Middle High German. 2 Gram denoting a voice of verbs in some languages, such as Greek, that expresses reciprocal or reflexive action.

n. 1 the point or position at an equal distance from the sides, edges, or ends of something: *she stood alone in the middle of the street.* 2 the point at or around the center of a process or activity, period of time, etc.: in the middle of December. 3 int. a person's waist or waist and stomach: he had a towel around his middle. 2 Gram the form or voice of a verb expressing reflexive or reciprocal action.

down the middle divided or dividing something equally into two parts. 2 in the middle of in the process of doing something. 3 involved in something, typically something unpleasant or dangerous: he was caught in the middle of the emotional triangle.

middle age n. the period between early adulthood and old age, usually considered as the years from 45 to 65. —middle-aged (also middle-age) adj.

Middle Ages n. 1 the period of European history from the fall of the Roman Empire in the West (5th century) to the fall of Constantinople (1453), or, more narrowly, from c.1100 to 1453. 2 Middle Amer-i-ca n. the middle class in the U.S., esp. when regarded as a conservative political force: the Midwest of the U.S. 3 Middle Amer-i-can n. Middle Amer-i-can adj.

middle-brow ['mid®brow int. chiefly derog.] adj. (of art or literature or a system of thought) demanding or involving only a moderate degree of intellectual application, typically as a result of not deviating from convention: middlebrow fiction.

n. a person who is capable of or enjoys only a moderate degree of intellectual effort.

middle class n. [treated as sing. or pl.] the social group between the upper and working classes, including professional and business workers and their families.

adj. of, relating to, or characteristic of this section of society: a middle-class suburb. 2 attaching too much importance to convention, security, and material comfort. —middle-classness n.

middle ear n. the air-filled central cavity of the ear, behind the eardrum.

Middle English n. the English language from c.1150 to c.1470.

middle ground n. (usu. the middle ground) 1 an area of compromise or possible agreement between two extreme positions, esp. political ones. 2 the middle distance of a painting or photograph.

middle-man ['mid®mân n. (pl. -men) a person who buys goods from producers and sells them to retailers or consumers.

n. a person who arranges business or political deals between other people.

middle-man-ager n. the level in an organization just below that of senior administrators. 2 the managers at this level regarded collectively. —middle-management n.

middle name n. a person's name (typically a personal name) placed after the first name and before the surname.

n. a quality for which a person is notable: optimism is my middle name.

middle-of-the-road adj. avoiding extremes: moderate. 2 (of music) tuneful but somewhat bland and unadventurous. —middle-of-the-road-er n.

middle school n. a school intermediate between an elementary school and a high school.

middle-weight ['midl®wát] n. a weight in boxing and other sports intermediate between lightweight and light heavyweight. 2 a boxer or other competitor of this weight.

middle-dling ['midl®d®ng] adj. moderate or average in size, amount, or rank. 2 neither very good nor very bad; he had a fair to middling season. 3 int. of (a person) in reasonably good but not perfect health.

n. (middlings) bulk goods of medium grade.

adj. int. dated fairly or moderately. —middle-dling-ly adv.

middle-field ['midl®fêld] n. (pl. -fields) in football, soccer, etc. the central part of the field.

n. Soccer the players on a team who play in a central position between attack and defense. —middle-field-er n.

midge ['midj] n. 1 a small two-winged fly that is often seen in swarms near water or marshy areas where it breeds. There are two families: Chironomidae (the nonbiting midges), and Ceratopogonidae (the biting midges). 2 any of a number of small flies whose larvae can be pests of plants. 3 int. a small person. 4 Old English mygel; related to German Mücke, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin musca.

n. often refers to an extremely or unusually small person.

adj. very small: a midge larva.

MIDI ['mid®di] n. [usu. as adj.] a widely used standard for interconnecting electronic musical instruments and computers: a MIDI controller.
mincemeat

millet

mince

mill

mincemeat n. 1. the semen of a male fish. 2. a sperm-filled reproductive gland of a male fish.

MIME [mim] n. 1. the teatrical suggestion of action, character, or emotion without words, using only gesture, expression, and movement. 2. a theatrical performance or part of a performance using such a technique. 3. an action or set of actions intended to convey the idea of another action or an idea or feeling: he performed a brief mime of someone fencing. 4. a practitioner of mime or a performer in a mime. 5. one of the Farcical dramas including mimicry.

mimic /'mimik/ v. [tr] use gesture and movement without words in the acting of [a play or role]. 2. convey an impression of [an idea or feeling] by gesture and movement, without using words; mimic [an action or set of actions] in this way: he stands up and mimics throwing a spear. —mimic r. n.

mim-e-o-graph /'mi:məˌɡræf/ n. a duplicating machine that produces copies from a stencil, now superseded by the photocopier. 2. a copy produced on such a machine.

mi-met-ic /'mi:metik/ adj. formal or technical relating to, constituting, or habitually practicing mimesis. —mi-met-i-cal-ly /'kəl/ adv.

mi-mic /'mɪmɪk/ v. [tr] (mimicked, mimicking) 1. imitate (someone or their actions or words), typically in order to entertain or ridicule: she mimicked Ellen's voice. 2. (of an animal or plant) resemble or imitate (another animal or plant), esp. to deter predators or for camouflage; (of a drug) replicate the physiological effects of [another substance]. 3. (of a disease) exhibit symptoms that bear a deceptive resemblance to those of [another disease].

n. a person skilled in imitating the voice, mannerisms, or movements of others in an entertaining way. 2. an animal or plant that exhibits mimicry.

adj. imitative of something, esp. for amusement: they were wagging a mimic war. —mim-ic-er r. n.

mi-mic-ry /'miːmɪkri/ n. (pl. -ries) the action or art of imitating someone or something, typically in order to entertain or ridicule: the word was spoken with gently teasing mimicry. 1. a playful mimicry of the techniques of realist writers. 2. Biol. the close external resemblance of an animal or plant (or part of one) to another animal, plant, or inanimate object.

mi-mo-sa /mɪˈmoʊsə/ n. 1. an Australian acacia tree (Acacia dealbata) with delicate fernlike leaves and yellow flowers that are used by florists. 2. a pea-family plant of a genus (Mimosa) that includes the sensitive plant. 3. a drink of champagne and orange juice.

mi-naret /ˈmiːnəret/ n. a tall slender tower, typically part of a mosque, with a balcony from which a muezzin calls Muslims to prayer. —mi-nar-et-ed adj.

mi-ni /ˈmiːni/ v. [tr] 1. [often as adj.] (mined) cut up or grind (food, esp. meat) into very small pieces, typically in a machine with revolving blades: minced beef. 2. [inf.] walk with an affected delicacy or fastidiousness, typically with short quick steps: secretary miming about.

n. 1. something minced, esp. mincemeat. 2. mincer r. n. —mincing-ly adv.

□ not mince words [or one’s words] speak directly, esp. when criticizing someone or something.

mince-meat /ˈmiːns,miːt/ n. 1. a mixture of currants, raisins, sugar, apples, candied citrus peel, spices, and suet, typically baked in a pie. 2. minced meat.

□ make mincemeat of inf. defeat decisively or easily in a fight, contest, or argument.
minerals: a copper mine, an abundant source of something; the book contains a mine of information. 2 a type of bomb placed on or just below the surface of the ground or in the water that detonates when disturbed by a person, vehicle, or ship.

mine-field [min,fi:ld] n. an area planted with explosive mines. 2 fig. a subject or situation presenting unseen hazards: a minefield of technical regulations.

mine-lay-er [min,lejə] n. a warship, aircraft, or land vehicle from which explosive mines are laid. —mine-laying [-,lejıng] adj.

mine-er [min,ə] n. a person who works in a mine. 2 a device used to mine ores, etc.

mine-er-al [min,ərɔl] n. 1 a solid inorganic substance of natural occurrence. 2 such a substance having a definite chemical composition and usually a fixed crystal form. 3 a substance obtained by mining. 4 an organic substance needed by the human body for good health. 2 (minerals) Brit. (in commercial use) effervecent soft drinks.

mine-sweep-er [min,swepə] n. a vessel equipped for detecting and removing or destroying tethered explosive mines. —mine-sweeping [-,swepıŋ] adj.

Ming [min,ŋ] n. the dynasty ruling China 1368-1644. 2 [usu. as adj.] Chinese porcelain made during the rule of the Ming dynasty, characterized by elaborate designs and vivid colors: a priceless Ming vase.

mind [mind] n. 1 the element of a person that enables them to be aware of the world and their experiences, to think, and to feel; the faculty of consciousness and thought. 2 a person's intellect; their keen mind. 3 the state of normal mental functioning in a person; the strain that affects his mind. 4 a person's memory: the name of my mind. 5 a person identified with their intellectual faculties: one of the greatest minds of his time. 6 a person's attention: I expect my employees to keep their minds on the job. 7 the will or determination to achieve something: anyone can lose weight if they set their mind to it.

v. [tr.] 1 be distressed, annoyed, or worried by: I don't mind the rain. 2 have an objection to: what does that mean, if you don't mind my asking? 3 mind doing something be reluctant to do something (often used in polite requests): I don't mind admitting I was worried. 4 (would not mind something) int. used to express one's enthusiasm for something: I wouldn't mind some company from you! 5 regard as important and worthy of attention: never mind the opinion polls. 6 [intr.] feel concern: why should she mind about snubs from people she didn't care for? 7 [in imper.] directed used to urge someone to remember or take care to bring something: mind you look after the children. 8 [intr.] (also mind you) used to introduce a qualification to a previous statement: we've got some decorations up—but a lot, mind you. 9 be obedient to. 10 take care of temporarily: we left our husbands to mind the children while we went out.

[imper.] used to warn someone to avoid injury or damage from a hazard: mind your head! 11 [imper.] be careful about the quality or nature of: mind your manners! 12 [intr.] Old English gemend 'memory, thought,' of Germanic origin, from an Indo-European root meaning 'revolve in the mind,' shared by Sanskrit manas and Latin mens 'mind.'

☞ be of two minds be unable to decide between alternatives. ☞ be of one mind share the same opinion. ☞ bear (or keep) in mind take into account: you need to bear in mind that the figures vary from place to place. 2 come (or spring) to mind (of a thought or idea) occur to someone. 3 come (or spring) to mind (of a person) think of someone. 4 mind (or be disposed to) mind someone or something be thinking of. 5 intend: I had it in mind to ask you to work for me. 6 never mind used to urge someone not to feel anxious or distress: never mind—it's all right now. 7 used to suggest that a problem or objection is not important: that's getting off the subject, but never mind. 2 also never mind used in refusing to answer a question: never mind where I'm going. 3 used to indicate that what has been said of one applies even more to another: he was so tired that he found it hard to think, never mind talk. 4 on someone's mind preoccupying someone, esp. in a disquieting way: new parents have many worries on their minds. 5 out of one's mind having lost control of one's mental faculties. 6 int. suffering from a particular condition to a very high degree; she was bored out of her mind. 7 put someone in mind of resemble and cause someone to think of or remember: he was a small, well-dressed man who put her in mind of a jokey. 8 put (or set) one's mind to direct all one's attention to (achieving something). 9 to my mind in my opinion, this story is, to my mind, a masterpiece.


mind-ed [mind, id] adj. [in comb.] inclined to think in a particular way: liberal-minded scholars. 2 I'm not scientifically minded. [in comb.] interested in or enthusiastic about the things specified: conservation-minded citizens.


mind-er [mind,ə] n. a person who can supposedly discern what another person is thinking. —mind-er [mind,ə] v. —mind-reading n.

mine-set (also mind-set) n. the established set of attitudes held by someone.

mine! [min] poss. possessive pron. used to refer to a thing or things belonging to or associated with the speaker.

possessive adj. archaic (used before a vowel): my; tears did fill mine eyes.

mine! [min] n. 1 an excavation in the earth for extracting coal or other
unsportsmanlike conduct. 2 mismanagement, esp. culpable neglect of duties.

- **v.** [mis'kan|dek] 1 (misconduct oneself) behave in an improper or ungracious manner. 2 [tr.] mismanage (duties or a project).

**mis-con-strue** [mis|kan|stroyv] v. (-strues, -strued, -struing) [tr.] interpret (something, esp. a person’s words or actions) wrongly: my advice was deliberately misconstrued. —**mis-con-struction** -strökajən n.

**mis-count** v. [mis|kount|tr] count (something) incorrectly.

- **n.** [mis|kount/] an incorrect reckoning of the total number of something; a miscount necessitates a recount.

**mis-cre-ant** [mis|крэnt] n. a person who behaves badly or in a way that breaks the law.

- **adj.** (of a person) behaving badly or in a way that breaks a law or rule; her miscreant husband.

**mis-cue** [mis|kew] n. (in billiards) a shot in which the player fails to strike the ball properly with the cue. (in other sports) a faulty strike, kick, or catch. fig. a miscalculated action; a mistake.

- **v.** ( cues, -cued, cue-ing or cueing) [tr.] (in billiards and other games) fail to strike (the ball or a shot) properly.

**mis-date** [mis|dát] v. [tr.] assign an incorrect date to (a document, event, or work of art).

**mis-deal** [mis|dél] v. (past and past part. -dealt) [intr.] make a mistake when dealing cards.

- **n.** a hand dealt wrongly.

**mis-deed** [mis|déd] n. a wicked or illegal act.

**mis-de-mean-or** [mis|dem|ənər] n. Brit. misdoings. Law a nondicktive offense, regarded in the U.S. (and formerly in the UK) as less serious than a felony.

**mis-di-ag-no-se** [mis|di|əg|nəs] v. [tr.] make an incorrect diagnosis of (a particular illness). make an incorrect diagnosis of the illness from (someone who is) suffering: the consultant misdiagnosed her as having cancer.

**mis-di-rect** [mis|drɛkt|tr] v. [frus.] v. [tr.] (often be misdirected) send (someone or something) to the wrong place or in the wrong direction. aim (something) in the wrong direction. use or apply (something) wrongly or inappropriately: their efforts have been largely misdirected.

- **mis-direct-ion** -drɛktʃən n.

**mise en scène** [miz, an|san] n. the arrangement of scenery and stage properties in a play. the setting or surroundings of an event or action.

**mis-er** [miz|ər] n. a person who hoards wealth and spends as little money as possible. —**mis-er-ly** adv.

**mis-er-a-ble** [mez|ərəbal] adj. 1 (of a person) wretchedly unhappy or uncomfortable. (of a situation or environment) causing someone to feel wretchedly unhappy or uncomfortable. (of a person) habitually morose. 2 pitifully small or inadequate: all they pay me is a miserable $10,000 a year. contemp. (used as a term of abuse or for emphasis): you miserable creep —**mis-er-a-ble-ness** n. —**mis-er-a-ble-ly** adv.

**mis-er-y** [miz|ər|ei] n. pl. -eries a state or feeling of great distress or discomfort of mind or body. (usu. miseries) a cause or source of great distress or discomfort: the miseries of war.

- **s** put someone/something out of their misery end the suffering of a person or animal in pain by killing them. set release someone from suspense or anxiety by telling them something they are anxious to know.

**mis-fire** v. [mis|fər|tr] [intr.] (of a gun or missile) fail to discharge or fire properly. (of an internal combustion engine) undergo failure of the fuel to ignite correctly or at all. (of a plan) fail to produce the intended result.

- **n.** [mis|fire] a failure of a gun or missile to fire correctly or of fuel in an internal combustion engine to ignite.

**mis-fit** [mis|fət|tr] n. a person whose behavior or attitude sets them apart from others in an uncomfortably conspicuous way: a collection of social misfits. archaic something that does not fit or that fits badly.

**mis-for-tune** [mis|fɔr|tən] n. bad luck. an unfortunate condition or event; never laugh at other people’s misfortunes.

**mis-giv-ing** [miz|giv|ing] n. (usu. misgivings) a feeling of doubt or apprehension about the outcome or consequences of something: we have misgivings about the way the campaign is being run | I felt a sense of misgiving at the prospect of retirement.

**mis-gov-ern** [miz|gav|ən] v. [tr.] govern (a state or country) unfairly or inefficiently. —**mis-govern-ment** -gəvənmənt n.

**mis-guide** [mis|ɡeid|ə] v. [tr.] rare mislead: a long survey that can only baffle and misguide the general reader. —**mis-guide-ance** -ɡaidəns n.

**mis-hand-lie** [mis|hænd|ə] v. [tr.] manage or deal with (something) wrongly or ineffectively. 2 manipulate roughly or carelessly: the equipment could be dangerous if mishandled.

**mis-hap** [mis|hap|tr] n. an unlucky accident.

**mis-hit** [mis|hit|tr] v. past and past part. -hit [tr] (in various sports) hit (a ball) badly or in the wrong direction.

- **n.** an instance of hitting or kicking a ball in such a way.

**mish-mash** [mis|mæsh|ə] adj. a confused mixture: a mishmash of outdated ideas.


**mis-in-ter-pre-t** [mis|in|ter|pre|t] v. [frus.] v. [usu. interpret] (of something or someone) wrongly. —**mis-inter-pre-tation** -pre|tʃən n.

**mis-judg** [mis|judg] v. [frus.] v. [usu. make an incorrect estimation or assessment of. mis-judg-ment] (also mis-judge-ment) n.

**mis-lay** [mis|leɪ|tr] v. (past and past part. -laid) [tr.] unintentionally put (an object) where it cannot readily be found and so lose it temporarily: I seem to have mislaid my car keys.

**mis-lead** [mis|lɛd|tr] v. (past and past part. -led) [tr.] cause (someone) to have a wrong idea or impression about someone or something: the government misled the public about the environmental impact. —**mis-lead-er n.

**mis-leading** adj. —**mis-lead-ingly** adv.

**mis-manage** [mis|mænj|əl|tr] v. [frus.] manage (something) badly or wrongly.

**mis-man-age-ment** -mænj|əmnt n.

**mis-match** v. [frus.] v. [usu. a] mismatched (match people or things) unsuitably or incorrectly: funky mismatched chairs and tables.

**mis-no-mer** [mis|nəmər] n. a wrong or inaccurate name or designation: “king crab” is a misnomer; these creatures are not crustaceans at all. a wrong or inaccurate use of a name or term: to call this “neighborhood policing” would be a misnomer.

**mi-so** ['mezə] n. paste made from fermented soybeans and barley malt, used in Japanese cooking.

**mi-sog-a-my** [mi|səgəmi] n. rare the hatred of marriage. —**mi-sog-a-mist** -mis|gist n.

**mi-sogy-ny** [ma|səjəni] n. the hatred of women by men; she felt she was struggling against thinly disguised misogyny. —**mi-sogy-nist** -nist n.

**mis-go-nous** [-nas] adj.

**mis-place** [mis|pleɪ|tr] v. [usu. be misplaced] put in the wrong place and lose temporarily because of this; mislay: I’m sure the jewel has just been misplaced, and not stolen. —**mis-place-ment n.

**mis-play** [mis|pleɪ|tr] v. [play (a ball or card) wrongly, badly, or in contravention of the rules. n. [frus. or pl.] an instance of playing a ball or card in such a way.

**mis-print** v. [mis|print|tr] an error in printed text.

- **v.** [frus. or print (something) incorrectly.

**mis-pro-nounce** [mis|pra|nouns|tr] v. [tr.] pronounce (a word) incorrectly. —**mis-pro-nun-cia-tion** -pronən|siə|nən n.

**mis-quote** [mis|kwət|tr] v. [tr.] quote (a person or a piece of written or spoken text) inaccurately: the foreign secretary had misquoted Qain.

- **n.** a passage or remark quoted inaccurately: a misquote from a poem by Robert Burns. —**mis-qua-tion** [miskwət|ʃən] n.

**mis-read** [mis|rɛd|tr] v. [past and past part. -read] [tr.] (read (a piece of text) wrongly. judge or interpret (a situation or a person’s manner or behavior) incorrectly: had she been completely misreading his intentions?

**mis-re-p-re-sent** [mis|reprı|zent|tr] v. [tr.] give a false or misleading account of. give a false or misleading account of. —**mis-re-p-re-sen-ta-tion** -reprı|zentʃən n. —**mis-re-p-re-sen-ta-tion** -reprı|zentʃən n.

**mis-rep-re-sen-ta-tion** [mis|rep|ra|zı|n] n. Law a false or misleading statement. the legal action to provide a remedy for a false or misleading statement.

**mis** [mis|tr] 1 fail to hit, reach, or come into contact with (something aimed at: a laser-guided bomb had missed its target | [intr.] he was given two free throws, but missed both times. pass by without touching; chance not to hit: a piece of scrapwood missed him by inches. fail to catch (something thrown or dropped). be too late to catch a passenger vehicle. etc.). we’ll miss the train. fail to notice, hear, or understand: the villa is impossible to miss—it’s right by the road. fail to attend, participate in, or watch (something) one is expected to do or habitually does: students who missed class. fail to see or have a meeting with (someone): “Potter’s been here this morning.” “You’ve just missed him.” not be able to experience or fail to take advantage of (an opportunity or chance):
don’t miss the chance to visit the breathtaking Dolomites. • avoid: escape: smart Christmas shoppers go out early to miss the crowds. • fail to include: someone or something: omit: if we miss a few things in the first draft, we can add them later. • [int. (of an engine or motor vehicle) undergo failure of ignition in one or more cylinders. • notice the loss or failure of: she slipped away when she thought she wouldn’t be missed. • feel regret or sadness at no longer being able to enjoy the presence of. • a failure to hit. catch, or reach something. • a failure, esp. an unsuccessful movie, television show, recording, etc.: audiences will decide whether Brandi’s latest flick is a hit or a miss. —miss-a-ble /mis’a-bəl/ adj. • a mis-a beat /v. (of the heart) temporarily fail or appear to fail to beat. • [int. hesitate or falter, esp. in demanding circumstances or when making a transition of one activity to another: his speech segued to nuclear disarmament, without missing a beat. • the mis-boat [or bus] int. be too slow to take advantage of an opportunity. • a mis-s title prefixed to the name of an unmarried woman or girl, or to that of a married woman retaining her maiden name for professional purposes: Miss Hazel Armstrong. • used in the title of the winner in a beauty contest: Miss World. • used as a polite form of address to a young woman or to a waitress, etc. • often derog. or humorous: a girl or young woman. • a miss (n.): a range of standard sizes, usually 8 to 20, in women’s clothing. • mis-sal /mi’səl/ n.: a book containing the texts used in the Catholic Mass throughout the year. • mis-shap-en /mi’sə̈pən/ adj. not having the normal or natural shape or form: misshapen fruit. • mis-shap-en-ly adv. • mis-shap-en-ness n. • mis-sile /mi’səl/ n.: an object that is forcibly propelled at a target, either by hand or from a mechanical weapon. • a weapon that is self-propelled or directed by remote control, carrying a conventional or nuclear explosion. • mis-ing /mi’sən/ v. (of a thing) not able to be found because it is not in its expected place. • not present or included when expected or supposed to be. • of a person) absent from a place, esp. home, and of unknown whereabouts. • of a person) not yet traced or confirmed as alive, but not known to be dead; after an accident or during wartime: missing in action. • mis-ing link n.: a thing that is needed in order to complete a series, provide continuity, or gain complete knowledge. • a hypothetical fossil form intermediate between two living forms, esp. between humans and apes. • mis-sion /mi’sən/ n.: an important assignment carried out for political, religious, or commercial purposes, typically involving travel: a fact-finding mission to China. • [treated as sing. or pl.] a group of people taking part in such an assignment: the mission had journeyed more than 3,500 miles. • an organization or institution involved in a long-term assignment in a foreign country: the West German mission. • as adj.: mission school. • the vocation or calling of a religious organization, esp. a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith. • a strong religious or political cause or objection to a mission in life has been to cut unemployment. • an operation carried out by military aircraft at a time of conflict. • mis-sion-ary /mi’sən-ərē/ n.: (pl. -aries): a person sent on a religious mission, esp. one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country. • adj.: of, relating to, or characteristic of a missionary or a religious mission. • mis-sis /mi’sis/ n.: variant spelling of MISSUS. • mis-sive /mi’siv/ n.: a letter, esp. a long or official one. • mis-sell /mi’səl/ v. (past and past part. -spelled or -spell) [tr.] sell (a word) incorrectly. • mis-state /mi’stāt/ v. [tr.] make wrong or inaccurate statements about. • mis-stated -ment n. • mis-sus /mi’sı̈z/ (also mis-sis or mis-sis) n.: (int. or humorous): a man’s wife: I promised the mission I’d be home by eleven. • mis-sy /mi’si/ n.: (pl. mis-issues): used as an affectionate or disparaging form of address to a young girl: “Don’t tell Lies, Missy,” he said sternly. • adj.: of or relating to the misses range of garment sizes; available in misses and petite sizes. • mis-t /mi’st/ n.: a cloud of tiny water droplets suspended in the atmosphere at or near the earth’s surface limiting visibility, but to a lesser extent than fog. • a condensed vapor settling in fine droplets on a surface: the mist of perspiration that had dampened her temple; a haze over the sky, esp. caused by tears, and resulting in blurred vision. • used in reference to something that blurs one’s perceptions or memory: Sardinia’s origins are lost in the mist of time. • v.: cover or become covered with mist. • [intr. (of a person’s eyes) be become covered with tears causing blurred vision: her eyes misted at this heroic image. • [tr.] spray (something, esp. a plant) with a fine cloud of water droplets. • Old English, of Germanic origin; from an Indo-European root shared by Greek omphale “mist, fog.” • mistake /mi’stāk/ n.: an action or judgment that is misguided or wrong: coming here was a mistake. • she made the mistake of thinking they were appropriate. • something, esp. a word, figure, or fact, that is not correct: an inaccuracy: spelling mistakes. • v. (past -took; past part. -taken) [tr.] be wrong about. • [mistake someone/something for] wrongly identify someone or something as: she thought he’d mistaken her for someone else. • mis-tak-a-ble /mi’stak-a-bəl/ adj. • mis-tak-en /mi’stakən/ adj. wrong in one’s opinion or judgment. • (esp. of a belief) based on or resulting from a misunderstanding or faulty judgment: an unfortunate case of mistaken identity. • mis-tak-en-ly adv. • mis-tak-en-ness n. • mis-ter /mi’ster/ n.: a variant form of Mr., often used humorously or with offensive emphasis: don’t see me, misters. • [pt. used as a form of address to a man whose name is not known: thanks, mister. • dial. a woman’s husband: my thanks to you and the mister. • mis-ter /mi’tər/ n.: a device, such as a bottle, with a nozzle for spraying a mist of water, esp. on houseplants. • mis-time /mi’stim/ v. [tr.] choose a bad or inappropriate moment to do or say (something): he lost $800 million by misstating his withdrawal from the market. • mis-timed adj. • mis-tle-toe /mi’stal/, [N. American] a leafy-leaved parasitic plant that grows on a variety of trees and bears white gluttingin berries in winter. • its several species include the American Phoradendron scoumum (family Loranthaceae). • mis-took /mi’stək/ v. past of MISTAKE. • mis-tral /mi’stral, mi’stra/ n.: a strong, cold, northwesterly wind that blows through the Rhône valley and southern France into the Mediterranean, mainly in winter. • mis-treat /mi’treit/ v. [tr.] treat (a person or animal) badly, cruelly, or unfairly. • mis-treat-ment n. • mis-tress /mi’stris/ n.: 1. a woman in a position of authority or control: she is always mistress of the situation. • a woman who is skilled in a particular subject or activity: a mistress of the sound bite, she is famed for the acuity of her tongue. • the female owner of a dog, cat, or other domesticated animal: chiefly Brit., a female schoolteacher who teaches a particular subject: a Geography mistress. • archaic: a female head of a household: he asked for the mistress of the house. • a woman having an extramarital sexual relationship, esp. with a married man: Elsie knew her husband had a mistress tucked away somewhere. • archaic or poetic: a woman loved and courted by a man. • 3. (Missress) archaic or dial. used as a title prefixed to the name of a married woman; Mrs. • mis-tri-al /mi’triəl/ n.: a trial rendered invalid through an error in the proceedings. • an inconclusive trial, such as one in which the jury cannot agree: • mis-trust /mi’strust/ v. [tr.] be suspicious of; have no confidence in: she had no cause to mistrust him. • n. lack of trust: suspicion: the public mistrust of government. • mis-trust-ful /mi’strustfal/ adj. lacking in trust: suspicious: he had been unduly mistrustful of her. • mis-trust-ful-ly adv. • mis-trust-ful-ness n. • misty /mi’sti/ adj. (mist-i-er, mist-i-est) full of, covered with, or accompanied by mist. • of (a person’s eyes) full of tears so as to blur the vision. • indistinct or dim in outline: a misty silhouette [fig. a few muddy memories. • (of a color) not bright; soft: a misty pink. • mis-tly /mi’stli/ adv. • mi-sty-ness n. • mis-under-stand /mi’sən,ərə’ndər,strænd/ v. (past and past part. -stood) [tr.] fail to interpret or understand (something) correctly: he had misunderstood the policeman’s hand signals [intr. I must have misunderstood— I thought you were aiming to have. • fail to interpret or understand the words or actions of (someone) correctly. • mis-under-standing n. • mis-under-stand-ing /mi’sən,ərdən,standɪŋ/ n.: a failure to understand something correctly. • a disagreement or quarrel. • n. mis-us /mi’səs/ miss, ‘yooz/ v. [use (something) in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose: he was found guilty of misusing public funds. • treat (someone or something) badly or unfairly. • n. mis-us /mi’səs/ miss, ‘yooz/ v. [use (something) in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose: he was found guilty of misusing public funds. • treat (someone or something) badly or unfairly. • n. mis-use /mi’səs/ n. 1. the wrong or improper use of something: drugs of such potency that their misuse can have dire consequences | a misuse of power.
mite /mait/ n. 1. a minute arachnid (order or subclass Acari) that has four pairs of legs when adult, related to the ticks. Many kinds live in the soil and a number are parasitic on plants or animals.

mite  v. [tart] 1. a small child or animal, esp. when regarded as an object of sympathy: the poor little mite looks half-starved. 2. a very small amount: his teacher thought he needed a mite of discipline. 3. hist. a small coin, in particular a small Flemish copper coin of very low face value.

miter /ˈmɪtər/ n. 1. a tall head-dress worn by bishops and senior abbots as a symbol of office, tapering to a point at front and back with a deep cleft between. 2. (also miter joint) a joint made between two pieces of wood or other material at an angle of 90°, such that the line of junction bisects this angle.


miter box n. a guide to enable a saw to cut miter joints at the desired angle.

mitigate /ˈmɪtɪɡeɪt/ v. [tart] make less severe, serious, or painful: he wanted to mitigate misery in the world. 1. lessen the gravity of (an offense or mistake); [as adj. (mitigating) he would have faced a prison sentence but for mitigating circumstances. 2. late Middle English: from Latin mitigat- "softened, alleviated," from the verb mitigare, from mitis "mild."


mitochon-dri-on /ˈmɪtəkɒndəriən/ n. (pl. -on/-io)- [Greek] Biol. an organelle found in large numbers in most cells, in which the biochemical processes of respiration and energy production occur. —mito-chondrial /-driəl/ adj.

mitosis /ˈmitəsɪs/ n. (pl. -ses/-sēs) Biol. a type of cell division that results in two daughter cells each having the same number and kind of chromosomes as the parent nucleus, typical of ordinary tissue growth. Compare mitosis. —mitotic /ˈmitətɪk/ adj.

mitral /ˈmɪtrəl/ adj. denoting or relating to the mitral valve.

mitral valve n. Anat. the valve between the left atrium and the left ventricle of the heart, consisting of two tapered cusps.

mitmitten /ˈmɪtmɪt/ n. (usu. mitts). a mitten; even mitts. —Baseball a mittenlike glove, worn by the catcher and first baseman. —a glove leaving the fingers and thumb-tip exposed. —int. a person's hand.

mitten /ˈmɪtn/ n. (usu. mittens) a glove with two sections, one for the thumb and the other for all four fingers. —mittened adj.

mitzva /ˈmɪtsvə/ n. (pl. mitzvot/ˈmɪtsvɔt, -yətS/) Judaism a precept or commandment. —a good deed done from religious duty.

mix /miks/ v. [tart] 1. combine or put together to form one substance or mass. —int. (of different substances) be able to be combined in this way: oil and water don’t mix. —make or prepare by combining various ingredients: mixing concrete is hard physical work. 2. (esp. in sound recording) combine (two or more signals or soundtracks) into one. produce (a sound signal or recording) by combining a number of separate signals or recorded soundtracks; juxtapose or put together to form a whole whose constituent parts are still distinct: he continues to mix an offhand sense of humor with a sharp insight. —int. (of a person) associate with others socially: the people he mixed with never thought a thing. —mix it or mix it up int. be belligerent verbally or physically, esp. with one's fists.

phrase  "mix something up" spoil the order or arrangement of a collection of things: disconnect all the cables, mix them up, then try to reconnect them. mix someone/something up confuse someone or something with another person or thing: I'd got her mixed up with her sister.

n. two or more different qualities, things, or people placed, combined, or considered together: the decor is a mix of antique and moder-n. 1. a group of people of different types within a particular society or community: the school has a good social mix. 2. a commercially prepared mixture of ingredients for making a particular type of food or a product such as concrete: cake mixes have made cooking easier. 3. the proportion of different people or other constituents that make up a mixture: arriving at the correct mix of full-time to part-time staff. 4. an image or sound produced by the combination of two separate images or sounds. —mixable adj.

* be (or get) mixed up in be (or become) involved in (something regarded as dubious or dishonest): Steve was mixed up in an insurance swindle. 2. be (or get) mixed up with be (or become) associated with (someone unsuitable or unreliable).

mixed /mɪksɪd/ adj. consisting of different qualities or elements. 1. of an assessment of, reaction to, or feeling about something containing a mixture of both favorable and negative elements: the movie opened last Friday to mixed reviews. I had mixed feelings about seeing Laura again. 2. composed of different varieties of the same thing: crab on a bed of mixed greens. 3. involving or showing a mixture of races or social classes: people of mixed race. (esp. of an educational establishment or a sports team or competition) of or for members of both sexes.

mixed bag n. a diverse assortment of things or people: a mixed bag of applause and catcalls.

mixed blessing n. a situation or thing that has disadvantages as well as advantages: having children so early in their marriage was a mixed blessing.

mixed doubles pt. n. [treated as sing.] (esp. in tennis and badminton) a game or competition involving teams, each consisting of a man and a woman.

mixed marriage n. a marriage between people of different races or religions.

mixed metaphor n. a combination of two or more incompatible metaphors, which produces a ridiculous effect (e.g., this tower of strength will go ahead).

mixed-up adj. int. (of a person) suffering from psychological or emotional problems: a lonely, mixed-up teenager.

mixer /ˈmɪksər/ n. 1. a machine or device for mixing things, esp. an electrical appliance for mixing foods. 2. a person considered in terms of their ability to mix socially with others: media people need to be good mixers. 3. a social gathering where people can make new acquaintances. 4. a soft drink that can be mixed with alcohol. 5. (in sound recording and cinematography) a device for merging input signals to produce a combined output in the form of sound or pictures. 6. a person who operates such a device: a sound mixer.

mixed-up adj. int. (of a person) suffering from psychological or emotional problems: a lonely, mixed-up teenager.

mix-up /ˈmɪksʌp/ n. int. a confusion of one thing with another, or a misunderstanding or mistake that results in confusion: there's been a mix-up over the tickets.

mizzen /ˈmɪzn/ also mizzen /ˈmɪzən/ n. 1. [also mizzen-mast /ˈmɪzn-ɛst/, mast] the mast aft of a ship's mainmast. 2. [also mizzen-sail /ˈmɪzn-saɪl/] the lowest sail on a mizzenmast.

mll /ˈmɛl/ abbr. milliliters(s).

Mile (pl. Miles) abbr. Mademoiselle.


mm /ˈmɛm/ abbr. millimeters(s).

Mme (pl. Mmes) abbr. Madame.

Mn sym. the chemical element manganese.

mne-mon-ic /məˈmɑːnɪk/ n. a device such as a pattern of letters, ideas, or associations that assists in remembering something.

mne-mon-ics /məˈmɑːnɪks/ pl. n. [usu. treated as sing.] the study and development of systems for improving and assisting the memory.

MO abbr. Medical Officer: modus operandi: money order.
mo-cha /ˈmoka/ n. 1. a fine-quality coffee. 2. a drink or flavoring made with or in imitation of this, typically with chocolate added. 3. a dark brown color. 4. a soft kind of leather made from sheepskin.

mock /mɒk/ v. [tr] tease or laugh at in a scornful or contemptuous manner. 2. make (something) seem laughably unreal or impossible: at Christmas, arguments and friction mock our pretense of peace. 3. mimic (something) in order to achieve a new meaning. 4. adj. not authentic or real, but without the intention to deceive: a mock Georgian red brick house. 5. [of an examination, battle, etc.] arranged for training or practice, or performed as a demonstration. 6. dated an object of derision: he has become the mock of all his contemporaries. —mock-able adj. —mock-er n. —mock-ingly adv.

mock-ing-bird /ˈmɑkɪŋ, bɜrd/ n. a long-tailed thrushlike songbird (Mimus and other genera) with greyish plumage, noted for its mimicry of the calls and songs of other birds. The mockingbird family (Mimidae) also includes the catbirds and thrashers.

mock-up (also mock-up) n. a model or replica of a machine or structure, used for instructional or experimental purposes. 2. an arrangement of text and pictures to be printed. —mock-upper n.

model /ˈmɔldəl/ n. 1. of or relating to mode or form as opposed to subject. 2. Gram. of or denoting the mood of a verb. 3. Statistics of or relating to a mode; occurring most frequently in a sample or population. 4. Music of or denoting music using melodies or harmonies based on modes other than the ordinary major and minor scales. 5. Modern, to render a word or phrase in another construction. —model-ly /ˈmɔdlɪ/ adj. —model-ly adv.

model-ality /ˈmɔdlətɪs/ n. (pl. -alties) 1. model quality: the hammer had a touch of modality. 2. a particular mode in which something exists or is experienced or expressed. 3. a particular method or procedure: questions concerning the modalities of Soviet troop withdrawals. 4. a particular form of sensory perception: the visual and auditory modalities.

mode /məd/ n. 1. a way or manner in which something occurs or is experienced, expressed, or done: his preferred mode of travel was a kayak. 2. differences between language modes, namely speech and writing. 3. an option allowing a change in the method of operation of a device, esp. a camera. 4. a manner or way of doing something: a particular mode in which something exists or is experienced or expressed. 5. a particular method or procedure: questions concerning the modalities of Soviet troop withdrawals. 6. a particular form of sensory perception: the visual and auditory modalities. 7. model: a particular mode in which something exists or is experienced or expressed.

model-ist /ˈmɔdlɪst/ n. a person or a group ofViolent criminals; a gangster.

model-office /ˈmɔdiəl/ n. 1. a model or figure: a model object made in clay or wax. 2. a model or thing used as an example to follow or imitate: a model for dozens of books banning nondegradable plastic products. 3. a model of a mode: a model farm. 4. a simplified description, esp. a mathematical one, of a system or process, to assist calculations and predictions: a statistical model. 5. model of a person or thing regarded as an excellent example of a specified quality: as she grew older, she became a model of self-control. 6. model for an actual person or place on which a specified fictional character or location is based; the author denied that Marilyn was the model for his tragic heroine. 7. a person, typically a woman, employed to display clothes by wearing them; a fashion model. 8. a person employed to pose for an artist, photographer, or sculptor. 9. a particular design or version of a product: trading your car in for a newer model.
momentary

momentary /ˈmɒməntərɪ/ adj. lasting for a very short time; brief: a momentary loss of consciousness. —momentarily adv. —momentariness n.

moment-to-moment /ˈmɒmənt-tə-ˈmʌment/ (adj. of a decision, event, or change of great importance or significance, esp. in its bearing on the future. —moment-to-moment-ly adv. —moment-to-moment-ness n.

momentum /ˈmɒmentəm/ n. 1. Physics the quantity of motion of a moving body, measured as a product of its mass and velocity. 2. The impetus gained by a moving object: the vehicle gained momentum as it rounded the bend. 3. The impetus and driving force gained by the development of a process or course of events: the investigation gathered momentum in the spring. —late 17th ct.: from Latin, from 'move'.

momma n. variant spelling of MAMA.

mom-my /ˈmɒmə/ pl. (gen. -ies) one's mother (chiefly as a child's term.

Mon /mɒn/ n. (pl. same or Mons) 1. a member of a people now inhabiting parts of southeastern Myanmar (Burma) and western Thailand but having their ancient capital at Pagan in southern Myanmar. 2. the language of this people, related to Khmer (Cambodian). —adj. of or relating to this people or their language.

mon-ad /ˈmɒnəd/ n. technical: a single unit: the number one. —dated Biol: a single-celled organism, esp. a flagellate protozoan, or one of its kind. —monadic /ˈmɒnədɪk/ adj. —monadism /ˈmɒnədɪzəm/ n. (Phil.)

monarch /ˈmɒnər/ n. 1. a king, queen, or emperor. 2. see MONARCH BUTTERFLY. —monarchal /ˈmɒnərkl/ adj. —monarchially /ˈmɒnərklɪ/ adv. —monarchal-ism /ˌmɒnərˈkælɪzɪm/ n.

monarch-butterfly (also monarch) n. a large migratory orange and black butterfly (Danaus plexippus, family Nymphalidae) that occurs mainly in North America and whose caterpillar feeds on milkweed.

monarchism /ˈmɒnərɪzəm/ n. & adj. —monarchist n. & adj.

monarch-y /ˈmɒnərki/ n. (pl. -chies) a form of government with a monarch at the head, a state that has a monarch. —the (monarchy) the monarch and royal family of a country.

monas-ti-ry /ˌmɒnə,stərɪ/ n. (pl. -teries) a community of people, esp. monks or nuns, living under religious vows. —the place of residence occupied by such persons.

monas-tic /ˈmɒnəstɪk/ adj. of or relating to monks, nuns, or others living under religious vows, or the buildings in which they live: a monastic order. —monasticism /ˌmɒnəstɪˈkæsɪzm/ n.

mon-a-tor /ˈmɒnətər/ n. a monorail.

mona-tor-ship /ˌmɒnəˈtɒrɪʃ Ip/ n. the capacity of a monitoring device.

money /ˈmɒni/ n. 1 a current medium of exchange in the form of coins and banknotes; coins and banknotes collectively: I counted the money before putting it in my wallet. —monetary /ˈmɒnətərɪ/ adj. a sovereign formal oretary of state, esp. a statement of all moneys paid into and out of the account. —the assets, property, and resources owned by someone or something: wealth. —payment for work; wages: she accepted the job at the public school since the money was better. —a wealthy person or group; her aunt had married money. —money-less adj.

money in the bank. 1. have or win a lot of money. 2. for my money in my opinion or judgment: for my money, they're one of the best bands around. 3. on the money accurate; correct: every criticism she made was right on the money. 4. put money (or put one's money) on. 1. place a bet on. 2. used to express one's confidence in the truth or success of something: she won't have him back—I'd put money on it.

money-bags /ˈmɒnɪ,ˈbæɡz/ pl. n. [usu. treated as sing.] a wealthy person.

moneyed /ˈmɒnɪd/ adj. having much money; affluent. —characterized by affluence: a moneyed lifestyle.

money-grubbing /ˈmɒnɪˌɡrʌbɪŋ/ adj. int. overeager to make money; grasping: money-grubbing speculators. —money-grubber /ˈmɒnɪˌɡrʌbər/ n.

money-lender /ˈmɒnɪˌlɛndər/ (also money-lender) n. a person whose business is lending money to others who pay interest. —money-lending /ˈmɒnɪˌlɛndɪŋ/ n. & adj.

money-maker /ˈmɒnɪˌmækə/ (also money-maker) n. a person or thing that earns a lot of money: the movie became one of the year's top money-makers. —money-making /ˈmɒnɪˌmēkɪŋ/ n. & adj.

money market n. the trade in short-term loans between banks and other financial institutions.

money order n. a printed order for payment of a specified sum, issued by a bank or post office.

Mon-gol /ˈmɒŋɡəl/ adj. of or relating to the people of Mongolia or to their language.

Mon-gol-i-an /ˈmɒŋɡəlɪən/ n. 1 a native or national of Mongolia; a Mongolian. 2 the language of this people: Mongolian.

Mon-gol-ism /ˌmɒŋɡəlɪzɪm/ n. another term for DOWN SYM-

Mon-gol-oid /ˌmɒŋɡələʊɪd/ adj. 1. sometimes of or relating to the broad division of humankind including the indigenous peoples of eastern Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Arctic region of North America. 2. (mongoloid) often affected with Down syndrome.

Mon-goose /ˈmɑnɡʊs/ n. 1. sometimes of or relating to a person of Mongoloid physical type. 2. a person with Down syndrome.

Mon-goose /ˈmɑnɡʊs/ n. 1. sometimes of or relating to a person of Mongoloid physical type. 2. a person with Down syndrome.

Mon-key /ˈmɑŋkɪ/ n. 1. an instrument or device used for observing, checking, or keeping a continuous record of a process or quantity: a heart monitor. —a person operating such an instrument or device. —a person who observes a process or activity to check that it is carried out correctly or, exceptionally, in an official capacity. 2. a student with disciplinary or other special duties during school hours: show the hall moni-
tor your pass. —a television receiver used in a studio to select or verify the picture being broadcast from a particular camera. —a television that displays an image generated by a computer. —a loudspeaker, esp. one used by performers on stage to hear themselves or in the studio to hear what has been recorded. 4. (also monitor lizard) a large tropical Old World lizard (genus Varanus, family Varanidae) with a long neck, narrow head, forked tongue, strong claws, and a short body. 5. a shallow-draft armored warship mounting one or two heavy guns for bombardment.

Mon-ey /ˈmɒnɪ/ n. [br. observe and check the progress or quality of something over a period of time; keep under systematic review: equipment was installed to monitor a new machine. —to maintain regular surveillance over: it was easy for the enemy to monitor his movements. —listen to and report on (a foreign radio broadcast or a telephone conversation). —check or regulate the technical quality of (a radio transmission or television signal). —mon-i-tor-ial /ˌmɒnɪˈtɒrɪəl/ adj. —mon-i-tor-ship /ˌmɒnɪˈtɒrɪʃ Ip/ n.

Mon-ey /ˈmɑŋkɪ/ n. 1. a member of a religious community of men typically living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. —monish adj.

Mon-ey /ˈmɑŋkɪ/ n. 1. a small to medium-sized primate that typically has a long tail, most kinds of which live in trees in tropical countries. —the New World monkeys (families Cebidae and Callitrichi-
da, or Callitrichidae) have prehensile tails; the Old World monkeys (family Cercopithecidae) do not. —(in general use) any primate. —a mischievous person, esp. a child: you little monkey! —fig. a person who is dominated or controlled by another (with reference to the monkey traditionally kept by an organ grinder).
monkey business

> adj. (keys, keyed) [inti] (monkey around/about) behave in a silly or playful way. — (monkey) with tamper with. — [ic] archaic ape; mimic.  
> □ make a monkey of (or out of) someone humiliate someone by making them appear ridiculous. — a monkey on one's back a burden some problem. — a dependence on drugs.  

monkey business n. int. mischievous or deceitful behavior.  

monkey-shines [monyak, s'ning] pl. n. int. mischievous behavior.  

monkey suit n. int. a man's evening dress or formal suit.  

monkey wrench n. an adjustable wrench with large jaws that has its adjusting screw contained in the handle.  

monk-fish [monak, fis] pl. (pl. same or -fishes) a bottom-dwelling anglerfish (Lophius piscatorius, Family Lophiidae) of European waters.  

monks-hood [monaks, hodd] n. an aconite with blue or purple flowers. The upper sepal of the flower covers the topmost petals, giving a hoodlike appearance.  

mono- [mónə] adj. 1 monophonic. 2 monochrome.  
> n. (pl. os) 1 a monophonic recording. — monophonic reproduction. — short for INFECTIOUS MONONUCLEOSIS.  
> adj. 1 (of a photograph or picture, or a television screen) consisting of or displaying images in black and white or in varying tones of only one color. 2 lacking variety and interest; insipid: monochrome Broadway productions. — mono-chromic, mónə-krom'ık adj.  

mono-chrom-at-ic [mónəkrom'ətik] adj. containing or using only one color: monochromatic light. — Physics (of light or other radiation) of a single wavelength or frequency. — lacking in variety; monotonous: her monochromatic acting paralleled that of the fish. — mono-chromat-ic-ally -ik(əl) adv.  

mono-chrome [mónəkrom'] n. a single eyelash, kept in position by the muscles around the eye. — mono-clad (kə-lad) adj.  

mono-clinic [mónəklink'] adj. of or denoting a crystal system or three-dimensional geometric arrangement having three unequal axes of which one is at right angles to the other two.  

mono-clo-na-l [mónəklən'] adj. Biol. forming a clone that is derived sexually from a single individual or cell.  

monocot [mónə kät'] n. Bot. short for MONOCOTYLEDON.  

monocot-yl-ed-on [mónəkät'yl id'n] n. Bot. a flowering plant (class Monocotyledoneae or Liliopsida) with an embryo that bears a single cotyledon (seed leaf). Monocotyledons constitute the smaller of the two great divisions of flowering plants, and typically have elongated stalkless leaves with parallel veins (e.g., grasses, lilies, palms). — mono-cyt-e-don-ous [mónəsīt'ədənəs] adj.  

monocarp [mónəkarp'] n. a cultivated crop that does not repeat with other crops in a particular field or area: [as adj] bananas grown in a monocrop system for commercial production.  

monocellular [mónəsə'kyəlar] m. adj. with. for, or in one eye: he had only monocular vision.  

> n. an optical instrument for viewing distant objects with one eye, like one half of a pair of binoculars. — mono-cul-arily adv.  

monocyte [mónə sait'] n. Physiol. a large phagocytic white blood cell with a simple oval nucleus and clear, grayish cytoplasm.  

monofilament [mónəfil'mənt] (also mono-fil') m. a single strand of synthetic fiber.  

mogg-a-may [mōgə'me] n. the practice or state of being married to one person at a time. — the practice or state of having sexual relationships with only one partner. — zoöl. the habit of having only one mate at a time. — mono-gam-ist [mənə'gəməst] m. — mono-gam-ously adv.  

monogamy [mənəgā'me] n. the theory that humans are all descended from a single pair of ancestors. — mono-gene-tic [mə'nəjēn'tik] adj.  

monoglot [mənəglät'] adj. using or speaking only one language: the moment when the monkey heroine suddenly finds she can understand French.  

> n. a person who speaks only one language.  

monogram [mənə'gram] n. a motif of two or more letters, typically a person's initials, usually interwoven or otherwise combined in a decorative design, used as a logo or to identify a personal possession.  

> v. [tr.] decorate with a monogram: [as adj.] (monogrammed) monogrammed sheets. — mono-gram-mat-ic [mənəgram'mətik] adj.  

monograph [mənə'græf] n. a detailed written study of a specialized subject or an aspect of it: a series of monographs on music in late medieval and Renaissance cities. — mono-raph-er n.  

 Pronunciation Key a ag ə, agr. a. av. at for; a hat; a bite; a car; a chin; a let; a sec; efor air; i fit; i by; i efor ear; nong sing; o go; o law; or; oit; oo good; oo goo; ou out; sh she; th thin; thm then; thm why; th vision
monotonous

> adj. (of a voice or other sound) unchanging in pitch; without intonation or expressiveness: his monotone reading of the two-hour report. > fig. without vividness or variety; dull: monotone housing developments. > of a single color.

monotone /moʊˈnəʊn/ adj. dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest. > of (a sound or utterance) lacking in variation in tone or pitch. —monotone-ly adv.

monotony /moʊˈnəʊtəni/ n. lack of variety and interest; tedious repetition and routine. > sameness of pitch or tone in a sound or utterance: depression flattens the voice almost to monotony.

moon /mɔn/ n. Zool. a primitive mammal that lays large yolky eggs and has a common opening for the urogenital and digestive systems. Monotremes are now restricted to Australia and New Guinea, and comprise the platypus and the echidnas.

moon-va-lent /ˈmʌŋvəˈlənt/ adj. Chem. having a valence of one.

moon-oxide /ˈmʌnəʊksaɪd/ n. Chem. an oxide containing one atom of oxygen in its molecule or empirical formula.

moon-oe /mɔnˈrʌdʒənəl/ adj. a principle of U.S. policy, originated by President James Monroe in 1823, that any intervention by external powers in the politics of the Americas is a potentially hostile act against the U.S.

moon-seer /mɔnˈsɪnr/ n. (pl. Mes·see·ners) /məsˈsiːnərz/ (also Mo·not·ron·er)/moʊˌnətər/ the title of various senior Roman Catholic positions, such as a prelate or an officer of the papal court.

moon·sion /mʌnˈsoʊn/ˈmənˌsən/ n. a seasonal prevailing wind in the region of the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, blowing from the southwest between May and September and bringing rain (the wet monsoon), or from the northeast between October and April (the dry monsoon). > the rainy season accompanying the wet monsoon.

moon·sion·al /mənˈsənəl/ adj.

mons·pu·bis /mʌnˈzɛpəbəs/ˈmənˌpəbəs/ n. (pl. mon·tes·pu·bis /məntəˌpəbəs/) the rounded mass of fatty tissue lying over the joint of the pubic bones, in women typically more prominent and also called the mons veneris /ˈvɛnəriːs/.

moon·ster /ˈmʌnstər/ n. an imaginary creature that is typically large, ugly, and frightening. > an inhumanly cruel or wicked person. > often humorous a person, typically a child, who is rude or badly behaved: Christopher is already a little monster. > a thing or animal that is excessively or dauntingly large: this is a monster of a book. > a congenitally malformed or mutant animal or plant.

> adj. int. of an extraordinary and daunting size or extent.

moon·strous·ly /mənˈstrəsləli/ adj. 1 something, esp. a building, that is very large and is considered unsightly. > something that is outrageously or offensively wrong. > a grossly malformed animal, plant, or person. 2 the state or fact of being monstrous.

moon·strous /mənˈstrəs/ adj. having the ugly or frightening appearance of a monster. > of (a person or an action) inhumanly or outrageously evil or wrong: it is a monstrous waste of money. > extremely and dauntingly large: the monstrous tidal wave swamped the countryside.

—moon·strous·ly adv. —moon·strous·ness n.

moon·tag·e /ˈmʌntədʒ/ n. the process or technique of selecting, editing, and piecing together separate sections of film to form a continuous whole. > a sequence of film resulting from this: a dazzling montage of the banquet scene. > the technique of producing a new composite whole from fragments of pictures, text, or music.

moon·tan·tán /moʊˈtæntæn/ˌməntæn/ adj. of or inhabiting mountainous country; montane grasslands.

moon·th /mʌnθ/ n. (also calendar month) each of the twelve named periods into which a year is divided. > a period of time between the same dates in successive calendar months: the president's rule was extended for six more months from March 3. > a period of 28 days or four weeks: the fourth month of pregnancy. > a lunar month.

> a month of Sundays int. a very long, seemingly endless period of time.

—moon·th·ly /ˈmʌnθli/ adj. done, produced, or occurring once a month: the council held monthly meetings.

> adv. once a month; every month; from month to month: most of us get paid monthly.

moon·beam /ˈmʌnˌbɛm/ n. a ray of moonlight.

moon·faced /ˈmʌnfəst/ adj. having a round face.
morbid /mərˈbɪd/ adj. 1 characterized by or appealing to an abnormal and unhealthy interest in disturbing and unpleasant subjects, esp. death and disease: a morbid fascination with the horrors of warfare. 2 Med. of the nature of or indicative of disease: the treatment of morbid obesity. —mor-bid-i-ty [mərˈbɪdəti] n. —mor-bid-ly adv. —mor-bid-ness n.

mor-dant /ˈmɔrdant/ adj. (esp. of humor) having or showing a sharp or critical quality; biting: a morbid sense of humor.
· n. a substance, typically an inorganic oxide, that combines with a dye or stain and thereby fixes it in a material. a corrosive liquid used to etch the lines on a printing plate.
· v. [fr. it.] impregnate or treat (a fabric) with a mordant. —mor-dant-ly adv.

mor-dent /ˈmɔrdent/ n. Mus. an ornament consisting of one rapid alternation of a written note with the note immediately below or above it in the scale.

more /mɔr/ adj. & pron. 1 comparative of MANY, MUCH. 2 a greater or additional amount or degree: [as adj] I poured myself more coffee. [as pron] tell me more. they proved more of a hindrance than a help.
· adv. 1 comparative of much. 2 forming the comparative of adjectives and adverbs, esp. those of more than one syllable: for them, enthusiasm is more important than talent. 3 to a greater extent: I like chicken more than turkey. —more (more) extremely [used before an adjective conveying a positive feeling or attitude]; she is more than happy to oblige. 4 again: repeat once more. 5 moreover: he was rich, and more, he was handsome.
· □ more or less speaking imprecisely; to a certain extent: they are more or less a waste of time. □ approximately: more or less symmetrical. □ no more nothing further: there was no more to be said about it. □ no further: you must have some soup, but no more wine. □ be no more exist no longer. □ never again: mention his name no more to me.

mor-phil-cal /ˌmərˈfɪləkəl/ n. a widely distributed edible fungus (genus Morchella) that has a brown oval or pointed fruiting body with an irregular honeycombed surface bearing the spores.

mores /mərˈzɔːr/ pl. n. the essential or characteristic customs and conventions of a community: an offense against social mores.

morgue /mɔrɡ/ n. 1 a place where bodies are kept, esp. identified or claimed. □ used metabolically to refer to a place that is quiet, gloomy, or cold: that drafty morgue of a sitting room. 2 [fr. it.] in a newspaper office, a collection of old cuttings, photographs, and information.

mor-bi-dy /ˈmɔrˈbɪdi/ adj. of a person at the point of death. □ (of a thing) in terminal decline, lacking vitality or vigor: the morbidly obese, morbidly property market. —mor-bi-dly adv.

Mor-mon /ˈmɔrəmən/ n. a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, a religion founded in the U.S. in 1830 by Joseph Smith.
· adj. of or relating to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints: the leader of a Mormon congregation.

morn /mɔrn/ n. poetic: term for MORNING.

morn-ay /mɔrnˈeɪ/ also Mor-ay (n. Moray) n. denoting or served in a cheese-flavored white sauce: mornay sauce | cauliflower mornay.

morn-ing /ˈmɔrnɪŋ/ n. the period of time between midnight and noon, esp. from sunrise to noon: I toiled in the fields from morning till night. □ it was a little after eight in the morning. □ this time on a particular day, characterized by a specific type of activity or particular weather conditions: it was a beautiful sunny morning. □ sunrise: a hint of steely light showed that morning was on its way.
· adv. (mornings) inf. every morning: mornings, she’d sleep late.
· morning, noon, and night all the time.

morn-ing-glory /ˈmɔrnɪŋɡləri/ n. a climbing plant (genus Ipomoea, family Convolvulaceae) often cultivated for its showy trumpet-shaped flowers, which typically open in the early morning and wither by midday.

morn-ing-sick-ness /ˈmɔrnɪŋsɪkəs/ n. nausea in pregnancy, typically occurring in the first few months at any time of day.

morn-ing-star /ˈmɔrnɪŋstɑː(r)/ n. (the morning star) a bright planet, esp. Venus, when visible in the east before sunrise.


morose /məˈrəʊs, mɔr-/ adj. sullen and ill-tempered. —morose-ly adv.

mor-phem-e /mɔrˈfɛm/ n. Linguistics a meaningful morphological unit of a language that cannot be further divided (e.g., in come, being, forming incoming). —mor-phemic /mɔrˈfɛmɪk/ adj. —mor-phem-ic-ally /mɔrˈfɛməkəli/ adv.

mor-phen-e /mɔrˈfɛn/ n. an analgesic and narcotic drug, C17H23NO3S, obtained from opium and used medicinally to relieve pain.

mor-phol-o-gy /mɔrˈfoʊlədʒi/ n. (pl. -gies) the study of the forms of things, in particular: □ Biol. the branch of biology that deals with the form of living organisms, and with relationships between their structures. □ Linguistics the study of the forms of words. —mor-phol-o-gic /mɔrˈfoʊlədʒɪk/ adj. —mor-phol-o-gi-cal-ly /mɔrˈfoʊlədʒɪkəli/ adv. —mor-phol-o-gist /ˈmorfoʊlədʒɪst/ n.

mor-row /ˈmɔrəʊ/ n. (the morrow) archaic or poetic. the following day; on the morrow, they attacked the city. the time following an event: in the morrow of great victory. the near future: the religious enthusiast who takes no thought for the morrow.

Mor-se code /ˈmɔrəs/ n. an alphabet or code in which letters are represented by combinations of long and short signals of light or sound.
· v. [fr.] signal (something) using Morse code.

mor-sel /ˈmɔrsl/ n. a small piece or amount of food; a mouthful. a small piece or amount: reporters do their best to ferret out every morsel of information. —Middle English: from Old French, diminutive of mors ‘a bite,’ from Latin mors- ‘bitten,’ from the verb mordere.

mor-tal /ˈmɔrtl/ adj. 1 of a living human being, often in contrast to a divine being: subject to death; all men are mortal. 2 of or relating to humanity as subject to death: the coffin held the mortal remains of her uncle. □ int. conceivable or imaginable: punishment out of all mortal proportion to the offense. 2 causing or liable to cause death; fatal: a mortal disease. □ fig. the scandal appeared to have struck a mortal blow to the government. □ (of a battle) fought to the death: the screams of men in mortal combat. □ (of an enemy or a state of hostility) admitting or allowing no reconciliation until death. □ Christian Theol. denoting a grave sin that is regarded as depriving the soul of divine grace. Often contrasted with venial. □ (of a feeling, esp. fear) very intense: parents live in mortal fear of children’s diseases. □ int. dated long and tedious: for three mortal days it rained.
· n. dated long and tedious: for three mortal days it rained.

mor-tal-ly /ˈmɔrtləli/ adv. 1 the state of being subject to death. 2 death, esp. on a large scale: the causes of mortality among young children, or mortality rate the number of deaths in a given area or period, or from a particular cause.

mor-tar /ˈmɔrtər/ n. 1 a cup-shaped receptacle made of hard material, in which ingredients are crushed or ground, used esp. in cooking or pharmacy: a mortar and pestle. 2 a short, smoothbore gun for firing shells [technically called bombs] at high angles. 3 a similar device used for firing a lifeline or firework.
· v. [fr.] attack or bombard with shells fired from a mortar.

mor-tar-board /ˈmɔrtər, bɔrd/ n. 1 an academic cap with a stiff, flat, square top and a tassel. 2 a small square board with a handle on the underside, used by bricklayers for holding mortar.

mort-gage /ˈmɔrtɪdʒ/ n. 1 the charging of real or personal property by a debtor to a creditor as security for a debt (esp. one incurred by the purchase of the property), on the condition that it shall be returned on payment of the debt within a certain period. □ a deed effecting such a transaction. □ a loan obtained through the conveyance of property as security: I put down a hundred thousand in cash and took out a mortgage for the rest.
· v. [fr. often be mortgaged] convey (a property) to a creditor as security on a loan. □ fig. expose to future risk or constraint for the sake of
motion /ˈməʊʃən/ n. 1. the action or process of moving or being moved; a gesture; she made a motion with her free hand. 2. a piece of moving mechanism. 2. a formal proposal put to a legislature or committee: the head of our commission made a motion that we rewrite the constitution. 3. Law an application for a rule or order of court. 3. Mus. the movement of a melodic line between successive pitches.

motion picture n. another term for MOVIE: [as adj.] the motion-picture industry.

motivate /ˈməʊtəvɪt/ v. [tr.] provide (someone) with a motive for doing something: he was primarily motivated by the desire for profit. 2. stimulate (someone’s) interest or enthusiasm for doing something: I’m going to motivate kids to study chemistry. —motivation n. —motivator /ˈməʊtɪvətər/ n.
motive /ˈməʊtɪv/ n. 1. a reason for doing something, esp. one that is hidden or not obvious. 2. (in art, literature, or music) a motif: the entire work grows organically from the opening horn motive.

adj. 1. producing physical or mechanical motion: the charge of gas is the motive force for every piston stroke. 2. causing or being the reason for something: the motive principle of a writer’s work. —motionless adj. —motionlessly adv. —motionlessness n.

motley /ˈmɒtli/ adj. (motier, motiest) incongruously varied in appearance or character; disparate: a motley crew.

motion-picture production n. a production of a motion picture film.

motor /ˈmɒtər/ n. 1. a machine, esp. one powered by electricity or internal combustion, that supplies motive power for a vehicle or for some other device with moving parts. 2. a source of power, energy, or motive force; hormones are the motor of the sexual functions.

adj. 1. giving, imparting, or producing motion or action: demand is the principle motive force governing economic activity. 2. Physical relating to muscular movement or the nerves activating it; the motor functions of each hand. 2. chiefly Brit. driven by a motor. 3. of or relating to motor vehicles: the world of motor sports.

v. [intr.] int. travel in a motor vehicle, typically a car or a boat.

motorboat /ˈmɒtər,ˈbɒt/ n. a boat powered by a motor, esp. a recreational boat.

motorcade /ˈmɒtər,keɪd/ n. a procession of motor vehicles, typically carrying and escorting a prominent person.

motorcar /ˈmɒtər,keər/ n. dated or Brit. an automobile.

motorcycle /ˈmɒtərˌsɪkəl/ n. a two-wheeled vehicle that is powered by a motor and has no pedals. —motorcyclist /ˌsɪk(ə)list/ n.
moveable hard-liners may yet move against him. \[tr\] (usu. be moved) provoke a strong feeling, esp. of sorrow or sympathy, in: to be moved to tears by a get-well message from the president. \[tr\] (archaic) stir up (an emotion) in someone. \[intr\] make progress; develop in a particular manner or direction: aircraft design had moved forward | legislators are anxious to get things moving. \[intr\] (move it) int. used to urge or command someone to hurry up. \[intr\] go quickly: Kenny was really moving when he flipped over. \[intr\] (of merchandise) be sold: despite the high prices, goods are moving. \[tr\] sell (merchandise). \[intr\] (move in with) spend one's time or be socially active in (a particular sphere) or among (a particular group of people); they moved in different circles. \[tr\] propose for discussion and resolution at a meeting or legislative assembly; make a formal request or application to (a court or assembly) for something: his family moved the court for adequate “maintenance expenses”. \[tr\] empty (one’s bowels). \[intr\] (of the bowels) be emptied. 

\[phrasal\] move in to take possession of a new house or business premises. \[move in with\] to start to share accommodations with (an existing resident). 

\[move on\] to proceed: ballet has moved on, leaving Russia behind. 

\[move over\] (or aside) adjust one's position to make room for someone else. 

