention: Hello hello!* *interj.* hell-u (ˈhōl-ə) (often pronounced with a rising-falling intonation pattern and a prolonged final vowel) expressing sarcasm or anger: hell! did you ever get what the play was about?

—n. (pl. -los) an utterance of "hello": a greeting; polite nods and hellos.

—v. (loos., loosed) interj. say or shout "hello": greet someone.

hell-rais-er (ˈhēlˌreɪz-ər) n. a person who causes trouble by drinking, being violent, or otherwise behaving outrageously. —hell-rais-ing (ˈhēlˌreɪz-ing) adj. & n.

helm (helm) n. (the helm) a tiller or wheel and any associated equipment for steering a ship or boat: she stayed at the helm. *fig.* a position of leadership; they remain at the helm. **Naut.** a helmsman.

—v. (tr.) steer (a boat or ship).

helm (ˈhēlm) n. archaic a helmet. —helmed adj.

helm-met (ˈhēl-mət) n. a hard or padded protective hat, various types of which are worn by soldiers, police officers, firefighters, motorcyclists, athletes, and others. —helmeted adj.

**helms-man** (ˈhēl兹-mən) n. (pl. -men) a person who steers a ship or boat.

help (help) n. *v. [tr.]* 1 make it easier for (someone) to do something by offering one's services or financial or material aid. **improve (a situation or problem): be of benefit to: upbeat comments helped confidence** | **inf.** legislation will help. | **[it.]** assist (someone) to move in a specified direction; I helped her up. **[help someone on/off with]** assist someone to put on or take off (a garment). **relieve the symptoms of (an ailment): sore throats can be helped by gargling.** 2 help someone to serve someone with (food or drink); she helped herself to the coolest. **help oneself** take something without permission. **can/could not help** cannot or could not avoid.

—n. assistance. a person or thing that helps; he was a great help. **a domestic servant or employee.** *as [pl. n.] the help* a group of such employees working for one employer. *as [adj.] giving assistance to a computer user in the form of displayed instructions: a help menu.*

—an. used as an appeal for urgent assistance: Help! I'm drowning!

—help-er n.

help-fu1 (helpful) adj. giving or ready to give help; people are friendly and helpful | helpful staff | useful: we find it very helpful to receive comments. —helpful-ly adv. —helpful-ness n.

help-ing (helping) n. a portion of food served to one person.

help-less (helpless) adj. unable to defend oneself or to act without help. **uncontrollable:** they burst into helpless laughter. —helpless-ly adv. —helpless-ness n.

help-mate (help-mät) (also help-meet/-ˌmēt) n. a helpful companion or partner, esp. one's husband or wife.

hel-ter-skel-ter (ˈhēltər skelˈtər) adj. & adv. in disorderly haste or confusion.

—n. disorder; confusion.

hem (ˈhem) n. the edge of a piece of cloth or clothing that has been turned under and sewn.

—v. (hemmed, hemming) *intr.* & *adv.* achari make such a sound when hesitating or as a signal.

—he-man (ˈhe-mən) n. a well-built, muscular man, esp. one who is ostentatiously so.

—he-ma-ti-lie (ˈhe-mə-tē-lē) n. a reddish-black mineral consisting of ferric oxide. It is an important ore of iron.

—he-ma-toc-oe-le (ˈhe-mə-tək-o-ˈle) n. Med. a swelling caused by blood collecting in a body cavity.


—he-mi-sphere (ˈhe-məˌsfər) n. a half of a sphere. **a half of the earth or other celestial body, usually as divided into northern and southern halves by the equator, or into western and eastern halves by an imaginary line passing through the poles.** a half of the celestial sphere. **(also cerebral hemisphere)** each of the two parts of the cerebrum (left and right) in the brain of a vertebrate. —he-mi-spheric (ˈhe-məˌsfərɪk) adj. —he-mi-spheric (ˈhe-məˌsfərɪk) adj. —he-mi-spheric (ˈhe-məˌsfərɪk) adj. —he-mi-spheric (ˈhe-məˌsfərɪk) adj.

—he-mo-line (ˈhe-məˌlīn) n. the level of the lower edge of a garment such as a skirt, dress, or coat.

—he-mo-lock (ˈhe-məˌlok) n. 1 a highly poisonous European plant (Comum (malum) of the parsley family, with spotted stems, fernlike leaves, small white flowers, and a foul smell. **a sedative or poisonous potion obtained from this plant.** 2 a coniferous North American tree (genus Tsuga) of the pine family, with dark green foliage that is said to smell like the hemlock plant when crushed.

—he-mo-glo-bin (ˈhe-məˌglo-bin) n. (Brit. **hæ-mə-glo-bin**) n. **Biochem.** a red protein responsible for transporting oxygen in the blood of vertebrates.

**Pronunciation Key**  
*cl, ch, sh; d, th; g, h; j, s; v, w, y; z, zh; a (as in the); b (as in bet); c (as in cat); e (as in eye); f (as in frown); g (as in go); h (as in hot); i (as in pin); l (as in life); m (as in mom); n (as in noon); o (as in go); p (as in pop); r (as in red); s (as in sing); t (as in top); u (as in cup); v (as in very); w (as in was); y (as in yes).
hemolytic /ˈhɛməˌlɪtɪk/ (Brit. hae-mo-lyt-ic) adj. Med. relating to or involving the rupture or destruction of red blood cells: a case of hemolytic anemia.

hemophil-ic /ˈhɛməˌfɪlɪk/ (Brit. hae-mo-phi-lik) n. a medical condition, usually hereditary, in which the ability of the blood to clot is severely reduced, causing the sufferer to bleed severely from even a slight injury. —hemophil-ic /ˈfɪlɪk/ adj.

hemorrhage /hɛməˈrɑːdʒ/ (tr.) used of blood from a ruptured blood vessel, esp. when profuse. a damaging loss of valuable people or resources.

hemorrhoid /ˈhɛmərɔɪd/ (n., usu. hemorrhoids) a swollen vein or group of veins in the region of the anus. Also (collectively) called piles. —hemorrhoidal /ˈhɛmərɔɪdəl/ adj.


hemp /hɛmp/ n. the cannabis plant, esp. when grown for fiber. a fiber of this plant, extracted from the stem and used to make rope, stout fabrics, fiberglass, and paper. b used in names of other plants that yield fiber, e.g., Manila hemp. c marijuana. d Old English henehp. e hemp, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch hennep and German Hanf, also to Greek kanabis.

hempen /ˈhɛmpən/ adj. made from hemp fiber.

hem-stitch /ˈhɛməstɪtʃ/ n. a decoration used on woven fabric, esp. alongside a hem, in which several adjacent threads are pulled out and the crossing threads are tied into bunches, making a row of small openings.

hemp /ˈhɛmp/ adj. incorporate such a decoration in the hem of (a piece of cloth or clothing)

hemp /hɛmp/ n. a female bird, esp. of a domestic fowl. b (hens) domestic fowls of either sex. c used in names of birds, esp. waterbirds of the rail family, e.g., moorhen. d a female lobster, crab, or salmon.

c is rare (or scarce) as hen’s teeth extremely rare.

hence /hɛns/ adv. as a consequence; for this reason. 2 in the future (used after a period of time).

henceforth /ˈhɛns,fɔːrθ/ (also hence-forward /ˈhɛns,fɔːrward/) adv. from this time on or from that time on.

hENCHMAN /ˈhɛntʃmən/ n. (pl. -men) chiefly derog. a faithful follower or political supporter, esp. one prepared to engage in crime or dishonest practices by way of service. b hist. a squire or page of honor to a person of rank.

hen-na /ˈheɪnə/ n. 1 the powdered leaves of a tropical shrub, used as a dye to color the hair and decorate the body. 2 the Old World shrub (Lawsonia inermis, family Lythraceae) that produces these leaves, with small pink, red, or white flowers.

hen /ˈheɪn/ n. 1 a domestic bird, especially of the domestic fowl. 2 (hens) domestic fowl, especially of either sex. 3 used in names of birds, especially waterbirds of the rail family, e.g., moorhen. 4 a female lobster, crab, or salmon.

hen-penn /ˈheɪnpɛŋ/ n. [usu. as adj.] (henpecked) (of a woman) continually criticize and give orders to (her husband or male partner).

hen-ry /ˈheɪni/ (abbr. H.) n. pl. henries (or hen-rys) Physics the SI unit of inductance, equal to a electromotive force of one volt in a closed circuit with a uniform magnetic field of one ampere per second.

hep /heɪp/ adj. old-fashioned term for hep.

hep-a-rin /ˈheɪpərɪn/ n. Biochem. a compound occurring in the liver and other tissues that inhibits blood coagulation. A sulfur-containing polysaccharide, it is used as an anticoagulant in the treatment of thrombosis.

he-pa-tic /ˈhɛpəˌtɪk/ adj. of or relating to the liver.

he-pa-ti-cy /ˈhɛpəˌtɪsi/ n. a plant (genus Hepatica) of the buttercup family, with anemone-like flowers, native to north temperate regions.

hep-a-ti-tis /ˈhɛpəˌtɪtɪs/ n. a disease characterized by inflammation of the liver.

he-pa-ton /ˈheptən/ n. a plane figure with seven straight sides and angles.


her /hər/ pron. [third person sing.] used as the object of a verb or preposition to refer to a female person or animal previously mentioned or easily identified: she knew I hated her | I told Hannah I would wait for her. Compare with she. i referring to a ship, country, or other inanimate thing regarded as female. ii often used in place of “she” after the verb “to be” and after “than” or “as” to refer to a female person or animal: it must be her | he was younger than her.

hers /hɜːrz/ adj. belonging to or associated with a female person or animal previously mentioned or easily identified: Patricia loved her job | how the mother cares for her children. b belonging to or associated with a ship, country, or other inanimate thing regarded as female.

here (Her) n. in titles: Her Royal Highness.

hew (he) /hju/ (hew) /hju/ (hew) adj. of or relating to heraldry. —hew-ral-di-cally /-ˈkælɪkəli/ adv.

hew-ral-dry /ˈhjuːrəldri/ n. the system by which coats of arms and other armorial bearings are devised, described, and regulated. a armorial bearings or other heraldic symbols. b colorful ceremony: all the pomp and heraldry provided a splendid pageant.

hew-ral-dist /ˈhjuːrəldist/ n.

hew /hjuː/ n. 1 any plant with leaves, seeds, or flowers used for flavoring food, medicine, or perfume. b a part of such a plant used in cooking: a potato base topped with tomatoes, cheese, and herbs. c Bot. any seed-bearing plant that does not have a woody stem and dies down to the ground after flowering. d Middle English: via Old French from Latin herb’ ‘grass, green crops, herb.’ Although herb has always been spelled with an h, pronunciation without it was usual in British English until the 19th cent. and is still standard in the U.S.

hew-bar-cr-eous /ˈhjuːbɑːkərɪəs/ adj. of, denoting, or relating to herbs (in the botanical sense).

hew-bar-ral /ˈhjuːbɑːrəl/ adj. relating to or made from herbs, esp. those used in cooking and medicine: herbal remedies.

hew-bar-al /ˈhjuːbɑːral/ adj. a book that describes herbs and their properties.

hew-bal-kism /ˈhjuːbɑːlɪzəm/ n. the study or practice of the medicinal and therapeutic use of plants, now esp. as a form of alternative medicine.

hew-bal-ist /ˈhjuːbɑːlɪst/ n. a practitioner of herbalism. a dealer in medicinal herbs. b an early botanical writer.

hew-bar-i-um /ˈhjuːbɑːrɪəm/ n. (pl. -baryums or -bar-i-a /ˈbɑːrəiə/ a systematically arranged collection of dried plants.

hew-bar-ic-cl-e /ˈhjuːbɑːrɪkəl/ n. a substance that is toxic to plants and is used to destroy unwanted vegetation.

hew-bar-i-vor /ˈhjuːbɑːrɪvər/ n. any animal that feeds on plants. —hew-bar-i-vo-rous /ˈhjuːbɑːrɪvərəs/ adj.

hew-cur-lean /ˈhjuːkərliən/ adj. requiring great strength or effort: a Hercules task. b (of a person) muscular and strong.

hew-herd /ˈhjuːhɜːd/ n. a large group of animals, esp. hoofed mammals, that live, feed, or migrate together or are kept together as livestock: a herd of elephants. b large farms with big dairy herds. c a large group of people, typically with a shared characteristic. d a herd of llamas.

hew-herds-man /ˈhjuːhɜːdzmən/ n. (pl. -men) the owner or keeper of a herd of domesticated animals.

hew /hjuː/ adv. in at, to, or in place or position: they have lived here most of their lives | come here and look at them | after prep. i’m getting out of here | it’s too hot in here. ii used when pointing or gesturing to indicate the place in mind: sign here | I have here a letter from the chief of police. iii used to draw attention to someone or something that has just been described: her/his/his/her brothers. iv used to indicate one’s role in a particular situation: I’m here to help you. v used to refer to existence in the world: what are we all doing here? vi (usu. here is/are) used when introducing someone or something: here’s a dish that is simple and quick to make | here’s what you have to do. vii used when giving something to someone: here’s my address. viii used when indicating a time or situation that has arrived or is happening: here is your opportunity | here comes summer. ix used to refer to a particular point or aspect reached in an argument, situation, or activity: here we encounter the main problem.

hew /hjuː/ used to attract someone’s attention: here, let me hold it. 2 indicating one’s presence in a roll call.
hereabouts

- **here and now** at this very moment; at the present time: we're going to settle this here and now! [as n.] our obsession with the here and now.
- **here and there** in various places.
- **here's to someone/something** used to wish health or success before drinking: here's to us! here's to your safe arrival.
- **neither here nor there** irrelevant.

**here-a-bouts** /hɪrəˈbɔːts/ (also here-a-bout) adv. near this place: there are water hereabout.

**here-after** /hɪrəˈeɪtər/ adv. formal from now on. at some time in the future: this court is in no way prejudging any such defense which may hereafter be raised.

**here-adi-tary** /hərəˈædiˈteərɪ/ adj. (of a title, office, or right) conferred by or based on inheritance. (of a person) holding a position by inheritance. I: the hereditary chief of the Pisataway people. II: (of a characteristic or disease) determined by genetic factors and therefore able to be passed on from parents to their offspring or descendants: cystic fibrosis is our most common fatal hereditary disease. III: (of) relating to inheritance.

**here-by** /hɪrəˈbaɪ/ adj. (of a set) defined such that every element that has a given relation to a member of the set is also a member of the set. —**here-by** /hɪrəˈbaɪ/ adv. **formal** further on in this document.

**here-ey** /hərəˈeɪ/ n. pl. -sies belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious beliefs. (esp. Christian doctrine): Huss was burned for heresy. the doctrine was denounced as a heresy by the pope. **her-e-sy** /hɪrəˈsɪ/ n. (pl. -sies) belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious beliefs.

**here-to** /hɪrəˈtuː/ adv. formal to this matter or document: the written consent of each of the parties hereto. **here-to-fore** /hɪrəˈtuːfoʊr/ adv. before this.

**here-up-on** /hɪrəˈuːpən/ adv. after or as a result of this.

**here-with** /hɪrəˈwɪð/ adv. with this letter: I send you herewith fifteen dollars.

**here-a-ble** /hɪrəˈæbl/ adj. able to be inherited, in particular: **biot** (of a characteristic) transmissible from parent to offspring. **law** (of a property) capable of being inherited by heirs. **here-a-bil-i-ty** /hɪrəˈæbɪləti/ n. **here-a-bly** /hɪrəˈæbli/ adv.

**here-tage** /hɪrəˈteɪdʒ/ n. property that is or may be inherited; an inheritance. ~**valued objects and qualities such as cultural traditions, unspoiled countryside, and historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations.** ~**adj.** (of a plant variety) not hybridized with another; old-fashioned: heritage roses.

**her-maph-ro-dite** /hərˈmæfərəˈdaɪt/ n. a person or animal having both male and female sex organs or other sexual characteristics, either normal or (in the case of some organisms) as the normal condition. ~**biol.** a plant having stamens and pistils in the same flower. ~**archaic** a person or thing combining opposite qualities or characteristics.

- **adj.** of or denoting a person, animal, or plant of this kind: **hermaphroditic** creatures in classical sculpture.

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**her-met-i-cal** /hərˈmeɪtəkəl/ adj. **her-met-i-cism** /hərˈmeɪtəˌsɪzəm/ n.

**her-mit** /hərˈmɪt/ n. a person living in solitude as a religious discipline. ~**any person living in solitude or seeking to do so.** —**her-mi-tic** /hərˈmi-tɪk/ adj.

**her-mit-age** /hərˈmɪtɪdʒ/ n. the dwelling of a hermit, esp. when small and remote.

**her-mit crab** n. a crab with a soft asymmetrical abdomen that lives in a castoff mollusk shell for protection.

**her-nia** /hərˈnɪə/ n. (pl. -nias or -nie) a condition in which part of an organ is displaced and protrudes through the wall of the cavity containing it (often involving the intestine at a weak point in the abdominal wall). —**her-ni-a-1** adj.

**hero** /həˈrəʊ/ n. (pl. heroes) a person, typically a man, who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities: a war hero. the heroic character in a book, play, or movie, who is typically identified with good qualities, and with whom the reader is expected to sympathize. —**in mythology and folklore** a person of superhuman qualities and often semidivine origin, in particular one of those whose exploits and dealings with the gods were the subject of ancient Greek myths and legends. —**also hero sandwich** another term for **submarine sandwich.**

**hero-i-cal** /hərˈeɪri-kəl/ adj. having the characteristics of a hero or heroine; very brave: herculean deeds. a hero character in a book, play, or movie, who is typically identified with good qualities, and with whom the reader is expected to sympathize. —**in mythology and folklore** a person of superhuman qualities and often semidivine origin, in particular one of those whose dealings with the gods were the subject of ancient Greek myths and legends. —**also hero sandwich** another term for **submarine sandwich.**

**hero-in** /həˈrəʊɪn/ n. a highly addictive analgesic drug derived from morphine, often used illicitly as a narcotic producing euphoria.

**hero-i-ned** /həˈrəʊɪnəd/ n. a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities, the chief female character in a book, play, or movie, who is typically identified with good qualities, and with whom the reader is expected to sympathize. —**in mythology and folklore** a person of superhuman qualities and often semidivine origin, in particular one of those whose dealings with the gods were the subject of ancient Greek myths and legends. —**also hero sandwich** another term for **submarine sandwich.**

**hero's** /həˈrəʊz/ adj. possess the characteristics of a hero or heroine; very brave: herculean deeds. a hero character in a book, play, or movie, who is typically identified with good qualities, and with whom the reader is expected to sympathize. —**in mythology and folklore** a person of superhuman qualities and often semidivine origin, in particular one of those whose dealings with the gods were the subject of ancient Greek myths and legends. —**also hero sandwich** another term for **submarine sandwich.**

**her-mo-nous** /hərˈməʊnəs/ adj. of or representing heroes or heroines: early medieval heroic poetry. —**adj.** of language or a work of art) grand or grandiose in style or intention: one passes through pyramids and obelisks, all on a heroic scale. ~**Sculpture** (of a stature) larger than life-size but less than colossal.

- **n.** (pl. heroes) behavior or talk that is bold or dramatic, esp. excessively or unexpectedly so: the makeshift team performed heroics. —**hero-i-cal-ly** /hərˈeɪri-kəl-li/ adv.

**her-on** /həˈrəʊn/ n. a large fish-eating wading bird (family Ardeidae) with long legs, a long S-shaped neck, and a long pointed bill. Its numerous species include the **great blue heron** (Ardea herodias).

**her-on-ry** /həˈrəʊrni/ n. (pl. -ries) a breeding colony of herons, typically in a group of trees.

**hero-wor-ship** n. excessive admiration for someone. —**adj.** in ancient Greece) the worship of superhuman heroes.

- **v.** (trans.) admire (someone) excessively. —**hero-wor-ship** n.

**her-pes** /hərˈpes/ n. any of a group of viral diseases caused by herpiviruses, affecting the skin (often with blisters) or the nervous system.

**her-pe-tic** /hərˈpetɪk/ adj.

**her-pe-sis** /hərˈpesɪs/ n. a viral infection, caused by a group of herpes viruses, that may produce cold sores, genital inflammation, or complications.

**her-pe-sos-tar** /hərˈpesˌtər/ n. medical name for **shingles.**

**her-pe-tol-o-gy** /hərˈpɛtələˌdʒi/ n. the branch of zoology concerned with reptiles and amphibians.

**her-pe-to-lo-gist** /hərˈpɛtəˌləˈdʒɪst/ n.

**her-ring-bone** /hərˈrɪŋbɔːn/ n. a silvery fish (Clupea harengus) that is mostly abundant in coastal waters and is of great commercial importance as a food fish in many parts of the world. The herring family (Clupeidae) also includes the sprats, shads, and pilchards.

**her-ring-bone** /hərˈrɪŋbɔːn/ n. [usu. as adj.] 1 an arrangement or design consisting of columns of short parallel lines, with all the lines in one column sloping one way and all the lines in the next column sloping the other way so as to resemble the character in a fish, used esp. in the weave of cloth or the placing of bricks: a brown wool herringbone jacket. 2 Skiing a method of
high
hind

object of a verb or preposition to refer to a male person or animal previously mentioned as the subject of the clause: the steward introduced himself as Pete: he ought to be ashamed of himself. 2 he or him personally used to emphasize a particular male person or animal mentioned.

Thomas himself laid down what we should do: he said so himself.

hind /hɪnd/ adj. (esp. of a bodily part) situated at the back: posterior; he swung a caddy by the hind leg.

hind adj. 1 a female deer, esp. a red deer or sika in and after its third year. 2 any of several large edible groups with spotted markings.

hind-er /hɪndər/ v. [tr.] create difficulties for someone or something, resulting in delay or obstruction.

hind-er /hɪndər/ adj. (esp. of a bodily part) rear; hind: the hinder end of its body.

Hindí /hɪndí/ n. a form of Hindustani written in Devanagari and with many loanwords from Sanskrit, an official language of India, and the most widely spoken language of northern India.

hind-most /hɪndməʊst/ adj. farthest back.

hind-quarters /hɪndkwɔːtərz/ pl. n. the hind legs and adjoining parts of a quadruped.

hindrance /hɪndrəns/ n. a thing that provides resistance, delay, or obstruction to someone or something, hindrance to the process.

hind-sight /hɪndsɪt/ n. understanding of a situation or event only after it has happened or developed: with hindsight, I should have gone.

Hindu /hɪndʊ/ n. (pl. -du) a follower of Hinduism.

hind-most /hɪndməʊst/ adj. farthest back.

Hindu-ism /hɪndʒʊɪzəm/ n. a major religious and cultural tradition of the Indian subcontinent, developed from Vedic religion.

hind-er /hɪndər/ adj. of or relating to Hindu.

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hind-Quarter /hɪndkwɔːtərz/ pl. n. the hind legs and adjoining parts of a quadruped.

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Hindu-ism /hɪndʒʊɪzəm/ n. a major religious and cultural tradition of the Indian subcontinent, developed from Vedic religion.

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hod
hoarfrost  n. a grayish-white crystalline deposit of frozen water vapor formed in clear still weather on vegetation, fences, etc.

hoarse [hôr’s] adj. (of a person’s voice) rough and harsh, typically as the result of a sore throat or of shouting: a hoarse whisper | he shouted himself hoarse.


hoaix [hôk’s] n. a humorous or malicious deception; they recognized the plan as a hoax | as adj. he was accused of making hoaxes call.

hobbit [hôb’hit] n. a member of an imaginary race similar to humans, of small size and with hairy feet. in stories by J. R. R. Tolkien.

hobble [hôb’bîl] v. 1. [intr.] walk in an awkward way, typically because of pain from an injury: he was hobbling around on crutches. fig. proceed haltingly in action or speech; inertia will keep it hobbling along. 2. [tr.] often be hobble: tie or strap together (the legs of a horse or other animal) to prevent it from straying.

hobble-stick n.

hobble-ty-ty [hôb’lit’é] adj. n. a child’s toy consisting of a stick with a model of a horse’s head at one end | a rocking horse.

hob-goblin [hôb’gab’lën] n. in mythology and fairy tales a mischievous imp or sprite. a fearsome mythical creature.

hobby [hô’bi] n. a small horse or pony.

hobby-horse n.

hobby-horse [hôb’bi-hôr’s] n.

holby [hô’bi] n. a child’s toy consisting of a stick with a model of a horse’s head at one end | a rocking horse. a preoccupation; a favorite topic.

hobby-goblin [hôb’gab’lën] n. a short, hairy, necked animal used to reinforce the soles of boots. a blunt projection, esp. in cut or molded glassware.

hockey [hô’ki] n. adj. and adv. 1. [n.] a game of fast-moving play involving a stick and a small, hard, rubber-covered puck.

hold  v. 1. [tr.] informal term for PAWN.

in hold having been pawned.

hold n. 1. a dry white wine from the German Rhineland.

hogg  v. and n. short for ICE HOCKEY. 2. short for FIELD HOCKEY.

hock [hök] n. 1. the joint in a quadruped’s hind leg between the knee and the fetlock, the angle of which points backward. 2. a knuckle of meat, esp. of pork or ham.

hocky-pockey [hök’i-pek’i] n. 1. a game of fast-moving play involving a stick and a small, hard, rubber-covered puck.

hogen [hô’gôn] n. a traditional Navajo hut of logs and earth.
hollowware /ˈhɔloʊˌwɛr/ n. serving dishes and accessories, esp. of silver, that are hollow or concave. Contrast with FLATWARE.

holy /ˈhɔli/ n. a widely distributed shrub (genus flex, family Aquifoliaceae), typically evergreen and having prickly dark green leaves, small white flowers, and red berries. The branches, foliage, and berries of this plant are used in Christmas decorations.

holy-water /ˈhɔliˌwɔtər/ n. water from which holy water is made and used in religious ceremonies.

holy-week /ˈhɔliˌwɛk/ n. the week before Easter, starting on Palm Sunday.

honing /ˈhəʊnɪŋ/ n. the process of improving the sharpness or finish of a tool or surface by gently sliding it along a hard material.

hometop /ˈhəʊmˌtɒp/ n. a person who practices homeopathy.

homeopathy /ˈhəʊməˌpæθi/ n. the treatment of disease by minute doses of natural substances that in a professional care or supervision: an old people's home. 3 Sport the goal or end point, i.e. the place where a player is free from attack. 4 Baseball short for HOME PLATE.

home-made /ˈhəʊmˌmeɪd/ adj. of, relating to, or originating in a person's own home, as in homemade butter. 2 of, relating to, or originating in a person's own home, as in homemade butter. 3 of, relating to, or originating in a person's own home, as in homemade butter.

home-made /ˈhəʊmˌmeɪd/ adj. made at home, rather than in a store or factory: homemade apple pies. 2 (of a place or surroundings) simple but cozy and comfortable, as in one's own home.

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homeotherm

healthy person would produce symptoms of disease. Often contrasted

home-other-therm [ˌhɑməˈθɑrθm] n. Zool. an organism that maintains
its body temperature at a constant level, usually above that of the
environment, by its metabolic activity. —homeo-ther-mal, adj.

home-own-er [ˌhɑməˈɔrnər] n. a person who owns his own home.

home-own-er-ship [ˌhɑməˈɔrnər-ʃip] n.

home-page (also home-page) n. Comput. the introductory document
of an individual’s or an organization’s Web site. It typically serves as
a table of contents to the site’s other pages or provides links to other
sites.

home-plate n. Baseball the five-sided flat white rubber base next to
which the batter stands and over which the pitcher must throw the
ball for a strike. A runner must touch home plate after having reached
all the other bases to score a run.

ho-me-r [ˌhɑmər] n. 1. Baseball a home run. 2. a homing pigeon. 3. int.
a referee or official who is thought to favor the team playing at home.

ho-me-rule n. the government of a colony, dependent country, or
region by its own citizens.

ho-me-run n. Baseball a hit that allows the batter to make a complete
circuit of the bases without stopping and score a run.

ho-me-sick [ˌhɑməˈsɪk] adj. experiencing a longing for one’s home
during a period of absence from it. —ho-me-sick-ness n.

ho-me-span [ˌhɑməˈspeɪn] adj. 1. simple and unsophisticated: homespun
philosophy. 2. (of cloth or yarn) made or spun at home. • denoting
a coarse handwoven fabric similar to tweed.

ho-me-stead [ˌhɑməˈsted] n. 1. a house, esp. a farmhouse, and out-
buildings. 2. Law a person’s or a family’s residence, which comprises
the land, house, and outbuildings, and in most states is exempt from
force sale for collection of debt. 3. hist. (as provided by the federal
Homestead Act of 1862) an area of public land in the West (usually 160
acres) granted to any U.S. citizen willing to settle on and farm the land
for at least five years. —ho-me-stead-er n.

ho-me-stretch [ˌhɑməˈstrɛtʃ] (also home stretch) n. the concluding
straight part of a racecourse: he drifted in back of the pack halfway
down the homestretch. • fig. the last part of an activity or campaign: this was
his last term, the homestretch.

ho-me-town [ˌhɑməˈtoun] n. the town where one was born or grew up,
or the town of one’s present fixed residence.

ho-me-ward [ˌhɑməˈwɔrd] adv. (also home-wards) toward home;
setting off homeward.

adj. going or leading toward home: their homeward journey.

ho-me-work [ˌhɑməˈwɜrk] n. schoolwork that a student is required to do
at home. • work or study done in preparation for a certain event or
situation: he had done his homework and read his predecessor’s reports.

ho-me-wrecker [ˌhɑməˈrɛkrɛkər] n. int. one who is blamed for the breakup
of a marriage or family, such as an adulterous partner.

ho-me-ey [ˌhɑməˈi] (also hom-ey) adj. (hom-er, homest) (of a place or sur-
roundings) pleasantly comfortable and cozy. • unsophisticated; un-
pretentious. —ho-me-ey-ness (also hom-iness) n.

ho-me-cide [ˌhɑməˈsaɪd; ˈhɑmə-] n. 1. the deliberate and unlawful killing
of one person by another; murder: he was charged with homicide. 2.
three of the homicides in the county were drug-related. • (Homicide) the police
department that deals with such crimes: a detective from Homicide.

ho-me-ic [ˌhɑməˈɪk] adj.

ho-me-i [ˌhɑməˈi] (also hom-ey) n. pl. home-ies int. a homeboy or home-
girl.

ho-me-i-let-ic [ˌhɑməˈɪliːtɪk] adj. of the nature of or characteristic of a
homily: homiletic literature.

n. (homiletics) the art of preaching or writing sermons.

ho-me-i-ly [ˌhɑməˈiəli] n. (pl. -lies) a religious discourse that is intended
primarily for spiritual edification rather than doctrinal instruction; a sermon.
• late Middle English: via Old French from ecclesiastical Latin ho-
milia, from Greek, ‘discourse, conversation’ (in ecclesiastical use, sermon),
from homilos ‘crowd.’ —ho-me-i-list [ˌhɑməˈɪlist] n.

ho-me-ing [ˌhɑməˈɪŋ] adj. relating to an animal’s ability to return to
a place or territory after traveling a distance away from it: a strong homing
instinct. • (of a pigeon) trained to fly home from a great distance
and bred for long-distance racing. • (of a weapon or piece of
equipment) fitted with an electronic device that enables it to find and
hit a target.

ho-mi-nid [ˈhɑməˌnaɪd] n. Zool. a primate of the family (Hominidae) that
includes humans and their fossil ancestors.

ho-mo-nid [ˈhɑməˌnaɪd] n. Zool. a primate of a group that includes hu-
mans, their fossil ancestors, and the great apes.

adj. of or relating to primates of this group: hominid or pongid.

ho-mo-ny [ˌhɑməˌnaɪ] n. coarsely ground corn used to make grits: [as adj.] hominy grits.

ho-mo- [ˈhɑmə-] adj. homosal.

ho-mo-gen-e-ous [ˌhɑməˈgɛnəs] adj. of the same kind: alike. • con-
sisting of parts all of the same kind: the farmers constitute an extremely
homogeneous group. • Math. containing terms all of the same degree.


ho-mo-gen-e-ous-ly adv.

ho-mo-gen-e-ous-ness n.

ho-mo-gen-e-ize [ˌhɑməˈdʒenəˌzaɪz] v. intr. 1. subject (milk) to a process
in which the fat droplets are emulsified and the cream does not separate
[as adj.] homogenized homogenized milk. • Biol. prepare a suspen-
sion of cell constituents from (tissue) by physical treatment in a liquid.

adj. like uniform or similar. —ho-mo-gen-e-i-za-tion [ˌhɑməˈdʒenəˌzaɪəˈʃən] n.

ho-mo-gra-f [ˌhɑməˈɡrɑf] adj. a tissue graft from a donor of the
same species as the recipient.

ho-mo-graph [ˌhɑməˌɡrɑf] n. each of two or more words
spelled the same but not necessarily pronounced the same and having
different meanings and origins (e.g., bowl and bow2). —ho-mo-graph-
ic [ˌhɑməˈɡrɑfɪk] adj.

ho-mo-lgous [ˌhɑməˈlaʊɡəs] adj. having the same relation,
relative position, or structure, in particular. • Biol. (of organs) similar in
position, structure, and evolutionary origin but not necessarily in function:
a wall’s flipper is homologous with the human arm. • Biol. (of chro-
mosomes) pairing at meiosis and having the same structural features
and pattern of genes. • Chem. (of a series of chemical compounds)
having the same functional group but differing in composition by a fixed
group of atoms.

ho-mo-logue [ˌhɑməˈloʊɡ] n. technical a homological
group.

ho-mo-log-y [ˌhɑməˌlaʊdʒi] n. the quality or condition of being
homologous. • Biol. similarity in sequence of a protein or nucleic acid
between organisms of the same or different species.

ho-mo-nym [ˌhɑməˈnaɪm] n. each of two words having the
same pronunciation but different pronunciations: origins, or spelling (e.g.,
too and two); a homophone. • each of two or more words having the
same spelling but different meanings and origins (e.g., pole1 and
pole2); a homograph. • Biol. a Latin name that is identical to that of a
different organism, the newer of the two names being invalid.


ho-mo-pho-bia [ˌhɑməˈfoʊbiə] n. an extreme and irrational aversion
to homosexuality and homossexual people. —ho-mo-pho-be [ˌhɑməˈfəb] n.

ho-mo-phone [ˌhɑməˈfoʊn] n. each of two or more words
having the same pronunciation but different meanings, origins, or
spelling, e.g., new and knew. • each of a set of symbols denoting the
same sound or group of sounds.

ho-mo-phon-ic [ˌhɑməˈfəʊnɪk] adj. characterized by the movement of accompanying parts in the same rhythm as the melody.

ho-mo-phon-ous [ˌhɑməˈfoʊnəs] adj. of (a word or words) having
the same pronunciation as another or others but different meaning,
origin, or spelling. —ho-mo-pho-bic [ˌhɑməˈfəbɪk] adj.

ho-mo-phy-ter-an [ˌhɑməˈfɪtərən] n. any insect of the group including
aphids and cicadas, having wings of uniform texture.

adj. of or related to the homopterans. —ho-mo-pho-t-e-r-an [ˌhɑməˈfətərən] adj.

ho-mo-sapi-en-s [ˌhɑməˈsæpiənəs] n. the primate species to which
modern humans belong: regarded as a species. • H. sapiens, one of this
species.

ho-mo-sex-ual [ˌhɑməˈsɛksjuəl] adj. (of a person) sexually attracted
to people of one’s own sex. • involving or characterized by sexual at-
traction between people of the same sex: homosexual desire.
honeycomb

- a widely honeycomb is a system newly evolved from a previous structure that produces brown flower nectar.

hon-cho [h'on-cho'] n. (pi. -chos) a leader or manager; the person in charge: the company's head honcho in the U.S. circa 1940s: from Japanese handō 'group leader,' a term brought back to the U.S. by servicemen stationed in Japan during the occupation following World War II.

honey [h'oné] n. (pi. -eyes) 1. a sweet, sticky, yellowish-brown fluid made by bees and other insects from nectar collected from flowers. 2. this substance used as food, typically as a sweetener. 3. a yellowish-brown or golden color. as adj. her honey skin. 4. any sweet substance similar to bees' honey. 5. int. an excellent example of something: it's one honey of an adaptation. 6. darling: sweetheart.

honey-bee [h'on-é-bé'] n. a stinging winged insect (genus Apis, family Apidae), esp. the widespread A. mellifera. It collects nectar and pollen, produces wax and honey, and lives in large communities.

honeycomb [h'on-é-köm'] n. 1. a structure of hexagonal cells of wax, made by bees to store honey and eggs. 2. a structure of adjoining cavities or cells: a honeycomb of caves. 3. a mass of cavities produced by corrosion or dissolution: as adj. honeycomb weathering.

hon-[e]dy [h'an-dé] (also honeyed) adj. (of food) containing or coated with honey. 2. having a rich sweetness of taste or smell. 3. having a golden or warm yellow color. 4. of (a person's words or tone of voice) soothing, soft, and intended to please or flatter.

honey-moon [h'an-món'] n. 1. a vacation spent together by a newly married couple. 2. [often as adj.] an initial period of enthusiasm or goodwill, typically at the start of a new job.

honey-suckle [h'an-sék'kal'] n. a widely distributed climbing shrub (genera Lonicera and Dierama) with tubular fragrant flowers. The honey-suckle family (Caprifoliaceae) also includes such berry-bearing shrubs as elder and snowberry.

honk [hänk] n. the cry of a wild goose. 2. the harsh sound of a car horn. 3. any similar sound.

honky-tonk [hän'ky-tōnk; hän'kö-tōnk] n. 1. a cheap or disreputable bar, club, or dance hall, typically where country music is played. 2. as adj. squall and disreputable: a honky-tonk beach resort. 3. country music. 4. often as adj. ragtime piano music.

honor [hón'or] n. 1. high respect: esteem: his portrait hangs in the place of honor. 2. a person or thing that brings credit: you are an honor to our profession. 3. adherence to what is right or to a conventional standard of conduct: I must as a matter of honor avoid any hint of dishonesty. 4. a privilege: the great poet of whom it is my honor to speak tonight. 5. an exalted position: the honor of being horse of the year. 6. a thing conferred as a distinction, esp. an official award for bravery or achievement: the highest military honors. 7. a special distinction for proficiency in an examination: she passed with honors. 8. a class or course of degree studies more specialized than that of the ordinary level. 9. [His, Your, etc., Honor] a title of respect given to or in addressing a judge or a mayor. 10. Gilt the right of teeing off first, having won the previous hole. 11. dated a woman's chastity or her reputation for this: she died defending her honor. 12. Bridge an ace, king, queen, or jack. 13. possession in one's hand of at least four of the ace, king, queen, and jack of trumps, or of all four aces in no trumps, for which a bonus is scored. —honor-ee [hón'-or-e] n.

honest [hón'ist] adj. 1. the quality of being honest. 2. a European plant (genus Lunaria) of the cabbage family, with purple or white flowers and round, flat, translucent seed pods that are used for indoor flower arrangements.

honesty [hón'isté] n. [pi. honest] 1. in a truthful, fair, or honorable way.

honey bee production is used to emphasize the importance of an opinion, belief, or feeling: she honestly believed that she was making life easier for Jack. 2. used to emphasize the sincerity or truthfulness of a statement: honestly, I'm not upset.

honesty is used to indicate the speaker's disapproval, annoyance, or impatience: honestly, that man is the absolute limit!

honesty is the quality of being honest.

honey bee is a European plant (genus Lunaria) of the cabbage family, with purple or white flowers and round, flat, translucent seed pods that are used for indoor flower arrangements.

honesty is used to describe a quality of being truthful, fair, or honorable.