\n| a change of place or position: his eyes followed her every move. | a change of house or business premises. | a change of job, career, or business direction: a career move. | a change of state or opinion: the country's move to independence. | an action that initiates or advances a process or plan: my next move is to talk to Matthew. | a maneuver in a sport or game. | a change of political positions in a board game. | a player's move that makes a change: it's your move. |

\[get a move on\] (often in imper\) int. hurry up. 

\[get moving\] (often in imper\), int. make a prompt start (on a journey or an undertaking): you're here to work, so get moving. 

\[make a move\] to take action. 

\[on the move\] in the process of moving from one place to job or another: it's difficult to contact her because she's always on the move. 

\[move\] progress: the economy appeared to be on the move. 

\[move-a-ble\] adj. & n. variant spelling of movable. 

\[move-ment\] n. 1 an act of changing physical location or position or of having this changed. \[also bowel movement\] an act of defecation. \[movements\] the activities and whereabouts of someone, esp. during a particular period of time: your movements and telephone conversations are recorded. 

\[move-up\] n. 1 a change in physical location or position: moving to a larger apartment. 

\[move-v-strong\] adj. 1 in motion: a fast-moving river. 2 producing strong emotion, esp. sadness or sympathy: an unforgettable moving book. 3 relating to the process of changing out one's residence: moving on. 4 involving a moving vehicle: tickets for moving violations. 

\[move\] v. (past part. moved or mown) adj. (of a plant) cut down (an area of grass, a tree, or a twelve-month grass) with a machine: Roger moved the lawn. \[adj\] (mown) the smell of newly mown grass. 

\[chiefly hist.\] cut down (grass or a cereal crop) with a scythe or a sickle. 

\[phrasal\] move a person down kill someone with a fusillade of bullets or other missiles. 

\[reckless\] knock someone down with a car or other vehicle. 

\[move\] n. a stack of hay, grain, or other similar crop: the hay move. 

\[a\] place in a barn where such a stack is put. 

\[move-ment\] n. 1 int. force of character, determination, or nerve. 

\[mowza-rel-la\] n. a mild, semisoft white Italian cheese, often used in Italian cooking as a melted topping; esp. on pizzas. 

\[MP\] n. Member of Parliament: Robert Brown, MP. 

\[military\] police. 

\[military\] policeman. 

\[mug\] v. miles per gallon (a measurement of a vehicle's rate of fuel consumption). 

\[Mr.\] n. a title used before a surname or full name to address or refer to a man without a higher or honorific or professional title: Mr. Robert Smith was used before the name of an office to address a man who holds it: yes, Mr. President. 

\[mugger\] n. used before an invented surname to imply that someone has a particular characteristic: Mr. Big-Shot. 

\[often as\] used in the armed forces to address a senior warrant officer, officer cadet, or junior naval officer. 

\[MRI\] n. magnetic resonance imaging. 

\[mRNA\] Biol. messenger RNA. 

\[Mrs.\] n. a title used before a surname or full name to address or refer to a married woman, or a woman who has been married, without a higher or honorific or professional title: Mrs. Sally James. 

\[MS\] n. (also ms) manuscript. 

\[Master of Science\] n. 

\[mudder\] n. motor ship. 

\[multiple\] sclerosis. 

\[Ms.\] n. a title used before the surname or full name of any woman regardless of her marital status (a neutral alternative to Mrs. or Miss): Ms. Sarah Brown. 

\[humerous\] used before an invented surname to imply that someone has a particular characteristic: Ms. Do-Right. 


\[abbr\] Microsoft disk operating system. 

\[MOS\] n. monosodium glutamate. 

\[Msr\] n. Monsieur. 

\[Mss\] n. (also mss) manuscripts. 

\[MST\] n. Mountain Standard Time (see Mountain Time). 

\[Mt\] n. megaton. 

\[Mt.\] n. Mount: Mt. Everest. 

\[symbol\] the chemical element mendelevium. 

\[mu\] n. the twentieth letter of the Greek alphabet (Μ, μ), transliterates as ‘m’. 

\[μ\] (μ) symbol. 

\[muc\] adj. & pron. (more of most) a large amount: as much as I did not get much sleep, I did not much shopping. 

\[much\] adv. to a great extent; to a great deal: did it hurt much? thanks very much they did not mind, much to my surprise. 

\[much\] n. as much even though: as much as I had enjoyed my adventure, it was good to be back. 

\[muc-liage\] n. a polysaccharide substance extracted as a viscous or gelatinous solution from plant roots, seeds, etc., and used in medicinal remedies and as an adhesive solution; gum or glue. 

\[muc-liage\] n. the Gospel of Matthew (in biblical references). 

\[muc-nless\] n. (also Mt.) Mount: Mt. Everest. 

\[muc\] n. dirt, rubbish, or waste matter. 

\[muc\] n. widely used as fertilizer. 

\[muc\] adj. something regarded as worthless, sordid, or corrupt. 

\[v.\] (tr.) (muck up) int. mishandle (a job or situation); spoil (something she had mucked up her first few weeks at college). 

\[muck\] n. rare spread manure (on land). 

\[phrasal\] v. to muck about/around chiefly Brit., int. behave in a silly or aimless way: have spent his summers mucking about in boats. 

\[muck\] n. spoil something by interfering with it: they did not want designers mucking about with their newspapers. 

\[Middle English muck\] probably of Scandinavian origin: compare with Old Norse mykt ‘dung’, from a Germanic base meaning ‘soft,’ shared by meek. 

\[mucking\] n. the action of searching out and publicizing scandalous information about famous people in an underhanded way, esp. with the political aim of exposing corruption. 

\[muck-rake\] n. (raking) v. (raking) n.
mucky /məkki/ adj. (muck-i-er, muck-i-est) covered with or consisting of dirt or filth. —muckiness n.
mu-co-us /ˈmjuːkəʊəs/ adj. relating to, producing, covered with, or of the nature of mucus. —mu-co-us-ly, -ly /ˈmjuːkəʊəsli/ adv.
mu-cus /ˈmjuːkəs/ n. a slimy substance, typically not miscible with water, secreted by mucous membranes and glands for lubrication, protection, etc.
mud /mʌd/ n. soft, sticky matter resulting from the mixing of earth and water. • fig. information or allegations regarded as damaging, typically concerned with corruption: they are trying to sling mud at me to cover up their defeat.
mud-bank /ˈmʌdbæŋk/ n. a bank of mud on the bed of a river or the bottom of a sea.
mud-dle /ˈmʌdl/ v. [tr.] bring into a disordered or confusing state. • confuse (a person or their thoughts): I do not wish to muddle him by making him read more books. • [intr.] busy oneself in a confused and ineffective way: he was muddling about in the kitchen. • mix (a drink) or stir (an ingredient) into a drink. • phrasal v. muddle through cope more or less satisfactorily despite lack of expertise, planning, or equipment: we don’t have an ultimate ambition; we just muddle through.
• n. an untidy and disorganized state or collection: a muddle of French, English, Ojibwa, and Greek: the finances were in a muddle; she cut through the confusion and muddle. • a mistake arising from or resulting in confusion: a bureaucratic muddle. • late Middle English in the sense ‘wallow in mud’: perhaps from Middle Dutch muddelen, frequentative of mudden ‘dabble in mud.’ The sense ‘confuse’ was initially associated with alcoholic drink (late 17th cent.), giving rise to ‘busy oneself in a confused way’ and ‘jump up’ (mid 19th cent.). —mud-der n. • muddling-ly /ˈmʌdlɪŋli/ • muddling-ly /ˈmʌdlɪŋli/ adv. • muddily /ˈmʌdlɪli/ • muddily /ˈmʌdlɪli/ adj. • mud-dle-head-ed (also mud-dle-end-ed) adj. mentally disorganized or confused. • mud-dle-head-ed-ness also mud-dle-end-ed-ness n.
mud-flap /ˈmʌdfleɪp/ n. a flap that hangs behind the wheel of a vehicle and is designed to prevent water, mud, and stones thrown up from the road from hitting the bodywork of the vehicle or any following vehicles.
mud-guard /ˈmʌdgɑːrd/ n. a curved strip or cover over the wheel of a vehicle, esp. a bicycle or motorcycle, designed to protect the vehicle and rider from water and dirt thrown up from the road.
mud-puppy /ˈmʌdpɪpi/ n. a large aquatic salamander (Necturus maculosus, family Proteidae) of the eastern US, reaching sexual maturity while retaining an immature body form with feathery external gills.
mud-slide /ˈmʌdslaid/ n. a mass of mud and other earthy material that is falling or has fallen down a hillside or other slope.
mues-li /ˈmyʊsli/ n. (pl. mues-lys) a mixture of cereals (esp. rolled oats), dried fruit, and nuts, typically eaten with milk at breakfast.
muez-ziin /ˈmyʊzziɪn/ n. • mőežiin /ˈmyʊeʒiɪn/ n. a man who calls Muslims to prayer from the minaret of a mosque.
muff /mʌf/ n. a tube made of fur or other warm material into which the hands are placed for warmth. • a warm or protective covering for other parts of the body.
muff /mʌf/ v. [tr.] handle (a situation, task, or opportunity) clumsily or badly: the administration muddled several of its biggest projects. • fail to catch or receive (a ball) or to hit (a shot or a target): the catcher muffed a perfect throw home. • speak (lines from a theatrical part) badly. • n. a mistake or failure, esp. a failure to catch or receive a ball cleanly.
muffin /ˈmʌfɪn/ n. a small domed cake or quick bread made from batter or dough: blueberry muffins. • short for ENGLISH MUFFIN.
muf-flie /ˈmʌfluːi/ n. (often be muffled) wrap or cover for warmth: muffled in an old corduroy coat (a sound of sound) to reduce its loudness: [as adj.] (muffled) a muffled drum. • make (a sound) quieter or less distinct: his voice was muffled.
muf-fler /ˈmʌflər/ n. 1 a scarf or wrap worn around the neck and face for warmth. 2 a part of a motor vehicle’s exhaust system, serving to muffle the sound of the vehicle. • a device used to deaden the sound of a drum, bell, piano, or other instrument.
muf-ti /ˈmʌfti/ n. (pl. muf-tis) a Muslim legal expert who is empowered to give rulings on religious matters.
muf-ti /mʊf-/ n. plain clothes worn by a person who wears a uniform for their job, such as a soldier or police officer: I was a flying officer in mafi.
mug /mʌɡ/ n. 1 a large cup, typically cylindrical and with a handle and used without a saucer. • the contents of such a cup: a large mug of tea vanished in a single gulp. 2 int. a person’s face. • int. a hoodlum or thug. • Bot. int. a stupid or gullible person. • v. (mugged, mugging) int. 1 [tr.] (often be mugged) attack and rob (someone) in a public place: he was mugged by three men who stole his bike | as n. (mugging) a brutal mugging. • dated fight or hit (someone). 2 [intr.] makes faces, esp. silly or exaggerated ones, before an audience or a camera: he mugged for the camera. —mugful /ˈmʊgfəʊl/ n. (pl. -fuls). —mugger n.
mug-gy /ˈmʌggi/ adj. • [gier, -giest] (of the weather) unpleasantly warm and humid. —mug-giness n.
mug shot (also mug-shot) n. int. a photograph of a person’s face made for an official purpose, esp. police records.
mug-wort /ˈmʌgwɔːrt/ n. a plant (genus Artemisia) of the daisy family, with aromatic divided leaves that are dark green above and whitish below, native to north temperate regions.
mug-wump /ˈmʌgwʌmp/ n. a person who remains aloof or independent, esp. from party politics. • a Republican who in 1884 refused to support James G. Blaine, the Republican nominee for president.
Mu-ham-mad-an /mʊˈhɑːmədən/ n. • -ah (also Moh-ham-med-an) n. • adj. archaic term for Muslim (not favored by Muslims). • -Mu-ham-mad-an-ism n.
mu-lat-to /ˌmyʊləˈtəʊ/ n. • -laō, -lō or -laos or -laos a person of mixed white and black ancestry, esp. a person with one white and one black parent. • adj. relating to or denoting a mulatto or mulattos.
mul-berry /ˈmʌlbəri/ n. 1 (also mulberry tree or bush) a small deciduous tree (genus Morus, family Moraceae) with broad leaves, native to the Far East and long cultivated elsewhere. • the dark red or white loganberry-like fruit of this tree. • a dark red or purple color.
mulch /ˈmʌlk/ n. a material (such as decaying leaves, bark, or compost) spread around or over a plant to enrich or insulate the soil. • v. [intr.] apply a mulch. • [tr.] treat or cover with mulch.
mulct /ˈmʌlk/ v. • [tr.] extract money from (someone) by fine or taxation. • mulct someone of deprive someone of (money or possessions) by fraudulent means: he mulcted Shelly of $75,000.
mule /ˈmʌl/ n. 1 a fine or heavy work or pack animal. • mule 2 (a) n. a light or showy horse. • mule 3 (b) n. a horse and a female horse. • mule 4 (c) n. a person or animal used as a beast of burden. • mule 5 (d) a person considered to be a mule, esp. in being stubborn or obstinate. • int. a courier for illegal drugs. • a small tractor or locomotive, typically one that is electrically powered. • a hybrid plant or animal, esp. a sterile one. • mule 3 (e) a kind of spinning machine producing yarn on spindles, invented by Samuel Crompton (1753–1827) in 1779. 4 a coin with the obverse and reverse of designs that do not originally intended to be used together.
mule /ˈmʌl/ n. a lighter or showy horse.
muli-sh /ˈmʌliʃ/ adj. resembling or likened to a mule in being stubborn. • -muli-ship adv. • -muli-ness n.
mull /mʌl/ v. [tr.] think about (a fact, proposal, or request) deeply and at length; she began to mull over the various possibilities.
mull /mʌl/ v. [intr.] usu. as adj. (muddled) warm (a beverage, esp. wine, beer, or cider) and add spices and sweetening to it: a tankard of muddled ale.
mullo-n /mʊˈloʊn/ n. thin, soft, plain muslin, used in bookbinding for joining the spine of a book to its cover.
mul-rah /ˈmyʊlə/ n. • -rah (also mul-la) n. a Muslim learned in Islamic theology and sacred law. • early 17th cent.: from Persian, Turkish, and Urdu mūlā, from Arabic mula‘.
mul-lein /ˈmʌlən/ n. a herbaceous Eurasian plant (genus Verbacum) of the figwort family, with wooly leaves and tall spikes of yellow flowers.
mul-let /ˈmʌlət/ n. a chiefly marine fish (families Mugilidae and Mugilidae) that is widely caught for food.

Pronunciation Key: a ago, ap or, fur, fut; b hat; e ate; a ear; ch chin; e let; e see, e(a)ir; f if; f iy; f ier; g go; g gog; h hat; h ih; h hew; hwhy; h vision
mumps /mæmps/ pl. n. [treated as sing.] a contagious and infectious viral disease causing swelling of the salivary glands in the face, and a risk of sterility in adult males.
munch-ie /'mʌnʃi/ n. (pl. munchies) (usu. munched) snak[e] or small item of food. /munch (the munchies) a sudden strong desire for food.
mundane /mʌndən/ adj. 1 lacking interest or excitement; dull. 2 of this earthly world rather than a heavenly or spiritual one: according to the Shinto doctrine, spirits of the dead can act upon the mundane world.
modynamically /'mʌndən-əli/ adv.
mundane-ness n. /mʌndən-əti/ n. /mʌndət/ adj. (pl. tides) an urban unit of government that has corporate status. /mundane the governing body of such an area.
municipal /mʌnɪpəl/ adj. (of or in) relating to a city or town or its governing body. /municipality /mʌnɪpəlɪtɪ/ n. (pl. -ties) an urban unit of government that has corporate status. /municipal the governing body of such an area.
municipal-ly /'mʌnɪpəlɪ/ adv.

mung /mʌŋ/ (also mung bean) n. a small round green bean. 2 the tropical Old World plant (Vigna radiata, or Phaseolus aureus) that yields these beans, commonly grown as a source of bean sprouts.
impossible to understand or explain. a person or thing whose identity or nature is puzzling or unknown: ‘He’s a bit of a mystery,” said Nina. 2 a novel, play, or movie dealing with a puzzling crime, esp. a murder. 3 [mysteries] the secret rites of Greek and Roman pagan religion, or of any ancient or tribal religion, to which only initiates are admitted. a the practices, skills, or lore peculiar to a particular trade or activity and regarded as baffling to those without specialized knowledge 4 chiefly Christian Theol. a religious belief based on divine revelation, esp. one regarded as beyond human understanding: the mystery of Christ.

mystery /ˈmɪstrɪ/ n. (pl. -teries) archaic a handicraft or trade.

mystic /ˈmɪstɪk/ n. a person who seeks by contemplation and self-surrender to obtain unity with or absorption into the Deity or the absolute, or who believes in the spiritual apprehension of truths that are beyond the intellect.

adj. another term for mystical. Middle English (in the sense ‘mystical meaning’): from Old French mystique, or via Latin from Greek mystikos, from mystēs ‘initiated person,’ from mystē ‘close the eyes or lips,’ also ‘initiate.’ The current sense of the noun dates from the late 17th cent.

mystical /ˈmɪstɪkal/ adj. 1 of or relating to mystics or religious mysticism: the mystical body of Christ. 2 spiritually allegorical or symbolic, transcending human understanding: the mystical practices of the Pythagoreans. 3 of hidden or esoteric meaning: a geometric figure of mystical significance. 2 inspiring a sense of spiritual mystery, awe, and fascination: the mystical forces of nature. concerned with the soul or the spirit, rather than with material things. —mystically adv. —mysticism n.; -sizam/ n.

mystify /ˈmɪstɪfaɪ/ v. (-fies, -fied) [tr] utterly bewilder or perplex (someone): a dated take advantage of the credulity of: hoax: he took a childlike delight in mystifying his officials. b make obscure or mysterious: lawyers who mystify the legal system. —mystify-ing-ly adv.

mystique /ˈmɪstɪk/ n. a fascinating aura of mystery, awe, and power surrounding someone or something: an air of secrecy surrounding a particular activity or subject that makes it impressive or baffling to those without specialized knowledge: the mystique associated with computers.

myth /mɪθ/ n. 1 a traditional story, esp. one concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events. such stories collectively: the heroes of Greek myth. 2 a widely held but false belief or idea: the myth that sea kayaking is too risky. a misrepresentation of the truth: irresponsible myths about privatization. b a fictitious or imaginary person or thing. c an exaggerated or idealized conception of a person or thing: the Churchill myth. —mythic adj. —myth-i-cal adj.

mythology /mɪˈθɒlədʒɪ/ n. (pl. -gies) 1 a collection of myths, esp. one belonging to a particular religious or cultural tradition. a a set of stories or beliefs about a particular person, institution, or situation, esp. when exaggerated or fictitious: in popular mythology, trackers are kings of the road. 2 the study of myths. —myth-olog-ic /ˌmɪθəˈlɒdʒɪk/ adj.

N  [en/ (also Na) ▶ n. (pl. Na or Na’s) the fourteenth letter of the alphabet. See also EN. • denoting the next after M in a set of items, categories, etc.]

Na  ▶ abbr. • (used in recording moves in chess): 17. Na4?

Nationalist. • (on a gear lever) neutral. • (chiefly in place names) New: N Zealand. • Physics: newton. • Chem. (with reference to solutions): normal: the pH was adjusted to 7.0 with 1 N HCl. • Norse. • North or Northern: 76° N / N Ireland. • Finance note. • nuclear: the N bomb.

• symb. the chemical element nitrogen.

n  ▶ abbr. • name. • (in comb.: [in units of measurement]) nano- (10⁻⁹): the plates were coated with 500 ng of protein in sodium carbonate buffer. • born.

• nephew. • set. • Gram. neutron. • new. • nominative. • noon.

• (n/-) ▶ abbr. Chem. normal (denoting straight-chain hydrocarbons): n-lexane. • north or northern. • note (used in a book’s index to refer to a footnote): 45on. • Finance note. • Gram. noun. • number.

• symb. an unspecified or variable number: at the limit where you equals infinity. See also NTH.

'n' [an] ▶ contr. of and (conventionally used in informal contexts to coordinate two closely connected elements): rock ‘n’ roll.

Na  ▶ symb. the chemical element sodium.

NAAACP  ▶ f/ en debal a sè ‘pè’ ▶ abbr. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

nab  ▶ v. (nabbed, nabbing) [tr. int.] catch (someone) doing something wrong: Olympic drug tests nabbed another athlete yesterday. • take or grab (something): Dan nabbed the seat next to mine. • steal.

nabob  ▶ nabobs ▶ n. hist. a Muslim official or governor under the Mogul empire. • a person of conspicuous wealth or high status. • chiefly hist. a person who returned from India to Europe with a fortune. • from Portuguese nabinho or Spanish naboso, from Urdu.

nacho  ▶ nachos ▶ n. (pl. -chos) a small crisp piece of a tortilla, typically topped with melted cheese and spices.

nadir  ▶ n. nadar, nadiar ▶ n. the lowest point in the fortunes of a person or organization; they had reached the nadir of their sufferings. • Astron. the point on the celestial sphere directly below an observer. The opposite of zenith.

NAFTA  ▶ NAFTA (also Nafta) ▶ abbr. North American Free Trade Agreement.

nag  ▶ v. (nagged, nagging) [tr.] annoy or irritate (a person) with persistent fault-finding or continuous urging: she constantly nags her daughter about getting married. • [often as adj.] naggingly) be persistently painful, troublesome, or worrying to: there was a nagging pain in his chest | intr. something nagged at the back of his mind.

• n. a person who nags someone. • a persistent feeling of anxiety: he felt that little nag of doubt. —nagger n. —nagging-ly adv. —nag-gy adj.

nag  ▶ n. int. often derog. a horse, esp. one that is old or in poor health.

nag  ▶ n. /nag/ ▶ n. (pl. names) ▶ a horse suitable for riding as opposed to a draft animal.

Na-hua  ▶ Na/wa/ ▶ n. (pl. name) 1. a member of a group of peoples native to southern Mexico and Central America, including the Aztecs. 2. the Uto-Aztecan language of these peoples.

• adj. of or relating to these peoples or their language.

Nai-ad  ▶ n/aad; -ad; -a/ ▶ n. (pl. naiads or naiades -a/dez/) 1. (also Naiad) (in classical mythology) a water nymph said to inhabit a river, spring, or waterfall. 2. the aquatic larva or nymph of a dragonfly or mayfly. 3. a submerged aquatic plant (genus Najas, family Najadaceae) with narrow leaves and minute flowers.

nail  ▶ n. 1. a small metal spike with a broadened flat head, driven typically into wood with a hammer to join things together or to serve as a peg or hook. 2. a horny covering on the upper surface of the tip of the finger and toe in humans and other primates. • an animal’s claw.

• v. [tr.] 1. (tr.) fasten to a surface or to something else with a nail or nails: nail the edge framing to the wall. 2. inf. expose (someone) as deceitful or criminal; catch or arrest: have you nailed the killer? 3. inf. (of a player) secure (esp. a victory) conclusively: there’s no doubt I had chances to nail it in the last set.

nhasal  ▶ v. nail someone down elicit a firm promise or commitment from someone: I can’t nail her down to a specific date. ▶ nail something down 1. fasten something securely with nails. 2. identify something precisely: something seems unexpected—I can’t nail it down, but it makes me uneasy. 3. secure something, esp. an agreement: the company has finally nailed down the agreement with its distributors. —nailed adj. (in comb.) dirty-nailed fingers. —nail-less adj.

• hard as nails (of a person) very tough: completely callous or unfeeling. ▶ a nail in the coffin an action or event regarded as likely to have a detrimental or destructive effect on a situation, enterprise, or person: this was going to put the final nail in the coffin of his career.

nail-head  ▶ n/aed-ed) ▶ n. the rounded head of a nail. • an ornament like the head of a nail, used chiefly in architecture and on clothing.

nail wrap ▶ n. a type of beauty treatment, in which a nail strenghtener, usu. containing fiberglass, is either brushed on or applied with adhesive.

naive  ▶ n/ve (also naïve) ▶ adj. (of a person or action) showing a lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment: the rather naive young man had been totally misled. • (of a person) natural and unaffected; innocent: Andy had a sweet, naive look when he smiled. • of or denoting art produced in a straightforward style that deliberately rejects sophisticated artistic techniques and has a bold directness resembling a child’s work, typically in bright colors with little or no perspective. —naïvely adv. — naïve-ness n.

naïve-té  ▶ n/ve/tet; n/ve/t, t (also naïve-té, Brit. naïve-ty) ▶ n. lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment: the administration’s naïveté and incompetence in foreign policy. • innocence or unsophistication: they took advantage of his naïveté and deep pockets.

na-ked  ▶ n/ked  ▶ adj. (of a person or part of the body) without clothes: he’d never seen a naked woman before. • (of an object) without the usual covering or protection: her room was lit by a single naked bulb. • (of a tree, plant, or animal) without leaves, hairs, scales, shell, etc.: the twisted trunks and naked branches of the trees. • fig. exposed to harm, unprotected or vulnerable: John looked naked and defenseless without his glasses. • (of something such as feelings or behavior) undisguised; blatant: the naked truth. • Old English naced, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch naakt and German nackt, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin nudus and Sanskrit nagna. —na-ked-ly adv. — na-ked-ness n.

naked eye  ▶ n. (usu. the naked eye) unaided vision, without a telescope, microscope, or other device.

nam-by-pam-by  ▶ nam/’by-pam/’by ▶ adj. dourag, lacking energy, strength, or courage; feeble or effeminate in behavior or expression: these weren’t namby-pamby fights, but brutal affairs where heads lil the sidewalk.

• n. (pl. names) ▶ a feeble or effeminate person.

name  ▶ n/ma/ ▶ n. 1. a word or set of words by which a person, animal, place, or thing is known, addressed, or referred to: my name is Parsons, John Parsons. 2. a famous person: as usual, the big race will hire the top names. • a reputation, esp. a good one: he set up a school that gained a name for excellence.

• v. [br.] give a name to: hundreds of diseases had not yet been isolated or named.
nano- prefix: 1. Having to do with or having the nature of a single atom or molecules.
2. Smallest existing part. 3. In the sense of “having to do with” or “having the nature of.”

nano-structure [nánô-struktər] adj. of a nanoscale object: tightly bound nanostructures.
nano-technology [nánô-tek-nə-lojē] n. the branch of technology that deals with dimensions and tolerances of less than 100 nanometers, esp. the manipulation of individual atoms and molecules.
nano-technologist [nánô-tek-nə-loj-ist] n.
nano-wire [nánô-wīr] n. a nanoscale rod made of conducting material, used in miniature transistors and some laser applications.

name-calling [nám′kə-lĭng] v. 1. abuse by name. 2. by name. 3. by name.

name-caller [nám′kə-lər] n. a person who names others.

name-calling [nám′kə-lĭng] n. abusive language or insults.

name-calling [nám′kə-lĭng] n. the practice of customarily naming the things or persons one knows or claims to know in order to impress others.

name-less [nám′lis] adj. 1. having no name or known name. 2. without name.

name-sake [nám′sāk] n. 1. a person or thing that has the same name as another: High Capiot is the name-sake of his son.

name-taker [nám′tākər] n. a person or thing that has the name as another. 2. a person who takes or adopts a name.

name-see [nám′sē] n. a person or thing that has the name as another.

name-sayer [nám′sār] n. a person or thing that has the name as another.

name-taking [nám′tāk-ing] n. the act or process of taking a name.

name-took [nám′tōk] v. past tense of name.

name-watching [nám′wa-thĭŋk] n. the act of watching or observing names.

name-watcher [nám′wa-thĭŋkər] n. a person who watches or observes names.

narrow [nər′ō] adj. 1. having to do with something narrow: a narrow path. 2. having to do with the size or dimensions of something narrow: a narrow belt. 3. having to do with the shape or form of something narrow: a narrow neck.

narrowing [nər′ō-ing] n. the process of making something narrow.

narrow-est [nər′ō-est] adj. the narrowest.

narrowly [nər′ō-lē] adv. 1. in a narrow way: narrowly contained. 2. with narrowness.

narrowness [nər′ō-nəs] n. the state of being narrow.

narrow-minded [nər′ō-mインd] adj. having narrow views.

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natural childbirth

natural childbirth n. childbirth with minimal medical or technological intervention, usually involving special breathing and relaxation techniques.

natural gas n. flammable gas, consisting largely of methane and other hydrocarbons, occurring naturally underground (often in association with petroleum) and used as fuel.

natural history n. the scientific study of animals or plants, esp. as concerned with the observation rather than experiment, and presented in popular rather than academic form. — the study of the whole natural world, including the earth sciences. — natural history n.

naturalism /ˈnærəkəlizəm/ n. 1 (in art and literature) a style and theory of representation based on the accurate depiction of detail. 2 a philosophical viewpoint according to which everything arises from natural properties and causes, and supernatural or spiritual explanations are excluded or discounted.

naturalist /ˈnærəkəlɪst/ n. 1 an expert in or student of natural history. 2 a person who practices naturalism in art or literature. — a person who adopts philosophical naturalism.

naturalistic /ˈnærəkəlɪstɪk/ adj. 1 derived from real life or nature, or imitating it very closely: verbatim records of children's speech in naturalistic settings. 2 based on the theory of naturalism in art or literature: naturalistic paintings of the city. 3 of or according to the philosophy of naturalism: phenomena once considered supernatural have yielded to naturalistic explanation. — naturalistically adv.

naturalize /ˈnærəkəlайz/ v. [tr.] (often be/become naturalized) admit (a foreigner) to the citizenship of a country: he was born in a foreign country and had never been naturalized. — intr. (of a foreigner) be admitted to the citizenship of a country: the opportunity to naturalize as American. — alter (an adopted foreign word) so that it conforms more closely to the phonology or orthography of the adopting language: the stoccafiss of Liguria was naturalized in Nice as stoccacida. 2 [usu. as adj.] (naturalized) Biol. establish (a plant or animal) so that it lives wild in a region where it is not indigenous: native and naturalized species. — establish (a cultivated plant) in a natural situation: these perennial should be planted where they can naturalize. — naturalize /ˈnærəkəlайzend/ n.

natural law n. 1 a body of unchanging moral principles regarded as a basis for all human conduct. 2 an observable law relating to natural phenomena: the natural laws of perspective.

naturally /ˈnærəkəlі/ adv. 1 in a natural manner, in particular: if we have a cold, the body will react naturally. 2 as a natural result: one leads naturally into the other. 3 as an inevitable result: naturally, I hope for the best. 4 as a consequence: of course, naturally. I hope for the best.

natural numbers pl. n. the positive integers (whole numbers) 1, 2, 3, etc., and sometimes zero as well.

natural resources pl. n. materials or substances such as minerals, forests, water, and fertile land that occur in nature and can be used for economic gain.

natural science n. (usu. natural sciences) a branch of science that deals with the physical world, e.g., physics, chemistry, geology, and biology. — the branch of science that deals with the study of the physical world. — natural science n.

natural selection n. Biol. the process whereby organisms better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring. Compare with survival of the fittest (see survival).

nature /ˈnærət/ n. 1 the phenomena of the physical world collectively, including plants, animals, the landscape, and other features and products of the earth, as opposed to humans or human creations: the breathtaking beauty of nature. — the physical force regarded as causing and regulating these phenomena: it is impossible to change the laws of nature. See also mother nature, the landscape, syphoviruses. 2 the basic features of something, esp. when seen as characteristic of it: helping them to realize the nature of their problems. — inborn or hereditary characteristics as an influence or determinant of personality. Often contrasted with nurture, middle English (denoting the physical power of a person): from Old French, from Latin natura 'birth, nature, quality.' from nat- 'born,' from the verb nasci.

natured /ˈnærərd/ adj. in comb. having a nature or disposition of a specified kind: a good-natured man.

naught /nɔːt/ n. the digit 0; zero.
negative

- of necessity unavoidably: to alleviate labor shortages employers will, of necessity, offer better deals for part-timers.

need

- need (n.) adj. formal necessary: requisite: a further word was needful. 2 needy: she gave her money away to needful people. - needfully adv. - needful-ness n.

nee-dle (n.) adj. a very fine slender piece of polished metal with a point at one end and a hole or eye for thread at the other, used in sewing. 2 something resembling a sewing needle in use, shape, or appearance: such an instrument used in crafts such as crochet, knitting, and macramé. 3 a long, thin, narrow crystal. 4 a thin, typically metal pointer on a dial, compass, or other instrument. 5 the sharp, stiff, slender leaf of a fir or pine tree. 6 a pointed rock or peak. 7 a stylus used to play phonograph records.

need-ful (adj.) adj. needful: of necessity: in need requiring help: children in need. 2 in need of requiring or needing (something). 3 in need of: he was in desperate need of medical care.

nee-dle-work (n.) n. the art or practice of sewing or embroidery: Mrs. Zurnodier specializes in needlework. 2 sewn or embroidered items collectively: exhibits include European and Eastern needlework.

nee-dy (adj.) adj. (nee-di-er, need-i-est) of (someone) lacking the necessities of life: very poor: need and elderly people. 2 of (circumstances) characterized by poverty: those needy backgrounds. - need-i-ness n.

nee'er (n.) adj. poetically: or dial. contr. of never.

nee'er-do-well (n.) adj. a person who is lazy and irresponsible.

nee-far-i-ous (adj.) adj. (typically of an action or activity) wicked or criminal: the nefarious activities of the organized-crime syndicates. - nee-far-i-ous-ly adv. - nee-far-i-ous-ness n.

neg- (n.) adj. a photographic negative.

neg-a-tor (n.) n. 1 a contradiction or denial of something: there should be confirmation—or negation—of the findings. 2 Gram: denial of the truth of a clause or sentence, typically involving the use of a negative word (e.g., not, no) or a word or affix with negative force (e.g., nothing, non-). 3 Math: inversion: these formulae and their negations.

neg-a-tive (adj.) adj. 1 consisting in or characterized by the absence rather than the presence of distinguishing features. 2 of a statement or decision) expressing or implying denial, disagreement, or refusal: I take it, was a negative answer. 3 (of the results of a test or experiment) indicating that a certain substance is not present or that a certain condition does not exist: so far all the patients have tested negative for TB. 4 of a person, attitude, or situation) not optimistic: harmful or unwelcome: not all the news is negative. 5 denoting a complete lack of something: they were described as having negative vulnerability to water entry. 6 Gram & Logic (of a word, clause, or proposition) expressing denial, negation, or refutation: stating or asserting that something is not the case. Contrasted with AFFIRMATIVE and INTERROGATIVE.

neg-a-tive (n.) n. (of a quantity) less than zero: to be subtracted from others or from the kind

need was particularly pressing. 2 the state of requiring help or support: help us in our hour of need.

Neek (n.) n. 1 the part of a person's or animal's body connecting the head to the rest of the body: she is wearing a silk scarf around her neck. 2 the part of a shirt, dress, or other garment that is around or close to the neck: her dress had three buttons at the neck undone. 3 a narrow part of something, resembling a neck in shape or position: the part of a bottle or other container near the mouth. 4 a narrow piece of terrain or sea, such as an isthmus, channel, or pass. 5 Anat. a narrow part near one end of an organ such as the uterus. 6 the part of a violin, guitar, or other similar instrument that bears the fingerboard. 7 (often volcanic neck) Geol. a column of solidified lava or igneous rock formed in a volcanic vent, esp. when exposed by erosion. 8 the length of a horse's head and neck as a measure of its lead in a race: the colt won the 122nd running of the Midsummer Derby by a neck.

v. 1 [intr. inf. (of two people) kiss and caress amicably: we started necking on the sofa. 2 [intr.] form a narrowed part at a particular point when subjected to tension: the nylon filament necks down to a fraction of its original diameter. - necked adj. [in comb.] an open-necked shirt. - neck-less adj.

v. break one's neck (inf.) exert oneself to the utmost: (to achieve something). 2 neck and neck even in a race, competition, or comparison: we have six contestants who are neck and neck.

 overcrowded (adj.) adj. the eye of a needle a tiny aperture or opening through which it would seem impossible to pass. 2 give someone the needle inf. provoke or annoy someone: Lady gives him the needle because she knows it isn't true. 3 a needle in a haystack something that is almost impossible to find because it is hidden among so many other things.

nee-dle-point (n.) n. 1 embroidery worked over canvas, typically in diagonal stitches covering the entire surface of the fabric. 2 (also needlepoint lace) lace made by hand using a needle rather than bobbin.

v. [tr.] embroider in needlepoint.

nee-less (adj.) adj. (of something bad) unnecessary: avoidable: I deplore needless waste. - need-less-ly adv. - need-less-ness n.

nee-less-work (n.) n. the art or practice of sewing or embroidery: Mrs. Zurnodier specializes in needlework. 2 sewn or embroidered items collectively: exhibits include European and Eastern needlework.

nee-dy (adj.) adj. (nee-di-er, need-i-est) of (someone) lacking the necessities of life: very poor: need and elderly people. 2 of (circumstances) characterized by poverty: those needy backgrounds. - need-i-ness n.

nee'er (n.) adj. poetically: or dial. contr. of never.

nee'er-do-well (n.) adj. a person who is lazy and irresponsible.

nee-far-i-ous (adj.) adj. (typically of an action or activity) wicked or criminal: the nefarious activities of the organized-crime syndicates. - nee-far-i-ous-ly adv. - nee-far-i-ous-ness n.

neg (n.) adj. a photographic negative.
ne-o-pagan-ism [nē'o-pa'gan-izəm] n. a modern religious movement that seeks to incorporate beliefs or ritual practices from traditions outside the main world religions, esp. those of pre-Christian Europe and North America.

ne-o-phyle [nē'o-fil] n. a person who is new to a subject, skill, or belief.

ne-o-plasm [nē'o-plaz'am] n. a new and abnormal growth in tissue of some part, esp. as a symptom of cancer.

ne-o-prene [nē'-pren] n. a synthetic polymer resembling rubber, resistant to oil, heat, and weathering.

nephew [nēfē] n. a son of one's brother or sister, or of one's brother-in-law or sister-in-law.

nephiroid [nē-fir'i-əd] adj. [fr. Gr. nephiroide
d(=fri'deō)] Zool. (in many invertebrate animals) a tubule open to the exterior that acts as an organ of excretion or osmoregulation. It typically has ciliated or flagellated cells and absorptive walls.

neophytic adj. [nē'ofī-tik] adj. of or relating to neophytes.

neophitic adj. [nē'ofītik] adj. of or relating to nephritis.

nervi-phy [nēr'di-fik] adj. beginning to be tiring.

nerve [nerv] n. 1. (the tr. of n.) a细-
lin-nerve (n. pl.) an organ or part of the body that transmits impulses from the brain to various parts of the body. 2. (nerves) the system of nerves throughout the body.

nerve [nerv] adj. 1. a. (of a bird or other animal) use build a nest: the birds often nest in trees. b. (of a place) lie or be situated in a halftilled or obscure position: picturesque villages nestle in the wooded hills.

nerveless adj. n. a. (of a place) lie or be situated in a half-filled or obscure position: picturesque villages nestle in the wooded hills. b. (of a place) lie or be situated in a half-filled or obscure position: picturesque villages nestle in the wooded hills.

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nettling [ˈnetlɪŋ] n. open-meshed material made by knotting together twine, wire, rope, or thread.

nettle [ˈnetlɪ] n. a herbaceous plant (genus Urtica, family Urticaceae) whose leaves are stinging hairs. Several species include the European stinging nettle (U. dioica). This uses nematodes of other plants of similar appearance or properties, e.g., dead-nettle.

network [ˈnetwɜːk] n. 1 an arrangement of intersecting horizontal and vertical lines: a complex system of roads, railroads, or other transportation routes: a network of railroads. 2 a group or system of interconnected people or things: a group of computer stations that connect for the simultaneous broadcast of a program: the introduction of a second TV network. 3 a number of interconnected computers, machines, or operations: specialized computers that manage non-destinations to a network: a local cellular phone network. 4 a system of connected electrical conductors.

neutral [ˈnjuːtrəl] adj. of or relating to a nerve or the nervous system: pattern of neural activity. —neutral-ly adv.

neutralization [ˈnjuːtrəlɪzaʃən] n. the conversion of an axial nerve to a nerve fiber. —neutral-ize [ˈnjuːtrəlaɪz] v. [t] render (something) ineffective or harmless by applying an opposite effect or force: the introduction of a new, possibly neutral, scientific advice.

neurosis [ˈnjuːroʊsɪs] n. an ill-defined mental condition characterized by disturbance of function, tastes, fatigue, headache, and irritability, associated with mental activity. —neuro-asthenic [ˌnjuːroʊˈæstθənik] adj. & n.


neurology [ˌnjuərəˈlɒdʒi] n. the branch of medicine or biology that deals with the anatomy, function, and disorders of the nervous system. —neurologi-cal [ˌnjuərəˈlɒdʒɪkəl] adj. —neuro-log-ically adv. —neurologist n.

neuron [ˈnjuːrərən] n. a specialized cell transmitting nerve impulses: a nerve cell. 1 late 19th cent.: from Greek neuron, special use of the literal sense 'nervous, tendon.' —neuron al [ˈnjuərəral] adj. —neuro-ptic [ˌnjuərəˈpɪkt] adj.

neuropathic [ˌnjuərəˈpæθɪk] adj. Med. disease or dysfunction of one or more peripheral nerves, typically causing numbness or weakness.


neurotransmitter [ˌnjuərəˈtrɑːnsmitər] n. Physiol. a chemical substance that is released in the axon of an axon by the arrival of a nerve impulse and, by diffusing across the synapse or junction, causes the transfer of the impulse, esp. to another nerve or a muscle fiber.

neuter [ˈnjuːtər] v. of or denoting a gender of nouns in some languages, typically contrasting with masculine and feminine or common: it is a neuter word in Greek. 2 of (an animal) lacking sexual organs, or having had them removed. 3 of (a person) apparently having no sexual characteristics: asexual.

neuter [ˈnjuːtər] n. a neuter word. —the neuter n. the neuter gender. 2 a non-fertile caste of social insect, esp. a worker bee or ant. 3 a castrated or spayed domestic animal. 4 a person who appears to lack sexual characteristics.

nettle [ˈnetlɪ] v. [t] castrate or spay (a domestic animal). —render ineffective; deprive of vigor or force; disarmament negotiations that will neutralize their military power.

neutralize [ˈnjuːtrəlaɪz] v. [t] render (something) ineffective or harmless by applying an opposite effect or force: the introduction of a new, possibly neutral, scientific advice.
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normalize

nor-mal-ize /'norma, ITz/ v. 1 \tr.\ bring or return to a normal condition
or state: Vietnam and China agreed to notmalize diplomatic relations in 1991
[intr] the situation had normalized.
2 |/r.| (often be normalized) Math.
multiply (a series, function, or item of data) by a factor that makes the
norm or some associated quantity such as an integral equal to a desired value (usually 1).
Comput. (in floating-point representation) express (a number) in the standard form with regard to the position of
the radix point, usually immediately preceding the first nonzero digit.
nor-mal-i-za-tion /, normals 'zasHan/ n.
nor-mal-iz-er n.
nor-mal-ly /' normale/ adv 1 under normal or usual conditions; as a

or facing the north: the northern slopes. 2 living in or originating from
the north: northern breeds of cattle.
of, relating to, or characteristic of
the north or its inhabitants: an unmistakable northern accent.
north-

—

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ern-most /-,most / ady.
North-ern-er /'normerner/ (also north-ern-er) n. a native or inhabitant
of the north, esp. of the northern U.S.
north-ern lights another name for the aurora borealis. See aurora.
north-north-east n. the compass point or direction midway between
north and northeast.
north-north-west n. the compass point or direction midway between
north and northwest.
North Pole
see pole 2
North Star Astron. another term for Polaris.

—

rule: normally,

takes three or four years to complete the training. 2 in a norin the usual way: try to breathe normally. 3 technical at
right angles to a given line or surface.
it

mal manner;

Nor-man n.

1

navian origin

a

a member of a people of mixed Frankish and Scandiwho settled in Normandy from about ad 912 and be-

a dominant military power in western Europe and the Mediterranean in the 11th century. in particular, any of the Normans who
conquered England in 1066 or their descendants. a native or inhabitant of modern Normandy.
any of the English kings from William
to Stephen. 2 the form of French spoken by the Normans.
ady. of, relating to, or denoting the Normans.
denoting, relating to,
or built in the style of Romanesque architecture used in Britain under
the Normans. of or relating to modern Normandy.
Nor-man-esque
/.norma'nesk/ adj.
Nor-man-ism /-,nizam/ n.
Nor-man-ize /- nTz/ v.
Nor-man Con-quest the conquest of England by William of Normandy (William the Conqueror) after the Battle of Hastings in 1066.
nor-ma-tive /'normativ/ ady. formal establishing, relating to, or deriving
from a standard or norm, esp. of behavior; negative sanctions to enforce

— nor-ma-tive-ly

adv.

,

— nor-ma-tive-ness

Norse

/nors / n. 1 the Norwegian language, esp. in its medieval form.
the Scandinavian language group. 2 (treated as pi. Norwegians or
Scandinavians, esp. in medieval times.
ady. of or relating to medieval Norway or Scandinavia, or their inhabitants or language.
Norse-man /'norsman/ n. (pi. -men)

adv. to

—

er-ly ady.

&

toward the northeast:
adv.

— north-east-ern

the ship sailed northeast.

a

wind or storm blowing from the

nos >abbr. numbers.
nose /noz/ n. 1 the

part projecting above the mouth on the face of a
person or animal, containing the nostrils and used for breathing and
smelling.
the sense of smell, esp. a dog’s ability to track something
by its scent: a dog with a keen nose. fig. an instinctive talent for detecting something: he has a nose for a good script.
the aroma of a particular substance, esp. wine. 2 the front end of an aircraft, car, or other
vehicle.
a projecting part of something: the nose of the saddle. 3 a look,
esp. out of curiosity: she wanted a good nose around the house.
inf. a police

informer.
(of an animal) thrust

its nose against or into something, esp.
pony nosed at the straw.
tr.} smell or sniff (something). 2 [intr.] investigate or pry into something: she's always nosing
into my business.
\tr.] detect in such a way.
3 [intr] (of a vehicle or its
driver) make one’s way cautiously forward: he turned left and nosed into
an empty parking space.
(of a competitor) manage to achieve a winning
or leading position, esp. by a small margin: they nosed ahead by one point.
Old English nosu: related to Dutch neus, and more remotely to German Nase, Latin nasus, and Sanskrit nasa. —nosed adj. |in comb] snubnosed.
nose-less adj.
by a nose (of a victoiy) by a very narrow margin.
count noses
count people, typically in order to determine the numbers in a vote.
cut off one’s nose to spite one’s face hurt oneself in the course of
trying to hurt another.
give someone a bloody nose inflict a resounding defeat on someone.
keep one’s nose clean inf. stay out of
trouble.
keep one's nose out of refrain from interfering in (someone else’s affairs).
not see further than one’s (or the end of one's)
nose be unwilling or fail to consider different possibilities or to foresee the consequences of one’s actions.
on the nose 1 inf. precisely:
at ten on the nose the van pulled up. 2 inf. (of betting) on a horse to win (as
opposed to being placed).
put someone’s nose out of joint inf. upset
or annoy someone.
speak through one’s nose pronounce words
with a nasal twang. Dturn one’s nose up at something inf. show distaste or contempt for something: he turned his nose up at the job.
under
someone’s nose inf. directly in front of someone: he thrust the paper
under the inspector's nose.
(of an action) committed openly and boldly,
but without someone noticing or noticing in time to prevent it.
with
v.

1

intr.]

(

in order to smell

it:

the

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wind or

& adv in a northward position or direction:
he set off in a northerly direction, "(of wind) blowing from the
north: (as ady.| it will feel cold in the fresh northerly wind (as adv.| the wind
was gusting northerly.

a

its people or
language.
n. la native or national of Norway, or a person of Norwegian descent.
2 the North Germanic language of Norway.

north-er-ly /'norTHarle/ ady.
|as

n.

Nor-we-gian /nor'wejan/ ady. of or relating to Norway or

— north-eastn.

—

north-west-er /.norm'wester/
northwest.

/-'ester n/ ady.

north-east-er /.norm 'ester/ (also nor'east-er /.nor'ester/)
storm from the northeast.

—

adj.

more.
*adv. to or

or toward the northwest: he turned onto the highway and headed
north-west-er-ly adj. & adv.
north-west-ern /-'western/

northwest.

]

north /norm/ n. (usu. the north) 1 the direction in which a compass
needle normally points, toward the horizon on the left side of a person facing east, or the part of the horizon lying in this direction; a bitter wind blew from the north.
the compass point corresponding to this.
a direction in space parallel to the earth’s axis of rotation and toward the point on the celestial sphere around which the stars appear
to turn counterclockwise. 2 the northern part of the world or of a
specified country, region, or town: cuisine from the north of Spain.
3 (North) Bridge the player occupying a designated position at the
table, sitting opposite and partnering South.
ady. lying toward, near, or facing the north: the north door.
(of a wind)
blowing from the north.
adv. to or toward the north: a north-facing wall.
north by east (or west) between north and north-northeast (or
north-northwest).
up north inf. to or in the north of a country: he's
taken a teaching job up north.
North A-mer-i-can ady. of or relating to North America.
n. a native or inhabitant of North America, esp. a citizen of the U.S. or
Canada.
north-bound /'norm, bound/ ady. traveling or leading toward the
north: nonhbound traffic.
north-east /.norm'est/ n. 1 (usu. the northeast) the point of the horizon midway between north and east: I pointed to the northeast.
the
compass point corresponding to this. the direction in which this
lies: the entrance was through a small door to the northeast. 2 the northeastern part of a country, region, or town: the northeast of Brazil.
*adj. 1 lying toward, near, or facing the northeast.
(of a wind) coming from the northeast. 2 of or denoting the northeastern part of a
specified country, region, or town, or its inhabitants: northeast Balti-

— north-ward-

adv.

tants: northwest Europe.

n.

no-ro-vi-rus /'n6ra,vIros/ n. any of various single-stranded RNA nonenveloped viruses that can cause acute gastroenteritis in humans.

&

north-west /.norm’west/ n. (usu. the northwest) 1 the point of the
horizon midway between north and west: he pointed to the northwest.
the compass point corresponding to this.
the direction in which
this lies. 2 the northwestern part of a country, region, or town: they
had originally come from someplace in the northwest of Mexico.
>-adj. 1 lying toward, near, or facing the northwest: the northwest comer
(of a wind) blowing from the northwest. 2 of or denotof the square.
ing the northwestern part of a country, region, or town, or its inhabi-

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(the northward) the direction or region to the north.

n.

ly ady.

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north-ward /'normward/ ady. in a northerly direction.
adv (also northwards) toward the north.

came

normative behavior.

nose

603

ady'.]

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n.

(often northerlies) a

wind blowing from the north.

north-ern /'normern/ ady.

1

situated in the north, or directed toward

Pronunciation Key a

ago, up: ar over, fur, a hat: a ate a car: ch chin ;
e see^e(a) r air jit: i by: i(a)r ear ng sing 6 go; 6 law, for: oi toy:
do good: oo goo: ou out: sh she: th thin: ih then: (h)w why; zh vision

e

let:

;

i

;

;

;


nothingness

noun [n.]
1. the absence or cessation of life or existence:
   "the fear of the total nothingness of death" (worthlessness; insignificance;
   unimportance; the nothingness of all overstatement.

notice

noun [n.]
1. a short or (a moment's) notice with little warning or time for preparation:
   "tours may be canceled at short notice.

noticeable

adj. easily seen or noticed; clear or apparent:
   "a noticeable increase in staff motivation.

notey

verb [v.] (tr.) inform (someone) of something, typi- 
ically in a formal or official manner; you will be notified of our decision as soon as pos- 
ible.

notifiable

noun [n.]
1. a conception or belief about something:
   "children have different notions about the roles of their parents.

notation

noun [n.]
1. a notation of the nature of something:
   "I had no notion of what her words meant.
2. an impulse or desire, esp. one of a whimsical nature:
   "she had a notion to try a new recipe.
3. notions items used in sewing, such as buttons, pins, and hooks.

notional

adj. existing only in theory or as a suggestion or idea; national budgets for hospital and community health services.

notionally

adv.

notochord

noun [n.]
1. a cartilaginous skeletal rod supporting the body in all embryonic and some adult chordate animals.

notorious

adj. famous or well known, typically for some bad quality or deed: "Los Angeles is notorious for its smog.

now

noun [n.]
1. at the present time or moment: "where are you now?"
nude

nowadays

been married four years now. *(in a narrative or account of past events) at the time spoken of or referred to: it had happened three times now. 2 used, esp. in conversation, to draw attention to a particular statement or point in a narrative: now, my first impulse was to run away. 3 used in or as a request, instruction, or question, typically to give a slight emphasis to one’s words: now, if you’ll excuse me? 4 used when pausing or considering one’s next words: let me see now; oh yes, I remember. 4 used at the end of an ironic question echoing a previous statement: “Mom says for you to give me some of your stamps.” “Does she now?”

conj. as a consequence of the fact: they spent a lot of time together now that he had retired.

adj. int. fashionable; up to date: seventies disco dancing—very now.

now—now until a later time: that’s all the news there is for now. now and again (or then): at the same time. now now used as an expression of mild remonstrance: now now, that’s not the way to behave. now—now, now — at one moment — at the next — a wind whipped about the house, now this way, now that. now or never used to convey urgency: it was now or never—I had to move fast. now then used to get someone’s attention or to invite a response: now then, who’s for a coffee? now you’re talking used to express one’s enthusiastic agreement with or approval of a statement or suggestion: The Beatles! Now you’re talking.

now-a-days /ˈnəʊə, dəz/ adv. at the present time, in contrast with the past: the sort of clothes worn by almost all young people nowadays.

no-where /nəʊ, hweðə(r)/ adv. not in or to any place; not anywhere: plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.

pron. 1 no place: there was nowhere for her to sit. 2 a place that is remote, uninteresting, or nondescript: a stretch of road between nowhere and nowhere [as n] the town is a particularly American nowhere.

adj. int. having no prospect of progress or success: she’s involved in a nowhere affair with a married executive.

& from (or out of) nowhere appearing or happening suddenly and unexpectedly: he materialized a luxus out of nowhere. get (or go) nowhere make no progress: I’m getting nowhere—maybe I should give up the project was going nowhere fast. get someone nowhere be of no use or benefit to someone: he was nowhere near the woman. nowhere near not nearly: he’s nowhere near as popular as he used to be. a road to nowhere a situation or course of action offering no prospects of progress or advancement.

no-win adj. of or denoting a situation in which success or progress is impossible.

noxious /ˈnɒksəs/ adj. harmful, poisonous, or very unpleasant: they were overcome by the noxious fumes. —noxious-ly adv. —noxious-ness n.

nozzle /ˈnəʊzəl/ n. a cylindrical or round spout at the end of a pipe, hose, or tube, used to control a jet of gas or liquid.

NP abbr. notary public.

Np symb. the chemical element neptunium.


ns abbr. nanosecond.

NSF abbr. National Science Foundation.


n't contr. of not, used with auxiliary verbs (e.g., can’t, won’t, didn’t, and isn’t).

nth [nθtθ] adj. Math. denoting an unspecified member of a series of numbers or enumerated items: systematic sampling by taking every nth name from the list. (in general use) denoting an unspecified item or instance in a series, typically the last or latest in a series; for the nth time that day they were forced to relate the whole story.

ο to the nth degree to the utmost: the glibness of the electorate was tested to the nth degree by such promises.

nu /ˈnju/ n. the thirteenth letter of the Greek alphabet (N, ν), transliterated as ’n.’

symb. (v.) frequency.

nuance /ˈnjuːəns/ n. a subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound; the nuances of facial expression and body language.

ν [ν] (usu. be nuanced) give nuances to: the effect of the music is nuanced by the social situation of listeners. late 18th cent.: from French, ’shade, subtlety,’ from rear ’to shade,’ based on Latin minus ‘cloud.’

nub /nʌb/ n. 1 (the nub) the crux or central point of a matter: the nub of the problem lies elsewhere. 2 a small lump or protuberance: he pressed down on the two nubs on top of the phone. 3 a small chunk or nugget of metal or rock: a nub of gold. —nub-by adj.

nubile /ˈnjuːbɪl/ adj. of (a girl or young woman) sexually mature; suitable for marriage. of (a girl or young woman) sexually attractive: he employed a procession of nubile secretaries. —nub-il-ly adv. /ˈnjuːbɪli/ n.

nu-clear /ˈnjuːkliər|-klɪər/ adj. 1 of or relating to the nucleus of an atom. denoting, relating to, or powered by the energy released in nuclear fission or fusion: nuclear energy. denoting, possessing, or involving weapons using this energy: a nuclear bomb. 2 Biol. of or relating to the nucleus of a cell: nuclear DNA.

nu-clear fam-i-li-ly /ˈnjuːkliər/ n. a couple and their dependent children, regarded as a basic social unit.

nu-clear fis-sion /ˈnjuːkliər/ n. a nuclear reaction in which a heavy nucleus splits spontaneously or on impact with another particle, with the release of energy.

nu-clear fu-sion /ˈnjuːkliər/ n. a nuclear reaction in which atomic nuclei of low atomic number fuse to form a heavier nucleus with the release of energy.

nu-clear mag-net-ic re-so-nance /ˈnjuːkliər/ n. the absorption of electromagnetic radiation by a nucleus having a magnetic moment when in an external magnetic field, used mainly as an analytical technique and in diagnostic body imaging.

nu-clear medi-cine /ˈnjuːkliər/ n. the branch of medicine that deals with the use of radioactive substances in research, diagnosis, and treatment.

nu-clear phys-ics /ˈnjuːkliər/ pl. n. [treated as sing] the physics of atomic nuclei and their interactions, esp. in the generation of nuclear energy.

nu-clear pow-er /ˈnjuːkliər/ n. 1 electric or motive power generated by a nuclear reactor. 2 a country that has nuclear weapons. —nu-clear-pow-ered adj.

nu-clear re-ac-tor /ˈnjuːkliər/ n. see REACTOR.

nu-clear waste /ˈnjuːkliər/ n. radioactive waste material, for example from the use or reprocessing of nuclear fuel.

nu-clear-ate /ˈnjuːkliət/ adj. /ˈnjuːklyeɪt/ -at; -ally chiefly Biol. having a nucleus.

nu-ic acid /ˈnjuːkaɪd/ n. Biochem. a complex organic substance present in living cells, esp. DNA or RNA, whose molecules consist of many nucleotides linked in a long chain.


nu-cle-on /ˈnjuːklɔn/ n. Physics a proton or neutron.

nu-cle-o-protein /ˈnjuːklə-proʊtɛn/ n. Biochem. a complex consisting of a nucleic acid bonded to a protein.

nu-cle-o-side /ˈnjuːkliəsidaɪ/ n. Biochem. a compound (e.g., adenine) commonly found in DNA or RNA, consisting of a purine or pyrimidine base linked to a sugar.

nu-cle-o-tide /ˈnjuːkliətɪd/ n. Biochem. a compound consisting of a nucleoside linked to a phosphate group. Nucleotides form the basic structural unit of nucleic acids such as DNA.

nu-cle-us /ˈnjuːkləs/ n. (pl. -clei [ˈkliː], -kläj) the central and most important part of an object, movement, or group, forming the basis for its activity and growth: the nucleus of a film-producing industry. Phys. the positively charged central core of an atom, containing most of its mass. Biol. a dense organellae present in most eukaryotic cells, typically a single rounded structure bounded by a double membrane, containing the genetic material. Astron. the solid part of the head of a comet. Anat. a discrete mass of gray matter in the central nervous system.

nu-clide /ˈnjuːklɪd/ n. Physics a distinct kind of atom or nucleus characterized by a specific number of protons and neutrons. —nu-clid/ic /ˈnjuːklɪdɪk/ -ic adj.
in order to draw their attention to something; people were making each other point at me. 
• touch or push (something) gently or gradually: the canoe nudged a bank of reeds. 
• fig. coax or gently encourage (someone) to do something: we have to nudge the politicians in the right direction. 
• approach (an age, figure, or level) very closely: both men were nudging fifty.

\[ \text{n.} \] a light touch or push; he gave her a shoulder nudge; fig. she appreciated the nudge to her money. —nugger \( n. \)

distinctive (\text{n.yo}o\text{dist}/\text{n.}) adj. a person who engages in the practice of going nude where ever possible in an attempt to encourage more public places to allow nudity. —nudism, \text{/}d\text{ozm}/ \text{n.}

distinction (\text{n.yo}o\text{date}/\text{n.}) the state or fact of being naked; scenes of full frontal nudity.

\[ \text{n.} \] a small lump of gold or other precious metal found ready-formed in the earth. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a small chunk or lump of another substance: tiny nuggets of chicken and shrimp. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a valuable idea or fact: nuggets of information. —nugget \( v. \)

nuisance (\text{n.yo}o\text{n}sens}/\text{n.sen}/\text{n.}) a person, thing, or circumstance causing inconvenience or annoyance: an unreasonable landlord could become a nuisance. 
\[ \text{nu} \] Law see PUBLIC NUISANCE.

\[ \text{n.} \] a nuclear weapon. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a nuclear-powered vessel.

\[ \text{v.} \] attack or destroy with nuclear weapons. 
\[ \text{v.} \] destroy; get rid of: I fertilized the lawn and nuked the weeds. 
\[ \text{v.} \] cook or heat up (food) in a microwave oven; I nuked a quick burger.

\[ \text{n.} \] adj. 1 having no legal or binding force; invalid: the establishment of a new interim government was declared null and void. 
\[ \text{n.} \] having or associated with the value zero. 
\[ \text{Math.} \] (a set or matrix) having no elements. 
\[ \text{n.} \] lacking distinctive qualities; having no positive substance or content: his curiously null life. 
\[ \text{n.} \] poetic adj. a zero. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a dummy letter in a cipher. 
\[ \text{Elec.} \] a condition of no signal. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a direction in which no electromagnetic radiation is detected or emitted.

nullify \( v. \) (\text{n.yo}o\text{fl}/\text{n.} \text{fl}) \| (\text{fies}, \text{fied}) \| (\text{f}) \) make legally null and void; invalidate: judges were unwilling to nullify government decisions; make of no use or value: cancel out: insulin can block the release of the hormone and thereby nullify the effects of training. —nullification \( n. \) \text{la} \text{fa} s\text{kars}/\text{n.sen}/\text{n.} 

\[ \text{n.} \] adv. deprived of the power of sensation; my feet were numb with cold. 
\[ \text{fig.} \] the tragic events left us shocked and numb. 
\[ \text{n.} \] deprive of feeling or responsiveness: the cold was making her number sens. 
\[ \text{v.} \] cause (a sensation) to be felt less intensely; deaden: vodka might numb the pain in my hand. —numbly \( \text{ady.} \) 

\[ \text{n.} \] adj. 1 having no legal or binding force; invalid: the establishment of a new interim government was declared null and void. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a quantity or amount: the exhibition attracted vast numbers of visitors. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a number of (several); we have discussed the matter on a number of occasions. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a group or company of people: there were some distinguished names among our number. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a single issue of a magazine: the \text{October} number of \"Travel.\" 
\[ \text{v.} \] a song, dance, piece of music, etc., esp. one of several in a performance: they go from one melodious number to another. 
\[ \text{n.} \] number 1 adj. a thing, typically an item of clothing, of a particular type, regarded with approval or admiration: Yvonne was wearing a little black number. 
\[ \text{n.} \] a group or company of people: there were some distinguished names among our number. 
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O0 [also o] n. (pl. O's or O's [əz]) 1 the fifteenth letter of the alphabet; denoting the next after N in a set of items, categories, etc. a human blood type (in the ABO system) lacking both the A and B antigens. In blood transfusion, a person with blood of this group is a potential universal donor. 2 (also oh) zero (in a sequence of numerals, esp. when spoken). 3 a shape like that of a capital O; a circle. 2. [abbr.] Ocean. 3. (in prescriptions) a pint. 4. octavo. 5. October.

O1 abbr. 1. Ohio. 2. old. 3. Ontario. 4. Oregon.

O2 symb. the chemical element oxygen.

O3 interj. 1. archaic (OH). 2. archaic used before a name in direct address, as in prayers and poetry: give peace in our time, O Lord.

O4 prefix in Irish patronymic names such as O'Neill.

O5 abbr. short for OR, used to represent an informal pronunciation: a cup o' coffee.

Oaf [əf] n. a stupid, uncultured, or clumsy person. —oafish adj. —oafish-ly adv. —oafish-ness n.

Oak /ək/ n. (also oak tree) a tree (genus Quercus) of the beech family that bears acorns as fruit, and typically has lobed deciduous leaves. Oakes are common in many north temperate regions. —oak-en /ə'kən/ adj.

Oak-kum /ˈoʊkəm/ n. chiefly hist. loose fiber obtained by untwisting old rope, used esp. in caulking wooden ships.

Oar /ɔr/ n. a pole with a flat blade, pivoting in an oar lock, used to row or steer a boat through the water. —v. [tr.] row: propel with or as with oars: oaring the sea like madmen | [intrans.] oaring through the woods.

Oar-lock /ɔrˈlæk/ n. a fitting on the gunwale of a boat that serves as a fulcrum for an oar and keeps it in place.

Oars-man /ˈɔrznən/ n. (pl. -men) a rower, esp. as a member of a racing team.

OAS abbr. Organization of American States.

Oasis /ˈoʊəsɪs/ n. (pl. -sises /ˈoʊəsɪz/): 1 a fertile spot in a desert where water is found. Fig. a pleasant or peaceful area or period in the midst of a difficult, troubled, or hectic place or situation: an oasis of calm in the center of the city. 2 (Oasis) trademark a type of rigid foam into which the stems of flowers are inserted for flower arrangement. —early 17th cent.; via Latin from Greek, apparently of Egyptian origin.

Oat /oʊt/ n. a cereal plant (Avena sativa) cultivated chiefly in cool climates and widely used for animal feed as well as human consumption. (oats) the grain yielded by this, used as food; used in names of wild grasses related to the cultivated oat, e.g., wild oat. —oat-y adj.

Oarless: feel one's oats inf. feel lively and energetic. —sow one's wild oats go through a period of wild or promiscuous behavior while young.

Oath /oʊθ/ n. (pl. oaths /oʊths; ðeθz/) 1 a solemn promise, often invoking a divine witness, regarding one's future action or behavior: they took an oath of allegiance to the king. 2 a sworn declaration that one will tell the truth, esp. in a court of law. 3 a profane or offensive expression used to express anger or other strong emotions. —under oath having sworn to tell the truth, esp. in a court of law. —oatmeal /oʊtˈmel/ n. 1 meal made from ground oats, used in breakfast cereals or other food. 2 a grayish-beige color flecked with brown: adj. an oatmeal jacket.

O. abbr. he or she died; ob. 1867.

Obligato /əˈblɪɡətəʊ/ (also Obligato) n. (pl. -gatos or -gat-ti /ˈɡatəti/) an instrumental part, typically distinctive in effect, that is integral to a piece of music and should not be omitted in performance.

Obstetricians [əˈbəstrɪkʃənz] adj. stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action. —obstetrician /-rɪʃən/ n. —obstetrically adv.

Obedience /əˌbɛdɪəns/ n. compliance with someone's wishes or orders or acknowledgment of their authority: unquestioning obedience to the commander in chief. —submission to a law or rule: obedience to moral rules. —observance of a monastic rule: vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Obedience /əˌbɛdɪəns/ adj. complying or willing to comply with orders or requests; submissive to another's will: she was totally obedient to him. —obediently adv.

Obsequies /əˈbɛskɪz/ n. n. a funeral service or ceremony; the last rites. —obsequious adj.

Obese /əˈbɛs/ adj. grossly fat or overweight.

Obesity /əˈbaiətɪ/ n.

Obey /ˈbeɪ/ v. [tr.] comply with the command, direction, or request of (a person or a law); submit to the authority of: I always obey my father. —carry out (a command or instruction); the officer was convicted for refusing to obey orders [intrans.] when the order was repeated, he refused to obey. —behave in accordance with (a general principle, natural law, etc.): the universe was complex but obeyed certain rules. Middle English; from Old French obier, from Latin oboediens, from ob-* 'in the direction of' + audire 'hear.' —obeyer n.

Obfuscate /əˈbəfskeɪt/ v. [tr.] render obscure, unclear, or unintelligible: the spelling changes will defuse some familiar words and obscure their etymological origins. —bewilder (someone); it is more likely to obfuscate people than enlighten them. —obfuscation /əˈbəfskeɪʃən/ n. —obfuscator /əˈbəfskətər/ adj.

Obfuscator /əˈbəfskətər/ n.

Objection /əˈbɛdʒɪkʃən/ n. [abjekt] 1 a material thing that can be seen and touched; he was dragging a large object. 2 a person or thing to which a specified action or feeling is directed: disease became the object of investigation. —goal or purpose: the institute was opened with the object of promoting scientific study. —Gram. a noun or noun phrase governed by an active transitive verb. —Computation: a data construct that provides a description of
observatory
esp. significant details: his powers of observation. n the taking of the altitude of the sun or another celestial body for navigational purposes. 2 a remark, statement, or comment based on something one has seen, heard, or noticed: he made a telling observation about High. —obs-erva-tory adj. —ob-serve-ation-ally —ses-siveles adj. adv.

observe [əb’serv] v. [tr] 1 notice or perceive (something) and register it as being significant: young people observe that decisions are made by others. 2 watch (someone or something) carefully and attentively: Rob stood in the hallway, where he could observe the happenings on the street. 3 take note of or detect (something) in the course of a scientific study: the behavior observed in groups of chimpanzees. 4 make a remark or comment: [with direct speech] "It's chilly," she observed. 5 fulfill or comply with (a social, legal, ethical, or religious obligation). 6 report, assert, declare, or state in a manner that establishes the truth of the fact: he observed that the air was stale. 7 maintain (silence) in compliance with a rule or custom, or temporarily as a mark of respect: a minute's silence will be observed. 8 perform or take part in (a rite or ceremony): relations gather to observe the funeral rites. 9 celebrate or acknowledge (an anniversary): many observed the one-year anniversary of the flood. —obs-erva-bly —blELY adj. adv.

observer [əb’servoir] n. a person who watches or notices something: to a casual observer, he was at peace. 2 a person who follows events, esp. political ones, closely and comments publicly on them: some observers expect interest rates to rise. 3 a person posted to an area in an official capacity to monitor political or military events: elections scrutinized by international observers. 4 a person who attends a conference, inquiry, etc., to note the proceedings without participating in them. 5 (in science or art) a real or hypothetical person whose observation is regarded as having a particular viewpoint or effect.

ob-sess [əb’sès] v. [tr] (usu. be obsessed) preoccupy or fill the mind of (someone) continually, intrusively, and to a troubling extent: he was obsessed with thoughts of suicide. 2 (intr.) of (a person) be preoccupied in this way: her husband, who is obsessed about the wrong she has done him.


ob-sess-ion [əb’səshən] n. the state of being obsessed with someone or something: she cared for him with a devotion bordering on obsession. 2 an idea or thought that continually preoccupies or intrudes on a person's mind: he was in the grip of an obsession he was powerless to resist.

ob-side-ian [əb’sidēən] n. a hard, dark, glassy volcanic rock.

ob-sole-cence n. —ob-sole-ces-ant adj.

ob-sole-ate [əb’sələt] adj. 1 no longer produced or used: out of date: the disposal of old and obsolete machinery. 2 Biol. (of a part or characteristic of an organism) less developed than formerly or in a related species: rudimentary; vestigial. —v. [tr] cause (a product or idea) to be or become obsolete by replacing it with something new: we're trying to stimulate the business by obsoleting last year's designs.

ob-so-lu-tion [əb’səlʃən] n. the major obstacle to achieving that goal is money.


ob-sti-nate [əb’stənət] adj. stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or chosen course of action, despite attempts to persuade one to do so. 2 (of an unwelcome phenomenon or situation) very difficult to change or overcome: the obstinate problem of unemployment. —ob-sti-na-cy —nəsət} n. —ob-sti-nately adv.


ob-struc-tion [əb’strukshən] n. 1 the action of obstructing or the state of being obstructed: they faced obstruction in carrying out their research. 2 a thing that impedes or prevents passage or progress: an obstacle or blockage: the tractor hit an obstruction. 3 (in various sports) the action of unlawfully obstructing a player on the opposing team.

ob-serve [əb’trəv] v. [intr.] become noticeable in an unwelcome or intrusive way: a sound from the reception hall intruded into his thoughts. 2 (of a person) impose or force (something) on someone in such a way: I felt unable to intrude on my private sorrow upon anyone.

ob-trus-ive [əb’troʊsəv] adj. noticeable or prominent in an unwelcome or intrusive way: high-powered satellites can reach smaller and less obtrusive antennas. —ob-trus-ively adv. —ob-trus-ive-ness n.

ob-tuse [əb’təs] adj. 1 annoyingly insensitive or slow to understand: he wondered if the doctor was being deliberately obtuse. 2 difficult to understand: some of the lyrics are a bit obtuse. 3 (of an angle) more than 90° but less than 180°. 4 not sharp-pointed or sharp-edged; blunt. —ob-tusely adv. —ob-tus-ely-ness n. —ob-tus-i-ty [əb’təsəti] n.

ob-verse n. [əb’vərs] 1 the side of a coin or medal bearing the head or principal design. 2 the design or inscription on this side. 2 the opposite or counterpart of a fact or truth: true solitude is the obverse of true society.

oc-ca-sion [ək’sən] n. 1 of or denoting the obverse of a coin or medal, corresponding to something else as its opposite or counterpart. —occasion-ally [ək’sənəl] adj. —occasion-al-ly ad.

oc-cu-pate [ək’səpat] v. [tr] remove (a need or difficulty): the Venetian blinds obviate the need for curtains. 2 avoid: prevent a parachute can be used to obviate disaster.

oc-cu-pation [ək’səpən] n. [intr.] a job or profession.

oc-ci-dent [ək’sədent] n. 1 a particular time or instance of an event: on one occasion I stayed up until two in the morning. 2 a special or noteworthy event, ceremony, or celebration: she was presented with a gold watch to mark the occasion. 3 a suitable or opportune time for doing something: elections are an occasion for registering protest votes. 2 formal reason: cause: it's the first time that I've had occasion to complain.

oc-ci-dent-al [ək’sədentəl] adj. occurring, appearing, or done infrequently and irregularly: the occasional car went by but no taxis. 2 (of furniture) made or adapted for use on a particular occasion or for irregular use: an occasional table. 3 (of a literary composition, speech, religious service, etc.) produced on or intended for a special occasion: he wrote occasional verse for patrons. —oc-ci-dent-al-ly [ək’sədentəl-lı] adv. —oc-ci-dent-al-ness n.

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ball. (in sports) the condition of possessing the ball or being on the team attempting to score. 1 late Middle English: from Old French ofens ‘mishandled’, from Latin offensus ‘annoyance’, reinforced by French ofennes, from Latin offensa ‘a striking against, a hurt, or displeasure’, based on Latin offensare ‘strike against’. o-fen-sive adj. 1 /ofənˈsɪv/ causing someone to feel deeply hurt, upset, or angry; the allegations made are deeply offensive to us. (of a sight or smell) disgusting; repulsive: an offensive odor. 2 /ofənˈsɪv/ actively aggressive; attacking: offensive operations against the insurgents. (of a weapon) meant for use in attack. (in a game) of relating to the team or player who is seeking to score. n. /ofənˈsɪv/ an attacking military campaign: an impending military offensive against the guerrillas. an organized and forceful campaign to achieve something, typically a political or social end: the need to launch an offensive against crime. o-fen-si-vi-ty adv. o-fen-si-ness n. o-ferr /ˈɒfər, ˈɔːfər/ v. present or proffer (something) for (someone) to accept or reject as so desired: may I offer you a drink? n. express readiness or the intention to do something for or on behalf of someone: he offered to fix the gate [with direct speech] “Can help you, dear?” a kindly voice offered. (adj. usu. be offered) make available for sale: the product is offered at a very competitive price. (adj. provide) something: the highway offers easy access to the public beaches. (adj. present) something, esp. an opportunity: for consideration and possible exploitation: a good understanding of what a particular career can offer. (trans. present) a (prayer or sacrifice) to a deity: villagers have gone to offer prayers for the souls of the sailors. (trans. make) an attempt at or show one’s readiness for (violence or resistance): he had to offer some resistance to his tirade. n. an expression of readiness to do or give something if desired: he had accepted Malkov’s offer to buy him a job offer. an amount of money that someone is willing to pay for something: the prospective purchaser who made the highest offer. a specially reduced price or terms for something on sale: the offer runs right up until Christmas Eve. a proposal of marriage. o-ferr-er /ˈɔfrər, ˈɔfərər/ n. a thing offered, esp. as a gift or contribution: animals as sacrificial offerings. a thing produced or manufactured for entertainment or sale: Hollywood’s latest offerings for the European market. a combination, esp. of money, to a church. a thing offered as a religious sacrifice or token of devotion: the offering of the bread and wine at the Eucharist. n. prayers or music accompanying this. 2 an offering or collection of money made at a religious service, or prayers or music accompanying this. o-fend /ˈɔfənd/ adj. (also o-fend-ed) ungraciously or offensively nonchalant or cool in manner: his offhand way of talking. adv. without previous thought or consideration: I can’t think of a better answer offhand. o-fend-er-ly adv. o-fend-er-ness n. o-fice /əˈfɪs, əˈfɪs/ n. 1 a room, set of rooms, or building used as a place for commercial, professional, or bureaucratic work: computers first appeared in offices in the 1970s. the local center of a large business: a company that has four U.S. and four foreign offices. a room, department, or building used to provide a particular service: a ticket office; the consulting room of a professional person. 2 a position of authority, trust, or service, typically one of a public nature: the office of attorney general. tenure of an official position, esp. a government position: a year ago, when the president took office. (Office) Brit. the quarters, staff, or collective authority of a particular government department or agency: the foreign office. 3 (pl. offices) a service or kindness done for another person or group of people: date; a duty attaching to one’s position; a task or function: his family had escaped Canada through the good offices of a Jewish agency in 1942. 4 (also Divine Office) Christian Church: the series of services of prayers and psalms said (or chanted) daily by Roman Catholic priests, members of religious orders, and other clergy. 5 Middle English: via Old French from Latin officiānī ‘performance of an office’ (in medieval Latin also ‘office, divine service’), based on opus ‘work’ + facere ‘do’. o-fier-er /ˈɒfɪər, ˈɔːfɪər/ n. 1 a person holding a position of command or authority or head of some service, in the merchant marine, or on a passenger ship. a policeman or police officer. a bailiff. 2 a holder of a public, civil, or ecclesiastical office: a probation officer; a holder of a post in a society, company, or other organization, esp. one who is involved at a senior level in its management: a chief executive officer. 3 a member of a certain grade in some honorary orders. v. [tr.] to provide with military officers: the aristocracy continued to wield considerable political power, offering the army and navy as the commander of (a city); foreign mercenaries were hired to officer new regiments. o-fic-i-al /əˈfɪʃəl/ adj. of or relating to an authority or public body and its duties, actions, and responsibilities: the governor’s official engagements. having the approval or authorization of such a body: French is the official language of Quebec. employed by such a body in a position of authority or responsibility: an official spokesman. emanating from or attributable to a person in office; properly authorized: official statistics. often derog. perceived as characteristic of officials and bureaucracy: official he set up straight and became official. n. a person holding public office or having official duties, esp. as a representative of an organization or government department: a union official. o-fic-i-al-dom n. o-fic-i-al-ism n. o-fic-i-al-i-ze v. o-fic-i-al-ly adv. o-fi-cial-i-ty /əˈfɪʃəlɪ-ˌti/ n. o-fi-cial-i-za-tion /əˈfɪʃəlɪ-ˈzeɪʃən/ n. o-fi-ci-ous /əˈfɪʃəs/ adj. assertive of authority in an annoyingly domineering way, esp. with regard to petty or trivial matters: a policeman came to move them on, an officious, spiteful man. intrinsically enthusiastic in offering help or advice; interfering: an officious bystander. o-fi-ci-ly adv. o-fi-ci-ness n. o-fi-ging /ˈɒfɪən, ˈɔːfɪ-)/(also o-fin) n. the more distant part of the sea in view. adv. in the offing likely to happen or appear soon: there are several initiatives in the offing. o-fi-key adj. & adv. (of music or singing) not having the correct tone or pitch; out of tune. not in accordance with what is appropriate or correct in the circumstances: [as adv.] some of the cinematic effects are distressingly off-key. o-fla-bel adj. (of a drug) prescribed in a way or for a condition not covered by the original FDA approval: this drug has been found useful in several off-label treatments. o-flim-its adj. not to be entered or used: out of bounds: the place was off-limits to Americans. not to be mentioned or discussed: no subject is off-limits. o-flin /ˈɒflɪn, ˈɔflɪn/ (also o-flin) Comp. adj. not controlled by or directly connected to a computer or external network. adv. (also off line) while not directly controlled by or connected to a computer or external network. n. with a delay between the production of data and its processing. o-fl- load /ˈɒfləʊd, ˈɔfləʊd/ (also o-load) v. [tr.] unload (a cargo): men were offloading bags of salt. n. rid oneself of (something) by selling or passing it off to someone else: a dealer offloaded 5,000 of these shares on a client. adj. relieve oneself of (a problem or worry) by talking to someone else: it would be nice to have been able to offload your worries onto someone. n. Com-p. move (data or a task) from one processor to another in order to free the first processor for other tasks; a system designed to offload the text on to a host computer. o-fl-pea-k adj. & adv. at a time when demand is less: [as adv.] off-peak travel. o-fl-print /ˈɒflprɪnt, ˈɔflprɪnt/ n. a printed copy of an article or chapter that originally appeared as part of a larger publication. o-fl-put-ting adj. unpleasant, disconcerting, or repellent; his scar is somewhat off-putting. o-fl-road /ˈɒflroʊd, ˈɔflroʊd/ adj. away from a smooth road; on rough terrain. n. (of a vehicle or bicycle) designed for use on rough terrain. o-fl-screen (also off screen or of-screen) adj. not appearing on a movie or television screen: he draws to an off-screen interviewer; happening in real life rather than fictionally off-screen: they were off-screen lovers. adv. outside what can be seen on a movie or television screen: the girl is looking off-screen to the right. n. in real life rather than fictionally in a movie or on television: happy endings rarely happen off-screen. o-fl-sea-on (also off-season or off-sea-season) n. a year of time when a particular activity, typically a sport, is not engaged in: during baseball’s winter off-season. a time of year when business in a particular sphere is slack; [as adj.] off-season rates. adv. in or during the off-season; he never trains off-season. o-fl-set /ˈɒflsɛt, ˈɔflsɛt/ n. 1 a consideration or amount that diminishes or balances the effect of a contrary one: an offset against taxable profits. 2 the amount or distance by which something is out of line: these wheels have an offset of four inches. 3 Archit. a sloping ledge in a wall or other feature where the thickness of the part above is diminished. 4 as adj. a method of printing in which ink is transferred from a plate or stone to a uniform rubber surface and from that to the paper. adv. (often be offset) counteract (something) by having an opposing force or effect: the
opossum /əˈpɑːsəm/ n. an American marsupial (family Didelphidae) that has a ratlike prehensile tail and hind feet with opposable thumbs.

op.  prep. opposite.

opponent /əˈpʊnənt/ n. someone who competes against or fights another in a contest, game, or argument; a rival or adversary; he beat his opponent by a landslide margin. n. a person who disagrees with or resists a proposal or practice: an opponent of the economic reforms.

opportunity /əˈpʊriti/ n. (of a time) well-chosen or particularly favorable or appropriate: he couldn’t have arrived at a less opportune moment. adj. done or occurring at a favorable or useful time; well-timed: the opportune use of humor to lower tension. —opportunity adv. —opportunity n.


opposable /əˈpʊzəbəl/ adj. Zool. of the thumb of a primate capable of moving toward and touching the other digits on the same hand.

oppose /əˈpɒz/ v. [tr.] disapprove of and attempt to prevent, esp. by argument: those of you who oppose capital punishment. n. actively resist or refuse to comply with (a person or a system); off-roaders adamantly opposed new trail restrictions. v. compete against (someone) in a contest: a candidate to oppose the leader in the presidential contest.

opposite /əˈpɑːzɪt/ adj. 1. having a position on the other or further side of something; facing something, esp. something of the same type: a crowd gathered on the opposite side of the street. 2. diametrically different; of a contrary kind: a word that is opposite in meaning to another. n. being the other of a contrasted pair: the opposite ends of the price range.

oppositional /əˈpʊsɪʃən/ adj. in a position facing a specified or implied subject: she was sitting almost opposite.

opposite side prep. in a position on the other side of a specific area from; facing: they sat opposite another. n. fig. of someone taking a leading part in a play or movie in a complementary role to (another performer).

opposite number n. someone’s opposite number a person whose position or rank in another group, organization, or country is equivalent to that held by someone already mentioned.

oppositional /əˈpɒsɪʃən/ adj. 1. being the other of a contrasted pair: the opposite ends of the price range.

oppositional sex n. women in relation to men or vice versa.

opposition /əˈpɒzɪʃən/ n. resistance or dissent, expressed in action or argument; there was considerable opposition to the proposal.

opposition n. a group of adversaries or competitors, esp. a rival political party or athletic team. n. the principal political party opposed to the one in office. n. a contrast or antithesis. n. Astron. & Astrof. the apparent position of two celestial objects that are directly opposite each other in the sky. n. esp. when a superior planet is opposite the sun. —oppositional /ə-ˈsɪʃən/ adj.

oppress /əˈpreʃ/ v. [tr.] (often be oppressed) keep (someone) in subservience and hardship, esp. by the unjust exercise of authority; a system that oppressed working people. n. cause (someone) to feel distressed, anxious, or uncomfortable: he was oppressed by some secret worry. —oppressor /əˈpreʃər/ n.

oppressing /əˈpreʃɪŋ/ n. prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control; a region shattered by oppression and killing. n. the state of being subject to such treatment or control; mental pressure or distress; her mood had initially been alarm and a sense of oppression.

oppressive /əˈpreʃɪv/ adj. unjustly inflicting hardship and constraint, esp. on a minority or other subordinate group; an oppressive dictatorship. n. weighing heavily on the mind or spirits; causing depression or discomfort: a profound loneliness, an oppressive emptiness. n. (of weather) excessively hot and humid. —oppressively adv. —oppressiveness n.

opprobrious /əˈprɔbruəs/ adj. (of language) expressing opprobrium. —opprobriously adv.

opprobrium /əˈprɔbruəm/ n. harsh criticism or censure; his films and the critical opprobrium they have generated. n. the public disgrace arising from someone’s shameful conduct: the opprobrium of being closely associated with thugs and gangsters.

opt /əˈpɒt/ v. [intr.] make a choice from a range of possibilities: consumers will opt for low-priced goods. n. a verb in the optative mood. —the optative adj. —optatively adv.

optical /əˈpɑːtɪkl/ adj. of or relating to the eye or vision.

optical /əˈpɑːtɪkl/ adj. of or relating to sight, esp. in relation to the physical action of light: optical illusions. n. constructed to assist sight.

optical character recognition (abbr. OCR) n. the identification of printed characters using photoelectric devices and computer software.

optical fiber n. a thin glass fiber through which light can be transmitted.

optical illusion n. an experience of seeming to see something that does not exist or that is other than it appears. n. something that deceives one’s eyes and causes such an experience.
to improve efficiency of retrieval or processing. —opti-mi-za-tion


opti-mum [ˈɒptɪməm] adj. most conducive to a favorable outcome; best: the optimum childbearing age.

optitude [ɒptɪˈtuːd] n. (pl. -ma/-ma or -mums) the most favorable conditions or level for growth, reproduction, or success.

option [ˈɔpʃən] n. 1 a thing that is or may be chosen: choose the cheapest options for supplying energy. ■ the freedom, power, or right to choose something: she was given the option of resigning or being dismissed. 2 a right to buy or sell a particular thing at a specified price within a set time. ■ Columbia Pictures has an option on the script. 2 Football an offensive play in which the ball carrier has the option to run, pass, hand off, or laterally.

v. to buy or sell an option on (something): his second script will have been optioned by the time you read this. ■ Sports transfer a player (to a minor league team) with an option to recall him.

optional [ɔpˈtələl] adj. available to be chosen but not obligatory: a wide range of optional excursions is offered. —optional-ly adv.

optionee [ˈɒptənɪ] n. a recipient or holder of stock options.

option-em-try [ˈɔptənəmtri] n. the practice or profession of examining the eyes for visual defects and prescribing corrective lenses. —opto-metric [ˌɒptəˈmiːtrɪk] adj. —opto-metrist n.

option-ee [ˈɔptənɪ] adj. ostentatiously rich and luxurious or lavish: the opulent comfort of a limousine. ■ wealthy: his more opulent tenants. —option-ally adv.

orals [ˈɔrəl] n. (pl. o-pus-es or o-pus-ra [ˈɔpʊs(ə)l]) 1 Mus. a separate composition or set of compositions by a particular composer, usually ordered by date of publication: The Gambler was Prokofiev’s sixth opera, despite its early opus number. 2 any artistic work, esp. one on a large scale: he was writing an opus on Mexico.

OR abbr. operational research.

or conj. 1 used to link alternatives: a cup of tea or coffee. 2 introducing a synonym or explanation of a preceding word or phrase: the espionage novel, or, as it is known in the trade, the thriller. 3 otherwise used to introduce the consequences of something not being done or not being the case: hurry up, or you’ll miss it all. 4 introducing an afterthought, usually in the form of a question: John’s indifference — or was it? — left her unsettled.

n. (often OR) Electrl. A Boolean operator that gives the value one if at least one operand (or input) has a value of one, and otherwise has a value of zero. ■ (also OR gate) a circuit that gives an output signal if there is a signal on any of its inputs.

oracle [ˈɔrəkl] n. 1 a priest or priestess acting as a medium through whom advice or prophecy was sought from the gods in classical antiquity. ■ a place at which such advice or prophecy was sought. ■ a person or thing regarded as an infallible authority or guide on something: casting the attorney general as the oracle for and guardian of the public interest is simply impossible. 2 a response or message given by an oracle, typically one that is ambiguous or obscure. —oracle-ful [ˌɔrəklərəl] adj.

oral [ˈɔrəl] adj. 1 by word of mouth; spoken rather than written: they had reached an oral agreement. ■ relating to the transmission of information or literature by word of mouth rather than in writing: oral literature. ■ (of a society) not having reached the stage of literacy. 2 of or relating to the mouth: oral hygiene. ■ done or taken by: oral contraceptives. —oral-ly adv. —oral-ness n.

oracy [ɔrəˈsi] n. pronounced by the voice resonating in the mouth, as the vowels in English. ■ Psychoanalysis (in Freudian theory) relating to or denoting a stage of infantile psychosexual development in which the mouth is the main source of pleasure and the center of experience.

n. (often orals) a spoken examination or test: he was preparing for his orals. —orally adv.

orange [ˈɔrənʤ] n. 1 a round juicy citrus fruit with a tough bright reddish-yellow rind. ■ a drink made from or flavored with orange: a vodka and orange. 2 (also orange tree) the leathery-leaved evergreen tree (genus Citrus) that bears this fruit, native to warm regions of south and Southeast Asia. Associated in names of other plants with similar fruit or flowers, e.g., mock orange. 3 a bright reddish-yellow color like that of the skin of a ripe orange.

adv. 1 reddish yellow, like a ripe orange in color: an orange glow in the sky. 2 made from or flavored with oranges, or having an orange-like flavoring. —orangey (also orangey) adj. —orangish (also orangely) adj.

orang-a-de [ˈɔræŋədi] —orangish-ly adj.

orang-u-tan [ɒræŋjʊˈtæn] n. a large mainly solitary arboreal ape (Pongo pygmaeus, family Pongidae) with long reddish hair, long arms, and hooked hands and feet, native to Borneo and Sumatra.

or-rate [ɔrˈreɪt] v. [tr.] make a speech, esp. pompously or at length.

oration [ˈɔrəʃən] n. a formal speech, esp. one given on a ceremonial occasion. ■ the style or manner in which such a speech is given: there is nothing quite like his oratorical oration.

orator [ˈɔrətər] n. a public speaker, esp. one who is eloquent. —orator-i-cal [ˌɔrətərɪˈkæl] adj.

oratory [ɔrəˈtɔrɪ] n. (pl. -ries) a small chapel, esp. for private worship.

oratory [ɔˈrətɔrɪ] n. the art or practice of formal speaking in public: —exalted, eloquent, or highly colored language: learned discussions degenerated into pompous oratory. —orator-i-cal [ˌɔrətərɪˈkæl] adj.

orbit [ɒrɪt] n. 1 a curved path a celestial object or spacecraft around a star, planet, or moon, esp. a periodic elliptical revolution. ■ one complete circuit around an orbited body. ■ the state of being on or moving in such a course: the earth is in orbit around the sun. ■ the path of an electron around an atomic nucleus. 2 a sphere of activity, interest, or application: he moved into the orbit of two great anti-communist writers of the 1940s and 1950s. 3 Anat. the cavity in the skull of a vertebrate that contains the eye; the eye socket.

or-bit-ial [ɒrˈbɪtɪəl] adj. of or relating to an orbit or orbits.

or-bit-al [ɒrˈbɪtɪl] adj. of or relating to an orbit or orbits.

orbital-sand-er [ˈɔrɪtɪlˌsændər] n. a sander in which the sanding surface moves in a very tight orbital motion, driven at high speed by an electric motor.

orca [ˈɔrka] n. a large toothed whale (Orca orca, Family Delphinidae) with distinctive black-and-white markings and a prominent dorsal fin. It lives in groups that cooperatively hunt fish, seals, and penguins. Also called KILLER WHALE.

orchard [ˈɔrkwərd] n. a piece of land planted with fruit trees. —or-chardist [ˈɔrkwərdɪst] n.

orchestra [ˈɔrkestrə; -kəstrə] n. 1 a group of instrumentalists, esp. one combining string, woodwind, brass, and percussion sections and playing classical music. 2 (also orchestra pit) the part of a theater where the orchestra plays, typically in front of the stage and on a lower level than the audience. ■ the seats on the ground floor in a theater. 3 the semicircular space in front of an ancient Greek theater stage where the chorus danced and sang, particularly in the 17th century. ■ the area of a theater where the orchestra is located.

orchestrate [ˈɔrkestrət] v. [tr.] arrange or score (music) for orchestral performance. ■ arrange or direct the elements of (a situation) to produce a desired effect: esp. surreptitiously: the developers were able to orchestrate a favorable media campaign. —or-ches-tra-trion [ˌɔrkestrəˈtraʃən] n.

orchestra-trion [ˌɔrkestrəˈtraʃən] n. a series of orchestras or casts in a musical production. —or-chestra-trion-istic [ˌɔrkestrəˈtraʃənɪstɪk] adj.

orchid [ˈɔrkid] n. a plant (numerous genera, family Orchidaceae) with complex flowers that are typically showy or bizarrely shaped, having a large specialized lip (labelium) and frequently a spur. Orchids occur worldwide, esp. as epiphytes in tropical forests, and are valuable house plants. —orchidist [ˈɔrkwɪst] n.

ordeal [ˈɔrdeɪl] n. 1 a painful or horrific experience, esp. a protracted one: the ordeal of having to give evidence. 2 hist. an ancient test of guilt or innocence by subjection to the accused to severe pain, survival of which was taken as divine proof of innocence.
osteopathy

— South or-tho-phy-tation or-ro-tund es, originating what gious /-tist/— symb. denoting, approved: conforming given /'orfan/ outsize. adv. Church or-ni-thol-o-gist earth, (pi. -ries) in the sense of the blue-blooded animals that are common to the world. Also called FISH

OS or-ther doctrine /or-th/o/ adj. a container or room into which the bones of dead people are placed.

ossify /'as-if/ v. (flies, fied) intr. turn into bone or bony tissue: these tracheal cartilages ossify. n. ossified (fig.) cease developing; be stagnant or rigid; ossified political institutions.

osso bucco /'as-boo-koo/ n. an Italian dish made with veal shank containing marrowbone, stewed in wine with vegetables and seasonings.

osu-ar-y /'as-o-er-e/ adj. ostensible /'a-stans/ adj. to appear or seeming to be true, but not necessarily so: the delay may have a deeper cause than the ostensible reason.

os-ten-si-bil-i-ty /a'sten-taSHas/ n. pretentious and vulgar display, esp. of wealth and luxury, intended to impress or attract notice; the office was spacious, but without any trace of ostentation.

ostenta-tious /a'sten-ta-tious/ adj. characterized by vulgar or pretentious display; designed to impress or attract notice; books that people buy and display ostentatiously but never actually finish.

osteo-ar-thri-this /a'sten-er-thris/ n. Med degeneration of joint cartilage and the underlying bone, most common from middle age onward. It causes pain and stiffness, esp. in the hip, knee, and thumb joints. Compare with RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS.

os-ten-ta-tion /or-'ten-ten/ n. the branch of medical practice that emphasizes the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders through the manipulation and massage of the bones, joints, and muscles.

osc-o-path /af-ka/ n. trade mark the nickname for one of the golden statuettes given as an Academy Award. The (Oscars) the annual presentation of the Academy Awards.
osteopenia /'ɔstəu-pëniə/ n. reduced bone mass of lesser severity than osteoporosis.

osteoporosis /ɔstə'pə-rōsɪs/ n. a medical condition in which the bones become brittle and fragile from loss of tissue, typically as a result of hormonal changes, or deficiency of calcium or vitamin D.

osteoporotic /ɔt-stə-opə-'rōt-ɪk/ adj.

ostia-nato /ɔst-i-'nə-təʊ/ pl. -nos or -tɪ-nəʊ/ (pl. -tos or -tī-tos) a continually repeated musical phrase or rhythm.

ostler /ɔstlər/ n. variant spelling of hostler.

ostra-cize /əʊstrəˌsaɪz/ v. [tr.] exclude (someone) from a society or group: a group of people who have been excluded, ostracized, and persecuted for centuries. —ostracism /əʊstrəˈsɪzəm/ n.

ostirich /ɔstrɪtʃ/ n. 1 a flightless swift-running African bird (Struthio camelus, family Struthionidae) with a long neck, long legs, and two toes on each foot. It is the largest living bird. 2 a person who refuses to face reality or accept facts.

OT n. abbreviation. 

ot-enam /ɪnˈtər/ adj. & pron. 1 used to refer to a person or thing that is different or distinct from one already mentioned or known about: [as adj.] stick the camera on a tripod or some other means of support other people had found difficult; [as pron.] a language unrelated to any other. 2 the alternative of two: [as adj.] the other side of the page; [as pron.] the first and then the other. 3 those remaining in a group; those not already mentioned: [as adj.] they took the other three away in an ambulance; [as pron.] Fred set off and the others followed. 4 further: [as adj.] another word of advice; [as pron.] reporting three stories and rewriting three others. —Old English, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch and German ander, from an Indo-European root meaning ‘different.’

otherwise /əʊˈʌðər/ adv. in circumstances different from those presently considered: the tourists who visit the college otherwise. —otherwise adverbial phrase.

out /aʊt/ adj. 1 in a different state or situation: if it were otherwise, we would be unable to acquire knowledge.

outwardly /ˈaʊtərdəli/ adj. of or relating to an imaginary or spiritual world: music of an almost otherworldly beauty.

otise /ˈɒtɪs, əʊˈtɪs/ adj. serving no practical purpose or result: he did fuss, uttering otiso explanations. —otis-adv.

otitis /ˈɒtɪtɪs/ n. Med. inflammation of the ear.

otoscope /ˈɔtəskəp/ n. an instrument designed for visual examination of the eardrum and the passage of the outer ear, typically having a light and a set of lenses. —otoscope adj. —otoscopic /ˌəʊtəskəˈpɪk/ adj.

otter /ˈʌtər/ n. a fish-eating mammal (Lutra and other genera) of the weasel family, typically semiaquatic, with an elongated body, dense fur, and webbed feet. Its several species include the river otter (L. canadensis). See also sea otter.

Ottoman /ˈɑːtəmən/ adj. 1 of or relating to the Turkish dynasty of Osman I. 2 of or relating to the branch of the Turks to which he belonged, or of relating to the Ottoman Empire ruled by his successors. 2 Turkish.

ottoman /ˈɑːtəmən/ n. (pl. -mans) a Turk, esp. of the period of the Ottoman Empire.

out-box /aʊtˌbɒks/ n. (pl. -boxes) a low upholstered seat, or footstool, without a back or arms that typically serve also as a box, with the seat hinged to form a lid.

ouch /ʊtʃ/ inter. used to express pain.

ought /əʊt/ n. archaic term for ought1.

ought1 /əʊt/ pron. variant spelling of ought.

ought2 /əʊt/ n. contr. of ought not.

Ouija board /ˈwɪdʒəˌbɔːrd/ n. trademark a board printed with letters, numbers, and other signs, to which a planchette or movable indicator points, supposedly in answer to questions from people at a distance.

ounce /əʊns/ n. 1 (abbr.: oz) a unit of weight of one sixteenth of a pound avoirdupois (approx. 28 grams). 2 a unit of one twelfth of a pound troy or apothecaries’ measure, equal to 480 grains (approx. 31 grams). 2 a very small amount of something: Robin summoned up every ounce of strength. 3 short for fluid ounce.

outage /ˈaʊtɛdʒ/ n. a period when a power supply or other service is not available or when equipment is closed down.

out-and-out /aʊtəndˈaʊt/ adj. in every respect; absolute; without question: an out-and-out crook.

outback /ˈaʊtˌbæk/ n. (the outback) the remote and often uninhabited
inland regions of Australia. — any remote or sparsely populated region.

out-back-er n.

out-balance /ˈaut-baləns/ v. [tr.] be more valuable, important, or influential than: make up for: their high capacity outweighs this defect.

out-bid /ˈaut-bid/ v. (bidding, past and past part. — bid) [tr.] offer to pay a higher price for something (than another person): residential developers could always outbid any farmer for the land.

out-board /ˈaut,bɔrəd/ adj. & adv. on, toward, or near the outside, esp. of a ship or vehicle: [as adj] the outboard rear seats [as adv] the chart table faces outboard. [as adj] of a motor portable and usually mounted on the outside of the stern of a boat.

n. an outboard motor.

out-bound /ˈaut,bound/ adj. & adv. traveling away from a particular place, esp. by the front leg of a round trip: [as adj] an outbound flight.

out-break /ˈaut,b्रek/ n. the sudden or violent start of something unwanted, such as war, disease, etc.: the outbreak of World War II.

out-building /ˈaut,biilding/ n. a building, such as a shed, barn, or garage, on the same property but separate from a more important one, such as a house.

out-burst /ˈaut,bɜːst/ n. a sudden release of strong emotion: "she screamed at him about it one day," said one source who witnessed the outburst.

a sudden outbreak of a particular activity: a wild outburst of applause.

Physics a sudden emission of energy or particles: a very dramatic outburst of neutrons.

out-cast /ˈaut,kast/ n. a person who has been rejected by society or a social group.

adj. rejected or cast out: made to feel outcast and inadequate.

out-class /ˈaut,kla:s/ v. [tr.] be far superior to: they totally outclassed us in the first half.

out-burn /ˈaut,kəm/ n. the way a thing turns out: a consequence: it is the outcome of the vote that counts.

out-crop /ˈaut,kræp/ n. bedrock exposed at the surface: dramatic limestone outcrops.

fig. a noticeable manifestation or occurrence.

out-cry /ˈaut,krai/ n. (pl. cries) an exclamation or shout: an outcry of spontaneous passion.

a strong expression of public disapproval or anger: the public outcry over the bombing.

out-dated /ˈaut,deitd/ adj. out of date: obsolete.

out-date-ness n.

out-distance /ˈaut,distəns/ v. [tr.] leave a competitor or pursuer far behind: she could maintain a fast enough pace to outdistance any pursuer.

out-do /ˈaut,dəu/ v. [v. — does. — doing. past. — did. past part. — done] [tr.] be more successful than: the men tried to outdo each other in their generosity: not to be outdone.

Vicky and Laura reached the same standard.

out-door /ˈaut,dɔr/ adj. done, situated, or used out of doors: a huge outdoor concert.

of a person) fond of the open air or open-air activities: a rugged, outdoor type.

out-doors /ˈaut,dɔrз/ adv. in or into the open air: outside a building or shelter: it was warm enough to eat outdoors.

n. (usu. the outdoors) any area outside buildings or shelter, typically far away from human habitation: a lover of the great outdoors.

out-doors-man /ˈaut,dɔrз,mən/ n. (pl. men. fem. outdoors-woman [-ˌwʊmən] pl. -women) a person who spends a lot of time outdoors or doing outdoor activities.

out-er /ˈautər/ adj. outside; external: the outer door.

further from the center or inside: the outer hall at the museum’s main entrance.

esp. in place names more remote: Outer Mongolia.

out-er-most /ˈautər,məst/ adj. farthest from the center: the outermost layer of the earth.

pron. the one that is farthest from the center: the orbit of the outermost of these eight planets.

outer space n. the physical universe beyond the earth’s atmosphere.

outerwear /ˈautәr,weәr/ n. clothing worn over other clothes, esp. for the outdoors.

out-field /ˈaut,fild/ n. the outer part of the field of play in various sports, in particular: Baseball the grassy area beyond the infield.

[treasured as sang. or. el. the players stationed in the outfield, collectively.

out-field-er n.

out-fight /ˈaut,fit/ v. (past and past part. — fought) [tr.] fight better than and beat (an opponent).

out-fit /ˈaut,fit/ n. a set of clothes worn together, typically for a particular occasion or purpose: a riding outfit.

int. a group of people undertaking a particular activity together, as a group of musicians, a military unit, or a business concern: Tom was the brains of the outfit.

complete set of equipment or articles needed for a particular purpose: a repair outfit.

v. [lit. — fitted, — fitting] [tr.] usu. be outfitted provide (someone) with a set of clothes: an auction of dolls outfitted by world-famous designers.

provide with equipment: planes outfitted with sophisticated electronic gear.

out-fitter /ˈaut,fɪtər/ (also out-fitters) n. an establishment that sells clothing, equipment, and services, esp. for outdoor activities: an outfitter that provides professional guides.

out-flank /ˈaut,flæŋk/ v. [tr.] move around the side of (an enemy) so as to outmaneuver them: the Germans had sought to outflank them from the northeast.

fig. outwit: an attempt to outflank the opposition.

out-flow /ˈaut,flɔː/ n. a large amount of money, liquid, or people that moves or is transferred out of a place: an outflow of foreign currency.

the flowing out of a liquid from a container or cavity: the combination of arterial inflow and venous outflow.

Meteorol. the outward flow of air from a weather system, associated with wind shift and temperature drop.

out-fox /ˈaut,fɔks/ v. [v. — foxes. — foxing] [tr.] outwit: (someone) by being more clever or cunning than they are; outwit.
outlive -v. [tr.] 1. draw, trace, or define the outer edge or shape of (something): her large eyes were darkly outlined with eyeliner. 2. give a summary of (something): she outlined the case briefly.

outlive -v. [tr.] (of a person) live longer than (another person): women generally outlive men. 3. survive or last beyond (a specified period or expected life span): the organization had largely outlived its usefulness.

arcane -adj. live through (an experience): the world has outlived much.

outlook -n. a person’s point of view or general attitude to life: broaden your outlook on life.

outnumber -n. -manned, -manning [tr.] (usu. as adj.) outnumbered: the rebels were outnumbered and outmatched in armaments.

out-pose -v. [tr.] (as verb) go faster than: he took the lead and outposed the defense to score in the corner. (as noun) be more than; surpass: salus sales now outpace those for ketchup.

out-pour -n. a building lot separated or separable from a commercial or industrial development, the selling of which provides liquidity for the developer.

out-patient -n. a patient who receives medical treatment without being admitted to a hospital.

out-perform -v. [tr.] perform better than: an experienced employee will outperform the novice. (of an investment) be more profitable than: silver has outperformed the stock market.

out-place -n. the provision of assistance to laid-off employees in finding new employment, either as a benefit provided by the employer directly, or through a specialist service.

out-post -n. a small military camp or post at some distance from a major town, used esp. as a guard against surprise attack.

out-pouring -n. something that streams out rapidly: a massive outpouring of high-energy gamma rays. (often outpourings) an outburst of strong emotion: spontaneous outpourings of affection and support.

out-pull -n. 1. the amount of something produced by a person, machine, or industry: the diverse range of Liz's output.

out-process of producing something: the output of epinephrine.

the power, energy, or other results supplied by a device or system: the quality of the output from the printer is very good.

2. Elect.: a place where power or information leaves a system.

v. (out-putting) produce, deliver, or supply (data) using a computer or other device; you can output the image directly to a video recording system.

out-rage -n. a extraordinarily strong reaction of anger, shock, or indignation: her voice trembled with outrage. an action or event causing such a reaction: the decision was an outrage.

v. (out-putting) arouse fierce anger, shock, or indignation in (someone): he was outraged at this attempt to take his victory away from him.

outrageous -adj. shockingly bad or excessive; an outrageous act of bribery. wildly exaggerated or improbable; outrageous claims made by the previous administration. very bold, unusual, and startling; her outrageous leotards and sexy routines.

in an outrageous and unseemly manner:

out-rig-ger -n. a beam, spar, or framework projecting from or over the side of a ship or boat. a float or secondary hull fixed parallel to a canoe or other boat to stabilize it. a boat fitted with such a structure.

out-side -n. the external side or surface of something: record the date on the outside of the file. the side of a bend or curve where the edge or surface is longer in extent.

the side of a racetrack further from the center, where the lanes are longer. the external appearance of someone or something: was he as straight as he appeared on the outside.

in basketball: the area beyond the perimeter of the defense; he often set up the Lakers’ plays from the outside.

adj. 1. situated on or near the exterior or external surface of something: put the outside lights on. (in baseball) (of a pitch) passing home plate on the side of the plate away from the batter, not in the strike zone.

in basketball, taking place beyond the perimeter of the defense; he needs work on his outside shot.

not belonging to or coming from within a particular group: I have some outside help.

beyond one’s own immediate personal concerns: I was able to face the outside world again.

(adj. of an estimate) the greatest or highest possible: new monthly charges that, according to outside estimates, may total $8 per line.

adv. & adv. 1. situated or moving beyond the boundaries of (a room, building, or other enclosed space); (adj. of a dog) there was a dog outside the door.

(outside) the dog was still barking outside.

outside the boundaries of (a particular location); (adj. of a dog) Vincennes, just outside Paris.

in basketball, taking place beyond the perimeter of the defense; he needs work on his outside shot.

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outside the boundaries of (a particular location); (adj. of a dog) Vincennes, just outside Paris. for someone who is outside the organization.
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-overflow [v.] 1 the excess or surplus not able to be accommodated by an available space: to accommodate the overflow, five more offices have been built. 2 (also overflow pipe) (in a bathtub or sink) an outlet for excess water. 3 Comput. the generation of a number of or some other item that is too large for an assigned location or memory space.

over.fly /ˈovərflɪ/ v. (past flew; past part. flown) [tr.] fly over (a place or territory); there was a delay in obtaining clearance to overfly Israel. [tr.] fly beyond (a place or thing): overfly the radio beacon by approximately fifteen seconds; joy.

over.generalize /ˈovərˌgɛnəlaɪz/ v. [tr.] draw a conclusion or make a statement about (something) that is more general than is justified by the available evidence. —over.generalization /ˌjɛnəˈɡɛnlɪzaʃən/ n.

over.ground /ˈovərgraʊnd/ adj. & adv. on or above the ground: [as adv.] subway lines that go overground. n. legitimate; not underground: overground political processes.

over.grow /ˈovərgrəʊ/ v. (past grew; past part. -grown) [tr.] grow or spread over (something), esp. so as to choke or stifle it: the mussels overgrow and smother whatever is underneath. —over.growth /ˈovərgrəʊθ/ n.

over.hand /ˈovərhænd/ adj. & adv. (chiefly of a throw or a stroke with a racket) made with the palm of the hand above the level of the shoulder: pitch overhand. [with the palm of the hand over what it grasps: [as adv.] an overhand grip. n. boxing (of a punch) passing over the other hand: caught him with an overhand right.

over.hang v. (ˈovərhæŋ) (past and past part. -hung) [tr.] hang or extend outward over: a concrete path overhung by trees [as adj.] overhanging overhanging branches. n. fig. loom over: the film's mood is overhung with impending death.

n. /ˈovər.hæŋ/ a part of something that sticks out or hangs over another thing: he crouched beneath an overhang of bushes.

over.haul v. /ˈovərhɔːl/ [tr.] take apart (a piece of machinery or equipment) in order to examine it and repair it if necessary: a company that overhauls and repairs aircraft engines.

n. /ˈovərhɔːl/ a thorough examination of machinery or a system, with repairs or changes made if necessary: a major overhaul of environmental policies.

over.head /ˈovər.hed/ adv. /ˈovər.hed/ above the level of the head: in the sky: a helicopter buzzed overhead.

n. /ˈovər.hed/ situated above the level of the head: the sun was directly overhead / overhead power cables. 2 (of a driving mechanism) above the object driven: an overhead cam four-cylinder engine. 3 (of cost or expense) incurred with the general upkeep or running of a plant, premises, or business, and not attributable to specific products or items.

n. /ˈovər.hed/ overhead cost or expense: research conducted in space requires more overhead. 2 a transparency designed for use with an overhead projector. 3 an overhead compartment: fits in most airline overheads. 4 Tennis a shot directed sharply downward, hit while the ball is over the head: a smash.

over.head.projec.tor n. a device that projects an enlarged image of a transparency placed on it onto a wall or screen by means of an overhead mirror.

over.hear /ˈovər.hɪər/ v. (past and past part. -heard) [tr.] hear (someone or something) without meaning to or without the knowledge of the speaker: I couldn't help overhearing your conversation.

over.heat /ˈovər.hɪt/ v. make or become too hot: [intr.] her car started to overheat; [tr.] it's vital not to overheat the liquid. n. make too excited: [as adj.] overheated (his overheated imagination). n. Econ. (of a country's economy) show marked inflation when increased demand results in prices rather than increased output: [intr.] lending rates could soar as the economy overheats. [tr.] credit expansion helped overheat the economy.

over.in.dulge /ˌəvərɪnˈdʌldʒ/ v. (past indulged; past part. -indulged) have too much of something enjoyable, esp. food or drink: it is easy to overindulge in these kinds of foods.

over.indulging wishes of someone to an excessive extent: his mother had indulged him. —over.indulgence /ˌəvərɪnˈdʌldʒmənt/ n.

over.in.sure /ˌəvərɪnˈsʊər/ adj. having insurance coverage beyond what is necessary. —over.in.surance /ˌɪnˈsʊərəns/ n.

over.joyed /ˈəvərˌdʒɔɪd/ adj. extremely happy: Joanna will be overjoyed to see you.

over.kill /ˈovərˌkɪl/ n. the amount by which destruction or the capacity for destruction exceeds what is necessary: the existing nuclear overkill.

over.land /ˈovər.lænd/ adj. & adv. by land: [as adv.] on overland trade route [as adv.] she journeyed overland.

over.lap v. /ˈovərlæp/ (lapped—lapping) [tr.] extend over so as to cover partly: the canopy overlaps the house roof at one end; [intr.] the curtains overlap at the center when closed. [intr.] cover part of the same area of interest, responsibility, etc.: their duties sometimes overlapped. [intr.] partly coincide in time: two new series overlapped.

n. /ˈovərlæp/ a part or amount that overlaps: an overlap of about half an inch. n. a common area of interest, responsibility, etc.: there are many overlaps between the approaches; there is some overlap in requirements. n. a period of time in which two events or activities happen together.

over.lay v. /ˈovərlɛɪ/ (past and past part. -laid) [tr.] often be overlaid with cover the surface of (a thing) with: their fingernails were overlaid with silver or gold. [on top of] a thing: the over lay of sand will cover the others. [fig. (of a quality or feeling) become more prominent than (a previous quality or feeling): his openness had been overlaid by his new self-confidence.

n. /ˈovərlɛɪ/ 1 something laid as a covering over something else: a durable, cost-effective floor overlay. n. a transparency placed over artwork or something such as a map, marked with additional information or detail. n. a graphical computer display that can be superimposed on another. —over. layers: the process of transferring a block of program code or other data into internal memory, replacing what is already stored: a block of code or other data transferred in such a way.

over.leaf /ˈovərlɛfl/ past of OVERLAYS.

over.leaf /ˈovərˌlefl/ adv. on the other side of the page: an information sheet is printed overleaf.

over.ley /ˈovərˌleɪ/ v. (-lying: past-laying; past part. -lain) [tr.] lie on top of: soft days over the basalt.

over.load v. /ˈovərlɔːd/ [tr.] load with too great a burden or cargo: [as adj.] overloaded vessels are dangerous. n. give too much of something, typically something undesirable, to (someone): the stuff is heavily overloaded with casework. n. too great a demand on (an electrical system): the wiring had been overloaded.

n. /ˈovərlɔːd/ an excessive load or amount: an overload of stress: momentary surges and overloads in the circuit.

over.look v. /ˈovərlʊk/ [tr.] fail to notice (something); he seems to have overlooked one important fact. n. ignore or disregard (something, esp. a fault or offense): she was more than ready to overlook his faults. v. pass over (someone) in favor of another: he was overlooked by the Nobel committee. 2 have a view of from above: the chateau overlooks fields of corn and olive trees.

n. /ˈovərˌlʊk/ a commanding position or view: he veered off the highway onto an overlook.

over.lord /ˈovərlɔːrd/ n. a ruler, esp. a feudal lord. n. a person of great power or authority: the undisputed overlord of the crime family. —over.lordship /ˈɔːrˌlɔːrdʃɪp/ n.

over.ly /ˈovərəli/ adv. excessively: she was a jealous and overly possessive person.

over.much /ˈovərmʌk/ adv. adj. & pron. too much: [as adv.] I would not worry myself overmuch. [as adj.] the police may have overmuch regard for public order considerations.

over.night /ˈovərnɪt/ adv. for the duration of a night: they refused to stay overnight. n. during the course of a night: you can recharge the battery overnight. v. very quickly; suddenly; altitudes will not change overnight.

adj. /ˈovərnɪt/ for use overnight: an overnight bag. n. done or happening overnight: an overnight stay. n. sudden, rapid, or instant: Tom became an overnight star.

n. /ˈovərnɪt/ stay for the night in a particular place: I overnighted at the Beverly Hills. n. [tr.] ship for delivery the next day: Forster overnighted the sample to headquarters by courier.

n. /ˈovərnɪt/ a stop or stay lasting one night: overnights can be arranged in Kathmandu.

over.night.er /ˈovərnɪt.ər/ n. a stop at a place overnight.

over.night.bag n. an overnight bag. n. an overnight trip or stay.

over.pass n. /ˈovərpəs/ a bridge by which a road or railroad passes over another.

over.pay /ˈovərpɛɪ/ v. (past and past part. -paid) [tr.] pay (someone) too highly: many fans think our top players are overpaid. n. pay (money) in excess of what is due: to overpay taxes. —over.payment n.

Pronunciation Key: a as in ago; up; or, fur; a fun; a; a; a car; ch chin; e let; s ess; o a; air; i j; t; b; r; ear; s; sng; g; g; o; law; for; o; t; o; good; o; g; ou; um; sh she; th thin; th thin; th why; zh vision
from Old French, past participle of over ‘to open,’ from Latin openere.

-overtly adv. —overtfulness n.

overtake [əˈvərtɔk] v. (past -took, past part. -taken) [tr.] 1 catch up with and pass while traveling in the same direction: the driver overtook a line of vehicles; ■ become greater or more successful than: Germany rapidly overtook Britain in industrial output. 2 (esp. of misfortune) come suddenly or unexpectedly upon: the pattern of economic ruin overtook them. 3 (of a feeling) affect (someone) suddenly and powerfully: weariness overtook him and he retired to bed.

-overtake [əˈvərtɔk] /əˈvərtək/ v. [tr.] 1 require to pay too much tax: if you’re overtaxed, we want you in our party. 2 make excessive demands on (a person’s) strength, abilities, etc.: do athletes overtax their hearts?

overtake-ment [əˈvərtəkmənt] n.

overtax [əˈvərtɔks] v. (past -taxed, past part. -taxed) [tr.] 1 revere forcibly from power: military coups which had attempted to overthrow the king. 2 put an end to (something), typically by use of force or violence: their subversive activities are calculative to overthrow parliamentary democracy. 3 (a ball) fail to pass or further an effort; he grips the ball too tight and overthrows it. 4 throw a ball beyond (a receiving player); he overthrew a receiver in the end zone.

n. /ˌəvərˈtɔk/ 1 a removal from power; a defeat or downfall: plotting the overthrow of the government. 2 (in baseball and other games) a throw that sends a ball past its intended recipient or target; 3 a panel of decorated wrought-iron work above an arch or gateway.

overtime [əˈvərtim] n. in time in addition to what is normal, as time worked beyond one’s scheduled working hours: fewer opportunities for overtime. 2 payment for such extra work. 3 extra time played at the end of a game that is tied at the end of the regulation time: they lost in overtime.

adv. in addition to normal working hours: they were working overtime to fulfill a big order.

overtired [əˈvərtəd] v. [tr.] exhaust (someone): walk at a pace that does not overtire you.

overtone [əˈvərtən] n. 1 a musical tone that is a part of the harmonic series above a fundamental note and may be heard with it. 2 (often overtones) a subtle or subsidiary quality, implication, or connotation: the decision may have political overtones.

overtread [əˈvərtred] v. [intr.] (esp. of an athlete) train too hard or for too long. 2 [tr.] subject to excessive training: the team overtrained their young players.

overture [əˈvərtər] n. 1 an introduction to something more substantial: the talks were no more than an overture to a long debate. 2 (usu. overtures) an approach or proposal made to someone with the aim of opening negotiations or establishing a relationship; Cohen listened to his overtures.

overtrend [əˈvərtrend] v. [intr.] an orchestral piece of the beginning of an opera, suite, play, oratorio, or other extended composition. 2 an independent orchestral composition in one movement.

overtourn [əˈvərtɔrn] v. [tr.] 1 tip (something) over so that it is on its side or upside down: the crowd proceeded to overturn cars and set them on fire. 2 (intr.) turn over and come to rest upside down, typically as the result of an accident: a large tractor-trailer overturned in the middle of the road. 3 abolish, invalidate, or turn around (an established fact, system, etc.): the results overturned previous findings. 4 reverse (a legal decision); he fought for eight years to overturn a conviction for armed robbery.

n. /ˌəvərˈtɔrn/ 1 the act of turning over or upsetting something; a revolution, subversion, or reversal. 2 Ecol. the occasional (typically twice yearly) mixing of the water of a thermally stratified lake.


n. /ˌəvərˈtɔks/ excessive use: overuse of natural resources.

overtax-value [əˈvərtɔvɑlv] v. (−values, −valued, −valuing) [tr.] overestimate the importance of intelligence can be overvalued. 2 fix the value of (something, esp. a currency) at too high a level: sterling was overvalued against the dollar. —overtax-value [ˌəvərˌtɑvɑlvə] /ˌəvərˈtɔvɑl/ v. [tr.]

overtax-view [əˈvərtɔvju] n. a general review or summary of a subject: a critical overview of the scientific issues of our time.

v. [tr.] give a general review or summary of: the report overviews the needs of the community.

overtax-view-ing [əˈvərtɔvjuˈnɪŋ] adj. showing excessive confidence or pride: overweaning ambition. —overtax-view-ingly adv

overtax-weight [əˈvərtɔw] adj. (of a weight) above a weight considered normal or desirable: he’s forty pounds overweight. 2 above legal weight: an overweight truck.

n. /ˌəvərˈtɔw/ excessive or extra weight.

v. [ˌəvərˈtɔw] [tr.] too much; young children sometimes overuse “and” in their writing.

Finance invest in a market sector, industry, etc.) to a greater than normal degree: we were overweighted in technology last year.

overtax-whelm [əˈvərtɔhwel] v. [tr.] bury or drown beneath a huge mass: the water flowed through to overtax the whole dam and the village beneath. ■ defeat completely: his teams overtaxed their opponents. ■ often be overtaxed give too much of a thing to (someone): undate: they were overtaxed by farewell messages. ■ (usu. be overtaxed) have a strong emotional effect on; I was overtaxed with guilt. ■ be too strong for: overtax: the wine doesn’t overtax the flavor of the treat.

overtax-ment [əˈvərtək] /əˈvərtək/ v. great in amount: he was elected president by an overwhelming majority. ■ (esp. of an emotion) very strong: an overwhelming feeling of gratitude. —overtax-ment-lingly adv. —overtax-ment-ness n.

overtax-win [əˈvərtɔwin] v. [tr.] 1 spend the winter: many birds overwinter in equatorial regions. 2 (of an insect, plant, etc.) live through the winter: the germinated seeds will overwinter.

overtax-work [əˈvərtɔw] v. [tr.] exhaust with too much work: executives who are overworked and worried. ■ (as adj.) overworked: tired, overworked, demoralized staff. ■ (of a person) too hard: the doctor advised a complete rest because he had been overworking. ■ (usu. as adj.) overworked use (a word or idea) too much and so make it weaker in meaning or effect: “Breathtaking” is an overworked brochüre cliché. ■ excessive work: his health broke down under the strain of overworking.

overtax-write [əˈvərtɔrit] v. (past -wrote, past part. -written) [tr.] 1 Comput. destroy (data) on a file by enabling new data in its place: an entry stating who is allowed to overwrite the file. 2 write (something) elaborately or ornately: there is a tendency to overwrite their parts and fall into cliché.

overtax-wrought [əˈvərtɔt] /əˈvərtɔt/ adj. 1 in a state of nervous excitement or anxiety: she was too overtaxed to listen to reason. 2 (of a piece of writing or art) too elaborate or complicated in design or construction.


overtax-vine [əˈvətvain] adj. of relating to, or resembling sheep.

overtax-vidarious [əˈvətvəˈriəs] adj. Zool. of a bird, etc.) producing young by means of eggs that are hatched after they have been laid by the parent.

overtax-parity [ˌəvətɔˈpəraɪti] /əˈvətɔpərai/ adj. Zool. of a bird, etc.) producing young by means of eggs that are hatched after they have been laid by the parent.

overtax-void [ˌəvətɔˈvɔɪd] adj. (of a solid or a three-dimensional surface) egg-shaped. ■ (of a plane figure) oval, esp. with one end more pointed than the other.

n. an oviparous body or surface.


overtax-ule [əˈvətɔl] n. a small or immature ovum. 2 Bot. the part of the ovary of seed plants that contains the female germ cell and after fertilization becomes the seed. —overtax-ular [ˌəvətɔˈlər] /əˈvətɔlər/ adj.

overtax-um [əˈvətɔm] n. (pl. ova [əˈvə] Biol. a mature female reproductive cell, esp. of a human or other animal, that can divide to give rise to an embryo usually only after fertilization by a male cell. Early 18th cent. from Latin, literally ‘egg.’

overtax-wound [əˈvətɔw] v. [intr.] used to express sudden pain: Ow! You’re hurting me.

overtax-had [əˈvətɔx] v. [tr.] have an obligation to pay or repay (something, esp. money) in return for something received; they have denied they owe money to no one. ■ owe something, esp. money, to (someone): I owe you for the taxi. ■ owe something to (someone): I owe it to him to explain what happened. ■ owe one an apology. ■ owe something to (someone): they owed his success not to chance but to insight. ■ be indebted to someone for something: I owe my life to you.

overtaxing [əˈvətɔxing] adj. (of money) yet to be paid: no rent was owing. ■ owing to because of or on account of: his reading was hesitant owing to a stammer.

owl [əʊl] n. a nocturnal bird of prey with large forward-facing eyes surrounded by facial disks, a hooked beak, and typically a loud call. Two families: Strigidae (typical owls, such as saw-whet owls and the snowy owl) and Tytonidae (the barn owls and their relatives). —owtish adj. 

Pronunciation Key a. ago, up; over, fur; a hat; a see; a far; a thin; c; e let; 6 see, e (or) air; f it; h by; i (or) ear; NG sing; G go; 0; law; for; of toy; 60 good; 60 go; 60 out; SH she; Tm thin; Th there; (h) why; z vision
owlet /ouəlt/ n. a small owl (genera Glaucidium and Athene, family Strigidae) found chiefly in Asia and Africa. a young owl of any kind.

own [own] adj. & pron. used with a possessive to emphasize that someone or something belongs or relates to the person mentioned: [as adj.] they can’t handle their own children I was an outcast among my own kind | [as pron.] the Church would look after its own. • done or produced by and for the person specified: [as adj.] I used to design all my own clothes | [as pron.] they claimed the work as their own. • particular to the person or thing mentioned; individual: [as adj.] the style had its own charm | [as pron.] the film had a quality all its own.

x. 1 [tr.] have (something) as one’s own; possess: his father owns a restaurant | [as adj. in contr.] (owned) state-owned property. 2 [intr.] formal admit or acknowledge that something is the case or that one feels a certain way: she owned to a feeling of profound jealousy.

phrasal v. own up admit or confess to having done something wrong or embarrassing; he owns up to mistakes.

hold one’s own retain a position of strength in a challenging situation: I can hold my own in a fight.

owner [ˈɒnər] n. a person who owns something: the proud owner of a huge boltanian. • ownerless adj. • ownership n.

ox [ɒks] n. (pl. oxen /ˈɔksən/ (also oxeys /ˈɔksəs/) a domesticated bovine animal kept for milk or meat; a cow or bull. See CATTLE (sense 1). • a castrated male of this, formerly much used as a draft animal: [as adj.] an ox cart. • an animal of a group related to the domestic ox. See CATTLE (sense 2).

ox-bow /ˈɔksbɔː/ n. 1 a U-shaped bend in the course of a river. 2 a U-shaped collar of an ox yoke.

ox-bow lake n. a curved lake formed at a former oxbow where the main stream of the river has cut across the narrow end and no longer flows around the loop of the bend.

oxen /ˈɔksən/ n. plural form of ox.

ox-eye /ˈɔksaɪ/ n. a yellow-flowered North American plant (Heliotropium helianthoides) of the daisy family.

oxford /ˈɔksfərd/ n. 1 (also oxford shoe) a type of lace-up shoe with a low heel. 2 (also oxford cloth) a heavy cotton cloth chiefly used to make shirts.

ox-idant /ˈɔksɪdənt/ n. an oxidizing agent.

ox-idation /ˈɔksɪdəʃən/ n. Chem. the process or result of oxidizing or being oxidized. • ox-idation-al /-əˈʃənəl/ adj. • ox-idative /ˈɔksɪdətɪv/ adj.

ox-idize /ˈɔksɪdɪz/ v. combine or become combined chemically with oxygen: when coal is burned any sulfur is oxidized to sulfur dioxide | [intr.] the fats in the food will oxidize, turning it rancid. Chem. undergo or cause to undergo a reaction in which electrons are lost to another species. • ox-idiz-a-tion /-əˈdɪzəʃən/ n. • ox-idizer n.

ox-tail /ˈɔksˌtæl/ n. the tail of a cow. • meat from this, used esp. for making soup.

ox-y-acety-lene /ˌɒksəˈetɪlən/ n. trademark a synthetic analgesic drug that is similar to morphine in its effects and subject to abuse and addiction.

ox-y-gen /ˈɔksədʒən/ n. a colorless, odorless reactive gas, the chemical element of atomic number 8 and the life-supporting component of the air. (Symbol: O). • ox-y-gen-ous /ˈɔksɪdʒənas/ adj.

ox-y-gen-ate /ˈɔksɪdʒənt/ v. ox-y-gen-ates /-ˌætɪz/ [tr.] supply, treat, charge, or enrich with oxygen: [as adj.] ox-y-gen-a- tion /ˌɔksɪdʒəˈteɪʃən/ n.

ox-y-gen mask n. a mask placed over the nose and mouth and connected to a supply of oxygen, used when the body is not able to gain enough oxygen by breathing air.

ox-y-gen-teni /ˌɔksɪdʒəˈteni/ n. a tentlike enclosure within which the air supply can be enriched with oxygen to aid a patient’s breathing.

ox-y-mo-ron /ˌɑksɪˈmɔrən/ n. a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction (e.g., faith unfaithful kept him falsely true). • ox-y-mo-ron-ic /ˌɒksɪˈmɔrnɪk/ adj.

ox-y-to-cin /ˌɑksɪˈtəsɪn/ n. Biochem. a hormone released by the pituitary gland that causes increased contraction of the uterus during labor and stimulates the ejection of milk into the ducts of the breasts.

oyster /ˈɔɪstər/ n. 1 any of a number of bivalve mollusks with rough irregular shells. Several kinds are eaten (esp. raw) as a delicacy and may be farmed for food or pearls, in particular a true oyster (family Ostreidae), including the edible American oyster (Crassostrea virginica), a similar bivalve of another family, esp. the thorny oysters (Spondylidae), wing oysters (Pteriidae), and saddle oysters (Anomidae). 2 an oyster-shaped morsel of meat on each side of the backbone in poultry. 3 (also oyster white) a shade of grayish white. • v. [intr.] raise, dredge, or gather oysters. • adj. of the color oyster white. • Middle English; from Old French ostre, via Latin from Greek os troon related to osteon ‘bone’ and ostrakon ‘shell or tile.’