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discharge its contents at the bottom. 1 (in full hopper car) a railroad car able to discharge coal or other bulk material through its floor. 2 a box in which bills or other papers are placed for consideration by a legislature. 3 a person or thing that hops. 4 a person who makes a series of short trips: an island hopper. 5 a hopping insect, esp. a grasshopper.

horde [ˈhɔrd] n. 1 chiefly derog. a large group of people; he was surrounded by a horde of tormenting relatives. 2 an army or tribe of nomadic warriors: Tartar hordes. 3 Anthrop. a loosely knit small social group typically consisting of about five families. 4 mid 16th c. originally denoting a tribe or troop of Tartar or other nomads; from Polish horda, from Turkish orga (royal camp).

hor-hole /ˈhɔr.hɑʊnd/, hor—hole /ˈhɔr.hɑʊld/ n. either of two strongly-smelling hairy plants of the mint family: white horehound (Marriam vulgaret) and black horehound (Bassia nigra). 2 the bitter aromatic juice of white horehound, used esp. in the treatment of coughs and colds.

horiz-on /ˈhɑrɪzən/ n. 1 the line at which the earth’s surface and the sky appear to meet. 2 (also apparent or visible horizon) the circular boundary of the part of the earth’s surface visible from a particular point, ignoring irregularities and obstructions. 3 (also celestial horizon) the great circle on the celestial sphere, the plane of which passes through the center of the earth and is parallel to that of the apparent horizon of a place. 4 (often horizons) the limit of a person’s mental perception, experience, or interest: she wanted to broaden her horizons. 5 Geol. a layer of soil or rock, or a set of strata, with particular characteristics. 6 Archaeol. a level of an excavated site representing a particular period.

hor-iz-on-tal /ˈhɑrəz.təl/ adj. 1 parallel to the plane of the horizon; at right angles to the vertical. 2 (of machinery) having its parts working in a horizontal direction: a horizontal steam engine. 3 combining companies engaged in the same stage or type of production: a horizontal merger. 4 involving social groups of equal status.

hor-mon-e /ˈhɔrmən/ n. Physiol. a regulatory substance produced in an organism and transported in tissue fluids such as blood or sap to stimulate specific cells or tissues into action. 2 a synthetic substance with a similar effect. 3 a hormone a person’s sex hormone as held in influence behavior or mood.

horr-ify /ˈhɔr.ɪˌfɪ/ v. (flies, -fied) [tr.] (usu. be horrified) fill another with horror: he was terrified by the idea; [as adj.] horrified: the horrified spectators; [as adj.] horrifying: a horrifying incident.

horse [hɔr] n. 1 a hard permanent outgrowth, often curved and pointed, found in pirouettes in the hooves of cattle, sheep, goats, giraffes, etc., and consisting of a core of bone encased in keratinized skin. 2 a thing resembling or compared to a horse in shape. 3 a sharp promontory or mountain peak. 4 a raised portion on the pommel of a Western saddle: slung from the horns of his saddle was a leather bag. 5 an instrument sounding a warning or other signal: a car horn. v. [tr.] (of an animal) butt or gore with the horns. adj. 1 sharp. 2 like [h].

hors-d’oeuvre [ɔrˈdruːv] n.pl. (same or hors d’oeuvres pronounced, same or ‘dərvəz) a small savory dish, typically one served as an appetizer at the beginning of a meal.

horse /hɔr/ n. 1 a solid hoofed plant-eating domesticated mammal (Equus caballus) with a flowing mane and tail, used for riding, racing, and to carry and pull loads. The horse family (Equidae) also includes the asses and zebras. 2 a large male horse: a stallion or gelding. 3 a wild mammal of the horse family. 4 a horse used for riding, racing, and to carry and pull loads. The horse family (Equidae) also includes the asses and zebras. 5 a horse of the female sex. 6 adj. horse-and-buggy days. 7 adj. horse-and-buggy era.

horse-back /hɔrˈbæk/ adj. & adv. mounted on a horse: [as adj.] horse-backed rider; [as adv.] they rode horseback along the trail.

horse-chestnut /hɔrˈkɛst.nʌt/ n. a deciduous tree (genus Aesculus, family

Pronunciation Key: a, ad, adv, ay, b, c, ch, cl, cr, d, de, el, em, en, er, es, et, eur, f, fəʊ, for, fr, ft, fi, fl, fr, t, h, id, in, iə, iəd, iər, iər, 1, 1ə, 1əd, 1ər, 1⑥
horseflesh

Hippocastanaceae) with large leaves of five leaflets, upright conical clusters of white, pink, or red flowers, and seeds enclosed in fleshy, thorny husks. The unpalatable chestnutlike seed of this tree.

horse-flesh /ˈhɔːrs,flɛʃ/ n. horses considered collectively. The flesh of a horse, esp. when used as food.

horse-fly /ˈhɔːr,fli/ n. (pl. -flies) a stoutly built fly (genus Tabanus, family Tabanidae), the female of which is a bloodsucker and inflicts painful bites on horses and other mammals.

horse-hair /ˈhɔːr,heɪər/ n. hair from the mane or tail of a horse, typically used in furniture for padding.

horse-man /ˈhɔːrmən/ n. (pl. -men) a rider on horseback, esp. a skilled one.

horse-man-ship /ˈhɔːrmənˌʃɪp/ n. the art or practice of riding on horseback.

horse-play /ˈhɔːr,pleɪ/ n. rough, boisterous play.

horse-power /ˈhɔːrpər/ n. (pl. -powers) a unit of power equal to 550 foot-pounds per second (745.7 watts). The power of an engine measured in terms of this: a strong 140-horsepower engine.

horse, ability to perform strenuous tasks.

horse race n. 1 a race between two or more horses ridden by jockeys. 2 a very close contest: the election was still a horse race. —horse-racing adj.

horse-riding /ˈhɔːrˌraɪdɪŋ/ n. a European plant (Armoracia rusticana) of the cabbage family, grown for its pungent root. This root, which is scraped or grated as a condiment and often made into a sauce.

horse-sense n. int. common sense.

horse-shoe /ˈhɔːrˌʃu/ n. a shoe for a horse formed of a narrow band of iron in the form of an extended circular arc and secured to the hoof with nails. A shoe of this kind or a representation of one, regarded as bringing good luck. Something resembling this in shape: [as adj.] a horseshoe bend. [horsehoes] (treated as sing.) a game in which horseshoes are thrown at a stake in the ground.

horse-shoe crab n. a large marine arthropod (class Merostomata) with a domed horseshoe-shaped shell, a long tail-spine, and ten legs, little changed since the Devonian period.

horse-tail /ˈhɔːrˌteɪl/ n. a nonflowering plant (genus Equisetum, family Equisetaceae) with a hollow jointed stem that bears whorls of narrow leaves, producing spores in cones at the tips of the shoots.

horse-trading /ˈhɔːrˌtrɛdɪŋ/ n. the buying and selling of horses.

horse-trade v. —horse-trader n.

horse-whip /ˈhɔːrˌwhɪp/ n. a long whip used for driving and controlling horses.

horseman /ˈhɔːrmən/ n. (pl. -men) a man who rides on horseback, esp. a skilled one.

horse-play /ˈhɔːrˌpleɪ/ n. 1 of or resembling a horse: wide eyes and big, horse teeth. 2 concerned with or devoted to horses or horse racing: the horse fraternity. —horse-hy adj. [horseless] n. adj.

horse-to-to-ry /ˈhɔːrtəˌtɔrɪ/ n. adj. tending or aiming to exhort: the central bank relied on hortatory messages and voluntary compliance. —horto-tion adj.

hor-ri-cul-tur-e /ˈhɔrriˌkʌltʃʊrəl/ n. the art or practice of garden cultivation and management.


hos-an-na /ˈhɔsəˌnə/ n. (also hosanah) interj. (esp. in biblical, Judaic, and Christian use) used to express adoration, praise, or joy.

hos-sier /ˈhɔsɪər/ n. a manufacturer or seller of hosiery.

hos-airy /ˈhɔsəˌəri/ n. stockings, socks, and tights collectively.

hos-pice /ˈhɒspɪs/ n. a home providing care for the sick, esp. the terminally ill. [archaic] a lodging for travelers, esp. one run by a religious order.

hos-pita-ble /ˈhɒspɪtəbəl/ adj. friendly and welcoming to strangers or guests. [of an environment] pleasant and favorable for living in: the Sonoran desert is one of the least hospitable places on earth.

hos-pita-ly /ˈhɒspɪtəlɪ/ n. an institution providing medical and surgical treatment and nursing care for sick or injured people.

hos-pit-al-i-ty /ˈhɒspɪtəlɪti/ n. the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.

adj. denoting a suite or room in a hotel where visitors are entertained, typically at a convention. Related to or denoting the business of housing or entertaining visitors: the hospitality industry.

hos-pit-al-ize /ˈhɒspɪtəˌlaɪz/ v. [fr. (usu. be hospitalized) admit or accept (someone) to be admitted to a hospital for treatment: Casey was hospitalized for chest pains. —hos-pit-al-za-tion /ˈhɒspɪtəˌləzəʃən/ n.

host! /hɒst/ n. 1 a person who receives or entertains other people as guests: a person, place, or organization that holds and organizes an event to which others are invited: Innsbruck once played host to the Winter Olympics. An area in which particular living things are found: Australia is host to some of the world’s most dangerous animals. Often humorous the landlord or landlady of a pub: mine host raised his glass of whiskey. The moderator or emcee of a television or radio program. 2 Biol. An animal or plant on or in which a parasite or commensal organism lives. [also host cell] a living cell in which a virus multiplies. A person whose immune system has been invaded by a pathogenic organism. A person or animal that has received transplanted tissue or a transplanted organ. [also host computer] a computer that mediates multiple access to databases mounted on it or provides other services to a computer network.

adv. for (at an event) or for (on a television or radio program).

[w. fr.] act as host at (an event) or for (a television or radio program).

[w. fr.] act as host.

host? /hɒst/ n. a host of hosts of a large number of people or things: a host of memories rushed into her mind. [archaic] an army. poet. (in biblical use) the sun, moon, and stars: the starry host of heaven.

host-ess /ˈhɒstɪs/ n. (usu. the Host) the person who consecrated the Eucharist.

host-la /ˈhoʊstəl/ n. an eastern Asian plant (genus Hosta) of the lily family, widely cultivated for its shade-tolerant foliage.

host-tage /ˈhoʊstɪdʒ/ n. a person seized or held as security for the fulfillment of a condition.

[w. fr.] act as hostage or for (as a hostage). The act of holding or being held as hostage: they were held hostage by armed rebels [taken hostage at gunpoint].

host-tel /ˈhoʊstəl/ n. an establishment that provides cheap food and lodging for a specific group of people, such as students, workers, or travelers. Short for YOUTH HOSTEL.

host-ile /ˈhoʊstɪl/ adj. unfriendly; antagonistic. [as of or belonging to a military enemy: hostile aircraft. The opposition: people are very hostile to the idea. [as of a takeover bid] opposed by the company to be bought. —hosti-ly adv.

host-il-ty /ˈhoʊstɪlti/ n. [pl. -ties] hostile behavior; unfriendliness or opposition: their hostility to all outsiders. [hostilities] acts of warfare: he called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

host-ler /ˈhoʊstələr/ [also os-tler] n. a man employed to look after the horses of people staying at an inn.

hot /hɔt/ adj. [hotter, hottest] 1 having a high degree of heat or a high temperature. Feeling or producing an uncomfortable sensation of heat. [of food or drink] prepared by heating and served without cooling. Inf. of (an electric circuit) when a high voltage: live. Inf. of (radioactive) containing or consisting of pungent spices or peppers that produce a burning sensation when tasted; a very hot dish caressed with your chin. 3 pastly enthusiastically suggestive, eager, or excited: the idea had been nurtured in his hot imagination. [as of music, esp. jazz] strongly rhythmical and excellently played: hot salsa and lambda dancing. Involving much activity, debate, or intense feeling: a very hot issue. [as of news] fresh or recent and therefore of great interest: have I got some hot gossip for you? Very popular, fashionable, or in demand: they know the hottest dance moves. Difficult to deal with awkward or dangerous: he found my story too hot to handle. [as of a hit or returning in ball games] difficult for an opponent to deal with: fielding a hot grounder at third. [as of (the scent) fresh and strong: indicating that the quarry has passed recently. Inf. of (goods) stolen and difficult...
to dispose of because easily identifiable. • int. (of a person) wanted by the police. • (in children's games) very close to finding or guessing something. • int. knowledge: the key skillful: Tony is very hot on local history. • int. good; promising: this is not so hot for business. • hot on int. considering as very important; strict about: local customs officers are hot on confiscations. • hotly adv. • hotness n. • hot-tish adj.

• have the hots for int. be sexually attracted to. • hot and heavy int. intense; with intensity: the competition became very hot and heavy.

• on the heels of following closely. • on the collar int. angry, resentful, or embarrassed. • in hot pursuit following closely and eagerly.

• in hot water int. in a situation of difficulty, trouble, or disgrace.

• make it (or things) hot for someone int. make things unpleasant for someone; persecute.

• hot air n. int. empty talk that is intended to impress: they dismissed the theory as a load of hot air.

• hot-bed n. • bed of earth heated by fermenting manure, for raising or forcing plants. • an environment promoting the growth of something, esp. something unwelcome: the country was a hotbed of revolution and dissension.

• hot-blooded adj. lustful; passionate.

• hot-cake n. • pancake.

• hot-foot v. • like hotcakes quickly and in great quantity, esp. because of popularity; his latest CD is selling like hotcakes.

• hot dog n. 1 a hot sausage served in a long, soft roll and typically topped with various condiments. 2 int. a person who shows off, esp. a skirt or surfer who performs stunts or tricks.

• interj. int. used to express delight or enthusiastic approval: hot dog! I've finally found something I can do that you can't.

• hot-dog v. • dogged, dogging int. [v.] perform stunts or tricks; show off. • hot-dogger n.

• hot-tel n. • establishment providing accommodations, meals, and other services for travelers and tourists.

• hot-telier n. • hotel keeper; hot-tel-ler.

• a person who owns or manages a hotel.

• hot flash n. • sudden feeling of feverish heat, typically as a symptom of menopause.

• hot-foot n. • a practical joke in which a match is inserted into the victim's shoe and then lit.

• v. [as] (to) walk or run quickly and eagerly, we hotfooted it after him.

• adj. in eager haste: he rushed hotfoot to the planning office to object.

• hot-head n. (also hot-head) • a person who is impetuous or who easily becomes angry and violent. • hot-headed adj. • hot-head-edly adv. • hot-headedness n.

• hot-house n. • a heated building, typically made largely of glass, for rearing plants out of season or in a climate colder than is natural for them. • fig. an environment that encourages the rapid growth or development of something, esp. in a stifling or intense way: as adj. the hothouse atmosphere of the college.

• v. [as] educate (a child) to a high level at an earlier age than usual.

• hot-line n. (also hot line) • a direct telephone line set up for a specific purpose, esp. for use in emergencies or for communication between heads of government; a telephone line to a source of information or emergency help.

• hot plate n. • a flat heated surface (or a set of these), typically portable, used for cooking food or keeping it hot.

• hot pot-to n. int. a controversial issue or situation that is awkward or unpleasant to deal with.

• hot rod n. • a motor vehicle that has been specially modified to give it power and speed.

• v. [as] (to) drive a hot rod. 2 [v.] modify a vehicle or other device to make it faster or more powerful. • hot-rod (also hot-rodder) n.

• hot seat n. (the hot seat) • the position of a person who carries full responsibility for something, including facing criticism or being answerable for decisions or actions. • 2. the electric chair.

• hot-shot n. int. an important or exceptionally able person: these three hotshots decide what's what at the firm. • show-off: an exhibitionist: the hotshots whiz by on their snowboards.

• adj. aggressive and skillful: a hotshot broker angling for a partnership.

• hot spot n. • a small area or region with a relatively hot temperature in comparison to its surroundings. • Geol. an area of volcanic activity, esp. where this is isolated. • fig. a place of significant activity or danger: the hotel was the hot spot in town, with its all-night coffee shop. • Computing: an area where a usable Wi-Fi signal is available for personal computer use.

• hot spring n. • a spring of naturally hot water, typically heated by subterranean volcanic activity.

• hot stuff n. int. used to refer to a person or thing of outstanding quality, interest, or talent: he's hot stuff at arithmetic. • used to refer to a sexually exciting person, movie, book, etc.: Jill was reputed to be hot stuff.

• hot-tempered adj. easily angered; quick-tempered.

• hot-knot n. • hat, taffy n. & adj. used to refer to Khokhlo people.

• hot tub n. • a large tub filled with hot aerated water used for recreation or physical therapy.

• hot-water bot-tle (also hot-water bag) n. • a flat, oblong container, typically made of rubber, that is filled with hot water and used for warmth.

• hot-wire n. int. start the engine of a vehicle by bypassing the ignition system, typically in order to steal it.

• hound n. • a dog of a breed used for hunting, esp. one able to track by scent; • any dog; a person who avidly pursues something: a publicity hound. • int. a despicable or contemptible man.

• v. [as] harass or persecute (someone) relentlessly; pursue relentlessly: he led the race from start to finish but was hounded all the way by Phillips.

• Old English hund (in the general sense 'dog'), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch hond and German Hund, from an Indo-European root shared by Greek kōn, kar- 'dog.'

• hounds-tooth n. • a large checked pattern with notched corners suggestive of a canine tooth, typically used in cloth for jackets and suits.

• hour n. • a period of time equal to the twelfth part of a day and divided into 60 minutes. • a time or period of time: the early hours of the morning; the distance traveled in one hour. • Ocean City is less than an hour away.

• v. [as] (to) waste time; • time in time; I wondered if my last hour had come. • a time of day or night: you can't turn him away at this hour.

• a day of specific time or activity: reality; • the time as formerly reckoned from sunrise: it was about the ninth hour. • the appropriate time for some specific action; now that the hour had come, David decided he would not face it.

• a period set aside for some purpose or marked by some activity: leisure hours. • a fixed period of time for an activity, such as work, use of a building, etc.: shortened working hours. • (usu. hours) in the Western Church a short service of psalms and prayers to be said at a particular time of day, esp. in religious communities.

• 5 or 15' of longitude or right ascension (one twenty-fourth part of a circle).

• all hours any time, esp. outside the time considered usual for something: intruders had access at all hours.

• keep late hours get up and go to bed late.

• keep regular hours do the same thing at the same time every day.

• on the hour at an exact hour, or on each hour, of the day or night.

• within the hour after less than an hour.

• hour-glass n. • an inanimate device with two connected glass bulbs containing sand that takes an hour to pass from the upper to the lower bulb.

• adj. shaped like such a device; her hourglass figure.

• hourly adv. • 1 done or occurring every hour: there is an hourly bus service. • with numeral or fraction occurring at intervals measured in hours: travels run at half-hourly intervals. 2 reckoned hourly by: introduce standard fees instead of hourly rates.

• adj. every hour. • with numeral or fraction at intervals measured in hours: temperature should be recorded four-hourly. 2 by the hour: hourly paid workers. 3 frequently; continually: her curiosity was mounting hourly.

• house n. (pl. houses es) • a building for human habitation, esp. one that is lived in by a family, or small group of people. • the people living in such a building: a household. do you know whom the whole house woken up? • (often House) a family or family lineage; esp. noble or royal one; a dynasty: the house of Stewart. • a building in which animals live or in which things are kept: a reptile house. • a building in which people meet for a particular activity: a house of prayer. • a business or institution: a publishing house. • a restaurant or inn: [as] a hotel.

• Pronunciation Key • ø, ø o, ø or; ø or; å: a hat; å: an ear; å: a car; å: chin; e: let; e: sec; e(0) or ai; i: fit; i: by; i(0) or ear; å: sing; ø: go; ø: law; for; i: oy; ø: good; ø: go; ø: ou; øt; ø: she; ø: thin; ø: then; (b) why; 2 vision
school or college, or its residents. 1 a gambling establishment or its management. 2 a host or proprietor: help yourself to a drink, compliments of the house. 3 a house theater: a hundred musicians performed in front of a full house. 4 an audience in a theater or concert venue: the house burst into applause. 5 dated a brothel. 6 a legislative or deliberative assembly. 7 the House of Representatives of (or in the UK or Canada) the House of Commons or Lords. 8 also house music a style of popular dance music typically using synthesized drum and bass lines, sparse repetitive vocals, and a fast beat. 9 Astrology any of the twelve divisions of the celestial sphere.

-adj. house 1 (of an animal or plant) kept in, frequenting, or infesting buildings. 2 of or relating to resident medical staff at a hospital. 3 of or relating to a business, institution, or society: a house journal. 4 (of a band or group) resident or regularly performing in a club or other venue.

-v. house [tr. 1 provide (a person or animal) with shelter or living quarters. 2 provide space for; accommodate. 3 enclose or encase (something): housed in a pod beneath the engine. 4 insert or fix (something) in a socket or mortar. —houseful, -ful [n. (pl.-fuls)]

d. house (part of cards) a structure built out of playing cards precariously balanced together. 1 an inessential or insecure situation or scheme: his case was a house of cards until Attorney Jabovski stepped in. 2 on the house (of a drink or meal in a bar or restaurant) at the management's expense; free. 3 put (or set or get) one's house in order make necessary reforms: to get their own economic house in order.

house arrest n. the state of being kept as a prisoner in one's own house, rather than in a prison: she was placed under house arrest.

houseboat [hous,boyt] n. a boat that is or can be moored for use as a dwelling.

house-bound [hous,bound] adj. unable to leave one's own house, typically due to illness or old age.

house-boy [hous,boj] n. a boy or man employed to undertake domestic duties.

house-break [hous,breik] (past -broke; past part -broke; broken) v. [tr. train (a pet) to urinate and defecate outside the house or only in a special place. 1 intro. or humorous use] (someone) good manners or neatness.


housecoat [hous,koit] n. a woman's long, loose, lightweight robe for informal wear around the house.

house-dress [hous,dres] n. a simple, usually washable, dress suitable for wearing while doing housework.

house-father [hous, faθər] n. a man in charge of and living in a boarding school dormitory or other group residence.

house-fly [hous, flai] (also house fly) n. (pl. -flies) a common small fly (Musca domestica, family Muscidae) occurring worldwide in and around human habitation.

house-guest (also guest-house) n. a guest staying for some days in a private house.

house-hold [hous,holdt] n. a house and its occupants regarded as a unit. 1 the affairs related to keeping a house: it is mostly women who are responsible for running households [as adj] household appliances.

house-holder [hous,hol'da] n. a person who owns or rents a house: the head of a household.

house-hold name (also household word) n. a person or thing that is well known by the public.

house-band [hous, band] n. a man who lives with a partner and carries out household duties traditionally done by a housewife rather than working outside the home.

house-keeper [hous, kepər] n. a person, typically a woman, employed to manage a household. —house-keep v. (dated).

house-keeping [hous, képakis] n. 1 the management of household affairs. 2 money set aside or given for a purpose: writing barely pays my part of the housekeeping. 3 a department within a hotel or other residential facility that oversees the cleaning of rooms and the provision of necessities such as towels and glassware: you'll never have to nag housekeeping for a set of dry towels. 4 operations such as record-keeping or maintenance in an organization or a computer that make work possible but do not directly constitute its performance. 5 Biol. the regulation of metabolic functions that are common to all cells. 6 adj. (of cabins, cottages, or other rental properties) having basic facilities such as a stove and refrigerator.

house lights (also house-light) n.pl. n. the lights in the area of a theater where the audience sits: the show ended and the house lights came up.
trajecories at low velocities. | late 17th cent.: from Dutch honwiter, from German Huwitzer, from Czech huwhitse 'catapult.'

howl [houl] n. a long, loud, doleful cry uttered by an animal such as a dog or wolf. | a loud cry of pain, fear, anger, amusement, or derision: he let out a howl of anguish | got howls of protest from readers. | a prolonged wailing noise such as that made by a strong wind: they listened to the howl of the gale.

▶ v. [intr.] make a howling sound. | weep and cry out loudly: a baby startled to howl. | [intr.] (howl someone down) shout in disappointment in order to prevent a speaker from being heard.

howler [houlær] n. 1. a stupid or glaring mistake, esp. an amusing one. | 2. a person or animal that howls. | 3. also howler monkey a fruit-eating monkey (genus Alouatta) with a prehensile tail and a loud howling call, native to the forests of tropical America.

howling [houlɪŋ] adj. 1. producing a long, loud, doleful cry or wailing sound. | archaic filled with or characterized by such sounds: the howling wildernesses. | 2. adj. extreme, great: the meal was a howling success.

h.p. (also HP) n. abbrev. high pressure. | horsepower.

HR abbrev. Headquarters. | House of Representatives. | human resources.

hub [hʊb] n. 1. the central part of a wheel, rotating on or with the axle, and from which the spokes radiate. | a place or thing that forms the effective center of an activity, region, or network: the kitchen was the hub of family life.

▶ hub-and-spoke denoting a system of air transportation in which local airports offer flights to a central airport where international or long-distance flights are available.

Hubble Space Telescope [həˈbabl] an orbiting astronomical observatory launched in 1990. The telescope's high-resolution images are far better than can be obtained from the earth's surface.

hub-bub [ˈhʌbəb] n. a chaotic din caused by a crowd of people. | a busy, noisy situation: she fought through the hubbub.

hub-by [ˈhʌbə] n. (pl. -bies) int. a husband.

hub-cap [ˈhʌb.kæp] n. a metal or plastic cover for the hub of a motor vehicle's wheel.

hubris [ˈhʌbriəs] n. excessive pride or self-confidence. | adj. [in Greek tragedy] excessive pride toward or defiance of the gods, leading to nemesis.

huck-a-back [ˈhʌkəbæk] n. a strong linen or cotton fabric with a rough surface, used for toweling.

huckle-berry [ˈhʌkləˌbɛri] n. 1. a small, round, edible blue-black berry related to the blueberry. | 2. the low-growing North American shrub (genus Gaylussacia) of the heath family that bears this fruit.

huckster [ˈhʌkstər] n. a person who sells small items, either door-to-door or from a stall or small store. | a mercenary person eager to make a profit out of anything. | a publicity agent or advertising copywriter, esp. for radio or television.

v. [intr.] promote or sell something, typically a product of questionable value. | [intr.] bargain; haggle. | -huckster-ism [ˌhʌkster-izəm] n.


hud-dle [ˈhudəl] v. [intr.] crowd together; nestle closely: they huddled together for warmth. | curl one's body into a small space: the watchman remained, huddled under his canvas shelter. | draw together for an informal, private conversation: selection committee members huddled with attorneys. | n. a crowded or confused mass of people or things. | a brief gathering of players during a game to receive instructions, esp. in football.

huh [hʊ] n. a color or shade: her face lost its golden hue. | versicolor is greenish-yellow in hue. | the color of a attribute by which virtue of which it is discernible as red, green, etc., and which is dependent on its dominant wavelength, and independence of intensity or lightness. | fig. character: aspect: men of all political hues submerged their feats. | Old English huh, ēow (also 'form, appearance,' obsolete except in Scots, of Germanic origin; related to Swedish 'sky; complexion.' The sense "color, shade" dates from the mid 19th cent. | -hued adj. [in comb.] rainbow-hued. | -hued-less adj.

hug [hʌg] v. [hugged, hugging] to squeeze (someone) tightly in one's arm, typically to express affection. | hold (something) closely or tightly around or against part of one's body: he hugged his knees to his chest. | fit tightly around: jeans that hugged the contours of his body. | keep close to: I headed north, hugging the coastline all the way. | hug oneself (genus Hydralus) to concertrate or be pleased with oneself: she hugged herself with secret joy. | cherish or cling to something (such as a belief): a boy hugging a secret.

▶ n. an act of holding someone tightly in one's arms, typically to express affection: there were hugs and tears as they were reunited. | -hug-gable adj.

huge [hjuːdʒ] adj. (hug-er, hug-est) extremely large; enormous: a huge area.

hug-ness n.


Huguenot [ˈhʌgənɔt] n. a French Protestant of the 16th-17th centuries. | Largely Calvinist, the Huguenots suffered severe persecution at the hands of the Catholic majority, and many thousands emigrated.

huh [hʊ] interj. used to express scorn, anger, disbelief, surprise, or amusement: "Huh?" she snorted. "Over my dead body!" used in questions to invite agreement or further comment or to express a lack of understanding: pretty devastating, huh?

hula [ˈhʊlə] (also hula-hula) n. a dance performed by Hawaiian women, characterized by undulating hips and gestures symbolizing natural phenomena or historical or mythological subjects.

hula hoop (also trademark Hula-Hoop) n. a large hoop spun around the body by gyration the hips, for play or exercise.

hulk [hʌlk] n. 1. an old ship stripped of fittings and permanently moored, esp. for use as storage or (formerly) as a prison. | any large structure no longer in use: hulls of abandoned machinery. | a large or unwieldy boat or other object. | a large, clumsy-looking person: a six-foot hulk of a man.

▶ v. [intr.] appear large or threatening: mile-high cliffs, hulking above withering glacial streams. | move heavily or clumsily.

hulk-ing [ˈhʌlkɪŋ] adj. (of a person or object) large, heavy, or clumsy: a hulking young man.

hull [hʊl] n. 1. the main body of a ship or other vessel, including the bottom, sides, and deck but not the masts, superstructure, rigging, engines, and other fittings.

▶ v. [intr.] be hulled hit and pierce the hull of a ship with a shell or other missile. | -hulled adj.

hull-low [ˈhʊlləʊ] n. the outer covering of a fruit or seed, esp. the pod of peas and beans, or the husk of grain. | the green calyx of a strawberry or raspberry.

▶ v. [intr. as adj. (hulled) remove the hulls from (fruit, seeds, or grain).

hullo [ˈhʊloʊ] interj. exclamation variant spelling of HELLO.

hum [hʌm] v. [hummed, humming] (intr.) make a low, steady continuous sound like that of a bee: the computers hummed. | sing with closed lips: [intr.] she was humming a cheerful tune. | (of a place) be filled with a low, steady continuous sound: the room hummed with an expectant murmur. | [intr.] not be in a state of great activity: the repair shops are humming.

▶ n. a low, steady, continuous sound.

an unwanted low-frequency noise in an amplifier caused by variation of electric current. | -hum-ble adj. | -hum-ber n.

humer [ˈhʌmər] interj. used to express hesitation or dissent: "Ah, huh, I think it's Elaine, isn't it?"

Pronunciation Key a a as in at; o as in cot; u as in cut; ah as in car; ch as in chin; e as in let; ə as in ear; a as in car; ch as in chin; e as in let; ə as in ear; a as in car; ch as in chin; e as in let; ə as in ear; a as in car; ch as in chin;
hunk |ˈhʌŋk| n. 1. a large piece of something, esp. one of food cut or broken off a larger piece: a hunk of bread. 2. int. a sexually attractive man, esp. a large, strong one. —hunk-y adj. (hunk-i-er, hunk-i-est). —hunk-y-do-ry |ˈhʌŋkɪ-ˈdɔrɪ| adj. inf. fine; going well: everything is hunk-y-dory.

hurt |hɜrt| v. [tr.] 1. cause or experience pain: he was hurt in the accident. 2. cause distress or suffering: his words hurt her feelings. 3. cause physical pain or injury to: you hurt me! [int.]; does acupuncture hurt? [int.]; of a part of the body) suffer pain: my back hurts; 4. cause mental pain or distress to (a person or their feelings): she didn't want to hurt his feelings. [intr.]

hunting-tong |ˈhʌntɪŋtəŋ| n. the activity of hunting wild animals or game, especially for food or sport.

huntington's chorea |ˈhʌntɪŋtəns ˈkərɑː| n. a hereditary disease marked by degeneration of the brain cells and causing chorea and progressive dementia.

huntsman |ˈhʌntzmən| n. (pl. -men) a person who hunts; a hunt official in charge of hounds.
hypothesize /hpəˈθɛsɪz/ v. [tr.] put (something) forward as a hypothesis. —hypothesizer n.

hypothetical /hɪpəˈθɛtɪkl/ adj. of, based on, or serving as a hypothesis: that option is merely hypothetical at this juncture. —hypothetically adv.

hypothesis /hɪˈpɒθɛsɪs/ n. (usu. hypotheticals) a hypothetical proposition or statement. —hypothetical

hypothesis /hɪˈpɒθɛsɪs/ n. (pl. -mies) a surgical operation to remove all or part of the uterus.

hysterectomies /hɪˈstrektəmɪz/ n. a surgical operation to remove all or part of the uterus.

hysterectomy /hɪˈstrektəmi/ n. (pl. -mies) a surgical operation to remove all or part of the uterus.

hysterical /hɪˈstrektɪkl/ adj. 1 deriving from or affected by uncontrolled extreme emotion: inf. extremely funny: her attempts to teach them to dance were hysterical. 2 Psychiatry relating to, associated with, or suffering from hysteria. —hysterically adv.

Hz /ˈɛbz/ abbr. hertz.
iceberg

Iceberg, also termed ice-cap, is a covering of ice over a large area, esp. on the polar regions of the Earth. It is formed by the accumulation and freezing of much snow that has fallen over a long period of time, with little or no melting taking place. Icebergs can develop in various types of glaciated areas, including mountain glaciers, continental ice sheets, and coastal glaciers. They are significant for their impact on ocean currents, marine life, and climate, and their study can provide valuable insights into past climates and environments.

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flavored and colored, and used as a coating for cakes or cookies. 2 the formation of ice on an aircraft, ship, or other vehicle, or in an engine. 3 Ice Hockey the action of shooting the puck from one's own end of the rink to the other but not into the goal, for which the referee calls a face-off in one's own end.

- the icing (or frosting) on the cake an attractive but insensational addition or enhancement: being a scientist is enjoyable, and winning a Nobel is icing on the cake.

icky /ik'ē/ adj. (ick-i-er, ick-iest) sticky, esp. unpleasantly so. icky is distastefully sentimental: a romantic subplot that is just plain icky. a nasty or repulsive (used as a general term of disapproval): icky boys with all their trash talking.

icon /ik'òn/ n. a painting of Jesus Christ or another holy figure, typically in a traditional style on wood, varnished and used as an aid to devotion in the Byzantine and other Eastern Churches. a person or thing regarded as a representative symbol of something: this iron-jawed icon of American manhood.

- iconography /i-kōgraf'ik/ n. the study of visual imagery and its symbols and interpretation, esp. in social or political terms. symbols: the iconology of a work of art.

- icon-oclast /i-kōklast/ n. a person who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions. a destroyer of images used in religious worship.

- iconoclasm /i-kōklaz'am/ n. the action of attacking or assertively rejecting cherished beliefs and institutions or established values and practices. the rejection or destruction of religious images as heretical; the doctrine of iconoclasts.

- iconograph /i-kōgraf/ n. 1 pl.-phies the use or study of images or symbols in visual arts. the visual images, symbols, or modes of representation collectively associated with a person, cult, or movement: the iconography of pop culture. the illustration of a subject by drawings or figures.


- icon-ology /i-kōn'o-log/ n. the study of visual imagery and its symbols and interpretation, esp. in social or political terms. symbols: the iconology of a work of art.

- icon-oclasm /i-kōklaz'am/ n. the action of attacking or assertively rejecting cherished beliefs and institutions or established values and practices. the rejection or destruction of religious images as heretical; the doctrine of iconoclasts.

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- ideogram /i-de-ər-gəm/ n. a symbol or graphic representation on a video display terminal of a program, option, or window, esp. one of several for selection.