Oz /ɒz/ Austral. inf. adj. Australian.

ozone /ˈoʊˌzɒn/ n. a colorless unstable toxic gas, O3, with a pungent odor and powerful oxidizing properties, formed from oxygen by electrical discharges or ultraviolet light. • oz-on-ic /ˈoʊzənɪk/ adj.

ozone hole n. a region of marked thinning of the ozone layer in high latitudes, chiefly in winter, attributed to the chemical action of chlorofluorocarbons and other atmospheric pollutants.

ozone layer n. a layer in the earth’s stratosphere at an altitude of about 10 km (6.2 miles) containing a high concentration of ozone, which absorbs most of the ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth from the sun.
pace-setter /pā'se'tər/  n. a runner or competitor who sets the pace at the beginning of a race or competition, sometimes in order to help another runner break a record. • a person or organization viewed as taking the lead or setting standards of achievement for others.

pace-setting adj. & n.

pace-y-derm /pā'kē-děrm/  n. a very large mammal with thick skin, esp. an elephant, rhinoceros, or hippopotamus. • mid 19th cent.: from French pachyderme, from Greek pachydermos, from pakhos 'thick'.

derm 'skin'. —pace-y-der-mal /pā'kē-'děr-məl/ adj. —pace-y-der-ma-

cific /pāsif/  adj. peaceful in character or intent: a pacific gesture.

Paci-fic /pā'sif-/  adj. in a zone including the Pacific coastal region of the U.S. and Canada, specifically: • (Pacific Standard Time, abbrev. PST) standard time based on the mean solar time at longitude 120° W, eight hours behind GMT. • (Pacific Daylight Time, abbrev. PDT) Pacific time during daylight saving time, nine hours behind GMT.

Pac-i-fist /pā'sis-fist/  n. & adj. the belief that any violence, including war, is unjustifiable under any circumstances, and that all disputes should be settled by peaceful means. • the refusal to participate in war or military service because of such a belief. —pac-i-fis-tic /pā'sis-tik/ adj.

Paci-fy /pā'si-fā/  v. (flies, fied) [tr.] quell the anger, agitation, or excitement of: to pacify angry spectators. • bring peace to (a country or warring factions). esp. by the use or threatened use of military force. —pac-i-fy-a-tion /pā'si-fā-shən/ n. —pac-i-fy-a-tor-y /pā'si-fər-tē/ adj.

pack /pāk/  n. 1 a small cardboard or paper container and the items contained within it: a pack of cigarettes. • a set of playing cards. • a knapsack or backpack. • a collection of related documents, esp. one kept in a folder: an information pack. • (often the pack) a quantity of food packed or canned in a particular season or year. 2 a group of wild animals, esp. wolves, living and hunting together. • a group of hounds kept and used for hunting, esp. fox hunting. • an organized group of Cub Scouts. • (the pack) the main body of competitors following the leader or leaders in a competition: fig. the company was demonstrating the kind of innovativeness needed to keep it ahead of the pack. • chellytiker, dem. a group or set of similar things or people: the reports were a pack of lies. 3 a hot or cold pad of absorbent material, esp. used for treating an injury. • a cosmetic mask.

v. [tr.] fill (a suitcase or bag), esp. with clothes and other items (used with water, etc.) • fill (a container, esp. for transportation or storage). • (intrans.) be capable of being folded up for transportation or storage: these silver foil blankets pack into a small area. • (pack something into) store something perishable in (a specified substance) in order to preserve it. • (to carry a gun). —crum a large number of things into (a container or space). • (of a large number of people) crowd into and fill (a room, building, or place): the waiting room was packed. • cover, surround, or fill (something): he packed the wounds with ice.

phrase v. pack someone off md. send someone somewhere without much warning or notice: they packed me off to the academy in Baltimore.

packa-ble adj.
pack 636

- □ pack it in int stop what one is doing. □ send someone packing int. make someone leave in an abrupt or peremptory way.
- □ pack 1 v. [tr] fill (a jury, committee, etc.) with people likely to support a particular verdict or decision.
- □ package /ˈpækɪdʒ/ n. an object or group of objects wrapped in paper or plastic, or packed in a box. □ the box or bag in which things are packed. □ a packet: a package of peanuts. □ also package deal a set of proposals, products, etc., offered or agreed to as a whole.
- □ package store n. a store that sells alcoholic beverages in sealed containers for consumption elsewhere; a liquor store.
- □ packaging /ˈpækɪdʒɪŋ/ n. materials used to wrap or protect goods. □ the business or process of packing goods. □ the presentation of a person, product, or action in a particular way.
- □ pack animal n. 1 an animal used to carry heavy loads. 2 an animal that lives and hunts in a pack.
- □ packer /ˈpækər/ n. a person or machine that packs something, esp. someone who prepares and packs food for transportation and sale.
- □ packet /ˈpækɪt/ n. 1 a paper or cardboard container, typically one in which goods are packed to be sold: a packet of cigarettes. □ the contents of such a container. □ a block of data transmitted across a network. 2 (also packet boat) dated a ship traveling at regular intervals between two ports, originally for the conveyance of mail.
- □ pack-horse /ˈpækˌhɔːr/ n. a horse used to carry loads.
- □ pack ice n. an expanse of large pieces of floating ice driven together into a nearly continuous mass, as occurs in polar seas.
- □ packing /ˈpækɪŋ/ n. the action or process of packing something. □ material used to protect fragile goods. esp. in transit. □ material used to seal a joint or assist in lubricating an axle or shaft.
- □ pack rat n. a ratlike rodent (Neotoma) and other genera, family Muridae that accumulates a mound of sticks and debris in the nest hole, native to North and Central America. □ a person who saves unnecessary objects or hoards things.
- □ pact /pækt/ n. a formal agreement between individuals or parties. □ late Middle English: from Old French, from Latin pactum ‘something agreed upon,’ neuter past participle (used as a noun) of pacisci ‘agree.’
- □ sad /pæd/ v. sad a thick piece of soft material used to reduce friction or jarring, enlarge or change the shape of something, or hold or absorb liquid: sterile gauze pads. □ short for INK PAD. □ the fleshy underpart of an animal’s foot or of a human finger. □ a protective guard worn by a sports player to protect a part of the body from blows. 2 a number of sheets of blank paper fastened together at one edge. used for writing or drawing on. 3 a flat-topped structure or area used for helicopter takeoff and landing or for rocket launching. 4 int a person’s home.
- □ pad-ding /ˈpædɪŋ/ n. soft material such as foam or cloth used to pad or stuff something. □ superfine material in a book, speech, etc., introduced in order to make it reach a desired length.
- □ paddle /ˈpædəl/ n. 1 a short pole with a broad blade at one or both ends, used without an oarlock to move a small boat or canoe through the water. □ an act of using a paddle in a boat. □ a short-handled bat used in various ball games, esp. table tennis. □ a paddle-shaped instrument used for mixing food or for stirring or mixing in industrial processes. □ another term for PEEL. □ int. a paddle-shaped instrument used for administering corporal punishment. □ each of the boards fitted around the circumference of a paddle wheel or mill wheel. □ Med.: a plastic-covered electrode used in cardiac stimulation.
- □ paddle 1 v. [intr] move through the water in a boat using a paddle or paddles. □ [tr] propel (a small boat or canoe) with a paddle or paddles. □ (of a bird or other animal) swim with short fast strokes. 2 [tr] int. beat (someone) with a paddle as a punishment. —paddle n.
- □ paddle-wheel /ˈpædəlˌwɛl/ n. a large wheel, usually steam-driven, with boards around its circumference, situated at the stern or side of a ship so as to propel the ship through the water by its rotation.
pageant /ˈpeɪɡənt/ n. a public entertainment consisting of a procession of people in elaboratelycostumed, or an outdoor performance of a historical scene. Also: beauty pageant a beauty contest. A thing that looks impressive or grand, but is actually shallow and empty. Hist. a scene erected on a fixed stage or moving vehicle as a public show.

pageantry /ˈpeɪɡəntri/ n. elaborate display or ceremony.

page-boy /ˈpeɪbəʊ/ n. 1 a woman's hairstyle consisting of a shoulder-length bob with the ends rolled under. 2 a male page, esp. in a hotel or attending a bride at a wedding.

page-down /ˈpeɪdəʊn/ n. an electronic device, usually worn on one's person, that receives messages and signals the user by beeping or vibrating.

pageination /ˈpeɪdʒənəˈseɪʃən/ n. the sequence of numbers assigned to pages in a book or periodical.

pagoda /ˈpæɡədə/ n. A Hindu or Buddhist temple or sacred building, typically a many-tiered tower, in India and the Far East. An ornamental imitation of this.

paid /ˈpeɪd/ adj. past and past participle of PAY.

pain /peɪn/ n. 1 physical suffering or discomfort caused by illness or injury. A feeling of marked discomfort in a particular part of the body: chest pain. Mental interference or suffering: the pain of loss. Also: pain in the neck or vulgar slang pain in the ass int. an annoying or troublesome person. 2 pains careful effort; great care or trouble: she took pains to see that everyone was all right.

painful /ˈpeɪnfəl/ adj. of (or of the body) affected with pain: her ankle was painful. Causing physical pain: a painful knock. Causing distress or trouble: change is inevitably slow and painful. Painfully adv. Painfulness n.

paint /peɪnt/ n. 1 a drug or medicine for relieving pain.

paintless /ˈpeɪntləs/ adj. not causing or suffering physical pain. Involving little effort or stress. Painlessly adv. Painlessness n.

painting /ˈpeɪntɪŋ/ n. 1 the act of covering something with paint. Int. cosmetic makeup. Basketball the rectangular area marked near the basket at each end of the court; the foul lane. 2 piebald horse: as adj. a paint mare.

paint /ˈpeɪnt/ v. 1 (often piebald) cover the surface of something with paint, as decoration or protection. Apply cosmetics to the face or skin. Apply a liquid to a surface with a brush. Comput. create a graphical or screen display using a paint program. Display a mark representing an aircraft or vehicle on a radar screen. 2 depict an object, person, or scene with paint. Produce a picture in such a way: a self-taught artist who paints portraits. Int. she paints and makes sculptures. Give a description of (someone or something). I'm painted as some nutcase living in the woods.

paintbrush /ˈpeɪntbrʌʃ/ n. 1 a brush for applying paint. 2 a North American plant (genus Castilleja) of the figwort family that bears brightly colored flowering spires with a brushlike appearance. Its several species include the Indian paintbrush (C. coccinea).

painted lady /ˈpeɪntɪd/ n. 1 a migratory butterfly (genus Cynthia, family Nymphalidae) with predominantly orange-brown wings and darker markings. 2 (also Painted Lady) a Victorian house, the exterior of which is painted in three or more colors, effectively highlighting the architecture.

painter /ˈpeɪntər/ n. 1 an artist who paints pictures. 2 a person who paints buildings, walls, ceilings, and woodwork, esp. as a job.

painting /ˈpeɪntɪŋ/ n. the process or art of using paint, in a picture, as a protective coating, or as decoration. A painted picture.

paint job n. the decorating or finishing application of paint to an object. Dereg. a cosmetic treatment that does not address underlying problems: this administration will settle for a paint job to try to hide the fact that it lives in a Lealand of its own construction.

paintwork /ˈpeɪntwɜːk/ n. painted surfaces in a building or vehicle.

pair /peər/ n. a set of things used together or regarded as a unit: a pair of gloves. An article or object consisting of two joined or corresponding parts not used separately: a pair of jeans. Two playing cards of the same denomination: I have a pair of jacks. Two people related in some way or considered together: a pair of brothers. The second member of a pair in relation to the first: each course member tries to persuade his pair of the merits of his model. A mated couple of animals: two breeding pairs of birds. Two horses harnessed side by side; either or both of two members of a legislative assembly on opposite sides who abstain themselves from voting by mutual arrangement, leaving the relative position of the parties unaffected.

v. [tr] often be paired join or connect to form a pair: a cardigan paired with a matching skirt. Int. (of animals) mate. Int. (pair off) form a couple. Give a (member of a legislative assembly) another member as a pair, to allow both to absent themselves from a vote without affecting the result.

paisley /ˈpeɪzlɪ/ adj. usus. as adj. a distinctive intricate pattern of curving, feather-shaped figures based on a design from India: a paisley silk tie.

paint /ˈpeɪnt/ v. (painted, painting) int. or (pair around) spend time with a friend.

palace /ˈpeɪls/ n. the official residence of a sovereign, archbishop, bishop, or other exalted person. Int. a large, splendid house.

palatine /ˈpeɪlətɪn/ adj. of (or of the action or proposal) acceptable or satisfactory; a device that made increased taxation more palatable. Palatine adv.

palace /ˈpeɪls/ v. (pale, paler, palest) adj. chiefly Anat. Of or relating to the palate or esp. the palatal bone.

paint /ˈpeɪnt/ n. 1 the roof of the mouth, separating the cavities of the nose and the mouth in vertebrates. 2 a person's appreciation of taste and flavor, esp. when discriminating; a drink for sophisticated palates. A person's taste or liking: the suggestions may not suit everyone's palate. Taste or flavor of wine or beer; a wine with a zingy, peppy palate.

paleoatlas /ˈpeɪlətəlɒs/ adj. resembling a palace in being spacious and splendid: her palatal apartment in Chicago. Paleontologically adv.

palatine /ˈpeɪlətɪn/ adj. chiefly Anat. Of or relating to the palate or esp. the palatine bone.

paint /ˈpeɪnt/ v. (painted, painting) adj. light in color or having little color. Int. (of a person's face
of the rear wheel of a bicycle or motorcycle. 2 hist. part of a skirt looped up around the hips. • a frame supporting this.

**pan-oly** /pan-ə-pəl// v. [intr.], a complete or impression of collection of things: a deliciously inventive panoply of insights. • a splendid display: all the panoply of Western religious liturgy. —**pan-oplied** /plēd// adj.

**pan-o-rama** /pan-a'ram-o, -rə-mə// n. an unbroken view of the whole region surrounding an observer. • a picture or photograph containing a wide view. • a complete survey or presentation of a subject or sequence of events: the galleries will offer a full panorama of 20th-century art. —**pan-o-ramic** /-rə-mik// adj. —**pan-o-ram-cal-ly** /-rə-mik-lé// adv.

**pan-pipes** /pan'pi-pēz// pl. n. a musical instrument made from a row of short pipes of varying length fixed together and played by blowing across the top.

![Pan-pipes](image)

**pan-sy** /pən'sē// n. 1 a popular cultivated viola with flowers in rich colors, esp. the familiar Viola cornuta. 2 int., offens. an effeminate or homosexual man.

**pant** /pant// v. [intr.], breathe with short, quick breaths, typically from exertion or excitement. • run or go in a specified direction while panting: they panted up the stairs. • say something breathlessly: ‘We’ll never have time,’ she panted. • long for, or long to do, something: it makes you pant for more. • poetic. (of the heart or chest) throb violently from strong emotions. —n. a short, quick breath. • poetic. a throb or heave of a person’s heart or chest. —**pant-ingly** adv.

**pan-ta-loon** /pən'tə-lōn// n. 1 (pan-ta-loons) women’s baggy trousers gathered at the ankles. • hist. men’s close-fitting breeches fastened below the calf or at the foot. • int. pants. 2 (Pantalon) a Venetian character in Italian commedia dell’arte represented as a foolish old man wearing pantaloons.

**pan-the-sm** /pən-'thi-zəm// n. a doctrine that identifies God with the universe, or regards the universe as a manifestation of God. —**pan-the-ist** n. —**pan-the-is-tic** /pən-'θi-ist-ik// adj. —**pan-the-is-ti-cal-ly** /pən-'θi-ist-i-kəl-lē// adv.

**pan-the-on** /pən-'thi-on// n. 1 pantheon, • the gods of a people or religion collectively. • (also Pan-the-on) (esp. in ancient Greece and Rome) a temple dedicated to all the gods. 2 a building in which the illustrious dead of a nation are buried or honored. • a group of particularly respected, famous, or important people: the pantheon of the all-time greats.

**pan-ther** /pən-θər// n. a leopard, esp. a black one. • a cougar.

**pan-ties** /pən'tēz// pl. n. inf. legless underpants worn by women and girls.

**pan-tile** /pən'tīl// n. a roof tile curved to form an S-shaped section, fitted to overlap its neighbor. —**pan-tiled** adj.

**pan-to-graph** /pən'tə-gra-f// n. 1 an instrument for copying a drawing or plan on a different scale by a system of hinged and jointed rods. 2 a jointed framework conveying a current to a train, streetcar, or other electric vehicle from overhead wires. —**pan-to-graphic** /pən'tə-gra-fík// adj.

**pan-to-mime** /pən'tə-mīm// n. 1 a dramatic entertainment, originating in Roman mime, in which performers express meaning through gestures accompanied by music. • an absurdly exaggerated piece of behavior. • int. a ridiculous or confused situation or event. 2 Brit. a theatrical entertainment that involves music, topical jokes, and slapstick comedy and is based on a fairy tale or nursery story, usually produced around Christmas.

• v. [int.] • express or represent (something) by extravagance and exaggerated mime: the clown candidates pantomimed different emotions. —**pan-to-mim-ic** /pəntə-mim-ik// adj. —**pan-to-mim-ist** n.

**pan-to-then-ic acid** /pəntə-thən-ik// n. Biochem. a vitamin of the B complex, found in rice and many other foods, and essential for the oxidation of fats and carbohydrates. —**pan-to-then-ate** /pəntə-thən-ət// n.

**pan-try** /pən'trē// n. (pl. -tries) a small room or closet in which food, dishes, and utensils are kept.

**pants** /pànts// pl. n. 1 trousers: baggy cuff-your pants | [as adj.] (pant) his pant legs. 2 Brit. underpants.

• catch someone with their pants down — intr. catch someone in an embarrassingly unprepared state. • wear the pants int. the dominant partner in a relationship.

**pan-suit** /pən'sōt// (also pant suit) n. a pair of pants and a matching jacket worn by women.

**pant-y-hose** /pənti-'hōz// pl. n. women’s thin nylon tights.

**pan-zer** /pən-zər// n. a German armored vehicle, esp. a tank used in World War II; [as adj.] panzer divisions. from German Panzer, literally ‘coat of mail.’

**pap** /pəp// n. often derog. bland soft or semiliquid food such as that suitable for babies or invalids. • derog. reading matter or entertainment that is worthless or lacking in substance.

**papa** /pəpə// n. 1 one’s father: 2 a code word representing the letter P, used in radio communication.

**pap-a-cy** /pə-pə-sē// n. (pl. -cies) (usu. the papacy) the office or authority of the pope. • the tenure of office of a pope.

**Papa-gó** /pə-pə-gō// n. (pl. same or -gos) 1 a member of an American Indian people of southern Arizona and northern Sonora. 2 a dialect of the Uto-Aztecan Pima-Papago language.

• adj. or relating to this people or their language.

**pap-a-in** /pə-pə-in// n. • a protein-digesting enzyme obtained from unripe papaya fruit, used to tenderize meat and as a food supplement to aid digestion.

**papal** /pə-pəl// adj. of or relating to a pope or to the papacy. —**pap-al** adv.

**pap-a-ra-zzo** /pə-pə-rə-'tsō// (pl. -ra-zi) /-rə-'tsō// (usu. paparazzi) a freelance photographer who pursues celebrities to get photographs.

**papaw** /pə-pō// n. • (pap) /pō// — variante spelling of PAWWAP.

**papaya** /pə-pē-ə// n. 1 a tropical fruit shaped like an elongated melon, with edible orange flesh and small black seeds. Also called PAWPAW or PAWAP. 2 (also papaya tree) the fast-growing tree (Carica papaya, family Caricaceae) that bears this fruit, native to warm regions of the Americas.

**paper** /pə-pər// n. 1 material manufactured in thin sheets from the pulp of wood or other fibrous substances, used for writing, drawing, printing, or wrapping things. • a sheet of paper | [as adj.] a paper bag. • a newspaper. • a wallpaper. • (usu. papers) a piece of sheet paper with something written or drawn on it: he ruffled through the papers on his desk. • (papers) significant or important documents belonging to a person: the personal papers of major political figures. • [as adj.] denoting something that is officially documented but has no real existence or little merit or use: a paper profit. • a government report or policy document. • (papers) documents attesting identity credentials. • a piece of paper used for wrapping or enclosing something or made into a packet: toffee papers. • 2 an essay or thesis, esp. one read at an academic lecture or seminar or published in an academic journal. 3 theatrical slang free passes of admission to a theater or other entertainment.

• v. [int.] • often be papered apply wallpaper to (a wall or room). • [intr.] (paper over) cover (a hole or blemish) with wallpaper. • (paper over) disguise (an awkward problem) instead of resolving it. • (theatrical slang) fill (a theater) by giving out free tickets. —**paper-er** n. —**paper-ess** adj. —**paper-less** adj. —**paper-ly** adv.

• on paper in writing. • in theory rather than in reality.

**paper-back** /pə-pər-bāk// adj. (of a book) bound in stiff paper or flexible cardboard.

• n. a book bound in stiff paper or flexible cardboard.

• in paperback in an edition bound in stiff paper or flexible cardboard: now available in paperback.

**paper-boy** /pə-pər-bō// n. a boy who delivers newspapers.
paper clip n. a piece of bent wire or plastic used for holding several sheets of paper together.

paper money n. money in the form of banknotes.

paper nauti-lus n. another term for ARGONAUT.

designed route n. a route of regularly delivering newspapers. n route taken doing this.

paper tiger n. a person or thing that appears threatening but is ineffective.

paper trail n. the written evidence of someone's activities.

paper-weight n. a small, heavy object for keeping loose papers in place.

paper-work n. routine work involving written documents such as forms, records, letters. n such written documents.

paper mâché n. A malleable mixture of paper and glue, or paper. n. flour, and water, that becomes hard when dry. n. George was constructing a crocodile out of paper mâché.

par-ila n. (pl. -pilae) n. a small rounded protuberance on a part or organ of the body. n. papillary n. papilla, n. papillae.

par-likes n. n. papillae, n. papillae.

par-ilose n. n. papillae, n. papillae, n. papillae.

par-llum n. n. papilla, n. papilla.

dog of a toy breed with ears suggesting the form of a butterfly.

pap-ist n. chiefly derog. n. a Roman Catholic.

adj. of, to, or associated with the Roman Catholic Church.

pap-isms n. n. papistical n. n. papistical.

pap-istry n. n. papistry.

par-posed n. n. past tense of be used to a child on one's back.

par-a-dams n. n. a thin East Indian bread made with lentil flour.

par-rika n. A spiced deep orange-red color and a mildly pungent flavor. Made from the dried and ground fruits of certain varieties of sweet pepper. n. deep orange-red color that looks like paprika.

Pap test n. a test to detect cancer of the cervix or uterus, using a specimen of cellular material from the neck of the uterus spread on a microscope slide (Pap smear).

par-ule n. (also par-ul) n. (pl. -ules or -ulae) Med. A small, raised, solid pimple or swelling, often forming part of a rash on the skin and typically inflamed but not pus-producing. n. parul-ular adj.

par-ule -ylar adj.

par-ulose n. -ylar.

par-ulous adj.

par-ry n. n. a guarded, rapid, or lightning blow. n. a technique of fencing. n. a sudden, lightning-like movement. n. sudden, rapid, or lightning blow. n. sudden, rapid, or lightning blow.

par-ry n. n. a guarded, rapid, or lightning blow. n. a technique of fencing. n. a sudden, lightning-like movement. n. sudden, rapid, or lightning blow. n. sudden, rapid, or lightning blow.
par-ley [pər'leɪ] n. (pl. -leys, -leyed) [intr] a conference between opposing sides in a dispute, esp. a discussion of terms for an armistice.

partake [pər'teɪk] v. [past -took, -took; past part. -taken] 1. (intrans) to share" the use of food or drink; esp. to share with others in a meal. 2. (trans) to share in" a share or a part; esp. to participate in or enjoy to the same extent.

particular [pər'tɪkəl] adj. 1. relating to or of concern only to a particular person, place, or thing. 2. having detail or precision, esp. to a specified degree.

parliamen-tary [pər'lɪmən-tərɪ] adj. 1. relating to, or of the nature of, a parliamentary assembly or system.

parol [pər'ɔl] n. (Brit. par-lour) 1. a sitting room or a public room for entertaining guests. 2. a shop or business providing specified goods or services: an ice-cream parlor.

pars-ley [pər'zəli] n. 1. a hard, dry cheese used in grated form, esp. on Italian dishes.

paro-chi-al [pər'əkoʊəl] adj. 1. relating to or of a church parish. 2. having a limited or narrow outlook or scope: this worldview seems parochial.

parochial school n. a private school supported by a particular church or parish.

par-ody [pər'ədeɪ] n. (pl. -dies, -died) an imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist, or genre with deliberate exaggeration for comic effect: "the movie is a parody of the horror genre." an imitation or a version of something that falls far short of the real thing: a travesty.

parsimonious [pər'sɪmoʊnɪs] adj. extreme unwillingness to spend money or use resources.

parsley [pər'rel] n. 1. a biennial plant (Petroselinum crispum) with white flowers and aromatic leaves that are either crinkly or flat and used as a culinary herb and for flavoring food. Members of the parsley family (Umbelliferae) have their flowers arranged in umbels. Typical members include Queen Anne's lace as well as many food plants and herbs, (e.g., carrot, celery, anise).

parson [pər'sən] n. 1. a beneficed member of the clergy; a rector or a vicar. 2. int. any member of the clergy, esp. a Protestant one. 3. a figure of the church that is represented as a character in a play or movie; a role played by an actor or actress. the words and directions to be learned and performed by an actor in such a role. 4. a melody or a piece of music written for the congregation's use; a hymn for the performance of a religious service. the contribution made by someone or something to an action or situation; he played a key part in the ending of the novel. the behavior appropriate to or expected of a person in a particular role or situation; a person's role; this role is to make good. the chance to be involved in something; a future they had no part in. 5. a line of scalp revealed in a person's hair by combing the hair away in opposite directions on either side.

par-take [pər'teɪk] v. (past -took, -took; past part. -taken) 1. to share" the use of food or drink; esp. to share with others in a meal. 2. to share in" a share or a part; esp. to participate in or enjoy to the same extent.

partake of, to partake in; to share with others in a meal; to participate in or enjoy to the same extent.

particular to, particular about; to be concerned only with a particular aspect; to be particular about a particular aspect.

particular about, particular to; to be concerned only with a particular aspect; to be particular about a particular aspect.

particular of, particular to; to be concerned only with a particular aspect; to be particular about a particular aspect.

particular to, particular about; to be concerned only with a particular aspect; to be particular about a particular aspect.
parthenogenesis /pərθəˈnəʊ.dʒənɪs/ n. Biol. reproduction from an ovum without fertilization, esp. as a normal process in some invertebrates and lower plants.

par-tho-ne-ge-net-ic /pərθəˌnəʊ.jəˈnetk/ adj. -tically, adv.

par-ti-naire /pərˈtɛ.nje/ adj. 1 existing only in part; incomplete: a question to which we have only partial answers. 2 favoring one side in a dispute above the other; biased.

par-ti-ci-pa-tion /pərˈtʃiˌpəˈʃən/ n.

par-ti-ci-pa-tive /pərˈtʃiˌpəˈtɪv, -ˈpətɪv/ adj. -tively, adv.

par-ti-cle /pərˈtʃaːl/ n. 1 a minute portion of matter; tiny particles of dust. 2 (participate of) a verb that expresses the least possible amount: he agrees without having left the least particle of evidence. 3 Physics another term for ELEMENTARY PARTICLE.

par-ti-cle-ble /pərˈtʃaːləb/ adj. Physics another term for SUBATOMIC PARTICLE.

par-ti-cul-ate /pərˈtʃuːlət/ adj. hay or consisting of two or more different colors: parti-colored lights.

par-ti-cu-lar-ism /pərˌtʃuːləˈrɪzəm/ n. exclusive attachment to one's own group, party, or nation.


par-ti-cu-lar-ity /pərˌtʃuːləˈrɪti/ n. (pl. -ties) the quality of being individual.

par-ti-cu-lar-i-ty /pərˌtʃuːləˈrɪti/ n. (pl. -ties) the quality of being individual. 2 fullness or minuteness of detail in the treatment of something: parties must present their case with some degree of accuracy and detail.

par-ti-ku-lar-ize /pərˌtʃuːləˌraɪz/ v. [tr.] formal or technical to describe particularly: treat individually or in detail: he was the first to particularize the theme of the mother in Palestinian poetry.

par-ti-ku-la-ri-ty /pərˌtʃuːləˌrɪti/ n.

par-ti-ku-lar-ly /pərˌtʃuːləˈlærli/ adv. 1 to a higher degree than is usual or average: I don't particularly want to be reminded particularly able students. 2 used to single out a subject to which a statement is especially applicable: the team's defense is excellent, particularly their two center backs.

par-ti-ku-la-rate /pərˈtʃuːləˈreɪt/ adj. of, relating to, or in the form of minute separate particles: particulate pollution.

par-ti-ty /pərˈtʃaːti/ n. (particulates) matter in such a form.

par-ti-tion /pərˈtʃaːʃən/ n. 1 the action of leaving or being separated from someone: they exchanged a few words on partition, a leave-taking or departure. 2 a leave-taking or departure: attacked partings at railroad stations. 3 the action of dividing something into parts.

par-ti-tion-ist /-ˈʃənɪst/ n.

par-ti-tly /pərˈtʃaːli/ adv. to some extent; not completely.

par-tner /pərˈtɛnər/ n. 1 a person who takes part in something: first-hand participants in an archaeological exploration.

par-tner-ship /pərˈtɛnəʃɪp/ n. the state of being a partner or partner in a business or company.

par-ti-tri-dge /pərˈtʃaːtrɪdʒ/ n. (pl. same or partridges) a short-tailed Eurasian game bird of the grouse family, with mainly brown plumage. 2 any of a number of birds, such as the bobwhite or quail, that resemble the partridge. 3 Middle English patrik, from Old French patrie, from Latin patria, fatherland.

par-tok /ˈpɔr.tɔk/ past part. of participle.

par-tu-ri-tion /pərˈtuːrəʃən/ n. formal or technical the giving of birth to young: childbirth: the week following parturition.

par-tu-ritor-ship /pərˈtuːrətɔrɪʃən/ n. formal or technical the giving of birth to young: childbirth: the week following parturition.

par-ty /ˈpæti/ n. (pl. -ties) a social gathering of invited guests, typically involving eating, drinking, and entertainment.

party plane /ˈpæti/ n. an unaccompanied secular song with three or more voice parts, typically homophonic rather than contrapuntal in style.

part-time /ˈpɑr.tɪm/ adj. & adv. for only part of the usual working day or week: [as adj] part-time jobs, a part-time teacher: [as adv] he only worked part-time.

part-time-er /pərˈtɑr.tɪm/ n.

part-me-tion /pərˈtɑr meləˈʃən/ n. formal or technical the giving of birth to young: childbirth: the week following parturition.

par-tu-ritor-ship /pərˈtuːrətɔrɪʃən/ n. formal or technical the giving of birth to young: childbirth: the week following parturition.

par-tu-ritor-ship /pərˈtuːrətɔrɪʃən/ n. formal or technical the giving of birth to young: childbirth: the week following parturition.
patience /ˈpætʃəns/ n. 1. the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, inconvenience, or suffering without getting angry or upset. 2. chiefly British term for SOLITARE (sense 1).  
- lose patience or lose one's patience; become unable to keep one's temper: even Lawrence finally lost patience with him.

patient /ˈpætʃənt/ adj. able to wait without becoming annoyed or anxious, slow to lose one's temper with irritating people or situations.  
- n. 1. a person receiving or registered to receive medical treatment.

patina /ˈpætənə/ n. a green or brown film on the surface of bronze or similar metals, produced by oxidation over a long period.  
- a dish of figs on a wooden table covered with age and polishing. An acquired change in the appearance of a surface: plankton added a golden patina to the shallow, slowly moving water.  
- fig. an impression or appearance of something: he carries the patina of old money and good breeding.

patinated /ˈpætənət/ adj.  
- patination /ˈpætənəʃən/ n.

patio /ˈpætiəʊ/ n. (pl. -ios) a paved outdoor area adjoining a house.  
- a roofless inner courtyard in a Spanish or Spanish-American house.

patisserie /ˈpætɪsəri/ n. a shop where French pastries and cakes are sold.  
- French pastries and cakes collectively.

patois /ˈpætwɑː/ n. (pl. same) the dialect of the common people of a region, differing in various respects from the standard language of the rest of the country.  
- the jargon or informal speech used by a particular social group.

patrician /ˈpætrɪʃən/ n. 1. the male head of a family or tribe.  
- a man who is the oldest or most venerable of a group.  
- a man who behaves in a commanding manner.  
- a person or thing that is regarded as the founder of something.  
- any of those biblical figures regarded as fathers of the human race.  
- the title of a most senior Orthodox or Catholic bishop, in particular: a bishop of one of the most ancient Christian sees (Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople, Jerusalem, and formerly Rome).  
- the head of a certain independent Orthodox church.

patrician /ˈpætrɪʃən/ adj.  
- patrician architecture /ˈpætrɪʃənərkiˈtʃər/ n. the office, see or residence of an ecclesiastical patriarch.

patrician /ˈpætrɪʃən/ n. (pl. -archies) a society of system or government in which the father or eldest male is head of the family and descent is traced through the male line.  
- a system of society or government in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.  
- a society or community organized in this way.

patrician /ˈpætrɪʃən/ n. a member of a long-established wealthy family.  
- a member of a noble family or class in ancient Rome.

patrician /ˈpætrɪʃən/ adj. belonging to or characteristic of the aristocracy: a proud, patrician face.  
- belonging to or characteristic of a long-established and wealthy family.  
- belonging to the nobility of ancient Rome.

patricide /ˈpætrɪsəd/ n. the killing of one's father.  
- a person who kills their father.

patricide /ˈpætrɪsəd/ adj.  
- patricide /ˈpætrɪsəd/ n.

patrilineal /ˈpætrɪliˈnɛl/ adj. of, relating to, or based on relationship to the father or descent through the male line.

patrilineal /ˈpætrɪliˈnɛl/ n. (pl. -lines) property inherited from one's father or male ancestor.  
- heritage.

patrilineal /ˈpætrɪliˈnɛl/ adj.  
- patrilineal /ˈpætrɪliˈnɛl/ n.

patrology /ˈpætrələdʒi/ n. a person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies or detractors.  
- patrotic /ˈpætrətɪk/ adj.

patrotism /ˈpætrətɪzəm/ n. an automated surface-to-air missile designed for early detection and interception of missiles or aircraft.

patrotic /ˈpætrətɪk/ adj.  
- patrotism /ˈpætrətɪzəm/ n.

patrol /ˈpætrəl/ n. a person or group of people sent to keep watch over an area, esp. a detachment of guards or police.  
- the action of keeping watch over an area by walking or driving around it at regular intervals: the policemen were on patrol.  
- an expedition to carry out reconnaissance: we were ordered to investigate on a night patrol.  
- a detachment of troops sent out to reconnoiter; you couldn't go through the country without a routine operational voyage of a ship or aircraft: a submarine patrol.  
- a unit of six to eight Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts forming part of a troop.

- [t]rolled, -trolling [t] keep watch over (an area) by regularly walking or traveling around or through it: the garrison had to patrol the streets to maintain order.  
- [intr.] pairs of men were patrolling on each side of the thoroughfare.  
- patrolman /ˈpætrələmən/ n. (pl. -men) a patrolling police officer.

patron /ˈpætrən/ n. 1. a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, cause, or activity; a celebrated patron of the arts.

- 2 a customer; esp. a regular one of, a store, restaurant, or theater.  
- 3 short for PATRON SAINT or patron god.  
- 4 -ization /ˈpætrənˌzaɪʒən/ n.

patronize /ˈpætrəniz/ v. 1. treat with an apparent kindness that betrays a feeling of superiority; she was determined not to be put down or patronized.  
- frequent (a store, theater, restaurant, or other establishment) as a customer.  
- give encouragement and financial support to (a person, esp. an artist, or a cause).  
- patronization /ˈpætrənˌzaɪʒən/ n.  
- patronizing /ˈpætrənəzɪŋ/ adj.

patron saint n. the protecting or guiding saint of a person or place.

patronymic /ˈpætrənəmɪk/ n. a name derived from the name of a father or ancestor, typically by the addition of a prefix or suffix, e.g., Johnson, O'Brien, Ivanovich.

patronize /ˈpætrəniz/ v. 1. make a repeated light tapping sound: a flurry of rain pattering against the window.  
- run with quick light steps.

patrology /ˈpætrələdʒi/ n. 1. a repeated decorative design.  
- an arrangement or sequence regularly found in comparable objects or events.  
- a regular and intelligible form or sequence discernible in certain actions or situations: the change in working patterns.
- 2 a model or design used as a guide in needlework and other crafts.  
- a set of instructions to be followed in making a sewn or knitted item.  
- a wooden or metal model from which a mold is made for a casting.  
- an example for others to follow.  
- a sample of cloth or wallpaper.

pasty /ˈpætsi/ n. (pl. -ties) a small flat cake of mincemeat covered food, esp. meat.  
- a small, round, flat chocolate-covered peppermint candy.

pattypan /ˈpætɪpæn/ n. (also pattyspan) a squash of a squasheshaped variety with a scalloped rim and creamy white flesh.

paua /ˈpɔːə/ n. [in sing] the presence of something only in small or insufficient quantities or amounts; scarcity: a paucity of information.

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peaceable

action to restore peace. ■ freedom from dispute or dissension between individuals or groups: the 8.8 percent offer that promises peace with the board.

3 the peace a ceremonial handshake or kiss exchanged during a service in some churches, symbolizing Christian love and unity.

interj. 1 used as a greeting. 2 used as an order to remain silent. ■ at peace 1 free from anxiety or distress; dead (used to suggest that someone has escaped from the difficulties of life). 2 in a state of friendliness: a princess: something; the finest example of something: the nation's media were assemled to hear his peace of wisdom. ■ hold one's peace remain silent about something. ■ keep the peace refrain or prevent others from disturbing civil order. ■ make peace (or one's peace) reestablish friendly relations: become reconciled.

peaceable /ˈpêsəbəl/ adj. inclined to avoid argument or violent conflict. ■ free from argument or conflict; peaceful. ■ Middle English: from Old French peabilité, alteration of plaisable or plaisable, from Latin placēre 'to please.' —peaceable-ly adv. —peaceable-ness n. ■ peaceable-ly adv. —peaceful-ness n.

Peace Corps /ˈpēz, kôr/ an organization sponsored by the U.S. government that sends young people to work as volunteers in developing countries.

peaceful /ˈpēzfl/ adj. 1 free from disturbance; tranquil. 2 not involving war or violence. ■ (of a person) inclined to avoid conflict; not aggressive. —peaceful-ly adv. —peaceful-ness n.

peace-maker /ˈpēz, mākər/ n. a person who brings about peace, esp. by reconciling adversaries. —peace-making [ˌmākən] n. & adj.

peace-offering /ˈpēz, o-fər in-g/ n. a propitiatory or conciliatory gift. ■ peace pipe n. a tobacco pipe offered and smoked as a token of peace among North American Indians.

peace-time /ˈpēz, tīm/ n. a period when a country is not at war.

peach /pēch/ n. 1 a round stone fruit with juicy yellow flesh and downy pinkish-yellow skin. 2 a pinkish-yellow color like that of a peach. ■ int. an exceptionally good or attractive person or thing; what a peach of a shot! 2 (also peach tree) the tree (Pruus persica) of the rose family that bears this fruit. —peach-ly adj.

peachy /ˈpēchē/ adv. ■ display oneself ostentatiously; strut like a peacock.

peach-fowl /ˈpēch, foul/ n. a large crested pheasant native to Asia, esp. the widely introduced common peafowl (Pavo cristatus).

peahen /ˈpēh, hen/ n. a female peacock, having drabber colors and a shorter tail than the male.

peake /ˈpēk/ n. 1 the pointed top of a mountain. 2 a mountain, esp. one with a pointed top. 3 a projecting pointed part or shape: whisk 2 egg whites to stiff peaks. 4 a point in a curve or on a graph, or a value of a physical quantity, higher than those around it. 5 the point of highest activity, quality, or achievement; anyone who scores on his peak looks upon genius, chiefly Brit. a stiff brim at the front of a cap. 6 the narrow part of a ship's hull at the bow or stern. ■ v. intr. reach a highest point, either of a specified value or at a specified time: its popularity peaked in the 1940s. ■ adj. greatest; maximum: he did not expect to be anywhere near peak fitness until Christmas. ■ characterized by maximum activity or demand: at peak hours, traffic speeds are reduced considerably. —peaking adj. —peakiness /ˈpi-kə-nis/ n.

peaky /ˈpi-ki/ adj. archaic decline in health and spirits; waste away.

peal /pēl/ n. 1 a loud ringing of a bell or bells. 2 Bell-ringing a series of unique changes rung on a set of bells. 2 a loud repeated or reverberating sound of thunder or laughter. 3 burst into laughter. ■ v. intr. (of a bell) ring loudly or in a peal. (of laughter or thunder) sound in a peal. 4 (of laughter or thunder) sound in a peal. 5 (of laughter) ring loudly in a peal. 6 (of laughter or thunder) sound in a peal. 7 (of laughter or thunder) ring loudly in a peal. 8 (of laughter or thunder) ring loudly in a peal.

peanut /ˈpēnət/ n. 1 the oval seed of a South American plant, widely roasted and salted and eaten as a snack. 2 (peanuts) int. a paltry thing or amount, esp. a very small amount of money. 3 a small person (often used as a term of endearment). 4 (peanuts) small pieces of styrofoam used for packing material. 2 the plant (Arachis hypogaea) of the pea family that bears these seeds. It is widely cultivated, esp. in the southern U.S., and large quantities are used to make oil or animal feed.

peanut butter n. a paste of ground roasted peanuts, usually eaten spread on bread.

pear /pēr/ n. 1 a yellowish- or brownish-green edible fruit that is typically narrow at the stalk and wider toward the tip, with sweet, slightly gritty flesh. 2 (also pear tree) the tree (genus Pyrus) of the rose family that bears this fruit.

pearl /pərl/ n. a hard, lustrous spherical mass, typically white or bluish-gray, formed within the shell of a pearl oyster or other bivalve mollusk and highly prized as a gem. ■ artificial imitation of this. ■ (pearls) a necklace of pearls, ■ something resembling a pearl in appearance: the sweat stroll in pearls along his forehead. ■ short for MOTHER-OF-PEARL. 3 a: an endearing name; b: something resembling a pearl in appearance: the nation's media were assembled to hear his pearls of wisdom. ■ a very pale bluish-gray or white like the color of a pearl.

pearl bar-ley /ˈpərl, ber-li/ n. barley reduced to small round grains by grinding.


pearl-on-ion /ˈpərl, ən-ən/ n. a very small onion used esp. for pickling.

pearl-oyster-ner /ˈpərl, ə-stər-ner/ n. a tropical marine bivalve mollusk (genus Pinctada, family Pteridae) that has a ridged oval shell and produces pearls.

pearly /ˈpərlē/ adj. (pearl-er, pearl-est) resembling a pearl in luster or color: the pearly light of a clear, still dawn. ■ containing or adorned with pearls or mother-of-pearl. —pearl-ness /ˈpərl-nis/ n.

pearly-whites /ˈpərl-i, whites/ n. a person's teeth.

peasant /ˈpez, ant/ n. a poor farmer of low social status who owns or rents a small piece of land for cultivation (chiefly in historical use or with reference to subsistence farming in poorer countries). ■ int. an ignorant, rude, or unsophisticated person; a person of low social status. —peasan-ty /ˈtir-i/ adj. —peasantry adv.

peas /pēz/ n. (pl. peas) arabic peas.

pea-shooter /ˈpē, šoo-ər/ n. a toy weapon consisting of a small tube that is blown through in order to shoot out dried peas.

peat /pēt/ n. 1 a brown, soil-like material characteristic of boggy, acid ground, consisting of partly decomposed vegetable matter. It is widely cut and dried for use in gardening and as fuel: [as adj. most of Lewis is peat bog. —peaty adj.

pebble /ˈpēbəl/ n. a small stone made smooth and round by the action of water or sand.

pebbled /ˈpēb-bəd/ adj. (of an eye) glass that is thick and convex: pebble glasses.

pec /pēk/ n. (usu. pees) n. a pectoral muscle (esp. with reference to the development of these muscles in bodybuilding).

pecan /pēkˈn/ n. a smooth brown nut with an edible kernel similar to a walnut, obtained from the hickory tree Carya illinoinensis, native to the southern U.S. ■ late 18th cent.: from French cajou, from Illinois (an American Indian language).

pec-ca-dil-lo /ˈpekkər, dlō/ n. (pl. -des or -los) a small, relatively unimportant offense or sin.

pec-o-sy-te-nex /ˈpēk-ə-sy-tēn-eks/ n. (pl. -exes or -exes) a gregarious piglike mammal (family Tayassuidae) that is found from the southwestern U.S. to Paraguay.

peck /pēk/ v. intr. (of a bird) strike or bite something with its beak; two geese were pecking at some grain. [tr] looks may be cut off to stop the hens pecking each other. 2 [tr] make (a hole) by striking with the beak. 3 [tr] remove or pluck from biting with the beak; vultures swooping down to peck out the calf's eyes. 4 [tr] kiss (someone) lightly or perfunctorily; she pecked him on the cheek. 5 (peck at) int. (of a person) eat (food) listlessly or daintily; don't peck at your food, eat a whole mouthful. 6 (peck at) criticize or nag. 7 [tr] type (something) slowly and laboriously; his son Paul was pecking away at his typewriter. 8 [tr. (of a horse) pitch forward or stumble as a result of striking the ground with the front rather than the flat of the hoof. 9 [tr.] strike a pick with another tool.

n. 1 a stroke or bite by a bird with its beak. 2 a light or perfunctory kiss: a faltering peck on the cheek. 2 (peck-in-choo).

pecky /ˈpēki/ adj. archaic a measure of capacity for dry goods, equal to a quarter of a bushel (8 U.S. quarts = 8.8 liters, or 2 imperial gallons = 9.02 liters). ■ a large number or amount of something: a peck of dirt.

Pronunciation Key a [a] up; or [ə] for; bur; a bat; a ate; a ear; chi chin; e let; e see; o air; a ir; i i; y; o o; o law; o for; on; o oy; o good; oo go; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; th then; (b) why; zh vision
peel

formation) leave the formation by veering away to one side. 1 peel out n. leave quickly: he peeled out down the street. 2 peel out n. the outer covering or rind of a fruit or vegetable. —peeler n.

peel 2 n. a flat, shovel-like implement, esp. one used by bakers for carrying loaves, pies, etc., into or out of an oven: a wooden pizza peel.

peel (also peel tower) n. a small square defensive tower of a kind built in the 16th century in the border counties of England and Scotland.

peelings /ˈpɛlɪŋz/ pl n. strips of the outer skin of a vegetable or fruit: potato peelings.

peen /pɛn/ n. the end of a hammer head opposite the face, typically wedge-shaped, curved, or spherical.

v. [tr.] strike with a hammer or the peen of a hammer.

peep /ˈpɛp/ v. [intr.] look quickly and furtively at something, esp. through a narrow opening: the door was ajar and she couldn't resist peeping in. 2 peep out be just visible: appear slowly or partly or through a small opening: a wall of money that was peeping out of his pocket.

n. a quick or furtive look: Jonathan took a peep at his watch. 2 a momentary or partial view of something.

peep 2 n. a high-pitched feeble sound made by a young bird or mammal. 2 a slight sound, utterance, or complaint: not a peep out of them since shortly after eight.

usu. peeps int. a small sandpiper or similar wading bird.

v. [intr.] make a cheeping or beeping sound.

peeper /ˈpɛpər/ n. a person who peeps at something or someone, esp. in a voyeuristic way. 2 peepers int. a person's eyes.

peeper (also spring peeper) n. a small North American tree frog (Hyla crucifer) that has this light gray skin with a dark cross on the back, the males of which sing in early spring.

peep-hole /ˈpɛpˌhəl/ n. a small hole that may be looked through, esp. one in a door through which visitors may be identified.

peeping Tom n. a person who gets sexual pleasure from secretly watching undressing or engaging in sexual activity.

peep show n. a sequence of pictures viewed through a lens or hole set into a box, traditionally offered as a public entertainment. 2 an erotic or pornographic film or show viewed from a coin-operated booth.

peer /pɪər/ v. [intr.] look keenly or with difficulty at someone or something: trying to peer through the fog.

n. be just visible: the two towers peer over the roofs. 2 peering come into view. appear.

n. a member of the nobility in Britain or Ireland, comprising the ranks of duke, marquess, earl, viscount, and baron. 2 a person of the same age, status, or ability as another specified person.

v. archaic make or become equal with or of the same rank. —peer-less adj.

adj. without peer unequalled: he is a goalkeeper without peer.

peer-age /ˈpɪərɪdʒ/ n. the title and rank of peer or peersness: on his retirement as cabinet secretary, he was given a peerage. 2 the peerage a class; those holding a hereditary or honorary title. 2 a book containing lists of peers and peeresses, with their genealogy and history.

peerless /ˈpɪərəsl/ n. a woman holding the rank of a peer in her own right. 2 the wife or widow of a peer.

peer group n. a group of approximately the same age, status, and interests.

peeve /pɛv/ int. v. [usu. be peeved] annoy; irritate.

n. a cause of annoyance: his pet peeve is not having answers for questions from players.

peeves /ˌpɛvɪs/ adj. easily irritated, esp. by unimportant things: all this makes Steve fretful and peeves. 2 querulous: a peevish, whining voice. —peevesh-ly adv. —peevesh-ness n.

PEG /ˈpɛɡ/ abbr. polyethylene glycol.

peg /pɛɡ/ n. 1 a short cylindrical piece of wood, metal, or plastic, typically tapered at one end, that is used for holding things together, hanging things on, or marking a position. 2 such an object attached to a wall on which to hang garments. 3 (also tent peg) such an object driven into the ground to hold one of the ropes or corners of a tent. 4 such an object in the neck of a stringed musical instrument around which the strings are wound, and which are turned to adjust their tension and so tune the instrument. 5 a bung for stopping a cask. 2 int. a person's leg. 3 a point or limit on a scale, esp. of exchange rates. 4 Chiefly Indian a measure of liquor. 3 int. a strong throw, esp. in baseball at a particular level. 5 int. form a fixed opinion of; categorize: the officer probably has us pegged as anarchists. 3 int. throw (a ball) hard and low, esp. in baseball: the pitcher pegs the ball to the first baseman.

v. [tr.] peg a square peg in a round hole a person in a situation unsuited to their abilities or character. 2 take someone down a peg or two make someone realize that they are less talented or important than they think: he was毫不 bush.
including or enclosed by the pelvis. 2 (also renal pelvis) the broadest top part of the ureter into which the kidney tubules drain.

**PEN** adj. International Association of Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists, and Novelists.

pen1 (pen) n. 1 an instrument for writing or drawing with ink, typically consisting of a metal nib or ball, or a nylon tip, fitted into a metal or plastic holder. 2 (the pen) the occupation or practice of writing. 3 an electronic penlike device used in conjunction with a writing surface to enter commands or data into a computer. 2 Zoot. the tapering cartilaginous internal shell of a squid.

pen2 n. a small enclosure in which sheep, pigs, cattle, or other domesticated farm animals are kept.

pen3 n. in sports (in a game, in a match, in a race) a number of animals in or sufficient to fill such an enclosure: a pen of young horses. 2 any small enclosure in which someone or something can be confined. 3 a covered dock for a submari- ne or other vessel.

v. (penned, penning) [tr] put or keep (an animal) in a pen. 2 (pen someone up) confine someone in a restricted space.

penman n. a female swan.

pen4 n. int. short for PENTENTIARY (sense 1).

penal [pen'al] adj. relating to, or prescribing the punishment of offenders under the legal system: the campaign for penal reform. 2 used or designated as a place of punishment: a former penal colony. 3 of an act or offense punishable by law. —pen- nally adv.

penalize [pen'al-ıze] v. [pensal] v. or related (often be penalized) subject to some form of punishment. 2 (in sports) punish a player or team for a breach of the rules by awarding an advantage to the opponent. 3 put in an unfavorable position or at an unfair disadvantage. 4 make or declare (an act or offense) legally punishable. —pen-al-i-za-tion n. —pen'al-ı-zər, -ən n.

penalty [pen'əl-té] n. (pl. -ties) 1 a punishment imposed for breaking a law, rule, or contract. 2 a disadvantage or unpleasant experience suffered as the result of an action or circumstance: the cold never leaves my bones these days—one of the penalties of age. 3 (in sports and games) a disadvantage or handicap imposed on a player or team, typically for infringement of rules. 4 a kick or shot awarded to a team because of a serious infringement of the rules by an opponent. 5 Bridge points won by the defenders when a declarer fails to make the contract.

under (or on) penalty of the threat of.

penalty box n. Ice Hockey an enclosure alongside the rink where players who have been assessed penalties must remain while they serve out their penalties.

penance [pen'əns] n. 1 voluntary self-punishment inflicted as an outward expression of repentance for having done wrong: he had done public penance for those hurt words. 2 a Christian sacrament in which a member of the Church confesses sins to a priest and is given absolution. See SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION. 3 a religious observance or other duty required of a person by a priest as part of this sacrament to indicate repentance.

pence [pen] n. plural form of PENNY.

penchant [pen'chant] n. a strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something.

pen cil [pen'sal] n. an instrument for writing or drawing, consisting of a thin stick of graphite or a similar substance enclosed in a long thin piece of wood or fixed in a case. 2 used to refer to the composition, skill, or style of drawing: her pencil had captured the dark brooding atmosphere of the place. 3 graphite or a similar substance used in such a way as a medium for writing or drawing: words scrawled in pencil. 4 a cosmetic in a long thin stick, designed to be applied to a particular part of the face: an eyebrow pencil. 5 something with the shape of a pen cil: a pencil of light [adj. 1] a long pencil beam. 6 Physics & Geom. a set of light rays, lines, etc., converging to or diverging narrowly from a single point.

v. (cilled, ciling) Brit. (cilled, ciling) [tr] write, draw, or color (something) with a pencil.

phrasal v. pencil something in 1 fill in an area or shape with pencil strokes. 2 arrange, forecast, or note down something provisionally or tentatively: May 15 was penciled in as the date for the meeting. 3 (pencil someone in) make a provisional or tentative arrangement with or for someone.

pen cil pusher n. int. a person with a clerical job involving a lot of tedious and repetitive paperwork.

pendant [pend'ant] n. 1 a piece of jewelry that hangs from a chain worn around the neck. 2 a necklace with such a piece of jewelry. 3 a light designed to hang from the ceiling. 4 the part of a pocket watch by which it is suspended. 5 an artistic, literary, or musical composition intended to match or complement another.

adj. hanging downward: pendant flowers on frail stems.

pendent [pen'dant] adj. 1 hanging down or overhanging: pendant limbs. 2 undecided: pendant. 3 Gram. (esp. in a sentence) incomplete; not having a finite verb. —pend-en-cy n.

pending [pen'ding] v. or related (awaiting decision or settlement; nine cases were still pending. 2 about to happen; imminent: with a presidential election pending, it would be wrong to force the changes through now.

prep. until (something) happens or takes place: they were released on bail pending an appeal.


pen-dulum [pen'dyəm] 'pen′də-mən, -ləm] n. a weight hung from a fixed point so that it swings freely backward and forward, esp. a rod with a weight at the end that regulates the mechanism of a clock. 2 fig. used to refer to the tendency of a situation or state of affairs to oscillate regularly between one extreme and another: the pendulum of fashion. —pen-du-lar [lər] adj.

pen-etrate [pen′trát, (pen′trit] v. (pensal) succeed in forcing a way into or through (a thing): the shrapnel had penetrated his head and chest. 2 tunnels that penetrate deep into the earth’s core. 3 (of a man) insert the penis into the vagina with a maneuver of a sexual partner. 4 infiltrate (an enemy group or rival organization) in order to spy on it. 5 (of a company) begin to sell its products in (a particular market or area). 6 succeed in understanding or gaining insight into (something complex or mysterious). 7 [intr.] be fully understood or realized by someone: as his words penetrated, she saw a mental picture of him with Dawn. 8 mid 16th. cent.: from Latin penetrati; ‘placed or gone into,’ from the verb penetrare; related to penitus ‘inner.’


pen-guin [pən′gwyn, -'gwyn] n. 1 a large flightless seabird (family Spheniscidae) of the southern hemisphere, with black upper parts and white underparts and wings developed into flippers.

pen-icillin [pen′si-lən, -lən] n. 1 an antibiotic or group of antibiotics produced naturally by certain blue molds, now usually prepared synthetically. 2 a blue mold of a type that produces these antibiotics.

pen-nile [pen′nəl, -nəl] adj. chiefly technical of, relating to, or affecting the penis.

pen-isul-a [pa′nə-sulə] n. a piece of land almost surrounded by water or projecting out into a body of water. —pen-isul-ar [lər] adj.

pen-nes [pa′nis] n. (pl. -nises or -nes) the male genital organ of higher vertebrates, carrying the duct for the transfer of sperm during copulation. In humans and most other mammals, it consists largely of erectile tissue and serves also for the elimination of urine. 2 Zool. a type of male copulatory organ present in some invertebrates, such as gastropod mollusks.

pen-lien [pen′li nour, -noor] v. (pen-ly) a person for whom someone is convicted of serious crimes.

pen-knife [pen′nik, -ni] n. (pl. -knives; -nivz) a small pocketknife with a blade that folds into the handle.

pen-light [pen′li] n. (pl. -lights) a small flashlight shaped like a fountain pen.

pen-name n. an assumed name used by a writer instead of their real name.

pen-nant [pen′nant] n. 1 a flag denoting a sports championship or other achievement. 2 a tapering flag on a ship, esp. one flown at the masthead of a vessel in commission. Also called PENNANT. 3 Mil. another term for PENNANT (sense 1).

pen-nil-less [pen′ni less] adj. (of a person) having no money; very poor.

pen-ny [pen′ni] n. as an abbreviation for PENNY (sense 1).
of a pot in which boiling water is circulated through a small chamber that holds the ground beans.

**per-cussion** [par'kəsən] n. 1. musical instruments played by striking with the hand or with a hand-held or pedal-operated stick or beater, or by shaking, including drums, cymbals, xylophones, gongs, bells, and rattles; [as adj.] the percussion section. 2. the striking of one solid object with or against another with some degree of force. —**med.** the action of tapping a part of the body as part of a diagnosis. —**per-cuss-ion-ist** [-ist] n. —**per-cuss-ive** [-ˈkəsvi] adj. —**per-cussively** [-ˈkəsvələ] adv. —**per-cuss-ive-ness** [-ˈkəsvənis] n.

**per-cussion-caps** n. a small amount of explosive powder contained in metal and paper and exploded by striking. Percussion caps are used chiefly in toy guns and formerly in some firearms.

**per diem** [par 'dēəm] adv. & adj. for each day (used in financial contexts); [as adv.] he agreed to pay at certain specified rates per diem. [as adj.] they are now demanding a rate.

**per-fec-tion** [ˈpər-fektən] n. an allowance or payment made for each day.


**per-fec-tive** [parˈtekti] [Gram.] adj. denoting or relating to an aspect, esp. in Slavic languages that express completed action.

**n.** a perfective form of a verb. (the perfective) the perfective aspect.

**per-fec-tly** [parˈtekli] adv. in a manner or way that could not be better.

**per-fec-tion-ism** [parˈtekʃənˌizəm] n. refusal to accept any standard short of perfection.

**per-fec-tion-istic** [ˈpərˌfektənˈstik] adj.

**per-fect-ness** [ˈpər-fektən̩s] n. —**per-fect-ive-ness** [-ˈkəsvənəs] n.


**per-fec-to** [parˈtekto] n. (pl. -tos) a type of cigar that is cut in the center and tapered at each end.

**per-fect-ness** n. the ability to recognize the pitch of a note or to produce any given note; a sense of absolute pitch.

**per-fidy** [ˈpərdəd] n. poetic deceitfulness; untrustworthiness. —**per-fidi-ous** [-ˈ dreadful] adj.

**per-for-rate** v. [parˈfərət] [fr.] pierce and make a hole or holes in; [as adj.] perforated a perforated appendix. make a row of small holes in (paper) so that a part may be torn off easily. —**per-for-a-tion** [ˈpərˌfərəʃən] n. —**per-for-a-tion-ist** [-ist] n. —**per-for-a-tion-ist-ic** [-tənˈstik] adj.

**per-for-ate** v. [parˈfərət] [fr.] 1. carry out, accomplish, or fulfill (an action, task, or function). [intr. work, function, or do something to a specified standard: the car performs well at low speeds. [intr.] (of an investment) yield a profitable return. [intr. int] have successful or satisfactory sexual intercourse with someone. present a form of entertainment) to an audience. [intr.] entertain an audience, typically by acting, singing, or dancing on stage. —**per-for-a-tion-ist** [-ist] n. —**per-for-a-tion-ist-ic** [-tənˈstik] adj. —**per-for-a-tion-ist-ic-ly** [-tənˈstikli] adv.

**per-form-ance** [parˈfərməns] n. 1. an act of staging or presenting a play, concert, or other form of entertainment. a person's rendering of a dramatic role, song, or piece of music. [intr.] a display of exaggerated behavior or a process involving a great deal of unnecessary time and effort; a fuss; he stopped to tie his shoe and seemed to be making quite a performance of it. 2. the action or process of carrying out or accomplishing an action, task, or function. an action, task, or operation.

**per-form-er** [parˈfərmər] n. a producer or seller of perfumes. —**per-form-ery** n.

**per-func-to-ry** [parˈfəŋktərə] adj. of (an action or gesture) carried out with a minimum of effort or reflection: he gave a perfunctory nod. —**per-func-to-ry-ly** [-ˈfəŋktərəli] adv. —**per-func-to-ry-ness** [-ˈfəŋktərnəs] n.

**per-go-la** [parˈgołə] n. an arcade or a semi-closed structure, with a roof supported by columns.

**per-haps** [parˈhæps] adv. used to express uncertainty or possibility: perhaps I should have been frank. used when one does not wish to be too definite or assertive in the expression of an opinion; perhaps not surprisingly, he was cautious about committing himself. used when making a polite request, offer, or suggestion: would you perhaps consent to be our guide? used to express reluctant or qualified agreement or acceptance: "She understood him better than his wife did." Perhaps so, but ... .

**per-ni** [ˈpərdə] n. (pl. per-nis) in (Persian mythology) a mythical superhuman being, originally represented as evil but subsequently as a good spirit, often with the role of a nature god. —**per-nis** n.

**peri-anth** [ˈpərəˌant] n. bot. the outer layer of a flower, consisting of the calyx (sepal), the corolla (petals), and the stamens (male reproductive parts).