- icky /ik'ē/ adj. (ick-i-er, ick-iest) sticky, esp. unpleasantly so. icky is distastefully sentimental: a romantic subplot that is just plain icky. a nasty or repulsive (used as a general term of disapproval): icky boys with all their trash talking.

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ideograph /'ideogræf, 'idēə-| n. another term for IDEOGRAM. —ide-o-graphic /'ideog्रαfɪk, 'idēə-| adj. —ideography /'idēəgræfi, 'idē-| n. —ideologist /'idēəlɪdʒɪst| n., an adherent of an ideology, esp. one who is uncompromising and dogmatic: A Nazı ideologist.

ideology /ˌidɨələˈdʒi/ n. (pl. -gies) a system of ideas and ideals, esp. one that forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy. n the ideas and manner of thinking characteristic of a group, social class, or individual. —ideologi-cal /ˌidɨəloʊˈdʒɪkəl| adj. —ideolog-ist /ˌidɨələˈdʒɪst| n.

ides /idəz/ pl. n. (in the ancient Roman calendar) a day falling roughly in the middle of each month (the 15th day of March, May, July, and October, and the 13th of other months), from which other dates were calculated.

idiocy /ˌidɪəsə/ n. (pl. -cies) extremely stupid behavior: the idocy of decimating rain forests.

idiom /idɪəm/ n. 1 a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deductible from those of the individual words (e.g., rain cats and dogs, see the light) n a form of expression natural to a language, person, or group of people. n the dialect of a people or part of a country. 2 a characteristic mode of expression in music or art.

idio-ma-tic /ˌidɪəˈmatɪk/ adj. 1 using, containing, or denoting expressions that are natural to a native speaker: idiomatnic dialogue. 2 appropriate to the style of art or music associated with a particular period, individual, or group. —idio-ma-ti-cally /ˌidɪəˈmatɪkəli| adv.

idio-pathic /ˌidɪəˈpaθɪk/ adj. Med. relating to or denoting any disease or condition that arises spontaneously or for which the cause is unknown.

idio-syn-cra-sy /ˌidɪəˌsɪŋkraˈseɪ| n. (pl. -cies) [usu. idiosyncrasies] a mode of behavior or way of thought peculiar to an individual. n a distinctive or peculiar feature or characteristic of a place or thing: the idiosyncrasies of the prison system. n Med. an abnormal physical reaction by an individual to a food or drug. —idio-syn-cra-tic /ˌidɪəˌsɪŋkraˈtɪk| adj.


idiot-savant /ˈidɪətəˌsævɒnt/ n. (pl. idiot-savants or idiot-savants) a person who is considered to be mentally handicapped but displays brilliance in a special area, esp. one involving memory. ■ late 20th cent.: French, literally 'learned idiot.'

idio-type /ˌidɪəˈtaɪp/ n. Biol. the set of genetic determinants of an individual. ■ Immuno. a set of antigen-binding sites that characterizes the antibodies produced by a particular clone of antibody-producing cells.

idle /ɪdəl/ adj. (i-dler, i-dlest) 1 (esp. of a machine or factory) not active or in use: assembly lines standing idle for lack of spare parts. ■ (of a person) not working; unemployed. ■ (of a person) avoiding work; lazy. 2 (of time) characterized by inaction or absence of significant activity: an idle moment. n (of money) held in cash or in accounts paying no interest. 2 without purpose or effect; pointless: idle chatter. 3 (esp. of a threat or boast) without foundation: idle threats.

v [intr.] be idle. ■ v [prep.] of an (engine) run slowly while disconnected from a load or out of gear; the car is idly idling in the street. ■ [tr.] cause (an engine) to idle. —idle-ness n. —i-dler n. —i-dly adv.

idol /ɪdəl/ n. 1 an image or representation of a god used as an object of worship. ■ a person or thing that is greatly admired, loved, or revered: movie idol Robért Redford. ■ a person who worships an idol or idols.

idol-ater /ɪˈdəlætər/ n. ■ a person who worships an idol or idols.

idol-atry /ɪˈdələtrɪ| n. worship of idols. ■ extreme admiration, love, or reverence for something or someone. —idol-atrous /ˈɪdələtros/ adj.

idol-ize /ɪˈdəlɪz/ v. [tr.] admire, revere, or love greatly or excessively; he idolized his mother. —idol-ization /ˌɪdələˈzaɪʃən| n. —i-dol-izer n.

idyll /ɪdɪl/ n. (also idyl) an extremely happy, peaceful, or picturesque episode or scene, typically an idealized or unsatisfactory one. n a short description in verse or prose of a picturesque scene or incident, esp. in rustic life.

idyllic /ɪˈdɪlkɪəl/ adj. (esp. of a time or place) like an idyll; extremely happy, peaceful, or picturesque: an attractive hotel in an idyllic setting. —idyllic-ally /ˈɪdɪlɪkəli| adv.

IE abbr. Indo-European.

If /ɪf/ conj. 1 introducing a conditional clause: on the condition or supposition that; in the event that: if you have a complaint, write to the director | if you like, I'll put in a word for you. ■ (with past tense of a verb) introducing a hypothetical situation: if you had stayed, this would never have happened. ■ whenever; every time: if I go out, she gets nasty. 2 despite the possibility that; no matter whether: if it takes seven years, I will do it. 3 (often used in indirect questions) whether: he asked if we would like some coffee | see if you can track it down. 4 expressing a polite request: if you wouldn't mind giving him a message? 5 expressing an opinion: if you ask me, he's in love. 6 expressing surprise or regret: well, if it isn't Frank! | if I could just be left alone. 7 with implied reservation: ■ and perhaps not the teachers have little if any control. n used to admit something as being possible but regarded as relatively insignificant: if I hurt you, I didn't mean to | so what if he did? ■ despite being used before an adjective or adverb to introduce a contrast: she was honest, if a little brutal.

n. a condition or supposition: there are so many ifs and buts in the policy. ■ if and only if used to introduce a condition that is necessary as well as sufficient: which are real if and only if there are criteria for identifying witches. ■ if and when at a future time (should it arise): if and when the film gets the green light, be sure you've read the book first. ■ if anything used to suggest tentatively that something may be the case (often the opposite of something previously implied): I haven't made much of this— if anything, I've played it down. ■ if I were you used to accompany a piece of advice: I would go to see him if I were you. ■ if not perhaps even used to introduce a more extreme term than one first mentioned: hundreds if not thousands of germs. ■ if only 1 even if for no other reason than: Willy would have to tell George, more: if only to keep him from pester.

2 used to express a wish, esp. regretfully: if only I had listened to you. ■ if so if that is the case.

if-ty /ɪˈfteɪ| adj. (if-tier, if-fiest) int. full of uncertainty; doubtful: the prospects for recovery are iffy. ■ of doubtful quality or legality.

igloo /ˈɪglu| n. a dome-shaped Eskimo house, typically built from blocks of solid snow.
imag-ina-tive /'imagInaTV/ adj. having or showing creativity or inventiveness; making imaginative use of computer software [an imaginative architect]. —imag-i-nat-ively adv. —imag-i-na-tiv-ness n.

imag-i-ne /'imagIn/ v. [tr.] 1 form a mental image or concept of; imagine a road trip from Philadelphia to Chicago | I couldn't imagine what she expected to tell them. 2 [often as adj.] imagined believe (something unreal or untrue) to exist or be so: they suffered from ill health, real or imagined, throughout their lives. 2 suppose or assume; after Ned died, everyone imagined that Mabel would move away. 3 just suppose: imagine to win the championship! —imag-i-ner n.

imag-i-nings /'majInIngz/ pl. n. thoughts or fantasies: this was quite beyond his worst imaginings.

imago /'im33go/ n. (pl. i-magos, i-magoes or i-magines /'im33gaz, -neiz/) 1 Entomol. the fully and finally developed adult stage of an insect, typically winged. 2 Psychoanalysis an unconscious, idealized mental image of someone, esp. a parent, that influences a person's behavior.

im-am /'im33m/ n. the person who leads prayers in a mosque. 1 (Imam) a title of various Muslim leaders, esp. of one succeeding Muhammad as leader of Shi'este Islam, Imam Khonemi. —im-am-ate /'im33mIt/ n.

im-bal-ance /'imbaInنس/ n. lack of proportion or relation between corresponding things: the condition is caused by a hormonal imbalance.


im-bibe /'imbaib/ v. [tr.] formal, often humorous drink (alcohol): they were imbibing far too many pitchers of beer ['intre doing it, he fell over. —im-biber n.

im-broglio /'imbrogl3/ n. (pl. -brios) an extremely confused, complicated, or embarrassing situation.

im-bue /'imb33/ v. (bues, -bued, -buing) [tr.] inspire or permeate with a feeling or quality.

IMF abbr. International Monetary Fund.

im-lat-ti-fate /'im33It3f3t/ v. (often be imitated) take or follow as a model: his style was imitated by many other writers. 2 copy (a person's speech or mannerisms), esp. for comic effect: she imitated my laugh. 3 copy or simulate: synthetic fabrics can now imitate everything from silk to rubber. —im-lat-ti-fa-tion /im33It3f3ti3n/ n. —im-lat-ti-fa-tor /im33It3f3tor/ n.

im-mate /'imm3t/ n. a thing intended to simulate or copy something else; [as adj.] an imitation diamond. —im-mate-ty /'imm3t3ti3/ n. —im-mate-ly adv.

im-mo-bi-lize /'im33m3lItz/ v. [tr.] prevent (something or someone) from moving or acting as normal: I want you to immobilize their vehicle, I fear had immobilized her. 2 restrict the movements of (a limb or patient) to allow healing. —im-mo-bi-liz-at-ion /im33m3lItz3tie3n/ n. —im-mo-bi-lizer /im33m3lIt3zar/ n.

im-mo-bi-lize-ment /im33m3lItz3ment/ n. —im-mo-bi-liz-er /im33m3lIt3zar/ n. —im-mo-bi-liz-ing /im33m3lIt3zin/ adj.

im-mo-bil-i-ty /im33m3lIt3te3/ n. —im-mo-bil-i-lize /im33m3lIt3laiz/ v. —im-mo-bil-i-za-tion /im33m3lIt3laiz3tie3n/ n. —im-mo-bil-i-za-ter /im33m3lIt3laiz3tar/ n.

im-mo-bil-ize-ment /im33m3lIt3l3ment/ n. —im-mo-bil-i-za-tion /im33m3lIt3laiz3tie3n/ n. —im-mo-bil-i-za-ter /im33m3lIt3laiz3tar/ n.

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immun-e re-spon-se /'imm3n3r3pons3s/ n. the reaction of the cells and fluids of the body to the presence of a substance that is not recognized as a constituent of the body itself.
im-mu-ni-ty (im'nu-nê-te) n. (pl. -ties) the ability of an organism to resist a particular infection or toxin by the action of specific antibodies or sensitized white blood cells; protection or exemption from something, esp. an obligation or penalty; immunity from prosecution. 2 officially granted exemption from legal proceedings. 3 immunity to lack of susceptibility, esp. to something unwelcome or harmful; exercises designed to build an immunity to fatigue.

im-mu-nize (im'yu-niz) v. [Fr.] to make a person or animal immune to infection, typically by inoculation: the vaccine immunizes children against measles.

im-mu-no-de-fi-ci-en-cy (im'yô-no-dê-fish'e-ân-sè) n. a failure of the immune system to protect the body adequately from infection, due to the absence or insufficiency of some component of the immune system.

im-mu-no-glo-bu-lin (im'yô-no-glä-bal'n) n. Biochem. any of a class of proteins present in the serum and cells of the immune system, that function as antibodies.

im-mu-nol-o-gy (im'yô-nal'lô-jè) n. the branch of medicine and biology concerned with immunity. 2 im-mu-no-log-ic (im'yô-no-loj'ik) adj. im-mu-no-log-i-cal-ly (im'yô-no-loj'i-kal-ë) adj. im-mu-no-log-i-ist (im'yô-no-log'i-ist) n.

im-mu-no-sup-pres-sion (im'yô-no-süp-pres'ân) n. Med. the partial or complete suppression of the immune response of an individual. It is induced to help the survival of an organ after a transplant operation.

im-mu-no-sup-pres-sant (im'yô-no-süp-pres'ânt) n. im-mu-no-sup-pres-sion.

im-mu-no-ther-a-phy (im'yô-no-thêr'e-fê) n. Med. the prevention or treatment of disease with substances that stimulate the immune response.

im-mu-no-tele (im'yô-no-tel') adj. unchanging over time or unable to be changed; unimutual fact. 2 im-mu-no-tel-i-ty (im'yô-no-tel'i-të) n. im-mu-no-tele-ble (im'yô-no-tel'i-bl) adj.

im-pact (im-pakt) v. [Fr.] the action of an object coming forcibly into contact with another, there was a sound of a third bullet that expanded on impact. 2 the effect or influence of one person, thing, or action, on another: measures that have had a significant impact on unemployment.

im-pair (im'pa'ir) v. [Fr.] to impair, to weaken or damage (esp. a human faculty or function); drug use that impairs job performance. 2 impair-ment (im'pa-ri-mont) n.

im-pala (im-pa'la) n. (pl. same) an antelope (Aepyceros melampus) common to large herds in open woodland in southern and East Africa.

im-pale (im-pal) v. [Fr.] to pierce or transfix with a sharp instrument: a head impaled on a pike. 2 im-pale-ment (im-pal-mon't) n.

im-pal-pa-ble (im-pal'pa-bl) adj. unble to be felt by touch. 2 not easily comprehended. 3 im-pal-pa-ble-ty (im-pal'pa-bl-të) n. im-pal-pa-bly (im-pal'pa-bl) adv.

im-pal-pan (im-pal'pan) n. (pl. paneled, paneled, paneeling) Brit. an enist or enroll a jury. 2 im-pal-pan-ent (im-pal'pan-ent) n.

im-part (im-part) v. [Fr.] to make known or impart; they tried to impart strong values to their students. 2 bestow (a quality); it imparts a high gloss to a surface. 3 im-part-a-tion (im-par-ta'shon) n.

im-par-tial (im-par'tal) adj. treating all rivals or disputants equally: fair and just: independent and impartial advice. 2 im-par-tial-ty (im-par'tal-të) n. im-par-tial-ly (im-par'tal-le) adv.

im-pass-a-ble (im-pass'a-bl) adj. impossible to travel along or over: the narrow channels are impassable to cruise ships. 2 im-pass-a-bli-ty (im-pass'a-bl-të) n. im-pass-a-bly (im-pass'a-bl) adv.

im-passe (im-pas) n. a situation in which no progress is possible, esp. because of disagreement; deadlock.

im-pass-ed (im-pass'id) adj. filled with or showing great emotion; she made an impassioned plea for help.

im-pass-sive (im-pass've) adj. unpassing or giving showing emotion. 2 im-pass-sive-ly (im-pass've-lik) adv. im-pass-sive-ness (im-pass've-ness) n. im-pass-sive-ty (im-pass've-të) n.

im-pasto (im-pas'to) n. Art the process or technique of laying on paint or pigment thickly so that it stands out from a surface. 2 paint applied thickly.

im-pa-tien (im-pâsh'ën) n. an East African plant (genus Impatiens) of the balsam family, with abundant red, pink, or white flowers, often grown as a houseplant or bedding plant.

im-pat-tient (im-pâsh'ënt) adj. 1 having or showing a tendency to be quickly irritated or provoked: an impatient driver. 2 impatient of intolerance of a man impatient of bureaucracy. 3 restlessly eager: they are impatient for change. 4 he was impatient to be on his way. 5 impatience n. im-pat-tient-ly (im-pat-tien-ly) adv.

im-peach (im-pech) v. [Fr.] to call into question the integrity or validity of (a practice): there is no basis to his motion to impeach the verdict. 2 charge (by a public office) with misconduct: the governor served only one year before being impeached and convicted for fiscal fraud. 3 im-peach-a-ble (im-pech'a-ble) adj. im-peach-a-ment n.

im-pe-ca-ble (im-pe-ka-bal) adj. of behavior, performance, or appearance in accordance with the highest standards of propriety; faultless: a man of impeccable character.

im-pe-cu-ni-ous (im-pä-kü'ni-os) adj. having little or no money. 2 im-pe-cu-ni-os-i-ty (im-pä-kü'ni-os-i-të) n.

im-ped-a-nce (im-ped'ans) n. the effective resistance of an electric circuit or component to altering the current, arising from the combined effects of ohmic resistance and reactance.

im-pede (im-ped) v. [Fr.] delay or prevent (someone or something) by obstructing them; hinder; swelling that can impede breathing. 2 im-ped-a-men-tal (im-ped'a-men-tal) adv. in a person's speech, such as a lisp or stammer.

im-pel (im-pel) v. (pelled, peling) [Fr.] drive, force, urge (someone) to do something; financial difficultiesimpelled him to desperate measures.

im-pen-e-tr-a-ble (im-pen-e-tra-bal) adj. impossible to pass through or enter; a dark, impenetrable forest. 2 im-pen-e-tr-a-tion (im-pen-e-tra'shon) n.


im-pen-i-ent (im-pen-i-ent) adj. not feeling shame or regret about one's actions or attitudes. 2 im-pen-i-ent-ly (im-pen-i-ent-le) adv.

im-per-a-tive (im-per'a-tiv) adj. of vital importance; a crucial immediate action was imperative. 2 it was imperative that standards be maintained. 3 giving an authoritative command; peremptory. 4 Gram. denoting the mood of a verb that expresses a command or exhortation, as in come here!

im-per-a-tive (im-per'a-tiv) adj. 1 essential or urgent thing: an economic imperative. 2 a factor or influence making something necessary; a thing felt as an obligation: moral imperative. 3 Gram. a verb or phrase in the imperative mood.

im-per-a-tive (im-per'a-tiv) adj. the imperative mood. 2 im-per-a-ti-ve-ly (im-per'a-ti-ve-le) adv. im-per-a-ti-ve-ly (im-per'a-ti-ve-le) adv.

im-per-a-tive (im-per'a-tiv) adj. impossible to perceive. 2 im-per-a-ti-ve-ty (im-per'a-ti-ve-të) n. im-per-a-ti-ve-ly (im-per'a-ti-ve-le) adv.

im-per-fect (im-per'fekt) adj. not perfect; faulty: an imperfect grasp of English. 2 not fully formed or done; incomplete: imperfect census records. 3 Gram. (of a tense) denoting a past action in progress but not completed at the time in question. 4 Mus. (of a cadence) ending on the dominant chord. 5 Law. of a gift, title, etc., transferred without all the necessary conditions or requirements being met.

im-per-fect (im-per'fekt) adj. (the imperfect) Gram. the imperfect tense. 2 im-per-fect-ly (im-per'fekt-le) adv.

im-per-fec-tion (im-per'fek'shân) n. a fault, blemish, or undesirable feature; the imperfections in our efforts. 2 the state of being faulty or incomplete; he accepted me in all my imperfections.

im-per-i-al (im-per'e-ål) adj. of or relating to an empire: British imperial era. 2 of or relating to an emperor: the imperial family. 3 majestically; magnificent: imperial behavior. 4 imperious or domineering. 5 Gram. of relating to, or denoting the system of nonmetric weights and measures (the ounce, pound, stone, inch, foot, yard, mile, acre, pint, gallon, etc.) formerly used for all measures in the UK, and still used for some.

im-per-i-al (im-per'e-ål) adj. a small pointed beard growing below the lower lip (associated with the age of Napoleon III of France). 2 im-per-i-al-ly (im-per'e-äl-le) adv.

im-per-i-al-ism (im-per'e-ål-iz'am) n. a policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force. 2 chauvinist rule by an emperor. 3 imperialistic adj. 4 imperial-istic-al-ly (im-per'e-istik) adv.
imperialist |ˈimpəriəlist| ady. of, relating to, supporting, or practicing imperialism: an imperialist regime.

—n. chiefly derog. a person who supports or practices imperialism.

im-per-i-al |ˈimpəriəl| adj. [usu. -ed, -ing] [tr.] put at risk of being harmed, injured, or destroyed. —im-per-i-al-ly adv. —im-per-i-al-ness n.

im-per-i-able |ˈimpəriəbəl| adj. enduring forever. —im-per-i-ably adv. —im-per-i-a-ble-ness n.

im-per-i-ant |ˈimpərənt| adj. not permanent. —im-per-i-an-ty n.

im-per-i-ant-ly |ˈimpərəntli| adv. —im-per-i-an-tly-ness n.

im-per-i-ate |ˈimpəriət| tr. & intr. (esp. in special use) demand or cause to happen: an imperious tone. —im-per-i-ate-ly adv. —im-per-i-ate-ness n.

im-per-i-a-tive |ˈimpəriətiv| adj. showing or involving feelings: the law is imperial. (of a place or organization) large, featureless, and anonymous: imperial institutions. not betraying any personal information about the user or subject: the room was bare, cramped, and imperial. not existing as a person: having no personality, an imperial person. 3. (of a verb) used only with a formative subject (in English usually it) and expressing an action not attributable to a definite subject (as in it is raining). —im-per-i-a-tive-ly adv. —im-per-i-a-tive-ness n.

im-per-i-o-nal |ˈimpəriənəl| adj. 1. not influenced by, showing, or involving personal feelings: the law is impersonal. (of a place or organization) large, featureless, and anonymous: impersonal institutions. not betraying any personal information about the user or subject: the room was bare, cramped, and impersonal. not existing as a person: having no personality, an impersonal person. 3. (of a verb) used only with a formative subject (in English usually it) and expressing an action not attributable to a definite subject (as in it is raining). —im-per-i-o-nal-ly adv. —im-per-i-o-nal-ness n.


im-per-i-o-son-e-ly |ˈimpəriəsənli| adj. acting or done quickly and without thought or care. —im-per-i-o-son-e-ly-ness n.

im-pet-us |ˈimpətəs| n. the force or energy with which a body moves. —im-pet-us-ly adv.

im-pet-u-ous |ˈimpətəsəs| adj. acting or done quickly and without thought or care. —im-pet-u-ous-ness n.


im-pli-cate |ˈimpliˌkæt| v. [tr.] show (someone) to be involved in a crime: police claims implicated him in more killings. be implicated in bear some of the responsibility for (an action or process, esp. a crime): I am not implicated. (of a chemical) implicated in oxide depletion. —im-pli-ca-tive |ˈimpliˌkætiv| adj. —im-pli-ca-tive-ly adv.

im-pli-ca-tion |ˈimpliˌkæʃən| n. 1. the conclusion that can be drawn from something, although it is not explicitly stated: the implication is that he's guilty. a likely consequence of something: a victory that had important political implications. 2. the action or state of being involved in something: our implication in the problems. —im-pli-ca-tion-al |ˈimpliˌkæʃənal| adj. —im-pli-ca-tion-al-ly adv.

im-pli-cit |ˈimpliˌsit| adj. 1. implied but not plainly expressed: implicit criticism. 2. implicit in essentially or very closely connected with: always to be found in: the values implicit in democracy. 2. with no qualification or question: absolute; an implicit faith in God. 3. Math. (of a function) not expressed directly in terms of independent variables. —im-pli-cit-ly adv. —im-pli-cit-ness n.

im-plode |ˈimpləd| v. collapse or cause to collapse violently inward: intrans. the windows on both sides of the room had imploded. trans. fig. suffer sudden economic or political collapse. —im-plode. —im-plode-ly adv. —im-plode-ness n.

im-po-ly |ˈimpəli| v. [pl-i-es, -plied] [tr.] strongly suggest the truth or existence of (something not expressly stated): the report implies that two million jobs might be lost. (of a fact or occurrence) suggest (something) as a consequence: the forecasted traffic increase implied more roads and air pollution. late Middle English: from Old French emblyer, from Latin implacare, infrom in placre to fold. The original sense was 'entwine, entangle; in the 16th and 17th centuries the word also meant 'employ. —im-po-ly-dy |ˈimpəli-ði| adv.

im-po-lis-tic |ˈimpələstɪk| adj. not having or showing good manners; rude: it would have been impolite to refuse. —im-po-lis-tic-ly adv. —im-po-lis-tic-ness n.

im-po-lit-i-cic |ˈimpələtɪk| adj. failing to possess or display prudence; unwise. —im-po-lit-i-cicy adv.

im-po-der-able |ˈimpədərəbəl| n. a factor that is difficult or impossible to estimate or assess. —im-po-der-at-ly |ˈimpədərətli| adv. —im-po-der-at-ness n.

im-port |ˈimpɔrt| v. [tr.] bring (goods or services) into a country from abroad for sale: Japan's reluctance to import more cars. introduce (an idea) from a different place or context: new beliefs were often imported by sailors. Comp. transfer (data) into a file or document. —n. [pl.] import. 1. (usu. imports) a commodity, article, or service brought in from abroad for sale. 2. imports sales of goods or services brought in from abroad, or the revenue from such sales; an overall rise in imports. 3. the action or process of importing goods or services: the import of live cattle from Canada. 4. the meaning or significance of something, esp. when not directly stated: the import of her message is clear. —importance n. —import-ant |ˈimpɔrtənt| adj. of great significance or value: likely to have a profound effect on success, survival, or well-being: important habitats for wildlife; it is important to avoid debt; the speech had significance and, more important, compassion. (of a person) having high rank or status. (of an artist or artistic work) significantly original and influential. —import-ant-ly adv. —import-ant-ness n.

im-port-ate |ˈimpɔrtət| adj. persistent, esp. to the point of annoyance or intrusion: importunate creditors. —im-port-ate-ly adv. —im-port-ate-ness n. —im-port-ate-ly adv. —im-port-ate-ness n.

shaped like a pointing hand, typically used to draw attention to a note.

- [n.] 1 record (names, subjects, etc.) in an index: the list indexes these under regional headings. 2 provide an index to. 2 link the value of (prices, wages, or other payments) automatically to the value of a price index: the Supreme Soviet passed legislation indexing wages to prices 3 [n] (often as n) (indexing) of a machine or part of one rotate or otherwise move from one predetermined position to another in order to carry out a sequence of actions. 4 index-a-ble adj. —index-a-tion [n]. 5 index-a-er [n]. 6 index-a-er [n] the finger next to the thumb: the forefinger.

In-dia ink (adj) n. deep black ink containing dispersed carbon particles, used esp. in drawing and technical graphics.

In-dian [n] 1 of or relating to the indigenous people of America. 2 of or relating to India or to the subcontinent comprising India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

- [n] 1 an American Indian. 2 a native or national of India, or a person of Indian descent. —In-dian-i-ta-tion [n]. —In-dian-ize [v].

In-dian elephant (n) the elephant of southern Asia (Elephas maximus), smaller than the African elephant, with smaller ears and only one lip to the trunk.

In-dian sum-mer (n) a period of unusually dry, warm weather occurring in late autumn. a period of happiness or success occurring late in life.

In-die (adj) relating to or denoting the group of Indo-European languages comprising Sanskrit and the modern Indian languages that are its descendants.

In-di-ca [n] this language group. —In-di-ca-tion [n]. —In-di-ca-tor [n]. —In-di-ca-ble [adj].

In-di-cate [v] 1 point out; show: dotted lines indicate the text's margins. 2 be a sign or symptom of: symptoms indicate a growing market for such art. 3 admit to or state briefly: the president indicated his willingness to use force against the rebels. 4 (of a person) direct attention to (someone or something) by means of a gesture: he indicated Cindy with a brief nod of the head. 5 (of a gauge or meter) register a reading of (a quantity, dimension, etc.). 2 suggest as a desirable or necessary course of action: the treatment is likely to be indicated in severely depressed patients. 3 early 17th century: from Latin indicat 1 pointed out. 4 from the verb indicate, from indic- toward, go: the name of the English word, which is used esp. in medicine, is from the Latin indicare, from indicis mark.

In-dica-tion [n] a sign or piece of information that indicates something. a reading given by a gauge or meter. b a condition that suggests certain medical treatment is necessary: heavy bleeding is a common indication for hysterectomy.

In-dica-tive [adj] 1 serving as a sign or indication of something: having recurring dreams is not necessarily indicative of any psychological problem. 2 Gram. denoting a mood of verbs expressing simple statement of a fact. Compare with SUBJUNCTIVE.

- [n] Gram. a verb in the indicative mood. —The (the indicative) the indicative mood.

In-di-ca-tor [n] 1 a thing, esp. a trend or fact, that indicates the state or level of something. 2 a device providing specific information on the state or condition of something, in particular: a gauge or meter of a specified kind. —speed indicator. 3 Chem. a compound that changes color at a specific pH value or in the presence of a particular substance and can be used to monitor acidity, alkalinity, or the progress of a reaction. 4 (also indicator species) an animal or plant species that can be used to infer conditions in a particular habitat.

In-di-ces [n] [pl. of indicus] 1 formerly accuse or charge (someone) with a serious crime; his former manager was indicted for fraud. Middle English endite, from Anglo-Norman French enedit, based on Latin indicare 'to proclaim, appoint,' from in- toward + dicere 'pronounce, utter.' —in-di-cée [n]. —in-di-cer [n].

In-di-cable [adj] (of an offense) rendering the person who commits it liable to be charged with a serious crime that warrants a trial by jury. 2 (of a person) liable to be charged with a crime.

In-di-ment [n] a Law a formal charge or accusation of a serious crime: an indictment for conspiracy. 2 the action of indicting or being indicted. 3 a thing that serves to illustrate that a system or situation is bad and deserves to be condemned: these rapidly escalating figures are an indictment of our society.

In-di-fence [n] [pl. of dierer or dier] lack of interest, concern, or sympathy: she shrugged, showing indifference. —unimportance.

In-di-fent [adj] 1 having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned: most workers were indifferent to foreign affairs. 2 neither good nor bad; mediocre: attempts to distinguish between good, bad, and indifferent work. —not especially good; fairly bad. —in-di-fent-ly adv.

In-di-gous [adj] originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native: the indigenous peoples of Siberia. —in-di-gous-ly adv.

In-di-gent [adj] adj. poor; needy.

- [n] a needy person. —in-di-gen-ness [n].

In-di-ges-ti-ble [adj] (of food) difficult or impossible to digest. —fig. too complex or awkward to read or understand easily. —in-di-ges-ti-bly [adv].

In-di-ges-ti-ble [adj] (of food) difficult or impossible to digest. —fig. too complex or awkward to read or understand easily. —in-di-ges-ti-bly [adv].

In-di-ges-tion [n] pain or discomfort in the stomach associated with difficulty in digesting food. —in-di-ges-tive [adv].

In-di-gnant [adj] adj. feeling or showing anger or annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment. —in-di-gnantly adv.

In-di-gna-tion [n] feeling or showing anger or annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment: the letter filled Lucy with indignation.

In-di-gni-ty [n] (pl. -ties) treatment or circumstances that cause one to feel shame or to lose one's dignity: the indignity of needing financial help: he was subjected to all manner of indignities.

In-di-go [n] (pl. -os or -oses) 1 a tropical plant (genus Indigofera) of the pea family, which was formerly widely cultivated as a source of dark blue dye. 2 the dark blue dye obtained from this plant. —a color between blue and violet in the spectrum.

In-di-rect [adj] not directly caused by or resulting from something: full employment would have an indirect effect on wage levels.

In-di-rect-ness [n] a thing, fact, or situation that is not transparent: conducted through intermediaries: the nature of the thrust can be pieced together only from indirect evidence. —(of costs) resulting from overhead charges or subsidiary work. —(of taxation) levied on goods and services rather than income or profits. 2 (of a route) not straight: not following the shortest way. —(of lighting) from a concealed source and diffusely reflected. —Soccer denoting a free kick from which a goal may not be scored directly. —avoiding direct mention or exposition of a subject: an indirect attack on the Senator. —in-di-rect-ly adv.

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inefficiency

over collective or state control. —in-duc-tion adj.

individual-ity /indəˈvaɪəlɪti/ n. 1 the quality or character of a particular person or thing that distinguishes them from others of the same kind, esp. when strongly marked: clothes with real style and individuality. 2 separate existence: anything but individuality, anything but aloneness.

in-di-vid-u-al-ize /ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒuəlaɪz/ v. [tr.] give an individual character to: have your shirt individualized with your own club name; 3 tailor (something) to suit the individual. —in-di-vid-u-al-iza-tion /ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒuələˈzeɪʃən/ n.

in-di-vid-u-ally /ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒuəli/ adv. 1 one by one; singly; separately: individually wrapped cheeses. 2 in a distinctive manner: each sign is individually designed and crafted. 3 personally; in an individual capacity.

in-do-cri-nate /ɪnˈdəkrəˌneɪt/ n. 1 (v.) teach (a person or group) to accept a set of beliefs uncritically. 2 archaic teach or instruct (someone). —in-di-oc-trina-tion /ˌɪndəkrəˈneɪʃən/ n. —in-di-oc-trina-tor /ˌɪndəkrəˈneɪtər/ n. —adj.

in-duc-tive /ɪnˈdʌktɪv/ adj. characterized by the inference of general laws from particular instances: instinct rather than inductive reasoning.

in-dulge /ɪnˈdʌltʃ/ v. (intr.) indulge in or indulge in: allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of: indulged in some hot Judei sundries. 1 become involved in activity, typically one that is undesirable or disapproved of; I don’t indulge in idle gossip. 2 allow oneself to enjoy a particular pleasure, esp. that of alcohol; I only indulge on special occasions. 3 satisfy or yield freely to (a desire or interest). 4 (tr.) allow (someone) to enjoy a desired pleasure: I spent time indulging myself with secret feasts. —in-dul-ger n.

in-dul-gence /ɪnˈdʌlns/ n. 1 the action or fact of indulging: indulgence in self-pity. 2 the state or attitude of being indulgent or tolerant: she regarded his affairs with a casual, slightly indulgent, 3 a thing that is indulged in, a luxury: Claire collects shoes—she has indulgence.

in-deed /ɪnˈdiːd/ adv. 1 in fact; actually. 2 as a matter of fact; 3 indeed, indeed: to: indeed remarkable. 4 if, if indeed. 5 if: indeed; 6 as a matter of fact: indeed.

in-ef-fec-tual /ɪnˈefɪkʃuəl/ adj. too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words: the ineffable natural beauty of the Everglades. 1 not to be uttered: the ineffable Hebrew name that gentiles write as Jehovah. 2 not to be made. —in-ef-fec-tual-ly /ɪnˈefɪkʃuəlɪ/ adv.

in-ef-fec-tual-ly /ɪnˈefɪkʃuəlɪ/ adj. 1 not producing any or the desired effect: an ineffectual campaign. 2 (of a person) lacking the ability or qualities to cope with a role or situation. —in-ef-fec-tual-ly /ɪnˈefɪkʃuəlɪ/ adv. —in-ef-fec-tual-ness n.
installation /ɪnˈstæləʃən/ n. 1 the action or process of installing someone or something, or of being installed: the installation of a central air-conditioning system. 2 a thing installed, in particular: a large piece of equipment installed for use: computer installations. 3 a military or industrial establishment: nuclear installations. 4 an art exhibition constructed within a gallery: a video installation.

in-stal-l-ment /ɪnˈstæləmənt/ n. (chiefly Brit. in-statement) 1 a sum of money due as one of several equal payments for something, spread over an agreed period of time: the purchase price is paid in instalments. 2 any of several parts of something that are published, broadcast, or made public in sequence at intervals: filling the final instalment in his Vietnamese trilogy.

in-stan-t /ɪnˈstænt/ n. 1 an example or single occurrence of something; a serious instance of corruption. 2 a particular case in this instance it mattered little.

in-stan-t /ɪnˈstænd/ adj. 1 happening or coming immediately: the offense justified instant dismissal. 2 [of (food) processed to allow quick preparation: instant coffee. 3 [of (a person) becoming a specified thing immediately or very suddenly: become an instant millionaire. 4 prepared quickly and with little effort: we can't promise instant solutions. 5 producing immediate results: an instant lottery ticket. 6 urgent: pressing: an instant desire to blame others when things go wrong. 7 dated in (business letters) of the current month: your letter of the 6th instant. 8 archaic of the present moment.

in-stan-t /ɪnˈstænd/ adj. 1 a precise moment of time: come here this instant! 2 a very short space of time: at once.

in-stan-t-ae-ous /ɪnˈstæntiəʊs/ adj. 1 occurring or done in an instant or instantly. 2 operating or providing something instantly: instantaneous communication. 3 Physics existing or measured at a particular instant: the instantaneous velocity. —in-stan-tae-ous-ly /ɪnˈstæntiəʊsli/ adv.

in-stan-tly /ɪnˈstændli/ adv. 1 at once: immediately: she fell asleep almost instantly. 2 archaically or persistently.

in-stant mes-sag-ing /ɪnˈstæntmɛsɪŋ/ abbr. IM n. 1 Com.: the exchange of typed messages between computer users in real time via the Internet. —in-stant mes-sage n.

in-stant re-play n. an immediate playback of part of a television broadcast, typically on in slow motion showing an incident in a sports event.

in-stead /ɪnˈsted/ adv. as an alternative or substitute: do not use lotions, but put on a clean dressing instead. 1 [instead of] as a substitute or alternative; in place of: walk to work instead of going by car.

in-step /ɪnˈstɛp/ n. 1 the part of a person's foot between the ball and the ankle. 2 the part of a shoe that fits over or under this part of a foot. 3 a thing shaped like the inner arch of a foot.

in-sti-gate /ɪnˈstɪɡeɪt/ v. [tr.] bring about or initiate (an action or event): instigating legal proceedings. 2 [intr.][someone to do something] incite someone to do something, esp. something bad: instigating men to refuse allegiance to the civil powers. —in-sti-ga-tion /ɪnˈstɪɡeɪʃən/ n. 1 [instigator] /ɪnˈstɪɡeɪtər/ n.

in-still /ɪnˈstɪl/ (Br. also in-still) v. [tr.] 1 gradually but firmly establish (an idea or attitude, esp. a desirable one) in a person's mind; how do we instill the sense of rightness in today's youth? 2 put (a substance) into something: in the form of liquid drops: she was told how to instill eye drops.

in-stil-la-tion /ɪnˈstɪləʃən/ n. (instalation) 1 [instalation] n.

in-stinct /ɪnˈstɪŋkt/ n. 1 an innate, typically fixed pattern of behavior in animals in response to certain stimuli: instinctual instincts. 2 a natural or intuitive way of acting or thinking: they retain their old authoritarian instincts. 3 a natural propensity or skill of a specified kind: his instinct for making the most of his chances. 4 the fact or quality of possessing innate behavior patterns: instinct told her not to ask the question.

adj. [instinct with] formal imbued or filled with (a quality, esp. a desirable one); these canvases are instinct with passion. 1 late Middle English (also in the sense: 'instigation, impulse': from Latin instinctum 'amuse, impulse,' from the verb instinguere, intrans: 'to move or sing' to 'to trick.' —in-stin-c-tu-al /ɪnˈstɪŋktjuəl/ adj.

in-stin-c-tive /ɪnˈstɪŋktɪv/ adj. relating to or prompted by instinct; apparently unconscious or automatic: an instinctive distaste for conflict. 1 (of a person) doing or being a specified thing apparently naturally or automatically: an instinctive writer. —in-stin-c-tiv-ly adv.

in-sti-tute /ɪnˈstɪtjuːt/ n. [usu. in names] 1 a society or organization having a particular object or common factor, esp. a scientific, educational, or social one. 2 [usu. institutes] archaic a commentary, treatise, or summa of legal principles, esp. concerning law.

v. [tr.] 1 set in motion or establish (something, esp. a program, system, or inquiry): the award was instituted in 1900. 2 begin (legal proceedings in a court. 3 appoint (someone) to a position, esp. as a cleric: his sons were instituted to his benefice in 1996.

in-sti-tu-tion /ɪnˈstɪtʃən/ n. 1 a society or organization founded for a religious, educational, social, or similar purpose: a certificate from a professional institution. 2 an organization providing residential care for people with special needs: an institution for the handicapped. 3 an established official organization having an important role in the life of a country, such as a bank, church, or legislature: the institutions of democratic government. 4 a large company or other organization involved in financial trading; the interest rate of: organizational charge one another. 5 an established law, practice, or custom: the institution of marriage. 6 a well-established and familiar person, custom, or object: he became something of a national institution. 7 the action of instituting something.

in-sti-tu-tion-al /ɪnˈstɪtʃənəl/ adj. of, in, or like an institution or institutions. 1 unappealing or unimaginative: institutional chocolate-colored paint. 2 expressed or organized in the form of institutions: institutional religion. 3 [of advertising] intended to create prestige rather than immediate sales. —in-sti-tu-tion-al-ly adv.

in-sti-tu-tion-al-ize /ɪnˈstɪtʃənəlaɪz/ v. [tr.] 1 establish (something, typically a practice or activity) as a convention or norm in an organization or culture: a system that institutionalizes bad behavior. 2 place or keep (someone) in a residential institution: these adolescents had more contacts with the police and were charged institutionalized more often.

in-struc-tion /ɪnˈstrækʃən/ n. 1 [instruct] v. [tr.] direct or command someone to do something: esp. as an official order: he instructed him to wait. 2 [intr.][someone to do something] he instructed them in the use of firearms; instructing electors how to record their votes. 3 Law: give a person direction, information, or authorization, in particular: (of a judge) give information, esp. clarification of legal principles, to (a jury). 4 inform (someone) of a fact or situation: the bank was instructed that the money from the savings account was now held by the company.

in-struc-tion-al /ɪnˈstrækʃənal/ adj. often instructions a direction or order: he issued instructions to the sheriff when he was acting on my instructions

in-struc-tions /ɪnˈstrækʃənz/ n. 1 Law: directions to a lawyer or to a jury. 2 Com.: a code or sequence in a computer program that defines an operation and puts it into effect. 2 [instructions] detailed information telling how something should be done, operated, or assembled: always study the instructions supplied. 3 teaching: education: the school offers personalized instruction in a variety of skills.

in-struc-tive /ɪnˈstræktɪv/ adj. useful and informative: it is instructive to compare the two projects.

in-struc-tor /ɪnˈstræktaʊr/ n. 1 a person who teaches something: a driving instructor. 2 a college teacher ranking below assistant professor.

in-struc-tor-ship /ɪnˈstræktaʊʃɪp/ n.

in-stru-ment /ɪnˈstrʌmənt/ n. 1 a tool or implement. 2 esp. one for delicate or scientific work: a surgical instrument. 3 a thing used in pursuing an occupation: a means: dilemma as an instrument of learning. 4 a person who is employed or made to work: a mere instrument acting under coercion. 5 a measuring device used to read the level, position, speed, etc., of something, esp. a motor vehicle or aircraft. 6 a musical instrument: an object or device for producing musical sounds: a percussion instrument. 7 a formal document, esp. a legal one.

v. [tr.] equip (something) with measuring instruments.

in-stru-men-tal /ɪnˈstrʌməntəl/ adj. 1 serving as an instrument or means in pursuing an aim or policy; the society was instrumental in bringing about legislation. 2 relating to something's function as an instrument or means to an end: an instrument of education and how it relates to their needs. 2 (of music) performed on instruments, not sung.
integrate

- relating to musical instruments: brilliance of instrumental color. 3 of or relating to an implement or measuring device: instrumental error.

4 Gram. denoting or relating to a case of nouns and pronouns (and words in grammatical agreement with them) indicating a means or instrument.

n. 1 a piece of (usually nonclassical) music composed solely by instruments, with no vocals. 2 [the instrumental] Gram. the instrumental case. 3 a noun in the instrumental case. —instrumental-ly adv.

instrumentation /in'strəməntə-'p] n. 1 the particular instruments used in a piece of music; the manner in which a piece is arranged for instruments. 2 the arrangement or composition of a piece of music for particular musical instruments. 3 measuring instruments regarded collectively: the controls and instrumentation of an aircraft. 4 the design, provision, or use of measuring instruments.

instrument panel (also instrument board) n. a surface in front of a driver's or pilot's seat, on which the vehicle's or aircraft's instruments are situated.

in-sub-ordi-nate /in'səbərdi-nət/ adj. defiant of authority; disobedient to orders; an insubordinate attitude. —in-sub-ordi-nately adv.

in-sub-stand-tial /in'səbəstand-ət/ adj. lacking strength and solidity: in- substantial evidence. —not solid or real; imaginary. —in-sub-stand-tially adv.

in-suf-fer-able /in'səfərəbəl/ adj. too extreme to bear; intolerable: the heat would be insufferable by July. —having or showing unbearable arrogance or conceit: an insufferable person. —in-suf-fer-a-bil-i-ty n. —in-suf-fer-a-bly adv.

in-sul-a-r /in'sələr/ adj. 1 ignorant of or uninterested in cultures, ideas, or peoples outside one's own experiences: a stubbornly insular farming people. 2 lacking contact with other people: people living restricted and somewhat insular existences. 3 of, relating to, or of an island. —in-sul-a-rily adv. —in-sul-a-rit-y n.


in-sul-in /in'səlin/ n. Biochem. a hormone produced in the pancreas by the islets of Langerhans that regulates the amount of glucose in the blood. The lack of insulin causes a form of diabetes. —an animal-derived or synthetic form of this substance used to treat diabetes.

in-sult v. [insult] tr. speak to or treat with disrespect or scornful abuse; you're insulting the woman I love. [as adj.] (insulting) their language is crude and insulting to women. —in-sulting adj.

n. [insult] 1 a disrespectful or scornfully abusive remark or action; he hurled insults at us. 2 he saw the book as a deliberate insult to the Church. 3 a thing so worthless or contemptible as to be worthy of the present offer is an absolute insult. 4 Med. an occurrence or event that causes harm to a body or organ. —mid 16th cent. (as a verb in the sense 'exult, act arrogantly'): from Latin insul-are 'jump or tramp on'; from in- 'on' + salare 'to offer, sacrifice to, or be exposed to.' The noun (in the early 17th cent., denoting an attack) is from French insul-are or ecclesiastical Latin insulitas. The main current senses date from the 17th cent., the medical use dating from the early 20th cent. —insult-er n. —in-sult-ing-ly adv.

—add insult to injury act in a way that makes a bad or distressing situation worse.

in-super-a-bil-ity /in'səpərə-'bilət/ n. —in-super-a-ble adj.


in-super-port-a-ble /in'səpərə-'pərətəbəl/ adj. unable to be supported or justified; he had arrived at a wholly insupportable conclusion. 2 unable to be endured; intolerable. —in-super-port-a-bil-i-ty n. —in-super-port-a-bly adv

in-sur-ance /in'sərəns/ n. 1 a practice or arrangement by which a company or government agency provides a guarantee of compensation for specified loss, damage, illness, or death in return for payment of a premium: many new borrowers take out insurance against unemployment. 2 the business of providing such an arrangement: Howard is in insurance. 3 money paid for this: my insurance has gone up. 4 money paid out as compensation under such an arrangement: when will I be able to collect the insurance? 5 an insurance policy. 6 a thing providing protection against a possible occurrence: seeking closer ties with other oil-supplying nations as insurance against disruption of Middle East supplies.

in-sur-ance pol-i-cy /in'sərəns pol-i-'sai/ n. a document detailing the terms and conditions of a contract of insurance.

in-sur-e /in'sərə/ tr. v. [in] arrange for compensation in the event of damage to or loss of (property), or injury to or the death of (someone), in exchange for regular advance payments to a company or government agency: the table should be insured for $2,500. [inter] businesses can insure against exchange rate fluctuations. 2 provide insurance coverage with respect to: they can set up to insure the risks of a group of companies. 3 [insure someone against] fig. secure or protect someone against (a possible contingency): by appealing to China they might ensure themselves against further misfortune. [inter] such changes could insure against further violence and unrest. —in-sur-a-ble /in'sərə-bəl/ adj.

in-sur-er /in'sərər/ n. a person or company that underwrites an insurance risk; the party in an insurance contract undertaking to pay compensation.

in-sur-gen-ci-ty /in'sərjəngən-sət/ n. rising in active revolt: alleged links with insurgent groups. 2 of or relating to rebels: a series of insurgent attacks.

n. (usu. insurgents) a rebel or revolutionary: an attack by armed insurgents.


in-sur-rection /in'sərəkən/ n. a violent uprising against an authority or government; opposition to the new regime led to armed insurrection. —in-sur-rection-ary adj. —in-sur-rection-ist n. & adj.

in-t. abbr. interior. —in-t. adj. internal. —in-t. n. international.

in-tact /in'takt/ adj. not damaged or impaired in any way; complete: the church was almost in ruins, but its tower remained intact.

in-tact-ness n.

in-tact fam-i-ly n. a nuclear family in which membership has remained constant, in the absence of divorce or other divisive factors.

in-ta-glio /in'ta-lijəu/ -ta/ n. (pl. -glios) a design incised or engraved into a material; the dies bore a design in intaglio. —a gem with an incised design. —any printing process in which the type or design is etched or engraved, such as photography or engraving.

—in-take /in'teik/ n. 1 an amount of food, air, or another substance taken into the body: your daily intake of calories. 2 a location or structure through which something is taken in, e.g., water into a channel or pipe from a river, fuel or air into an engine or machine, commodities into a place, etc. 3 the action of taking something in; facilities for the intake of grain by road.

in-teg-rant /in'teg-rənt/ n. 1 a whole number; a number that is not a fraction. 2 a thing complete in itself. —in-teg-rant-ly adv.

in-teg-ral /in'teg-rəl/ adj. 1 necessary to make a whole complete; essential or fundamental; games are an integral part of the school curriculum. 2 included as part of the whole rather than supplied separately: the unit comes complete with integral pump and heater. 3 having or containing all parts that are necessary to be complete: the first integral recording of the ten Mahler symphonies. 4 Math. of or denoted by an integral: involving only integers, esp. as coefficients of a function.

—in-teg-ral n. Math. a function of which a given function is the derivative, i.e., which yields the function that differentiated, and which may express the area under the curve of a graph of the function: a function satisfying a given differential equation. —in-teg-ral-ly adv. —in-teg-rality n. —in-teg-ral-cal-cus /in'teg-rəl-kələs/ n. a branch of mathematics concerned with the determination, properties, and application of integrals.

in-teg-rate /in'teg-rət/ v. [in] combine (one thing) with another so that they become a whole: transportation planning should be integrated with energy policy. 2 combine (two things) so that they become a whole: the problem of integrating the two approaches. 3 [inter] of a thing combine with another to form a whole; the stone will blend with the environment and integrate into the landscape. 4 bring into equal participation in or membership of society or an institution: integrating children with special needs into ordinary schools. 5 [inter] come into equal participation in or membership of society or an institution: she was anxious to integrate well into her husband's family. 6 desegregate (a school, neighborhood, etc.), esp. racially: there was a national campaign under way to integrate the lunch counters. 7 cities' efforts to integrate across urban-suburban linkages. 8 Math. find the integral of. —in-teg-rali-ty

Pronunciation Key a ago, up, or far, fur; a hat; a hot; a car; a far; o chin; a let; o see; e(a)r; i; i by; i(a)r; it; o sing; o go; o law; for; or toy; o gool; oo goo; ou ou; sh she; th th; th th; th th; why; zh vision
and mole, together with a set of prefixes to indicate multiplication or division by a power of ten.

**Intercine** refers to conditions or processes that involve interactions or exchanges between individuals or groups. It often signifies a conflict or competition for resources or power, common in studies of society or ecology. For instance, in political science, the term can describe the struggle for influence between political entities, while in biology, it might refer to species interactions within ecosystems. The concept is crucial in understanding diverse phenomena, from social dynamics to ecological balances, highlighting the importance of interaction in the complexity of systems.
interview /intər'vju:/ n. a meeting of people face to face, esp. for consultation. ■ a conversation between a journalist or radio or television presenter and a person of public interest, used as the basis of a broadcast or publication. ■ an oral examination of an applicant for a job, college admission, etc.

■ [tr.] hold an interview with (someone): he was interviewed by a local TV station about the level of unemployment. ■ question (someone) to discover their opinions or experience: in a survey more than half the women interviewed hated the label "housewife." ■ orally examine (an applicant for a job, college admission, etc.); he came to be interviewed for a top job. ■ [intr.] I was interviewed all last week. ■ [intr.] perform (well or badly) at an interview.

■ [interviewee /intər'vju:ə/].

interviewee /intər'vju:ə/ n.

in-test-ive /in'testəv/ a. intr. adj. not having made a will before one dies; he died intestate. ■ of or relating to a person who dies without having made a will; his brother's posthumous children are admissible as intestate heirs.

■ n. a person who has died without having made a will.

■ [in-test-ive /-təv/]

in-test-tine /in'testən/ a.■ intestinal: the alimentary tract; ■ intestinal: the alimentary tract.

in-test-i-nate /in'təsət/ v. -nat-ed, -nat-ing, -nat-es. ■ to make something interwoven or entangled; ■ to make something interwoven or entangled.

in-test-i-na-tion /in'testənəʃən/ n.

in-test-ine /in'testən/ (also in-testines) n. [invertebrates] the lower part of the alimentary canal from the end of the stomach to the anus. See also LARGE INTESTINE, SMALL INTESTINE. ■ [invertebrates] the whole alimentary canal from the mouth downward.

■ [in-test-ine /-tən/].

in-test-i-color-ful /in'testəkələrfl/ a.■ close familiarity or friendliness: closeness: the intimacy between a husband and wife. ■ a private cozy atmosphere: the room had a peaceful and intimate atmosphere about it. ■ an intimate act, esp. sexual intercourse. ■ an intimate remark; here she was sitting swapping intimacies with a stranger. ■ closeness of observation or knowledge of a subject: he acquired an intimacy with Swahili literature.

■ [in-test-i-color-ful /-kələrfl/].

in-test-i-mate /in'testəmət/ a.■ closely acquainted; familiar, close; intimate friends. ■ [of a place or setting] having or creating an informal friendly atmosphere: an intimate little Italian restaurant. ■ used euphemistically to indicate that a couple is having a sexual relationship: he was sickened by the thought of others having been intimate with her. ■ involving very close connection; ■ intimate involvement with their community. ■ private and personal; intimate details of his sexual encounters | intimate correspondence. ■ used euphemistically to refer to a person's genitals: touching her in the most intimate places. ■ [of knowledge] detailed: thorough;

■ n. a very close friend; his circle of intimates. ■ intimates /-ətəz/.

in-test-i-mate /in'testəmət/ a.■ [intr.] ma: v. [tr.] imply or hint: he had already intimated that he might not be able to continue. ■ state or make known: Mr. Hutchinson has intimated his decision to retire. ■ [in-test-i-mate /-ətəz/].

in-test-i-date /in'testəd/ a.■ in-test-i-date /-əd/ a.

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as a product, measure, plant, etc., newly brought in: these grains are valuable introductions from Sweden. 2 [often introductions] a formal presentation of one person to another, in which each is told the other's name: he returned to his desk, leaving Michael to make the introductions. 3 a thing preliminary to something else; your talk will need an introduction that states clearly what you are talking about and why. 4 an explanation section at the beginning of a book, report, etc. 5 a preliminary section in a piece of music, often thematically different from the main section.

**Introductory** /in-trə-dəktərē/ adj. serving as an introduction to a subject or topic: basic or preliminary: an introductory course in Russian. intended to persuade someone to purchase something for the first time: we are making a special introductory offer of a reduced subscription.

**Intro-spection** /in-trə-spek-shən/ n. the examination or observation of one's own mental and emotional processes: quiet introspection can be extremely valuable.

**Introvert** /in-trə-vərt/ n. a shy, reticent, and typically self-centered person. *Psychol.* a person predominantly concerned with their own thoughts and feelings rather than with external things. Compare with **extrovert**.

**Introverted** /in-trə-vərtid/ adj. of, denoting, or typical of an introvert. *(of a community, company, or other group) concerned principally with its own affairs: inward-looking or parochial.

**intrude** /in-trəd/ v. 1 [intr. shallow, or to make something known or introduced. 2 to reach something or to be introduced into something.

**intrusive** /in-trəsiv/ adj. 1 making an unwelcome manifestation with disruptive or adverse effect: that was an intrusive question: tourist attractions that are environmentally intrusive. 2 *(of a person) disturbing another by one's uninvited or unwelcome presence: giving people information about their health without being too intrusive. 3 Phonet. (of a sound) pronounced between words or syllables to facilitate pronunciation, such as *in* saw a movie. which occurs in the speech of some eastern New Yorkers and metropolitan New Yorkers. 4 Geol. of, relating to, or formed by intrusion. 5 **Intrusively** adv. **Intrusiveness** n.

**intuit** /in-tyōōt/ v. [tr. shallow, or to understand by instinct: I intuited his real identity. **intuitively** adv. **intuitiveness** n.

**intuition** /in-tyōō-shən/ n. the ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning: we shall allow our intuition to guide us.

**intricate** /in-trəkt/ adj. using or based on what one feels to be true even without conscious reasoning: instinctive. I had an intuitive conviction that there was something unsound in him. *(chiefly of computer software) easy to use and understand. **intricately** adv. **intricateness** n.

**intuit** /in-tūt/ v. [pl. same or -its] a member of an indigenous people of northern Canada and parts of Greenland and Alaska. 2 the family of languages of this people, one of the three branches of the Eskimo-Aleut language family. It is also known, esp. to its speakers, as **Inuktitut**.

**innate** /in-nat/ adj. of or relating to the Inuit or their language.

**inundate** /in-nəd/ v. [tr. shallow, or to flood: the islands may be the first to be inundated as sea levels rise. **inundation** /in-nə-də-shən/ n.

in vito | in-vē-to | adj. 1. a signed document acknowledging a debt.
Jew [jō1] n. a member of the people and cultural community whose traditional religion is Judaism and who trace their origins through the ancient Hebrew people of Israel to Abraham.

jewel [joo3l] n. 1. a precious stone, typically a single crystal or a piece of a hard lustrous or translucent mineral, cut into shape with flat facets or smoothed and polished for use as an ornament. 2. (usu. Jews) an ornament or piece of jewelry containing such a stone or stones; a hard precious stone used as a bearing in a watch, compass, or other device; a very pleasing or valued person or thing; a very fine example: she was a jewel of a nurse. Middle English: from Old French joel, from jew ‘game, play,’ from Latin jocos ‘jest.’

jewel box n. (also jewel case) a storage box for a compact disc.

jewelled [joo31d] adj. adorned, set with, or made from jewels; a jewelled dagger.

jeweller [joo3lə(r)] n. a. person or company that makes or sells jewels or jewelry.

jewelry [joo3ləri] n. personal ornaments, such as necklaces, rings, or bracelets, that are typically made from or contain jewels and precious metal.

Jewish [ji'oo3ish] adj. relating to, associated with, or denoting Jews or Judaism; the Jewish people. —Jewishishly adv. —Jewish-ness n.

jewry [ji'oo3ri] n. (pl. -ries) 1. Jews collectively. 2. hist. a Jewish quarter in a town or city.

jew's harp n. a small, lyre-shaped musical instrument held between the teeth and struck with a finger.

jig > abbr. junior grade.

jib [jib] v. (jobbed, jibbed, jibbing) [inf.] v. [usu. be jixxed] bring bad luck to; cast an evil spell on.

jic-gal [ji'gul] adj. (of) jilted; brokenhearted.

jig-bug [ji'bag, -bagg] n. 1. a fast dance popular in the 1940s, performed chiefly to swing music. 2. [inf.], dated a nervous person.


jig bor [ji'bo] n. a paid position of regular employment: a part-time job.

jig rod v. a task or piece of work, esp. one that is paid: she wants to be left alone to get on with the job. a responsibility or duty. it’s our job to find things out. a difficult task. a procedure to improve the appearance of something, esp. an operation involving plastic surgery; she’s had a nose job. a thing of a specified nature. a crime, esp. a robbery: a series of daring bank jobs.

jigged, jigging [jig'd, -ging] adj. dance a jig.

jigging [jig'ing] n. or adj. of fish: we were jigging about in our seats.

jigger [jig'ə] n. 1. a machine or vehicle with a part that rocks or moves back and forth, as a jukebox, a saw. 2. a person who dances a jig. 3. a measure or small glass of spirits or wine. 4. used to refer to a thing whose name one does not know or does not wish to mention.

v. [tr.] rearrange or tamper with.

jigging adj. —jigging-ness n. —jigging-ly adv.

jig-sawed, jigsaw puzzle n. a puzzle consisting of a picture printed on cardboard or wood and cut into various pieces of different shapes that have to be fitted together. 2. a machine saw with a fine blade enabling it to cut curved lines in a sheet of wood, metal, or plastic.

jig-had [ji'had] adj. a holy war undertaken by Muslims against unbelievers.

jihadi [ji'hādē] n. (pl. -is) a person involved in a jihad; an Islamic militant.

jihadi-ism [ji'hādi-izəm] n. an organization of such a kind. —jihadi-ness n.

jockey [jō'kə] n. (pl. -eys) a person who rides in horse races, esp. as a profession; an enthusiast or participant in a specified activity: a computer jock.

joker [jōkər] n. 1. a deck of cards. 2. an enthusiast or participant in a specified activity: a computer jock.

jockstrap [jōk'strap] n. 1. another term for jockstrap. 2. an enthusiastic athlete or sports fan, esp. one with few other interests: a slow-witted person of large size and great physical strength. —jockish adj.

jocky [jōk'ē] n. a pilot or astronaut.

jocularity [jō'kələrē] n. fond of or characterized by joking; humorous
jocund 481

journeyman  

pronunciation key  

乔 texts, n. a leathery-leaved evergreen shrub (Simmondsia chinesis, family Simmondsiaceae) native to the southwestern U.S., with seeds that produce an oil (jojoba oil) widely used in cosmetics.

joke  

[adjective] make jokes; talk humorously or flippantly. —joke-ly (also joke-ward) adv. —joke-ness n. —joking-ly adv.

do be no joke.  

the joke is on someone.  

joker  

1. a person who is fond of joking. 

2. a foolish or inept person: a person of jokes.  

3. a playing card, typically bearing the figure of a jester, used in some games as a wild card.  

4. a clause unobtrusively inserted in a bill or document and affecting its operation in a way not immediately apparent.

jol-li-fi-ca-tion  

law) n. lively celebration with others; merrymaking.

jol-ly  

[adjective] lively and cheerful activity or celebration: a night of riotous jollity.  

the quality of being cheerful: full of jollity.

jol  

[verb] [tr. or intrans.] push or shake (someone or something) abruptly and roughly.  

usually follows someone: she tried to jolt him out of his depression.

n. move with sudden lurches: the train jolted into motion.

n. an abrupt rough or violent movement.

jolting  

adj. of something) unsteady or swiftly: a jolting problem.

jolt  

[verb] [intrans.] to make a sudden movement.

jolted  

[adjective] very: extremely: that’s a jolly good idea.

jondi-ly  

[adverb] very.

journals  

n. a newspaper or magazine that deals with a particular subject or professional activity: medical journals.

journals is-tik  

[adjective] medical.

journey  

[adjective] n. a journeyed.

journeyed  

[adjective] adj. having traveled.

journeyed  

[adjective] n. a journeyed.

journeyed  

[adjective] adv. a journeyed.

journeyed  

[adjective] n. a journeyed.

journeyed  

[adjective] adv. a journeyed.

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[adjective] n. a journeyed.
**jumper**

- **n.** 1. A person or animal that jumps. 2. (also jumper wire) A short wire used to complete an electrical circuit or bypass a break in a circuit.

**jumper cable** n. Each of a pair of thick electric cables fitted with clips at each end, used for starting a vehicle by connecting its dead battery to the battery of another vehicle.

**jumping bean** n. The seed from certain plants of the spurge family (esp. *Sapium sebiferum*) that jumps as a result of the movement of a moth larva that is developing inside it.

**jump rope** n. Also jumper rope. A length of rope used for jumping by swinging it over the head and under the feet.

**jump seat** n. An extra seat, esp. in a car or taxicab, that folds back when not in use.

**jump-start** v. [tr.] Start (a car with a dead battery) with jumper cables or by a sudden release of the clutch while it is being pushed. fig. Give an added impetus to (something that is proceeding slowly or is at a standstill); she suggests ways to jump-start the sluggish educational system.

**jump suit** [jamp], [jamp] n. A garment incorporating trousers and a top in one piece; usu. worn as a protective garment or uniform.

**jump** v. [jamp] adj. [jumpier], [jumpiest] int. (of a person) Anxious and uneasy. Characterized by abrupt stops and starts or an irregular course: a jump in the pulse. —jump·i·ly [ˈjamp-ə-əl] adv. —jump·i·ness n.

**jun·co** 
*Junco* n. A bird belonging to the junco family.

**junction** [ˈdʒʌŋkʃən] n. 1. A point where two or more things are joined: the junction of the two rivers. 2. A place where two or more roads or rail lines meet. 3. Electric: A region of transition in a semiconductor between a part where conduction is mainly by electrons and a part where it is mainly by holes. 4. The action or fact of joining or being joined. —junction·al adj.

**junction box** n. A box containing a junction of electric wires or cables.

**juncture** [ˈdʒʌŋkʃər] n. A particular point in time or event. A place where things join: the plane crashed at the juncture of two mountains.

**June** [ˈdʒuːn] n. The sixth month of the year, in the northern hemisphere usually considered the first month of summer.

**June bug** (also June beetle) n. A large brown scarab beetle (genus *Phyllophaga*) that appears in late spring and early summer.

**jungle** [ˈdʒɒŋgəl] n. 1. An area of land overgrown with dense forest and tangled vegetation, typically in the tropics. 2. A wild tangled mass of vegetation or other things. 3. A situation or place of bewildering complexity or brutal competitiveness: it's a jungle out there. —jungle·adj.

**juggler** n. A person who juggles.

**juggler's thumb** adj. A thumb that has been surgically lengthened to allow the fingers to be more dexterous.

**juggly** adj. Of or relating to sandwich. —juggly·ly adv.

**juggly·ly adv.** The law of the jungle: the principle that those who are strong and apply ruthless self-interest will be most successful.

**juggly·y adj.** Of or resembling a jungle. —juggly·y·ly adv.

**juggly·y·ly adv.** A structure of bars or logs for children to climb on.

**junior** [ˈdʒuːnɪər] adj. 1. Of, for, or relating to young people. 2. For students in the third year of college or high school. 3. Often Junior [in names] a person who is the younger of two who have the same name in a family.

**junior college** n. A college offering courses for two years beyond high school.

**junior high school** n. Another term for MIDDLE SCHOOL.

**juniper** [ˈdʒuːnɪpər] n. An evergreen shrub or tree (genus *Juniperus*) of the cypress family that bears aromatic berrylike cones, widely distributed throughout Eurasia and North America. The common juniper (also *Juniperus communis*), bears fleshy berries that are used for flavoring gin.

**junk** [jʌŋk] n. 1. Old or discarded articles that are considered useless or of little value. 2. Worthless writing, talk, or ideas. I can't write this kind of junk. 3. Finance junk bonds. 2. adj. Heroin.

**junk·DNA** n. Genomic DNA that does not encode proteins, and whose function, if it has one, is not well understood.

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Pronunciation Key a ago, up; ar over, fur; a hat; a ut; a car; ch chin; e let; e see; e(a) air; i fit; i by; i(o) car; ng sing; o go; o law; for; o toy; o6 good; o6 goo; ou out; sh she; th thin; th1 then; th2 why; zh vision
junket  /'jænkt/  n. 1 a dish of sweetened and flavored curds of milk, often served with fruit. 2 int. an extravagant trip or celebration, in particular one enjoyed by a government official at public expense.  
  adv. (plural -ted, -ting) [interj.] (often as n.) junketing int. attend or go on such a trip or celebration. —junk-teer  /'jæntər/  n.
junk food  n. food that has low nutritional value, typically produced in the form of packaged snacks needing little or no preparation.
junkie  /'jæŋkəki/  (also junky)  n. a drug addict. ■ a person with a compulsive habit or obsessive dependency on something: power junkies.
junk mail  n. int. unsolicited advertising or promotional material received through the mail and email.
junkyard  /'jæŋkərəd/  n. a place where scrap is collected before being discarded, reused, or recycled.

jurisprudence  /'joʊrɪsprʊdəns/  n. the theory or philosophy of law. ■ a legal system: American jurisprudence. —jurisprudent adj. & n. —jurisprudential [-prədənʃəl] adj.
jurist  /'jʊrɪst/  n. an expert in or writer on law. ■ a lawyer or a judge. —juristic  /'jʊrɪstɪk/  adj.
juror  /'jʊərər/  -or  n. a member of a jury.
jury  /'jʊəri/  (pl. -ries) a body of usu. twelve people sworn to give a verdict in a legal case on the basis of evidence submitted to them in court. ■ a body of people selected to judge a competition. 

 jurv  (-ries, -ried) [tense] (usu. be juried) judge (an art or craft exhibition or exhibit): [as adj.] juried the juried jewelry show.
jury-rigged  adj. (of a ship) having temporary makeshift rigging. 

jurisdiction  /'jʊərɪsdɪkʃən/  n. the official power to make legal decisions and judgments: federal courts had no jurisdiction over the case. ■ the extent of this power: the claim will be within the jurisdiction of the industrial tribunal. ■ a system of law courts; a judiciary. ■ the territory or sphere of activity over which the legal authority of a court or other institution extends. —jurisdictional adj.

just  /'ʃʊst/  v. (past tense, past participle justified; present participle justifying) [trans.] to show or prove to be right or reasonable: the person appointed has fully justified our confidence. ■ be a good reason for; the situation was grave enough to justify further investigation.

justifiable  /'ʃʊstɪfəbl/ adj. [adjective form of justify] one that can or ought to be justified; not justifiable. ■ something: a rock justed out from the side of the bank. ■ [to] cause (something, such as one's chin) to protrude.

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justitia  /'ʃʊstɪtʃə/  n. 1 behavior or treatment: a concern for justice, peace, and genuine respect for people. ■ the quality of being fair and reasonable. ■ the administration of the law or authority in maintaining this; a tragic miscarriage of justice. 2 a judge or magistrate, in particular a judge of the supreme court of a country or state. 

just-in-time  /'ʃʊstɪn'taɪn/ adj. able to be shown to be right or reasonable: defensible. ■ not financially justifiable. —just-in-time-adj.  

Justine  /'ʃʊstɪn/  n. a magistrate appointed to hear minor cases, perform marriages, grant licenses, etc., in a local district.

justifiable  /'ʃʊstɪfəbl/ adj. [adjective form of justify] one that can or ought to be justified; not justifiable. ■ something: a rock justed out from the side of the bank. ■ [to] cause (something, such as one's chin) to protrude.
K

Kk

K/ˈkɑː/ (also k) n. (pl. Ks or K’s) the eleventh letter of the alphabet. [denoting the next after f] in a set of items, categories, etc.

K2 abbr. 1. kelvin(s). 2. Comput. kilobyte(s). 3. kilometer(s). 4. kindergarden. 5. king (used esp. in describing play in card games and recording moves in chess; declarer overruffed with K's and led another spade | K2 in the book in knitting patterns); K2 long (used chiefly in expressing salaries or other sums of money). 6. Baseball strikeout.

k abbr. karat. [in comb.] (in units of measurement) kilo: a distance of 700 kpc. kopek(s). 2. symb. the chemical element potassium.

Ka-bal-lah/ˈkæbələ/ (also Ka-bal-la, Cabala, Cab-ba-la) n. the ancient Jewish tradition of mystical interpretation of the Bible, first transmitted orally and using esoteric methods (including ciphers). It reached the height of its influence in the later Middle Ages and remains significant in Hasidism. —Ka-bal-lis-m/ˈkæbəl-lizəm/ n. —Ka-bal-list/ˈkæbəl-lɪst/ adj.

ka-bob n. variant spelling of kebab.

ka-bu-ki/ˈkæbʊki/ n. a form of traditional Japanese drama with highly stylized song, mime, and dance, now performed only by male actors. —Japanese, originally as a verb meaning ‘act dissolutely,’ later interpreted as if from ka ‘song’ + bu ‘dance’ + ki ‘art.’

ka-ching/ˈkætʃɪŋ/ n. used to represent the sound of a cash register, especially with reference to making money.

Ka-dish/ˈkædɪʃ/ n. an ancient Jewish prayer sequence regularly recited in the synagogue service, including thanksgiving and praise and concluding with a prayer for universal peace. a form of this prayer sequence recited for the dead.


kaf-fir lime/ˈkɑːfər/ n. a citrus tree of southeast Asia with green fruit and aromatic leaves that are used in Thai and Indonesian cooking.

Kaf-ka-esque/ˈkæfkaɪsɪk/ adj. characteristic or reminiscent of the oppressive or nightmarish qualities of Franz Kafka’s fictional world.

ka-tan/ˈkætən/ - tan/ also cat-tan/ n. a man’s long belted tunic, worn in countries of the Near East. a woman’s long loose dress. a loose shirt or top.

kai-ser/ˈkæzər/ n. hist. the German emperor, the emperor of Austria, or the head of the Holy Roman Empire: [as title] Kaiser Wilhelm.

ka-is-er roll/ˈkæzər/ n. a round, soft bread roll with a crisp crust, made by folding the corners of a square of dough into the center, resulting in a pin-wheel shape when baked.

kal-an-choe/ˌkɑːlənˈkɒ-ə/ (also Kal-and-kow) n. a tropical succulent plant (genus Kalanchoe) of the stonecrop family, with clusters of tubular flowers, sometimes producing miniature plants along the edges of the leaves and grown as an indoor or greenhouse plant.

kale/ˈkeɪl/ n. aardy cabbage of a variety that produces erect stems with large leaves and no compact head.

ka-lei-do-scope/ˈkæliˌdoʊskəp/ n. a toy consisting of a tube containing mirrors and pieces of colored glass or paper, whose reflections produce changing patterns that are visible through an eyehole when the tube is rotated. a constantly changing pattern or sequence of objects or elements: the dancers moved in a kaleidoscope of color. —ka-lei-do-scop-ic/ˈkæliˌdoʊskəpɪk/ adj. —ka-lei-do-do-sco-pical-ly/ˈkæliˌdoʊskəˈpɪkli/ adv.

kalends pt. n. variant spelling of calends.