**per-i-card-i-um** [perˈkərdiəm] n. (pl. -cardia) [ˈkərdiə] adj. —**per-i-cardi-a-l** adj. —**per-i-cardi-a-ally** adv. —**per-i-cardi-a-nism** n. —**per-i-cardi-ism** [parˈtəkərdiənˌizəm] n. refusal to accept any standard short of perfection.
pericarp

membrane enclosing the heart, consisting of an outer fibrous layer and an inner double layer of serous membrane. —per-i-car-di-al 

pericarp

peri- carp [′peri-karp] n. Bot. the part of a fruit formed from the wall of the ripened ovary.

peri-derm [′peri-dərm] n. Bot. the corky outer layer of a plant stem formed in secondary thickening or as a response to injury or infection.

peri- dot [′peri-dət] n. a green semiprecious variety of olivine.

peri- id- tite [′peri- id-tət] n. Geol. a dense, coarse-grained plutonic rock containing a large amount of olivine, believed to be the main constituent of the earth's mantle. —peri- id- tic, peri- id- tical adj.

peri- k- ee [′peri- k̻] n. Astron. the point in the orbit of the moon or a satellite at which it is nearest to the earth. The opposite of APOGEE.

peri- hel- ion [′peri- hel- iən] n. pl. peri- hel- ia [′peri- hel- iə] n. (pl. -hel- i- ons) Astron. the point in the orbit of a planet, asteroid, or comet at which it is closest to the sun. The opposite of APHELION.

peri- lif [′peri- lif] n. serious and immediate danger; his family was in peril.

peri- lous [′peri- loʊs] adj. full of danger or risk; exposed to imminent risk of disaster or ruin. —peri- lous- ly adv. —peri- lous- ness n.

peri- me- ter [′peri- mi- tər] n. the continuous line forming the boundary of a closed geometric figure; the perimeter of a rectangle. The length of such a line; the rectangle has a perimeter of 30 cm. The outermost parts or area of an object or area: the perimeter of the garden. A defended boundary of a military position or base. —Basketball an area away from the basket, beyond the reach of the defensive team. —peri- met- ric, peri- met- rical adj.

peri- ne- um [′peri- ne- əm] n. Anat. the area between the anus and the scrotum or vulva. —peri- nei- al, peri- ne- al adj.

peri- odi- cum [′peri- odi- kəm] n. 1 a length or portion of time. —a portion of time in the life of a person, nation, or civilization characterized by the same prevalent features or conditions: the medieval period. One of the set divisions of the day in a school allocated to a lesson or other activity. A set period of time during which a particular activity takes place: the training period. Each of the intervals into which the playing time of a sporting event is divided. A major division of geological time that is a subdivision of an era and is itself subdivided into epochs. A punctuation mark (.) used at the end of a sentence or an abbreviation. Inf. added to the end of a statement to indicate that no further discussion is considered desirable: he is the sole owner of the trademark, period. 3 Physics the interval of time between successive occurrences of the same state in an oscillatory or cyclic phenomenon, such as a mechanical vibration, an alternating current, a variable star, or an electromagnetic wave. Astron. the time taken by a celestial object to rotate around its axis, or to make one circuit of its orbit. Math. the interval between successive equal values of a periodic function. 4 (also men- strual period) a flow of blood and other material from the lining of the uterus, lasting for several days and occurring in sexually mature women (who are not pregnant) at intervals of about one lunar month. 5 Chem. a set of elements occupying an entire horizontal row in the periodic table. 6 Rhetoric a complex sentence, esp. one consisting of several clauses, constructed as part of a formal speech or oration. —adj. belonging to or characteristic of a past historical time, esp. in style or design: a splendid selection of period furniture. —late Middle English (deriving the time during which something, esp. a disease, runs its course): from Old French periode, via Latin from Greek periodos 'orbit, recurrence, course.' From peri 'around.' + hodos 'way.' The sense of 'time' dates from the early 17th cent.

peri- odi- cal [′peri- odi- ək] adj. 1 appearing or occurring at intervals; the periodic visits she made to her father. 2 Chem. relating to the periodic table of the elements or the pattern of chemical properties that underlies it. 3 of or relating to a rhetorical period. See PERIOD (sense 6). —peri- odi- cal- ly adv.


peri- odi- cal- ly [′peri- odi- ək- lə] n. an American cicada (genus Magicicada) whose nymphs emerge from the soil in large numbers periodically. The natural nymphs of the northern species (seventeen-year locust) emerge every seventeen years; those of the southern species emerge every thirteen years.

peri- odi- cal- table [′peri- odi- kəl- təb] n. Chem. a table of the chemical elements arranged in order of atomic number, usually in rows, so that elements with similar atomic structure (and hence similar chemical properties) appear in vertical columns.


peri- odi- on- tics [′peri- odi- on- tiks] n. Med. inflammation of the tissue around the teeth, often causing shrinkage of the gums and loosening of the teeth. Also called PYORHEA.

peri- odi- on- tics [′peri- odi- on- tiks] n. an object or work that is set in or strongly reminiscent of an earlier historical period.

peri- pa- tete- ic [′peri- pa- tə- tık] adj. traveling from place to place, esp. working or based in various places for relatively short periods; the peripatetic nature of military life.


peri- pheral [′peri- fərəl] adj. of, relating to, or situated on the edge or periphery of something: the peripheral areas of Europe. (of secondary or minor importance; marginal: she will see their problems as peripheral to her own. (of a device) able to be attached to and used with a computer, although not an integral part of it. —Anat. near the surface of the body, with special reference to the circulation and nervous system: lymphocytes from peripheral blood.


peri- pheral- ous n. system n. Anat. the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord.

peri- pheral- vision n. side vision; what is seen on the side of the eye when looking straight ahead.

peri- pheral- view [′peri- fərəl- vîv] n. (pl. -ories) the outer limits or edge of an area or object; new buildings on the periphery of the hospital site. A marginal or secondary position in, or part or aspect of, a group, subject, or sphere of activity: a shift in power from the center to the periphery.

peri- phrasis [′peri- frəsəs] n. (pl. -ses, -ses) 1 the use of indirect and circumlocutory speech or writing. —an indirect and circumlocutory phrase. —gram. the use of separate words to express a grammatical relationship that is otherwise expressed by inflection, e.g., did go as opposed to went and more intelligent as opposed to smarter. —peri- phra- tic, peri- phras- tical adj.

peri- scope [′peri- skəp] n. an apparatus consisting of a tube attached to a set of mirrors or prisms, by which an observer (typically in a submerged submarine) can see things that are otherwise out of sight.

perish [′perish] v. intr. suffer death, typically in a violent, sudden, or untimely way. Suffer complete ruin or destruction; the old regime had to perish. (of rubber, a foodstuff, or other organic substance) lose its normal qualities; rot or decay. —Middle English: from Old French perire, lengthened stem of perir, from Latin perire 'pass away,' from per- 'through, completely,' + irre 'go.'

—perish the thought inf. used often ironically, to show that one finds a suggestion or idea completely ridiculous or unwelcome: he wasn’t out to get drunk—perish the thought!

perishable [′perish-əbəl] adj. (esp. of food) likely to decay or go bad quickly. (of something abstract) having a brief life or significance.

—perishable- ly adv.

peris- sodac- tyl [′peris- sódak- təl] n. any ungulate with either one or three toes on each hind foot, including horses, asses, zebras, tapirs, and rhinoceroses.

—adj. of or relating to perissodactyls.
peritoneum

per-i-to-ne-um /per′tən′əm/ n. (pl. -neum or -nea /′nē-a/ [L. -nēa]) Anat. the serous membrane lining the cavity of the abdomen and covering the organs within it. = peritoneal adj.

per-i-to-ni-tis /per′tən′ət-is/ n. Med. inflammation of the peritoneum, typically caused by bacterial infection either via the blood or after rupture of an abdominal organ.

per-i-wig /per′wĭg/ n. a highly styled wig worn formerly as a fashionable headdress by both women and men. = periwigged adj.

per-i-winkle /per′wĭn′kəl/ n. a plant (genera Viola and Catherintha, family Apocynaceae) with flat, five-petaled flowers and glossy leaves. = periwinkled adj.

per-jure /per′jər/ v. (perjure oneself) Law willfully tell an untruth when giving evidence to a court; commit perjury. = perjurer n.

per-jury /per′jər-ı/ n. (pl. -ries) Law the offense of willfully telling an untruth in a court after having taken an oath or affirmation. = perjuryful adj.

perk /park/ v. (perk up) become more cheerful, lively, or interesting. = [fr.] perk someone/something up make someone or something more cheerful, lively, or interesting.

perk-ky /′park-ki/ adj. (perkier, perk-iest) cheerful and lively. = perkishly /′park-i-lish/ adv. = perkiness /′parki-nis/ n.

per-lite /per′lit/ n. a form of obsidian characterized by spherulites formed by cracking of the volcanic glass during cooling, used in insulation or in plant growth media.

per-locution /per′lək′shən/ n. Philos. & Linguistics an act of speaking or writing that has an action as its aim but that in itself does not effect or constitute the action, for example persuading or convincing.

per-locution-ar-y /per′lək′shə-nərē/ adj.

perm /per′m/ n. (also permanent wave) a method of setting the hair in waves or curls and then treating it with chemicals so that the style lasts for several months.

per-ma-frost /per′mə-fröst/ -frost /′fröst/ n. a thick subsurface layer of soil that remains frozen throughout the year, occurring chiefly in polar regions.

per-ma-lanc-er /per′mə-lan′sər/ n. a long-term freelance, part-time, or temporary worker who does not have employee benefits: the freelancers always pay in the temporary spaces. Also called PERMATEMP. = blend of permanent and freelance.

per-ma-nent /per′mə-nənt/ adj. lasting or intended to last or remain unchanged indefinitely, lasting or continuing without interruption.

per-ma-nent wave /per′mə-nənt wəv/ n. see PERM.

per-ma-nent-wa-ve /per′mə-nənt wəv/ n. see PERM.

per-ma-nent-ga-nate /per′mə-nənt′gə-nət/ n. Chem. a salt containing the anion MnO4-, typically deep purplish-red and with strong oxidizing properties.

per-ma-temp /per′mə-temp/ n. another term for PERMALANCER.

per-ma-a-bil-i-ty /per′mə-a-bəl′ə-tē/ n. the state or quality of a material or membrane that causes it to allow liquids or gases to pass through it.

per-ma-a-ble /per′mə-a-bəl/ adj. or of a material or membrane allowing liquids or gases to pass through it: a frog's skin is permeable to water.

per-ma-a-te /per′mə-ət/ v. [tr.] spread throughout (something); pervade: the aroma of soup permeated the air; [intr.] his personality has begun to permeate through the whole organization.

per-mis-si-ble /per′mis-sə-bəl/ adj. permitted: allowed.

per-mis-si-ble /per′mis-sə-bəl/ adj. = permission adj. = permission n. = permission v. = permission adv.

per-mis-sion /per′mis-ən/ n. consent; authorization. = an official document giving authorization: permits to reproduce copyright material.

per-mis-sive /per′misiv/ adj. 1 allowing or characterized by great or excessive freedom of behavior. 2 Law allowed but not obligatory; optional. 3 Biol. allowing a biological or biochemical process to occur: the mutants grow well at the permissive temperature. = allowing the infection and replication of viruses.


per-mit /per′mit/ v. (permit/mit /′mit/id) give authorization or consent to (someone) to do something. = [tr.] authorize or give permission for (something); the country is not ready to permit any imports. = [tr.] (of a thing, circumstance, or condition) provide an opportunity or scope for (something) to take place; make possible: some properties are too small to permit mechanized farming. = [intr.] when weather permits, lunches are served outside. = [intr.] (permit of) dated allow for; admit of.

per-mit /per′mit/ n. an official document giving someone authorization to do something: he is in Britain on a work permit. = official or formal permission to do something: parking on University grounds is by permit only. = -permittee /per′mit-tē/ n. = -permitter /per′mit-ər/ n.

per-mit if the specified thing does not prevent one from doing something: weather permitting, guests can dine outside on the veranda.

per-mit /per′mit/ n. a deep-bodied fish (Trachinotus falcatus) of the jack family, found in warm waters of the western Atlantic and Caribbean and caught for food and sport.

per-mute /per′myoot/ v. [tr.] change the order or arrangement of.

per-muta-tion /per′myoot′shən/ n. a way, esp. one of several possible variations, in which a set or number of things can be ordered or arranged.

per-mutation-al /per′myoot′shə-nəl/ adj.

per-mute /per′myoot/ v. [tr.] technical sum to a process of alteration, rearrangement, or permutation: we wish to permute the order of the letters.

per-nicious /per′nis-əs/ adj. having a harmful effect, esp. in a gradual or subtle way; the pernicious influences of the mass media. = late Middle English: from Latin perniciōnem 'destructive', from pernicē 'ruin', based on necē 'death'. = -perniciously adv. = -pernicious-ness n.

per-ni-cious-a-mel-nia /per′nəs-i-ə-the-nil-ə-ni-ə/ n. a deficiency in the production of red blood cells through a lack of vitamin B12.

per-oration /per′rər-ə-shən/ n. the concluding part of a speech, typically intended to inspire enthusiasm in the audience.

per-oxide /per′rəks/ n. Chem. a compound containing two oxygen atoms bonded together in its molecule or as the anion O2-.

per-son-al /per′son-ə-l/ adj. = personal adj.

per-rot-a-tion /per′rət-ə-shən/ n. a straight line at an angle of 90° to a given line, plane, or surface. = (usu. the perpendicular) perpendicular position or direction. = an instrument for indicating the vertical line from any point, as a spirit level or plumb line. = -per-rot-a-tion-l-ty /-lə-te/ n. -per-rot-a-tion-l-l-ty /-lə-l-ti/ n. -per-rot-a-tion-ly adv.

per-pe-trate /per′pə-trāt/ v. [tr.] carry out or commit (a harmful, illegal, or immoral action). = mid 16th cent.: from Latin perpetrāt-, "performed," from the verb perpetrāre, from per- 'to completion' + tratare 'bring about.' In Latin the act perpetrated might be good or bad; in English the verb was first used in the statutes referring to crime, hence the negative association. = -per-pe-trā-tion /per′pə-trā-shən/ n. = -per-pe-trā-tor /-trā-tər/ n.

per-pet-u-al /per′pə-too-əl/ adj. 1 never ending or changing: deep caves in perpetual darkness. = denoting a position, job, or trophy held for life rather than a limited period, or the person holding it: a perpetual secretary of the society. = (of an investment) having no fixed maturity. = occurring repeatedly, so frequent as to seem endless and uninterrupted.

per-pet-u-al /per′pə-too-əl/ adj. = perpetual adj.

per-pet-u-al mo-otion /per′pə-too-əl mo-ō-shən/ n. a state in which movement or action is to be continuous and unceasing. = the motion of a hypothetical machine that, once activated, would run forever unless subject to an external force or to wear.

per-pet-u-ate /per′pə-tə-at/ v. [tr.] make (something, typically an undesirable situation or an unwanted belief) continue indefinitely.

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per-pet-u-an-cy /per′pə-too-ən-si/ n. = perpetuation /per′pə-too-ə-choon/ n. = perpetuator n.

per-pet-u-ly /per′pə-tu-əl-i/ n. (pl. -ties) a thing that lasts forever or in an indefinite period, in particular: a bond or other security with no fixed maturity. = the state or quality of lasting forever.

Persephone Pronunciation Key a: ago, up; or: over, fur; a hat; a ate; a car; oh chin; e let; è see; a(o) air; i fit; iy: h by; a: ear; ng sing; ò go; ò law; for, of: o: o: ò go; ou: ou; sh: she; th thin; ò then; th: why; th visi
per-plex [parˈpleks] n. (often be perplexed) (of something complicated or unaccountable) cause (someone) to feel completely baffled: she was perplexed by her husband's moodiness. ▪ dated complicate or confuse (a matter). —per-plex-er [ˈpleksɪdə] n. —per-plex-ing-ly adv.

per-plex-ity [parˈplexətɪ] n. inability to deal with or understand something complicated or unaccountable. ▪ (usu. per-plexities) a complicated or baffling situation or thing. —archaic an entangled state.

per-quisite [parˈkwɪzɪt] n. formal another term for PERK. ▪ a thing regarded as a special right or privilege enjoyed as a result of one’s position. ▪ hist. a thing that has served its primary use and is then given to a subordinate or employee as a customary right.

per se [perˈsɛ] adv. by or in itself or themselves; intrinsically: it is not these facts per se that are important.

per-se-cute [parˈsɛkaʊt] v. [tr.] (often be persecuted) subject (someone) to hostility and ill-treatment, esp. because of their race or political or religious beliefs. ▪ harass or annoy (someone) persistently.


per-se-cu-tory [ˌkɛrətərɪ] adj. —per-se-cu-tor-ly adv.

per-se-ver-ance [ˌpɜrˈsɪvərəns] n. steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

per-se-ver-e [ˌpɜrˈsɪvər] v. [intr.] continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success. —per-se-ver-ence [ˌpɜrˈsɪvərəns] n. —per-se-ver-ing-ly adv.

Persi-an [ˈpɜrəsən] n. 1 a native or national of ancient or modern Persia (or Iran), or a person of Persian descent. ▪ (also Persian cat) a long-haired domestic cat of a breed originating in Persia, having a broad face, a stocky body, and short thick legs. ▪ the ancient language of modern Iran, written in Arabic script. Also called Farsi. ▪ an earlier form of this language spoken in ancient or medieval Persia.

• adj. of or relating to ancient Persia or modern Iran or its people or language.

per-sil-flage [parˈsɪflæɡ] n. formal light and slightly contemptuous mockery or banter.

per-sim-mon [parˈsɪmən] n. 1 an edible fruit that resembles a large tomato and has sweet flesh. ▪ the tree (genus Diospyros, family Ebenaceae), related to ebony, that yields this fruit.

per-sist [parˈsist] v. [intr.] continue firmly or obstinately in an opinion or a course of action in spite of difficulty, opposition, or failure; the majority of drivers who persist in drinking. ▪ continue to exist; be prolonged: if the symptoms persist for more than a few days, consult your doctor.

per-sist-ent [parˈsɪstənt] adj. 1 continuing firmly or obstinately in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition. ▪ characterized by a specified habitual behavior pattern, esp. a dishonest or undesirable one: they accused officials of persistent discrimination. ▪ 3 continuing to exist or endure: a prolonged period: persistent rain; occurring repeatedly over a prolonged period: persistent reports of human rights abuses.

• (of a chemical or radioactivity) remaining within the environment for a long time after its introduction. ▪ Bot. & Zool. of an animal or plant, such as a horn, leaf, etc. remaining attached instead of falling off in the normal manner. —per-sis-tence n. —per-sist-ent-ly adv.

per-sist-ent-ve-gue-ta-tive-state n. a condition in which a medical patient is completely unresponsive to psychological and physical stimuli and displays no sign of higher brain function, being kept alive only by medical intervention.

per-snick-et-y [parˈsnɪkəti] adj. int. placing too much emphasis on trivial or minor details; fussy. ▪ requiring a particularly precise or careful approach.

per-son [parˈson] n. (pl. people /ˈpɛpl/ or persons) 1 a human being regarded as an individual. ▪ used in legal or formal contexts to refer to an unspecified individual: the entrance fee is $10.00 per person. ▪ an individual characterized by a preference or liking for a specified thing: she's not a cat person. ▪ an individual's body. ▪ I have publicity photographs on my personal side; I have a character in a play or story: his previous roles in the person of a faithful cop. ▪ Gem. a category used in the classification of pronouns, possessive determiners, and verb forms, according to whether they indicate the speaker (first person), the addressee (second person), or a third party (third person). ▪ Middle English: from Old French person, from Latin persona 'actor's mask, character in a play,' later 'human being.'

- be one's own person do or be what one wishes or in accordance with one's own character rather than as influenced by others. ▪ in person with the personal presence or action of the individual specified: he had to pick up his welfare check in person.

per-son-a [parˈsəʊnə] n. (pl. -sonas or -sonae /ˈsəʊni/) the aspect of someone's character that is presented to or perceived by others: her public persona. In psychology, often contrasted with ANIMA, a role or character adopted by an author or an actor.

per-son-a-ble [parˈsəʊnəbəl] adj. (of a person) having a pleasant appearance and manner. —per-son-a-bly adv. —per-son-a-ble-ness n.

per-son-age [parˈsənɪdʒ] n. a person (often used to express their significance, importance, or elevated status): it was no less a personage than the bishop.

per-son-al [parˈsənəl] adj. 1 of, affecting, or belonging to a particular person rather than to anyone else. ▪ done or made by a particular person; involving the actual presence or action of a particular individual: the president made personal appearances for the reelection of the governor. ▪ done, intended, or made for a particular person: a personal loan. ▪ of or concerning one's private life, relationships, and emotions rather than matters connected with one's public or professional career: referring to an individual's character, appearance, or private life, esp. in a hostile or critical way: you look like a drowned rat—nothing personal.

• of or relating to a person's body. ▪ Gram. of or denoting one of the three persons. See PERSON (sense 2). ▪ existing as a self-aware entity, not as an abstraction or an impersonal force: Jews, Christians, and Muslims believe in a personal God.

• n. an advertisement or message in the personal column of a newspaper.

per-sonal-ty [parˈsənəlti] n. (pl. -ties) the combination of characteristics or qualities that form an individual’s distinctive character: she had a sunny personality / fig. each brand of gin has its own personality.

• qualities that make someone interesting or popular: she's always had loads of personality. ▪ a famous person, esp. in entertainment or sports.

• the personality or fact of being a person or an individual: from a human or animal. ▪ (personalities) archaic disparaging remarks about an individual.

per-son-al-ize [parˈsənəlaɪz] v. [tr.] 1 (usu. be personalized) design or produce (something) to meet someone's individual requirements: the wedding invitations will be personalized to your requirements. ▪ make (something) identifiable as belonging to a particular person, esp. marking it with their name or initials. ▪ cause (something, esp. an issue, argument, or debate) to become concerned with personalities or feelings rather than with general or abstract matters: the media's tendency to personalize politics. ▪ (often be personalized) personify (something, esp. a deity or spirit). —per-son-al-ization [parˈsənəlaɪˈzaʃən] n.

per-son-al-ly [parˈsənəli] adv. 1 with the personal presence or action of the individual specified; in person: she stayed to thank O’Brien personally. ▪ used to indicate that a specified person and no other is involved in something: he held her personally responsible for this betrayal. ▪ used to indicate that one knows or has contact with someone in person rather than indirectly through their work, reputation, or a third party: they had made conclusions without getting to know me personally.

• from one's own standpoint or according to their particular nature; in a subjective rather than an objective way: he had spoken personally and emotionally. ▪ used to emphasize that one is expressing one's own personal opinion: personally, I think he made a very sensible move. ▪ with regard to one's personal and private rather than public or professional capacity: nothing had gone well personally or politically.

• to take something very personally interpret a remark or action as directed against oneself and be upset or offended by it.

per-son-al pronoun n. each of the pronouns in English (I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, us, and them) comprising a set that shows contrasts of person, gender, number, and case.

per-son-al-property n. Law movable property; belongings exclusive of land and buildings. Used in contrast to REAL PROPERTY.

per-son-al-ty n. Law personal, movable property. Used in contrast to REALTY.

per-son-na non-gra-ta [parˈsənə nən ˌɡrærə] n. (pl. -sonae non gran-tae /ˈsənə nən ˌɡrænˈtæ/) an unacceptable or unwelcome person: from now on, these yellow journalists can consider themselves persona non grata.

per-son-i-fi-ca-tion [parˌsɪnfəˈkeɪʃən] n. the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something nonhuman, or the
phonology

physical sciences
phys-i-cal the a:ry p n. the treatment of disease, injury, or deformity by physical methods such as massage, heat treatment, and exercise rather than by drugs or surgery. —phys-i-cal the-ar-ist n.

phys-i-cian [fiz’shan] n. a person qualified to practice medicine. n. a: healer: physi-cians of the sick.

phys-i-cist [fiz’sist] pl. n. an expert in or student of physics.

phys-i-ics [fiz’iks] n. pl. n. the study of the branch of science concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy. The subject matter of physics includes mechanics, heat and other radiation, sound, electricity, magnetism, and the structure of atoms. n. the physical properties and phenomena of something.


phys-i-o-log-ist [fiz’a-log’ist] n. n. a person whose profession is physiology.


phy-sique [fiz’ké] n. the form, size, and development of a person’s body: a sturdy, athletic physique. n. a study of the size, build, or configuration of a person or thing: they were much alike in physique.

phy-to-es-tro-gen [fiz’ta-strö-jen] n. an estrogen occurring naturally in legumes, considered beneficial in some diets.


phy-to-nu-trient [fiz’ta-nö-trént] n. a substance of plant origin that has nutritional value. n. a nutritional supplement based on such a substance; a nutraceutical.


phy-to-san-tary [fiz’ta-san’taré] adj. (of agricultural goods crossing borders) sanitary with regard to pests and pathogens: a point-of-origin phytosanitary certificate.

Pl. abbr. private investigator.

pi [pi] n. the sixteenth letter of the Greek alphabet (II, π), transliterated as ‘p’. n. the numerical value of the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter (approx. 3.14159). n. Chem. & Physics relating to or denoting an electron or orbital with one unit of angular momentum about an internuclear axis.

symb. n. the numerical value of pi. n. (I) osmotic pressure. (I) mathematical product.

pi-a mat-er [pi’a mat’ar; pé’ a mat’ar] n. Anat. the delicate innermost membrane enveloping the brain and spinal cord.

pi-a-nis-mo [pi’ thành-mō] n. Mus. adv. & adj. (esp. as a direction) very soft or softly.

pi-anist [pi’a-nist; pé’ a-nist] n. a person who plays the piano, esp. professionally.

pi-an-o [pi’anó] n. (pl. -os) a large keyboard musical instrument with a wooden case enclosing a soundboard and metal strings, which are struck by hammers when the keys are depressed.

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pi-a-no forte [pi’anó fór’ta; pé’a-no, fór’ta] n. n. formal term for piano.

pi-ast er [pi’ as ter] also pi-as-tre n. a monetary unit of several Middle Eastern countries, equal to one hundredth of a pound.

pi-a-tr-a [pe’ a-trá; pe’ a-ta] n. 1. a public square or marketplace, esp. in an Italian town. 2. the veranda of a house.

pic [pi] n. (pl. pics or pix [piks]) inf. a photograph or movie: a picture.

pic-ca [pi’ ka] n. Printing a unit of type size and line length equal to 12 points (about 1/6 inch or 4.2 mm). n. a letter of size in typewriting, with a vertical stroke at the right and a horizontal bar at the top (the capital P).

pic-ca [pi’ ka] n. Med. a tendency or craving to eat substances other than normal food (such as clay, plaster, or ashes), occurring during childhood or pregnancy, or as a symptom of disease.

pic-ca-dor [pi’ ka dór] n. a bullfighter on horseback who pickets the bull with a lance to weaken it and goad it.
pier /paɪər/ n. 1. a structure leading out from the shore into a body of water. In particular: a platform supported on pillars or girders, used as a landing for boats; or a similar structure leading out to sea and used as an entertainment area. 2. a breakwater or mole. 2. A solid support designed to sustain vertical pressure, in particular: a pillar supporting an arch or a bridge. 3. A section of a wall between windows or other adjacent openings.

pierc- /piːrk-/ v. [tr.] (of a sharpened object) go into or through (something). pierce (something) with a sharp instrument. make (a hole) with a sharp instrument. make a hole (in the ears, nose, or other part of the body) so as to wear jewelry in them. (usu. be pierced) bore a hole or tunnel through: the dividing wall is pierced by arches and piers. force or cut a way through: a goddess pierced the air.

— piercer n.
pier-o-gi /ˌpaɪe.ə.ɡai/ n. variant spelling of PIROGI.
pileta /piˈletə/ (often Pieta) n. a picture or sculpture of the Virgin Mary holding the dead body of Jesus Christ on her lap or in her arms.
pil-e-tism /ˌpi.ˈlɛtɪzəm/ n. pious sentiment, esp. of an exaggerated or affected nature.
pil-e-ty /ˈpɪliːtə/ n. (pl.-ties) the quality of being religious or reverent; acts of piety. the quality of being dutiful: filial piety. a belief or point of view that is accepted with unthinking conventional reverence.
pil-file /ˈpaɪfl/ n. & interj. int. nonsense.
pil-fitt-ing /ˈpaɪflɪŋ/ adj. int. trivial; unimportant.
pig /ˈpɪɡ/ n. 1. an omnivorous domesticated hoofed mammal (numerous varieties of Sus domesticus) with sparse bristly hair and a flat snout, kept for its meat. The pig family (Suidae) also includes the boar and warthog, a wild animal of this family. 2. (a pig, a piglet) the flesh of a pig, esp. a young one, as food. 3. adj. derog. a greedy, dirty, or unpleasant person. 4. adj. derog. a police officer. 5. an oblong mass of iron or lead from a smelting furnace. See also PIG-IRON. a device that fits snugly inside an oil or gas pipeline and is sent through it to clean or test the inside, or to act as a barrier.

— v. [pigged, pigging] [intr.] 1. gorge oneself with food: don’t pig out on chips! 2. crowd together with other people in disorderly or dirty conditions. 3. (id. animal of this family) give birth to piglets or farrow. — piggy adj.

— bleed like a pig bleed copiously. bleed in a pig’s eye int. expressing scornful disbelief at a statement. a pig in a poke something that is bought or accepted without knowing its value or seeing it first.
pig-geon /ˈpiɡi.ən/ n. 1. a stout seed- or fruit-eating bird (family Columbidae) with a small head, short legs, and a cooing voice, typically having gray and white plumage. 2. a pigeon descended from the wild rock dove, kept for racing, showing, and carrying messages, and common as a feral bird in towns. 3. int. a gullible person, esp. someone swindled in gambling or the victim of a confidence game. 4. military slang an aircraft flown by one’s own side.
pig-geon-hole /ˈpiɡi.ənˌhəʊl/ n. a small recess for a domestic pigeon to nest in. a small compartment, open at the front and forming part of a set, where letters or messages may be left for someone. a similar compartment built into a desk for keeping documents in. fig. a category to which someone or something is assigned.

— v. [tr.] deposit (a document) into a pigeonhole. assign to a particular category or class, esp. in a manner that is too rigid or exclusive: a tendency to pigeonhole him as a photographer and neglect his work in painting. put aside for future consideration: she pigeonholed his worry about him.
pig-geon-toed adj. having the toes or feet turned inward.
pig-ey /ˈpiɡi/ n. (pl.-eyes) 1. a farm where pigs are bred or kept. 2. a pigpen. 3. behavior regarded as characteristic of pigs in greed or unpleasantness.
piggy /ˈpiɡi/ n. (pl.-gies) (used by or when talking to children) a pig or piglet.

adj. resembling a pig, esp. in features or appetite.
piggy-back /ˈpiɡi.ˈbæk/ n. a ride on the back of another person or on top of something else: Dave headed back with the car riding piggyback on his truck.

— v. [tr.] carry by or as if by piggyback. mount or attach to (an existing object or system). use existing work or an existing product as a basis or support: we were piggybacking on their training program.

adj. on the back of someone: enjoying a piggyback ride. on the back and shoulders of another person: enjoying a piggyback ride. on the shoulders of another: a telescope with fittings for piggyback cameras. fig. a piggyback income tax under which taxpayers would pay the state 21 percent of whatever they paid the federal government.
pig-gy bank /ˈpiɡi.ˈbæŋk/ n. a container for saving money in. esp. one shaped like a pig, with a slit through which coins are dropped. fig. savings.
pig-headed /ˈpiɡ.heidəd/ adj. stupidly obstinate. pig-headed-ly adv. pig-headed-ness n.
pig iron /ˈpiɡˌaɪrn/ n. crude iron as first obtained from a smelting furnace, in the form of oblong blocks.
pig Lat- in /ˈpiɡlətən/ n. a made-up language formed by English by transferring the initial consonant or consonant cluster of each word to the end of the word and adding a syllable (usually /ə/): so chicken soup would be translated to ikenchay aposay.
pig-lot /ˈpiɡlət/ n. a young pig.
pig-men-tion /ˈpiɡməne.ʃən/ n. the natural coloring of animal or plant tissue. a substance used for coloring or painting, esp. a dry powder that, when mixed with oil, water, or another medium, constitutes a paint or ink.

— v. [tr.] color (something) with or in with pigment. — pig-meny-tary /ˌpiɡ.məˈterəri/ adj.
pig-men-ta-tion /ˈpiɡmən.ˈtənʃən/ n. the natural coloring of animal or plant tissue. the coloring of a person’s skin, esp. when abnormal or distinctive.
pig-my /ˈpiɡmi/ n. variant spelling of PYGMY.
pig-nol-li /ˈpiɡnəl.i/ pl. n. pine nuts.
pig-pan /ˈpiɡˌpæn/ n. a pen or enclosure for a pig or pigs. a very dirty or untidy house or room.
pig-sk-in /ˈpiɡˌskɪn/ n. 1. the hide of a domestic pig. leather made from this. 2. int. a footfall.
pig-sty /ˈpiɡˌstɪ/ n. (pl.-sties) a pigpen.
pig-tail /ˈpiɡˌtæl/ n. 1. a braid or gathered hank of hair hanging from the back of the head, or either of a pair at the sides. 2. a short length of flexible braided wire connecting a stationary part to a moving part in an electrical device. 3. a thin twist of tobacco.— pig-tailed adj.
pike /ˈpiːk/ n. (pl. same) a long-bodied predatory freshwater fish (genus Esox, family Esocidae) with a pointed snout and large teeth, of North America and Eurasia. any fish with similar characteristics, such as the walleye.
pile /ˈpaɪl/ n. 1. a heap of things laid or lying one on top of another. int. a large amount of something. a lot of money. a large imposing building or group of buildings.

— v. [tr.] place (things) on top of one another. be piled with stock or loaded with. pile up [intr.] increase in quantity. pile something up cause to increase in quantity: the debts he piled up. pile something on int. intensify or exaggerate something for effect: you can pile on the guilt, but my heart has turned to stone. 2. [intr.] pile in/out of (of a group of people) get into or out of a vehicle in a disorganized manner. pile into [intr.] (of a vehicle) crash into.

— pile on int. exaggerate the seriousness of a situation or of someone’s behavior to increase guilt or distress.
pile /ˈpaɪl/ n. 1. a heavy beam or post driven vertically into the bed of a river, soft ground, etc., to support the foundations of a structure. 2. n. the soft projecting surface of a carpet or of a fabric such as velveteen, consisting of many small threads.

— v. [tr.] [usu. in comb.] (piled) furnish with a pile: a thick-piled carpet.
pile-ate woodpecker /ˈpiːlət/ n. a large North American woodpecker.
woodpecker (Dryocopus) with mainly black plumage and a red cap and crest.

pilé driver (also pilé-driver) n. a machine for driving piles into the ground. —pile-driving n. & adj.

piles [piiz] n. pl. n. hemmorhoids.

pile-up [pi,ap] (also pile-up) n. int. 1 a crash involving several vehicles. 2 a confused mass of people fallen on top of one another, esp. in a team game. 2 an accumulation of a specified thing.


pile-grim [piil,gri:m] n. a person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons. (usu. Pilgrim) a member of a group of English Puritans fleeing religious persecution who founded the colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. 2 a person who travels on long journeys. Middle English: from Provençal plegir, from Latin peregrinus 'foreign.'

—pile-grim-age [piil,gri:m,ij] n. a pilgrim's journey. 2 a journey to a place associated with someone or something well known or respected. —life viewed as a journey: life's pilgrimage.

v. [int] go on a pilgrimage.

Pili-pi-no [piili,pñ:ño] n. & adj. variant of FILIPINO.

pil [piil] n. a small round mass of solid medicine to be swallowed whole. 2 the pill or the Pill) a contraceptive pill: she is on the pill. 2 adj. a tedious or unpleasant person. 2 int. (in some sports) a humorous term for a ball. —pil,ar [piil,ar] adj.

—pil,ar [piil,ar] from pil to post from one place to another in an unceremonious or fruitless manner.

pil-box [piil,baks] n. a small shallow cylindrical box for holding pills. (usu. pill-box hat) a hat of a similar shape. 2 a small, enclosed, partly underground concrete fort used as an outpost.

pil-i-loc-tome [piil,ili,kot,om] n. (pt. -ries) a wooden framework with holes for the head and hands, in which an offender was imprisoned and exposed to public abuse.

v. [int] (adj) put (someone) in the pillory. 2 fig. attack or ridicule publicly: he found himself pilloried by members of his own party.

pil,ow [piil,ow] n. a rectangular cloth bag stuffed with feathers, foam rubber, or other soft materials, used to support the head when lying down; a piece of wood or metal used as a support.

v. [int] rest (one's head) as if on a pillow. 2 poet,ic,ht: serve as a pillow for: her shoulder pillowed his weary head. —pil,ow-y adj.

pil,ow-case [piil,ow,kas] n. a removable cloth cover for a pillow.

pil,ow sham n. a decorative pillowcase for covering a pillow when it is not in use.

pil-low talk n. intimate conversation in bed.

pil,ow pusher n. int. a person, specifically a doctor, who resists too readily to advocating the use of medication to cure illness rather than considering other treatments. 2 any seller of drugs for profit, such as a pharmaceutical company or a drug dealer. —pil,ow-pushing n. & adj.

pil,ot [piil,ot] n. 1 a person who operates the flying controls of an aircraft. 2 a person with expert local knowledge qualified to take charge of a ship entering or leaving confined waters; a helmsman. 3 a guide or leader. 4 often as adj. Telecommunications an unmodulated reference signal transmitted with another signal for the purposes of control or synchronization. 2 a television program made to test audience reaction with a view to the production of a series. 3 short for PILOT LIGHT (sense 1).

adj. 1 done as an experiment or test before introducing something more widely: a pilot study. 2 leading or guiding.

v. pil,ot-ed, pil,ot-ing [tr.] 1 act as a pilot of (an aircraft or ship). 2 guide: steer; test (a plan, project, etc.) before introducing it more widely. —pil,ot-age [piil,ot,ij] n. —pil,ot-less adj.

pil,ot boat n. a boat used to transport pilots to and from ships.

pil,ot fish [piil,ot fis] n. pl. same or -fishes) a fish (Napractus doctor) of the jack family, often seen swimming close to sharks.

pil,ot house [piil,ot,haus] n. another term for WHEELHOUSE.

pil,ot light n. 1 a small gas burner kept continuously burning to lighten a larger burner when needed, esp. on a gas stove or water heater. 2 an electric indicator light or control light.

pil,ner [piil,nar] (also pil,ner, Pil,eneer, or pil,eneer) n. a lager beer with a strong hop flavor, originally brewed at Pilsen (Pilsner) in the Czech Republic, and traditionally served in a tall tapered glass.

pil,ma [piil,ma] n. pl. same or Plimas) 1 a member of either of two American Indian peoples, the (upper) Pima living chiefly along the Gila and Salt rivers of southern Arizona, and the lower Pima of central Sonora. 2 the Uto-Aztecan languages of these peoples. See Papago. —adj. of or relating to this people or their language.

pil,men-to [piil,men,to] n. pl. -tos) 1 variant spelling of pimento. 2 chiefly W. Indian another term for allspice (sense 2).

pim,er [piil,mer] n. pil,mar,le) n. another term for pion.

pim,ent-o [piil,men,to] n. pl. -tos) 1 red sweet pepper. 2 a piece of pimento used as a garnish, esp. stuffed inside a pimento.
containing toys and candy, and hung in the air so that blindfolded children, taking turns swinging sticks and bats, can smash the figure and share the scattered contents as part of a celebration.

**ping-pong** /'pɪŋˌpɒŋ/ n. trademarker another term for **table tennis**.

**pin-hole** /'pɪnˌhɒl/ n. 1. the flattened head of a pin. 2. any very small round object: **pinhole dots**.

**pin-hole-camera** /'pɪnˌhɒl.kər.mərə/ n. a camera with a pinhole aperture and no lens.

**pin-ion** /'pɪn.ɪn/ n. the outer part of a bird's wing including the flight feathers.

**pincers** /ˈpɪnsər/ n. 1. a kind of tongs with opposed jaws, esp. for gripping and pulling things. 2. a front claw of a lobster, crab, or similar crustacean.

**pinch** /ˈpɪntʃ/ v. [tr.] 1. **[as** pinched **by]** grasp the skin of someone's body tightly and sharply between finger and thumb. 2. grip the skin of a part of the body of someone in such a way. 3. (of a shoe) hurt (a foot) by being too tight. 4. compress (the lips), esp. with worry or tension. 5. remove (a bud, leaves, etc.) to encourage bushy growth. 6. **[intr.]** live in a frugal way: if I pinch and scrape, I might manage. 7. **[int.]** arrest (someone). 8. **[int.]** steal. 9. **[an act of]** gripping the skin of someone's body between finger and thumb. 10. an amount of an ingredient that can be held between fingers and thumb: add a pinch of salt. 11. **[int.]** an arrest. 12. an act of theft.

**pinch-nose** v. a pinch in a critical situation: as absolutely necessary. **[feel the pinch** experience hardship, esp. financial.

**pinch-hit** v. **[intr.]** Baseball bat in place of another player, typically at a critical point in the game; he pinch-hit for O'Brien and hit a grounder. 1. **[as a team manager or coach]** assign a pinch-hitter to pinch-in place of another. 2. **[act as a substitute for someone]** in an emergency: last year a briefly pinch-hit for a movie critic on leave. **—pinch hitter** n.

**pinch-penny** /ˈpɪnches.ni/ n. (pl. -nies) a miserly person.

**pinch-cushion** /ˈpɪnˌkəʃən/ n. a small cushion into which pins are stuck for convenient storage.

**pine** /ˈpɪn/ n. (also **pine tree**) an evergreen coniferous tree (genus **Pinus**, family Pinaceae) that has clusters of long needle-shaped leaves. Many kinds are grown for their soft timber. 1. used in names of coniferous trees of other families, e.g., Norfolk Island pine. 2. used in names of unrelated plants that resemble the pines in some way, e.g., ground pine.

**pine-apple** /ˈpɪn.nəpəl/ n. 1. a large juicy tropical fruit consisting of aromatic edible yellow flesh surrounded by a tough segmented skin and topped with a tuft of stiff leaves. 2. the widely cultivated tropical American **bromelid** (Ananas comosus) that bears this fruit. 3. **[a plant]** has a band of leaves.

**pine cone** n. the conical or rounded woody fruit of a pine tree, with scales that open to release the seeds.

**pine tree** n. a tree, typically evergreen, of the genus **Pinus**, family Pinaceae. Pines bear cylindrical cones which contain seeds that are enclosed in a woody structure. They are important for timber, pulp, and other uses.

**ping-pong** /ˈpɪŋˌpɒŋ/ n. a game in which small metal balls are shot across a sloping board and score points by striking various targets.

**pin-nez** /ˈpɪns.nɛ/ n. [treated as sing. or pl.] a pair of eyeglasses with a nose clip instead of earpieces.

**pin-pay** /ˈpɪnˌpɛ/ n. (also **piny** adj. of like, or full of pines.

**ping** /ˈpɪŋ/ n. 1. a short high-pitched ringing sound, as of a tap on a glass crystal. 2. a percussive knocking sound, esp. in an internal combustion engine. 2. Packet Internet Gopher, a utility that is used to query another computer on a TCP/IP network to determine whether there is a connection to it. 3. make such a sound. 4. cause (something) to make such a sound. 5. to query another computer on a TCP/IP network to determine whether there is a connection to it. 6. contact a person briefly (esp. electronically) for a brief purpose: he just pinged me, pointing to a breaking news story.

**pinhole** /ˈpɪnˌhɒl/ n. a very small hole.

**pinhole camera** n. a camera with a pinhole aperture and no lens.

**pin-ion** n. the outer part of a bird's wing including the flight feathers.

**pinch-hit** v. [tr.] 1. tie or hold the arms or legs of (someone); he pinioned his opponent. 2. bind (the arms or legs of) someone. 2. cut off the pinion of (a wing or bird) to prevent flight.

**pin-ion** n. a small gear or spindle engaging with a large gear.

**pinch** /ˈpɪntʃ/ adj. 1. of a color intermediate between red and white, as of coral or salmon. 2. of (wine) rose. 3. int. often derog, having or showing low-wing tendencies. 4. of or associated with homosexuals.

**pinch** v. [tr.] 1. pink color or pigment. 2. pink clothes or material: she looks good in pink. 3. the red clothing or material worn by fox hunters. 2. a pink thing, such as a rose wine. 3. the best condition or degree; the economy is not in the pink of health. 4. int. often derog, a person with left-wing tendencies.

**pinch** v. [intr.] blush, as from embarrassment. **—pinchish** adj. **—pinchily** adv. **—pinchiness** n. **—pinchy** adj.

**pinch** v. [intr.] in very good health and spirits.

**pine** n. a heraceous Eurasian plant (genus *Dianthus*) with sweet-smelling pink or white flowers and slender, typically gray-green leaves. The **pink family** (Caryophyllaceae) includes the campions, catchworts, and cultivated carnations.

**pinch** v. [tr.] 1. cut a scalloped or zigzag edge on. 2. pierce or nick (someone) slightly with a weapon or missile. 2. aarchic decorate: April pinched the earth with flowers.

**pinch** n. dated a yellowish lake pigment made by combining vegetable coloring matter with a white base.

**pink-eye** /ˈpɪn.k/ n. 1. conjunctivitis in humans and some livestock. 2. a viral disease of horses, symptoms of which include fever, spontaneous abortion, and redness of the eyes.

**pink** /ˈpɪnk/ n. adj. of pink. **—pinckish** adj. (also **pinky**). 2. of pink color or pigment.

**pinking shears** pl. n. shears with a serrated blade, used to cut a zigzag edge in fabric to prevent it from fraying.

**pin** v. (pink slip) [tr.] dismiss (someone) from employment.

**pinion** n. a small amount of money for spending on inessentials. 1. hist. an allowance to a woman from her husband for clothing and other personal expenses.

**pinna** /ˈpɪn.nə/ n. (pl. pinnae /ˈpɪn.ni/). 1. any of a number of animal structures resembling fins or wings. 2. any carnivorous aquatic mammal with flipperlike limbs, including seals, sea lions, and walruses. 3. adj. of or relating to pinnipeds.

**pine-nut** /ˈpɪn.nət/ n. Bot. a secondary division of a pine leaflet, esp. of a fern.

**pincion** /ˈpɪn.kən/ n. a card game for two or more players using a 48-card deck consisting of two of each card from nine to ace, the
piñon /ˈpiɲoʊn/ n. a small pine tree (Pinus cembroides) with edible seeds, native to Mexico and the southwestern U.S.; also piñón nut, a pine nut obtained from this tree.

pin-point /ˈpiɲpt/ adj. absolutely precise; to the finest degree: this weapon fired shells with pinpoint accuracy.

pin-prick /ˈpiɲprɪk/ n. a prick caused by a pin. • a cause of minor irritation.

pin and needingles pl. n. a tingling sensation in a limb recovering from numbness.

pin stripe /ˈpiɲstreɪ/ n. a very narrow stripe in cloth, esp. of the type used for formal suits. • a pin-stripe suit. —pin-striped adj.

pin /ˈpiɲ/ n. a unit of liquid or dry capacity equal to one half of a quart. • Brit., inf. tr. (pin) find piece v. by; Jit; intr. pin

pineapple /ˈpɪnɪpɔl/ n. a tropical fruit (Ananas comosus) of medium size, with a thin skin and a juicy, sweet interior surrounded by a tough, fibrous outer skin. • adj. pineapple;

pine /ˈpɪn/ n. the system of romanization spelling for transliterating Chinese.

pi-on /ˈpiən/ n. Physics a meson having a mass approximately 270 times that of an electron. Also called pi meson. —pi-netic /ˈpiənɪtɪk/ adj.

pi-oneer /ˈpiənər/ n. a series of American space probes launched between 1958 and 1973, two of which provided the first clear pictures of Jupiter and Saturn (1973-79).

pi-oneer /ˈpiənər/ n. a person who is among the first to explore or settle a new country or area. • a person who is among the first to research and develop a new area of knowledge or activity. • (in the former USSR and other communist countries) a member of a movement for children below the age of sixteen that aimed to foster communist ideals. • a member of an infantry group preparing roads or terrain for the main body of troops. • also pioneer species a plant or animal that establishes itself in an unoccupied area.

v. pin (tr.) to develop or be the first to use or apply (a new method, area of knowledge, or activity).

pi-ous /ˈpiəs/ adj. devoutly religious; making a hypocritical display of virtue; (of a hope) sincere but unlikely to be fulfilled; (of a belief) with good or religious intentions, whether professed or real. • late Middle English: from Latin plus ‘dutiful, pious.’ —pi-ously adv.

pip /ˈpɪp/ n. a small hard seed in a fruit. —pip-less /ˈpɪpəs/ adj.

pip /ˈpɪp/ n. a small shape or symbol, in particular: any of the spots on playing cards, dice, or dominoes. • a single blossom of a clustered head of flowers. • a diamond-shaped segment of the surface of a pineapple. • an image of an object on a radar screen; blip.

pip /ˈpɪp/ n. a disease of poultry or other birds causing thick mucus in the throat and white scale on the tongue.

pip /ˈpɪp/ v. (pipped, pip-ping) tr. (of a young bird) crack (the shell of the egg) when hatching.

pip /ˈpɪp/ n. • Brit, inf. tr. (pipped, pip-ping) tr. (usu. be) piped defeat by a small margin or at the last moment. • dated hit or wound (someone) with a gunshot.

pipe /ˈpɪp/ n. 1 a tube of metal, plastic, or other material used to convey water, gas, oil, or other fluid substances. • a cylindrical vein of ore or rock, esp. one in which diamonds are found. • int. a duct, vessel, or tubular structure in the body, or in an animal or plant. 2 a narrow president tube made from wood, clay, etc., with a bowl at one end for containing burning tobacco, the smoke from which is drawn into the mouth. • a quantity of tobacco held by this. 3 a wind instrument consisting of a single tube with holes along its length that are covered by the fingers to produce different notes. • (usu. pipes) a bagpipe. • pipes, a set of pipes joined together, as in panpipes. • a tube by which sound is produced in an organ. • a high-pitched cry or song, esp. of a bird. • a beating or tapping on a table. 4 Comp. a command from one routine to be the input for another. 5 Comput. a connection to the Internet or to a Web site. 6 a cask for wine, esp. as a measure equal to two hogsheads, usually equivalent to 105 gallons (about 477 liters).

v. 1 (tr.) convey (water, gas, oil, or other fluid substances) through a pipe or pipes. • transmit (music, a radio or television program, signals, etc.) by wire or cable. 2 (tr.) play (a tune) on a pipe or pipes. • (in) blow a bird’s call in a high shrill voice. • (tr.) say (something) in a high, shrill voice. • (tr.) use a boat’s whistle to summon (the crew) to work or a meal. 3 (tr.) decorate (clothing or soft furnishings) with a thin cord covered in fabric. • put (a decorative line or pattern) on a cake or similar dish using icing, whipped cream, etc.

pipe hit /ˈpɪp/ v. pipe down [often in imper.] intr. stop talking; be less noisy. • pipe up say something suddenly. —pipeful /ˈpɪpfl/ n. (pl. -fuls) —pipe-less adj. —pip-y /ˈpɪpɪ/ adj. (pip-er, pip-est)

pipe bomb n. a homemade bomb, the components of which are contained in a pipe.

pipe cleaner n. a piece of wire covered with tufted fiber, used to clean a tobacco pipe and for a variety of handicrafts.

pipe dream n. an unattainable or fanciful hope or scheme.

pipe fish /ˈpɪp,fiʃ/ n. (pl. same or -ishes) a narrow, elongated, chiefly marine fish (Syngnathus and other genera, family Syngnathidae) with segmented bony armor beneath the skin and a long tubular snout.

pipe fitting /ˈpɪpl,tɪŋ/ n. the work of installing and repairing pipes in residential, commercial, and industrial facilities. • a connector in a pipe system. —pipe-fitter n.

pipe line /ˈpɪpl,laɪn/ n. a long pipe for conveying oil, gas, etc., over long distances. • fig. a channel supplying goods or information. • in (surf)ing the hollow formed by the breaking of a large wave. • Comput. a linear sequence of specialized modules used for pipelining.

v. 0. pipe (a substance) by a pipeline. • (tr.) often as adj. (pipelined) Comput. design or execute (a computer or instruction) using the technique of pipelining.

in the pipeline awaiting completion or processing.

pipe organ n. Mus. see ORGAN (sense 1).

pipe-er /ˈpɪpər/ n. a bagpipe player. • a person who plays a pipe, esp. an itinerant musician.

—pay the pipe bear the consequences of an action or activity that one has enjoyed.

pipe stem (also pipe-stem) n. the shaft of a tobacco pipe. • as adj. used to describe anything resembling this, such as a very narrow pants leg.

pipette /ˈpɪpɪt/ n. a slender tube attached to or incorporating a bulb, for transferring or measuring out small quantities of liquid, esp. in a laboratory.

piping /ˈpɪpɪŋ/ n. 1 lengths of pipe, or a network of pipes, made of metal, plastic, or other materials. 2 ornamentation on food consisting of lines of icing, whipped cream, etc. • thin cord covered in fabric, used to decorate clothing or soft furnishings and reinforce seams. 3 the action or art of playing a pipe or pipes.

adj. 1 (of a voice or sound) high-pitched. 2 (of a time) peaceful; characterized by the playing of pipes.

—piping hot (of food or water) very hot.

pip-strelle /ˈpɪp,streɪl/ n. a small insectivorous Old World bat (genus Pipistrellus, family Vespertilionidae) with jerky, erratic flight.

pipit /ˈpɪpt/ n. a mainly ground-dwelling songbird (Anthus and other genera, family Motacillidae) of open country, typically having brown streaky plumage.

pippen /ˈpɪpɨn/ n. a red and yellow dessert apple. • int. an excellent person or thing.

pipsqueak /ˈpɪpskwɛk/ n. • int. a person considered to be insignificant, esp. because they are small or young.

Pronunciation: Key a, ago; up, or, aw, fur; a bit, a in; a car; a in; jin; l et; 6 sec; e(o)r air; i; l; iy, i(o)r ear, no sing; 6 a; low, for; o, to; 60 good; 600 goo; ou out; 600 a; th thin; th th; 60 why; 2 th vision
piquant /ˈpɪkɒnt/ • adj. having a pleasantly sharp taste or appetizing flavor. • pleasantly stimulating or exciting to the mind. —pi-quant-ly adv.  

pique /ˈpiːk/ • n. a feeling of irritation or resentment resulting from a slight or affront to one’s pride: he left in a fit of pique.  

v. [pikes, piqued, piquing] (pik- in- ing) [tr.] stimulate (interest or curiosity). 2. (be piqued) feel irritated or resentful. 3. (pique oneself) pride oneself.  

piqué /ˈpiːki/ • n. a trick-taking card game for two players, using a 32-card deck consisting of cards from the seven to the ace.  

piracy • n. the practice of attacking and robbing ships at sea. • a similar practice in other contexts, esp. hijacking: air piracy. • the unauthorized use or reproduction of another’s work: software piracy.  

pirating • adj. • v. [pirate] • n. a person who who appropriates or reproduces the work of another for profit without permission, usually in contravention of patent or copyright: software pirates. • a person or organization that broadcasts radio or television programs without official authorization.  

pirate • n. • v. [pirate] • adj. —pirate-cal • adj.  

pistol-whip • n. a doughty bluffing with such as potato or cheese, typically served with onions or sour cream.  

pirouette • n. chiefly Ballet an act of spinning on one foot, typically with the raised foot touching the knee of the supporting leg.  

piration • adj. • n. —pirate-cal • adj.  

piscatorial • adj. another term for piscatorial.  

pistol • n. • adj. —pistol-cal • adj.  

pitch /pɪtʃ/ • n. 1 a large hole in the ground. • a large deep hole from which stones or minerals are dug. • a coal mine. • a sunken enclosure in which certain animals are kept in captivity. 2 short for ORCHESTRA. • a sunken area in a workshop floor allowing access to a car’s underside. • fig. a low wretched psychological state. 3. (the pit) poetick. hell. 2 an area reserved or enclosed for a specific activity. • [usu. pits] an area at the side of a track where race cars are serviced and refueled. • a part of the floor of a building in which a particular stock or commodity is traded. • chiefly hist. an enclosure in which animals are made to fight. 3 a hollow or indentation in a surface: a small pit left on the skin after smallpox, acne, or other diseases; a poxmark.  

v. [pitted, pitting] • v. pit someone/ something against set someone or something in conflict or competition with. • hist. set an animal to fight against another animal. • sport. 2 make a hollow or indentation in the surface of. • intr. sink in or contract so as to form a pit or hollow. 3 intr. drive a race car into the pits for fuel or maintenance.  

pit bull (in full pit bull terrier) • n. a dog of an American variety of bull terrier, noted for its muscular build and associated with ferocity.  

pitch • n. 1 the quality or sound governed by the rate of vibrations producing it; the degree of highness or lowness of a tone. • a standard degree of highness or lowness used in performance. See also concave pitch. • the steepness of a slope, esp. of a roof. • Climbing a section of a climb, esp. a steep one. • the height to which a hawk soars before swooping on its prey. • the level of intensity of something: he brought the machine to a high pitch of development. • a pitch of a very high degree of: rousing herself to a pitch of indignation. 3 Baseball a legal delivery of the ball by the pitcher. • (also pitch shot) Golf a high approach shot to the green. 4 Brit. a playing field. 5 Cricket the strip of ground between the two sets of stumps. 6 a form of work passed when trying to persuade someone to buy or accept something: a good sales pitch. 7 a swaying or oscillation of a ship, aircraft, or vehicle around a horizontal axis perpendicular to the direction of motion. • the degree of slope or angle, as of a roof. • technical the distance between successive corresponding points or lines, e.g., between the teeth of a cogwheel. • a measure of the angle of the blades of a screw propeller, equal to the distance forward a blade would move in one revolution if it exerted no thrust on the medium. • the density of typed or printed characters on a line, typically expressed as numbers of characters per inch.  

v. 1 [tr.] Baseball throw (the ball) for the batter to try to hit. • Baseball assign a player to pitch. • intr. be a pitcher: she pitched in a minor league game. • [tr.] he pitched the entire game. Golf (hit the ball) onto the green with a pitch shot. • [intr.] Golf (of the ball) strike the ground in a particular spot. 2 [tr.] throw or fling roughly or casually. • [intr.] fall heavily, esp. headlong. 3 [tr.] express at a particular level of difficulty: he should pitch his talk at a suitable level for the age group. • aim (a product) at the market. 4 [intr.] make a bid to obtain a contract or other business. 5 [tr.] set up and fix in a definite position: we pitched camp for the night. 6 [intr.] (of a moving ship, aircraft, or vehicle) rock or oscillate around a lateral axis, so that the front and back move up and down. 7 [of a vehicle] move with a vigorous jogging motion. 8 [intr.] cause (a roof) to slope downward from the ridge. 9 slope downward. • phrasal v. pitch in inf. vigorously join in to help with a task or activity. • pitch into inf. vigorously tackle or begin to deal with. • forcefully assault.  

pitch • n. a sticky black or brown brown substance that is semisolid when hot, hard when cold. It is obtained by distilling tar or petroleum and is used for waterproofing. • any of various similar substances, such as asphalt or bitumen. • a sticky resinous sap from a conifer. • v. [tr.] cover, coat, or smear with pitch.
starch and little sugar, harvested green and widely used as a cooked vegetable in the tropics. 2 the plant that bears this fruit.

plan-tar /ˈplæntər/ adj. Anat. of or relating to the sole of the foot.

plan-tation /ˈplæntəʃən/ n. an estate on which crops such as coffee and tobacco are cultivated by resident labor. an area in which trees have been planted, esp. for commercial purposes. hist. a colony.

plan-ter /ˈplæntər/ n. 1 a manager or owner of a plantation: sugar planters. 2 a decorative container in which plants are grown. 3 a machine or person that plants seeds, bulbs, etc.

plan-l-grade /ˈplænˌgred/ adj. (of a mammal) walking on the soles of the feet, like a human or a bear.

plaque /pleɪk/ n. 1 an ornamental tablet, typically of metal, porcelain, or wood, that is fixed to a wall or other surface in commemoration of a person or event. 2 a sticky deposit on teeth in which bacteria proliferate. 3 Med. a small, distinct, typically raised patch or region resulting from local damage or deposition of material, such as a fatty deposit on an artery wall. Microbiology a clear area in a cell culture caused by the inhibition of growth or destruction of cells by an agent such as a virus.

plas-ma /ˈplæzma/ (also plasm /ˈplæzm/) n. 1 the colorless fluid part of blood, lymph, or milk, in which corpuscles or fat globules are suspended. this substance taken from donors or donated blood for administering in transfusions. 2 an ionized gas consisting of positive ions and free electrons in proportions resulting in more or less no overall electric charge, typically at low pressures or at very high temperatures. 3 an analogous substance consisting of mobile charged particles (such as a molten salt or the electrons within a metal). 3 a dark green, translucent variety of quartz used in mosaic and for other decorative purposes. 4 another term for CYTOPLASM or PROTOPLASM: early 18th cent. (in the sense 'mold, shape'); from late Latin, literally 'mold,' from Greek plasmein, from plassein 'to shape.' —plas-matic /ˈplæzmatɪk/ adj. —plas-mic /-mɪk/ adj.

plas-mid /ˈpləzmɪd/ n. Biol. a genetic structure in a cell that can replicate independently of the chromosomes, typically a small circular DNA strand in the cytoplasm of a bacterium or protozoan. Plasmons are much used in the laboratory manipulation of genes.

plas-mo-di-um /ˈplæzmoʊdɪəm/ n. (pl. plasmodia /ˈplæzmoʊdiə/) 1 a parasitic protozoan of a genus (Plasmodium) that includes those causing malaria. 2 Biol. a form within the life cycle of some simple one-celled organisms such as slime molds, typically consisting of a mass of naked protozoan containing many nuclei. —plas-mo-di-al /-mədɪəl/ adj.

plas-tic /ˈplæstɪk/ n. 1 a synthetic material made from a wide range of organic polymers such as polyethylene, nylon, etc., that can be molded while soft and then set into a rigid or slightly elastic form. 2 int. credit cards or other types of plastic card that can be used as money. adj. 1 made of plastic. 2 looking or tasting artificial. 3 (of substances or materials) easily shaped or molded. 4 (in art) of or relating to molding or modeling in three dimensions, or producing three-dimensional effects. 5 (of technology) of or relating to the permanent deformation of a solid without fracture by the temporary application of force. offering scope for creativity: words as a plastic medium. 6 exhibiting adaptability to change or variety in the environment. —plas-ti-cal-ly /-kælɪ/ adv. —plas-ti-city /ˈplæstɪsɪtɪ/ n. —plas-ti-cize /ˈplæstɪzaɪz/ v. —plas-ti-cizer n.

Pronunciation Key a (aʊ) (or) over, fur; a: hat; a: eat; a: call; ch: chin; e: let; ə: see; e(ə)r: air; i: rt; ɪ: by; i(ə)r: air; u: see; əʊ: go; əʊ: low; for; o: toy; əu: good; əu: gone; ou: out; ʌ: she; ʌ: thin; ʌ: then; ə(ʊ): why; zh: vision
playact

theatrical performance or on film. [intr] perform in a theatrical production or on film. [put on or take part in (a theatrical performance or concert).] give a dramatic performance at a particular theater or place. behave as though one were (a specified type of person). [make someone] play an instrument [as] (someone being of a specified type); don't imagine you can make me play for a food. [play a trick] on someone to behave in a deceptive or teasing way. [fig] play a character in a musical instrument. play a part (or about someone) play in the orchestra. [intr] a pianist who will play for us. possess the skill of performing under [an] (a musical instrument). produce (notes) from a musical instrument; perform (a piece of music). make (an audiotape, CD, radio, etc.) produce sounds. [intr] [of a musical instrument, audiotape, CD, radio, etc.] produce sounds. move light and quickly, so as to appear and disappear; flicker: a smile played over her lips. [of a fountain or similar sound of water] emit a stream of gently moving water. [tr] allow a [fish] to exhaust itself pulling along a line before reeling it in. play a figure to play on fair or foul, be, play on. [intr] play an instrument. be played (out) drain someone of strength or life. [intr] play something act the whole of a drama; enact a scene or role. play something up emphasize the extent or importance of something. play up to humor or flatter, esp. to win favor.

play

n. 1 activity engaged in for enjoyment and recreation, esp. by children; behavior or speech that is not intended seriously: I finched, but only in play. [as adj] designed to be used in games of pretense: not real: play house. 2 the acting in a dramatic performance; the behavior: the defendant indulged in some playacting while trying to turn the wheel. —play-a-bil-ity [pla'bil'at-i] n. —play-a-ble adj.

play a hand [for] attempt to attract or attain. play both ends against the middle keep one's options open by supporting or favoring opposing sides. play something by ear perform music without having to read from a score. play it by ear [intr] perform instinctively according to results and circumstances rather than according to rules or a plan. play by the rules follow what is generally held to be the correct line of behavior; obey the rules: the defendant indulged in some playacting while trying to turn the wheel. play fast and loose behave irresponsibly or immorally. play favorites show favoritism toward someone or something. play for time use specious excuses or unnecessary maneuvers to gain time. play into someone's hands act in such a way as unintentionally to give someone an advantage. play it cool make an effort to be or appear to be calm and unemotional. play the market speculate in stocks. play on words a pun. play up (or down) safe take precautions; avoid risks. play with fire take foolish risks.

playact

v. [intr] act in a play. [tr] act (a scene, role, etc.). [usu. as n] [pl. ] role (acting). play-back [pla'bak] n. the reproduction of previously recorded sounds or moving images.

playbill

n. a poster announcing a theatrical performance. a theater program.

playboy

n. a wealthy man who spends his time enjoying himself, esp. one who behaves irresponsibly or is promiscuous.

play-by-play

n. a detailed running commentary on an athletic contest. [as adj] the play-by-play announcer.

play-er pian-o

n. a piano fitted with an apparatus enabling it to be played automatically.

playful

[p'lefel] adj. fond of games and amusement; lighthearted. intended for one's own or others' amusement rather than seriously: a playful punch on the arm. giving or expressing pleasure and amusement: the playful use of movement. —play-fu-lly adv. —play-fu-lness n.

play-go-er

n. a person who goes to the theater, esp. regularly.

play-ground

n. an outdoor area provided for children to play on, esp. at a school or public park. a place where a particular group of people choose to enjoy themselves.

play-house

n. 1 a theater. 2 a toy house for children to play in.

play-ing card

n. each of a set of rectangular cards with an identical pattern on one side and different numbers and symbols on the other, used to play various games, some involving gambling. a standard deck contains 52 cards divided into four suits.

play-mate

n. 1 a friend with whom a child plays. 2 used euphemistically to refer to a person's lover.

play-off

n. an additional game or period of play that decides the outcome of a tied contest. a series of contests played to determine the winner of a championship, as between the leading teams in different divisions or leagues.

play-pen

n. a small portable enclosure in which a baby or small child can play safely.

play-thing

n. a toy. fig. a person treated as amusing but unimportant by someone else.

play-wright

n. a person who writes plays.

pla-za

n. a public square, marketplace, or similar open space in a built-up area. 2 a shopping center. a service area on a highway, typically with a gas station and restaurants.

plea

n. 1 a request made in an urgent and emotional manner. a claim that a circumstance exists which indicates that one should not be blamed for or should not be forced to do something. a formal statement by or on behalf of a defendant or prisoner, stating guilt or innocence in response to a charge, offering an allegation of fact, or claiming that a point of law should apply.

plea bar-gain-ing

n. Law an arrangement between a prosecutor and a defendant whereby the defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge in the expectation of leniency. —plea bar-gain v. —plea bar-gain n.

plead

v. [past pleaded or pled] [legal] make an emotional appeal: they pleaded with Carol to come home again. [tr] present and argue for (a position), esp. in court or in another public context; use cheap melodrama to plead the case for three prisoners. [intr] Law address a court or another agency on one's behalf; pet: [intr] Law state formally in court whether one is guilty or not guilty of the offense, for which one is charged: he pleaded guilty. Law invoke (a reason or a point of law) as an accusation or defense; offer or present as an excuse for doing or not doing something: he pleaded family commitments as a reason for not attending. —plea-der n. —plea-ding-ly adv.

plead-ing

n. 1 the action of making an emotional or earnest appeal to someone; he ignored her pleading. 2 (usu. pleadings) Law a formal statement of the cause of an action or defense.

pleas-ant

adj. (pleas-ant-er, pleas-ant-est) giving a sense of happiness or satisfaction; enjoyable. [of a person or their manner] friendly and considerate: likeable. —pleas-ant-ly adv. —pleas-ant-ness n.

pleas-ant-ry

n. (pl. -ries) (usu. pleasanties) an inconsequential remark made as part of a polite conversation. a mild joke.

please

v. [tr] 1 cause to feel happy and satisfied: he arranged for a fishing trip to please his son. [intr] give satisfaction: she was quiet and eager to please. s et aesthetically: [as adj] (pleasing) the pleasing austerity of the surroundings. 2 (please oneself) take only one's own wishes into consideration in deciding how to act or proceed: this is the first time in ages that I can just please myself. [intr] wish or desire to do something; feel like doing something: I please, pleased, please... someone to do something just as it is someone's choice to do something: it pleased him to go off hunting. —adv used in polite requests or questions: please address letters to the editor. —used to add urgency and emotion to a request: please come home! —plea-se-dly adv used politely to a police request: “May I call you at home?” —“Please do.”