Kama Sutra/ˈkɑːmə ˈsʊtra/ n. an ancient Sanskrit treatise on the art of love and sexual technique.

ka-mi-ka-ze/ˈkɑːmɪˌkɑːzə/ n. (in World War II) a Japanese aircraft loaded with explosives and making a deliberate suicidal crash on an enemy target. the pilot of such an aircraft.

adj. of or relating to such an attack or pilot.reckless or potentially self-destructive; he made a kamikaze run across three lanes of traffic.

kan-garoo/ˈkæŋɡəˈroʊ/ n. a large plant-eating macropod (genus Macropus, family Macropodidae) with a long powerful tail and strongly developed hind limbs that enable it to travel by leaping, found only in Australia and New Guinea. —late 18th cent.: from an Aboriginal language.

kan-garoo court n. an unofficial court held by a group of people in order to try someone regarded, esp. without good evidence, as guilty of a crime or misdemeanor.

kan-garoo rat n. a seed-eating hopping rodent (genus Dipodomys, family Heteromyidae) with long hind legs, found from Canada to Mexico.

ka-o-lin/ˈkɑːoʊlɪn/ n. a fine, soft white clay, resulting from the natural decomposition of other clays or feldspars. It is used for making porcelain china and china, as a filler in paper and textiles, and in medicinal absorbents. Also called China CLAY. —ka-o-lī-zī/ˌ kɑːoʊliˈzaɪ/ v.

ka-on/ˈkɑːn/ n. Physics a meson having a mass several times that of a pion.

ka-pok/ˈkɑːpɑk/ n. a fine, fibrous cottonlike substance that grows around the seeds of the ceiba tree, used as stuffing for cushions, soft toys, etc.

ka-pos-si’s sar-co-ma/kaˈpɒsɪs ˈsɜːrˈkəmə/ ‘kɑːpəˌs,ʃeɪz/ n. Med. a form of cancer involving multiple tumors of the lymph nodes or skin, occurring chiefly in people with depressed immune systems, e.g., as a result of AIDS.

kappa/ˈkapə/ n. the tenth letter of the Greek alphabet (K, k), transliterated in the traditional Latin style as 'C' (as in Socrates or cyan) or in the modern style as 'K' (as in kyanite).

kaput/ˈkapʊt/ kə/ adj. int. broken and useless: no longer working or effective.

kar-a-kul/ˈkɑːrəˌkʌl/ also car-acul/ n. a sheep of an Asian breed with a dark, curled fleece when young. a cloth or fur made from or resembling the fleece of such a sheep.

kar-a-oke/ˈkɑːrəˌoʊk/ n. a form of entertainment, offered typically by bars and clubs, in which people take turns singing popular songs into a microphone over prerecorded backing tracks.

kar-at/ˈkɑːrət/ chiefly Brit. also carat/ n. a measure of the purity of gold, pure gold being 24 karats.

kar-a-te/ˈkɑːrətɛ/ n. an Asian system of unarmed combat using the hands and feet to deliver and block blows, widely practiced as a sport.

kar-ma/ˈkɑːrmə/ n. (in Hinduism and Buddhism) the sum of a person’s actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences. int. or adj. fate or destiny, following as an effect from cause. —kar-mic/ˈkɑːrmɪk/ adj. —kar-mic-ally/ˈkɑːrmɪkəli/ adv.


kas-bah/ˈkɑzba/ n. variant spelling of CASBAH.

ka-ty-did/ˈkætəˌdɪd/ n. a large, typically green, North American grasshopper (Microcentrum and other genera, family Tettigoniidae), the males of which make a sound that resembles the name.
kayak /'keɪæk/ n. a canoe of a type used originally by the Eskimo, made of a light frame with a water-tight covering having a small opening in the top to sit in.

keep (kept; kept) v. (kept) tr. [keep] to have or retain possession of: my father would keep the best for himself. 2. retain or reserve for use in the future. 3. put or store in a regular place: the stand where her umbrella was kept. 4. retain one's place in or on (a seat or saddle, the ground, etc.) against opposition or difficulty. 5. provide for the sustenance of (someone): he had to keep his large family in the manner he had chosen. 6. provide for someone with a regular supply of a commodity: the money should keep him in cigarettes for a week. 7. own and look after (an animal) for pleasure or profit. 8. own and manage (a shop or business). 9. guard; protect. 10. keep the boy from harm. 11. lose (someone, esp. a woman) financially in return for sexual favors. 12. keep (as a) husband. 13. honor or fulfill (a commitment or undertaking). 14. keep my promise, naturally. 15. observe a (religious occasion) in the prescribed manner. 16. today's consumers do not keep the Sabbath. 17. pay due regard to (a law or custom). 18. make written entries in (a diary) on a regular basis: the master kept a weekly journal. 19. write down as (a record); keep a note of (whereabouts of each item).

keep something up maintain or preserve something in the existing state; continue a course of action: keep up the good work. 2. keep something in an efficient or proper state: the new owners could not afford to keep up the grounds. 3. make something remain at a high level: he was whistling to keep up his spirits.

4. food, clothes, and other essentials for living; working overtime to earn his keep. 5. the cost of such items. 6. the strongest or central tower of a castle, acting as a final refuge.

kernel /ˈkɜrl/ n. the center or most important part of something.
this is the kernel of the argument. 1 the most basic level or core of an operating system of a computer, responsible for resource allocation, file management, and security. ker-o-sene [kəˈrəʊˌsɛn] n. a light fuel oil obtained by distilling petroleum, used esp. in jet engines and domestic heaters and lamps and as a cleaning solvent. ke-strel [ˈkɛstrəl] n. a small falcon (Genus Falco) that hovers with rapidly beating wings while searching for prey on the ground. ketch [kɛtʃ] n. a two-masted, fore-and-aft-rigged sailboat with a mizzenmast stepped forward of the rudder and smaller than the foremost. ketch-up [ˈketʃəp] (also catsup) n. a spicy sauce made chiefly from tomatoes and vinegar, used as a condiment. ke-tone [ˈkɛtən] n. Chem. an organic compound containing a carbonyl group C=O bonded to two alkyl groups. The simplest ketone is acetone. —keto-ionic [ˈkɛtəˌɪnəs] adj. ke-to-sis [ˈkɛtəsɪs] n. Med. a condition characterized by raised levels of ketone bodies in the blood, associated with abnormal fat metabolism and diabetes. —keto-lic [ˈkɛtəlɪk] adj. kettle [ˈkɛtəl] n. a vessel, usually made of metal and with a handle, used for boiling liquids or cooking food; a pot. —kettle-drum [ˈkɛtəldrəm] n. a large drum shaped like a bowl, with a membrane adjustable for tension (and so pitch) stretched across. Also collectively called TIMPANI. —kettle-drum-mer n. kev > abbr. kiloelectronvolts(s). Kev-lar [ˈkɛvlər] n. trademark a synthetic fiber of high tensile strength used esp. as a reinforcing agent in the manufacture of tires and other rubber products and protective gear such as helmets and vests. kew-pie [ˈkjuːpi] (also kewpie doll) n. trademark a type of doll characterized by a large head, big eyes, chubby cheeks, and a curl or topknot on top of her head. key > /ˈkiː/ n. (pl. keys) 1 a small piece of shaped metal with incisions cut to fit the wards of a particular lock, and that is inserted into a lock and turned to open or close it. 2 a similar implement for operating a switch in the form of a lock, esp. one operating the ignition of a motor vehicle. 3 short for KEY CARD. 4 an instrument for grasping and turning a screw, peg, or nut, esp. one for winding a clock or turning a valve. 5 a pin, bolt, or wedge inserted between other pieces, or fitting into a hole or space designed for it, so as to lock parts together. 6 one of several buttons on a panel for operating a typewriter, word processor, or computer terminal. 7 a lever depressed by the finger in playing an instrument such as the organ, piano, flute, or guitar. 8 a lever operating a mechanical device for making or breaking an electric circuit, for example, in telegraphy. 9 a thing that provides a means of gaining access to or understanding something; the key to Jack's behavior may be submerged in his unhappy past. 10 an explanatory list of symbols used in a map, table, etc. 11 a set of answers to exercises or problems. 12 a word or system for solving a cipher or code. 13 the first move in the solution of a chess problem. 14 Comput. a field in a record that is used to identify that record uniquely. 15 Mus. a group of notes based on a particular note and comprising a scale, regarded as forming the tonal basis of a piece or passage of music; the key of C major. 16 the tone or pitch of someone's voice, his voice had changed to a lower key. 17 the dry, wiggly fruit of an ash, maple, or sycamore maple, typically growing in bunches. 18 the keyhole-shaped area marked on the court near each basket, comprising the free-throw circle and the foul line.

adj. of paramount or crucial importance: she became a key figure in the Suffragette movement.

(keys, keyed) [tr. 1 enter or operate on (data) by means of a computer keyboard: she keyed in a series of commands. 2] [tr. usu. be keyed] fasten (something) in position with a pin, wedge, or bolt: these nails may be keyed into the slots byfidar wedges. 3 [key something to] make something fit with or be linked to: this optimism is keyed to the possibility that the U.S. might lead in the research field. 4 [key someone/something into/in with] cause someone or something to be in harmony with: to those who are keyed into his lunatic sense of humor, the arrival of any Bengban movie is a major conic event. 5 word (an advertisement in a particular periodical), typically by varying the form of the address given, so as to identify the publication generating particular responses. 6 be the crucial factor in achieving: keying a car to theṃd by scraping the paint from it with a key: somebody read the key your car and not get punished. 7 phrasal v. 1 key someone up (usu. be keyed up) make someone nervous, tense, or excited, esp. before an important event. —keyed adj. —keyer n. —key-less adj.

key > /ˈkiː/ n. a low-lying island or reef, esp. in the Caribbean. Compare with CAY.

key-board /ˈkiːbɔːd/ n. 1 a panel of keys that operate a computer or typewriter. 2 a set of keys on a piano or similar musical instrument. 3 an electronic musical instrument with keys arranged as on a piano: she plays keyboard and guitar. —v. [tr.] enter (data) by means of a keyboard. —key-board-er n. —key-board-list [ˈlɪst] n.

key card > n. a small plastic card that can be used instead of a door key, bearing magnetically encoded data that can be read and processed by an electronic device.

key-hole /ˈkiːhəʊl/ n. a hole in a lock into which the key is inserted. 2 a circle cut out of a garment as a decorative effect, typically at the front or back neckline of a dress.

key-note /ˈkiːnət/ n. a prevailing tone or central theme, typically one set or introduced at the start of a conference: individually is the keynote of the Nineties [as adj.] he delivered the keynote address at the launch. —key-note-er n.

key-pad /ˈkiːpæd/ n. a miniature keyboard or set of buttons for operating a portable electronic device, telephone, or other equipment.

key-pal /ˈkiːpæl/ n. (especially among students) a person with whom one becomes friendly by exchanging e-mails.

key-punch /ˈkiːpʌntʃ/ n. a device for transferring data by means of punching holes or notches on a series of cards or paper tape.

key-stroke /ˈkiːstrək/ n. a single depression of a key on a keyboard, esp. as a measure of work.

key-word /ˈkiːwɜːrd/ n. a word or concept of great significance: homes and jobs are the keywords in the campaign. 2 a word that acts as the key to a cipher or code. 3 an informative word used in an information retrieval system to indicate the content of a document. 4 a significant word mentioned in an index.

kg > abbr. kilograms(s). KGB > the state security police (1954–91) of the former USSR with responsibility for external espionage, internal counterintelligence, and internal "crimes against the state."

khaki /ˈkækə|ˈkæki/ n. (pl. khakis) a textile fabric of a dull brown-yellow color, in particular a strong cotton fabric used in military clothing. 2 [khakis] clothing of this fabric and color.

khan /ˈkæn/ n. a title given to rulers and officials in central Asia, Afghanistan, and certain other Muslim countries. —khan-ate /ˈkænət/ n.

Kham /ˈkʰæm/ n. a native tongue of the Mikeleels and the Nelites.

Khoisan /ˈkʰɑːsæn/ n. an ancient kingdom in Southeast Asia that reached its peak of its power in the 17th century, when it ruled the entire Mekong River valley from the capital at Angkor. It was destroyed by Thai and Khmer conquests in the 12th and 14th centuries. 2 a native

Pronunciation: Key ŋ a go, up; or der, fur; a hat: á ate; á ear; ch chin; é let; é see; e(ə) air; i fit; i by; i(ə) ear; ng sing; ó go; ó law; or: o(ə) ey; ó go; óo go; óo out; ș shk; th thin; th than; (h) why: zh vision
success of an organization or operation: the kingspins of the television industry.

king-sized (also size) adj. (esp. of a commercial product) of a larger size than the standard; very large a king-sized bed.

kink [kink] n. a sharp twist or curve in something that is otherwise straight a kink in the road. fig. a flaw or obstacle in a plan, operation, etc. though the system is making some headway, there are still some kinks to iron out. a stiffness in the neck, back, etc.: crick: it takes the kinks out of stiff necks. fig. a quirk of character or behavior. int. a person with unusual sexual preferences.

> v. form or cause to form a sharp twist or curve: when the spine gets knicking, the muscles react with pain.

kina-chou [kīnaka jō] n. an arboreal nocturnal fruit-eating mammal (Potos flavus) of the raccoon family, with a prehensile tail and a long tongue, found in the tropical forests of Central and South America.

kinky [kīn'kē] adj. kinkier, kinkiest 1 int. involving or given to unusual sexual behavior. of (of clothing) sexually provocative in an unusual way: kinky underwear. 2 having kinks or twists; long and kinky hair. —kink-ily adv. —kink-i-ness n.

kiss [kis] v. [tr.] touch with the lips as a sign of love, sexual desire, sexual, or greeting: he kissed her on the lips [tr.] she kissed the children goodnight. adj. 1 Bihellas of a ball) lightly touch another ball in passing.

> v. [tr.] used as a verb (kissing) a herring or another fish by splitting it open and salting and drying it in the open air or in smoke.


Kirsch [kīr'ts] n. (also kirsch-wasser, vāser) n. brandy distilled from the fermented juice of cherries. German, abbreviation of Kirschwasser, from Kirschze 'cherry + Wasser 'water.'

kismet [kīs'met; met] n. destiny: fate: what chance did I stand against kismet?

kissed [kis'ed] adj. int. characterized by or given to kissing; amorous. Deon and I were just getting kissed.

Ki-swah-li [ki-swā'hi] n. another term for Swahili (sense 1).

kit [kīt] n. a set of articles or equipment needed for a specific purpose: a first-aid kit. a set of all the parts needed to assemble something: an aircraft kit. Brie the clothing and other items belonging to a soldier or used in an activity such as a sport: boys in football kit.

kit 1 n. the young of certain animals, such as the beaver, fox, ferret, and mink. inf. informal term for KITTEN.

kit bag [also kit-bag] n. a rectangular canvas bag, used esp. for carrying a soldier's clothes and personal possessions.

kitchen [kīchən] n. 1 a room or area where food is prepared and cooked. a set of fixtures, cabinets, and appliances that are sold together and installed in such a room or area: a complete kitchen at a bargain price. b cuisine: the dried shrimp pastes of the Thai kitchen. [as adj. of a language] in an uneducated or domestic form: kitchen Swahili.

kitchen cabinet [kīchen 'kab-ə-net] n. a group of unofficial advisers to the holder of an elected office who are considered to be unduly influential.

kitchenette [kīchen-ět] n. a small kitchen or part of a room equipped as a kitchen.

kitenv [kīchen'v] n. the utensils used in a kitchen.

kite [kīt] n. 1 a toy consisting of a light frame with thin material stretched over it, flown in the wind at the end of a long string. 2 a medium to large long-winged bird of prey (family Accipitriformes) that typically has a forked tail and frequently soars on updrafts of air. 3 int. a fraudulent check, bill, or receipt. a illicit or surreptitious letter or note.

kiteboarding [kīt'bōrdiŋ] n. another term for KITESURFING.

kitesurfing [kītsar-fing] n. the sport or pastime of riding on a modified surfboard while holding on to a specially designed kite, using the wind for propulsion. Also called KITEBOARDING.

kith [kīth] n. in (phrase kith and kin or kith or kin) one's friends, acquaintances, and relations: a widow without kith or kin.

kitsch [kīch] n. art, objects, or design considered to be in poor taste because of excessive garishness or sentimentality, but sometimes appreciated in an ironic or knowing way: the lava lamp is an example of sixties kitsch. [as adj.] kitsch decor. —kitsch-i-ness n. —kitsch-y adj.

kitten [kīt'n] n. a young cat. the young of several other animals, such as the rabbit and beaver.

kitty [kīt] n. (pl. -ties) a pet name or a child's name for a kitten or cat.

kitty-corner [kīt'-i-kor-nər] adj. & adv. another term for CATER-CORNERED.

kiwi [kī-wē] n. (pl. kiwis) 1 a flightless New Zealand bird (genus Apteryx, family Apterygidae) with hairlike feathers, having a long down-curved bill with sensitive nostrils at the tip. 2 Kiwi n. a New Zealand, esp. a soldier or member of a national sports team.

kiwi fruit (also kiwi-fruits) [kī-wī frūt] n. (pl. -fruits) a fruit with a thin hairy skin, green flesh, and black seeds, obtained from the eastern Asian climbing plant Actinidia chinensis (family Actinidiaceae).


kleptomania [klipt'-mā-nē-ə] n. a recurrent urge to steal, typically without regard for need or profit. —klepto- 

klepto-manic [klēp'tō-män'ik] adj. —klepto-manically adv.

kludge [klūdž] n. (also kluge) int. an ill-assorted collection of parts assembled to fulfill a particular purpose. Comput. a machine, system, or program that has been badly put together.

> v. [tr.] use ill-assorted parts to make (something): Hugh had to kludge something together.

klutz [klūt] n. int. a clumsy, awkward, or foolish person. —klutz-i-ness n. —klutz-y adj.

km abbr. kilometer(s).

k-mecon [kē-mē-kon] n. another term for KAOON.

knack [nāk] n. an acquired or natural skill at performing a task: she got the knack of it in a few weeks. a tendency to do something: the band has a knack of warping classic rock songs.

knack-wurst [nāk-wurst] (also knockwurst) n. a type of short, fat, highly seasoned German sausage.

knapsack [nāp-sāk] n. a bag with shoulder straps, carried on the back, and typically made of canvas or other weatherproof material.


knead [nēd] v. [tr.] work (moistened flour or clay) into dough or paste.
knee

with the hands. make (bread or pottery) by such a process. massage or squeeze with the hands: she knocked his back. —knead-er n.

knee [n] n. the joint between the thigh and the lower leg in humans. the corresponding or analogous joint in other animals. the upper surface of someone’s thigh when sitting: a person’s lap: they were eating their supper on their knees. the part of a garment covering the knee. an angled piece of wood or metal frame used to connect and support the beams and timbers of a wooden vessel. a triangular plate serving the same purpose in a modern vessel. an abrupt outrise or approximately right-angled bend in a graph between where the slope varies smoothly.

> v. (knees, kneed, kneeling) [tr] hit (someone) with one’s knee: she knocked him in the groin.

> a on one’s knees in a kneeling position. a on the verge of collapse: when they took over, the newspaper was on its knees. a weak at the knees overcome by a strong feeling, typically desire.

knee-cap /ˈknee kæp/ n. the convex bone in front of the knee joint: the patella.

> v. (capped, -capping) [tr] shoot (someone) in the knee or leg as a form of punishment: [as n.] (kneecapping) petty crimes are punished by knecycoping.

knee-deep > adj. immersed up to the knees: we were knee-deep in snow.

> a having more than one needs or wants of something: we shall soon be knee-deep in conflicting legal views. a so deep as to reach the knees: the water was knee-deep on Main Street.

> a so as to be immersed up to the knees: I prodded knee-deep through the mud.

knee-hole /ˈkni həl/ n. a space for the knees. esp. one under a desk: [as adj.] a knee-hole desk.

knee-jerk > n. a sudden involuntary reflex kick caused by a blow on the tendon just below the knee.

> a (of a response) automatic and unthinking: a knee-jerk reaction. a (of a person) responding in this way: knee-jerk radicals.

kneel [n] v. (past and past part knelt, -knelt) also kneeled [intr] of (a person) be in or assume a position by the body is supported by a knee or the knees, typically as a sign of reverence or submission: they knelt down and prayed.

knell [n] n. poet/col. the sound of a bell, esp. when rung solemnly for a death or funeral. a so used with reference to an announcement, event, or sound that is regarded as a solemn warning of the end of something: the decision will probably toll the knell for the facility.

> a (of a bell) ring solemnly. esp. for a death or funeral.

> intr. past and past participle of KNEEL.

knew [n] adj. past of KNOW.

knicker-boys /ˈnɪkər bɔɪz/ pl n. 1 [also knick-er-boys] - básikər bɔɪz] loose-fitting trousers gathered at the knee or calf. 2 Brit. a woman’s or girl’s underpants.

knick-knack /ˈnɪk nɑk/ also knick-knacks a small worthless object, esp. a household ornament. —knick-knack-ery /-nɑk rəri/ n.

knife /n/ n. (pl. knives /nɛvz/) a cutting instrument composed of a blade and a handle in which it is fixed, either rigidly or with a joint. an instrument such as this used as a weapon. a cutting blade forming part of a machine.

> v. [tr] stab (someone) with a knife. a [intr] cut like a knife: a shard of steel knifed through the mail. —knife-like, -like adj. —knife-er n.

knife pleat n. a sharp, narrow pleat on a skirt made in one direction and typically overlapping another.

knife-point /ˈnɪf pɔɪnt/ n. the pointed end of a knife.

knight /n/ n. 1 (in the Middle Ages) a man who served his sovereign or lord as a mounted soldier in armor. 2 (in the Middle Ages) a man raised by a sovereign to honorable military rank after service as a page and squire. 3 (in the UK) a man awarded a nonhereditary title by the sovereign in recognition of merit or service and entitled to use the honorific “Sir” in front of his name. 3 a chiefy piece, typically with its top shaped like a horse’s head, that moves by jumping to the opposite corner of a rectangle two squares by three.

> v. [intr. be knighted] invest (someone) with the title of knight.

knight-hood n. knightliness n. knightly adj. & poet/col. adv. knight-er n.

knight Errant (also knight Errant) n. pl. (knight-Errants) a medieval knight wandering in search of chivalrous adventures. —knight-Errant-ry n.

knish /n/ n. a dumpling of dough that is stuffed with a filling and baked or fried.

knit /n/ v. (knitting; past and past part knitted or (esp. in sense 2) knit) 1 [tr.] make (a garment, blanket, etc.) by interlocking loops of wool or other yarn with knitting needles or on a machine. 2 [intr.] make (a stitch or row of stitches) in such a way. 3 [intr.] knit with a knit stitch: knit one, purl one. 2 [intr.] become united: disparate regions had begun to knit together under the king. 4 [intr.] knit a closely knit family. 5 [of parts of a broken bone] become joined during healing. 6 [tr.] can unite or combine: he knitted together a squad of players or both clubs had disregarded. 7 [tr.] tighten (one’s brow or eyebrows) in a frown of concentration, disemboweling, or anxiety. a [intr.] of someone’s brow or eyebrows) tighten in such a frown.

> a denoting or relating to a knitting stitch made by putting the needle through the front of the stitch from left to right. Compare with PURL.

> a knitted fabric: a machine-washable knit. a garment made of such fabric: an array of casual knits. Old English knityon; related to German dialect knitten, also to KNOTT. The original sense was “tie in with or a knot,” hence “join, unite” (sense 2); an obsolete Middle English sense “knit string to make a net” gave rise to sense 1. —knitter n.

knotting /ˈnɔtɪŋ/ n. the craft or action of knitting. material that is in the process of being knitted: I put down my knitting.

knotting need-ly n. a long, thin, pointed rod used as a part of a pair for knitting by hand.

knitwear /ˈnɪtˌwɛər/ n. knitted garments.

knives /nɛvz/ plural form of KNIFE.

knob /n/ n. a rounded lump or ball, esp. at the end or on the surface of something. a handle on a door or drawer shaped like a ball. a rounded button for adjusting or controlling a machine. a small lump of a substance: add a knob of butter or margarine. a prominent round hill. vulgar slang a penis. —knobbed adj. —knobby adj. —knob-like /ˈnɔblіk/ adj.

knock /n/ v. (past and past part knocked) [tr] strike a surface noisily to attract attention. esp. when waiting to be let in through a door: I knocked on the kitchen door. a strike or thump together or against something: my knees were knocking and my lips quivering. a (of a motor or other engine) make a regular thumping or rattling noise because of improper ignition. 2 [tr.] collide with something or someone: giving them a hard knock: he deliberately ran into her, knocking her shoulder. a [intr.] he knocked over an elderly man. a [intr.] force to move or fall with a deliberate or accidental blow or collision: he knocked over a glass of water. a injure or damage by striking; she knocked her knee painfully on the table. a make a hole or a dent in something by striking it forcefully: he suggests we knock a hole through the wall into the broom closet. a talk disparagingly about; criticize.

> a sudden short sound caused by a blow, esp. on a door to attract attention or gain entry. a continual thumping or rattling sound made by an engine because of improper ignition. 2 a blow or collision; the casing is tough enough to withstand knocks. a injury caused by a blow or collision. a a disheartening experience; a setback: the region’s industries have taken a severe knock. a [intr.] a critical comment.

> a knock it off adj. used to tell someone to stop doing something that one finds annoying or foolish.

> a denoting a rough, slapstick comic performance. 2 (of clothes) suitable for rough use.

knock-a-bout /ˈnɔkəbət/ adj. denoting a rough, slapstick comic performance. 2 a tramp or vagrant.

knock-down /n/ n. (also knockdown) [intr. of a price] very low. 2 capable of knocking down or overwhelming someone or something: repeated knockdown blows. 3 [of furniture] easily disassembled and reassembled.

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kowtow /'kou/tou/ v. [tr.] hist. kneel and touch the ground with the forehead in worship or submission as part of Chinese custom. • fig. act in an excessively servient manner: she didn't have to kowtow to a boss.

kraal /krä/ n. a traditional African village of huts, typically enclosed by a fence. • an enclosure for cattle or sheep.

kraft /kræt/ (also kraft paper) n. a kind of strong, smooth brown wrapping paper.

krait /krēt/ n. a highly venomous Asian snake (genus Bungarus) of the cobra family. Several species include the black and yellow banded krait (B. fasciatus).

kraut /krout/ n. inf. sauerkraut. • (also Kraut) inf. often a German.

krem-lin /krem/ n. a citadel within a Russian town. • the Kremlin (also the Kremlins) the citadel in Moscow. • the Russian or (formerly) USSR government housed within this citadel.

kroll /krəl/ n. a small shrimp-like planktonic crustacean (Megaanyctiphanes norvegica, class Malacostraca) of the open seas. It is eaten by a number of larger animals, notably the baleen whales. • 'early 20th cent.' from Norwegian kroil 'young fry of fish.'

krona /ˈkrɒnə/ n. 1 (pl. -nor /-nɔr/) the basic monetary unit of Sweden, equal to 100 öre. 2 (pl. -nor /-nør/) the basic monetary unit of Iceland, equal to 100 aurar.

krona /ˈkrɒnə/ n. (pl. -nor /-nør/) the basic monetary unit of Denmark and Norway, equal to 100 öre.

Kru-ger-rand /ˈkroʊɡərænd/ (also krugerrand or Kruger) n. a South African gold coin with a portrait of President Kruger on the obverse.

krumm-horn /ˈkrʊm,hɔrn/ (also crum-horn) n. a medieval wind instrument with an enclosed double reed and an upward-curving end, producing an even, nasal sound.

krypt-ton /ˈkrɪpt,loʊn/ n. the chemical element of atomic number 36, a member of the noble gas series. (Symbol: Kr) Ks • abbr. Kaposi’s sarcoma.

ku-dos /ˈk(y)əˌdəs, -doʊs/ n. praise and honor received for an achievement.

Kufic /ˈk(y)əˌfık/ n. an early angular form of the Arabic alphabet found chiefly in decorative inscriptions.

kumquat /ˈkʌmˌkwæt/ n. 1 an orangelike fruit with an edible sweet rind and acid pulp. 2 the eastern Asian shrub or small tree (genus Fortunella) of the rue family that yields this fruit and that hybridizes with citrus trees.

kung fu /ˈkʌŋ ˈfuː; ˈkʊŋɡ nuː/ n. a primarily unarmed Chinese martial art resembling karate.

Kurd /ˈkɜrd/ n. a member of a mainly pastoral Islamic people living in Kurdistan.

Kurdish /ˈkɜrdiʃ/ adj. of or relating to the Kurds or their language.

kurdish /ˈkɜrdiʃ/ n. the Iranian language of the Kurds.

kur-tosis /ˈkɜrtəsiːs/ n. Statistics the sharpness of the peak of a frequency-distribution curve. • 'early 20th cent. from Greek kurtois 'bulging, from kurtoς 'bulging, convex.'

kvass /ˈkwɑs; ˈkwɒs/ n. (esp. in Russia) a fermented drink, low in alcohol, made from rye flour or bread with malt.

kvetch /ˈkvoʊtʃ; ˈkvetʃ/ n. a person who complains a great deal. • a complaint.

kw /ˈkw/ abbr. kilowatt(s).

kwanz-a /ˈkwɑnza/ n. (pl. same or -zas) the basic monetary unit of Angola, equal to 100 kwanzas.

kyanite /ˈkɪəˌnaɪt/ n. a blue or green crystalline mineral consisting of aluminum silicate, used in heat-resistant ceramics. • ky-anitic /ˌkɪəˌnɪtɪk/ adj.
labio-dental /ˌlæbɪˈdɛntəl/ adj. Phonet. (of a sound) made with the lips and teeth, for example /f/ and /v/.

Labium /ˈlæbjəm/ n. (pl. -bia /-bɪə/) Entomol. Anat. A lip or lip-like structure, esp. any of the four folds of skin on either side of the vulva.

Labour /ˈlæbər/ (Brit. labour) n. 1. work, esp. hard physical work: manual labor. 2. workers, esp. manual workers, considered collectively: nonunion casual labor. 3. such workers considered as a social class or political force: [as adj.] the labor movement. 4. Labor a department of government concerned with a nation’s workforce. Secretary of Labor. 2. the process of childbirth, esp. the period from the start of uterine contractions to delivery: his wife is in labor.

Labor Day n. a public holiday or day of festivities held in honor of working people, in the U.S. and Canada on the first Monday in September, in many other countries on May 1.

Laborer /ˈlæbər(ə)r/ n. a person doing unskilled manual work for wages: a farm laborer.

Labor-intensive adj. (of a form of work) needing a large workforce or a large amount of work in relation to output: the labor-intensive task of tagging each item in the store.

Laborious /ˈlæbərɪəs/ adj. (esp. of a task, process, or journey) requiring considerable effort and time: years of laborious training. (esp. of speech or writing style) showing obvious signs of effort and lacking in fluency: his slow, laborious style. — laboriously adv. — laboriousness n.

Labor-saving adj. (of an appliance) designed to reduce the amount of work needed to complete a task.

Labor union n. an organized association of workers, often in a trade or profession, formed to protect and further their rights and interests.

Labour Party n. a major left-of-center British party that arose from the trade union movement at the end of the 19th century.

Labrador (also Labrador retriever) n. a retriever of a breed that predominantly has a black or yellow coat, widely used as a gun dog or as a guide for a blind person.
lab-y-rinth /læbriθ/ n. 1 a complicated irregular network of passages or paths in which it is difficult to find one's way; a maze: a labyrinth of passages and secret chambers. 2 Anat. a complex structure in the inner ear that contains the organs of hearing and balance. 3 Zool. an organ of intricate structure, in particular the accessory respiratory organs of certain fishes. —lab-y-rinth-an /læbriθən/ adj. —lab-y-rinth-thine /læbriθθiθ/ adj.
lamp-lighter /ˈlæmplɪtər/ n. hist. a person employed to light street gaslights by hand.

lamp-oon /ˈlæmp(ə)ˈpʊn/ v. [tr.] publicly criticize (someone or something) by using ridicule, irony, or sarcasm: the senator made himself famous by lampooning dubious federal projects.

> n. a speech or text criticizing someone or something in this way: does this sound like a lampoon of student life? —lampoon-er n. —lampoon-ist n.

lamp-post /ˈlæmppɔːt/ n. a tall pole with a light at the top; a street light.

lamprey /ˈlæmpri/ n. (pl. -eys) an eellike aquatic jawless vertebrate (family Petromyzontidae) that has a sucker mouth with horny teeth and a rasping tongue. The adult is often parasitic, attaching itself to other fish and sucking their blood.

lampshade /ˈlæmpʃeɪd/ n. a cover for a lamp, used to soften or direct its light.

LAN /ˈleɪn/ abbr. local area network.

lance /læns/ n. lance a weapon used in hunting fish or whales. Another term for LANCER (sense 1).

> v. [tr.] Med. prick or cut open with a lance or other sharp instrument: abscesses should not be lance until there is a soft spot in the center. fig. the governor made it one of his priorities to lance the boil of corruption.

lancelet /ˈlænsəlt/ n. a small elongated marine invertebrate that resembles a fish but lacks jaws and obvious sense organs. Lancelets possess a notochord and are among the most primitive chordates.

lancer /ˈlænsər/ n. hist. a soldier of a cavalry regiment armed with lances.

lan-cet /ˈlænsət/ n. 1 a small, broad, two-edged surgical knife or blade with a sharp point. 2 a lancet arch or window. [as adj.] shaped like a lancet arch: a lancet clock. —lan-cet-ed adj.

land /lænd/ n. 1 the part of the earth’s surface that is not covered by water, as opposed to the sea or air: after four weeks at sea we sighted land. [as adj.] living or traveling on land rather than in water or the air: a land mammal. 2 an expanse of land; an area of ground, esp. in terms of its ownership or use: the land north of the village. 3 the land the surface over which or on which something is located; the land the ground or soil used as a basic for agriculture: my family had worked the land for many years. 4 a country: the valley is one of the most beautiful in the land. fig. a realm or domain: you are living in a fantasy land. 3 the space between the rifling grooves in a gun.

> v. [tr.] put ashore: the lifeboat landed the survivors safely ashore. [int.]: go ashore: disembark: the marines landed a small fishing jetty. unload (goods) from a ship: the fishing boats landed their catch at the port. bring (a fish) to land. esp. with a net or hook: I landed a scraper three-pound walleye. int. succeed in obtaining or achieving (something desirable), esp. in the face of strong competition: she landed the starring role in a new film. come down: the plane came down: the plane landed at the rate of two a minute. bring (an aircraft or spacecraft) to the ground or surface of the earth, esp. in a controlled way: the copilot landed the plane. int. (of something unpleasant or unexpected) arrive suddenly; there seemed to be more problems than ever landing on her desk this week. land (someone in) int. cause someone to be in a difficult or unwelcome situation: his exploits always landed him in trouble. land (someone with) int. (an unwelcome task or a difficult situation) on someone: the mistake landed the company with a massive bill. int. inflict (a blow) on someone: I won the fight without landing a single punch. —land-ward /ˈlændwərd/ adj.

landfall /ˈlænd(f)odal/ n. 1 an arrival at land on a sea or air journey. 2 the contact of a hurricane with a landmass: Javier made landfall at 10:36 this morning. —land-fall-ing adj.

landfill /ˈlænd(f)əʊl/ n. a place to dispose of refuse and other waste material by burying it and covering it over with soil, esp. as a method of filling in or extending usable land. waste material used to reclaim ground in this way: an area filled in by this process.

> v. [tr.] bury in a landfill: the Florida school intends to landfill its old computers.

landform /ˈlændfɔːm/ n. a natural feature of the earth’s surface.

landholder /ˈlændhəʊldər/ n. a person who owns land, esp. one who either makes a living from it or rents it out to others.

land-ing /ˈlændɪŋ/ n. 1 an instance of coming or bringing something to land, either from the air or from water: we made a perfect landing at the airstrip. the action or process of doing this: the landing of men on the moon. 2 also landing place a place where people and goods can be landed from a boat or ship: the ferry landing.

land-ing craft n. a boat specially designed for putting troops and military equipment ashore on a beach.

land-ing gear n. the undercarriage of an aircraft, including the wheels or pontoons on which it rests while not in the air.

land-lady /ˈlændleɪdi/ n. (pl. -dies) a woman who rents land, a building, or an apartment to a tenant.

landlord /ˈlændlɜːrd/ n. a person, esp. a man, who rents land, a building, or an apartment to a tenant.

landmark /ˈlændmɑːrk/ n. 1 an object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognized from a distance, esp. one that enables someone to establish their location: the spire was once a landmark for ships sailing up the river. 2 hist. the boundary of an area of land, or an object marking this. 3 an event, discovery, or change marking an important stage or turning point in something; the birth of a child is an important landmark in the lives of all concerned. 4 adj. a landmark decision.

landmass /ˈlændmɑːs/ (also land mass) n. a continent or other large body of land.

landmine n. an explosive mine laid on or just under the surface of the ground.

land-owner /ˈlændˌdɒnər/ n. a person who owns land, esp. a large amount of land.

land-scape /ˈlændskæp/ n. 1 all the visible features of an area of countryside or land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal: the giant cat that dominates this landscape. 2 a picture representing an area of countryside: as adj. a landscape painter. 3 the genre of landscape painting. fig. the distinctive features of a particular situation or intellectual activity: the event transformed the political landscape. 4 adj. [of a page, book, or illustration, or the manner in which it is set or printed] wider than it is high. Compare with portrait (sense 2).

> v. [tr.] usu. be landscaped improve the aesthetic appearance of (a piece of land) by changing its contours, adding ornamental features, or planting trees and shrubs; the site has been tastefully landscaped.

landslide /ˈlændslaɪd/ n. 1 the sliding down of a mass of earth or rock from a mountain or cliff. 2 an overwhelming majority of votes for one party in an election: winning the election by a landslide. 3 adj. a landslide victory.

Pronunciation Key a a; u, o or air; j, f; v, z; th, s; sh; ch; t, t; d, d; th; n; zh; w; y; h; w; y; zh;
latter-day saints

laughing gas n. nonotechnical term for nitrous oxide.

laughing-stock /ˈlaːfɪŋ, stɒk/ n. a person subjected to general mockery or ridicule.

laugh-ter /ˈlaːfər/ n. the action or sound of laughing: he roared with laughter.

laugh track n. recorded laughter added to a comedy show, esp. a television situation comedy.

launch /ˈlɒnʃ/ n. set a boat in motion by pushing it or allowing it to roll into the water: the town’s liferaft was launched to rescue the fishermen. v. set a newly built ship or boat afloat for the first time, typically as part of an official ceremony: King Gustav II Adolph of Sweden launched a huge new warship. send (a missile, satellite, or spacecraft) on its course or into orbit: they launched two Scud missiles. adj. (of something) forcefully: she launched a tortoiseshell comb. start or set in motion (an activity or enterprise): she was launching a campaign against ugly architecture. introduce (a new product or publication) to the public for the first time: the company has launched a software package specifically for the legal sector.

phraseal v. launch into begin (something) energetically and enthusiastically: he launched into a two-hour sales pitch.

launch, n. an act or instance of launching something: the launch of a new campaign against drinking and driving. v. an occasion at which a new product or publication is introduced to the public: a book launch. —launch-er n.

launch /ˈlɑːn/ n. a large motorboat, used esp. for short trips. adj. the largest boat carried on a man-of-war.

launch pad (also launching pad) n. the area on which a rocket stands for launching, typically consisting of a platform with a supporting structure.

lauder /ˈləʊdər/ v./ˈlɑːn/ n. wash, or wash and iron, (clothes or linens): he wasn’t used to laundering his own bed linens. adj. (archaic) of, or relating to Latvia, its people, or its language.

lavender /ˈlɑːndr/ n. v. [of substance] a thing that has an odor that is pleasing, or that is fragrant. adj. (of a person, idea, or goal) deserving praise and commendation: lavender though the aim might be, the results have been criticized.

laundry /ˈlɔːndri/ n. a place where clothes are washed and ironed. adj. (informal) washing: a mid-week wash. —laundry-man /ˌlɔːndri-ˌmæn/ n. a person employed to launder clothes and linens.

laundry /ˈlɔːndri/ n. adj. of or related to Latvia, its people, or its language.

laundromat /ˈlɔːndro-mət/ n. (also laundromat) n. trademark an establishment with coin-operated washing machines and dryers for public use.

laundry list n. a long or exhaustive list of people or things: there’s a laundry list of possible triggers for migraines.

laureate /ˈlɔːrət/ adj. laureate. /ˈlɑːr/ n. a person who is honored with an award for outstanding creative or intellectual achievement: a Nobel laureate. —short for POET LAUREATE —laureate-shop /ˌlɔːr-ət/ n.

laurel /ˈlɔːrəl/ adj. /ˈlɔːrəl/ n. 1. any of a number of shrubs and other plants with dark green glossy leaves. in particular, BAY. 2. short for MOUNTAIN LAUREL. 3. an aromatic evergreen shrub related to the bay tree family (LAURACEAE), several kinds of which form forests in tropical and warm countries. 4. usu. laurels the foliage of the bay tree woven into a wreath or crown and worn on the head as an emblem of victory or mark of honor in classical times. adj. fig. honor: she has rightly won laurels for this brillianly perceptive first novel.

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learning [lərˈniŋ] n. the acquisition of knowledge or skills through experience, practice, or study, or by being taught: these children experienced difficulties in learning. knowledge acquired in this way: I liked to provide my learning in front of my sisters.

learning-curve n. the rate at which a person's progress in gaining experience or new skills: the latest software packages have a steep learning curve.

learning-dis-a-bil-i-ty n. a condition giving rise to difficulties in acquiring knowledge and skills to the level expected of those of the same age, esp. when not associated with a physical handicap. —learn-ing-dis-a-bled adj.

lease [ləs] n., v.: (usu. as vb. or pron. learn-ed] a leasehold; a property held by lease. —lease-hold n.

leash [ləʃ] n. a strap or cord for restraining a dog or other animal. —fig. a thong or string attached to the harness of a horse, used for taming it to a harness or other restraint. —fig. a restraint: a bristling temper was kept on a leash.

least [ləst] adj. & pron. (usu. the least) smallest in amount, extent, or significance: as adj., he never had the least idea what to do about it. as pron. it's the least I can do.

adj., used in names of very small animals and plants, e.g., least shrew. —least adj.

adv. to the smallest extent or degree: turning up when he last expected.

adv. at least 1 not less than; at minimum: the clean windows at least once a week. 2 if nothing else (used to add a positive comment about a generally negative situation): the opinions aren't complete, but at least they're a start. 3 anyway (used to modify something just stated): they seldom complained—officially at least. at the least [or very least] 1 (used after amounts) not less than; at: the minimum: stay ten days at the least. 2 taking the most pessimistic or unfavorable view: a program that is, at the very least, excellent PR for the hospital.

not in the least not at the smallest degree: not at all: he was not in the least taken aback. not least in particular; notably: there is a great deal at stake, not least in relation to the environment. to say the least used as an understatement (implying the reality is more extreme, usually worse): his performance was disappointing, to say the least.

least-com-mon mul-ti-ple n. another term for lowest common multiple.

leather [ˈleθər] n. 1 a material made from the skin of an animal by tanning or a similar process. 2 a thing made of leather. in particular: a piece of leather as a polishing cloth. —leathers] leather clothes, esp. those worn by a motorcyclist.

adj. int. of, relating to, or catering to people who wear leather clothing and accessories as a sign of rough masculinity, esp. homosexuals who practice sadomasochistic sex: leather bar.

v. [tr.] 1 cover with leather; dress in leather: dancers in leathered costumes. 2 beat or thrash: he caught me and leathered me black and blue. [as n.] (leathering) go, before you get a leathering. —leather-ry adj.

leather-back [ˈleθərˌbæk] also leatherback turtle n. a very large black turtle (Dermochelys coriacea, family Dermochelyidae) with a thick leather shell, living chiefly in tropical seas.

leatherette [ˈleθərˌeɪt] n. imitation leather.


leave [ləv] v. (past and past participle lead)

[tr.] 1 walk away from: she left New York on June 6th. the Bruins left for Boston on Monday. 2 allow to remain: the parts he disliked he would alter, and the parts he didn't dislike he'd leave. be left to remain to be used or dealt with: we've even got one of the plum puddings left over from last year. abandon (a spouse or partner), her boyfriend left her for another woman. have as (a surviving relative) after one's death: he left a wife and three children. bequeath: he left $500 to the Police Athletic League. 3 cause (someone or something) to be in a particular state or position: I'll leave the door open. let (someone) do or deal with something without offering help or assistance: infected people are often rejected by family and friends, leaving them to face this chronic condition alone. cause to remain as a trace or record: dark fruit that would leave purple stains on the table napkins. deposit or entrust to be kept, or to attend to. she left a note for me. [ir] leave something to entrust a decision, choice, or action to (someone else, esp. someone considered better qualified); the choice of which link to take is generally left up to the reader.

[phrasal v. with adv. or preposition] leave off [discontinue an activity]: the dog left off chasing the sheep. leave something out to omit to put on: a bolt may have been left off the plane's forward door during production. leave someone out something out of include: it seemed unkind to leave Daisy out; so she was invited, too.

[adj. or adv.] leave much (or a lot) to be desired: highly unsatisfactory.

leave [ləv] v. put forth leaves.

leaved [ˈleved] also leafed] adj. [in comb] having a leaf or leaves of a particular kind or number: broad-leaved evergreens.

leaven [ˈlɛvn] n. a substance, typically yeast, that is added to dough to make it ferment and rise. dough that is reserved from an earlier batch in order to start a later one fermenting. a perpetual influence that modifies something or transforms it for the better: they acted as an intellectual leaven to the warriors who dominated the city.

leaver [ˈlɛvər] n. 1 a lecherous man. —lecher-ous adj.

lecher-ous-ly [ˌlɛkərəsli] adv. having or showing excessive or offensive sexual desire: she ignored his lecherous gaze. —lecher-ous-ly adv. —lecher-ous-ness n.

lecher-o-ry [ˌlɛkəˈri] n. excessive or offensive sexual desire: lustfulness.

lec-thin [ˈleθtən] n. Biochem. a substance widely distributed in animal tissues, egg yolk, and some higher plants, consisting of phospholipids linked to choline.

lect-ten [ˈlektən] n. a tall stand with a sloping top to hold a book or notes, and from which someone, typically a preacher or lecturer, can read while standing up.

lection-ary [ˌlektʃəˈri] n. (pl. -aries) a list or book of portions of the Bible appointed to be read at a church service.

lecture [ˈlektʃər] n. an educational talk to an audience, esp. to students in a university or college. a long, serious speech, esp. one given as a scolding or reprimand: the usual lecture on table manners.

v. [intr.] give a lecture; lecture to a class or other audience: he was giving lectures about future generations of health-care professionals. [intr.] talk seriously or reprovingly to (someone); don't lecture me! —lecturer n.

lecture-ship [ˈlektʃərˌʃɪp] n. a post as a lecturer; a three-year lectureship in English literature.

LED [led]abbr. light-emitting diode, a semiconductor diode that glows when a voltage is applied.

led [lɛd] past and past participle of LEAD.

Pronunciation Key a, ago, up; or, ear, fur; a hat; ate, à; car, ch; chin; e, g, see; o(a)ir, i, it; h, /, a(r); air, t; ng; g, go, l, low, for, of, to; good, go; ou, out; sh, she; th, thin; th, then; th why, 2h vision
legatee

governor of an ancient Roman province, or their deputy: the Roman legate of Syria. —leg-at-ship, (-ship) n. —leg-a-tive, (-tiv) adj.

legate<br />

a person who receives a legacy.

legate<br />

a diplomatic minister, esp. one below the rank of ambassador, and their staff. —the official residence of a diplomatic minister. 2 archaic the position or office of legate: a legatship.

the sending of a legate, esp. a papal legate, on a mission.

legate<br />

adv & n. Mus. in a smooth, flowing manner, without breaks between notes. Compare with STACCATO.

legend<br />

n. 1 a traditional story sometimes popularly regarded as historical but unauthentic: the legend of King Arthur. 2 an extremely famous or notorious person, esp. in a particular field: he was a living legend. 3 an inscription, esp. on a coin or medal. —a caption: a picture of a tiger with the legend "Go ahead, make my day." 4 the wording on a map or diagram explaining the symbols used: see legend Fig. 1.

adj. very well known: his speed and ferocity in attack were legend.

legendary<br />

adj. 1, of, described in, or based on legends: a legendary British king of the 4th century. 2 remarkable enough to be famous; very well known: her wisdom in matters of childhood was legendary.

legend-ary<br />

adj. —legend-ari-ly, —legend-ari-ness n.

leg-end-ary<br />

adj. —leg-end-ari-ly, —leg-end-ari-ness n.

legend<br />

n. 1 a unit of 3,000-6,000 men in the ancient Roman army. 2 (the Legion) the Foreign Legion. 3 (the Legion) any of the national associations of former servicemen and servicewomen instituted after World War I. 4, as the American Legion. 5 (legions of) a vast host, multitude, or number of people or things: legions of photographers and TV cameras.

adj. —leg-end-ary

leg-gend-ary<br />

adj. —leg-end-ari-ly, —leg-end-ari-ness n.

legendary<br />

adj. —legend-ari-ly, —legend-ari-ness n.

lieutenant<br />

n. 1, a small, of lend skillful make a leg of the way. 2, the sending of a legate, esp. a papal legate, on a mission.

le-gia<br />

adj. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion-ary<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion-ary<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion-ary<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion-ary<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

leg<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion-naires<br />

adj. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

leg-ion-naires<br />

adj. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

leg<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

lei-brary<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

leg<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

le-gion<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.

lei-sure<br />

n. 1, a Polynesian garland of flowers.
length

smile lent his face a boyish charm. 3 (lend oneself to) accommodate or adapt oneself to; John stiffly lent himself to her enthusiastic embraces. 4 (lend itself to) (of a thing): be suitable for: lay windows lend themselves to blinds.

—lend-able adj. —lender n.

> lend an ear (one's ear) listen sympathetically or attentively; the Samaritans lend their ears to those in crisis. 5 lend one's name to allow oneself to be publicly associated with: he lent his name and prestige to the organizers of the project.

length /lend(θ)n/ n. 1 the measurement or extent of something; from end to end; the greater of two or the greatest of three dimensions of a body: the length of the airport terminal. 2 the amount of time occupied by something: delivery must be within a reasonable length of time. 3 the quality of being long: the length of the waiting list. 4 the full distance that a thing extends for: the muscles running the length of my spine. 5 (Prosody & Phonet.) the metrical quantity or duration of a vowel or syllable. 6 the extent of something, esp. as a unit of measurement, in particular: 7 the length of a swimming pool as a measure of the distance swum: fifty lengths of the pool. 8 the length of a horse, boat, etc., as a measure of the lead in a race: the mare won the race last year by seven lengths. 9 (one's length) the full extent of one's body: he awkwardly lowered his length into the small car. 10 (in bridge or whist) the number of cards of a suit held in one's hand, esp. when five or more. 11 a stretch or piece of something: a stout length of wood. 12 a degree or extremity to which a course of action is taken: they go to great lengths to avoid the press.

—at length 1 in detail; fully: these aspects have been discussed at length. 2 after a long time: at length she laid down the pencil. —the length and breadth of the whole extent of: women from the length and breadth of Russia.

lengthen /lenθ(θ)n/ v. 1 to make or become longer: [tr.] she lengthened her stride to catch up [in] the spring when the days are lengthening. 2 to make (a vowel or syllable) long.

lengthwise /lendθ(θ)zn/ adv. lengthwise.

lengthy /lendθ(θ)ni/ adj. lengthy.

lengthen /lenθ(θ)n/ v. 1 lengthening.

lengthless /lenθ(θ)lz/ adj. lengthless.

lengthwise /lendθ(θ)zn/ adv. in a direction parallel with a thing's length. 2 the potatoes lengthwise.

—lying or moving lengthwise: a lengthwise crack.

le-nient /'li:n ι nt/ adj. (of punishment or a person in authority) permissive, merciful, or tolerant: judges were far too lenient with petty criminals. —le-niency n. —le-niency adv. —le-niency n. —le-niency adv. —le-niency n.


le-no /'len ə n/ n. (pl. -nos) an openwork fabric with the warp threads twisted in pairs before weaving.

lens /lenz/ n. 1 a piece of glass or other transparent substance with curved sides for concentrating or dispersing light rays, used singly (as in a magnifying glass) or with other lenses (as in a telescope). 2 the light-gathering device of a camera, typically containing a group of compound lenses. 3 (Physics) an object or device that focuses or otherwise modifies the direction of movement of light, sound, electrons, etc. 4 Anat. the transparent elastic structure behind the iris by which light is focused onto the retina of the eye. 5 short for CONTACT LENS. 6 late 17th cent.: from Latin, 'lentil' (because of the similarity in shape). —lensed adj. —lens-less adj. —lens-less n.

Lent /lent/ n. the period preceding Easter that in the Christian Church is devoted to fasting, abstinence, and penitence in commemoration of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. In the Western Church it runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday and so includes forty weekdays.

lent /lent/ v. past and past participle of LEND.

Lenten /'lentən/ adj. (attrib.) of, in, or appropriate to Lent: Lenten food.

lentil /'lentəl/ adj. 1 shaped like a lentil, esp. by being biconvex: lentilier. 2 of or relating to the lens of the eye.

lentigio /'lentɪgjəʊ/ n. pl. -tigies (pl. -tig-i-nes) a condition marked by small brown patches on the skin, typically in elderly people. 2 late Middle English (denoting a freckle or pimple): from Latin, from lens. —lentil'.
loom
levy•ey •n., an embankment built to prevent the overflow of a river: a ridge of sediment deposited naturally alongside a river by overflowing water. a ridge of earth surrounding a field to be irrigated.

lev-e•e •[leˈvē] •n. a reception or assembly of people, in particular: a formal reception of visitors or guests. hst.: an afternoon assembly for men held by the British monarch or their representative. archa: a reception of visitors just after rising from bed.

lev-el •[levəl] •n. 1 a position on a real or imaginary scale of amount, quantity, extent, or quality: a high level of unemployment. 2 a height or distance from the ground or another stated or understood base: storms caused river levels to rise. 3 device consisting of a sealed glass tube partially filled with alcohol or other liquid, containing an air bubble whose position reveals whether a surface is perfectly level or plumb.

—Surveying an instrument for giving a horizontal line of sight. 4 a flat tract of land: flooded levels.

—adj. 1 having a flat and even surface without slopes or bumps; we had reached level ground. 2 at the same height as someone or something else: his eyes were level with hers. 3 having the same relative position: not in front of or behind: the car braked suddenly, then backed rapidly until it was level with me. 4 of a quantity of dry substance with the contents not rising above the brim of the measure: a level teaspoon of salt. 5 unchanged; not having risen or fallen: earnings were level at 57 cents a share.

2 calm and steady: "Adrian," she said in her most level voice.

& (eled, eling) also chiefly Brit. elled, eling. 1 [tr.] give a flat and even surface to: contractors started leveling the ground for the new power station. 2 [intr.] vary, pass from great to small: the river levels out begin to fly horizontally after climbing or diving.

—Surveying ascertain differences in the height of land. demolish (a building or town): bulldozers are now waiting to level their home.

2 [intr. (level off)] begin to fly horizontally after climbing or diving. 1 of a path, road, or incline cease to slope upward or downward: the track leveled out, and then below us was the bay. 2 cease to fall or rise in number, amount, or quantity: inflation has leveled out at an acceptable rate. 3 [tr.] (level something up/down) increase or reduce the amount, number, or quantity of something in order to remove a disparity.

3 [tr.] aim (a weapon); he leveled a long-barreled pistol at us. 4 [direct (a criticism or accusation): accusations of corruption had been leveled against him.

—lev-er [levər] •n. 1 an act of levying a tax, fee, or fine: union members were hit with a 2 percent levy on all pay. 2 a tax so raised. 3 a sum collected for a specific purpose, as a supplement to an existing subscription. 4 an item or set of items of property seized to satisfy a legal judgment. 5 an act of enlisting troops. 6 (usu. levies) a body of troops that have been enlisted: lightly armed local levies.

lev-er-able •[levərəbəl] •adj. 1 responsible by law; legally answerable: the supplier of goods or services can become liable for breach of contract in a variety of ways. 2 likely to do or to be something; patients were liable to faint if they were

level ratio of a company's loan capital (debt) to the value of its common stock (equity).

lev-er-age •[levərij, levərij] •n. 1 the exertion of force by means of a lever or an object used in the manner of a lever: my spade hit something solid that wouldn't respond to leverage. 2 mechanical advantage gained in this way: use a metal bar to increase the leverage. 3 fig. the power to influence a person or situation to achieve a particular outcome: the right wing had lost much of its political leverage in the Assembly. 2 Finance the
li-aise /ˈlɪəz/ v. intr. establish a working relationship, typically in order to cooperate on a matter of mutual concern: she will liaise with teachers across the country.

lai-son /ˈlɛəzɔ̃/ n. 1 communication or cooperation that facilitates a close working relationship between people or organizations; the head porter works in close liaison with the reception office. 2 a person who acts as a link to assist communication or cooperation between groups of people: he’s our liaison with a number of interested parties. 3 a sexual relationship, esp. one that is secret and involves unfaithfulness to a partner. 2 the binding or thickening agent of a sauce, often based on egg yolks. 3 Phenet. (in French and other languages) the sounding of a consonant that is normally silent at the end of a word before the word is followed with a vowel. (mid 17th cent.) from French, from Latin liberate.

lli-son-of-ficer n. a person who is employed to form a working relationship between two organizations to mutual benefit.

li-ar /ˈlɪər/ n. a person who tells lies.

lib /ˈlɪb/ n. int. (in the names of political movements) liberation: I’m all for women’s lib.

lib-bation /ˈlɪbəˈteɪʃən/ n. a drink poured out as an offering to a deity.

lib-ban /ˈlɪbən/ n. a drink defamed. Compare with SLANDER.

lib-bi-ous /ˈlɪbərəs/ adj. containing or constituting a library: a libulous newspaper story.

liberal /ˈlɪbərəl/ adj. 1 open to new behavior or opinions and willing to discard traditional values: they have more liberal views toward marriage and divorce than some people. 2 favorable to or respectful of individual rights and freedoms: liberal citizenship laws. (in a political context) favoring maximum individual liberty in political and social reform: a liberal democratic state. 3 (of education) concerned mainly with broadening a person’s general knowledge and experience, rather than with technical or professional training.

liber-al /ˈlɪbərəl/ adj. (esp. of an interpretation of a law) broadly construed or understood; not strictly literal or exact: they could have given the 1968 Act a more liberal interpretation. 4 given, used, or occurring in generous amounts: liberal amounts of wine had been consumed. 5 of a person: giving generously; Sam was too liberal with the wine.

liberal-help /ˈlɪbərəl/ n. a person of liberal views.

lib-er-al /ˈlɪbərəl/ adj. 1 a supporter or member of a Liberal Party. 2 Middle English: via Old French from Latin liber, ‘free (man),’ The original sense was ‘suitable for a free man,’ hence ‘suitable for a gentleman’ (one not tied to a trade), surviving in liberal arts. Another early sense ‘generous’ gave rise to an obsolete meaning ‘free from restraint,’ leading to sense 1 (late 18th cent.). 3 (of education) concerned mainly with broadening a person’s general knowledge and experience, rather than with technical or professional training.

liberal-arts /ˈlɪbərəl/ n. academic subjects such as literature, philosophy, mathematics, and social and physical sciences as distinct from professional and technical subjects.

liberal-ty /ˈlɪbərəl/ n. 1 the quality of giving or spending freely. 2 the quality of being open to new ideas and free from prejudice: liberality toward bisexuality.

liberal-ize /ˈlɪbərəl/ v. [tr. remove or loosen restrictions on something, typically an economic or political basis; several agreements to liberalize trade were signed. 1 the act of becoming or being liberal: liberalization.

liberate /ˈlɪbərət/ v. [tr. set (someone) free from a situation, esp. imprisonment or slavery, in which their liberty is severely restricted: the war had liberated slaves from the southern plantations. 2 to release (gas, energy, etc.) as a result of chemical reaction or physical decomposition: energy liberated by the annihilation of antimatter.

lib-er-ary /ˈlɪbərəri/ n. an adherent of libertarianism: [as adj. libertarian philosophy. 2 a person who advocates civil liberty.

lib-er-tarian /ˈlɪbərterrəneən/ n. an adherent of libertarianism: [as adj. libertarian philosophy. 2 a person who advocates civil liberty.

lib-ber-line /ˈlɪbərˌlaɪn/ n. 1 a person, esp. a man, who behaves without moral principles or a sense of responsibility, esp. in sexual matters. 2 a person who rejects accepted opinions in matters of religion: a freethinker.

lib-er-tarian-ism /ˈlɪbərterrənɪzəm/ n. the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one’s way of life, behavior, or political views: compulsory retirement would interfere with individual liberty. [usu. liberties] an instance of this; a right or privilege, esp. a statutory one; the Bill of Rights was intended to secure basic civil liberties. 2 the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved; people who have lost property or liberty without due process. 3 a power or scope to act as one pleases: individuals should enjoy the liberty to pursue their own interests and preferences. 4 a person’s freedom from control by fate or necessity. 5 a presumptuous remark or action: how did he know what she was thinking? —it was a liberty! 6 a. Naut. shore leave granted to a sailor.

lib-bi-ous /ˈlɪbərəs/ adj. showing excessive sexual drive; lustful.


lib-psychoanalysis /ˈlɪbpsi/ n. the energy of the sexual drive as a component of the life instinct.

lib-phil /ˈlɪbərəl/ n. 1 Astron. a small constellation (the Scales or Balance), said to represent the balance that is the symbol of justice. It contains no bright stars. 2 a Librarian. 3 a Librarian.

lib-rian /ˈlɪbrən/ n. a person, typically with a degree in library science, who administers or assists in a library.

lib-rary /ˈlɪbrəri/ n. a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for people to read, borrow, or refer to. a collection of books and periodicals held in such a building or room: the institute houses an outstanding library of 35,000 volumes on the fine arts. a collection of films, recorded music, genetic material, etc., organized systematically and kept for research or borrowing; a recording library. a series of books, recordings, etc., issued by the same company and similar in appearance. a room in a private house where books are kept. a library of a person.

lib-ri-ty /ˈlɪbrətɪ/ n. the freedom to do something without first asking permission: I have taken the liberty of submitting an idea to several of their research departments.

li-bri-nous /ˈlɪbrɪnəs/ adj. licentious.

li-bri-to /ˈlɪbrɪtəʊ/ n. the text of an opera or other long vocal work.
imperative] int. start living a fuller or more interesting existence; if he's a jerk, then get yourself out of there and get a life. [give one's life for die for. • larger than life (of a person) attracting special attention because of unusual and flamboyant appearance or behavior. (of a thing) seeming disproportionately important: your problems seem larger than life at that time of night. • the life of the party a vivacious and sociable person. • take one's life in one's hands risk being killed.

life-and-death adj. deciding whether someone lives or dies; vitally important: life-and-death decisions.

life-belt /'fɪl bɛlt/ n. a life preserver in the shape of a belt.

life-blood /'fɪl blʌd/ n. the blood, as being necessary to life. • fig. the indispensable factor or influence that gives something its strength and vitality: my family was the lifeblood of the church.

life-boat /'fɪl bɔt/ n. a specially constructed boat launched from land to rescue people in distress at sea. • a small boat kept on a ship for use in an emergency, typically one of a number on deck or suspended from davits. • lifeboatman /'fɪl bɔt-mən/ pl. -men.

life-buoy /'fɪl bɔ-ə/ n. a life preserver, esp. one in the shape of a ring.

life-cycle n. the series of changes in the life of an organism, including reproduction.

life-expectancy n. the average period that a person may expect to live.

life-force n. the power or influence that gives something its vitality or strength: the passionate life force of the symphony. • the spirit or energy that animates living creatures; the soul.

life-giving adj. sustaining or revitalizing life; the life-giving water of baptism.

life-guard /'fɪl ɡɑrd/ n. an expert swimmer employed to rescue people who get into difficulty in a swimming pool or at the beach.

• v. [intr.] work as a lifeguard.

life-insurance n. insurance that pays out a sum of money either on the death of the insured person or after a set period.

life-jacket n. a sleeveless buoyant or inflatable jacket for keeping a person afloat in water.

life jacket
light

lighte

lighten

lighter

light-house

light-house

light-house

light-weight

light-weight
linguist /ˈlɪŋgwɪst/ n. 1 a person skilled in foreign languages. 2 a person who studies linguistics.

linguistic /ˈlɪŋgwɪstɪk/ adj. of or relating to language or linguistics.

linguistics /ˈlɪŋgwɪstɪks/ plural n. the scientific study of language and its structure, including the study of morphology, syntax, phonetics, and semantics. Specific branches of linguistics include sociolinguistics, dialectology, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, historical-comparative linguistics, and applied linguistics.

linguistically /ˈlɪŋgwɪstɪkli/ adv.

linament /ˈlɪnəmənt/ n. a liquid or lotion, esp. one made with oil, for rubbing on the body to relieve pain.

lining /ˈlɪnɪŋ/ n. 1 a layer of different material covering the inside surface of something: a lining of fireproof insulation. 2 an additional layer of different material attached to the inside of a garment or curtain to make it warmer or hang better: leather gloves with fur linings.

link /link/ n. 1 a relationship between two things or situations, esp. where one thing affects the other: investigating a link between pollution and forest decline.

something that enables communication between people: sign language interpreters represent a vital link between the deaf and hearing communities. 2 a means of contact by radio, telephone, or computer between two points: they set up a satellite link with Tokyo. 3 a means of travel or transport between two places: a rail link from Newark to Baltimore.

link-up /ˈlɪnkʌp/ n. 1 an instance of two or more people or things connecting or joining. 2 a connection enabling two or more people or machines to communicate with each other: a live satellite link.

li-no-cut /ˈlɪnəkʌt/ n. a design or form carved in relief on a block of linoleum, a print made from such a block. —li-no-cut-ting n.

li-no-le-um /ˌlɪnəˈlem/ n. a material consisting of a canvas backing thickly coated with a preparation of linseed oil and powdered cork, used esp. as a floor covering. —li-no-le-umed adj.

li-san-g /ˈlɪsən/ n. a small relation of the civet, with a spotted or banded coat and a long tail, found in the forests of Southeast Asia and West Africa.

li-seed /ˈlɪsɪd/ n. the seeds of the flax plant, which are the source of linseed and linseed cake. Also flaxseed. —li-seed oil, linseed.

li-seed oil /ˈlɪsɪd/ n. a pale yellow oil extracted from linseed, used esp. in paint and varnish.

li-te /ˈlɪti/ n. short, fine fibers that separate from the surface of cloth or yarn during processing. —li-ted adj.

li-tel /ˈlɪtəl/ n. a horizontal support of timber, stone, concrete, or steel across the top of a door or window. —li-telled adj.

Linux /ˈlɪnʊks/ n. trademark an open-source version of the UNIX operating system.

li-on /ˈlɪən/ n. 1 a large tawny-colored cat (Panthera leo) that lives in prides, found in Africa and northwestern India. 2 (the Lion) the zodiacal sign or constellation Leo. 3 fig. a brave or strong person. 4 an influential or celebrated person: a literary lion. 5 (the Lion) a member of a lions club.

li-ness /ˈlɪnəs/ n.

li-on-hearted /ˈlɪənˌhɑːtəd/ adj. brave and determined.

li-on-ize /ˈlɪənˌaɪz/ v. [tr.] give a lot of public attention and approval to (someone); treat as a celebrity: modern athletes are lionized. —li-on-iza-tion /ˌlɪənəˈzaʃən/ n. —li-on-izer n.

li-on’s share n. the biggest or greatest part: William was appointed editor, which meant that he did the lion’s share of the work.

lip /lɪp/ n. 1 either of the two fleshy parts that form the upper and lower edges of the mouth: he kissed her on the lips. 2 lips used to refer to a person’s speech or to current topics of conversation: downvoting is on everyone’s lips at the moment. 3 the edge of a hollow container or an opening: drawing her finger around the lip of the cup.

v. [t.](lipped, lip-ping) [tr.] (of water) lap against: beaches lapped by the surf rimming the Pacific. 2 give the rim of (a hole) but fail to go in: —lip-less adj.


—lip one’s lip repress an emotion; stifle laughter or a retort: she bit her lip to stop the ris of bitter words. —curl one’s lip raise a corner of one’s upper lip to show contempt; sneer.

—l (or smack) one’s lips look forward to something with relish; show one’s satisfaction.

—pass one’s lips be eaten, drank, or spoken.

—pay lip service to express approval of or support for (something) without taking any significant action.

lip-gloss /ˈlɪpˌɡlɑs/ n. a cosmetic applied to the lips to provide a glossy finish, often tinted.

lipid /ˈlɪpɪd/ n. Chem. any of a class of organic compounds that are fatty acids or their derivatives and are insoluble in water but soluble in organic solvents. They include many natural oils, waxes, and steroids.

lip-oid /ˈlɪpəʊd/ adj. (also lip-oid-al) Biochem. relating to or resembling fat.

—lip-o-pro-tein /ˌlɪpəˈprəʊtən/ n. (also protein) any of a group of soluble proteins that combine with and transport fat or other lipids in the blood.

lip-o-suction /ˌlɪpəˌsʌkʃən/ n. a technique in cosmetic surgery for removing excess fat from under the skin by suction.

lip-py /ˈlɪpi/ adj. (pier.-piest) 1 insolent; imperious. 2 having prominent lips.

lip-read /ˌlɪpˌrɛd/ n. (also lip-reading) v. [intr.] (of a deaf person) understand speech from observing a speaker’s lip movements. —lip-reader n.

lip-stick /ˈlɪpstɪk/ n. colored cosmetic applied to the lips from a small solid stick.

lip-sync /ˌlɪpˌsɪŋk/ n. (also lip-synch) v. [tr.] (of an actor or singer) move the lips silently in synchronization with a recorded soundtrack.

—lip-syn-cer n.

lip-quey /ˈlɪpki/ adj. (also lip-liquy) v. [tr. and intr.] make or become liquid: [tr.] the minimum pressure required to liquefy a gas —lip-que-facti-ve /ˌlɪpkəˈfaktɪv/ adj.

—lip-que-flap /ˌlɪpkiˈflæp/ adj. —lip-que-fer n.

li-queur /ˈlɪkwɔːr/ n. a strong, sweet flavored alcoholic liquor, usually drunk after a meal.

li-quid /ˈlɪkwɪd/ adj. 1 having a consistency like that of water or oil, i.e., flowing freely but of constant volume. 2 having the clear shimer of water: looking into those liquid dark eyes. 3 denoting a substance normally a gas that has been liquefied by cold or pressure: liquid oxygen. 4 not fixed or stable; fluid. 2 of (a sound) clear, pure, and flowing; harmonious: the liquid song of the birds. 3 Phonot. (of a consonant) produced by allowing the airstream to flow over the sides of the tongue, typically l and r, and able to be prolonged like a vowel. 4 (of assets) held in cash or easily converted into cash. 5 having ready cash or liquid assets. 6 (of a market) having a high volume of activity.

—liquid-ly adv. —liquid-ness n.

li-quid-ate /ˌlɪkwɪdət/ v. [tr.] 1 wind up the affairs of a company or firm by ascertaining liabilities and apportioning assets. 2 (of a company) undergo such a process. 3 convert (assets) into cash: a plan to liquidate $10 million worth of property over seven years. 4 pay off (a debt). 5 eliminate, typically by violent means; kill. —li-quid-a-tion /ˌlɪkwɪdəˈʃən/ n. —li-quid-at-er /ˌlɪkwɪdətər/ n.

li-quid crystal /ˈlɪkwɪd/ n. a substance that flows like a liquid but has some degree of ordering in the arrangement of its molecules.

—li-quid crystal display n. a form of visual display used in electronic devices in which a layer of a liquid crystal is sandwiched between two transparent electrodes.

—li-quid-cry stal /ˈlɪkwɪd/ n. Finance the availability of liquid assets to a market or company. 2 liquid assets; cash. 3 a high volume of activity in a market.

—li-quid measure n. a unit for measuring the volume of liquids.

li-quor /ˈlɪkwɔːr/ n. 1 alcoholic drink, esp. distilled spirits. 2 a liquid produced or used in a process of some kind. 3 Middle English (denoting liquid or something to drink) from Old French liçour, from Latin liquor; related to liquire ‘liquify,’ liqueur ‘be fluid.’

—phrasal v. li-quor up or li-quor someone up int. get (or make some- one) drunk.
lir-a /'laɪərə/ n. (pl. lir-e /'laɪəri/ or lir-a /'laɪərə) 1 the basic monetary unit of Italy (until replaced by the euro), notionally equal to 100 centesimi. 2 the basic monetary unit of Turkey, equal to 100 kurus.

lisle /lɪs/ n. a fine, smooth cotton thread used formerly for hose or stockings.

Lisp /lɪsp/ (also LISp) n. a high-level computer programming language devised for list processing.

Lisp /lɪsp/ n. a speech defect in which s is pronounced like th in thick and z is pronounced like th in this.

LIST [list] n. 1 a number of connected items or names written or printed consecutively, typically one below the other: writing a shopping list. 2 lists n. barriers enclosing an area for a jousting tournament. 3 the scene of a contest or combat. 4 a salvage of a piece of fabric.

LISTEN [lɪsɛn] v. [int. give one's attention to a sound: sit and listen to the radio. 2 take notice of and act on what someone says; respond to advice or a request: I told her over and over again, but she wouldn't listen.

listen /lɪsɛn/ v. [int.] to make a list of: I have listed four reasons below. 2 (often be listed) include or enter in a list: 93 men were still listed as missing.

LISTENING POST n. a station for intercepting electronic communications. 2 a position from which to listen or gather information.

LITERARY /'lɪtəri/ adj. 1 a person who listens, esp. someone who does so in an attentive manner. 2 a person listening to a radio station or program.

LITERATURE /'lɪtərətʃər/ n. the body of written works, the history of the development of the written word, or the areas of study that involve the creation of written material.

LITERARY /'lɪtərəri/ adj. 1 concerning the writing, study, or content of literature, esp. of the kind valued for quality of form: the great literary works of the nineteenth century. 2 associated with literary works or other formal writing: having a marked style intended to create a particular emotional effect.

LITERATE /'lɪtətɪd/ adj. (of a person) able to read and write. 2 having or showing education or knowledge, typically in a specified area: we need people who are economically and politically literate.

LITHO /'lɪθəʊ/ n. (pl. -OS) short for LITHOGRAPHY or LITHOGRAPH.

LITHOGRAPHY /'lɪθəɡrɑːfɪ/ n. a graphic print by lithography: [as adj.] lithographed a set of lithographed drawings.

LITHOGRAPHIC /'lɪθəɡrɑːfɪk/ adj. of, relating to, or resulting from lithography.

LITHOGRAPHY /'lɪθəɡrɑːfɪ/ n. the process of printing from a flat surface treated so as to repel the ink except where it is required for printing.

LITHOSPHERE /'lɪθəspɔːr/ n. Geol. the rigid outer part of the earth, consisting of the crust and upper mantle.

LITHOTOMY /'lɪθətəmə/ n. surgical removal of a calculus (stone) from the bladder, kidney, or urinary tract.

LITHUANIAN /'lɪθuəniən/ adj. or of relating to Lithuania or its people or language.

LITE /'laɪt/ n. 1 a native or citizen of Lithuania, or a person of Lithuanian descent. 2 the Baltic language of Lithuania.

LITIGANT /'laɪtɪɡənt/ n. a person involved in a lawsuit.

LITIGATE /'laɪtɪɡeɪt/ v. [tr.] to go to law; be a party to a lawsuit. 2 (tr.) to take a claim or a dispute to a court of law.