Pronunciation Key o o, a, o, or o, far; a hat; a ate; ch chin;
lel; 6 sec; (a)ur; i; it; i by; (a)er; ng sing: o go; o law; for; oi toy;
ook; o ok; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; (h) why; th vision
terms of their direction from a specified place: to Philadelphia and points south. 7. a narrow piece of land jutting out into a lake or ocean. 8. a unit of measurement of type size and spacing, which in the U.S. and UK is one twentieth of a point, or 0.013385 inch (0.351 mm). 9. Basketball a frontcourt position, usually manned by the guard who sets up the team's defense. 10. Ice Hockey either of two areas in each attacking zone, just inside the blue line where it meets the boards. 11. each of a set of electrical contacts in the distributor of a motor vehicle. 12. a small leading party of an advanced guard of troops. 13. the position at the head of a column or wedge of troops: another marine said he would walk point. 14. Short for POINT MAN. 12. (usu. points) the extremities of an animal, typically a horse or cat, such as the face, paws, and tail of a Siamese cat. 13. (usu. points) a tagged piece of ribbon or cord used for lacing a garment or attaching breeches to a doublure. 14. a short piece of cord for tying up a reef in a sail. 15. the action or position of a dog in pointing: a bird dog on point. 16. Mus. an important phrase or subject, esp. in a contrapuntal composition. Compare with COUNTERPOINT.

v. 1. [intr] direct someone's attention to the position or direction of something, typically by extending one's finger: he gripped her arm and pointed to the seat. 2. [tr] direct or aim (something) at someone or something. 3. face or be turned in a particular direction. 4. [po] a point to forward a particular fact or situation as evidence of something: he points to several factors supporting this conclusion. 5. point to 6. [of a situation] evidence or an indication that something is likely to happen or be the case: everything pointed to an eastern attack. 7. [tr] of a dog indicate the presence of game by acting as pointer. 8. chiefly Ballet extend the (toes or feet) by tensing the foot and ankle so as to form a point. 9. give force or emphasis to (words or actions). 10. something up: reveal the true nature or importance of something: he did this to point it up. 11. insert points in (written Hebrew). 12. mark (Psalms) with signs for chanting. 13. Naut. (of a sailing vessel) sail close to the wind.

phrase v. point something out direct someone's gaze or attention to something, esp. by extending one's finger. 1. something, esp. by extending one's finger. 2. make someone aware of a fact or circumstance. 3. Middle English: the noun from Old French point, from Latin punctum 'something that is pricked,' giving rise to the senses 'unit, mark, point in space or time'; partly from Old French pointe, from Latin puncta 'pricking,' giving rise to the senses 'sharp tip, pointed.' The verb is from Old French pointer, and in some senses from the English noun.

d. beside the point irrelevant. 1. case in point an instance or example that illustrates what is being discussed: the "green revolution" in agriculture is a good case in point. 2. get the point understand the essential or main idea of someone's argument, make one's point put across a proposition clearly and convincingly. 3. make a point of make a special and noticeable effort to do something. 4. point of no return the point in a journey or enterprise at which it becomes essential or more practical to continue instead of returning to the point of departure. 5. score points deliberately make oneself appear superior to someone else by making clever remarks. 6. to the point relevant. 7. up to a point to some extent but not completely.

point-blank adj. & adv. (of a shot, bullet, or other missile) fired from very close to its target. 1. as adj. (of the range of a shot, bullet, or other missile) so close as to allow no possibility of missing: the weapon was inaccuracy beyond point-blank range. 2. as a statement or question) blunt and direct; without explanation or qualification: as adj. this branch refusal as adv. he refuses point-blank to be photographed.

pointe [point', point'] n. (pl. pronounc. ballet) the tips of the toes. 1. also pointe work] dance performed on the tips of the toes. 2. French, literally 'tip.'

v. on (or en) pointe [z, z, z] on the tips of the toes.

pointed [point'id adj. 1. having a sharpened or tapered tip or end. 2. of a remark or look) expressing criticism in a direct and unambiguous way. 3. pointedly adv. 4. pointedly-ness n.

pointier [point'er n. 1. a long thin piece of metal on a scale or dial that moves to indicate the position of an object or position for pointing to features on a map or chart. 2. hint as to what might happen in the future: the figures were a pointer to economic recovery. 3. a small piece of advice; a tip. 4. Compt., another term for cursor. 5. Compt., a variable whose value is the address of another variable; a link. 2. a dog of a breed that on scenting game stands rigid looking toward it.

pointillism [point'ilist', pointill'istik] n. a technique of neo-impressionist painting using tiny dots of various pure colors, which become blended in the viewer's eye. It was developed by Seurat.
polish /ˈpɒlɪʃ/ v. [tr.] make the surface of (something) smooth and shiny by rubbing it. • improve, refine, or add the finishing touches to: he’s got to polish up his form for his job. • 1. [usu. past tense polished] polish something off finish or consume something quickly: they polished off most of the sausages. n. a substance used to give something a smooth and shiny surface when rubbed in: furniture polish. • an act of rubbing something to give it a shiny surface: I could give the cabinet a polish. • smoothness or glossiness produced by rubbing or friction. • refinement or elegance in a person or thing: his poetry has clarity and polish. —polish-able adj. —polisher n.

poli-ti-cal /poˈlɪtɪkəl/ adj. —literate, —literate adj. having or showing behavior that is respectful and considerate of other people. • of or relating to people who regard themselves as more cultured and refined than others: the picture outraged polite society. —poli-tely adv. —poli-ti-ness n.

poli-ti-cic /ˈpələˌtɪkɪk/ adj. [of an action] seeming sensible and judicious under the circumstances: I did not think it polite to express my reservations. • also: poli-tick archaic of (a person) prudent and sagacious.

—v. [ticked, ticking] [intr. often as n.] (poli-ticking) often derog. engage in political activity: news of this unseemly politicking invariably leaks into the press. —politi-cally adv. (of action) as a politician.

poli-ti-cal /ˈpələtɪkəl/ adj. of or relating to the government or the public affairs of a country. or of or relating to the ideas or strategies of a particular party or group in politics. • interested in or active in politics. • motivated or caused by a person’s beliefs or actions concerning politics: a political crime. • chiefly derog. relating to, affecting, or acting on the interests of status or authority within an organization rather than matters of principle. —poli-ti-cally adv. (of action) as a politician.

poli-ti-cal action committee (abbr.: PAC) n. an organization that raises money privately and employs lobbyists to influence legislation, particularly at the federal level.

poli-ti-cal /ˈpələtɪkəl/ adj. —literate, —literate adj. having or showing behavior that is respectful and considerate of other people. • of or relating to people who regard themselves as more cultured and refined than others: the picture outraged polite society. —poli-tely adv. —poli-ti-ness n.

poli-ti-cal science n. the branch of knowledge that deals with systems of government: the analysis of political activity and behavior. —poli-ti-cal-scient-ist n.

poli-ti-can /ˈpələtɪkən/ n. a person who is professionally involved in politics, esp. as a holder of a cabinet or for a cabinet for an elected office. • a person who acts in a manipulative and devious way, typically to gain advancement within an organization.

poli-ti-cize /ˈpələˌtɪsɪz/ v. [tr.] cause (an activity or event) to become political in character: art was becoming politicized. • make (someone) politically aware, esp. by persuading them of the truth of views considered radical. • [intr.] engage in or talk about politics. —poli-ti-ciza-tion /ˌpələˌtɪsɪzaˈteɪʃən/ n.

poli-ti-co /ˈpələtɪko/ n. (pl. -cos) informal term for politician.

poli-tics /ˈpələˌtɪks/ p. n. [usu. treated as sing] the activities associated with the governance of a country or other area, esp. the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power. • the activities of governments concerning the political relations between countries: in the conduct of global politics, economic status must be backed by military capacity. • the academic study of government and the state: [as adj.] a politics lecturer. • activities within an organization that are aimed at improving someone’s status or position and are typically considered to be devious or divisive. • a particular set of political beliefs or principles. • often the politics of the assumptions or principles relating to or inherent in a sphere, theory, or thing, esp. when concerned with power and status in a society: the politics of gender.

play politics act for political or personal gain rather than from principle.

poli-ty /ˈpələtɪ/ n. (pl. -ties) a form or process of civil government or constitution. • an organized society; a state as a political entity.

poly /ˈpɒli/ n. (pl. polys) int. short for: polymer. • polytechnic.

poly-ehylen-e /ˈpɒliˌɛθiˌlen/ n. polyethylene.

poly-an-dry /ˈpɒliˌænədri/ n. polygyny in which a woman has more than one husband. • Zool. a pattern of mating in which a female animal has more than one mate male. —poly-an-drous adj.

poly-chlor-in-at-ed bi-phen-y-1 /ˌpɔliˌklərəˌnaɪd ˈbaɪfənə/ n. (abbr.: PCB) n. Chem. any of a class of toxic aromatic compounds, often formed as waste in industrial processes, whose molecules contain two benzene rings in which hydrogen atoms have been replaced by chlorine atoms.

poly-chro-mat-ic /ˌpɔliˌkrəˈmætɪk/ adj. of two or more colors; multicolored. • Physics (of light or other radiation) of a number of wavelengths or frequencies. —poly-chro-mat-ism /ˌpɔliˌkrəˈmatɪzəm/ n.
polychrome /pəlɪ'krom/ adj. painted, printed, or decorated in several colors.  

n. varied colored, a work of art in several colors, esp. a statue.  

adj. execute or decorate (a work of art) in several colors. —poly-

chromy n.

poly-ester /pə'leist/ n. a synthetic resin in which the polymer units are linked by ester groups, used chiefly to make synthetic textile fibers. n. a fabric made from polyester fiber.

poly-ethylene /pə'liθiən/ n. a tough, light, flexible synthetic resin made by polymerizing ethylene, chiefly used for transparent plastic bags, food containers, and other packaging.

poly-glut /pə'gliət/ adj. knowing or using several languages. n. (of a book) having the text translated into several languages. —poly-

glotism /-glɪt, -gləm/ n.

poly-gon /pə'liegon/ n. Geom. a plane figure with at least three straight sides and angles, and typically more or five. —poly-g-o-nal adj.  

poly-o-graph /pə'logræf/ n. a machine designed to detect and record changes in physiological characteristics, such as a person’s pulse and breathing rates, used esp. as a lie detector. n. a lie-detector test carried out with a machine of this type. —poly-o-graphic /pə'lografɪk/ adj.

poly-he-dron /pə'liθdrən/ n. (pl. -hedrons or -hedra /-θdrə/ Geom. a solid figure with many plane faces, typically more than six. —poly-he-dric /-θdrɪk/ adj.

poly-math /pə'liθmæθ/ n. a person of wide-ranging knowledge or learning. —poly-math-ic /-θmætɪk/ adj.

poly-mer /pə'lemər/ n. Chem. a substance that has a molecular structure consisting chiefly of or entirely of a large number of similar units bonded together, e.g., many synthetic organic materials used as plastics and resins. Compare with MISOMER. —poly-mer-ic /-θmərɪk/ adj.  

poly-mer-iza-tion /-θmərɪza'ʃən/ n. —poly-mer-ize v.

poly-ne-sian /pə'lenzən/ adj. of or relating to Polynesia, its people, or their languages. 

n. a native or inhabitant of Polynesia, or a person of Polynesian de-

cent.  

2 a group of Austronesian languages spoken in Polynesia, including Maori, Hawaiian, and Samoan.

poly-no-mial /pə'lenəmil/ adj. consisting of several terms. —Math. of, relating to, or denoting a polynomial or polynomials.  

n. an expression of more than two algebraic terms, esp. the sum of several terms that contain different powers of the same variable(s).  

Bot. a Latin name with more than two parts.

poly-no-sis /pə'lenəsɪs/ /-nisək/ n. a long-fiber rayon-and-polyester blend with a soft finish, used mainly in clothing.

poly-nu-clide /pə'lenalkəd/ n. Biochem. a linear polymer whose molecule is composed of many nucleotide units, constituting a section of a nucleic acid molecule.

poly-ply /pə'plepl/ n. Zool. a solitary or colonial sedentary form of a cono-

lenteater such as a sea anemone, typically having a columnar body with the mouth uppermost surrounded by a ring of tentacles.  

Med. a small growth, typically benign and with a stalk, protruding from a mucous membrane.

poly-pep-tide /pə'peptid/ n. Biochem. a linear organic polymer consisting of a large number of amino-acid residues bonded together in a chain, forming part of (or the whole of) a protein molecule.

poly-pharmac-acy /pə'plefərmæsɪ/ n. (pl. -cies) the simultaneous use of multiple drugs to treat a single ailment or condition. n. the simultaneous use of multiple drugs by a single patient, for one or more conditions.

poly-phon-ic /pə'fənɪk/ adj. producing many sounds simultaneously; many voiced. n. Mus. (esp. of vocal music) in two or more parts, each having a melody of its own; contrapuntal. Compose with HOMOPHONIC. —Mus. (of an instrument) capable of producing more than one note at a time. —poly-phon-ically /-fənɪkli/ adv.

poly-pho-nny /pə'fənnɪ/ n. (pl. -nies) Mus. the style of simultaneously combining a number of parts, each forming an individual melody and harmonizing with each other. n. a composition written, played, or sung in this style. n. (on an electronic keyboard or synthesizer) the number of notes or voices that can be played simultaneously without loss. —poly-

pho-nist /-fənist/ n. —poly-pho-nous /-fənəs/ adj.

poly-pill /pə'pil/ n. a pill containing a number of medicines that are all the same condition.

poly-pro-lylene /pə'pərəliən/ n. a synthetic resin that is a poly-

mer of propylene, used esp. for ropes, fabrics, and molded objects.

poly-sac-car-ide /pə'leisækərid/ n. Biochem. a carbohydrate (e.g., starch, cellulose, or glycogen) whose molecules consist of a number of sugar molecules bonded together.

poly-styrene /pə'listərən/ n. a synthetic resin that is a polymer of styrene, used chiefly as lightweight rigid foams and films.

poly-syl-lab-ic /pə'leisələbɪk/ adj. (of a word) having more than one syllable. n. or characterized by words of many syllables: poly-syllabic 


poly-technic /pə'leθənik/ n. an institution of higher education offering courses in many subjects, esp. vocational or technical subjects.  

adj. dealing with or devoted to vocational or technical subjects.

poly-let-tra-fluo-o-eth-ylene /pə'letətrəθiθlin/ n. a tough, translucent synthetic resin made by polymerizing tetrafluoroethylene, chiefly used to make seals and bearings and to coat nonstick cooking utensils.

poly-the-ism /pə'θiθɪzəm/ n. the belief or worship of more than one god. —poly-the-i-st adj.

poly-un-saturated /pə'θiθəν'sɔrətɪd/ adj. Chem. (of an organic compound, esp. a fat or oil molecule) containing several double or triple bonds between carbon atoms.

poly-u-re-thane /pə'fələrəθən/ n. a synthetic resin in which the polymer units are linked by urethane groups, used chiefly as constituents of paints, varnishes, adhesives, and foams.

poly-vinyl /pə'vɪnɪl/ adj. attrib. denoting materials or objects made from polymers of vinyl compounds.

poly-vinyl chloride /pə'vɪnɪl klorɪd/ n. a tough, chemically resistant synthetic resin made by polymerizing vinyl chloride and used for a wide variety of products including pipes, flooring, and sheeting.

poly-vinyl chloride /pə'vɪnɪl klorɪd/ n. a tough, chemically resistant synthetic resin made by polymerizing vinyl chloride and used for a wide variety of products including pipes, flooring, and sheeting.

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popping sound within the head as pressure is equalized, typically because of a change of altitude. (tr. & intr.) [tr.] heat (popcorn or another foodstuff) until it bursts open, making such a sound. (intr. of popcorn or another foodstuff) burst open in such a way. (of a person's eyes) bulge or appear to bulge when opened wide, esp. as an indication of surprise. (tr.) shoot (a gun). (tr.) shoot (something) with a gun. (intr.) go somewhere, typically for a short time and often without notice; she popped in to see if she could help. (tr.) put or move (something) somewhere quickly; he popped his head around the door. (intr.) Baseball (of a batter) hit a pop fly. (tr.) [of a pitcher] cause (a batter) to pop up. (4) [intr.] take (a drug) without a prescription.

phrasal v. pop off int. 1 die. 2 speak spontaneously and at length, typically angrily. pop out make an out in a baseball game by hitting a pop fly that is caught. pop up 1 appear or occur suddenly and unexpectedly. 2 hit a baseball high into the air but not deep, providing an easy catch.

n. 1 a sudden sharp explosive sound. 2 int. short for SODA POP (see soda). 3 (also pop fly or pop-up) Baseball a ball hit high in the air but not deep, providing an easy catch. 4 an attempt: he grabs with a paw and looks about two hundred berries at a pop.

adv. with a sudden explosive sound: the champagne went pop.

adj. sudden or unexpected: a pop quiz on the capitals of South America.

—pop out (intr.) costing a specified amount per item: those swimsuits she wears are $50 a pop.

—pop the question (intr.) propose marriage.

pop1 (also pops) n. informal term for FATHER.

pop2 (pāp *thēr*) n. Comput. a protocol for receiving e-mail by downloading it to a computer from a mailbox on the server of an Internet service provider.

pop art n. art based on modern popular culture and the mass media, esp. as a critical or ironic comment on traditional fine art values.

pop corn (pāp korn) n. corn of a variety with hard kernels that swell up and burst open when a pop is made. 2 these kernels when popped, typically buttered and salted and eaten as a snack.

pop culture n. commercial culture based on popular taste.

pop (pōp) n. (usu. the pope or the Pope) the bishop of Rome as head of the Roman Catholic Church. 2 the head of the Coptic Church, the bishop or patriarch of Alexandria. —pop-dom (plural) n.

pop-in (pōp in) n. 1 dated a vain or conceited person, esp. one who dresses or behaves extravagantly. 2 archaic a parrot.

poplar (pōp lar) n. 1 a tall, fast-growing tree (genus Populus) of the willow family, widely grown in shelter belts and for timber and pulp. 2 (yellow poplar) another term for TULIP TREE.

poplin (pōp lin) n. a plain-woven ribbed fabric, typically a lightweight cotton.

popover (pōp ovār) n. a light muffin made from a thin batter, which rises to form a hollow shell when baked.

poppy (pōp pē) n. a herbaceous plant (Papaver, Eschscholzia, and other genera, family Papaveraceae) with showy flowers, milky sap, and rounded seed capsules. Many poppies contain alkaloids and are sources of drugs such as morphine and codeine.

poppycock (pōp pē kōk) n. int. nonsense.

pop-sicle (pōp sīk lē) n. trademark a piece of flavored ice or ice cream on a stick.

populate (pō pū lat) v. [tr.] populate (a place) with people, esp. when they are newly arrived.

popularity (pō pū lər ĭ té) n. 1 [tr.] vulgar slang of a man) sexual intercourse with. 2 [intr.] stuff oneself with food: I popped out on the roost pig.

pork barrel n. the use of government funds for projects designed to please voters or legislators and win votes: political pork barrel for the

pronunciation key: a; ago; up; or; far; a hat; a fat; c; ce; chin; e; et; e; see; a (air); a; i; it; b; b; c; chin; d; do; o; o; s; go; o; o; law; for; o; oy; o; good; o; go; ou; out; sh; she; sh; thin; th; thin; ish; th; thin; (h) why: 2; vision
portion

benefit of their respective sponsors | [as adj.] wasteful, pork-barrel spending.

porker /ˈpɔrkər/ n. a pig raised for food. ■ inf. derog. a fat person.

porkpie hat /ˈpɔrkˌpi/ n. a hat with a flat crown and a brim turned up all around.

porky /ˈpɔrki/ adj. [pork•e•r, pork•i•est] 1 inf. (of a person or part of their body) fleshy or fat. 2 of or resembling pork.

porky /ˈpɔrkı/ n. pl. porkies int. a porcupine.
porn /pɔr(n)/ also porn-o /ˈpɔrnoʊ/ int. n. 1 pornography. 2 television programs, books, etc., regarded as catering to a voyeuristic or obsessive interest in a specified subject; weat porn of the highest order. ■ n. pornographic; a porn video.

porographic /ˈpɔrəɡræfik/ adj. printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic or emotional feelings.

por-nography /ˈpɔrəɡræfɪ/ n. ■ n. pornography.

porous /ˈpɔrəs/ adj. (of a rock or other material) having spaces or holes through which liquid or air may pass. ■ fig. not retentive or secure: he ran through a porous defense to score easily. ■ adv. por-o-rous-ly.

porous-ness n.

porphyry /ˈpɔrfaɪr/ n. pl. por-phies a hard igneous rock containing crystals, usually of feldspar, in a fine-grained, typically reddish groundmass. ■ n. porphyritic; a por'tifikasi adj.

por-ridge /ˈpɔrɪdʒ/ n. a small toothed whale with a low triangular dorsal fin and a blunt rounded snout. Its several species include the har bor (or common) porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) of the North Atlantic and North Pacific.

v. [intr.] move through the water like a porpoise, alternately rising above it and submerging.

por-ridge /ˈpɔrɪdʒ/ n. a dish consisting of oatmeal or another meal or cereal boiled in water or milk. ■ adv. por-ridge-ly.

por-rin-ger /ˈpɔrərɪŋər/ n. hist. a small bowl, typically with a handle, used for soup, stew, or similar dishes.

port /pɔrt/ n. a town or city with a harbor where ships load or unload, esp. where customs officers are stationed. ■ a harbor: the port has miles of docks. ■ also inland port an inland town or city whose connection to the coast by a river or other body of water enables it to act as a port.

■ n. port of entry a harbor or airport by which people and goods may enter a country.

port /pɔrt/ also port wine n. a strong, sweet, typically dark red fortified wine, originally from Portugal, typically drunk as a dessert wine.

port /pɔrt/ n. the side of a ship or aircraft that is on the left when one is facing forward: the ferry was listing to port. The opposite of starboard.

port /pɔrt/ n. an aperture or opening, in particular: a socket in a computer or networking device into which a device can be plugged. ■ an opening for the passage of steam, liquid, or gas. ■ an opening in the side of a ship for boarding or loading.

port /pɔrt/ n. ■ v. 1 [tr.] Comput. transfer (software) from one system or machine to another: the software can be ported to an IBM RS/6000. 2 [tr.] [often in imper.] Mili. carry (a rifle or other weapon) diagonally across and close to the body with the barrel or blade near the left shoulder: Detail! For inspection—port arms!

■ n. 1 porte•chìt a person's carriage or bearing. 2 Comput. a transfer of software from one system or machine to another.

port-a-ble /ˈpɔrtəbəl/ adj. able to be easily carried or moved, esp. because of being lighter and smaller version than usual: a portable television. ■ Comput. (of software) able to be transferred from one machine or system to another.

■ n. a version of something, such as a small lightweight television or computer, that can be easily carried. ■ a small portable building used as a classroom. ■ adv. port-a-bil•ly/ˌpɔrtəˈbilə/ n. —port-a-bil•ty/ˌpɔrtəˈbiləti/ n. —adv.

port-age /ˈpɔrtɪdʒ/ n. the carrying of a boat or its cargo between two navigable waters. ■ a place at which this is necessary: a portage over the dam.

v. [tr.] carry (a boat or its cargo) between navigable waters: they are incapable of portaging a canoe | [intr.] they would only run the rapid if they couldn't portage.

portal /pɔrtəl/ n. 1 a doorway, gate, or other entrance, esp. a large and elaborate one. 2 Comput. an internet site providing access or links to other sites.

portal /pɔrtəl/ adj. Anat. of or relating to an opening in an organ through which major blood vessels pass, esp. the transverse fissure of the liver.

porta-men-to /pɔrˈtaːmənto/ n. (pl. -tos or -ti -ti) Mus. 1 a slide from one note to another, esp. in singing or playing a bowed string instrument. 2 piano playing in a manner intermediate between legato and staccato: [as adj.] a portamento style.

port blocking n. the selective prevention of traffic from certain Internet addresses or domains, typically as a means of censorship and of preventing spam and cyberattacks, or as a malicious attempt to impede commerce: an extra layer of security to protect the perimeter of the network from port blocking.

port-cul-is /pɔrtˈkʌliːs/ n. a strong, heavy gearing sliding up and down in vertical grooves, lowered to block a gateway to a fortress or town.

port-cul-vised adj.

port-ten-d /pɔrtˈtɛnd/ v. [intr.] be a sign or warning that something is happening. ■ adv. portentous-ly.

portent /pɔrtənt/ n. 1 a sign or warning that something is happening. ■ adv. portentous-ly.

port-ten-tous /pɔrtˈtɛntəs/ adj. of or like a portent. ■ done in a pompously or overly solemn manner so as to impress: the author's portentous moralizing.

port-ten-tous-ly adv.

port-ten-tous-ness n.

porter /pɔrtər/ n. 1 a person employed to carry luggage and other loads, esp. in a railroad station, airport, or hotel. 2 a person employed to carry supplies on a mountaineering expedition. 3 an attendant in a railroad sleeping car or parlor car. 2 dark brown bitter beer brewed from malt partly charred or browned by drying at a high temperature.

porter /pɔrtər/ n. an employee in charge of the entrance of a hotel, apartment complex, or other large building.

porter-house steak n. a choice steak cut from the thick end of a sirloin.

portf-olio /pɔrtˈfoʊliəʊ/ n. (pl. -os) 1 a large, thin, flat case for loose sheets of paper such as drawings or maps. 2 a set of pieces of creative work collected by someone to display their skills, esp. to a potential employer. 3 a varied set of photographs of a model or actor intended to be shown to a potential employer. 2 a range of investments held by a person or organization. 3 a range of products or services offered by an organization, esp. when considered as a business asset: an unrivaled portfolio of quality brands. 3 the position and duties of a minister of state or a member of a cabinet: he took on the Foreign Affairs portfolio.

■ adj. relating to, denoting, or engaged in an employment pattern that is part-time: work: portfoli o careers allow women to balance work with family.

port-hole /ˈpɔrt,hoʊl/ n. a small external window in a ship or aircraft.

portico /pɔrtˈkəʊ/ n. pl. -coes or -cos a structure consisting of a roof supported by columns at regular intervals, typically attached as a porch to a building.

portion /ˈpɔrʃən/ n. a part of a whole; an amount, section, or piece of something. 2 a part of something divided between two or more people; a share: her portion of the allowance. 3 an amount of food suitable for one or several persons: a portion of ice cream. ■ Law the part or share of an estate given or descending by law to an heir. ■ archaic a person's future as allotted by fate; one's destiny or lot: what will be my portion? ■ (also marriage portion) archaic a dowry given to a bride at her marriage.

■ v. [usu. be portioned] divide (something) into shares to be distributed among two or more people: the fish are portioned out to the different families. 2 [usu. as adj.] portioned serve (food) in an amount suitable for one person: generously portioned lunches. ■ archaic give a dowry to (a bride at her marriage). ■ Middle English: from Old French portion, from Latin portio(n-), from the phrase pro portione 'in proportion.'
post-Impressionism (also Post-Impressionism) n. the work or style of a varied group of late 19th-century and early 20th-century artists including Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Cézanne. They reacted against the naturalism of the Impressionists.

post-Impressionism n. & adj. —post-Impression-ist adj.

post-Impressionist (post-Im-pres-sion-ist) adj.
potlucky /ˈpɒtlɪk/ n. used in reference to a situation in which one must take a chance that whatever is available will prove to be good or acceptable: he could take potluck in a town not noted for its hotels. a meal or party to which each of the guests contributes a dish: [as adj] a potluck supper.

pie n. 1. a meat and vegetable pie baked in a deep dish, often with a crust only. 2. a stew with dumplings.

poison /ˈpɔzən/ n. (pl. -s) a mixture of dried petals and spices placed in a bowl or small sack to perfume clothing or a room. a mixture of things, esp. a musical or literary medley.

poast /ˈpɔst/ n. a piece of meat cooked slowly in a covered dish.

pouch /pʊʃ/ n. a pocket or compartment in clothing for carrying something.

potion /ˈpɔtʃən/ n. a mixture or compound, esp. one that has medicinal properties.

port /ˈpɔrt/ n., v. [poast] cook a piece of meat slowly in a covered dish.

potted /ˈpɔtɪd/ adj. chiefly Brit. foolish; crazy.

pound /pʊnd/ n. weight, esp. when regarded as excessive: reduce excess poundage without risking overexertion.

pound cake n. a rich cake containing a pound, or equal weights, of each chief ingredient, typically flour, butter, and sugar.

pound-age /ˈpoundɪdʒ/ n. weight, esp. when regarded as excessive: reduce excess poundage without risking overexertion.

pound bed n. a place where stray animals, esp. dogs, may be officially taken and kept until claimed by their owners or otherwise disposed of.

pound cake n. a rich cake containing a pound, or equal weights, of each chief ingredient, typically flour, butter, and sugar.

pound-er /ˈpoundər/ n. [usu. in comb.] 1. a person or thing weighing a specified number of pounds. 2. a person or thing that weighs something: he's direct, but not abrasive, not a desk-pounder.

pound sign n. 1. the sign (#), representing a pound as a unit of weight or mass, used to refer to this sign, esp. as represented on a telephone keypad or a computer keyboard. 2. the sign (£), representing a British pound sterling.

pour /pɔːr/ v. [intr.] [esp. of a liquid] flow rapidly in a steady stream: water poured off the roof. fig. words poured from his mouth. [tr.] cause (a liquid) to flow from a container in a steady stream by holding the container at an angle. [tr.] serve (a drink) in this way: she poured out a cup of tea. [tr.] Harry poured her a drink. [intr.] (of rain) fall heavily: the storm gathered and the rain poured down. [tr.] it's pouring rain. [of people or things] come or go in a steady stream and in large numbers: letters poured in.

pout /paut/ v. [intr.] push one's lips or one's bottom lip forward as a sign of perturbation or annoyance or in order to make oneself look sexually attractive: she lounged on the steps, pouting [tr.] he shrugged and pouted his lips. [of a person's lips] be pushed forward in such a way.

poultry /ˈpɔtrɪ/ n. domestic fowl such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese.

powder /ˈpɔdər/ n. 1. a fine resinous powder formerly used to prevent ink from spreading on unglazed paper or to prepare parchment to receive writing. powdered charcoal or other fine powder dusted over a perforated pattern to transfer the design to the object beneath.

powdered /ˈpɔdərd/ adj. 1. smooth down by rubbing with pounce or pumice. 2. transfer (a design) by the use of pounce.

powder /ˈpɔdər/ n. 1. (abbrev. lb) a unit of weight in general use equal to 16 oz. avoid dopos (0.4536 kg). 2. a unit of weight equal to 12 oz. (0.3732 kg) used for precious metals. 2. also pound sterling the basic monetary unit of the UK, equal to 100 pence. a. another term for pound sterling. b. the basic monetary unit of several Middle Eastern countries, equal to 100 piastres. c. the basic monetary unit of Cyprus, equal to 100 cents. a. a monetary unit of the Sudan, equal to one tenth of a dinar.

powder blue /ˈpɔdər bluː/ n. a soft, pale blue: [as adj] a powder-blue jumpsuit.
caused embarrassment to all those present.

- often present in (of a thing) existing or occurring in a place or thing: organic molecules are present in conets. 2 existing or occurring now: in her present situation. 3 being considered or used: the present article cannot answer every question.

- Gram. (of a tense or participle) expressing an action now going on or habitually performed or a condition now existing.

- n. (usu. the present) the period of time now occurring; to think beyond the present.

- Gram. a present tense: the verbs are all in the present.

- at present now: membership at present stands at about 5,000. for the present now: temporarily. for present company excepting those who are here now. these presents formal Law this document: the premises outlined in the red on the annexed to these presents.

- present-ment [prɛzəntmənt] /presɛnt/ tr. 1 (present something to) giving something to someone, (present something with) giving someone something in such a way, (present something for) others to scrutinize or consider: he stopped and presented his passport. 2 formally introduce (someone) to someone else: may I present my wife? present (compliments or good wishes) in a formal manner, formally deliver (a check or bill) for acceptance or payment.

- Law bring (a complaint, petition, or evidence) formally to the notice of a court.

- (of a company or producer) put (a show or exhibition) before the public.

- 2 bring about or be the cause of (a problem or difficulty), to exhibit (a particular state or appearance) to others: the LC presented a united front over the crisis.

- represent (someone) to others in a particular way, typically one that is false or exaggerated: he presented himself as a hardworking man.

- (present oneself) come forward into the presence of another or others, esp. for a formal occasion; appear.

- (present itself) (of an opportunity or idea) occur and be available for use or exploitation.

- (in) present with (Med. of a patient) come forward for or undergo a medical examination: for a particular condition or symptom.

- (in) Med. (of a part of a fetus) be directed toward the cervix during labor.

- (in) Med. (of an illness) manifest itself. 3 hold out or aim (a firearm) at something so as to be ready to fire.

- presenter n.

- present arms (usually as a command) hold a rifle vertically in front of the body as a salute.

- present part. /prɛzənt/ n. a thing given to someone as a gift.

- make a present of (give as a gift).

- presentable [prɛzəntəbəl] adj. clean, well dressed, or decent enough to be seen in public: I did my best to make myself look presentable.

- presentable [prɛzəntə-babl] adj. clean, well dressed, or decent enough to be seen in public: I did my best to make myself look presentable.

- presentation [prɛzəntə-shən] /prɛzənt/ n. the proffering or giving of something to someone, esp. as part of a formal ceremony.

- the manner or style in which something is given, offered, or displayed: the presentation of foods is designed to stimulate your appetite.

- a formal introduction of someone, esp. at court.

- the official submission of something for consideration in a law court.

- chiefly hist. the action or right of formally proposing a candidate for a church benefice or other position: the last bishop offered Herbert the presentation of the living of Brendon.

- a demonstration or display of a product or idea: a sales presentation.

- an exhibition or theatrical performance.

- Med. the position of a fetus in relation to the cervix at the time of delivery: breech presentation.

- the coming forward of a patient for initial examination and diagnosis: all patients in this group were asymptomatic at initial presentation.

- presentation-adj. /-ʃən/ adj. adj.

- presentation-adv. /-ʃən/ adv.

- present-day adj. of or relating to the current period of time: present-day technological developments.

- present-tent [prɛzəntent] /prɛzənt/ adj. rare having a pre sentment.

- present-timent [prɛzəntmənt] /prɛzənt/ n. an intuitive feeling about the future, esp. one of foreboding: a pre sentment of disaster.

- presentily /prɛzəntli/ adv. 1. after a short time: soon: this will be examined in more detail presently.

- 2. at the present time: now: there are presently 1,128 people on the visiting list.

- present-ment /prɛzəntmənt/ n. Law. chiefly hist. a formal presentation of information to a court, esp. by a sworn juror regarding an offense or other matter.

- preservation /prɛzərvə-shən/ n. the action of preserving something.

- the state of being preserved, esp. to a specified degree.

- preservation-ist /prɛzərvə-ən-təst/ n. a supporter or advocate of the preservation of something, esp. of historic buildings and artifacts.

- preservative /prɛzərvətiv/ n. a substance used to preserve foodstuffs, wood, or other materials against decay.

- preserve (verb) v. [tr] maintain (something) in its original or existing condition: the records of the past were zealously preserved. 2 retain (a condition or state of affairs): a fight to preserve local democracy. maintain or keep alive (a memory or quality): the film has preserved all the qualities of the novel. keep safe from harm or injury: a place for preserving endangered species. treat or refrigerate (food) to prevent its decomposition or fermentation. prepare (fruit) for long-term storage by boiling it with sugar. keep (game or an area where game is killed) undisturbed to allow private hunting or shooting.

- at present now: membership at present stands at about 5,000. for the present now: temporarily. for present company excepting those who are here now. these presents formal Law this document: the premises outlined in the red on the annexed to these presents.

- present /prɛzənt/ v. (setting past and past part. -set) tr. usu. as adj. 1 present set or adjust (a value that controls the operation of a device) in advance of its use: the water is heated quickly to a preset temperature. 2 n. a control on electronic equipment or on software that is set or adjusted beforehand to facilitate use.

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press coverage. ■ coverage in newspapers and magazines: there's no point in demonstrating if you don't get any press | the mayor has had a bad press.

4 an act of pressing something; a closely packed crowd or mass of people or things: the press of cars. ■ Weight-bearing an act of raising a weight to shoulder height and then gradually pushing it above the head.

Basketball any of various forms of close guarding by the defending team.

> press (the) flesh int. (of a celebrity or politician) greet people by shaking hands.

press² v.[tr.] [pres] someone/something into put (someone or something) to a specific use, esp. as a temporary or makeshift measure: the high school gym was pressed into service as a first-aid station.

press agent n. a person employed to organize advertising and publicity in the press on behalf of an organization or well-known person.

press box n. an area reserved for journalists at a sports event.

press conference n. an interview given to journalists by a prominent person in order to make an announcement or answer questions.

press gang n. inst. a body of men employed to enlist men forcibly into service in the army or navy.

pressing /'pre:zɪŋ/ adj. (of a problem, need, or situation) requiring quick or immediate action or attention. ■ (of an engagement or activity) important and requiring one's attendance or presence: he had pressing business in Albany. ■ (of an invitation) strongly expressed.

n. a thing made by the application of force or weight, esp. a phonograph record. ■ a series of such things made at one time: the first pressing of the live album. ■ an act or instance of applying force or weight to something: pure-grade olive oil is the product of the second or third pressings.

—pressingly adv.

pressure /'pre:ʃər/ n. 1 the continuous physical force exerted on or against an object by something in contact with it. ■ the force exerted per unit area; gas can be set to the turbines at a pressure of around 250 psi. ■ the use of persuasion, influence, or intimidation to make someone do something: the proposals put pressure on Britain to drop its demand.

2 the influence or effect of someone or something: oil prices came under downward pressure. ■ the feeling of stressful urgency caused by the necessity of doing or achieving something, esp. with limited time; you need to be able to press on if you want to get through.

—press off v. [tr.] attempt to persuade or coerce someone into doing something.

press-sure cooker n. an airtight pot in which food can be cooked quickly under steam pressure. ■ fig. a highly stressful situation or assignment.

—press-sure-cook v.

press-sure group n. a group that tries to influence public policy in the interest of a particular cause: an environmental pressure group.

press-sure point n. a point on the surface of the body sensitive to pressure. ■ a point where an artery can be pressed against a bone to inhibit bleeding.

press-sur-i-ze /'pre:ʃəza,raiz/ v.[tr.] 1 produce or maintain raised pressure artificially in (a gas or its container). ■ maintain an adequate air pressure in (an aircraft cabin) at a high altitude. 2 [tr.] attempt to persuade or coerce (someone) into doing something.


press-ti-dig-i-ta-tion /ˌpre:ʃtəˈdiːtəʃən/ n. formal magic tricks performed as entertainment.

press-ti-dig-i-ta-tor /ˌpre:ʃtəˈdiːtər/ n. a person who claims to have magical powers.

press-ti-gie /ˈpre:ʃtɪdʒi/ n. widespread respect and admiration felt for someone or something on the basis of a perception of their achievements or quality. ■ as adj. denoting something that arouses such respect or admiration: prestige wines.


press-tis-si-mo /ˈpre:ʃtɪsə,moʊ/ Mus. adv. & adj. (esp. as a direction) in a very quick tempo.

press-to /ˈpre:ʃtəʊ/ adv. & adj. Mus. (esp. as a direction) in a quick tempo. ■ [intr.] a phrase announcing the successful completion of a trick, or suggesting that something has been done so easily that it seems to be magic: just one quick squeeze and press-to! A stir fry in seconds.

press-um-bly /ˌpre:ʃʊmˈblɪ/ adv. used so convey that what is asserted is beyond belief, though not known for certain: the Yakima Indians presumably came from Asia by way of the Bering Strait.

press-um-e /ˈpre:ʃʊm/ v.[tr.] suppose that something is the case on the basis of probability: I presumed that the man had been escorted from the building. ■ take for granted that something exists or is the case: the task demands skills which cannot be presumed and therefore require proper training.

—press-um-e [intr.] be audacious enough to do something: kindly don't presume to issue me orders. ■ [intr.] make unjustified demands; take liberties: forgive me if I have presumed. ■ [intr.] (presume on/upon) unjustifiably regard (something) as entitling one to privileges: she knew he regarded her as someone special and was always on guard against this. —Latin Middle English: from Old French presumer, from Latin præsumere 'anticipate' (in late Latin 'take for granted'), from præ 'before' + sumere 'take.'

—press-um-able adj.

press-um-p-tion /ˌpre:ʃʊmpʃən/ n. 1 an act or instance of taking something to be true or adopting a particular attitude toward something, esp. at the start of a claim of argument or action. ■ an idea that is taken to be true and is often used as the basis for other ideas, although it is not known to be certain. ■ chiefly Law an attitude adopted in law or as a matter of policy toward an action or proposal in the absence of acceptable reasons to the contrary: a general presumption in favor of development. 2 behavior perceived as arrogant, disrespectful, and transgressing the limits of what is permitted or appropriate.

—press-um-p-tive /ˌpre:ʃʊmptɪv/ adj. of the nature of a presumption; presumed in the absence of further information. ■ Law giving grounds for the inference of a fact or of the appropriate interpretation of the law. ■ [of PRESUMPTIVE]...

—press-um-p-tu-ous /ˌpre:ʃʊmpʊtəs/ adj. (of a person or their behavior) failing to observe the limits of what is permitted or appropriate.


press-sup-pose /ˈpre:ʃəspəʊz/ v.[tr.] of an action, process, or argument) require as a precondition of possibility or coherence: his relationships did not permit the degree of self-revelation that true intimacy presupposes. ■ tacitly assume at the beginning of a line of argument or course of action that something is the case; your argument presupposes that it does not matter who is in power. —press-sup-pose-ition /ˌpre:ʃəspəˈzɪʃən/ n.

press-tax /ˈpre:tsɛk/ adv. (of income or profits) considered or calculated before the deduction of taxes; press profits rose 23 percent.

—press-teen /ˈpre:tɛn/ adj. of or relating to a child just under the age of thirteen.

—press-ten-dent /ˈpre:tendənt/ n. 1 [tr.] speak and act so as to make it appear that something is the case when in fact it is not: she turned the pages and pretended to read. ■ engage in a game or fantasy that involves pretending that something is not the case to be so: [intr.] children like to pretend. ■ give the appearance of feeling or possessing (an emotion or quality); simulate: she pretended to be happy though she felt. ■ [intr.] pretend to lay claim to (a quality or title): he cannot pretend to sophistication.

—press-teen-er /ˈpre:tendər/ n. a person who claims or aspires to a title or position: the pretender to the throne.

press-ten-sion /ˌpre:tɛnʃən/ n. 1 (pretension to) a claim or the assertion of a claim to something: their pretensions to culture. ■ often pretensions) an aspiration or claim to a certain status or quality; another aging rocker with literary pretensions. 2 the use of affectation to impress; ostentatiousness: he spoke simply, without pretension.

press-ten-sion /ˌpre:tɛnʃən/ v.[tr.] apply tension to (an object) before some other process or event: the safety system pretensions the seat belts. ■ strengthen (reinforced concrete) by applying tension to the reinforcing rods before the concrete has set.

press-ten-tious /ˌpre:tɛnʃəs/ adj. attempting to impress by affecting greater importance, talent, culture, etc., than is actually possessed: a pretentious literary device.


press-term /ˈpre:term/ Med. adj. born or occurring after a pregnancy significantly shorter than normal, esp. after more than 37 weeks of pregnancy: babies born during preterm labor.

press-ter-nat-u-rally /ˌpre:ʃtəˈnætərəli/ adv. beyond what is normal or natural: autumn had arrived with preternatural speed.

pre-text /ˈpre:tekst/ n. a reason given in justification of an action that is not the real reason.

from which another is derived; a curve of which another is the polar or reciprocal. 

**primitivism** [prɪˈmɪtɪvɪzəm] n. 1 a belief in the value of what is simple and unsophisticated, expressed as a philosophy of life or through art or literature. 2 unsophisticated behavior that is affected by objective reasoning. —primitiv-ism /prɪˈmɪtɪvɪzəm/ n. —primitiv-ive adj.

**primo** [prɪˈmoʊ] n. (pl.-mos) Mus. the leading or upper part in a duet. —adj. of top quality or importance: the primo team in the band.

**primo-gen-i-tor** [ˌprɪmjəˈjenətər] n. an ancestor, esp. the earliest ancestor of a people; a progenitor.

**primo-gen-i-ture** [ˌprɪmjəˈjenətʃər] n. the state of being the firstborn child. —n. the right of succession belonging to the firstborn child, esp. the feudal rule by which the whole real estate of an intestate passed to the eldest son. —primo-gen-i-tal [ˌprɪmjəˈjenətəl] adj. —primo-gen-er-y [ˌprɪmjəˈjenərə] n.

**primo-mordial** [ˈprɪmjəˌmɔrdiəl] adj. existing at or from the beginning of time; primeval. —esp. of a state or quality) basic and fundamental.

**prime** [prɪm] n. (of a cell, part, or tissue) in the earliest stage of development. —adj. 1 first, initial; beginning. 2 most important or significant.

**prime rose** [prɪmˈrɔz] n. a cultivated plant (Primula vulgaris) of European woodlands that produces pale yellow flowers in the early spring. The *prime rose* family (Primulaceae) also includes the cowslips, primroses, and cyclamens. —prime yellow a pale yellow color.

**prime path** the pursuit of pleasure, esp. when it is seen to bring disastrous consequences.

**primula** [prɪˈmʊlə] n. a plant (genus Primula) of the primrose family.

**prince** [prɪns] n. the son of a monarch. —a close male relative of a monarch, esp. a son’s son. —a male ruler of a small state, actually, nominally, or originally subject to a king or emperor. —[in France, Germany, and other European countries] a nobleman, usually ranking next below a duke. —prince of/among a man regarded as outstanding in a particular group.

Prince Charming (also prince charming) —an ideal male lover who is both handsome and of admirable character.

**princely** [prɪnsəl] adj. of or held by a prince. —sumptuous and splendid.

**prin-cipal** [ˈprɪŋspəl] adj. 1 in first order of importance: main. 2 (of money) denoting an original sum invested or lent.

—n. 1 the person with the highest authority or most important position in an organization, institution, or group. —the head of a school, college, or other educational institution; the leading performer in a concert, play, or opera; the player in each section of an orchestra. —a sum of money lent or invested on which interest is paid. —a person for whom another acts as an agent or representative. —Law the person directly responsible for a crime. —[hist] each of the combatants in a duel. —prin-cipal-ship [ˈprɪŋspəlʃɪp] n.

**prin-ci-pal-ity** [ˈprɪŋsɪpələti] n. (pl.-ties) a state ruled by a prince.

**prin-ci-pal-ly** [ˈprɪŋsɪpleɪ] adv. for the most part; chiefly.

**prin-ciple** [ˈprɪŋspəl] n. 1 a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning. —usu. principles a rule or belief governing one’s personal behavior. —correct behavior and attitudes: a man of principle. —a general scientific theorem or law that has numerous special applications across a wide field. —a natural law forming the basis for the construction or working of a machine: these machines all operate on the same principle. —2 a fundamental source or basis of something: the first principle of all things was water. —a fundamental quality or attribute determining the nature of something: an essence: the combination of male and female principles. —Chem. an active or characteristic constituent of a substance, obtained by simple analysis or separation: the active principle in the medicina is ethosprine.

—*in principle* as a general idea or plan, although the details are not yet established or clear. —used to indicate that although something is theoretically possible, it may not actually happen. —on principle because of or in order to demonstrate one’s adherence to a particular belief.

**prin-ci-pled** [ˈprɪŋsəpled] adj. 1 (of a person or their behavior) acting in accordance with morality and showing recognition of right and wrong. 2 (of a system or method) based on a given set of rules.

**print** [print] v. [tr. (often be printed)] 1 produce (books, newspapers, magazines, etc.) by a mechanical process involving the transfer of text, images, or designs to paper. —produce (text or a picture) in such a way that the words had been printed in blue type. —of (a newspaper or magazine) publish a piece of writing) within its pages; the article was printed in the first edition. —of (a publisher or printer) arrange for (a book, manuscript, etc.) to be reproduced in large quantities. —produce a paper copy of (information stored on a computer): the results of a search can be printed out. —send (a computer file) to a printer or to another, temporary file. —produce (a photographic print) from a negative. —write (text) clearly without joining the letters: print your name and address on the back of the check [intr. it] will be easier to read if I print. —mark (a surface, typically a textile or a garment) with a colored design or pattern. —make (a mark or indentation) on a surface or in a soft substance by pressing something onto it. —mark or indent (the surface of a soft substance) in such a way: we printed the gutter with carved wooden butter molds. —fix (something) firmly or indelibly in someone’s mind: his face was printed on her memory.

—n. 1 the text appearing in a book, newspaper, or other printed publication, esp. with reference to its size, form, or style. —the state of being available in published form: the news will never get into print. —a newspaper or magazine: [as adj. or relating to the printing industry or the printed media; the print media. —to print or publish a book, newspaper, or magazine. —print (prints) —painting or design printed from a block or plate or copied from a painting by photography. —a photograph printed on paper from a negative or transparency. —a copy of a motion picture on film. —a particular version of it. —4 a piece of clothing or a garment with a decorative pattern or design printed on it. —such a pattern or design. —printable adj. —print-a-ble adj.

—*in print* (of a book) available from the publisher. 2 in printed or published form. —*out of print* (of a book) no longer available from the publisher.

**printer** [ˈprɪntər] n. a person whose job or business is commercial printing. —a machine for printing text or pictures onto paper, esp. one linked to a computer.

**printing** [ˈprɪntɪŋ] n. the production of books, newspapers, or other printed material. —a single impression of a book: the second printing. —the writing in which the letters are written separately rather than being joined together.

**printing press** n. a machine for printing text or pictures from type or plates.

**printer-maker** [ˈprɪntərmɑːkər] n. a person who makes pictures or designs by printing them from specially prepared plates or blocks.

**print-making** [ˈprɪntkeɪŋ] n.

**print-out** [ˈprɪntaʊt] n. Comput. a page or set of pages of printed material produced by a computer’s printer.

**prior** [ˈprɪər] adj. existing or coming before in time, order, or importance: he has a prior engagement this evening.

—n. 1 a previous criminal conviction: he had no juvenile record, no priors. —prior to before a particular time or event.

**prior-or** [ˈprɪərər] n. a person who is head of a house or group of houses of certain religious orders. —prior-at-e [ˈpriərət] n. —*prior-ship* [ˈprɪərəʃip] n.

**prior-ess** [ˈprɪərəs] n. a woman who is head of a house of certain orders of nuns. —the woman next in rank below an abbess.

**pri-or-i-ty** [ˈprɪəriəti] n. (pl.-ties) a thing that is regarded as more important than another. —the fact or condition of being regarded or treated as more important: the safety of the country takes priority over other matters. —the right to precedence or to proceed before others. —prior-ize v.

Pronunciation: Key: a as in age, up, or over; far, a hat; ä as in ear; ch as in chin; e as in use; o as in air; i as in hit; y as in yard; ng as in sing; o as in go; o as in low, for; o as in toy; o as in good; o as in out; sh as in she; th as in thin; th as in then; th as in them; wh as in why; zh as in vision.
The result of an action or process: his daughter, the product of his first marriage. A person whose character and identity have been formed by a particular period or situation: an aging academic who is a product of the 1960s. A commercially manufactured article, esp. recordings, viewed collectively. A quantity obtained by multiplying quantities together, or from an analogous algebraic operation.

The action of making or manufacturing from components or raw materials, or the process of being so manufactured. The harvesting or refinement of something natural. The total amount of something that is manufactured, harvested, or produced. The creation or formation of something as part of a physical, biological, or chemical process: excess production of collagen by the liver. A denoting a car or other vehicle that has been manufactured in large numbers. The process of financial and administrative management involved in making a movie, play, or record: the movie was still in production. A movie, play, or record, esp. when viewed in terms of its making or staging. The overall sound of a musical recording, the way a record is produced.

To make a production of do (something) in an unnecessarily elaborate or complicated way.

An adj. producing or able to produce large amounts of goods, crops, or other commodities. Relating to or engaged in the production of goods, crops, or other commodities. Achieving or producing a significant amount or result: a long and productive career. Producing or giving rise to. Producing or capable of producing new words or expressions: many suffixes are common and productive. A Med. (of a cough) that raises mucus from the respiratory tract.

- A person who has a profession.

A n. a person or organization that makes, grows, or supplies goods or commodities for sale: an oil producer. A person or thing that makes or causes something. A person responsible for the financial and managerial aspects of making a movie or broadcast or for staging a play, opera, etc. A person who supervises the making of a musical recording.

A n. an article or substance that is manufactured or refined for sale. A substance produced during a natural, chemical, or manufacturing process: waste products. A thing or person that is
a specified activity, esp. a sport or branch of the performing arts, as a main paid occupation rather than as a pastime. • a person competent or skilled in a particular activity. —prof-es-sion-al-ly [prə-fən'ʃən-əl-əl] adv.

prof-es-sion-al-ism [prə-fən'ʃən-əl-izəm] n. the competence or skill expected of a professional in the practice of an activity, esp. a sport, by professional players; the trend toward professionalism.


prof-er [prə'fər] v. [tr.] hold out (something) to someone for acceptance; offer: he professed her resignation.

n. professed: an offer or proposal.

prof-fi-ent [prə-fi'ənt] adj. • a person competent or skilled in doing or using something; I was proficient at my job.

—prof-fi-cient-ly adv.

prof-file [prə'fil] n. 1. an outline of something, esp. a person’s face, as seen from one side. 2. (usu. be profiled) represent in outline from one side. 3. (be profiled) have a specified shape or appearance in outline. 4. (shape, something) by means of a tool guided by a template. —prof-il-er n.

v. [tr.] in profile (in reference to someone’s face) as seen from one side. —prof-it [prə'fit] n. a financial gain, esp. the difference between the amount earned and the amount spent in buying, operating, or producing something. • advantage; benefit.

—prof-it-able [prə-fət'a-bl] adj. • at a profit making more money than is spent buying, operating, or producing something: fixing up houses and selling them at a profit.

—prof-it-a-ble-ly [prə-fət'a-bl-i-li] adv. —prof-it-a-bil-i-ty [prə-fət'a-bl-i-ti] n. 1. (of a business or activity) yielding profit or financial gain. 2. beneficial; useful: he’d had a profitable day.

—prof-it-less adv. —prof-it and loss account (abbrev. P & L) n. Finance an account in the books of an organization to which incomes and gains are credited and expenses and losses debited so as to show the net profit or loss over a given period. • a financial statement showing a company’s net profit or loss in a given period.

prof-it-ter [prə-'fit-ər] v. [intr.] make or seek to make an excessive or unfair profit, esp. illegally or in a black market: [as n.] the profiteering the profiteering of tabloid journalists.

n. a person who profiteers: a war profiteer.

prof-il-rite [prə-fɪ'lɪt] n. a small hollow pastry typically filled with cream and covered with chocolate sauce.

prof-it margin n. the amount by which revenue from sales exceeds costs of production.

—prof-li-gate [prə-flə'gāt] adj. recklessly extravagant or wasteful in the use of resources. • licentious; dissolute.


prof-forma [prə-fɔrmə] adv. as a matter of form or politeness.

adj. done or produced as a matter of form: prof forma reports • denoting a standard document or form, esp. an invoice sent in advance of or with goods supplied. • (of a financial statement) showing potential or expected income, costs, assets, or liabilities, esp. in relation to some planned or expected act or situation.

—prof-foun-d (prof-foun'd) adj. (of a state, quality, or emotion) very great or intense. • (of a disease or disability) very severe: deep-seated. • (of a person or statement) having or showing great knowledge or insight. • (of a subject or thought) demanding deep study or thought: expressing profound truths. 3. archaic at, from, or extending to a great depth; very deep.


prof-use [prə-fūs] adj. (esp. of something offered or discharged) exuberantly plentiful; abundant. • archaic (of a person) lavishly extravagant. —prof-use-ly adv. —prof-use-ness n. —prof-use-ly adv.

prof-gen-i-tive [prə-gen'i-tiv] adj. formal having the quality of producing offspring; having reproductive power.

prof-gen-i-tor [prə-gen'i-tər] n. a person or thing from which a person, animal, or plant is descended or originates; an ancestor or parent. • a person who originates an artistic, political, or intellectual movement.


prof-gen-y [prə'jen-e] n. [treated as sing. or pl.] a descendant or the descendants of a person, animal, or plant; offspring.

prof-ge-stone [prə-jɛstən] n. Biochem. a steroid hormone released by the corpus luteum that stimulates the uterus to prepare for pregnancy.

prof-ges-to-gen [prə-jɛstəgən] n. Biochem. another term for PROGESTIN.


prof-no-sis [prə-nə'səs] n. (pl. -ses, -ses) the likely course of a disease or ailment. • a forecast of the likely course of a disease or ailment. • a forecast of the likely outcome of a situation.

prof-nos-tic [prə-nəs'tık] adj. serving to predict the likely outcome of a disease or ailment; of or relating to a medical prognosis.

n. aarchia an advance indication or portent of a future event. —prog-nos-tic-ally [prə-nə'tık-ləl] adv.

prof-nos-tic-a-ted [prə-nə'stək-təd] adj. -icated: Biochemistry another term for PROGESTIN.

prof-nos-ti-ca-tor [prə-nət'si-kə-tər] n. a forecast of the likely course of a disease or ailment. • a forecast of the likely outcome of a situation.


prof-gra-m [prə-grəm] n. (Brit. program) adj. (of a person) having a projecting lower jaw or chin. • (of a jaw or chin) projecting. • (of an insect) having projecting mouthparts. • forecast of the likely course of a disease or ailment. • a forecast of the likely outcome of a situation.


prof-gres [prə'grəs] n. • prof-ress; • progress: • prof-ress forward or onward movement toward a destination. • advance or development toward a better, more complete, or more modern condition.

v. [prop] move forward or onward in space or time. • advance or develop toward a better, more complete, or more modern state.

—in progress in the course of being done or carried out.

prof-gres-sion [prə'gres-shən] n. • a movement or development toward a destination or a more advanced state, esp. gradually or in stages. • a succession: a series: counting the twenty-four hours in a single progression from midnight. • Mus. a passage or movement from one note or chord to the next: a blues progression. • Math. short for ARITHMETIC PROGRESSION, GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION, OR HARMONIC PROGRESSION. —prof-gres-sion-alf [prə'gres-shən-əl] adj.

prof-gres-sive [prə'vesiv] adj. 1. happening or developing gradually or in stages; proceeding by step. • (of a disease or ailment) increasing in severity or extent. • (of taxation or a tax) increasing as a proportion of the sum taxed as that sum increases. • (of a card game
favoring

1. a person advocating or implementing social reform or new, liberal ideas. projective involving a series of sections for which participants successively change place or relative position. projective

2. (of a group, person, or idea) favoring or implementing social reform or new, liberal ideas. projective involving a series of sections for which participants successively change place or relative position. projective

3.Gram. denoting an aspect or tense of a verb that expresses an action in progress, e.g., was writing, was writing. Also called continuous.

[progressive]

progressive [usu. progressives] [tr. & intr. past. progressive; past part. progressive] [adv. progressively] 1. formally or something from doing something. [of a fact or situation] prevent something; make impossible: the budget agreement had prohibited any tax cuts. late Middle English: from Latin prohibit. kept in check; from the verb prohibere 'to hinder' in front of. -progressively adv. progressive

n. - progressiveness n. - progressive-ness adj.

hibit [prohibit] [prohibit] [-hilit, -hitting] [tr.] formally forbid (something) by law, rule, or other authority. prohibit someone/something from doing something] formally forbid a person or group from doing something. [of a fact or situation] prevent something; make impossible: the budget agreement had prohibited any tax cuts. late Middle English: from Latin prohibit. kept in check; from the verb prohibere 'to hinder' in front of. -progressively adv. progressive

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n. - progressiveness n. - progressive-ness adj.
prospective [pro'pektiv] adj. (of a person) expected or expecting to be something particular in the future: she showed a prospective buyer around the house. likely to happen at a future date; concerned with or applying to the future: to discuss prospective changes in government legislation.

prospectively adv. —prospective-ness n.

prospector [pro'spektər] n. (pl. -taters) a printed document that advertises or describes a school, commercial enterprise, forthcoming book, etc., in order to attract or inform clients, members, buyers, or investors.

prospectus [prospektəs] n. (pl. -tuses) a printed document that advertises or describes a school, commercial enterprise, forthcoming book, etc., in order to attract or inform clients, members, buyers, or investors.

prospect for fig. look out for; search for: the responsibilities of salespeople to prospect for customers. late Middle English (as a noun denoting the action of looking toward a distant object): from Latin prospectus 'view,' from prospiciere 'look forward,' from pro- 'forward' + specere 'to look.' Early reference to a view of landscapes, gave rise to the meaning 'mental picture' (mid 16th cent.), whence 'anticipated event.'

prospector n.

pro-spective-ness [pros'pektiv-nis] n. (pl. -ties) a printed document that advertises or describes a school, commercial enterprise, forthcoming book, etc., in order to attract or inform clients, members, buyers, or investors.

prospective [pros'pektiv] adj. successful in material terms; flourishing financially: prosperous middle-class professionals. bringing wealth and success: we wish you a prosperous New Year.

prospectively adv. —prospective-ness n.

prospective [pros'pektiv] adj. of or pertaining to something or something: prospective views. having or showing a strong wish to keep someone or something safe from harm. Econ. of or relating to the protection of domestic industries from foreign competition: protective tariffs. —prospectively adv. —prospective-ness n.

prospective order n. a court order instructing a person to desist from abusing or harassing the person (usu. a related person) for a fixed period: a protective order against the man accused of setting his wife on fire.

protection [protek'shan] n. the action of protecting someone or something, or the state of being protected: the B vitamins give protection against infection. a person or thing that prevents someone or something from suffering harm or injury: the castle was built as a protection against the Saxons. the cover provided by an insurance policy. a legal or formal measure intended to preserve civil liberties and rights. a document guaranteeing immunity from harm to the person specified in it. the practice of paying money to criminals so as to prevent them from attacking oneself or one's property: [as adj.] a protection racket. [also protection money] the money paid to criminals, esp. on a regular basis. archaic used euphemistically to refer to the keeping of a mistress by her lover in a separate establishment: she was living under his lordship's protection at Gloucester Gate.