LITIGATION /'laɪtɪɡeɪʃən/ n. the process of going to law to settle disputes. 2 a suit or dispute by which one seeks to become the subject of a lawsuit.

LITIGIOUS /'laɪtɪdʒəs/ adj. concerned with lawsuits or litigation. 2 unreasonably prone to go to law to settle disputes, esp. to become the subject of a lawsuit.
loading /ˈlɑːdɪŋ/ n. 1. the application of a mechanical load or force to something. 2. the application of an extra amount of something to balance some other factor. 3. an increase in an insurance premium due to a factor increasing the risk involved.

> adj. [in comb.] (of a gun, machine, or truck) loaded in a specified way: a front-loading dishwasher.

loaf /loʊf/ n. (pl. loaves /loʊvz/) bread that is shaped and baked in one piece and usually sliced before being eaten: a loaf of bread. loan formed in a usu. oblong shape, and often sliced into portions.

> v. [intr.] idle one's time away, typically by aimless wandering or loitering; don't let him see you loafing around with your hands in your pockets.

loafer /ˈloʊfər/ n. 1. a person who idles time away. 2. trademark a leather shoe shaped like a moccasin, with a low flat heel.

incision into the prefrontal lobe of the brain, formerly used to treat mental illness.

lobster /ˈlɑbstər/ n. a large marine crustacean (Homarus and other genera, class Malacostraca) with stalked eyes and the first of its five pairs of limbs modified as pincers. Several species include the American lobster (H. americanus), the flesh of this animal as food. 2. any of various similar crustaceans, esp. certain crayfish whose claws are eaten as food.

> v. [intr.] catch lobsters. Old English lopustre, alteration of Latin locusta 'crustacean, locust.'

lobster pot (also lobster trap) n. a crate-like or basket-like trap in which lobsters are caught.

local /ˈləʊkl/ adj. belonging or relating to a particular area or neighborhood, typically exclusively so: researching local history. 2. denoting a telephone call made to a nearby place and charged at a relatively low rate. 3. denoting a train or bus serving a particular district, with frequent stops: the town has an excellent local bus service. Compare with EXPRESS. 4. (in technical use) relating to a particular region or part, or to each of any number of these: a local infection. 5. Comput. denoting a variable or other entity that is only available for use in one part of a program. 6. Comput. denoting a device that can be accessed without the use of a network. Compare with REMOTE.

> n. a local person or thing, in particular: an inhabitant of a particular area or neighborhood: the street was full of locals and tourists. 2. a local train or bus service: catch the local into New Delhi. 3. a local branch of an organization, esp. a labor union. 4. short for LOCAL ANESTHESIA. 5. Stock Exchange slang a floor trader who trades on their own account, rather than on behalf of other investors. —locally adv. —locality n.

color /ˈləʊkər/ n. 1. the customs, manner of speech, dress, or other typical features of a place or period that contribute to its particular character: reporters in search of local color and gossip. 2. Art the natural color of a thing in ordinary daylight, uninfluenced by the proximity of other colors.

local anesthesia n. anesthesia that affects a restricted area of the body. Compare with GENERAL ANESTHESIA.

local area network (abbr.: LAN) n. a computer network that links devices within a building or group of adjacent buildings.

local color n. 1. the customs, manner of speech, dress, or other typical features of a place or period that contribute to its particular character: reporters in search of local color and gossip. 2. Art the natural color of a thing in ordinary daylight, uninfluenced by the proximity of other colors.

local color ˈləʊkal ˈkʌrər/ n. (pl. -ties) the position or site of something: the rock's size and locality. 2. an area or neighborhood, esp. as regarded as a place occupied by certain people or as the scene of particular activities.

local time n. time as reckoned in a particular region or time zone.

locomotive /ˈləʊkətiv/ v. [tr.] discover the exact place or position of: engine drivers working to locate the fault. 2. (usu. be located) situate in a particular place: the popular apartments are centrally located. 3. place within a particular context: they locate their policies in terms of wealth creation. 4. early 16th cent.: from Latin locātus 'placed,' from the verb locāre, from locās 'place.' The original sense was as a legal term meaning 'rent out.' 5. late 16th cent.: 'assign to a particular place,' then 'establish in a place.' The sense 'discover the exact position of' dates from the late 19th cent. —locative /ˈləʊkətɪv/ adj. relating to or denoting a case in some languages of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives, expressing location.

locale /ˈləʊkl/ n. the locative the locative case. 2. a word in the locative case.

locomotive /ˈləʊkətiv/ v. [tr.] locate. 2. place: the locomotive is located on the track. — locative /ˈləʊkl/ adj. — locative /ˈləʊkl/ n. the locative case.

lodge /ˈlɑrdʒ/ n. 1. a mechanism for keeping a door, lid, etc., fastened, typically operated only by a key of a particular form: the key turned firmly in the lock. 2. a similar device used to prevent the operation or movement
LOGO /'lɒgəʊ/ n. (pl. -gos) a symbol or other small design adopted by an organization to identify its products, uniform, vehicles, etc.; the Olympic logo was emblazoned across their jackets.

log-book /'lɒg-bʊk/ n. 1. a book kept after or during an activity to record details of performance. 2. a log book kept for a ship, aircraft, etc.

LOGO /'lɒgəʊ/ n. (pl. -gos) a computer language developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which is typically introduced to children when learning the principles of programming.
long ago  n. (after a noun of duration) throughout a specified period of time: it rained all day long. 2 [with reference to the ball in sports] at. to. or over a great distance, or further than expected or intended: the quarterback dropped back and threw the ball long. —long-ish adj.

- as (or so) long as 1 during the whole time that: they have been there as long as anyone can remember. 2 provided that: as long as you feel him, he would be cooperative.
- be long to take a long time to happen or arrive: sit down, tea won't be long. 3 in the long run over or after a long period of time; eventually: it saves money in the long run. 4 the long and the short of it all that can or need be said: the long and short of it is that he got himself mugged. 5 long in the tooth rather old. 6 long time no see inf. it's a long time since we last met (used as a greeting). 7 not by a long shot inf. no way; we're not there yet, not by a long shot.

long: v. [inter] have a strong wish or desire: she longed for a little more excitement.

long-board /'loŋbɔrd/  n. a type of long surfboard.

longboat /'lɔŋbɔt/  n. a large boat that may be launched from a sailing ship.

long-bow /'lɔŋbəʊ/  n. a large bow drawn by hand and shooting a long feathered arrow. It was the chief weapon of English armies from the 14th century until the introduction of firearms.

long distance  adj. (usu. long-distance) traveling or operating between distant places: a long-distance truck driver.

-long adv. between distant places: traveling long distance.

long [often as adj.]  n. [Track & Field] a race distance of 6 miles or 10,000 meters (6 miles 376 yds). or longer: a long-distance runner.

long division  n. arithmetical division in which the divisor has two or more figures, and a series of steps is made as successive groups of digits of the dividend are divided by the divisor, to avoid excessive mental calculation.

long-drawn (often long-drawn-out)  adj. continuing for a long time, esp. for longer than is necessary: long-drawn-out negotiations.

long-eved /'lɔŋi:vəd/  adj. /lɔŋ/  n. long life; the greater longevity of women compared with men. 2 long duration of service: her longevity in office now appeared as a handicap to the party.

long-hand /'lɔŋhænd/  n. ordinary handwriting (as opposed to shorthand, typing, or printing); he wrote out the reply in longhand [as adj.] a longhand draft.

long haul  n. a long distance (in reference to the transport of freight or passengers). 2 a prolonged and difficult effort or task; getting the proposal passed is likely to be a long haul.

-long over the long haul an extended period of time.

long-horn /'lɔŋhɔrn/  n. 1 an animal of a breed of cattle with long horns. 2 (also longhorn beetle) an elongated beetle (family Cerambycidae) with long antennae, the larva of which typically bores in wood and can be a pest of timber.

long-house /'lɔŋhaus/  n. a type of dwelling housing a family and animals under one roof. 2 hist. the traditional dwelling of the Iroquois and other North American Indians. 3 a large communal village house in parts of Malaysia and Indonesia.

long-ing /'lɔŋıŋ/  n. a yearning desire: a wistful longing for the old days. 2 adj. having or showing such desire: her longing eyes. —longingly adv.

longitude /'lɔŋɡitud/  n. 1 the angular distance of a place east or west of the meridian at Greenwich, England, or west of the standard meridian of a celestial object, usually expressed in degrees and minutes: at a longitude of 2° W.

longitudinal /'lɔŋɡjʊtal/  adj. running lengthwise rather than across: longitudinal stripes. 2 [of research or data] involving information about an individual or group gathered over a long period of time. 3 of or relating to longitude: measured from east to west: longitudinal positions. —longitudinally adv.

long jump /'lɔŋdʒʌmp/  n. an athletic event in which competitors jump as far as possible along the ground in one leap. —long-jumper n.

long-leafl pine /'lɔŋləf/  n. long-leafl pine tree of the southeastern U.S. with very long needles and cones. It was formerly an important source of turpentine.

long-lived /'lɔŋlaʊd/  adj. living or lasting a long time.

long-range /'lɔŋrɛŋ/  adj. 1 (esp. of vehicles or missiles) able to be used or be effective over long distances: long-range bombers. 2 relating to a period of time that extends far into the future: long-range plans.
look-alike /'luk,alika/ n. a person or thing that closely resembles another, esp. someone who looks very similar to a famous person: an Elvis Presley look-alike.

look on /'luk,ən/ n. (pl. lookers-on) a person who is a spectator rather than a participant in a situation.

looking glass /'luk,ɪŋg/ n. a mirror; she stared at her reflection in the looking glass.

look-out /'luk,aut/ n. (pl. lookouts) a place from which to keep watch or view landscape.

look-see /'luk,si/ n. a brief look or inspection; we are just about to take a little looksee around the hotel.

loom /'lu:m/ n. an apparatus for making fabric by weaving yarn or thread.

loom /v. [intr.] appear as a shadowy form, esp. one that is large or threatening; vehicles loomed out of the darkness.

loop /v. [intr.] make (something tied, fastened, or fixed in place) less tight or firm; loosen your collar and tie.

loop /n. a length of thread, rope, or similar material, doubled or crossing itself, typically used as a fastening or handle.

loop /n. a shape produced by a curve that bends around and crosses itself.

loop-the-loop /'lu:p,θi,lu:p/ a maneuver in which an aircraft describes a vertical circle in the air.

loop /v. [intr.] form (something) into a loop or loops; encircle: she looped her arms around his neck.

loop /v. follow a course that forms a loop or loops: the canal loops for two miles through the city.

loop-hole /'lu:p,hoʊl/ n. 1 an ambiguity or inadequacy in the law or a set of rules: they exploited tax loopholes.

loop-the-loop /'lu:p,θi,lu:p/ adv. loop-the-loop (loop-the-loop-test) 1 int. crazy or silly: the author comes across as a bit loopy.

loose /ləʊs/ adj. 1 not firmly or tightly fixed in place; a loose tooth.

loose /n. a person or thing that closely resembles another, esp. someone who looks very similar to a famous person: an Elvis Presley look-alike.

loos-en /'luːsən/ v. [intr.] release; he loosened his grip suddenly.

loosen /v. loosen up in preparation for an activity: arrive early to loosen up and hit some practice shots.

loosen /v. loosen someone's tongue make someone talk freely.

loose-strife /'luːsə straɪf/ n. any of various tall plants that bear upright spikes of flowers, in particular purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria), family Lythraceae, and the yellow-flowered garden loosestrife (Lysimachia vulgaris) of the primrose family.

loose-eyed /'luːsə 'gaʊzd/ adj. int. not tense and relaxed: other guys can goof around, be all loosey-goosey before a game.

loot /lu:t/ n. goods, esp. private property, taken from an enemy in war, stolen money or valuables: two men wearing stacking masks, each swinging a bag of loot.

loup /lɔːp/ v. [intr.] run or move with a long bounding stride: the dog was loping along by his side.

loup /n. a long bounding stride; they set off at a fast loup.

looped /luːpt/ adj. (of an animal) having ears that droop down by the sides of the head: a looped-eared male.

loop-sided /'luːp,saɪd/ adj. with one side lower or smaller than the other: a loop-sided grin.

loop-sided-ly /'luːp,saɪdli/ adv. loop-sided-ness n.

loqua-cious /'ləʊkwəsəs/ adj. talkative, loquacious-ly adv. loquacious-ness n.

lord /lɔːrd/ n. someone or something having power, authority, or influence: lord of the sea.

loopy /'luːpi/ adj. loop the loop.

look /v. [intr.] used in exclamations expressing surprise or worry, or for emphasis: lord, I'm cold! 

look /v. [intr.] archaic confer the title of Lord upon. 2 Lord it over act in a superior and domineering manner toward (someone).
Lord Pro-tec-tor n. see PROTECTOR (sense 3).
Lord-ship ([lord-ship] n. supreme power or rule: his lordship over the other gods. 2. ARCHIVE the authority or state of being a lord. 3. HIST. a piece of land or territory belonging to or under the jurisdiction of a lord: lands including the lordship of Denbigh.
lor-é ([lor-é] n. a body of traditions and knowledge on a subject or held by a particular group, typically passed from person to person by word of mouth: the otherworld of Celtic lore / baseball lore.
lor-gnet-ter ([lor-gnet-ter]) n. Also lor-gnet-ter-ry. A pair of glasses or opera glasses held in front of a person's eyes by a long handle at one side. Early 19th C.: from French, from longe-ter 'to squat.'
lorn ([lorn] adj. poet. alone and abandoned; forlorn.
lory ([lory] n. pl. -pies) a small Australasian and Southeast Asian parrot (family Loriciformes, or Psittacidae) with a brush-tipped tongue for feeding on nectar and pollen, having mainly green plumage with patches of bright color.
lose ([loz] v. past and past part. lost, lost.) [O.E.] 1. to be deprived of or cease to have or retain (something): I've lost my appetite. 2. cause (someone) to fail to gain or retain (something): you lost me my appointment at the university. 3. (be lost) to be destroyed or killed, esp. through accident or as a result of military action: a fishing disaster in which 19 local men were lost. 4. decrease in (body weight); undergo a reduction of (a specified amount of time or opportunity); they lost every chance to score in the first inning. 5. (of a watch or clock) become slow by (a specified amount of time): this clock will neither gain nor lose a second. 6. (lose it) int. lose control of one's temper or emotions: in the end I completely lost it—I was screaming at them. 7. become unable to find (something) or someone: I've lost the ear keys. 8. evade or shake off (a pursuer); he came after me waging his revolver, but I easily shot him. 9. get rid of (an undesirable person or thing): lose that creep! 10. cause (someone) to be unable to follow an argument or explanation: sorry, Tim, you've lost me there. 11. (lose oneself in/be lost in) be or become deeply absorbed in (something); he had been lost in thought. 12. fail to win (a game or contest); the Bears lost the final game of the series. 13. earn less (money) than one is spending or has spent: the paper is losing $500,000 a month. —pl. 1. lose out be deprived of an opportunity to do or obtain something: he disqualified two registrants who were losing out on regular schooling. 2. be beaten in competition or replaced by: they were disappointed at losing out to Chicago in the playoffs. 3. have nothing to lose be in a situation that is so bad that even if an action or undertaking is unsuccessful, it cannot make any worse.
—lose face come to be less highly respected: he was trying to work out how he could go back home without losing face. 4. lose heart become discouraged.
—lose one's mind (or one's marbles) int. go insane. 5. lose sleep worry about something: no one is losing any sleep over what he thinks of it. 6. can't you lose used to express the conviction that someone must inevitably profit from an action or undertaking: we're offering them for only $5.00—you can't lose.
loser ([loz-er] n.) 1. a person or thing that loses or has lost something, esp. a game or contest. 2. a person who fails frequently or is generally unsuccessful in life: a raggtag community of rejects and losers. 3. Bridge a card that is expected to be part of a losing trick.
losing battle n. a struggle that seems certain to end in failure: the police force is fighting a losing battle against a rising tide of crime.
loss ([los] n.) 1. the fact or process of losing something or someone: avoiding loss of life in mining industries. 2. the state or feeling of grief when deprived of someone or something of value: I feel a terrible sense of loss. 3. the detriment or disadvantage resulting from losing: his fall from power was no loss to the world. 4. a person or thing that is badly missed when lost: he will be a great loss to many people.
—loss at a loss 1. puzzled or uncertain what to think, say, or do: he was at a loss for words. 2. making less money than is spent buying, operating, or producing something: a railroad running at a loss.
loss-leader n. a product sold at a loss to attract customers.
lost ([lost] adj.) past and past participle of lose.
lower-er /ˈlouər/ noun. 1. [countable] [plural lower-ers] a person who tends to keep one's voice down.
2. [uncountable] a decrease or reduction.

lower-level /ˈləʊər-ləv/ adj. 1. of a lower level, rank, or position.
2. relating to a lower level, rank, or position.

lower-limit /ˈləʊər-ˌlɪmɪt/ noun. 1. the lowest limit or value.
2. the lowest limit or value of a range.

lower-order /ˈləʊər-ˌɔr-ər/ adj. 1. of lower order, rank, or importance.
2. of lower order, rank, or importance.

lower-part /ˈləʊər-ˌpɑrt/ noun. 1. the lower part or section of a place.
2. the lower part or section of a place.

lowering /ˈləʊərɪŋ/ verb. 1. to bring down or lower.
2. to reduce or lower.

lower-level /ˈləʊər-ˌləv/ adjective.
lower-order /ˈləʊər-ˌɔr-ər/ adjective.
lower-part /ˈləʊər-ˌpɑrt/ adjective.
lowering /ˈləʊərɪŋ/ adjective.
fulfilled: "Moving in?" "You should be so lucky." ½ lucky devil (or lucky you, her, etc.) used to express envy at someone else’s good fortune.
lucrative [ləkrətiv] adj. producing a great deal of profit: a lucrative career as a stand-up comedian.

lunar [ˈljuːnər] adj. relating to the moon; concentrating on the moon: lunar surface.
lumber [ˈlʌmɜː] n. money, esp. when regarded as sordid or distasteful or gained in a dishonest way: officials getting their hands grubby with filthy lucre.

ludicrous [ˈludrərəs] adj. so foolish, unreasonable, or out of place as to be amusing: ridiculous: it’s ludicrous that I have been fined.

lug [lʌg] v. [intr] (tr. lug-ging) to carry or drag (a heavy or bulky object) with great effort: she began to lug her suitcase downstairs. n. a box or crate used for transporting fruit.

lugubrious-ness [ˈlʌgjuərisəs] n. the quality of being lugubrious; the state of being lugubrious.

lumens [ˈluːmənz] n. Physics the intensity of light emitted from a surface per unit area in a given direction.

luminaries [ˈluːmiəriəz] n.pl. (pi. n.) 1 a person who inspires or influences others, esp. one prominent in a particular sphere: one of the luminaries of child psychiatry. 2 an artificial light. n. poetic, a natural light-giving body, esp. the sun or moon.
luminance [ˈluːmənəns] n. Physics the intensity of light emitted from a surface per unit area in a given direction.
luminous [ˈluːmiənəs] adj. full of or shedding light; bright or shining, esp. in the dark: the luminous dial on his watch.

luminous-ly adv. (pi. of a person’s complexion or eyes) glowing with health, vigor, or a particular emotion: her eyes were luminous with joy.
luminous-ness n.

luminous-ly adv. (pi. of a person’s complexion or eyes) glowing with health, vigor, or a particular emotion: her eyes were luminous with joy.
luminous-ness n.

lum-ex [ˈlʌmeks] n. inf. a clumsy, stupid person: watch it, you lumex!
lump [lʌmp] n. a compact mass of a substance, esp. one without a definite or regular shape: there was a lump of ice floating in the milk.
lump-sum [ˈlʌmpˌsʌm] n. a single payment made at a particular time, as opposed to a number of smaller payments or installments.
lumping [ˈlʌmpɪŋ] n. (pi. lumpers) the state of being lumped; (in technical use) it has been suggested that originality demands a degree of lumpiness.
lumpish [ˈlʌmpɪʃ] adj. roughly or clumsily formed or shaped: those large and lumpish hands could produce exquisite fine work.
lumpish-ly adv. (pi. of a person) stupid and lethargic.
lumpish-ness n.
lump sum n. a single payment made at a particular time, as opposed to a number of smaller payments or installments.
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lumpish-ness n.
lumina-ny adj. the state of being a lunatic; (in technical use) it has been suggested that originality demands a degree of lumpiness.
luminary [ˈluːmiəriə] n. (pi. n.) a mentally ill person (not in technical use).

luna-ry [ˈluːnəri] adj. of, determined by, relating to, or resembling the moon: a lunar landscape.
lunar [ˈluːnər] adj. of, determined by, relating to, or resembling the moon: a lunar landscape.
lunar module (abbr.: LM) n. a small craft used for traveling between the moon’s surface and an orbiting spacecraft (formerly known as lunar excursion module or LEM).
lunar month n. a month measured between successive new moons (roughly 29½ days). n. (in general use) a period of four weeks.
lunar year n. a period of twelve lunar months (approx. 354 days).
lunatic [ˈluːnətik] n. a mentally ill person (not in technical use).
lunatic fringe n. an extreme or eccentric minority within society or a group.
lunch [lʌntʃ] n. a meal eaten in the middle of the day, typically one that is lighter or less formal than an evening meal: a vegetarian lunch.

lu-nar-ly adv. (pi. of a person) stupid and lethargic.

luminous-ly adv. (pi. of a person) stupid and lethargic.
luminous-ness n.

lumex [ˈlʌmeks] n. inf. a clumsy, stupid person: watch it, you lumex!
and extravagant living: he lived a life of luxury. a inessential, desirable item that is expensive or difficult to obtain: luxuries like raspberry vinegar and state-of-the-art CD players.

**lytic**

adj. luxurious or of the nature of a luxury: a luxury yacht | luxury goods.  
Middle English (denoting lechery): from Old French *luxurie*; from Latin *luxuria*; from *luxus* ‘excess.’ The earliest current sense dates from the mid 17th cent.

**Lycra**

n. trademark an elastic polyurethane fiber or fabric used esp. for close-fitting and sports clothing.

**lye**

n. a strongly alkaline solution, esp. of potassium hydroxide, used for washing or cleansing.

**lying**

adj. not telling the truth: he’s a lying, cheating snake in the grass. —lying-ly adv.

**Lyme disease**

n. an inflammatory disease characterized by a rash, headache, fever, and chills, and then by possible arthritis and neurological and cardiac disorders. It is caused by a spirochete that is transmitted by ticks.

**lymph**

n. 1 Physiol. a colorless fluid containing white blood cells, that bathes the tissues and drains into the lymphatic system into the bloodstream.  
2 fluid exuding from a sore or inflamed tissue.  
3 poto-eclit. pure water. —lymphous /-fas/ adj.

**lymphatic**

adj. of or relating to lymph or its secretion: lymphatic vessels.

**lymph node**

n. each of a number of small swellings in the lymphatic system where lymph is filtered and lymphocytes are formed.

**lymphocyte**

n. Physiol. a form of small leukocyte (white blood cell) with a single round nucleus, occurring esp. in the lymphatic system. —lympho-cytic /-kis-tik/ adj.

**lymphoma**

n. (pl. -mas or -mata /-mata/) Med. cancer of the lymph nodes.

**lynch**

v. [tr.] (of a mob) kill (someone), esp. by hanging, for an alleged offense with or without a legal trial. —lyncher n.

**lynch-pin**

n. variant spelling of linchpin.

**lynx**

n. a wild cat (genus *Lynx*) with yellowish-brown fur (sometimes spotted), a short tail, and tufted ears, found chiefly in the northern latitudes of North America and Eurasia.  
1 the fur of the lynx.  
2 (African lynx) see CARACAL.

**lynx-eyed**

adj. keen-sighted.

**lyo-cell**

n. a strong synthetic fiber made from reconstituted cellulose, used in carpets and in apparel when blended with other fibers.

**lyre**

n. a stringed instrument like a small U-shaped harp with strings fixed to a crossbar, used esp. in ancient Greece. Modern instruments of this type are found mainly in East Africa.

**lyre bird**

n. a large Australian songbird (genus *Menura*, family Menuridae), the male of which has a long, lyre-shaped tail and is noted for its remarkable song and display.

**lyric**

adj. 1 (of poetry) expressing the writer’s emotions, usually briefly and in stanzas or recognized forms.  
2 (of a poet) writing in this manner.  
3 (of a singing voice) using a light register: a lyric soprano with a light, clear timbre.

n. (usu. lyrics) 1 a lyric poem or verse.  
2 the words of a song: she has published both music and lyrics for a number of songs.

**lyriccal**

adj. 1 (of literature, art, or music) expressing the writer’s emotions in an imaginative and beautiful way: the poet’s combination of lyrical and descriptive power.  
2 of or relating to the words of a popular song: the lyrical content of his songs. —lyrically /-i(k)əlē/ adv.

**lyricism**

n. an artist’s expression of emotion in an imaginative and beautiful way; the quality of being lyrical.

**lyricist**

n. a person who writes the words to a popular song or musical.
Mach (also Mach number) $n.$ the ratio of the speed of a body to the speed of sound in the surrounding medium. It is often used with a numeral (as Mach 1, Mach 2, etc.) to indicate the speed of sound, twice the speed of sound, etc.

**machete** $n.$ a broad, heavy knife used as an implement or weapon, originating in Central America and the Caribbean.

**Mach-a-vel-li-an** [mák-a-věl′ə-nən, -və′] $a.$ adj. 1. cunning, scheming, and unscrupulous, esp. in politics or in advancing one's career. 2. of or relating to Niccolò Machiavelli.

-$n.$ a person who schemes in such a way. —Mach-a-vel-li-an-ism $n.$

**mach-i-nate** [mák′ə-nät′] $v.$ [intr.] engage in plots and intrigues; scheme. —mach-i-nation $n.$

**machine** [mák′ə-nən] $n.$ 1. an apparatus using or applying mechanical power and having several parts, each with a definite function and together performing a particular task. 2. a coin-operated dispenser: a candy machine. 3. a mechanical or electrical device that performs a definite function or task. 4. a person who acts with the mechanical efficiency of a machine: comedians are laugh machines.

-$v.$ to make or operate on with a machine: [as adj.] (machined) a deceptively machined brass rod.

**machine gun** $n.$ an automatic gun that fires bullets in rapid succession for as long as the trigger is pressed.

-$v.$ to shoot with a machine gun. —machine-gunner $n.$

**machine-readable** $a.$ of (data or text) in a form that a computer can process.

**machine-ery** [mák′ə-nər̩] $n.$ machines collectively: farm machinery.

-$v.$ to be the components of a machine: the movement of the machinery. 2. to use machinery or equipment in some process: the machinery of democracy. 3. to use the means devised or available to do something: with the machinery of government.

**machine tool** $n.$ a nonportable power tool, such as a lathe or milling machine, used for cutting or shaping metal, wood, or other material.

-$v.$ to automate or computerize. —machine-tender $n.$

**machine-made** $a.$ a method of making animated film using software similar to that designed for making video and computer games. 2. the style or the genre of films created in this way.

**machine-ist** [mák′ə-nəst] $n.$ a person who operates a machine, esp. a machine tool. 2. a person who makes or repairs machinery.

**machine-made** $a.$ strong or aggressive masculine pride. 2. fig. daring or bravo.

**Mach number** $n.$ see Mach.

**macho** [mák′ə-] $a.$ showing aggressive pride in one's masculinity: the big macho tough guy.

-$n.$ (pl. -chos) a man who is aggressively proud of his masculinity.

**machismo** $n.$

**mac-in-tosh** $n.$ variant spelling of MACKINTOSH.

**mack** $n.$ chiefly Brit. short for MACKINTOSH.

**mackerel** [mák′ər̩l] $n.$ (pl. same or mackerel) a migratory surface-
mag-net-ic /mæɡˈnetɪk/ adj. 1 having the properties of a magnet; exhibiting magnetism. • capable of being attracted by or acquiring the properties of a magnet; steel is magnetic. • relating to or involving magnetism; an airborne magnetic survey. • (of a bearing in navigation) measured relative to magnetic north. 2 very attractive or alluring: his magnetic personality. • adj. & adv. -cal-ly.

mag-net-ic field n. a region around a magnetic material or a moving electric charge within which the force of magnetism acts.

mag-net-ic north n. the direction in which the north end of a compass needle or other freely suspended magnet will point in response to the earth's magnetic field.

mag-net-ic pole n. each of the points near the extremities of the axis of rotation of the earth or another celestial body where a magnetic needle dips vertically. • each of the two points or regions of an artificial or natural magnet to and from which the lines of magnetic force are directed.

mag-net-ic res-o-nance im-a-ging (abbr.: MRI) n. a form of medical imaging that measures the response of the atomic nuclei of body tissues to high-frequency radio waves when placed in a strong magnetic field, and that produces images of the internal organs.

mag-net-ic tape n. tape used in recording sound, pictures, or computer data.

mag-net-ism /mæɡˈnetɪzəm/ n. a physical phenomenon produced by the motion of electric charge, resulting in attractive and repulsive forces between objects. • the property of being magnetic. • fg. the ability to attract and charm people: personal magnetism.

mag-net-o-logy /mæɡˈnetələdʒi/ n. the study of magnets and magnetic phenomena.

mag-net-o-trop-ic /mæɡˌnetəˈtropolis/ adj. pertaining to plants or animals that are attracted or repelled by a magnetic field.

mag-net-ize /mæɡˈnetɪz/ v. t. 1 to give magnetic properties to; make magnetic. • fg. attract strongly as if by a magnet. • adj. & adv. -iz-able. -iz-a-tion.

mag-net-ize-ment /mæɡˌnetɪzəˈment/ n. the action of making something magnetic, esp. by magnetizing.

mag-net-ic-ly /mæɡˈnetɪklı/ adv. in a magnetic way; magnetically.

mag-net-ic-ness /mæɡˈnetɪsɪs/ n. a magnetic quality; magnetism.

mag-net-mag-net-ic /mæɡˈmægˈnetɪk/ adj. 1 made of or containing magnets. • adj. & adv. -ly.

mag-net-net-ic /mæɡˈnetɪk/ n. a gray-black magnetic mineral that consists of an oxide of iron and is an important form of iron ore.
indian people formerly inhabiting the Upper Hudson Valley in New York. 2 the Algonquin language of this people.

major

\[\text{adj. of or relating to the Mahican or their language.}\]

mah-i-mah-\i \(\text{ma-hi-mah} / \text{mā-hē′ mā-hē′} /\) \n. an edible marine fish (genus Coryphaena, family Coryphaenidae) of warm seas, with silver and bright blue or green coloration when alive. Also called DOLPHIN.

mah-jongg \(\text{ma′ zhàng-gə} / \text{mah-jongg} /\) \n. a game of Chinese origin played, usually by four people, with 136 or 144 rectangular pieces called tiles.

mah-nah-ga-nah \(\text{mə-nä′ gə-nə} / \text{mah-nah-ga-nah} /\) \n. 1 hard reddish-brown timber from a tropical tree, used for high-quality furniture. 2 a rich reddish-brown color like that of mahogany wood. 2 the tropical American tree (genus Swietenia) that produces this timber, widely harvested from the wild. 3 used in names of trees that yield similar timber, e.g., Philippine mahogany.

maid \(\text{mäd} /\) \n. a female domestic servant. 2 archaic or poetic: a girl or young woman, esp. an unmarried one. 3 archaic or poetic: a virgin.

maid-en \(\text{mäd′ in} /\) \n. archaic or poetic: a girl or young woman, esp. an unmarried one. 2 virgin.

\[\text{adj. 1 of a woman, esp. an older one: a maiden aunt. 2 of a female animal unmarred. 3 being or involving the first attempt or act of its kind: the ship’s maiden voyage. 4 denoting a horse that has never won a race. 5 of a tree or other fruiting plant in its first year of growth.}\]

main-land \(\text{män′ länd} /\) \n. the large continuous extent of land that includes the greater part of a country or territory, as opposed to offshore islands and detached territories.

main line \(\text{mān′ lin} /\) \n. a principal railroad line: [as adj] a main-line station. 2 a principal route, course, or connection: the main line of evolution. 3 a chief road or street. 4 a principal vein as a site for a drug injection.

\[\text{v. 1 main-line} /\text{[t]c.} \text{infl. inject (a drug) intravenously.}\]

main-ly \(\text{mān′ lē} /\) \n. adv. more than anything else: he is mainly concerned with fiction.

main-mast \(\text{män′ mäst} /\) \n. the principal mast of a ship, typically the second mast in a sailing ship of three or more masts.

main-sail \(\text{män′ sāl} /\) \n. the principal sail of a ship, esp. the lowest sail on the mainmast in a square-rigged vessel. 2 the sail set on the after side of the mainmast in a fore-and-aft-rigged vessel.

main se-quence \(\text{män′ sē kwi-zən} /\) \n. Astron. a series of stars types that to which most stars belong, represented on a Hertzsprung–Russell diagram as a continuous band extending from the upper left (hot, bright stars) to the lower right (cool, dim stars).

main-stream \(\text{män′ strēm} /\) \n. (the mainstream) the ideas, attitudes, or activities that are regarded as normal or conventional; the dominant trend in fashion, the arts.

\[\text{adj. belonging to or characteristic of the mainstream.}\]

maid-of-hon-our \(\text{mäd′ of hōn′ ur} /\) \n. an unmarried woman acting as principal bridesmaid at a wedding. 2 an unmarried woman, typically of noble birth, attending a queen or princess.

maid-servant \(\text{mäd′ servənt} /\) \n. dated a female domestic servant.

mail \(\text{māl} /\) \n. n. letters and packages conveyed by the postal system. 2 the postal system. 3 a single delivery or collection of mail: the new magazine that came in the mail today. 4 Compt. electronic mail. 5 dated a vehicle, such as a train, carrying mail. 6 archaic a bag of letters to be conveyed by the postal system.

\[\text{v. 1 send (a letter or package) using the postal system. 2 Compt. send (someone) electronic mail.}\]

mailed \(\text{mā led} /\) \n. hist. armor made of metal rings or plates, joined together flexibly. 2 the protective shell or scales of certain animals.

\[\text{v. 1 [tr.] clothe or cover with mail: [as adj] (mailed) a mailed guantlet.}\]

mailbox \(\text{mā lə′ bāks} /\) \n. a public box with a slot into which mail is placed for collection by the post office. 2 a private box into which mail is delivered, esp. one mounted on a post at the entrance to a person’s property.

\[\text{a computer file in which e-mail messages received by a particular user are stored.}\]

mail carrier \(\text{māl kār′ iər} /\) \n. a person who is employed to deliver and collect letters and parcels.

mail-ing list \(\text{māl′ in′ īnj list} /\) \n. a list of the names and addresses of people to whom material such as advertising matter, information, or a magazine may be mailed, esp. regularly.

mail-man \(\text{māl′ män} /\) \n. pl. -men a person who is employed to deliver and collect letters and parcels.

mail order \(\text{māl or′ dər} /\) \n. the selling of goods to customers by mail, generally involving selection from a special catalog; available by mail order only: [as adj] a mail-order distributor of generic drugs.

main \(\text{mān} /\) \n. \[\text{v. 1 [t]c. (mas.)} wounded or injure (someone) so that part of the body is permanently damaged: 100,000 soldiers were killed or maimed.}\]

main \(\text{mān} /\) \n. \[\text{adj. chief in size or importance: a main road.}\]

main-land \(\text{män′ länd} /\) \n. one of a series of lands: a main ingredient of one’s repertoire of skills.

\[\text{a denoting the center of a network, from which other parts branch out: I am seldom at the main branch of the library.}\]

\[\text{n. 1 a main pipe carrying water or gas to buildings, or taking sewage from them: a gas main, gas line. 2 (the main) archaic or poetic: the open ocean.}\]

\[\text{3 Naut. short for MAINSAIL or MAINMAST.}\]

\[\text{a by main force through sheer strength.}\]

main clause \(\text{n. Grammar a clause that can form a complete sentence standing alone, having a subject and a predicate.}\]

main course \(\text{n.} /\) \n. the most substantial course of a meal.

main drag \(\text{n.} /\) \n. (usu. the main drag) [adj. the main street of a town.

main-frame \(\text{mān′ främ′} /\) \n. 1 a large high-speed computer, esp. one supporting numerous workstations or peripherals. 2 the central processing unit and primary memory of a computer.

major \(\text{mā′ jor} /\) \n. 1 adj. important, serious, or significant: the use of drugs is a major problem. 2 adj. or greater in importance: he got the major.
make-shift /məkˈʃɪft/ adj. serving as a temporary substitute; sufficient for the time being: arranging a row of chairs to form a makeshift bed.
> n. a temporary substitute or device.

make-up /məkˌəp/ (also make up) n. 1 cosmetics such as lipstick or powder applied to the face, used to enhance or alter the appearance. 2 the composition or constitution of something: studying the makeup of ocean sediments. 3 the combination of qualities that form a person's temperament: a nastiness that had long been in his makeup. 4 Printing the arrangement of type, illustrations, etc., on a printed page: page make-up. 5 a supplementary test or assignment given to a student who missed or failed the original one: (as adv.) Tony has a makeup exam.

making /ˈmækiŋ/ n. 1 the process of making or producing something: the making of video (in comb.) glassmaking. 2 (makings) essential qualities or ingredients needed for something: a film with all the makings of a cinematic success. 3 n. in the making in the process of developing or being made: a campaign that’s been two years in the making. 4 one’s own making (of a difficulty) caused by oneself.

mal-co-log-ogy /məˈkɒlədʒi/ n. the branch of zoology that deals with mollusks.

mal-ad-j ust-ed /məˈladʒɪst/id n. failing or unable to cope with the demands of a normal social environment; maladjusted behavior.

mal-ad-min-is-ter /məˌlædˈmɪnɪstər/ v. [tense] formal manage or administrate inefficiently, badly, or dishonestly. 2 maladministration n.

mal-ad-roit /məˌlædˈrɔɪt/ adj. ineffective or bungling; clumsy. 2 maladroity n.

mal-ad-ter /məˌlædˈtər/ n. (pl. -dies) a disease or ailment: an incurable malady.

mal-a-dy /məˈleɪdi/ (also maladies) n. a general feeling of discomfort, illness, or uneasiness whose exact cause is difficult to identify.

mal-a-mute /məˈleɪmjuːt/ (also mal-a-mutes) n. see Alaskan malamute.

mal-ap-prop /məˌlæpˈprɒp/ n. the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar-sounding one, often with unintentionally amusing effect, as in, “dance a flamingo” (instead of flamingo).

mal-ap-pro-pos /məˌlæpəˈprɒs/ adj. inopportune; inappropriately.

mal-a-roc-key /məˈlærəʊki/ n. int. meaningless talk: nonsense; don’t give me that malarkey.

Malay /məˈlæi/ n. 1 a member of a people inhabiting Malaysia and Indonesia. 2 the Austronesian language of Malaysia. 3 the official language of Malaysia.

mal-a-tent /məˈleɪtənt/ v. [tense] (of or relating to) mischievous; unruly; to make the most of, to get the best of; to indolent; to make the most of; to make the most of.

mal-a-ter /məˈlætər/ n. a person who is dissatisfied and rebellious.

male /məl/ adj. of or denoting the sex that produces small, typically motile gametes, esp. spermatozoa, with which a female may be fertilized or inseminated to produce offspring. 2 relating to or characteristic of men or male animals: masculine. 3 (of a plant or flower) bearing stamens but lacking functional pistils. 4 (of parts of machinery, fittings, etc.) designed to enter, fill, or fit inside a corresponding female part. 5 n. a male person, plant, or animal. 6 n. a sexual character or aspect. 7 n. a sexual character or aspect.

male-dic-tive /ˈmælədɪktaɪv/ adj. menaced, in danger of.

male-factor /məˈleɪfæktər/ n. biological person who commits a crime or some other wrongdoing.

male-fic /məˈleɪfɪk/ adj. poetically, causing or capable of causing harm or destruction. 2 by supernatural means.

male-lev-olent /məˈlevələnt/ adj. having or showing a wish to do evil to others.

male-fe-sance /məˈlevəsəns/ n. Law wrongdoing, esp. by a public official.

male-form-ation /məˈfɔːrməˈteɪʃən/ n. 1 a deformity; an abnormally formed part of the body. 2 the condition of being abnormal in shape or form. 3 the condition of being part of one or both sexes.

male-function /məˈfʌŋkʃən/ n. [intr.] (of a piece of equipment or machinery) fail to function normally or satisfactorily; the unit is clearly malfunctioning.

mal-gib-ri-ous /məˈgɪbriəs/ adj. to function in a normal or satisfactory manner.

mal-ice /məˈlaɪs/ n. the intention or desire to do evil; ill will; I bear no malice toward anybody.

mal-ic /məˈlɪk/ adj. Law wrongful intention, esp. as increasing the guilt of certain offenses.

mal-ice-a-fore-thought /məˈlɪkəˈfɔːrθɔːt/ n. Law the intention or harm, which is held to distinguish unlawful killing from murder.

mal-lic-i-ous /məˈlɪkɪəs/ adj. characterized by malice; intending or intended to do harm; malicious disposition, of purpose.

mal-li-cious /məˈlɪkʃəs/ adj. Middle English (also in the sense ‘wicked’): from Old French malicius, from Latin mali- 

mal-ling /məˈlɪŋ/ n. (esp. pl.) speak about (someone) in a spitefully critical manner.

mal-ign /məˈlɪgn/ v. speak about (someone) in a spitefully critical manner.

mal-lign-er /məˈlɪgnər/ n. malignment.

mal-lign-ant /məˈlɪgnənt/ adj. 1 of a disease very virulent or infectious; 2 of a tumor: tending to invade normal tissue or to recur after removal; cancerous. Contrasted with benign.

mal-lin-ger /məˈlɪŋɡər/ v. intrans. exaggerate or feign illness in order to escape duty or work.

mal-lin-ger-er /məˈlɪŋɡər/ n.

mal-lard /məˈlær/ n. (pl. mal-lards) the most common duck (Anas platyrhynchos) of the northern hemisphere and the ancestor of most domestic ducks, the male having a dark green head and white collar.

mal-le-a-bile /məˈleəbəl/ adj. (of metal or other material) able to be hammered or pressed permanently out of shape without breaking or cracking. 2 easily influenced; pliable; Anna was shaken enough to be malleable.

mal-le-a-bil-ity /məˈleəbɪləti/ n. malleability.

mal-le-a-bly /ˈmæleəbli/ adv.

mal-let /məˈleɪt/ n. a hammer with a large wooden head, used esp. for hitting a chisel, a long-handled wooden stick with a head like a hammer, used for hitting a croquet or polo ball.

Musk: a wooden or plastic stick with a rounded head, used to play certain percussion instruments such as xylophone and marimba.

mal-le-us /məˈleəs/ n. (pl. mal-le-i /məˈleɪi/; -i, -i) Anat. a small bone in the middle ear that transmits vibrations of the eardrum to the incus.

mal-low /məˈloʊ/ n. a herbaceous plant (genus Malva) with pink or purple flowers and disk-shaped fruit. The mallow family (Malvaceae) also includes the hollyhocks and hibiscus.

mal-nour-ish- ed /məˌnɔːriʃt/ adj. suffering from malnutrition.

mal-nourishment /məˌnɔːriʃmənt/ n.

mal-nu-tri-tion /məˌnʌtrɪʃən/ n. lack of proper nutrition, caused by not having enough to eat, not eating enough of the right things, or being unable to use the food that one does eat.

mal-oc-clu-sion /məˌləʊˈkluːʒən/ n. Dentistry imperfect positioning of the teeth when the jaws are closed.
mandala /ˈmændələ/ • [man-] n. a geometric figure representing the universe in Hindu and Buddhist symbolism. —mandalic /ˌmændəˈlɪk/ adj.

man-da-mus /ˈmændəmʌs/ • n. Law a judicial writ issued as a command to an inferior court or ordering a person to perform a public or statutory duty: a writ of mandamus.

man-da-rin /ˈmændərən/ • n. 1 [Mandarin] the standard literary and official form of Chinese based on the Beijing dialect, spoken by over 750 million people: [as adj.] Mandarin Chinese. 2 a official in any of the nine top grades of the former imperial Chinese civil service. [as adj.] esp. of (the) mandarin momentum. or (esp. of) mandarin manhood.

man-da-rin /ˈmændərin; -rən/ n. 1 a small flatish citrus fruit (Citrus reticulata) with a loose skin, esp. a variety with yellow-orange skin. Compare with TANGERINE. 2 the citrus tree that yields this fruit.

man-date /ˈmændət/ • n. 1 an official order or commission to do something. Law a commission by which a party is entrusted to perform a service, esp. without payment and with indemnity against loss by that party. 2 Law an order from an appellate court to a lower court to take a specific action. 3 hist. a commission from the League of Nations to a member state to administer a territory: the mandate in Palestine. 4 the authority to carry out a policy or course of action, regarded as given by the electorate to a candidate or party that is victorious in an election: ▪ v. [tr.] 1 give (someone) authority to act in a certain way. ▪ require (something) to be done; make mandatory. 2 hist. assign (territory) under a mandate of the League of Nations.

man-da-tory /ˈmændətɔrɪ/ • adj. required by law or rules: compulsory. ▪ of or conveying a command; he did not want the guidelines to be mandatory. —man-da-to-ri-ly /ˈmændətɔrɪli/ adv.

man-dib-le /ˈmændəbəl/ • n. Anat. & Zool. the jaw or a jawbone, esp. the lower jawbone in mammals and fishes. ▪ either of the upper and lower parts of a bird’s beak. ▪ either half of the crushing organ in an arthropod’s mouthparts. —man-dib-u-lar /ˌmændɪbjuˈlær/ adj. —man-dib-u-late /ˈmændɪbjuˌleɪt/ adj.

man-dol-in /ˌmændəlɪn/ • [man-] n. a musical instrument resembling a lute, having paired metal strings plucked with a plectrum. —man-dolin-ist n.

man-drake /ˈmændræk/ • n. 1 a Mediterranean plant (Mandragora officinarum) of the nightshade family, with white or purple flowers and yellow berries. It has a forked root that supposedly resembles the human form and was formerly used in medicine and magic. 2 another term for MANDARINE.

man-drel /ˈmændrəl/ • n. 1 a shaft or spindle in a lathe to which work is fixed while being turned. 2 a cylindrical rod around which metal or other material is forged or shaped.

man-drin /ˈmændrən/ • n. 1 a large West African baboon (Mandrillus sphinx) with a brightly colored red and blue face, the male having a blue rump. ▪ maned adj. ▪ mane-less adj.

mane /meɪn/ • n. 1 a growth of long hair on the neck of a horse, lion, or other animal. ▪ a person’s long or thick hair: he had a mane of white hair. ▪ maned adj. ▪ mane-less adj.

man-ege /meɪnɛʒ/ • n. 1 an arena or enclosed area in which horses and riders are trained. ▪ the movements of a trained horse. —horsemanship.

maneuver /ˈmeɪnˌvʊər/ • [Br.] • n. 1 a movement or series of moves requiring skill and care. ▪ a carefully planned scheme or action, esp. one involving deception: study financial maneuvers. ▪ the fact or process of taking such action: the economic policy provided no room for maneuver. ▪ 2 (maneuvers) a large-scale military exercise of troops, warships, and other forces.

v. [vered.-vering] 1 perform or cause to perform a movement or series of moves requiring skill and care. 2 [tr.] carefully guide or manipulate (someone or something) in order to achieve an end: they were maneuvering him into a betrayal of his countryman. ▪ [intr.] carefully manipulate a situation to achieve an end: [as n.] maneuvering two decades of political maneuvering. —maneuver-able adj. —maneuver-er n.

man Friday /ˈmæn ˈfrɛdi/ • n. a male helper or follower.

manganese /ˈmæŋɡə nɛz; -nəz/ • n. the chemical element of atomic number 25, a hard gray metal of the transition series. Manganese is an important component of special steels and magnetic alloys. (Symbol: Mn)

mange /ˈmæŋɡə/ • n. a skin disease of mammals caused by parasitic mites and occasionally communicable to humans.

man-get /ˈmæŋɡət/ • n. a long open box or trough for horses or cattle to eat from.

man-gle /ˈmæŋɡəl/ • v. [tr.] severely mutilate, disfigure, or damage by cutting, tearing, or crushing: fig. he was mangling Bach on the piano. ▪—man-gler n.

man-gle /ˈmæŋɡl/ • n. a large machine for ironing sheets or other fabrics, usually when they are damp, using heated rollers. ▪ chiefly Brit. a machine having two or more cylinders turned by a handle, between which wet laundry is squeezed (to remove excess moisture) and pressed.

man-go /ˈmæŋɡə/ • n. (pl. -oes or -os) 1 a fleshy yellowish-red tropical fruit that is eaten ripe or used green for pickles or chutneys. 2 (also mango tree) the evergreen Indian tree (Mangifera indica) of the cashew family that bears this fruit, widely cultivated in the tropics. ▪ late 16th cent.: from Portuguese manga, from a Dravidian language.

man-go-steen /ˈmæŋɡəˌsten/ • n. 1 a tropical fruit with sweet juicy white segments of flesh inside a thick rind. 2 the Malaysian tree (Garcinia mangostana, family Guttiferae) that bears this fruit.

man-grove /ˈmæŋɡrəʊv/ • n. 1 a tree or shrub (families Rhizophoraceae and Verbenaceae or Avicenniaceae) that grows in muddy, chiefly tropical coastal swamps, typically having numerous tangled roots above ground that form dense thickets. ▪ (also mangrove swamp) a tidal swamp that is dominated by mangroves and associated vegetation.

man-ic /ˈmæŋkɪk/ • adj. (adj.) manic-depressive having manic. ▪ in poor condition; shabby: a mangy fur coat. ▪ manic-gious /ˈmæŋkɪdʒɪs/ adj.

man-hand /ˈmænˌhænd/ • v. [tr.] move (a heavy object) by hand with great effort. ▪ inf. handle (someone) roughly by dragging or pushing: a drunk had manhandled one of the deputies.

man-hole /ˈmænˌhɑːl/ • n. a small covered opening in a floor, pavement, or other surface to allow other to person to enter, esp. opening in a city street leading to a sewer.

man-hood /ˈmænˌhʊd/ • n. the state or period of being a man rather than a child. ▪ men, esp. those of a country, regarded collectively: Germany had lost the best of her manhood. ▪ qualities traditionally associated with men, such as courage, strength, and sexual potency: we drank to prove our manhood. ▪ archaic the condition of being human: the unity of Godhead and manhood in Christ. ▪ (one’s manhood) inf. used euphemistically to refer to a man’s genitals.

man-hour /ˈmænˌhʌr/ • n. an hour regarded in terms of the amount of work that can be done by one person within this period.

manhunt /ˈmænˌhʌnt/ • n. an organized search for a person, esp. a criminal.

manic-depression /ˈmænikˌdiˈprɛʃən/ • n. mental illness marked by periods of great excitement, euphoria, delusions, and overactivity. ▪ an excessive enthusiasm or desire; an obsession: he had a mania for automobiles.

manic-depressive /ˌmænik ˌdiˈpresɪv/ • adj. & n.

manic /ˈmænik/ • adj. showing wild and apparently disregard excitement and energy: his manic enthusiasm | a manic grin. ▪ frenetically busy; frantic: the pace is utterly manic. ▪ Psychiatry relating to or affected by mania: the manic interludes in depression. —manic-cal-ly /ˌmænikəˈleɪli/ adv.

manic-depressive /ˌmænik ˌdiˈpresɪv/ • adj. & n.

manicure /ˌmænikjʊər/ • n. a cosmetic treatment of the hands involving cutting, shaping, and often polishing the nails, removal of the cuticles, and softening of the skin. ▪ v. [tr.] give a manicure to. ▪ [usu. as adj.] manicured trim neatly. —manic-curist n.

manicure /ˌmænikjʊər/ • adj. clear or obvious to the eye or mind: the system’s manifest failings.

manicure /ˌmænikjʊər/ • v. [tr.] display or show (a quality or feeling) by one’s acts or appearance;
manifold  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{a pipe or chamber branching into several openings: the pipeline manifold.} \]
\[\text{m.}  \quad \text{a joint model of the human body, used in anatomy or as an artist's life figure.} \]
\[\text{M.}  \quad \text{Manila hemp: the strong fiber of a Philippine plant, used for rope, matting, paper, etc.:} \]
\[\text{m.}  \quad \text{Manila hemp paper: brown paper, originally made from Manila hemp.} \]

manipulate  
\[\text{v.}  \quad \text{to handle or control (a tool, mechanism, etc.,) successfully in a skillful manner:} \]
\[\text{adj.}  \quad \text{skillful or artful in handling or moving (a person or situation):} \]
\[\text{manipulative-ness}  \quad \text{adj.} \]

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man-i-fes-tation  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{a document giving comprehensive details of a ship and its cargo and other contents, passengers, and crew for the use of customs officers:} \]
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{a list of passengers or cargo in an aircraft:} \]
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{a list of the cars forming a freight train.} \]

man-i-fest  
\[\text{v.}  \quad \text{a record in such a manifest.} \]
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{the 19th century doctrine or belief that the expansion of the U.S. throughout the western hemisphere was both justified and inevitable.} \]

man-i-fold  
\[\text{adj.}  \quad \text{many and various:} \]
\[\text{man-i-fold-ly}  \quad \text{adv.} \]

man-i-loc  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{another term for Cassava.} \]

man-i-lop-la-tion  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{man-i-loc} \]

man-i-lop-la-tion  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{man-i-loc} \]

man-i-tou  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{among certain Algonquian Indians a good or evil spirit as an object of reverence.} \]

man-i-kind  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{human beings considered collectively: the human race.} \]
\[\text{2}  \quad \text{man-i-kind} \]

man-i-laste  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{man-i-loc} \]

man-i-laste  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{man-i-loc} \]

man-i-ta  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{a devil ray (Manta birostris, family Mobulidae) that occurs in all tropical seas and may reach very great size.} \]
\[\text{2}  \quad \text{a rough-textured cotton fabric made and used in Spanish America.} \]
\[\text{a}  \quad \text{a shawl made of this fabric.} \]

man-te-f  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{a mantlepiece or mantelshelf.} \]

man-te-f  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{a mantlepiece or mantelshelf.} \]

man-tle  
\[\text{n.}  \quad \text{a loose sleeveless cloak or shawl, worn esp. by women.} \]
\[\text{fig.}  \quad \text{a covering of a specified sort: the houses were covered with a thick mantle of snow.} \]
\[\text{also gas mantle}  \quad \text{a fragile mesh cover fixed around a gas jet, kerzenwick, etc., to give an incandescent light when heated.} \]
\[\text{Zool.}  \quad \text{an outer or enclosing layer of tissue, esp. (in mollusks and brachiopods) a fold of skin enclosing the viscerum and secreting the substance that produces the shell.} \]
\[\text{2}  \quad \text{an important role or responsibility that passes from one person to another: the second son has now assumed his father's mantle.} \]

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between the crust and the core, believed to consist of hot, dense silicate rocks (mainly peridolite).

\[ \text{detail: I mapped out a route over familiar country near home.} \]

\( \text{map-less adj.} \quad \text{map-pa-ble adj.} \quad \text{map-per n.} \)

\( \text{off the map (of a place) very distant or remote.} \quad \text{put something on the map bring something to prominence: the exhibition put Cubism on the map.} \)

\( \text{map-ple} /\text{mæplə/} \quad \text{n. a tree (genus Acer, family Aceraceae) with lobed leaves, winged fruits, and colorful autumn foliage, grown as an ornamental or for its timber or syrupy sap. Its many species include the North American sugar maple (A. saccharum).} \quad \text{the flavor of maple syrup or maple sugar.} \)

\( \text{maple sugar} /\text{n.} \quad \text{sugar produced by evaporating the sap of certain maples, esp. the sugar maple.} \)

\( \text{maple syrup} /\text{n.} \quad \text{syrup produced from the sap of certain maples, esp. the sugar maple.} \)

\( \text{map projection} /\text{n.} \quad \text{see projection } (\text{sense 6).} \)

\( \text{mar} /\text{mɑr/} \quad \text{marked, marrying} /\text{tr.} \quad \text{impair the appearance of: disfigure: no wrinkles marred her face.} \quad \text{improve the quality of: spoil: violence marred a number of New Year celebrations.} \)

\( \text{Mar.} \quad \text{abbr. March.} \)

\( \text{mar-a-bou} /\text{mərəˈbou/} \quad \text{pl. n.} (\text{also marabou stork}) \quad 1 \quad \text{a large African stork (Leptoptilos crumeniferus) with a massive bill and large neck pouch.} \quad \text{down from the marabou used for trimming clothing or on fishing lures.} \quad 2 \quad \text{raw silk that can be dyed without being separated from the gum.} \)

\( \text{mar-a-ca} /\text{mərəˈkæz/} \quad \text{pl. n.} \quad \text{a pair of hollow clublike gourd or gourd-shaped containers, filled with beans, pebbles, or similar objects, shaken as a percussion instrument.} \)

\( \text{mar-a-schi-no} /\text{mərəˈskəˌnəʊ/} \quad \text{pl. n.} (\text{pl. -nos}) \quad 1 \quad \text{a strong, sweet liqueur made from a variety of small bitter cherries.} \quad 2 \quad \text{a maraschino cherry.} \)

\( \text{mar-a-schi-no cherry} /\text{n.} \quad \text{a cherry preserved in maraschino-flavored syrup.} \)

\( \text{mar-a-thon} /\text{mərəˈθɑn/} \quad \text{n.} \quad 1 \quad \text{a long-distance running race, strictly one of 26 miles and 385 yards (42.195 km).} \quad 2 \quad \text{a long-lasting or difficult task or operation of a specified kind: an interview marathon.} \quad 3 \quad \text{as adj. of great duration or distance: very long.} \quad \text{mar-a-thon-er n.} \)

\( \text{mar-a-tau} /\text{mərəˈtɔː/} \quad \text{v. [intr.] often as adj.} \quad \text{marauding (n. 1) in search of things to steal or people to attack: marauding gangs of looters.} \quad \text{[tr.] raid and plunder (a place).} \quad \text{mar-a-tau-er n.} \)

\( \text{mar-bles} /\text{mɑrˈbəlz/} \quad \text{pl. n.} \quad 1 \quad \text{a hard crystalline metamorphic form of limestone, typically white with mottlings or streaks of color, that is capable of being polished and is used in sculpture and architecture.} \quad \text{used in similes and comparisons with reference to the smoothness, hardness, or color of marble: her shoulders were as white as marble.} \quad 2 \quad \text{a marble sculpture.} \quad \text{a small ball of colored glass or similar material used as a toy.} \quad \text{marble (n. 1) treated as sing.] \quad \text{a game in which such balls are rolled along the ground.} \quad \text{3 \quad one's marbles} \quad \text{int. one's mental faculties: I thought she'd lost her marbles, asking a question like that.} \quad \text{[tr.]} \quad \text{sain or streak (something) so that it looks like variegated marble: the low stone walls were marbled with moss and lichen.} \quad \text{mar-bler n.} \quad \text{mar-bly} /\text{ˈbɑlɪ/} \quad \text{adj.} \)

\( \text{marble cake} /\text{n.} \quad \text{a cake with a streaked appearance, made of light and dark (esp. chocolate) batter.} \)

\( \text{marbling} /\text{mɑrˈbælnɪŋ/} \quad \text{n.} \quad \text{coloring or marking that resembles variegated marble.} \quad \text{streaks of fat in lean meat.} \)

\( \text{mar-ca-sile} /\text{mərkəˈsil/} \quad \text{n.} \quad \text{a semiprecious stone consisting of pyrite.} \quad \text{a green-yellow mineral consisting of iron disulfide but differing from pyrite in typically forming aggregates of tabular crystals.} \quad \text{a piece of polished steel or a similar metal cut as a gem.} \)

\( \text{mar-cal-to} /\text{mərˈkæltoʊ/} \quad \text{adv. & adj.} \quad \text{Mus. (esp. as a direction) played with emphasis.} \)

\( \text{mar-cell} /\text{mɑrˈsɛl/} \quad \text{dared} \quad \text{n.} \quad \text{(also marcel wave) a deep artificial wave in the hair.} \)

\( \text{mar-celled, -celing} /\text{tr.} \quad \text{give such a wave (to hair).} \)

\( \text{March} /\text{mɑrʧ/} \quad \text{n.} \quad 1 \quad \text{the third month of the year, in the northern hemisphere usually considered the first month of spring.} \)

\( \text{march} /\text{mɑrʧ/} \quad \text{v. [intr.]} \quad \text{walk in a military manner with a regular measured tread.} \quad \text{walk or proceed quickly and with determination: without a word she marched from the room.} \quad \text{[tr.] force (someone) to walk somewhere quickly; she gripped Rühe's arm and marched her out through the doors.} \quad \text{walk along public roads in an organized procession to protest about something: they planned to march on Baton Rouge.} \quad \text{[fig. of something abstract] proceed or advance inexorably: time marches on.} \quad \text{n. an act or instance of marching; the relieving force was more than a day's march away.} \quad \text{a piece of music composed to accompany marching or} \)

\( \text{map} /\text{mɑp/} \quad \text{v. [intr.]} \quad \text{represent (an area) on a map; make a map of: inaccessible parts will be mapped from the air.} \quad \text{record in detail the spatial distribution of (something); to map the human genome.} \quad \text{Math. associate each element of (a set) with an element of another set.} \quad \text{[phrasal v.] map something out plan a route or course of action in} \)
mark

important event or occasion) with a particular action: to mark its fiftieth anniversary, the group held a fashion show. be an indication of (a significant occasion, stage, or development): a series of incidents that marked a new phase in the terrorist campaign. (usu. be marked) characterize as having a particular quality or feature: the reaction to these developments was marked by a note of hysteria. (of a teacher or examiner) assess the standard of (a piece of written work) by assigning points for proficiency or correct answers; the teachers are given adequate time to mark term papers. (mark someone/something down) reduce the number of marks awarded to a student, candidate, or work: I was marked down for having skipped the last essay question. notice or pay careful attention to; he'll leave you, you mark my words! (of a player in a team) play close to (a particular opponent) in order to prevent them getting or passing the ball.

mark

» n. 1 the basic monetary unit of Germany (until the introduction of the euro), equal to 100 pfennigs; a Deutschmark or, formerly, an Ostmark. 2 a former English and Scottish money of account, equal to thirteen shillings and four pence in the currency of the day. a denomination of weight for gold and silver, formerly used throughout western Europe and typically equal to 8 ounces (226.8 grams).

mark-down

/märk'doun/ n. a. a reduction in price.

mark

» adj. 1 having a visible mark. (of playing cards) having distinctive marks on their backs to assist cheating. Linguistics (of words or forms) distinguished by a particular feature. clearly noticeable; evident: a marked increase in sales. —markedly /'ma:kridli/ adv. —markedness /'ma:kridnis/ n.

mark-er

/mär'kar/ n. 1 an object used to indicate a position, place, or route, a thing serving as a standard of comparison or as an indication of what may be expected: such studies may provide a unique marker in the quest to understand our brain. a promissory note; an IOU. 2 a felt-tip pen with a broad tip.

mark-et

/märk'it/ n. 1 a regular gathering of people for the purchase and sale of provisions, livestock, and other commodities; farmers going to market. an open space or covered building where vendors convene to sell their goods. 2 an area or arena in which commercial dealings are conducted: the labor market. a demand for a particular commodity or service; there is a market for ornamental daggers. the state of trade at a particular time or in a particular context; the bottom's fallen out of the market. the free market; the operation of supply and demand; future development cannot simply be left to the market [as adj.; a market economy]. a stock market.

» v. [keted, keting] [tr.] advertise or promote (something). offer for sale: sheep farmers are still unable to market their lambs. [intr.] buy or sell provisions in a market: [as n.] (marketing) some people liked to do their marketing very early in the morning. Middle English, via Anglo-Norman French from Latin mercatus, from mercari 'buy.' —mark-ket-er n.

be in the market for wish to buy. on the market available for sale: he brought every new gadget as it came on the market.

mark-et-able

/märk'itəbl/ adj. able or fit to be sold or marketed. in demand: marketable skills.

mark-eteer

/mär'ka típ/ n. a person who sells goods or services in a market: a consumer goods marketeer. a person who works in or advocates a particular type of market; free-marketeers.

mark-eting

/märk'tin/ n. the action or business of promoting and selling products or services, including market research and advertising.

mark-et-place

/märk'it,plās/ n. an open space where a market is or was formerly held in a town. the arena of competitive or commercial dealings; the world of trade: the global marketplace.

mark-ket-value

n. the amount for which something can be sold on a given market. Often contrasted with book value.

mark-ing

/märk'ing/ n. (usu. markings) an identification mark, esp. a mark or pattern of marks on an animal's fur, feathers, or skin; the distinctive black-and-white markings on its head. Mus. a word or symbol on a score indicating the correct tempo, dynamic, or other aspect of performance.

mark-man

/märks'man/ n. (pl. -men) a person skilled in shooting, esp. with a pistol or rifle: a police marksman. —marks-man-ship /,-ship/ n.

mark-up

/mær'kap/ n. 1 the amount added to the cost price of goods to cover overhead and profit. 2 the process or result of correcting text in preparation for printing. the process of making the final changes in a legislative bill: the bill concerning acid rain is in markup. 3 a set of tags assigned to elements of a text to indicate their structural or logical relation to the rest of the text.

mark

» n. an unconsolidated sedimentary rock or soil consisting of clay and lime, formerly used typically as fertilizer. —marly adj.

mark

» n. a large edible billfish (genus Makaira and Tetrapterus) of warm seas.

mark

» n. a preserved seed from citrus fruit, esp. bitter oranges, prepared like jam.

mark

» n. a small Central and South American monkey (genus Callithrix and Cebuella, family Callitrichidae) with a silky coat and a long nonprehensile tail.

mark

» n. a heavily built, gregarious, burrowing rodent (genus Marmota) of the family Sciuridae, typically living in mountainous regions of Eurasia and North America.

mark

» n. a brownish-cinnamon color.

mark

» v. [tr.] (often be marooned) leave (someone) trapped and isolated in an inaccessible place, esp. an island.

mark

» n. a make of car, as distinct from a specific model.

mark

» n. a rooflike projection over the entrance to a theater, hotel, or other building. [as adj.] leading: preeminent: a marquee player. 2 chiefly Brit. a large tent used for social or commercial functions.

mark

» n. a British nobleman ranking above an earl and below a duke.

mark

» n. in in Europe) a nobleman ranking above a count and below a duke. another term for Marquis.

mark

» n. the wife or widow of a marquis. a woman holding the rank of marquis in her own right. 2 a finger ring set with a pointed oval gem or cluster of gems.

mark

» n. the formal union of a man and a woman, typically recognized by law, by which they become husband and wife; a similar long-term relationship between partners of the same sex; a relationship between married people or the period for which it lasts: a happy marriage | the children from his first marriage. fig. a combination or mixture of two or more elements: a marriage of jazz, pop, blues, and gospel. —a combination in pinochle and other card games) a combination of a king and queen of the same suit.

marry

» n. by marriage as a result of a marriage: a distant cousin by marriage. —marriage of convenience a marriage concluded to achieve a practical purpose.

marry

» v. [marriab] adj. fit, suitable, or attractive for marriage, esp. in being of the right age. —marriage-a-bility /mar'a bil'i ti/ n.

marriage portion

n. see PORTION.

marry

» adj. (of two people) united in marriage: a married couple. (of one person) having a husband or wife: a happily married man.

marry

» adj. (usu. marrieds) a married person: we were young marrieds.

marry

» n. 1 a (also bone marrow) a soft fatty substance in the cavities of bones, in which blood cells are produced (often taken as strengthening and vitality). 2 (also vegetable marrow) Brit. a white-fleshed green-skinned gourd, which is eaten as a vegetable. —marrowless adj. —marrowy adj.

marry

» n. to the marrow to one's innermost being.

marry

» n. a bone containing edible marrow.

marry

» v. [ries, -ried] [tr.] 1 join in marriage: I was married in church | the priest who married us. 2 take (someone) as one's wife or
husband in marriage: Eric asked me to marry him. [intr] enter into marriage; they had no plans to marry. [intr] marry into become a member of (a family) by marriage. [of (a parent or guardian) give (a son or daughter) in marriage, esp. for reasons of expediency: her parents married her to a wealthy landowner. 2 cause to meet or fit together; combine: the show marries poetry with art. [intr] meet or blend with something: nest Chardonnays don't marry well with salmon.

Marx [märks] · ASTRON. a small, reddish planet that is the fourth in order from the sun and is periodically visible to the naked eye.

marsh [märsh] · n. an area of low-lying land that is flooded in wet season, or at high tide, and typically remains waterlogged at all times.

Marxist [mār'kist] · adj. of or pertaining to late 19th and 20th century political theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, later developed by their followers to form the basis for the theory and practice of communism. · —Marx-ian [mär'kis-an] n. & adj.

marzen-pan /märtsan, pān/ · n. a sweet, yellowish paste of ground almonds, sugar, and egg whites, often colored and used to make small cakes or confections or as an icing for larger cakes. Also called ALMOND PASTE. · a confection or cake made of or based on marzipan.

mas-car-a [ma'skārə] · n. a cosmetic for darkening and thickening the eyelashes. · mas-car-a-ed [skār'əd] adj.

mas-car-po-ne /mas'kar-pō-'né/ · n. a soft, mild Italian cream cheese.

mas-co-t [mas'kō-t] · n. a person or thing that is supposed to bring good luck or that is used to symbolize a particular event or organization: the squadron's mascot. · late 19th cent. · from French mascotte, from modern Provençal masolett, femine diminutive of maso, witch.

mas-que [-kās] · n. a device used in the stimulated emission of radiation by excited atoms to amplify and generate coherent monochromatic electromagnetic radiation in the microwave range.

MASH · abbr. mobile army surgical hospital.

mash [māsh] · n. a uniform mass made by crushing a substance into a soft pulp, sometimes with the addition of liquid. · brand mixed with hot water given as a warm food to horses or other animals. · Brit., inf. mashed potatoes. · (in brewing) a mixture of powdered malt and hot water, which stands until the sugars dissolve to form the wort.

mask [-kāz] · n. 1 a covering for all or part of the face, in particular: a covering worn as a disguise, or to amuse or terrify other people. · a covering made of fiber or gauze and fitted over the nose and mouth to protect against dust or air pollutants, or made of sterile gauze and worn to prevent infection of the wearer or (in surgery) of the patient. · a protective covering fitting over the whole face, worn in fencing, ice hockey, and other sports. · 2 a person or thing regarded as having set into a particular expression: his face was a mask of rage. · 3 a hollow model of a human head worn by ancient Greek and Roman actors or a mask of an animal, esp. of a fox, as a hunting trophth. · 4 a false or preposterous pretense; to let her mask of unbroken respectability slip.

mash-kin [-kān] · n. adhesive tape used in painting to cover areas on which paint is not wanted.

mas-schler [-klər] · n. 1 a builder and worker in stone. 2 (Mason) a Freemason.

mas-son-ic [-sən-ik] · adj. of or relating to Freemasonry.

mas-son-ry [-sən-rē] · n. a wide-mouthed glass jar with an airtight screw top, used for preserving fruit and vegetables.
mass-ensive adj. & n. 1 a) a large, heavy, or massive thing or structure. 2 a) a great, large, or massive scale. 3 a) a large, heavy, or massive body of people or things. 4 a) a large, heavy, or massive amount or number. 5 a) a large, heavy, or massive style or manner. 6 a) a large, heavy, or massive time or period. 7 a) a large, heavy, or massive place or location. 8 a) a large, heavy, or massive object or thing. 9 a) a large, heavy, or massive force or power. 10 a) a large, heavy, or massive effect or impact. 11 a) a large, heavy, or massive action or activity. 

mass-ive adj. 1 a) large, heavy, or massive in size, weight, or quantity. 2 a) large, heavy, or massive in extent or magnitude. 3 a) large, heavy, or massive in importance or significance. 4 a) large, heavy, or massive in degree or intensity. 5 a) large, heavy, or massive in scope or range. 6 a) large, heavy, or massive in scale or size. 7 a) large, heavy, or massive in amount or number. 8 a) large, heavy, or massive in force or power. 9 a) large, heavy, or massive in effect or impact. 10 a) large, heavy, or massive in action or activity. 

mass-me-ter n. a device for measuring or determining the mass or weight of something. 

mass-o-nom-ic adj. & n. 1 a) large, heavy, or massive in size, weight, or quantity. 2 a) large, heavy, or massive in extent or magnitude. 3 a) large, heavy, or massive in importance or significance. 4 a) large, heavy, or massive in degree or intensity. 5 a) large, heavy, or massive in scope or range. 6 a) large, heavy, or massive in scale or size. 7 a) large, heavy, or massive in amount or number. 8 a) large, heavy, or massive in force or power. 9 a) large, heavy, or massive in effect or impact. 10 a) large, heavy, or massive in action or activity. 

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Jit; means a v. relating to the machinery of a car—treated with medication—substance (medicated).  

mechanism /məˈkænɪzəm/ n. 1 a system of parts working together in a machine; a piece of machinery. 2 the machinery or working parts of something: he looks at the mechanics of a car before the bodywork.  

mechan-an-ize /ˈmekəˌnɪz/ v. (tr) often be mechanism introduced machines or automatic devices into a process, activity, or place.  

mechan-ical /məˈkænɪkl/ adj. 1 relating to physical forces or motion; physical: the smoothness was the result of mechanical abrasion. 2 (of a theory) explaining phenomena in terms only of physical processes.  

mechan-ics /məˈkænɪks/ pl. n. 1 [treated as sing] the branch of applied mathematics dealing with motion and forces producing motion. 2 machinery: subject: concern.  

medal /ˈmeɪdəl/ n. 1 a small metal disk with an inscription or design, made to commemorate an event or awarded as a distinction to someone such as a soldier, athlete, or scholar. 2 a piece of jewelry in the shape of a medal, typically worn as a pendant. 3 an oval or circular painting, panel, or design used to decorate a building or textile.  

medal-ion /ˈmeɪdəliən/ n. 1 a piece of jewelry in the shape of a medal, typically worn as a pendant. 2 an oval or circular painting, panel, or design used to decorate a building or textile.  

medal-ist /ˈmedəlɪst/ n. 1 an athlete or other person awarded a medal; an Olympic gold medalist. 2 an engraver or designer of medals.  

medal-list /ˈmedəlɪst/ n. (Brit. medallist) 1 a piece of jewelry in the shape of a medal, typically worn as a pendant. 2 an oval or circular painting, panel, or design used to decorate a building or textile. 3 a piece of jewelry in the shape of a medal, typically worn as a pendant. 4 an oval or circular painting, panel, or design used to decorate a building or textile. 5 a piece of jewelry in the shape of a medal, typically worn as a pendant. 6 an oval or circular painting, panel, or design used to decorate a building or textile.  

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