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protectionist [pro'tekshan-ist] n. a person who opposes or supports someone or something: protectionist tariffs. a person who is guided and supported by an older and more experienced or influential person: he was an aide de camp of the former Tennessee senator.

proteins [pro'tiinz] n. any of a class of nitrogenous organic compounds that consist of large molecules composed of one or more long chains of amino acids and are an essential part of all living organisms, esp. as structural components of body tissues such as muscle, hair, collagen, etc., and enzymes and antibodies. such substances collectively, esp. as a dietary component: a diet high in protein. —proteineous [pro'tiyn-əs] adj.

proteolysis [pro'te o liz'sis] n. the use of a proteolytic enzyme, an enzyme that catalyzes the cleavage of peptides.

proteolytic [pro'te o lit'ik] adj. of or pertaining to enzymes that catalyze the breakdown of proteins.

protein [pro'tein] n. a complex organic compound of high molecular weight that is synthesized by living organisms and is essential for growth, repair, and maintenance; a source of amino acids; a macronutrient that is required in the diet. —protein-ic [pro'tein ık] adj. —protein-like adj.

proteinase [pro'te an'əs] n. a proteolytic enzyme.

proteinaceous [pro'te an'sis] adj. containing or consisting of protein.

protractor [pro'traktər] n. a piece of apparatus for measuring angles.

protest [pro'test] n. a statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to something: the Hungarian team lodged an official protest. two senior scientists resigned in protest. an organized public
protestor, — class course (possible contemplation) to make timely determination.

proton language — the part of the sentence "she has always protested her innocence." late Middle English (as a verb in the sense "make a solemn declaration"); from Old French protest, from Latin protestari, from pro- for "forth, publicly + testa "assert" (from tests 'witness'). —protestor /prə'testər/ n. —protest-ingly adv. —protest-ory /prə'testər/ n.

under protest — after expressing one's objection or reluctance: unwillingly; "I'm only here under protest," Bennett said shortly.

Protestant /prə'testənt/ n. a member or follower of any of the Western Christian churches that are separate from the Roman Catholic Church and follow the principles of the Reformation, including the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches. —Protestantism n. adj. of, relating to, or belonging to any of the Protestant churches.

protestation /prə'testə'shən/ n. an emphatic declaration that something is or is not the case. — an objection or protest.

pro-ti-um /prə'ti-əm/ n. Chem. the common isotope of hydrogen, as distinct from deuterium and tritium.

proto-col /prə'tō-kəl; -käl/ n. 1. the official procedure or system of rules governing affairs of state or diplomatic occasions. 2. the accepted or established code of behavior or procedure in any group, organization, or situation: what is the protocol at a conference if one's neighbor does off during the speeches? 3. Comput. a set of rules governing the exchange or transmission of data electronically between devices. 2. the original draft of a diplomatic document, esp. of the terms of a treaty agreed to in conference and signed by the parties. 3. an amendment or additional to a treaty or convention. 3. a formal or official record of scientific experimental observations. 4. a procedure for carrying out a scientific experiment or a course of medical treatment. late Middle English (denoting the original record of an agreement, forming the legal authority for future dealings relating to it): from Old French protocole, via medieval Latin from Greek protokollon 'first page, flyleaf.' from protos 'first' + kolla 'glue.' Sense 1 derives from French protocole, the collection of set forms of etiquette to be observed by the French head of state, and the name of the government department responsible for this (in the 19th cent.).

proto-lan-guage /prə'tō-lan'ɡij/ n. a hypothetical unwritten parent language from which actual languages are derived.

proto-ton /prə'tō-tən/ n. Phys. a stable subatomic particle occurring in all atomic nuclei, with a positive electric charge equal in magnitude to that of an electron, but of opposite sign. —proto-typical adj.

proto-plasm /prə'tō-plazəm/ n. Bot. the colorless material comprising the living part of a cell, including the cytoplasm, nucleus, and other organelles.

proto-plast /prə'tō-plast/ n. chiefly Bot. the protoplasm of a living plant or bacterial cell whose cell wall has been removed.

proto-plastic /prə'tō-pləstik/ adj.

proto-type /prə'ˌtō-tīp/ n. 1. a first or preliminary model of something, esp. a machine, from which other forms are developed or copied. 2. a typical example of something: the prototype of all cars is the DeLorean. 3. the archetypal example of a class of living organisms, astronomical objects, or other items; these objects are the prototypes of a category of rapidly spinning neutron stars. 4. a building, vehicle, or other object that acts as a model for a full-scale model.

v. /tr/ to make a prototype of (a product).

proto-typical /prə'tō-təp'ti-kəl/ adj.

proto-typical /prə'tö-tıpikəl/ adj.

proto-typical /prə'tö-tıpikəl/ adj.

proto-typical /prə'to-typical/ adj.

proto-typical /prə'to-typical/ adj.

proto-to-an-an /prə'tō-ən-ən/ n. (pl. -oza, -ozae) any single-celled microscopic animal of the group including amebas and ciliates.

adj. of or relating to the protozoa.

pro-trac /prə'trak,təræk/ n. 1. a line or mark on the body. 3. a drawing (a plan, etc.) to scale. —pro-traction /prə'trak'shən/ n.

pro-trac-tor /prə'ˌtraktər/ n. 1. an instrument for measuring angles, typically in the form of a flat semicircle marked with degrees along the curved edge. 2. also protactor muscle chiefly Zool. a muscle serving to extend a part of the body.

pro-trude /prə'trəud; prə'-/ v. [tense] extend beyond or above a surface: a fin protruded from the animal's body (a body part) to do this. —pro-trusion /prə'trəzhan/ n. —pro-trusive /-trəsiv; -svəd/ adj.

pro-tu-ber-ant /prə'työ̅bərənt/ adj. protruding; bulging. —pro-tu-ber-ance n.

proud [pôd] adj. feeling deep pleasure or satisfaction as a result of one's own achievements, qualities, or possessions or those of someone with whom one is closely associated. — (of an event, achievement, etc.) causing someone to feel this way: we have a proud history of innovation; having or showing a consciousness of one's own dignity: I was too proud to go home; having or showing a high or excessively high opinion of oneself or one's importance. — imposing; splendid. —proud-ly adv. —proud-ness n.

proud inf. act in a way that gives someone cause to feel pleased or satisfied.


prove /prəv/ v. (past part. proved or proven /prəvən/, prəvən/) 1. [tense] demonstrate the truth or existence of something by evidence or argument. 2. [tense] demonstrate by evidence or argument someone or something to be: innocent until proven guilty. — Law establish the genuineness and validity of (a will). — [tense] be or become found to be: the plan has proved a great success. — prove oneself demonstrate one's abilities or courage. 3. subject (a gun or other item) to a testing process. 2. [tense] (of bread dough) become aerated by the action of yeast; rise. — prove-ability /prəvə'əbili-te/ n. — prove-able adj. — prove-ably /prəvə'əble-ətli/ adv. — prove-pot n. provenance — prə'venəns /prə'venəns/ n. the place of origin or earliest known history of something: an orange rug of Iranian provenance. 2. the beginning of something's existence; something's origin: they try to understand the whole universe; its provenance and fate. 3. a record of ownership of a work of art or an antique, used as a guide to authenticity or quality.

Pro-ven-çal /prə'ven'sal; prə'ven/, prəvən/ adj. of, relating to, or denoting Provence or its people or language.

p. n. a native or inhabitant of Provence. — roman Language of Provence.

proven-der /prə'vendər/ n. often humorous food.

proverb /prə'vebr/ n. a short saying in general use, stating a general truth or piece of advice.

proverbial /prə'vebrəl/ adj. of (a word or phrase) referred to in a proverb or idiom; I'm going to stick out like the proverbial sore thumb. — well known, esp. so as to be stereotypical: the Welsh people, whose hospitality is proverbial. — prove-ability /prəvə'əbili-te/ n. — prove-ably /prəvə'əble-lətli/ adv. — prove-vide /prə'vaid/ v. [tense] to make available for use: supply. — provide someone with equip or supply someone with (something useful or necessary): present or yield (something useful). — [tense] for make adequate preparation for (a possible event): new qualifications must prove for changes in technology. — supply sufficient money to ensure the maintenance of (someone), (for a law) enable or allow (something to be done). 3. [tense] stipulate in a will or other legal document the order should be varied to provide that there would be no contact with the father. — proved /prə'veid/ adj. conj. on the condition or understanding that: cutting corners was acceptable, provided that you could get away with it.

pro-idence /prə'vedəns/ n. the protective care of God or nature as a spiritual power; their trust in divine providence. — Providence God or nature as providing such care. — timely preparation for future eventualities: it was considered a duty to encourage providence.

pro-ident /prə'veident, -dent/ adj. making or indicative of timely preparation for the future. — providently /prə'vedəntli/ adv.

pro-ident-al /prə'vedentəl/ adj. occurring at a favorable time; opportune; thanks to that providential snowstorm, the attack had been

protrusor

Pronunciation Key a as in: ar over, fur; a has: â aie, â uie; c has: 6 let; e see; e(a) air; i fi; i by; i(a) ear; o go; o low; for: o i; o good; â o go; o ou; ou: sh she; t h thin; ð h then; (h) why; zh vision
null
pull

Pullman _n._ (pl.-mans) [usu. as adj._:] a railroad car affording special comfort, esp. one with sleeping berths: a train of Pullman cars. _n._ a train consisting of such cars. _n._ (Pullman) a large suitcase designed to fit under the seat in a Pullman car.

pull-over _/pʊəl,əʊvər/_ _n._ a garment, esp. a sweater or jacket, put on over the head and covering the top half of the body. _adj._ (of a sweater, jacket, or shirt) designed to be put on by pulling over the head.

pull-up _n._ 1 an exercise involving raising oneself with one’s arms by pulling up against a horizontal bar fixed above one’s head. 2 an act of pulling up, a sudden stop.

pull-mono-ry _pʊlˈmənərɪ_ _adj._ of or relating to the lungs.

pull-mon-ic _pʊlˈmɔnɪk_ _adj._ another term for PULMONARY.

pulp _/pʊlp_ _n._ a soft, wet, shapeless mass of material: boiling with soda will reduce your peas to pulp. _n._ the soft fleshy part of a fruit. _adj._ a soft wet mass of fibers derived from rags or wood, used in papermaking. _n._ vascular tissue filling the interior cavity and root canals of a tooth. _v._ Min- ing pulverized ore mixed with water. _adj._ [usu. as adj.] fig. popular or sensational writing that is generally regarded as being of poor quality: pulp fiction.

v. [tr.] crush into a soft, shapeless mass. —pulp-er _n._ —pulp-iness _n._ —pulp-y _adj._

— _beat (or smash) someone to a pulp_ beat someone severely.

pul-lit _/pʊlˈlɪt_ _n._ a raised platform or lectern in a church or chapel from which the preacher delivers a sermon. _n._ (the pulpit) religious teaching as expressed in sermons; preachers collectively. _v._ a raised platform in the bow of a fishing boat or whaler. _n._ a guard rail enclosing a small area at the bow of a yacht. _Middle English: from Latin pulpitum ‘scaffold, platform,’ in medieval Latin ‘pulpit.’

pulp-wood _/pʊlˈwʊd_ _n._ wood suitable for making into pulp for making paper.

pul-sar _/pʊlˈsɑːr_ _n._ _n._ Astron. a celestial object, thought to be a rapidly rotating neutron star, that emits regular pulses of radio waves and other electromagnetic radiation at rates of up to one thousand pulses per second.

pul-sate _/pʊlˈseɪt_ _v._ [intr.] expand and contract with strong regular movements: blood vessels throb and pulsate. _n._ produce a regular throbbing sensation or sound. —pulsation _/pʊlsəˈteɪʃən_ _n._ —pulsator _ˌpʊlsəˈtər_ _n._ —pulsatory _ˌpʊlsəˈtɒrɪ_ _adj._

pul-sive _/ˈpʊlsɪv/ _ adj._

pul-sing-ply _/pʊlsɪŋˌpʌlɪŋ_ _adv._

pul-sing-ly _/pʊlsɪŋˌlɪ_ _adv._

pump _/pʌmp_ _n._ a mechanical device using suction or pressure to raise or move liquids, compress gases, or force air into inflatable objects such as tires: a gas pump. _n._ an instance of moving something or being moved by or as if by such a machine. _n._ Physiol. an active transport mechanism in living cells by which specific ions are moved through the cell membrane against a concentration gradient: the bacterium’s sodium pump. _v._ a pump-action shot.

v. [tr.] force (liquid, gas, etc.) to move in a specified direction by or as if by means of a pump; the blood is pumped around the body | [intr.] if we pump long enough, we should bring the level up. _v._ to pump in sprinting: a pump-dried was pumped from a wound. _n._ fill with something: my veins had been pumped full of glucose. _n._ shoot (bullets) into a target. (pump something in/into) _int._ invest a large amount of money in (something). _tr._ try to elicit information from (someone) by persistent questioning. _v._ (pump something up) vigorously up and down. _intr._ (pump) vigorously up and down and back and forth: that’s superb running—look at his legs pumping. _n._ apply and release (a brake pedal or lever) several times in quick succession, typically to prevent skidding. _v._ move one’s arm as if throwing a ball held in the hand, but without releasing the ball: [in comb.] behind the plate Howard double-pumped then threw to second.

v. [tr.] press out produce or emit (something) in large quantities or amounts. _v._ pump up inflate (a tire, balloon, etc.) _intr._ increase. _n._ pump volume of (music). _adj._ give inappropriate support and encouragement to.

— _pump iron_ _n._ exercise with weights.

pump-kin _/pʌmpˈkɪn_ _n._ a light show, in particular: a woman’s plain, lightweight show that has a low-cut upper, no fastening, and typically a medium heel. _n._ a man’s slip-on patent leather shoe for formal wear.

pump-action _adj._ [attrib.] _n._ denoting a repeating firearm, typically a shotgun, in which a new round is brought from the magazine into the breech by a slide action in line with the barrel. _v._ denote a speaker for a liquid such as deodorant or cooking oil that is worked by finger action.

pum-per-nickel _/ˈpʌmpərˌnɪkəl_ _n._ dark, dense German bread made from coarsely ground whole-grain rye.

pum-pkin _/ˈpʌmpkɪn_ _n._ 

pum-pkin-seed _/ˈpʌmpkɪnˌsɛd_ _n._ _n._ 1 a large round orange-yellow fruit with a thick rind, edible flesh, and many seeds. _n._ the flesh of this fruit, esp. used as food. _n._ the flesh of this fruit, esp. used as food. _n._ used as an affectation term of address, esp. to a child. _n._ the plant (genus Cucurbita) of the gourd family that produces this fruit, having tendrils and large lobed leaves and native to warm regions of America. _n._ Brit. another term for SQUASH.

pum _/pʌm_ _n._ a joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word or the fact that there are words that sound alike but have different meanings: the pigs were a squeal (if you’ll forgive the pun).

v. [pumping, pumping] _[tr.]_ make a joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word: his first puzzle pumped on composers, with answers like “Handel with a pump.”

Punch _/pʌntʃ_ _n._ a grotesque, hook-nosed, humbacked buffoon, the chief male character of Punch and Judy, a traditional English puppet show. Punch is derived ultimately from Italian commedia dell’arte. Also called PUNCHINELLO _/pʌntʃɪnələʊ,_

— _pleased as Punch_ _adj._ feeling great delight or pride.

_punch_ _/pʌntʃ_ _v._ [tr.] 1 strike with the fist. _v._ drive with a blow from the fist: he punched the ball into his own goal. 2 press (a button or key on a machine). _v._ punch something in/into _enter_ information by this action. _v._ drive (cattle) by prod using a stick. _n._ [intr._] punch in/out _record_ an employee’s arrival at (or departure from) work, esp. by means of a time clock.

n. a blow with the fist. _tr._ the strength needed to deliver such a blow. _intr._ the power to impress or startle: photos give their arguments an extra visual punch. —punch-er _n._

— _beat someone to the punch_ _intr._ anticipate or forestall someone’s actions. _v._ punch the (time) clock _of (an employee)_ punch in or out. _intr._ be employed in a conventional job with regular hours. _v._ punch something up _use_ a computer keyboard to call something to the screen: to punch up Andy Warhol and get text, photographs, and video on the Pop Art period. _n._ punch in/out _record_ an employee’s arrival at (or departure from) work, esp. by means of a time clock.

n. a device or machine for making holes in materials such as paper, leather, metal, and plaster. _n._ a tool or machine for impressing a design or stamping a die on a material.

v. [tr.] pierce a hole in (metal, paper, leather, etc.) with or as though with a punch. _v._ pierce (a hole) with or as though with a punch.

punch _/pʌntʃ_ _n._ a drink made with fruit juices, soda, spices, and sometimes liquor, typically served in small cups from a large bowl.
pyramid 

pyre /ˈpaɪr/ n. a heap of combustible material, esp. one for burning a corpse as part of a funeral ceremony. mid 17th cent.: via Latin from Greek pura, from pur 'fire.'

pyrethrum /ˈpaɪrəθrəm/ n. an aromatic plant (genus Tanacetum, formerly Chrysanthemum or Pyrethrum) of the daisy family, typically having feathery foliage and brightly colored flowers. an insecticide made from the dried flowers of these plants.

Pyrex /ˈpaɪrɪks/ n. usu. as adj. trademark a hard, heat-resistant type of glass, typically used for ovenware: a set of Pyrex dishes.

pyridoxine /ˈpaɪrɪdoʊkˌsɪn/ n. Biochem. a colorless weakly basic solid, present chiefly in cereals, liver oils, and yeast, and important in the metabolism of unsaturated fatty acids. Also called vitamin B6 (see Vitamin B).

pyrimidine /paɪrɪmɪdaɪn/ n. Chem. a colorless crystalline compound, C4H4N2, with basic properties. also pyrimidine base a substituted derivative of this, esp. the bases thymine and cytosine present in DNA.

pyrite /ˈpaɪrɪt/ (also pyrites /paɪrɪt̮ɪz; ˈpaɪrɪt/) n. a shiny yellow mineral consisting of iron disulfide and typically occurring as intersecting cubic crystals. Also called Fool's Gold. -pyritic /paɪrɪtɪk; ˈpaɪrɪtɪk/ adj.

pyro-electric /ˌpaɪrəˈɛlktrɪk/ adj. having the property of becoming electrically charged when heated. of, relating to, or utilizing this property: a pyroelectric detector.

pyro-electricity /ˌpaɪrəˌɛlktrɪətɪ/ n.

pyro-genic /ˌpaɪrəˈdʒenɪk/ adj. Med. inducing fever. caused or produced by combustion or the application of heat. -pyro-genic/ˌpaɪrəˌdʒenɪk/ adj.

pyro-lisis /ˌpaɪrəˌlaɪsɪs/ n. 1 Christian Church the container in which the consecrated bread of the Eucharist is kept. 2 (in the UK) a box at the Royal Mint in which specimen gold and silver coins are deposited to be tested annually at the trial of the pyx.
Qq

Q: [kwiː] (also q) n. (pl. Qs or Q’s) the seventeenth letter of the alphabet. n. denoting the next after P in a set of items, categories, etc.

Q2: abbr. quarter (used to refer to a specified period of the fiscal year). n. queen (used esp. in describing card games and recording moves in chess); 17 Qb4, question.

q: symb. Physics electric charge.

QB: abbr. Football quarterback.

QED: abbr. n. (Latin "denoting a v. intr.") a proof. n. specified (adj.).

Football (usu. quadruple-quadri-quadrennial dance quad.)

ady. quad.

Tube: abbr. adj. a person who dishonestly claims to have special knowledge and skill in some field, typically in medicine. [as adj.] quack cures.


quad [kwɒd] n. 1 inf. short for: a quadrangle. n. QUADRUPLETS (sense 1). a quadriceps. n. quadriphonic sound. a quadrilateral. 2 a radio antenna in the form of a square or rectangle broken in the middle of one side. 3 a traditional roller skate. 4 a metal block in various sizes, lower than type height, used in letterpress printing for filling up short lines.

ady. inf. short for: a quadruple. adj. quadrophonic.

quad, -quadrangle, -quadrant.

quadrangle [kwɒdˈreɪdʒəl] n. Geom. a four-sided plane figure, esp. a square or rectangle. a square or rectangular space or courtyard enclosed by buildings. the area shown on a standard topographic map sheet of the U.S. Geological Survey. —quad-ru-ple-gram [kwɑːˌdruːpəˈɡræm] n.

quad-ran-gal, -quadrangle, -quadrant.


quad-ru-ple [kwɑ̃ˈtrupəl] adj. Math. involving the second and no higher power of an unknown quantity or variable: a quadratic equation.

n. a quadratic equation.

quad-re-niare [kwɑ̃ˌtrɪnərəl] adj. recurring every four years. lasting for or relating to a period of four years. —quad-re-ni-ally adv.

quad-ri-ceps [kwɑ̃ˈdriˌsaɪps] n. (pl. same) Anat. the large muscle at the front of the thigh that acts to extend the leg.

quad-ri-lat-e-ral [kwɑːˈdrɪləˈtərəl] n. a four-sided figure.

ady. having four straight sides.

quad-ri-lle [kwɑ̃ˈдрɪl; k(w)oʊˈ] n. a square dance performed typically by four couples and containing five figures, each of which is a complete dance in itself.

adj. n. a trick-taking card game for four players using a deck of forty cards (i.e., one lacking eights, nines, and tens), fashionable in the 18th century.

quad-ri-lion [kwɑ̃ˈdriˌlɪɔn] n. a ruled grid of small squares, esp. on paper.

quad-ri-llion-ary [kwɑ̃ˌdriˌlɪənəri] adj. (pl. -llion-ary) having to do with (or containing numbers) that are the same as those in a thousand. —quad-ro-lion-ary.


quad-ri-pla [kwɑ̃ˌdriˈplɑː] n. Med. paralysis of all four limbs: tetraplegia. n. a quadrant of a circle. n. a person whose parents are a mulatto and a white person and who is therefore one-quarter black by descent.

quad-ri-phon-ic [kwɑ̃ˈdriˌfəˈnɪk] adj. variant spelling of QUADPHONIC.

quad-ri-ped [kwɑ̃ˌdriˈpɛd] n. an animal that has four feet. —quad-ri-plex.

adj. n. a quadruple thing, number, or amount. —quad-ri-plan-ly -pəˈlɑːni adv.

quad-ri-ple [kwɑ̃ˌdriˈplə] adj. consisting of four parts or elements: a quadruple murder. n. a person born at one birth. 2 Mus. a group of four notes to be performed in the time of three.

quad-ri-pli-ca-tee [kwɑ̃ˌdriˌplɪˈkæti] n. consisting of four parts or elements: of which four copies are made. —quad-ri-pli-ca-tion.

qua-f [kwɑːf] v. intr. do or take the drink (something, esp. an alcoholic drink) heartily.

n. inf. dated an alcoholic drink. —qua-fing adj. —qua-fion n.

qua-ga [kwɑ̃ˈɡa] n. an extinct South African zebra (Equus quagga) that had a yellowish-brown coat with dark stripes, exterminated in 1883.

qua-gar [kwɑ̃ˈɡɑː] n. adj. relating to or involving a quadrilateral situation: a legal qua-gar.

qua-hog [kwɑ́ˈhɒg; -hæg; 'kwʊʊ-; kʊ- (also qua-haugh)] n. a large, round-ed edible clam (Veneridae) of the Atlantic coast of the United States.

qua-li: [kwɑ̃ˈliː] n. (pl. same or quals) 1 a small, short-tailed Old World bird game family (Phasianidae) resembling a tiny partridge, typically having brown camouflage plumage. Three genera, in particular Coturnix, and several species include the common quail (C. coturnix). 2 a small or medium-sized New World game bird (family Phasianidae or Odontophoridae) the male of which has distinctive facial markings. Several genera and many species include the bobwhite.

quai [kwi:] n. (pl. same or quais) a small, short-tailed native of the Americas. n. (pl. same or quais) a small, short-tailed native of the Americas. n. a small, short-tailed native of the Americas.
qualify [kwɔlɪfɪ] v. intr. (esp. of the earth) shake or tremble; the rumbling vibrations set the whole valley quaking. 2 (of a person) shake or shudder with fear; those words should have quaking in their boots.

Quaker [kwɔkər] n. a member of the Religious Society of Friends, a Christian movement founded by George Fox c.1650 and devoted to peaceful principles. Central to the Quakers' belief is the rejection of both formal ministry and all set forms of worship. —Quaker-ism [ɪzəm] n.

quaking grass n. a slender-stalked grass (genus Briza) with oval or heart-shaped flowerheads that tremble in the wind.

qualify [kwɔlɪfɪ] v. intr. become entitled to a particular benefit or privilege by fulfilling a certain condition or meeting a certain standard; do not qualify for compensation payments. —qualified adj. —qualification n.

quantify [kwɒntɪfaɪ] v. intr. Physics state quantized or treated in a statistical sense; state quantities for kind; to quantify: it's very hard to quantify the cost. —quantified adj. —quantification n.

quantitative [kwɒntɪtətɪv] adj. relating to, measuring, or expressed by the quantity of something rather than its quality; quantitative analysis. Often contrasted with QUALITATIVE. —quantitatively adv.

quantitative [kwɒntɪtətɪv] n. (pl. -ties) 1 the amount or number of a material or immaterial thing not usually estimated by spatial measurement. 2 a certain, usually specified, amount or number of something: a small quantity of food. 3 (often quantities) a considerable number or amount of something; he was able to drink quantities of beer. 4 phonet. a perceived quality of a word's sound or syllable. 5 Math & Physics a value or component that may be expressed in numbers. —quantitatively adv.

quintessential [kwɪntɪˈsɛnʃəl] adj. another term for QUALITATIVE. —quintessentially adv.
quarrel /kwɔrəl/ n. 1. any of four equal or corresponding parts into which something is or can be divided: he cut each apple into quarters. 2. a period of fifteen minutes or a point of time marking the transition from one fifteen-minute period to the next: the baby was born at a quarter past nine. 3. a coin representing 25 cents, one of a quart of an American or Canadian dollar. 4. each of the four parts into which an animal's or bird's carcass may be divided, each including a leg or wing. 

quartz /kwɔːrt/ n. an animal pursued by a hunter, bound, predatory mammal, or bird of prey. 

quarry /ˈkwɔːri/ n. 1. a unit of liquid capacity equal to a quarter of a gallon or two pints, equivalent in the U.S. to approx. 0.94 liter and in Britain to approx. 1.13 liters. 

quart /ˈkwɔːrt/ n. 1. a unit of dry capacity equivalent to 1.10 liters. 

quarter /ˈkwɔːtər/ n. 1. each of four equal or corresponding parts into which something is or can be divided: he cut each apple into quarters. 2. a period of fifteen minutes or a point of time marking the transition from one fifteen-minute period to the next: the baby was born at a quarter past nine. 3. a coin representing 25 cents, one of a quart of an American or Canadian dollar. 4. each of the four parts into which an animal's or bird's carcass may be divided, each including a leg or wing. 

quar-terly /ˈkwɔːtərli/ adj. once every quarter of a year: interest is paid quarterly. 

quarter master /ˈkwɔːtərmɑːstər/ n. a military officer responsible for providing quarters, rations, clothing, and other supplies. 

queen /kwɛn/ n. 1. the female ruler of an independent state, esp. one who inherits the position by right of birth. 

queen bee /kwɛn bi/ n. the single reproductive female in a hive or colony of honeybees. 

queen-sized /ˈkwɛnˌsaɪzd/ adj. (esp. of a commercial product) of a larger size than the standard but smaller than something that is king-sized; a queen-sized comforter. 

queenly /ˈkwɛnli/ adj. (ier, iest) fit for or appropriate to a queen. 

queenliness /ˈkwɛnliːnəs/ n. 

quarry /ˈkwɔːri/ n. a site where stone or other materials are or have been extracted. 

quash /ˈkwɒʃ/ v. [tr.] reject or void, esp. by legal procedure: his position was quashed on appeal. 

quaternion /kwəˈtərniərn/ adj. of or relating to such an anniversary. 

quaternion /kwəˈtərniərn/ n. 1. fourth in order or rank; belonging to the fourth order. 

quarry /ˈkwɔːri/ n. a site where stone or other materials are or have been extracted. 

quarrel /kwɔrəl/ v. [tr.] put an end to (a rebellion or disorder), typically by the use of force. 

quassar /ˈkwɔːsər/ n. Astron. a massive and extremely remote celestial object, emitting exceptionally large amounts of energy, and typically having a starlike image in a telescope.
Quon-dam /kwəndəm/ adj. formal that once was; former: quon-
dam dissidents joined the establishment | its quondam popularity.

Quon-set /kwənsət/ n. trademark a building made of
corrugated metal and having a semicircular cross section.

Quo-rum /kwərəm/ n. pl. quorums the minimum number of mem-
ers of an assembly or society that must be present at any of its meet-
ings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid.

Quo-ta /kwətə/ n. a limited or fixed number or amount of people or things, in particular: a limited quantity of a particular product that under official controls can be produced, exported, or imported. a fixed share of something that a person or group is entitled to receive from a total: the Faeroe Islands' commercial salmon quota. a person's share of something that must be done: they were arrested to help fill the quota of arrests the security police had to make. a fixed minimum or maximum number of a particular group of people allowed to do something, as immigrants to enter a country, workers to undertake a job, or students to enroll for a course. in a system of proportional representation the minimum number of votes required to elect a candidate. fig. a person's share of a particular thing, quality, or attribute: an Irishman with a treble quota of charm.

Quo-ta-ble /kwətəbəl/ adj. of (a person or remark) suitable for or worth quoting.

Quo-ta-tion /kwətəˈʃon/ n. 1 a group of words taken from a text or speech and repeated by someone other than the original author or speaker. a short musical passage or visual image taken from one piece of music or work of art and used in another. the action of quoting from a text, speech, piece of music, or work of art. 2 a formal statement setting out the estimated cost for a particular job or service. 3 Stock Market a price offered by a broker for the sale or purchase of a stock or other security. 4 Stock Market a registration granted to a company enabling their shares to be officially listed and traded.

Quo-ta-tion mark n. each of a set of punctuation marks, single (‘) or double (“”), used either to mark the beginning and end of a title or quoted passage or to indicate that a word or phrase is regarded as slang or jargon or is being discussed rather than used within the sentence.

Quo-ta /kwətə/ v. [tr.] 1 repeat or copy out (a group of words from a text or speech), typically with an indication that one is not the original author or speaker; be quoted a passage from the Psalms | [intr.] when we told her this she said, and I quote, "Phooey!" 2 repeat a passage from (a work or author) or statement by (someone): be quoted Shakespeare, Goethe, and other poets. 3 mention or refer to (someone or something) to provide evidence or authority for a statement, argument, or opinion: they won't be here at all in three years—you can quote me on that. 4 give someone (the estimated price of a job or service). 5 [usu. be quoted] Stock Mar-
ket give (a company) a quotation or listing on a stock exchange.

- 1 a quotation from a text or speech. 2 a quotation giving the estimated cost for a particular job or service. 3 Stock Market a price offered by a broker for the sale or purchase of a stock or other security. 4 Stock Market a quotation or listing of a company on a stock exchange.

Quo-th /kwəθ/ v. [tr.] archaic or humorous said (used only in first and third person singular before the subject): “Well, the tide is going out” quo' the sailor.

Quo-ti-dian /kwəˈtɪdiən/ adj. of or occurring every day; daily: the car sped noisily off through the quotidian traffic. ordinary or everyday, esp. when mundane: his story is an achingly human one, wired in quotidian details.

Quo-tien-t /kwəˈʃent/ n. 1 Math. a result obtained by dividing one quantity by another. 2 a degree or amount of a specified quality or characteristic: Washington's cynicism quotient.

Quo-ran /kwəˈræn/ n. variant spelling of Koran.

Q.v. v. abbrev. used to direct a reader to another part of a book or article for further information.

Qwerty /kwərˈti/ adj. denoting the standard layout on English-
language typewriters and keyboards, having q, w, e, r, t, and y as the first keys from the left on the top row of letters.
Rr /rər/ n. the eighteenth letter of the alphabet.

- denoting the next after Q in a set of items, categories, etc.

- the three Rs reading, writing, and arithmetic, regarded as the fundamentals of learning.

R as a noun.

- rand: a farm worth nearly R1.3-million. Eumurum: 198.6 °R.

- Regina or Rex: Elizabeth R. (also R) registered as a trademark. In (the U.S.) Republican: congressman Henry Hyde (R-Illinois).

- restricted, a rating in the Voluntary Movie Rating System that children under 17 require an accompanying parent or adult guardian for admission.

- (on a gearshift) reverse. (R.) River (chiefly on maps): R. Chenwell.

- roentgen(s). (symb. R) the unit of the roentgen(s).

- rating: (symb. R) the unit of the roentgen(s).

- races: a competition between runners, horses, vehicles, boats, etc., to see which is the fastest in covering a set course: I won the first 50-lap race. (the races) a series of such competitions for horses or dogs, held at a fixed time on a set course. A situation in which individuals or groups compete to be first to achieve a particular objective: the race for nuclear power. A strong or rapid current flowing through a narrow channel in the sea or a river: angling for tuna in turbulent tidal races.

- v. 1 [intr.] compete with another or others to see who is fastest at covering a set course or achieving an objective: the vet took blood samples from the horses before they raced. Compete regularly in races as a sport or leisure activity: the next year, he raced again for the team. (fr.) prepare and enter (an animal or vehicle) in races as a sport or leisure activity: he raced his three horses simply for the fun of it. 2 [intr.] move or progress swiftly or at full speed: I raced into the house. Fig. She spoke automatically, while her mind raced ahead. 3 [of (a person's heart or pulse) beat faster than usual because of fear or excitement.

- a race against time a situation in which something must be done before a particular point in time: it was a race against time to reach shore before the dinghy sank.

race /rɑːs/ n. each of the major divisions of humankind, having distinct physical characteristics: people of all races, colors, and creeds. A group of people sharing the same culture, history, language, etc.: an ethnic group: we Scots were a bloodthirsty race then. A group or set of people or things with a common feature or features: some male firefighters still regarded women as a race apart. A set of people or things with a common feature or features: some male firefighters still regarded women as a race apart. Biot: a population within a species that is distinct in some way, esp. a subspecies: people have killed so many tigers that two races are probably extinct. (of non-European use) each of the major divisions of living creatures: a member of the human race / the race of birds.

racehorse /rɑːsˈhɔːr/ n. a horse bred, trained, and kept for racing.

race-ceme /ˈræs.ˌsəm/ n. Bot. A flower cluster with the separate flowers attached by short equal stalks at equal distances along a central stem. The flowers at the base of the central stem develop first.

race-track /rɑːsˌtræk/ n. a ground or track for horse or dog racing. • a track for auto racing.

race-way /rɑːsˌweɪ/ n. 1 a track or channel along which something runs, in particular: a water channel, esp. an artificial one of running water in which fish are reared. 2 a groove or race in which bearings run. 3 a pipe or tubing enclosing electric wires. 4 a track for trotting, racing, or harness racing. 5 a track for auto racing.

racial /ˈræʃəl/ adj. of or relating to race: a racial minority. • on the grounds of or connected with difference in race: racial hatred. —rac-i-ly adv.

racism /ˈræs.i.zəm/ n. the belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, esp. so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races. • prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on such a belief: a program to combat racism. —racist n. & adj.

rack /ræk/ n. 1 a framework, typically with rails, bars, hooks, or pegs, for holding or storing things: a magazine rack. 2 an overhead shelf on a bus, train, or plane for stowing luggage. 3 a vertically barred frame or wagon for holding animal fodder: a hay rack. 4 a lift used for elevating and repairing motor vehicles. 5 a set of antlers. 6 a cobbled or toothed bar or rail engaging with a wheel or pinion, or using pegs to adjust the position of something: a steering rack. 7 (the rack) hist. an instrument of torture consisting of a frame on which the victim was stretched by
rack

structure to which the wrists and ankles were tied. 4 a triangular frame for positioning the balls in a pool. 4 the triangular arrangement of balls set up for the beginning of a game of pool. 5 a digital effects unit for a guitar or other instrument, typically giving many different sounds.

V. [tr.] 1 (also wrap) often be wrapped cause extreme physical or mental pain to; subject to extreme stress: he was wrapped with guilt. 2 [tr.] put in or on a rack: the shoes were wrapped neatly beneath the dresses. 3 [tr.] put (pool balls) in a rack.

rack something up accumulate or achieve something, typically a score or amount: Japan is racking up record trade surpluses with the U.S.

rack 2 [tr.] and ruin gradually deteriorate in condition because of neglect; fall into disrepair. 2rack (or rack) one's brains (or brain) make a great effort to think of or remember something.

rack 2. n. a large cut of meat, typically lamb, that includes the front ribs.

rack-it [ræk’t] (also rack-quet) n. a type of bat with a round or oval frame strung with catgut, nylon, etc., used esp. in tennis, badminton, and squash. 2 a snowshoe resembling such a bat.

rack-zet [ræk’t] n. a loud unpleasant noise: a din: the kids were making a racket. 2 an illegal or dishonest scheme for obtaining money: a protection racket. 3 a person's line of business or way of life. I'm in the insurance racket. 4 rackety adj.

rack-eye-er [ræk’ti-er] n. a person who engages in dishonest and fraudulent business dealings. 2 rack-eye-ering n.

rack-on-teur [ræk, an-teor, -tor] n. a person who tells anecdotes in a skillful and amusing way.

rack-quet [ræk’t] (also rack-quet) n. variant spelling of rack-et.

rack-quet-ball [ræk’t, két’bol] n. a game played with a small hard ball and a short-handled racket in a four-walled handball court.

racy [ræk’si] adj. (racy-i, racy-est) (of speech, writing, or behavior) lively, entertaining, and typically mildly titillating sexually: the novel was considered rather racy at the time. 2 of a person or thing showing vigor or spirit: a racy fiddle. 3 of a wine, flavor, etc. having a characteristic quality in a high degree. 4 of a vehicle or animal designed or bred to be suitable for racing: the yacht is fast and racy. 5 racily adv. 6 raciness n.

rad [räd] adj. int. excellent; impressive: a really rad game.

radar [räd’ar, ra’dar] n. a system for detecting the presence, direction, distance, and speed of aircraft, ships, and other objects, by sending out pulses of high-frequency electromagnetic waves that are reflected off the object back to the source. 2 an apparatus used for this. 3 1940s: from radio detection (and) ranging.

radial [räd’i-ol] adj. 1 of or arranged like rays or the radii of a circle; diverging in lines from a common center. 2 (or a road or route) running directly from a town or city center to an outlying district. 3 denoting a tire in which the layers of fabric have their cords running at right angles to the circumference of the tire and the tread is strengthened by further layers arranged radially around the circumference, denoting an internal combustion engine with its cylinders fixed like the spokes of a wheel around a rotating crankshaft (a type used chiefly in aircraft).

2 Anat. & Zool. of or relating to the radius.

n. 1 a radial tire. 2 a radial road. 3 radially adv.

radian [räd’i-ôn] n. Geom. a unit of angle, equal to an angle at the center of a circle whose arc is equal in length to the radius.

radiant [räd’i-ant] adj. sending out light: shining or glowing brightly: a bird with radiant green and red plumage. 2 of a person or their expression clearly emanating great joy, love, or health: she gave him a radiant smile. 3 of an emotion or quality emanating powerfully from someone or something: very intense or conspicuous: he praised her radiant self-confidence. 4 of heat) transmitted by radiation, rather than conduction or convection. 5 radian n. 6 radially adv.

radiate v. [räd’i-at] (or räd’i-at) 1 [tr.] emit (energy, esp. light or heat) in the form of rays or waves: the hot stars radiate energy. 2 [intr.] of (light, heat, or other energy) be emitted in such a way: the continued stream of energy that radiates from the sun. 3 of a person) clearly emanate (a strong feeling or quality) through their expression or bearing: she lifted her chin, radiating defiance. 4 [radiate from] (of a feeling or quality) objects emanating powerfully from someone or something: very intense or conspicuous: he praised her radiant self-confidence. 5 [radiate] from a central point: he ran down one of the passages that radiated from the room. 6 Biol. (of a plant or animal group) evolve into a variety of forms adapted to new situations or ways of life. 7 radiate adv. 8 radiate n.

radiation [räd’i-ash’an] n. 1 Physics the emission of energy as electromagnetic waves or as moving subatomic particles, esp. high-energy particles that cause ionization. 2 the energy transmitted in this way, as heat, light, electricity, etc. 3 chiefly Biol. divergence out from a central point, in particular evolution from an ancestral animal or plant group into a variety of new forms. 4 radiate-tion-aly adv. 5 radiate-ally adv. 6 radiate-ally adv. 7 radiate-tion-ally adv. 8 radiate-ally adv. 9 radiate-tion-ally adv.

radiation sickness n. Illness caused by exposure of the body to ionizing radiation, characterized by nausea, hair loss, diarrhea, bleeding, and damage to the bone marrow and central nervous system.

radiation therapy (also radiation treatment) n. the treatment of disease, esp. cancer, using X-rays or similar forms of radiation.

radia-toor [räd’i-toor] (adj.) 1 a thing that radiates or emits light, heat, or sound. 2 a device for heating a room consisting of a metal case connected by pipes through which hot water is pumped by a central heating system. 3 a portable heater resembling such a device. 4 an engine-cooling device in a motor vehicle or aircraft consisting of a bank of thin tubes in which circulating fluid is cooled by the surrounding air.

radical [rad’i-kal] adj. 1 (esp. of change or action) relating to or affecting the fundamental nature of something: far-reaching or thorough: a radical overhaul of the existing regulatory framework. 2 forming an inherent or fundamental part of the nature of someone or something: the assumption of radical differences between the mental attributes of literate and numinous. 3 of surgery or medical treatment) thorough and intended to be completely curative. 4 advocating thorough or complete political or social reform; representing or advocating an extreme section of a political party: a radical American activist. 5 of a measure or policy following or based on such principles. 6 of or relating to the root of something, in particular: Math. of the root of a number or quantity. 4 usu. as interj. very good; excellent: Okay, then. 7 Seven o'clock: Radical.

n. 1 a person who advocates thorough or complete political or social reform: a member of a political party or part of a party pursuing such aims. 2 Chem. a group of atoms behaving as a unit in a number of compounds. See also free radical. 3 Math. a quantity forming or expressed as the root of another. 4 a radical sign. 5 radicalism n. 6 radicalize v. [räd’i-kal-iz] adj. -kizzare (-kiz’er) adj. a radically different approach. -radical-ism n.

radi-chio [räd’i-ch’yo] (n.) pi. -os (n.) p. (pl. -os) chicory of a variety that has dark red leaves.


radi-cular [räd’i-kü-lar] adj. (Anat.)

radi-di [räd’i-di] (n.) pi. -doses (n.) p. (pl. -doses) plural form of radius.

radio [räd’o] (n.) pi. -os (n.) p. (pl. -os) the transmission and reception of electromagnetic waves of radio frequency, esp. those carrying sound messages: cellular phones are linked by radio rather than wires. 2 the activity or industry of broadcasting sound programs to the public: she has written much material for radio [as adj.], a radio station. 3 radio programs: we used to listen to a lot of radio. 4 an apparatus for receiving such programs: she tuned the radio to a radio station. 5 a radio apparatus capable of both receiving and transmitting signals to individuals, ships, planes, etc.: a ship-to-shore radio. 6 in names a broadcasting station or channel. Monitor Radio.

- v. -oos, -eed (n.) adj. communicate or send a message by radio: the pilot radioed for help. 2 [intr.] of (or used with) a person or place by radio: we'll radio Athens right away.

radioactive [räd’o-äk’tiv] adj. emitting or relating to the emission of ionizing radiation or particles: radioactive decay the water was radioactive.

radioactivity [räd’o-ak’tiv-i-tee] n. the emission of ionizing radiation or particles caused by the spontaneous disintegration of atomic nuclei. 2 radioactive substances, or the radiation emitted by them.

radio astromomy n. the branch of astronomy concerned with radio emissions from celestial objects.


radioactive dating n. another term for Carbon Dating.


radio-genically adv. -kizzare (-kiz’er) adj. a radically different approach. -radical-ism n.


radio-isotopic [-tik(a)l] adj.

radio-ology [räd’o-alej’i] n. the science dealing with X-rays and other high-energy radiation, esp. the use of such radiation for the diagnosis of...
rain* [rain] n. moisture condensed from the atmosphere that falls visibly: separate drops: it's pouring rain. • rains (fall) of rain: the plants were washed away by some unusually heavy rains. • a large or overwhelming quantity of things that fall or descend: he fell under the rain of blows.

• [intr. (it rains, it is raining, etc.)] rain falls: it was beginning to rain. • poetic. (of the sky, the clouds, etc.) send down rain. • (of objects) fall in large or overwhelming quantities: bombs rained down. • [tr. (it rains —, it is raining —, etc.)] used to convey that a specified thing is falling in large or overwhelming quantities: it was just raining glass.

• [v.] send down in large or overwhelming quantities: she rained blows onto his back.

• phrase v. rain something out (usu. be rained out) cause an event to be terminated or canceled because of rain: the tournament was rained out.

• Old English ræn (noun), rænian (verb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch regen and German Regen. • rain-less adj.

• rain cats and dogs rain very hard. • (come) rain or shine whether it rains or not: he runs six miles every morning, rain or shine.

• rain-bow [’rænbɔː] n. an arch of colors formed in the sky caused by the refraction and dispersion of the sun's light by rain or other water droplets in the atmosphere. • any display of the colors of the spectrum produced by dispersion of light. • a wide range or variety of related and typically colorful things: a rainbow of medals decorated his chest. • [as adj.] many-colored: a big rainbow packet of felt pens.

• rain-bow trout n. a large, partly migratory trout (Salmo gairdneri) native to the Pacific seaboard of North America.

• rain check [’ræn.tʃɪk] (also rain-check) n. a ticket given for later use when a sports event or other outdoor event is interrupted or postponed by rain. • a coupon issued to a customer by a store, guaranteeing that a sale item that is out of stock may be purchased by that customer at a later date at the same reduced price.

• take a rain check said when politely refusing an offer, with the implication that one may accept it at a later date: I can't make it tonight, but I'd like to take a rain check.

• rain-coat [’rænt.kɔt] n. a long coat made from waterproof or water-resistant fabric.

• rain-date n. an alternative date for an event in case of inclement weather. • Baseball the day to which a rained-out game is postponed.

• rain-drop [’rændrɔp] n. a single drop of rain.

• rain-fall [’ræn.fɔl] n. the fall of rain. • the quantity of rain falling within a given area in a given time: low rainfall.

• rain-forest (also rain-forest) n. a luxuriant, dense forest rich in biodiversity, found typically in tropical areas with consistently heavy rainfall.

• rain-gauge n. a device for collecting and measuring the amount of rain that falls.

• rain-proof [’ræn,pɹʊθ] adj. (esp. of a building or garment) impervious to rain: a rainproof coat.

• rain-storm [’ræn.stɔːm] n. a storm with heavy rain.

• rain-water [’ræn,waːtər; ‘weɪtər] n. water that has fallen as or been obtained from rain.

• rainy [’rænɪ] adj. (rainy-er, rainy-est) (of weather, a period of time, or an area) having a great deal of rainfall: a rainy afternoon.

• rainy-day n. a day used in reference to a possible time in the future when something, esp. money, will be needed: invest and save for a rainy day.

• raise [rɛz] v. [tr. (raise)] 1 lift or move to a higher position or level: his flag was raised over the city. • lift or move to a vertical position: set upright: Melody managed to raise him to his feet. • construct or build (a structure): a fence was being raised around the property. • rise to form or rise: the galloping horse raised a cloud of dust. • increase the amount, level, or strength of: the bank raised interest rates: the aim was to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless. • promote (someone) to a higher rank: the king raised him to the title of Count Terre Bella. • raise something to Math multiply a quantity by itself to (a specified power): 3 raised to the 7th power is 2,187. • (in poker or brag) bet a specified amount (more than another player): I'll raise you another hundred dollars. • [tr.] increase (a bid) in this way. • cause to be heard, considered, or discussed: the alarm was raised when he failed to return home. • cause to occur, appear, or be felt: recent sightings have raised hopes that aces are making a return. • collect, levy, or bring together (money or resources): she was attempting to raise $20,000. • bring up (a child): he was born and raised in San Francisco.

• breed or grow (animals or plants): they raised pigs and kept a pony. • bring (someone) back from death: God raised Jesus from the dead.

• an increase in salary: he wants a raise and some perks. • raise-a-ble adj.

• raise-er n.

• raise hell inf. make a noisy disturbance: he complains vociferously: he raised hell with real estate developers and polluters. • raise the roof make or cause someone else to make a great deal of noise, esp. through cheering: when I finally scored, the fans raised the roof.

• raise one's voice speak more loudly. • begin to speak or sing.

• raisin [’ræzən] n. a partially dried grape. • raisiny adj.

• raisin d'être [’ræzɪn də’tɛr] n. (pl. raisons d'être [’ræzɪɔn dəz ‘ɛtre]) the most important reason or purpose for someone or something's existence: an institution whose raison d'être is public service broadcasting.

• rajah [’rɑːdʒə] (also raja) n. hist. an Indian king or prince. • a title extended by the British to a Malay or Javanese ruler or chief.

• rake [rɛk] n. an implement consisting of a pole with a crossbar toothed like a comb at the end, or with several times held together by a crosspiece, used esp. for drawing together cut grass or smoothing loose soil or gravel. • a wheeled implement used for the same purpose. • a similar implement used for other purposes, e.g., by a croupier drawing in money at a gaming table.

• [v.] collect, gather, or move with a rake or similar implement: they started raking up hay. • make (a stretch of ground) tidy or smooth with a rake: the infiel dirt is meticulously raked. • scrape or scythe (something, esp. a person's flesh) with a long sweeping movement: her fingers raked Bill's face. • [tr.] draw or drag (something) with a long sweeping movement: she raked a comb through her hair.

• phrase v. rake in something inf. make a lot of money, typically very easily: he was now raking in $250 million a year.

• rake·er n.

• rake·ish adj. • a fashionable or wealthy man of dissolute or promiscuous habits.

• rake-ish·ly adv.

• rake·ish·ness n.

• rake·ish·ly adv. • rake·ish·ness n.

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• rake·ish·ly adv. • rake·ish·ness n.

• rake·ish·ly adv. • rake·ish·ness n.
ransom: a sum of money or other payment demanded or paid for the release of a prisoner.  
• hold someone(s) something to ransom hold someone prisoner and demand payment for their release.  
• demand concessions from a person or organization by threatening damaging action.  
• a king’s ransom a huge amount of money; a fortune.
rational adj. 1. based on or in accordance with reason or logic: I'm sure there's a perfectly rational explanation. 2. (of a person) able to think clearly, sensibly, and logically: Andrew's upset—she's not being very rational. 3. endowed with the capacity to reason: man is a rational being. 4. a rational number. 5. a ratio, a quantity, or an expression: expressible, or containing quantities that are expressible, as a ratio of whole numbers. When expressed as a decimal, a rational number has a finite or recurring expansion. —rational-ly /ra'shənəl-i/ adv. —rational-ness n.

rat-tle /'ratt/ n. a set of reasons or a logical basis for a course of action or a particular belief: he explained the rationale behind the change.

rat-tle /'ratt/ v. 1. [tr.] make a rapid succession of short, sharp knocking sounds, typically as a result of being shaken and striking repeatedly on a hard surface or object: there was a sound of bottles rattling as he shook the crates. 2. [irr.] cause (something) to make such sounds: he rectified some change in his pocket. 3. [of a vehicle, or its driver or passengers] move or travel somewhere while making such sounds: trains rattled past at frequent intervals. 4. [rattle around in] fig. be in or occupy (an unnecessarily or undesirably spacious room or building). 2. [tr.] often be rattled int. cause (someone) to feel nervous, worried, or irritated; she turned quickly; rattled by his presence.

phrasal v. rattle something off say, perform, or produce something without much effort or thought: he rattled off some instructions.

rat-tle /'ratt/ n. 1. a rapid succession of short, sharp, hard sounds; the rattle of tamarins on the tray. 2. a gurgling sound in the throat of a dying person. 3. a thing used to make a rapid succession of short, sharp sounds, in particular: a baby's toy consisting of a container filled with small pellets that makes a noise when shaken. 4. the set of horn rings at the end of a rattlesnake's tail, shaken with a dry buzzing sound as a warning. —rattly adj. —rattle n.

rat-tle-snake /'ratt/ n. a heavy-bodied American pit viper (genus Crotalus and Sistrurus) with a series of horn rings on the tail that, when vibrated, produce a characteristic rattling sound as a warning.

rat-ty /'ratty/ adj. [tier.-best] resembling or characteristic of a rat: his ratty eyes glittered, or of a place infected with rats. 2. adj. shabby, untidy or in bad condition: a ratty old armchair. —rattily adv. —ratty-ness n.

rav-age /'rav-/ v. [tr.] cause severe and extensive damage to: fears that a war could ravage the country.

n. (ravages) the severely damaging or destructive effects of something: his face had withstood the ravages of time. 1. acts of destruction: the ravages committed by man. —ravager n.

rav-e /'rav/ v. [int.]. 1. talk wildly or incoherently, as if one were delirious or insane: Nancy's having hysterics and ravings about a black ghost. 2. address someone in an angry, uncontrolled way: [with direct speech] "Never mind how the feels!" Missy roared. 2. speak or write about someone or something with a great enthusiasm or admiration: New York's theater critics ravied about the acting. 3. [int. or adj.] his recent tour received rave reviews. 2. [int. or adj.] a party or event attended by large numbers of young people, involving drug use and dancing to fast, electronic music. 3. dance music of the kind played at such events.

rat-tie /'ratt/ v. (ravel, ravelling; Brit. ravelled, raveling) [tr.] 1. make or form something untangle or unravel something: Daisy had finished 1 raveling out his herring net fig. sleep ravelled out the tangles of his mind. 2. confuse or complicate (a question or situation).

ra-vanz /'ravan/ n. a large heavily built crow, esp. the all-black common raven (Corvus corax), feeding chiefly on carrion.

ra-vous /'raveus/ adj. (esp. of hair) of a glossy black color.

ra-vous /'ravenas/ n. small pasta envelopes containing ground meat, cheese, or vegetables.

ra-vish /'ravish/ v. [tr.] 1. aarchbe seize and carry off (someone) by force. 2. be ravished by sexual intercourse against her will; rape. 2. often be ravished, poetisch, fill (someone) with intense delight; enrapture: ravished by a sunny afternoon, she had agreed without even thinking. 3. Middle English: from Old French rasvas-, lengthened stem of ravir, from an alteration of Latin raperse 'seize.'

ra-vishe /'ravish/ v. [tr.] to ravish: ravished.

rav-ine /'ravin/ n. a deep, narrow gorge with steep sides. —ravined adj.

rav-ing /'ravinig/ adj. [usu. ravings] wild, irrational, or incoherent talk: the ravings of a madwoman.

adj. int. used to emphasize the bad or extreme quality of someone or something: she'd never been a raving beauty.

ra-vo-li /'ra-voi/ n. small pasta envelopes containing ground meat, cheese, or vegetables.

ra-vish-ing /'ravinig/ adj. delightful; entrancing: the keyboardist for Day's Reason is ravishing. —ravishing-ly adv.

raw adv. 1. [of food] uncooked: raw eggs. 2. [of a material or substance] in its natural state; not yet processed or purified: raw sewage. 3. [of information] not analyzed, evaluated, or processed for use: there were no errors in the raw data. 4. [of the edge of a piece of cloth] not having a hem or selvage. 5. [of a person] new to an activity or job and therefore lacking experience or skill: they were replaced by raw recruits. 2. [of a part of the body] red and painful, esp. as the result of skin abrasion: he scratched his hands until they were raw fig. Evan's nerves were raw. 3. [of the weather] bleak, cold, and damp; a raw February day. 4. [of an emotion or quality] strong and undisguised: he exuded an air of raw, virulent masculinity. —raw-ly adv. —raw-ness n.

n. 1. in the raw in its true state; not made to seem better or more palatable than it actually is; he didn't much care for nature in the raw. 2. int. (of a person) naked: I slept in the raw.

raw-deal n. harsh or unfair treatment: educators tell us that inner-city kids are getting a raw deal.

raw-hide /'rav-hid/ n. stiff untaught leather. 2. a whip or rope made of such leather.

raw-mate-rial n. the basic material from which a product is made.

ray /'re/ n. 1. each of the lines in which light (and heat) may seem to stream from a source or any luminous body, or pass through a small opening: a ray of sunlight came through the window. 2. (rays) a specified form of nonluminous radiation: water reflects and intensifies light. 3. (rays) a specified form of nonluminous radiation: light reflects and intensifies light. 4. (rays) a specified form of nonluminous radiation: light reflects and intensifies light. 5. Math. any of a set of straight lines passing through one point. 2. (rays) sunlight considered in the context of sunbathing: Sarah's catching some rays on a beach in Cruz Bay. 2. fig. an initial or slight indication of a positive or welcome quality in a time of difficulty or trouble: if only I could see some ray of hope. 2. a thing that is arranged radially, in particular: a composite flowerhead of the flower family) an array of ray florets that are arranged radially around the central disc, forming the white part of the flowerhead of a daisy.

Pronunciation Key 
Key 
Key 
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reaction

v. [intr.] spread from or as if from a central point: delicate lines rayed out at each corner of her eyes. —ray-ed adj. —ray-less adj. (chiefly Bot.)

ray n. a broad, flat marine or freshwater fish (Rajidae and other families) with a cartilaginous skeleton, winglike pectoral fins, and a long slender tail.

Raynaud’s disease [ə’rǽn-ədz] (also Raynaud’s syndrome) n. a disease characterized by spasm of the arteries in the extremities, esp. the fingers.

rayon [ra’-an] n. a textile fiber made from viscose. ■ fabric or cloth made from this fiber.

raze [ra’z] v. [tr.] usu. be razed] completely destroy (a building, town, or other site); villages were razed to the ground.

razor [ra’zər] n. an instrument with a sharp blade or combination of blades, used to remove unwanted hair from the face or body.

v. [v.] cut with a razor.

razor-back [ra’zər bak’] n. 1 (also razorback hog) a pig of a half-wild breed common in the southern U.S., with the back formed into a high, narrow ridge. 2 (also razorback ridge) a steep-sided, narrow ridge of land.

razor clam n. a burrowing bivalve mollusk (Ensis and other genera) with a long, slender shell that resembles the handle of a straight razor.

razor edge (also razor’s edge) n. a sharp edge of a knife, ax, or similar implement. ■ fig. a state of sharp incisiveness: he had honed his mind to a razor edge. ■ (the razor edge) fig. the most advanced stage in the development of something: the cutting edge; in 1960 jet planes were the razor edge of chic. —ra-zor-ed-dged adj.

razor wire n. a metal wire or ribbon with sharp edges or studded with small sharp blades, used as a barrier.

razzle-dazzle [ra’zəl da’zəl] n. noisy, showy, and exciting activity and display designed to attract and impress: myth, legend, and razzle-dazzle all rolled into one show | [as adj] hyped-up, razzle-dazzle gimmicks of quick-sell advertising.

razz-ma-tazz [ra’zə-ma taz’] n. another term for RAZZLE-DAZZLE.

rc abbr. Red Cross ■ Roman Catholic.

Rda abbr. Road (used in street names).

RDA abbr. recommended daily (or dietary) allowance, the quantity of a particular nutrient which should be consumed daily in order to maintain good health.

re abbr. the chemical element rubidium.

Rd abbr. Road (used in street names).

RDA abbr. recommended daily (or dietary) allowance, the quantity of a particular nutrient which should be consumed daily in order to maintain good health.

Rd abbr. Road (used in street names).

red v. [intr.] stretch out an arm in a specified direction in order to touch or grasp something; he reached over and turned off his bedside light. ■ hand (something) to (someone); reach me those glasses. ■ [intr.] be able to touch something with an outstretched arm or leg: I had to stand on tiptoe and even then I could hardly reach.

reach out ext. help, understand, or influence: he felt such an urge to reach out to his fellow sufferer. 2 [tr.] arrive at; get as far as: “Goodbye,” she said as they reached the door | the show is due to reach our screens early next year. ■ make contact or communicate with (someone) by telephone or other means; I’ve been trying to reach you all morning. ■ succeed in influencing or having an effect on: their fresh sound and message reach people who may never set foot in a church.

n. 1 an act of reaching out with one’s arm: she made a reach for him.

the distance to which someone can stretch out their hand (used esp. of a boxer): a giant, over six feet seven with a reach of over 81 inches. ■ the extent or range of application, effect, or influence; the diameter and the reach of the spark plug varies from engine to engine. ■ often reaches] a continuous extent of land or water, esp. a stretch of river between two bodies of water or the part of a canal between locks; the upper reaches of the Nile.

—reach-able adj.

react v. [intr.] respond or behave in a particular way in response to something: Iraq reacted angrily to Jordan’s shift in policy.

[react against] respond with hostility, opposition, or a contrary course of action to: they reacted against the elite art music of their time. ■ [of a person] suffer from adverse physiological effects after ingesting, breathing, or touching a substance: many babies react to soy-based formulas. ■ Chem. & Physics react and undergo a chemical or physical change: the sulfur in the coal reacts with the limestone during combustion.

stock market] (of stock prices) fall or rise in reaction to events, developments, etc.

react-tance [ræk’tants] n. Physics the nonresistive component of impedance in an AC circuit, arising from the effect of inductance or capacitance both and causing the current to be out of phase with the electromotive force causing it.

react-tant [ræk’tant] n. Chem. a substance that takes part in and undergoes change during a reaction.

reaction [ræk’shan] n. an action performed or a feeling experienced in response to a situation or event: Carrie’s immediate reaction was one of relief. ■ reactions] a person’s ability to respond physically and mentally to external stimuli: a skilled driver with quick reactions. ■ an adverse physiological response to a substance that has been breathed in, ingested, or touched: such allergic reactions as hay fever and asthma. ■ a chemical process in which two or more substances act mutually on each other and are changed into different substances, or one substance changes into two or more other substances. ■ Physics an analogous transformation of atomic nuclei or other particles. ■ a mode of thinking or behaving that is deliberately different from previous modes of thought and behavior: the work of these painters was a reaction
real [rɛl] adj. 1. actually existing as a thing or occurring in fact; not imagined or supposed: a story drawing on real events | her many illnesses, real and imaginary. 2. (of a substance or thing) not imitation or artificial; genuine; the carring was presumably real gold. n. true or actual; his real name is James | this isn't my real reason for coming. 3. (of a person or thing) rightly so called; proper: his idea of a real man | Japae is my only real friend. 4. of complete character; proper: real pain in questions to be a real disaster. 5. adjusted for changes in the value of money; assessed by purchasing power; real incomes had fallen by 30 percent. 6. Law of fixed property (i.e., land and buildings), as distinct from personal property; he lost nearly all of his real holdings. 7. Math. (of a number or quantity) having no imaginary part. See IMAGINARY. adv. really, very; my head hurts real bad. —real-ness n.

real- [rɛl] adj. for real inf. used to assert that something is genuine or is actually the case; that one is not playing games—used in such questions as to express surprise or to question the truth or seriousness of what one has heard or seen: are these guys for real? n. get real inf. used to convey that an idea or statement is foolish or overly idealistic: you want teens to have committed sexual relationships? Get real!

real-estate [rɛl'-e-stät] n. the more commonly used term for REAL PROPERTY; most of her real estate is in New Mexico. n. the business of selling real property, esp. in the capacity of an agent either to the buyer or the seller: Bryce has been in real estate for 11 years.

real-ign [rɛl'-iґn] v. [tr.] change or restore to a different or former position or state; they worked to relieve his shoulder pain and realign the joint. —real-ign-ment n.

real-ism [rɛl'-izəm] n. 1. the attitude or practice of accepting a situation as it is and being prepared to deal with it accordingly: the summit was marked by a new mood of realism. 2. the view that the subject matter of politics is political power, not matters of principle; political realism is the oldest approach to global politics. 3. the quality or fact of representing a person, thing, or situation accurately or in a way that is true to life: the early realism of Raimi's characters. n. (in art and literature) the movement or style of representing familiar things as they actually are. Often contrasted with IDEALISM (sense 1). —real-ist [rɛl'-ist] n.

real-istic [rɛl'-istik] adj. 1. having or showing a sensible and practical idea of what can be achieved or expected: jobs are scarce at the moment, so you've got to be realistic. 2. representing familiar things in a way that is accurate or true to life; a realistic human drama. —real-isti-cal-ly [rɛl'-istik-lə] adv. realistically, there was little prospect of any improvement.

real-ity [rɛl'-ət̻i] n. (pl. -ties) 1. the world or the state of things as they actually exist, as opposed to an idealistic or notional idea of them: he refuses to face reality. 2. a thing that is actually experienced or seen, esp. when this is grim or problematic; the harsh realities of life in a farming community. 3. the quality of being likeable or resembling an original: the reality of Mary's appearance betrays the state or quality of having existence or substance; youth, when death has no reality.

in reality in fact (used to contrast a false idea of what is true or possible with one that is more accurate): she had believed she could control these feelings, but in reality that was not so easy.

real-ize [rɛl'-iz] v. [tr.] 1. become fully aware of (something) as a fact; understand clearly; he realized his mistake at once. 2. cause (something desired or anticipated) to happen; his worst fears have been realized. 3. usu. be realized give (a fact or physical form to); the stage designs have been beautifully realized. 4. use (a distinctive feature) in a particular spoken or written form. 5. make (money or profit) from a transaction; he realized a profit of $100,000. 6. convert (an asset into cash); he realized all the assets in her trust fund. —real-ize-able adj. —real-ize-ation n. —real-ize-er n.

real-life [rɛl'-la-fa] n. 1. a life as it is lived in reality, involving welcome as well as welcome experiences, as distinct from a fictional world: [as adj.] real-life situations.

real-ly [rɛl'-əl] adv. 1. in actual fact, as opposed to what is said or implied to be true or possible: so what really happened? 2. used to add strength, sincerity, or seriousness to a statement or opinion; I really want to go. 3. seriously (used in questions and explanations with an implied negative answer); do you really expect me to believe that? 4. very, thoroughly: a really cold day. 5. (used to express interest, surprise, or doubt); "I've been working hard." "Really?" 6. (used to express mild protest; really, Marjorie, you do jump to conclusions) used to express agreement; it's a nightmare finding somewhere to live in this town." "Yeah, really."
recover verb [ˈrɪkəvər] v. 1 [lt. com] return to a normal state of health, mind, or strength. 2 [tr.] if something has recovered from shock, it is no longer a danger to people or things around it. 3 [be recovered] (of a person) you will be fully recovered before you know it. 4 [rc.] find or regain possession of. 5 regain or secure (compensation) by means of a legal process or subsequent profits: many companies recovered their costs within six months. 6 remove or extract (an energy source or industrial chemical) for use, reuse, or waste treatment.

recoverable adjective "recoverable".

recove-ry [ˈrɪkəvər-ɪ] n. (pl. -eries) 1 a return to a normal state of health, mind, or strength; signs of recovery in the housing market. 2 the action or process of regaining possession or control of something lost or stolen: a team of salvage experts to ensure the recovery of family possessions. 3 the action of regaining or securing compensation or money lost or spent by means of a legal process or subsequent profits: debt recovery. 4 an object or amount of money recovered: the recoveries included gold jewelry. 5 the process of removing or extracting an energy source or industrial chemical for use, reuse, or waste treatment. 6 (also recovery shot) a shot taken from the foul line or from a bad shot on the fairway or the green. 7 Football the act of taking possession of a fumbled ball. 8 (in rowing, cycling, or swimming) the action of regaining a paddle, leg or arm to its initial position ready to make a new stroke.

recover in recovery in the process of recovering from mental illness, drug addiction, or past abuse: support groups for parents whose children are in recovery.

re-creat-ive [riˈkreɪtɪv] also re-cre-a-tive | re-cre-a-tion [riˈkreɪʃən] n. 1. activity done for enjoyment when one is not working: areas used for recreation such as hiking or biking.

re-cre-a-tion [riˈkreɪʃən]nal adj.

re-cru-i [riˈkrʌi] n. (usu. re-criginations) an accusation in response to one from someone else: there are no tears, no re-creations.

re-cruit [riˈkrɔːt] n. 1 (in the armed forces) enroll (someone) as a member or worker in an organization or as a supporter of a cause: there are plans to recruit more staff later this year.

n. a person newly enrolled in the armed forces and not yet fully trained: 3,000 army recruits at Ft. Benning. 2 a new member of an organization or a new supporter of a cause: after agreeing on a salary, the new recruit failed to turn up on Monday morning.

re-cover-able adjective adj.

re-cover-able n.

re-tail [rɪˈteɪl] adj. of, relating to, or affecting the rectum; rectal cancer.

re-tail-ly adv.

re-tai-gle [rɪˈteɪɡl] n. a plane figure with four straight sides and four right angles, esp. one with unequal adjacent sides, in contrast to a square.

re-tai-gular [rɪˈteɪɡjʊlər] adj.

re-tie-fy [rɪˈtiːfɪ] v. -ties, -fied (tr. or intr.) 1 put (something) right: correct mistakes made now cannot be rectified later. 2 [usu. as adj.] (rectified) purified or refined (of a substance), esp. by repeated distillation: add 10 cc of rectified alcohol.

re-convert [rɪˈkɑːnˈvɑːrt] verb [ˈrɪkəvər] v. [tr.] convert (waste) to reusable material: car tires were recycled into new steel. 2 [recycling] a call the recycling of all paper. 3 (material) to a previous stage in a cyclic process.

red carpet n. a narrow, long red carpet laid on the ground for a special occasion, often at a formal event or gathering.

red carpeting n.

red carpetting n.

red carpetting adj. red carpetting.

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red carpetting noun.
referee a split between defict hawks and doves | as adj. (refereed) the only journal that publishes refereed articles.

reference /ˈre:fərəns/ n. 1 the action of mentioning or alluding to something: he made reference to the enormous power of the mass media. 2 a mention or citation of a source of information in a book or article. 3 book or passage cited in such a way. 4 use of a source of information in order to ascertain something: popular works of reference. 5 the sending of a matter for decision or consideration to some authority; demanded the immediate reference of the whole dispute to the United Nations. 6 a letter from a previous employer testifying to someone's ability or reliability, used when applying for a new job. 7 a person giving this.

› [tr] provide (a book or article) with citations of authorities: each chapter is referenced, citing literature up to 1990.

› adj. of, denoting, or pertaining to a reference library: most reference departments house reference books.

› for future reference for use at a later date: she lodged this idea in the back of her mind for future reference.

› with (or in) reference to in relation to; as regards: war can only be explained with reference to complex social factors.

reference book n. a book intended to be consulted for information on specific matters rather than read from beginning to end: a boat-up old grade-school dictionary was the only reference book I ever had in my house.

reference frame n. see FRAME OF REFERENCE.

reference-en-dum /ˌrefəˈrendəm/ n. (pl. -dums or -da -da) a general vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision. 1 the process of referring a political question to the electorate for this purpose.

reference /ˈre:fərəns/ n. Linguistics the thing that a word or phrase denotes or stands for: “the Morning Star” and “the Evening Star” have the same referent, the planet Venus.

re-ferral /ˌriˈfərəl/ n. an act of referring someone or something for consultation, review, or further action. 2 the directing of a patient to a specialist by a primary care physician. 3 a person whose case has been referred to a specialist doctor or a professional body.

referred pain n. Med. pain felt in a part of the body other than its actual source.

refine /ˈrɛfn/ v. (fies. -fled, -flying) [tr] refinance (a mortgage); adj. relating to refinancing and the refinancing market: the refi boom is here to stay.

refill /ˈrɛfl/ v. [tr] fill (a container) again; she passed and refilled her glass with wine before going on. 2 replenish the supply of medicine called for in a prescription: there's nothing he can do but refill his Valium prescription.

› [tr] fill an act of refilling a container again: he proffered his glass for a refill. 2 a container, esp. a glass, that is so filled: the waitress appeared with refills. 3 a refilled supply of medicine called for in a prescription: an oral contraceptive refill was dispensed.

› refill-able adj.

refine /ˈrɛfn/ v. [tr] remove impurities or unwanted elements from a substance, typically as part of an industrial process: sugar was refined by boiling it in water to separate impurities. 2 improve (something) by making small changes, in particular make (an idea, theory, or method) more subtle and accurate; easy of access to computers has refined analysis and presentation of data.

› refined adj.

refined /ˈrɛfn/ adj. with impurities or unwanted elements having been removed by processing; elegant and cultured in appearance, manner, or taste; her voice was very low and refined. 2 precise; subtle; a more refined timetable for continental drift.

refined-stment /ˈrɛfn-mənt/ n. the process of removing impurities or unwanted elements from a substance: the refinement of uranium; the improvement or clarification of something by the making of small changes; this gross figure needs considerable refinement. 2 cultured elegance in behavior or manner; her carefully cultivated veneer of sophistication and superior good taste: the refinement of Hellenistic art.

refined-stment /ˈrɛfn-mənt/ n. (pl. -ments) an industrial installation where a substance is refined: an oil refinery.

refit v. [tr] (fied, -fitting) [tr] replace or repair machinery, equipment, and fittings (in a ship, building, etc.) in a contractive repair of a submarine fleet.

› [tr] (fied, -fitting) a restoration or repair of machinery, equipment, or fittings.

reflect /ˈrɛflkt/ v. 1 [tr] (of a surface or body) throw back (heat, light, or sound) without absorbing it: when the sun's rays hit the earth a lot of the heat is reflected back into space. 2 of a mirror or shiny surface; the surface of: he should see himself reflected in Keith's mirror. 3 embody or represent (something) in a faithful or appropriate way: stocks are priced at a level that reflects a company's prospects. 4 of an action or situation. 5 (of a situation or action) bring (credit or discredit) to the relevant parties: the main contract is progressing well, which reflects great credit on those involved. 6 (of a reflection) reflect well/ badly on bring about a good or bad impression of: the incident reflects badly on the operating practices of the airplanes. 7 of (or upon) think deeply or carefully about: he reflected with sadness on the consequences of his actions. 8 (of a reflection) reflect. 9 of (someone or something) reflect. 10 the throwing back by a body or surface of light, heat, or sound without absorbing it: the reflection of light. 11 an amount of light, heat, or sound that is thrown back in such a way: the reflections from the streetlights gave us just enough light. 12 an image seen in a mirror or shiny surface: Marianne surveyed her reflection in the mirror.

› a thing that is a consequence of or arises from something else: a healthy skin is a reflection of good health in general.

› a thing bringing discredit to someone or something: it was a sad reflection on society that because of his affliction he was picked on.

› the conceptual operation of inventing a system or event with respect to a plane, each element being transferred perpendicularly through the plane to a point the same distance the other side of it. 2 serious thought or consideration: he doesn't get much time for reflection.

› an idea about something, esp. one that is written down or expressed: reflections on human destiny and art.

reflective /ˈrɛflktiv/ adj. 1 providing a reflection; capable of reflecting light or other radiation: reflective glass. 2 produced by reflection: a colorful reflective glow. 3 relating to or characterized by deep thought: thoughtful.

› reflect-ive-ly adv. -reflect-ive-ness n.

reflect /ˈrɛflkt/ v. 1 a piece of glass, metal, or other material for reflecting light in a required direction, e.g., a red one on the back of a motor vehicle or bicycle. 2 an object or device that reflects radio waves, seismic vibrations, sound, or other waves. 3 a reflecting telescope.

› reflect /ˈrɛflkt/ v. 1 an action that is performed as a response to a stimulus and without conscious thought: a newborn baby is equipped with basic reflexes. 2 a person's ability to perform such actions, esp. quickly: he was saved by his superb reflexes. 3 (in reflexology) a response in a part of the body to stimulation of a corresponding point on the feet, hands, or head. 4 reflex points. 2 a thing that is determined by and reproduces the essential features or qualities of something else: politics was no more a reflex of economics.

› word formed by development from an earlier stage of a language.

› of (an action) performed without conscious thought as an automatic response to a stimulus: sneezing is a reflex action.

› (of an angle) exceeding 180°. 2 (also reflexed) (esp. of flower petals) bent or turned backward. 3 reflect-ly adv.

› reflect-ive adj.

› reflect-camera /ˌrɛflkˈkæmərə/ n. a camera with a ground glass focusing screen on which the image is formed by a combination of lens and mirror, enabling the scene to be correctly composed and focused.

› reflect-ive-ly adj. -reflect-ive-ness n.

› reflux /ˈrɛflks/ n. Chem. the process of boiling a liquid in such a way that any vapor is liquefied and returned to the stock. 2 technical the flowing back of a liquid, esp. that of a fluid in the body.

› Chem. boil or cause to boil in circumstances such that the vapor returns to the stock of liquid after condensing. 2 technical (of a liquid, esp. a bodily fluid) flow back.

› focus /ˈfəks/ v. (focussed, -focussing -focused, -focussing) [tr] adjust the focus of a lens or one's eyes; focus (attention or requirements) on something new or different. 2 refocus on yourself through reporting your main points.

› forest /ˈfərst/ -fərast v. [tr] replant with trees; cover again with forest: a project to reforest the country's coastal areas.

› reform /rəˈfɔrm/ v. [tr] make changes in (something, typically a so-
cial, political, or economic institution or practice) in order to improve it, an opportunity to reform and restructure an antiquated school model.
- bring about a change in (someone) so that they no longer behave in an immoral, criminal, or self-destructive manner: the state has a duty to reform criminals.
- adj. (of a person) change oneself in such a way that one is only when their drunk behavior led to blowing that they started to reform.
- Chem. subject (hydrocarbons) to a catalytic process in which straight-chain molecules are converted to branched forms for use in gasoline to improve its antiknock properties.

refresh (n. the process of reforming an institution or practice: the reformation of the divorce laws).
- adj. (Reform) of, denoting, or pertaining to Reform Judaism: a Reform rabbi.
- refreshable adj. refreshable adj.

refreshment (n. form or cause to reform again: [intr.] the clouds reformed over the sun.
- refreshments (n. chiefly Comput. give a new format to; revise or represent in another format.

reformation (n. 1. the process of a reformation of an institution or practice: the reformation of the church. 2. (The Reforma-
tion) a 16th-century movement for the reformation of abuses in the Roman Catholic Church ending in the establishment of the Reformed Churches.
- reformational adj. (Reform) esp. when (someone) is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster: refugees from Nazi persecution.

refund (n. p.t. refund) a repayment of a sum of money, typically to a dissatisfied customer: you are entitled to reject it and insist on a refund. 

refresh (v. usu. be refreshed) (of water, air, or glass) make (a ray of light) change direction when it enters at an angle: the rays of light are refracted by the material of the lens. n. measure the focusing characteristics of (an eye) or of the eyes of (someone). 

refraction (n. refractive) n. 1. a person who advocates gradual rather than radical or revolutionary changes. 

refresh school (n. an institution to which youthful offenders are sent as an alternative to prison; a reform school.

refreshing (adj. refreshing) adj. supporting or advancing gradual reform rather than revolution or revolution.

refresh (v. refresh) refreshment (n. a person who enters or refreshments provided for (someone's) use.

refresh (v. refresh) refreshment (n. a person who is suffering from a hangover, fatigue, or other discomfort and is taken to a place of refreshment.)

refreshing (adj. refreshing) adj. to a process or stimulus: some granules are reactive to secretory stimuli. n. Med. of a person, illness, or diseased tissue not yielding to treatment: healing of previously refractory ulcers. n. technical of (a substance) resistant to heat; hard to melt or fuse.

refreshman (n. stop oneself from doing something: she refrained from commenting.

refresh (v. refresh) refreshment (n. a repeated line or number of lines in a poem or song, typically at the end of each verse. 

refresh (v. refresh) refreshment (n. a short course reviewing or updating previous studies or training connected with one's profession.

refreshing (adj. refreshing) adj. serving to refresh or reinvigorate someone: a refreshing drink.

refreshment (n. refreshments) a light snack or drink, esp. one provided in a public place or at a public event; light refreshments are available. 

refrigerate (n. refrigeration) n. a substance used for refrigeration. 
- adj. causing cooling or refrigeration.
regard 750

shifting uniquely before their clear regard. 2 [regards] best wishes (used to express friendliness in greetings, esp. at the end of letters): give me your regards.

regard as [regards] regarding: with respect to; as regards content, the program will cover important current issues. in this (or that) regard in connection with the point previously mentioned: there was little incentive for them to be active in this regard. with (or in) regard to as concerns; with respect to: he made inquiries with regard to Beth.

regarding prep. with respect to: concerning: your recent letter regarding the above proposal.

regardless adj. without paying attention to the present situation; despite the prevailing circumstances: they were determined to carry on regardless. —regardless-ly adv. —regardless-less n.

regal adj. of, marked by, or characteristic of a monarch or other person of exalted rank: a regal presence. —regal-ness n.

regale v. to give, or treat, as a guest: regale them with an account of their adventures. —regaler n.

regeneration n. 1 the action of regenerating. 2 a procedure or method of regenerating. 3 the state of being regenerable.

regency n. (pl. -cies) the office or period of government by a monarch: a commission acting as regent; the Regency. the particular period of a regency, esp. (in Britain) from 1811 to 1820 and (in France) from 1715 to 1723. relating to or denoting British architecture, clothing, and furniture of the Regency or, more widely, of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Regency style was contemporary with the Empire style and shares many of its features: elaborate and ornate, it is generally neoclassical, with a generous borrowing of Greek and Egyptian motifs.

regenerate v. to bring into renewed existence; to regenerate a part of an organ or tissue: regrow: once destroyed, brain cells do not regenerate. bring into renewed existence: regenerate an organ or tissue after injury. regenerate last month: bring new and more vigorous life to (an area or institution). in economic terms: regenerate the inner cities. (esp. in Christian use) give a new and higher spiritual nature to.

regency adj. relating to or denoting British architecture, clothing, and furniture of the Regency or, more widely, of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Regency style was contemporary with the Empire style and shares many of its features: elaborate and ornate, it is generally neoclassical, with a generous borrowing of Greek and Egyptian motifs.

regenerate adj. acting as regent for a monarch: the queen regent of Portugal.

reggae n. reggae: [reg- 

regis-trar v. [regis-tr-er] (pl. -tries) 1 the act of registering. 2 the office or process of registering. 3 of being registered: the registration of births, marriages, and deaths. a certificate that attests to the registering of a person, automobile, etc. —regis-trar-ship n.

registral adj. relating to or denoting a registry or a register of records: a recognized purebred dog registry.

registrable adj. capable of being registered: a registrable mark.

registered n. (abbr.: RN) a nurse who has graduated from a college's nursing program or from a school of nursing and has passed a national licensing exam. Compare with PRACTICAL NURSE.

registered n. (pl. -ries) 1 a place or office where registers or records are kept. 2 a local office or register: a recognized purebred dog registry. 3 registration. 4 the nationality of a merchant ship: converted trawlers of local registry.

regress v. 1 to return to a former or less developed state: art has been regressing toward adolescence for more than a generation now. 2 return mentally to a former stage of life or a supposed previous life, esp. through hypnosis or mental illness: she claims to be able to regress to the Roman era. 3 to reduce the coefficient or coefficients of regression of a variable against or on another variable. 4 the action of returning to a former or less developed state. 5 a return to a former or less developed state. 6 a return to an earlier stage of life or a supposed previous life, esp. through hypnosis or mental illness, or as a means of escaping present anxieties: as adj. regression therapy. 7 a lessening of the severity of a disease or its symptoms: he seemed able to produce a regression in this disease. 8 Statistics a measure of the deviation between the mean value of one variable (e.g., output) and corresponding values of other variables (e.g., time and cost). 9 becoming less advanced; returning to a former or less developed state: the regressive, infantile wish for the perfect parent of early childhood. 10 of, relating to, or marked by psychological regression. 11 of (a tax) taking a proportionally greater amount from those on lower incomes.


regret [regret] v. (regret-ed, regretting) [tr.] feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over (something that has happened or been done). esp. a loss or missed opportunity: she immediately regretted her words. used in polite formulas to express apology for or sadness over something unfortunate or unpleasant: any inconvenience to readers is regretted. to archaic feel sorrow for the loss or absence of (something pleasant); my home, when shall I cease to regret you?

n. a feeling of sadness, repentance, or disappointment over something that has happened or been done: she expressed her regret at Virginia's death. often regrets an instance or cause of such feeling; she had...
**remonstrance** n. a forcibly reproachful protest: (as) a speech protesting in the Senate | he shot his ears to any remonstrance.

**remorse** [ri'morz] n. deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed: they were filled with remorse and shame.

**remonstrative** adj. (-mstr-), (-mstr-iv), (-mstr-ive), (-mstr-ad). of or related to the kidneys: renal failure.

**rend** v. (past rent, rent) [tr] tear (something) into two or more pieces; snapping teeth that would rend human flesh to shreds | esp. the speculation and confusion that was rending the civilized world | poetic: cause great emotional pain to a person or their heart.

**render** v. (past rendered, resent) [tr] provide: money serves as a reward for services rendered. submit or present for inspection or consideration: he would render income tax returns at the end of the year. deliver (a verdict or judgment): the jury's finding amounted to the least verdict yet rendered upon the scandal.

**rendering** [rendaning] n. a performance of a piece of music or drama: her fine rendering of "Che Faro senza Eufemia" was enough to win her strong commendation. a translation: a literal rendering of an idiom. a work of visual art, esp. a detailed architectural drawing: a consummately lilted three-dimensional rendering of a building interior. the processing of an outline image using color and shading to make it appear solid and three-dimensional.

**rendezvous** [rændir, -voo] pl. da] adj. (pl. same) a meeting at an agreed time and place, typically between two people. a place used for such a meeting.

**rente** n. [fr. rendir] a person who deserts and betrays an organization, country, or set of principles. a person who behaves in a rebelliously unconventional manner.

**renew** v. (past renewed, renewal) [tr] go back on a promise, undertaking, or contract; the administration had reneged on its election promises. another term for revoke (sense 2). a reneging.

**renegazy** [ren-i's/az/] n. an enzyme secreted into the stomach of an unweaned calf, containing rennin and used in curdling milk for cheese.

**renell** n. [fr. renn'] a person; an organ of government, or a person; and, in some countries, a person who deserts, deserters, or deserts belongings.

**renounce** v. [tr] formally declare one's abandonment of (a claim, right, or possession); Isabella offered to renounce her son's claim to the French crown. to refuse to recognize or abide by any longer; these agreements were renounced after the fall of the czarist regime. to declare that one will no longer engage in or support; they renounced the armed struggle. to reject and stop using or consuming; he renounced drugs and alcohol completely. to cease lawfully or resign a right or position, esp. one as an heir or trustee: there will be forms enabling the allottee to renounce. another term for renounce.

**renown** [ren/n ] adj. [a renown].

**renown** [ren/n ] n. the condition of being known or talked about by many people; fame; authors of great renown.

**renowneds** [fr. renowned] adj. known or talked about by many people; famous; a restaurant renowned for its Peking duck.

**rent** [rent] n. a tenant's regular payment for a land use of property or land.

**rend** v. [tr] pay someone for the use of something, typically property, land.
rent [rɛnt] n. a large tear in a piece of fabric. | an opening or gap resembling such a tear; they stared at the rents in the clouds.

rent [rɛnt] adj. of, relating to, or available for rent: rental properties.

renter [rɛntə] n. 1 a person who rents an apartment, a car, or other object. 2 a rented car or videocassette.

re-pet-a-tion [rɛpɛtəˈʃən] n. the making of amendments for a wrong one has done, by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have been wronged: the courts required a convicted offender to make financial compensation in order to rectify their actions. — re-pet-a-tive adj.

re-pay [rɛpɛˈpɛ] v. [tr] to repay. — re-pay-able adj.

re-play [rɛpɛˈpleɪ] v. [tr] 1 play back (a recording on tape, video, or film): he could stop the tape and replay it whenever he wished. 2 (as adj) repeated, esp. a series of repeated raisings and lowerings of the weight in weight training.

re-plent-i-ous [rɛpˈlɛntɪəs] adj. another term for REPLETORIOUS. — re-plent-i-ous-ly adv. — re-plent-i-ous-ness n.

re-plent-i-ly [rɛpˈlɛntɪli] adv. containing or characterized by repetition, esp. when unnecessary or tiresome: a repetitive task. — re-plent-i-ly adv. — re-plent-i-ly ness n.

re-plac-e-ment [rɛpˈleɪsmənt] n. the action or process of replacing someone or something: a hip replacement. — a person or thing that takes the place of another.
people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.

- **republi-can** /rəˈpʌblɪkən/ adj. (of a form of government, constitution, etc.) belonging to, or characteristic of, a republic. ■ advocating or supporting republican government: the republican movement.

  n. 1 a person advocating or supporting republican government.

  2 (Republican) a member or supporter of the Republican Party. ■ **repub-li-can-ism** /rəˈpʌblɪkənɪzəm/ n.

**Republi-can Party** one of the two main U.S. political parties (the other being the Democratic Party), favoring a conservative stance, limited central government, and a strong national defense.

- **repu-di-a-tion** /rəˈpʌdɪəʃən/ n. intense disgust: our growing repugration at the bleeding carcasses.

**re-pug-nant** /rəˈpʌɡnənt/ adj. 1 extremely distasteful; unacceptable: the thought of going back into the fog was repugnant to him. ■ (repugnant) in conflict with; incompatible with: a bylaw must not be repugnant to the general law of the country.

- **re-pulse** /rəˈpʌls/ v. [tr.] 1 drive back (an attack or attacking enemy) by force: rioters tried to storm ministry buildings but were repulsed by police.

  ■ fail to welcome (friendly advances or the person making them); rebuff: she left, feeling hurt because she had been repulsed. ■ refuse to accept (an offer); his bid for the company was repulsed. 2 (usu. be repulsed) cause (someone) to feel intense distaste and aversion: audiences at early screenings of the film were repulsed by its brutality.

  ■ the action of repelling back an attacking force or of being driven back: the repulse of the invaders. ■ a discouraging response to friendly advances: his evasion of her plan had been another repulse.

- **re-pul-sion** /rəˈpʌlʃən/ n. 1 a feeling of intense distaste or disgust: people talk about the case with a mixture of fascination and repulsion.

  2 Physics a force under the influence of which objects tend to move away from each other, e.g., through having the same magnetic polarity or electric charge.

- **re-pul-sive** /rəˈpʌlsvi/ adj. arousing intense distaste or disgust: a repulsive smell. ■ archa. lacking friendliness or sympathy. ■ repulsively adv.

- **re-pu-ta-bile** /rəˈpʊteɪtəbəl/ adj. having a good reputation: reputable company.

- **re-pu-ta-tion** /rəˈpʊteɪʃən/ n. the beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone or something: his reputation was tarnished by allegations that he had taken bribes.

- **re-pu-te** /rəˈpʊtə/ n. the opinion generally held of someone or something: the state of being generally regarded in a particular way: pollution could bring the authority's name into bad repute.

  v. [be reputed] be generally said or believed to do something or to have particular characteristics: he was reputed to have a fabulous house.

  ■ (usu. as adj.) [reputed] be generally said or believed to exist or be of a particular type, despite not being so: this area gave the lie to the reput ed flatness of the country.

  ■ (usu. as adj.) [reputed] be widely known and well thought of: intensive training with reputed coaches.

- **re-quest** /rɪˈkwɛst/ n. an act of asking politely or formally for something: a request for information. ■ a thing that is asked for: to have our ideas taken seriously is surely a reasonable request. ■ an instruction to a computer to provide information or perform another function.

  v. [tr.] politely or formally ask for: he received the information he had requested. ■ politely ask (someone) to do something: the letter requested him to report to New York immediately.

- **re-qui-em** /rɪˈkwɪəm; rɪˈkwɛm/ n. (also requiem mass) esp. in the Roman Catholic Church) a Mass for the repose of the souls of the dead. ■ a musical composition setting parts of such a Mass, or of a similar character. ■ an act or token of remembrance; he designed the epi as a requiem for his wife.

- **reQUIRE** /rɪˈkwɪər/ v. [tr.] need for a particular purpose; depend on for: a prescription drug: three patients required operations. ■ cause to be necessary: it would have been unwise to seek research to produce a comprehensive list.

  ■ [tr.] (of someone in authority) to order (someone) to do something; you will be required to attend for cross-examination. ■ (require something of) regard an action, ability, or quality as due from (someone) one by virtue of their position: the care and diligence required of him as a trustee.

  ■ **re-quire-ment** n. ■ **re-quire-er** n.

- **re-quiv** /rəˈkwɪz/ adj. made necessary by particular
requisition: a document or statement requesting something, especially the reservation of something for a particular purpose or person.

residential: of, relating to, or situated in a residential area (R/6).
a person's reputation, etc.) be much talked of: whatever they do in the nineties will not resound in the way that their earlier achievements did.

resounding [ri'souding] adj. 1 (of a sound) loud enough to reverberate: a resounding smack across the face. 2 unmistakable; emphatic: the evening was resounding success. —resounding-ly adv.

res-source [ri'sɔr] n. 1 (usu. resources) a stock or supply of money, materials, staff, and other assets that can be drawn on by a person or organization in order to function effectively: local authorities complained that they lacked resources. 2 an action or strategy that may be adopted in adverse circumstances: sometimes anger is the only resource left in a situation. (resources) one's personal attributes and capabilities regarded as able to help or sustain one in adverse circumstances: we had been left very much to our own resources. (resource) ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties: a man of resource. ■ a teaching aid.

v. [res] provide (a person or organization) with materials, money, staff, and other assets necessary for effective operation: ensuring that primary health care workers are adequately resourced. —res-source-ful adj. —res-source-ful-ness n. —resource-less adj. —resource-less-ly n.

res-pect [ri'spekt] n. 1 a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements: the director had a lot of respect for Douglas as an actor. ■ due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others: respect for human rights. ■ (respects) a person's polite greetings: give my respects to your parents. 2 a particular aspect, point, or detail: the government's record in this respect is a mixed one. ■ v. [res] admire (someone or something) deeply: they were the result of their abilities, qualities, or achievements: she was respected by everyone she worked with [res, adj] (respected) a respected academic. ■ have due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of: I respected his views. ■ avoid harming or interfering with: it is incumbent upon all brother to respect the environment. ■ late Middle English: from Latin respectus, from the verb respicere 'look back at, regard,' from re- 'back' + specere 'look at.' —res-pect-er n.

res-pect-able [ri'spektəbəl] adj. 1 regarded by society to be good, proper, or correct: they thought the stage no life for a respectable lady. ■ (of a person's appearance, clothes, or behavior) decent or presentable: a perfectly respectable pair of pajamas. 2 of some merit or importance: a respectable botanical text. ■ adequate or acceptable in number, size, or amount: America's GDP grew by a respectable 2.6 percent. —res-pect-a-bil-i-ty [ri'spektəbɪlɪ-ti] n. —res-pect-a-bil-ly adv. —res-pect-a-bil-ness n.

res-pect-ing [ri'spektəŋ] prep. dated or format with reference or regard to: he began to have serious worries respecting his car.

res-pective [ri'spektɪv] adj. belonging or relating separately to each of two or more people or things: they chatted about their respective childhoods. —res-pect-i-ve-ly adv.


res-pi-rato-ry [res'pektə'tɔrɪ] adj. 1 an apparatus worn over the mouth and nose or the entire face to prevent the inhalation of dust, smoke, or other noxious substances. ■ an apparatus used to induce artificial respiration.

res-pite [res'pɪt] n. 1 a short period of rest or relief from something difficult or unpleasant: the refuge encampment will provide some respite from the suffering.

re-splendent [ri'splɛndənt] adj. attractive and impressive through being richly colorful or sumptuous: she was resplendent in a sea-green dress. —re-splend-ence n. —re-splen-dent-ly adv.

re-spond [ri'spænd] v. respond in reply: [inf.] she could not get Robert to respond to her words. ■ (of a congregation) say or sing the response in reply to a priest. ■ [inf.] (of a person) act or behave in reaction to someone or something: she turned her head, responding to his grin with a smile. ■ respond quickly or positively to a stimulus or treatment: his back injury has failed to respond to treatment. —re-spond-ent n. 1 a defendant in a lawsuit, esp. one in an appeals or divorce case. 2 a person who replies to something, esp. one supplying information for a survey or questionnaire or responding to an advertisement.

adj. 1 replying to something, esp. a survey or questionnaire: the respondent firms in the survey. 2 Psychol. involving or denoting a response, esp. a conditioned reflex, to a specific stimulus.

re-sponse [ri'spɑns] n. 1 a verbal or written answer: without waiting for a response, she returned to her newspaper. 2 a reaction to something: an extended, joyous piano solo drew the biggest response from the crowd. ■ Psychol. & Physiol. an excitation of a nerve impulse caused by change or removal: a physical reaction to a specific stimulus or situation. —the way in which a mechanical or electrical device responds to an input of a range of inputs. (responses) a part of a religious liturgy said or sung by a congregation in answer to a minister or cantor.

re-sponsi-bil-i-ty [ri'spɑnsə'bi] n. 1 (pl. -ties) the state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone: women bear children and take responsibility for child care. 2 the opportunity or ability to act independently and make decisions without authorization: we would expect individuals lower down the organization to take more responsibility. ■ (responsibilities) a thing that one is required to do as part of a job, role, or legal obligations: we will forego the responsibilities of overseas director. ■ (responsibility to/toward) a moral obligation to behave correctly toward or in respect of: individuals have a responsibility to control personal behavior.

re-spon-si-ble [ri'spɑnsəbl] adj. having an obligation to do something, or having control over care for someone, as part of one's job or role: the department responsible for education. ■ being the primary cause of something and so able to be blamed or credited for it: the gene was responsible for a rare type of eye cancer. ■ (of a job or position) involving important and independent decisions, making, or control over others. ■ (responsible for) being answerable to (a superior or someone in authority) and be answerable to them: for one's actions: the team manager is responsible to the league president. ■ capable of being trusted: a responsible adult. ■ morally accountable for one's behavior: the progressive emergence of the child as a responsible being. —re-spons-i-bil-i-ty n. —re-spons-i-ble-ly adv. —re-spons-i-ble-ness n.

re-spon-sive [ri'spɑnsiv] adj. 1 reacting quickly and positively: a flexible service that is responsive to changing social and economic patterns. 2 answering: I'm distracted by a nibble on my line. I like it several times, but there is no responsive tug. —re-spon-sive-ly adv. —re-spon-sive-ness n.

re-spons [ri'spɑns] v. [inf.] 1 cease work or movement in order to relax, refresh oneself, or recover strength: he needed to rest after the feverish activity. ■ (of a dead person or body) lie buried: he is the body rested in its tomb. ■ (of a problem or subject) be left without further investigation, discussion, or treatment: the council has urged the planning committee not to allow the matter to rest. 2 [inf.] place (something) so that it is supported in a specified position: her elbow was resting on the arm of the sofa. ■ [inf.] place (something) so that it is supported in a specified position: he rested a hand on her shoulder. ■ (rest on/upon) of a look alright or be steadily directed on: his eyes rest briefly on the bay. ■ (rest on/upon) be on or grounded in: depend on: the country's security rested on its alliances. ■ (rest something on/in) place hope, trust, or confidence on or in: she rested her hopes in her attorney. ■ be located at a specified place or with a specified person: ultimate control of the land was with the builders. ■ [inf.] an instance or period of relaxing or ceasing to engage in a tedious or stressful activity: you look as though you need a rest. ■ refreshment through sleep: she curled up in a corner to get some rest. ■ a motionless state: the car accelerates rapidly from rest. ■ Mus. an interval of silence of a specified duration. ■ Mus. the sign denoting such an interval. —[in place names] a place where people can stay: we spent the night at Kirkby Lonsdale. ■ [in comb.] an object that is used to support something; a shoulder-rest.

at rest not moving or exerting oneself: not agitated or troubled: tranquil; he felt at rest, the tension gone. ■ give a rest int. used to ask someone to stop doing something: I'm talking about something that the speaker finds irritating or tedious. ■ rest one's case adj. having something to do with what is presented in evidence and arguments in a lawsuit, hushed to show that one believes one has presented sufficient evidence for one's views.

rest [rɛst] n. the remaining part: what do you want to do for the rest of your life? I'll tell you the rest tomorrow night. ■ [treated as pl.] the remaining people or things; the others: the rest of us were experienced skiers. ■ [inf.] remain or be left in a specified condition: you can rest assured she will do what everyone can to help her.

re-state [ri'steɪt] v. [inf.] state (something) again or differently, esp. in

Pronunciation Key: a as in ago, up, or over; fur: a hat; a ate; a car; ch chin; e let; 6 see; o air; i lit; i by; o air; no sing; o go; o low; for; o by; o gook; o go; ou out; s h she; th thin; th then; (h) why; zh vision
order to correct or to make more clear or convincing: he restated his opposition to abortion [as adj.] restated earnings.

restarauteur [resta-'toor] n. a person who owns and manages a restaurant.

restful [restfl] adj. having a quiet and soothing quality; the rooms were cool and restful. —restfully adv. —restful-ness n.

rest home n. a residential institution where old or frail people are cared for.

restitu- tion [rest-'tyú-shen] n. 1 the restoration of something lost or stolen to its proper owner: seeking the restitution of land taken from blacks under apartheid. 2 recompense for injury or loss: he was ordered to pay $6,000 in restitution. 3 the restoration of something to its original state: restitution of the damaged musa. —restitu-tive [rest-'tyú-tiv] adj.

re-straint [ri'strast] n. 1. a place where people pay to sit and eat meals that are cooked and served on the premises. 2. restraint about (restar-tion) [restar-tion] n. 1. restraint of freedom or movement: a restriction on the movement of goods. 2. an act of restricting or being restricted: he was restrained from leaving the building. —re-stri-m Interstate Corp., which operates a franchise system of restaurants.

rest-er-act [ri'strakten] v. (often restrictions) a limiting condition or measure, esp. a legal one: placing restrictions on commercial development. 2. the limitation or control of someone or something, or the state of being limited or restricted: the restriction of local government power. —rest-restrict-ion-ism [ri'strast-'zam] n. —rest-restrict-ion-ist [ri'strast-'on-ist] adj. & n.

re-stric-tive [ri'strikativ] adj. 1 imposing restrictions or limitations on someone's activities or freedom: a web of restrictive regulations. 2. Gram. (of a relative clause or descriptive phrase) serving to specify the particular instance or instances being mentioned. —re-strictive-ly adv. —re-strictive-less adj.

rest-room [rest-'room] —room (also rest room) n. a bathroom in a public building.

re-struct-g [rest-kar-'g] v. [tr] organize differently: a plan to strengthen and restructure the department [as n.] restructuring the re-establishing of this wing of the Louvre. — Finance convert (the debt of a business in difficulty) into another kind of debt, typically one that is repayable at a later time.

re-struct-ing [ri'straktar-'g] v. —re-struct (someone) a company with a view to achieving greater efficiency and profit, or to adapt to a changing market.

re-style [ri'sta] v. [v.] 1 rearrange or remake in a new shape or layout: Nick restyled Rebecca's hair. 2. give a new designation to. [tr.] the division has renamed the branch the Lovely Line. 3. [n.] [restyling] an instance of reshaping or rearranging something. —n. a new shape or arrangement.

re-sult [ri'selt] n. 1. a consequence, effect, or outcome of something: the tower collapsed as a result of safety violations. 2. an item of information obtained by experiment or some other scientific method: a quantity or formula obtained by calculation. 3. [often results] a final score, mark, or placing in a sporting event or examination.

re-turn [ri'turn] v. [v.] 1 to occur or follow as the consequence of something: government impunities resulting from the lack of the army | [as adj.] resulting from the effect of the army | [as adj.] resulting from the outcome. 2. talk of a general election and the resulting political uncertainty: [result in] have a (specified end or outcome): talks in July had resulted in stalemate.

re-sus-ci-tate [ri'sus-sa-tet] v. [v.] 1 to bring back (a previous right, practice, custom, or tradition); reinstate: the government restored confidence in the housing market. 2. return (someone or something) to a former condition, place, or position: the effort to restore him to office isn't working. 3. repair or renovate (a building, work of art, vehicle, etc.) so as to return it to its original condition: the building has been lovingly restored.

re-sus-ci-tation [ri'sus-sa-ta'shən] n. 1. act of restoring someone or something to their original state: the restoration of health. 2. the action or process of restoring something to its original condition: the shopkeeper returned the watch to its original state.

re-sus-ci-tant [ri'sus-sa-tant] adj. occurring or produced as a result or consequence of something: restructuring and the resultant cost savings.

re-sus-ci-ta-tion [ri'sus-sa-ta'shən] n. 1. the process of repairing or renovating a building, work of art, vehicle, etc., so as to return it to its original condition: the restoration of a ship. 2. the process of returning something to its original condition: the restoration of a painting. 3. [n.] the re-establishment of Charles II as King of England in 1660. 4. [Restoration] (usu. as adj.) the period following this: esp. with regard to its literature or architecture: Restoration drama.


re-sus-ci-ta-tion-al [ri'sus-sa-ta-'shə-nəl] adj. pertaining to something or someone who is a resuscitator or someone who receives resuscitation.


re-sus-ci-ta-tion-less [ri'sus-sa-ta-'ləs] adj.

re-sus-ci-ta-tion-less-ly adv. —re-sus-ci-ta-tion-less-ness n.

re-sus-ci-ta-tion-less-ly adv. —re-sus-ci-ta-tion-less-ness n.

re-sus-ci-ta-tion-ist [ri'sus-sa-ta-'on-ist] adj. & n.


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re-1-ti-nal /ri-ti'nal/ adj. See RETINAL.
retrench /ri'trench/ n. 1. an act of moving back or withdrawing; a speedy retreat. 2. an act of changing one's decisions, plans, or attitude, esp. as a result of criticism from others: his proposals were clearly unreasonable and he was soon forced to retreat.

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retrench /ri'trench/ v. [intr] (of a company, government, or individual) reduce costs or spending in response to economic difficulty: as a result of the recession the company retrenched | [intr] if people are forced to retrench their expenditure trade will suffer. • [lit] formal reduce or diminish (something) in extent or quantity; fortune had retrenched her once abundant gifts. —retrenchment n.

retribution /re'tra-byu'shan/ n. punishment that is considered to be morally right and fully deserved: settlers drove the Navajo out of Arizona in retribution for their raids. —retributive /'ri'trəbətiv/ adj. —retributively /'ri'trəbətivli/ adv.

retrieve /ri'trēv/ v. [intr] get (something) back; regain possession of: I was sent to retrieve the balls from his garden. • bring (something) back into one's mind: the police hope to encourage him to retrieve forgotten memories.

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retro- /'retro/ adj. 1. of or relating to a past period; of or relating to a time long ago: a retro style fashion. 2. old-fashioned: a retro computer.

• adj. 1. of or relating to a past period; of or relating to a time long ago: a retro style fashion. 2. old-fashioned: a retro computer.

retroactive /'retro-aktiv/ adj. (esp. of legislation) taking effect from a date in the past; a big retroactive tax increase. —retroactivity /'retro-aktivətI/ n. —retroactively adv. —retroactive-ity /'retro-aktivəti/ n.

retro-fit /'retro-fit/ v. [tr] fitted or fitting: fitting [tr] add (a component or accessory) to something that did not have it when manufactured: drivers who retrofit catalytic converters to older cars. • provide (something) with a component or accessory not fitted to it during manufacture: buses have been retrofitted with easy-access features.

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retrograde /'retro-gräd/ adj. directed or moving backward: a retrograde flow. • reversion to an earlier and inferior condition: to go back on the progress that has been made would be a retrograde step. • (of the order of something) reversed: inverse; the retrograde form of these inscriptions.

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retrograde /'retro-gräd/ v. [intr] go back on an earlier state, typically a worse one; she regressed to the starting point of her rehabilitation. —retrogression n.

retrofit /'retro-fit/ n. a small auxiliary rocket on a spacecraft or missile, fired in the direction of travel to slow the craft down, for example, when landing on the surface of a planet.
the engine speed of (a vehicle) by pressing the accelerator, esp. while the clutch is disengaged: he got into the car, revved up the engine and drove off. [intr] /rev·ved up/ enthusiastically. [intr] /rev·ved up/ (of an engine or vehicle) operate with increasing speed when the accelerator is pressed, esp. while the clutch is disengaged: he could hear the sound of an engine revving nearby.

Rev. /rēv/  
1 abbr. Bible the book of Revelation.  
2 (as the title of a priest) Reverend

rev·va·lue /rēvˈvāl(y)ə-ˈvoo/ v. (values, valued, valuing) [tr] assess the value of something again. [Econ. adjust the value of (a currency) in relation to other currencies. rev·va·luation /rēvˈvāl(y)ə-ˈlā-shən/ n.

revamp /rēv·vamp/ v. [tr] give new and improved form, structure, or appearance to: an attempt to revamp the museum's image. [as adj] /rēv·vamped/ a revamped magazine.

n. an act of improving the form, structure, or appearance of something. a new and improved version: the show was a revamp of an old idea.

rev·e·al /rēvˈe-əl/ v. [tr] (make) [prove unknown or secret information] known to others: Brenda was forced to reveal Robbie's whereabouts.

cause or allow (something) to be seen: the clouds were breaking up to reveal a clear blue sky. reveal-able adj. reveal·er n.

n. either side surface of an aperture in a wall for a door or window.

rev·e·i·le /rēvˈrē-əl/ n. a signal sounded esp. on a bugle or drum to wake personnel in the armed forces.

rev·el /rēv·əl/ v. (revelled, reveling: chiefly Brit. revelled, reveling) [intr] engage in lively and noisy festivities, esp. those which involve drinking and dancing: n. (reveling) a night of drunken reveling. [rev·el·ing in] get great pleasure from (a situation or experience): Bill said he was secretly reveling in his newfound fame.

n. revels lively and noisy festivities, esp. those which involve drinking and dancing. a Middle English: from Old French reveler 'rise up in rebellion,' from Latin rebelle 'to rebel.' -rev·eler or rev·eler·n. rev·er·en·tial /rēv·ər·ən·chəl/ adj.

rev·er·en·tie /rēv·ər·ən·chəl/ of the nature of, due to, or characterized by reverence: their names are always mentioned in reverential tones. rever·en·tially adv.

rev·er·ei /rēv·ər·aɪ/ n. a state of being pleasantly lost in one's thoughts: a daydream: a knock on the door broke her reverie. n. a spiritual practice involving a dreamy or musing state.

rev·er·sal /rēv·ər·əs·əl/ n. a change to an opposite direction, position, or course of action: a dramatic reversal in population decline in the Alps; the reversal of tidal currents. n. a reversal of judgment: the U.S. supreme court ordered the reversal of the lower court's decision. of (a) the opposite direction: the ship's engines were reversed and cut out altogether.

rev·er·en·tial /rēv·ər·ən·chəl/ adj. feeling or showing deep and solemn respect: a reverent silence. -rev·er·en·tly adv.

rev·er·en·tial·ly adj.

rev·er·en·tie /rēv·ər·aɪ/ n. a state of being pleasantly lost in one's thoughts: a daydream: a knock on the door broke her reverie. Mus. an instrumental piece suggesting a dreamy or musing state.

rev·er·en·tie /rēv·ər·aɪ/ n. a change to an opposite direction, position, or course of action: a dramatic reversal in population decline in the Alps; the reversal of tidal currents. n. a reversal of judgment: the U.S. supreme court ordered the reversal of the lower court's decision. of (a) the opposite direction: the ship's engines were reversed and cut out altogether.

adj. going in or turned toward the direction opposite to that previously stated: the trend appears to be going in the reverse direction. of (an) operating, behaving, or ordered in a way contrary or opposite to that which is usual or expected: are the results in reverse order? n. Geol. denoting a fault or faulting in which a relative downward movement occurred in the strata situated on the underside of the fault plane.

n. a complete change of direction or action: the growth acts a reverse of photosynthesis. reverse gear on a motor vehicle: the position of a gear lever or selector corresponding to this. of the reverse: the opposite or contrary to that previously stated: he didn't feel homesick in the reverse of it. an adverse change of fortune: a setback or defeat: the team suffered its heaviest reverse of the season. the opposite side or face of the observer: the address is given on the reverse of this leaflet. a left-hand page of an open book, or the back of a loose document. the side of a coin or medal bearing the value or secondary design. the design or inscription on this side. see also reverse (sense 1). -rev·er·sely adv.

rev·er·sely adv.

rev·er·sive·ly adv. reverse·vors·en·on /rēv·ər·səv·ər/ v. (intr) move backward: the truck reversed into the back of a lorry.

re·ver·sive·ly adv.

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re·ver·sive·ly adv.
Rheumatism

n. the chemical element ruthenium.

RFD (also R.F.D.) n. abbr. rural free delivery.

Rh n. abbr. Rhesus factor.

rhy-sod-i-c [rapi'sădik] adj. -rhysod-i-ly adv.

rhythm

n. 1 a quadrilateral of which only the opposite sides and angles are equal. 2 (also rhomboid muscle) a muscle connecting the shoulder blade to the vertebral column.

rhom-boid [rām'boid] adj. having or resembling the shape of a rhombus.

rhom-bus [rām'bws] n. 1 the thick leaf stalks of a cultivated plant of the dock family, which are reddish or green and eaten as a fruit after cooking. 2 the large-leaved Eurasian plant (Rheum rhaponticum) that produces these stems. 3 chiefly Brit. int. the noise made by a group of actors to give the impression of indifferent background conversation or to represent the noise of a crowd, esp. by the random repetition of the word "rhubarb" with different intonations. n. nonsense. a heated dispute.

rhumba n. variant spelling of RUMBA.

rhyme [rim] n. correspondence of sound between words or the endings of words, esp. when these are used at the ends of lines of poetry. a short poem in which the sound of the word or syllable at the end of each line corresponds with that at the end of another. poetry or verse marked by such correspondence of sound: the rhyming can be composed of lines that end in words or syllables with sounds that correspond to those at the ends of other lines: the poem rhymed better if it rhymed.

rhyme something with put a word together with (another word that has a corresponding sound), as when writing poetry: I'm not sure about rhyming perestroika with Rotunda.

rhyme or reason n. logical explanation or reason: without rhyme or reason his mood changed.

rhythm [rithəm] n. a strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound; Ruth listened to the rhythm of his breathing.

Ruth

rhythmic

adj. (of music) characterized by the systematic arrangement of musical sounds, primarily according to the distribution and periodic stress.

rhythm-matic [rithəm'tik] adj.

rhythm-mate [rithəm'mit] n. another word that has a corresponding sound.


rhythm-ist [rithəm'ist] n.

rhythm or reason n. logical explanation or reason: without rhyme or reason his mood changed.

rhythm-ry

n. a strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound; Ruth listened to the rhythm of his breathing. the systematic arrangement of musical sounds, primarily according to the distribution and periodic stress. a particular type of pattern formed by such arrangement: guitar melodies with deep African rhythms; a person's natural feeling for such arrangement: they've got no rhythm. the measured flow of words and phrases in verse or prose as determined by the relation of content and form to a metrical pattern.

Pronunciation Key a a; əp; ər; ər. kid a; ət; a car; ch chin: ə lété; əl oc; əl air; əl it; ə l by; a əl car; əl sing; ə l go; ə l law; ə l for; ə l ity; ə l good; ə l good; ə l out; ə sh chic; ə th thin; ə th then; (h) why; ə t vision

rhinoceros [rī nəsərəs] n. (pl. same or -eros) int. a rhinoceros.
long and short or stressed and unstressed syllables. • a: regularly recurring sequence of events, actions, or processes: the twice daily rhythms of the tides. • Art a harmonious sequence or correlation of colors or elements. — rhythm-less adj.

rhythm and blues (abbr.: R & B) n. a form of popular music of African-American origin that arose during the 1940s from blues, with the addition of driving rhythms taken from jazz. It was an immediate precursor of rock and roll.

rhythm-mic /rɪθmɪˈmɪk/ adj. having or relating to rhythm: a rhythmic dance. • occurring regularly: there are rhythmic changes in our bodies. — rhythm-mi-ca-lly /rɪθmɪˈmɪkəli/ adv. — rhythm-mi-cal-ly [lekˈtʃuərəl] adj.

rhythm method n. a method of avoiding conception by which sexual intercourse is restricted to the times of a woman’s menstrual cycle when ovulation is least likely to occur.

ria /riə/ n. Geog. a long narrow inlet formed by the partial submergence of a river valley.

rib /rib/ n. 1 each of a series of slender curved bones articulated in pairs to the spine (twelve pairs in humans), protecting the thoracic cavity and its organs. • a rib of an animal with meat adhering to it used as food; a joint or cut from the ribs of an animal. 2 a long raised piece of stronger or thicker material across a surface or through a structure, and typically serving to support or strengthen it, in particular: • Archit. a curved member supporting a vault or defining its form. • any of the curved transverse pieces of metal or timber in a ship, extending up from the keel and forming part of the framework of the hull. • each of the curved pieces of wood forming the body of a lute or the sides of a violin. • each of the hinged rods supporting the fabric of an umbrella. • a vein of a leaf (esp. the midrib) or an insect’s wing. • Knitting a combination of alternate knit (plain) and purl stitches producing a ridged, slightly elastic fabric, used esp. for the cuffs and bottom edges of sweaters. • v. (ribbed, ribbing) [tr.] 1 (usu. be ribbed) mark with or form into raised bands or ridges: the road ahead was ribbed with furrows of slush. 2 int. tease good-naturedly: the first time I appeared in the outfit I was ribbed mercilessly. — rib-less adj.

ribald /ˈrɪbdəl/ • ribˈəld; ‘riˌbəld/ adj. referring to sexual matters in an amusingly rude or irreverent way: a ribald comment.

ribaldry /ˈrɪbdəlri/ • ribˈəldri; ‘riˌbəldri/ n. ribald talk or behavior.

ribbed /ˈrɪbdɪd/ adj. (esp. of a fabric or garment) having a pattern of raised bands: a ribbed cashmere sweater. • Archit. (of a vault or other structure) strengthened with ribs.

ribbing /ˈrɪbdɪŋ/ n. 1 a ribmate-like structure or pattern, esp. a band of knitting in rib. 2 int. good-natured teasing.

ribon /ˈrɪbɒn/ n. a long, narrow strip of fabric, used esp. for tying something or for decoration: the tiny pink ribbons in her hair. • a strip of fabric of a special color or design awarded as a prize or worn to indicate the holding of an honor, esp. a small multicolored piece of ribbon worn in place of the medal it represents: old horse show ribbons and rosettes. • a long, narrow strip of something: slice the peppers into ribbons lengthwise. • a narrow band of inked material wound on a spool and forming the inking agent in some typewriters and computer printers. • v. [intr.] extend or move in a long narrow strip like a ribbon: miles of concrete ribbons behind the bus. — rib-bered adj. • rib-ber-like [ˈribərˌlaɪ] adj.

square, something to ribbons cut (or tear) something so badly that only ragged strips remain. • fig. damage something severely: the country has seen its economy torn to ribbons by recession.

rib cage n. the bony frame formed by the ribs.

rib-fla-vin, rib-flavon /ˈrɪbəˌflævən, ˈrɪbəˌflævən/ n. Biochem. a yellow vitamin of the B complex that is essential for metabolic energy production. It is present in many foods, esp. milk, liver, eggs, and green vegetables, and is also synthesized by the intestinal flora. Also called vitamin B2 (see vitamin). — ribo-fla-vine-sis /ˈrɪbəˌflævənˌsɪs/ n.

ri-bo- na-cle ic acid /ˈrɪbəʊˌnəˈkliːs/ n. see RNA.

ri-bo-som e /ˈrɪbəˌsɒm/ n. Biochem. a minute particle consisting of RNA and associated proteins, found in large numbers in the cytoplasm of living cells. They bind messenger RNA and transfer RNA to synthesize polypeptides and proteins.

rice /ris/ n. a swamp grass (Oryza sativa) that is widely cultivated as a source of food, esp. in Asia. • the grains of this cereal used as food. • v. [tr.] force (cooked potatoes or other foods) through a sieve or ricer.

ricochet /rɪˈkoʊʃət/ n. a shot or hit that rebounds one or more times off a surface. • the action or movement of a bullet, shell, or other projectile when rebounding in such a way.
ricotta

1. [n.] A soft white unsalted Italian cheese.

rift

1. [v. (cheted), (cheting), (cheted), (cheting), (cheted), (cheting), (cheted), (cheting), (cheted), (cheting), (cheted), (cheting), (cheted), (cheting), (cheted), (cheting)] [pronounced (of a bullet, shell, or other projectile) rebound one or more times off a surface: a bullet ricocheted off a nearby wall. [pur] cause to rebound in such a way: they fired off a couple of rounds, ricocheting the bullets against the wall. [fig. move or appear to move with a series of such rebounds: the sound ricocheted around the hall.

2. [n.] A horse, bicycle, motorcycle, or snowboard.

3. [a. horse, bicycle, motorcycle, or snowboard.]

4. [adv. or of being free of a troublesome or unwanted person or thing.]

5. [v. (of something undesirable or harmful) of common occurrence: widespread: male chauvinism was ripe in medicine in those days.

6. [n. the sport or activity of riding horses.

7. [v. (of something undesirable or harmful) of common occurrence: widespread: male chauvinism was ripe in medicine in those days.

8. [v. (of something undesirable or harmful) of common occurrence: widespread: male chauvinism was ripe in medicine in those days.

9. [n. an electoral district of Canada.

10. [n. a short flexible whip with a loop for the hand, used in riding horses.

rifle

1. [n. (in popular music and jazz) a short repeated phrase, frequently played over changing chords or harmonies or used as a background to a solo improvisation: a brilliant guitar rifle.

2. [v. (of speaking with hesitation): the other horses would be riffing behind him.


4. [v. (of playing cards by flicking up and releasing the corners or sides of two piles of cards so that they intermingle and may be slid together to form a single pile.

5. [n. a quick or casual leaf or search through something.


7. [n. a gun, esp. one fired from shoulder level, having a long barrel spirally grooved on the inside in order to make a bullet spin and thereby have greater accuracy over a long distance.


9. [n. a place for practicing shooting with rifles.

10. [n. the arrangement of spiral grooves on the inside of a rifle barrel.


12. [n. a crack, split, or break in something: the wind had torn open a rift in the clouds.

13. [n. a major fault separating blocks of the earth's surface.

Pronunciation Key a ago, up, or fur, a last; a air, a air; CH chiv; e let; 6 sec; e(6) air; i fit; i by; i(0) air; N sing; o go; o law, for, or toy; 66 good; 66 good; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; th why; th vision
riotous
something: the garden was a riot of color. 3 inf. a highly amusing or entertaining person or thing: everyone thought she was a riot.

> v [intr.] take part in a violent public disturbance: students rioted in Paris in 1968. 4 [as n.] (rioting) a night of rioting. 5 fig. become unbridled or uncontrolled by restrictions or proper guidance.

> n. (of a mental faculty or emotion) function or be expressed without restraint: her imagination ran riot. 2 proliferate or spread uncontrollably: traditional jealousies were allowed to run riot.

riot-ous /riˈəʊtəs/ adj. marked by or involving public disorder: a riotous crowd.

> characterized by wild and uncontrolled behavior: a riotous party.

> having a vivid, varied, and exuberant generation: a riotous display of bright red, green, and yellow ribbons.

> hilariously fun: a riotous account of the making of the movie.

> —riotously adv. —riotous-ness n.

rip /rip/ v. (ripped, ripping) 1 [tr] tear or pull (something) quickly or forcibly away from something or someone: a man tried to rip his pants off during a show. 2 fig. countries ripped apart by fighting.

> make (a hole) by force: the truck was struck by lightning and had a hole ripped out of its roof.

> [intr.] come violently apart: tear; he heard something rip. 2 cut (wood) in the direction of the grain.

> 2 [intr.] move forcefully and rapidly: flip ripping through her haggler.

> 3 use a program to copy (a sound sequence on a compact disc) on to a computer’s hard drive: every Beatles song ever made, ripped from my boxed set of CDs.

> phrasal v. □ rip someone off inf. cheat someone, esp. financially.

> □ rip something off inf. steal: they have ripped off $67 billion. 2 copy: plagiarize: the film is a shameless collection of ideas ripped off from other movies.

> n. 1 a long tear or cut. 2 an act of tearing something forcibly. 3 a fraud or swindle: a rip-off.

> □ let something rip v. to pull something, esp. a vehicle, to go at full speed.

> allow something to happen forcefully or without interference: once she started a tirade, it was best to let it rip. 3 utter or express something forcefully and noisily: when I passed the exam I let rip a “yippee.”

rip /rip/ n. a stretch of fast-flowing and rough water in the sea or in a river, caused by the meeting of currents. 2 short for RIP CURRENT.

rip-ani-an /ˈripəˌnɪən/ adj. chiefly Law of: relating to, or situated on the banks of a river: all the riparian states must sign an agreement. 2 Ecol. of or relating to wetlands adjacent to rivers and streams.

rip-cord /ˈrip kɔrd/ n. a cord that is pulled to open a parachute.

rip-curr-ent /rɪpˈkɜrnt/ adj. a relatively strong, narrow current flowing outward from the beach through the surf zone and presenting a hazard to swimmers. Also called UNDERWATER. Compare with RIP TIDE.

ripe /rip/ adj. (of fruit or grain) developed to the point of readiness for harvesting and eating.

> [of a cheese or wine] fully matured: a ripe Brie.

> [of a small or flavor rich, intense, or pungent: rich, ripe flavors emanate from this wine.

> [ripe for] arrived at the fitting stage or time for (a particular action or purpose): land ripe for development.


> [of a person’s age] advanced: she lived to a ripe old age.

> [of a person’s language] beyond the bounds of propriety; coarse.

> —ripely adv. —ripe-ness n.

> □ the time is ripe a suitable time has arrived: the time was ripe to talk about peace.

rip-en /ˈripən/ v. become or make ripe: [intr] honeydew melons ripen slowly.

rip-off /rɪˈpɒf/ n. inf. a fraud or swindle, esp. something that is grossly overpriced: designer label clothes are just expensive rip-offs. 2 an inferior imitation of something: rip-offs of all the latest styles.

rip-poste /ˈrip pəst/ n. a quick clever reply to an insult or criticism.

> □ 1 [with direct speech] make a quick clever reply to an insult or criticism: “You’ve got a strange sense of humor,” Grant riposted.

> 2 [intr.] make a quick return thrust in fencing.

ripple /ˈripəl/ n. a small wave or series of waves on the surface of water, esp. as caused by an object dropping into it or a slight breeze.

> a thing resembling such a wave or series of waves in appearance or movement: the sand undulated and was ridged with ripples.

> a gentle rising and falling sound, esp. of laughter or conversation, that spreads through a group of people: a wave of laughter ran around the room.

> a particular feeling or effect that spreads through or to someone or something; his words set off a ripple of excitement within her.

> v [intr.] (of water) form or flow with small waves on the surface: the Mediterranean rippled and sparkled. 3 [as adj.] (rippling) the rippling waters.

> [intr.] cause (the surface of water) to form small waves: a cold wind rippled the surface of the estuary.

> move or cause to move in a way resembling such waves: [intr] fields of grain rippling in the wind.

> [of a sound or feeling] spread through a person, group, or place: applause rippled around the tables.

> [as adj.] (rippled) having the appearance of small waves: a rippled one with sides, wider than taffeta.


> rip-rap /ˈrip ræp/ n. loose stone used to form a foundation for a breakwater or other structure.

rip-roaring adj. full of energy and vigor: a rip-roaring rodeo. —rip-roaring-ly adv.

rip-saw /ˈrip sɔː/ n. a coarse-toothed saw for cutting wood along the grain.

rip-snort-ing /ˈrip snɔrtɪŋ/ adj. inf. showing great vigor or intensity: a ripsnorting editorial.

> —rip-snorter /ˈsnɔrtər/ n. —rip-snort-ly adv.

rip tide n. a strong current caused by tidal flow in confined areas such as inlets and presenting a hazard to swimmers and boaters.

> □ another name for RIP CURRENT.

rise /raɪz/ v. 1 [past rose /rəʊz]; [past part. risen] /raɪzn/ 1 move from a lower position to a higher one; come or go up: the tiny airplane rose from the ground. 2 [of a voice] become higher in pitch: my voice rose as I became more agitated.

> 3 reach a higher position in society or one’s profession: the officer was a man of great courage who had risen from the ranks.

> □ rise (above) succeed in not being limited or constrained by (a restrictive environment or situation): he struggled to rise above his humble background.

> 2 get up from lying, sitting, or kneeling; she pushed back her chair and rose to get out of bed.

> 3 rip and get dresses off: rip-off.

> □ be restored to life: your sister has risen from the dead.

> □ (of a wind) start to blow or to blow more strongly: the wind continued to rise.

> □ (of a river) have its source: the Euphrates rises in Turkey.

> □ cease to be submissive, obedient, or peaceful: the activists urged militant factions to rise up.

> □ rise (to) [of a person] react with annoyance or argument to (provocation): he didn’t rise to my teasing.

> □ rise (to) find the strength or ability to respond adequately to (a challenging situation): many participants in the race had been sailed boat, but they rose to the challenge.

> □ increase in number, size, amount, or quality: land prices had risen.

> □ (of a person’s mood) become more cheerful: her spirits rose as they left the ugly city behind.

> □ 4 rising (approaching) (a specified age): she was thirty-nine rising forty. 5 Polly shall have a young mare rising three years old.

> □ n. 1 an upward movement; an instance of becoming higher: the bird has a display flight of steep flapping rises.

> 2 a increase in sound or pitch: the rise and fall of his voice.

> 3 an instance of social, commercial, or political advancement: few models have had such a meteoric rise.

> □ a upward slope or hill: the vertical height of a step, arch, or incline.

> □ a increase in amount, extent, size, or number: local people are worried by the rise in crime.

> □ □ get a rise out of inf. provoke an angry or irritated response from (someone), esp. by teasing.

> risoner /raɪzər/ n. 1 a person who habitually gets out of bed at a particular time of the morning: late risers always exacerbate early risers.

> 2 a vertical section between the treads of a staircase.

> □ a vertical pipe for the upward flow of liquid or gas.

> □ a platform at a stage or in an auditorium.

> □ a used to give greater prominence to a speaker or performer.

> ris-i-ble /ˈraɪzi bəl/ adj. such as to provoke laughter: a risible scene of love-making in a tent.

> —ris-i-bly /ˈraɪzi bɪli/ adv.

> ris-ing /ˈraɪzɪŋ/ adj. going up; getting higher: the rising temperature.

> □ advancing to maturity or high standing; the rising generation of American writers.

> □ n. an armed protest against authority; a revolt.

> risk /rɪsk/ n. a situation involving exposure to danger: floating the low was too much of a risk.

> □ the possibility that something unpleasant or unwelcome will happen: reduce the risk of heart disease. 3 adj. a high consumption of caffeine was suggested as a risk factor for loss of bone mass.

> □ a position or activity that is regarded as likely to turn out well or badly, as specified, in a particular context or respect: Western banks regarded Romania as a good risk.

> □ a person or thing regarded as a threat to something in need of protection: she’s a security risk.

> □ us. risks a possibility of harm or damage against which something is insured.

> □ v. [intr] expose (someone or something valued) to danger, harm, or loss: he risked his life to save his dog.

> □ act or fail to act in such a way as to bring about the possibility of an unpleasant or unwelcome event: unless you’re dealing with pure alcohol you’re risking contamination from benzene.

> □ a 17th-cent. word from French riser (noun), risquer (verb), from Italian riso “danger” and rischiare “run into danger.”

> risky /ˈraɪski/ adj. □ risk-ier, risk-iest □ full of the possibility of failure, damage, or loss; it was much too risky to try to disarm him.

> —risk-i-ly /ˈraɪski lɪ/ adv. —risk-i-ness n.

riso-toto /ˈrizətətə/ n. (pl. -tos) an Italian dish of rice cooked in stock with various ingredients such as meat and vegetables.
thing such as a chair or cradle can rock. 4 any of the curved stripes below the chevron of a noncommissioned officer above the rank of sergeant; the curved strip above the chevron of a chief petty officer.

rock-er (ro'kər) n. pl. -rock-ers a heaped arrangement of rough stones with soil between them, planted with rock plants, esp. alpines.

rock-e-t (rak'ə-t) n. a cylindrical projectile that can be propelled to a great height or distance by the combustion of its contents, usually by a firework or signal. (also rocket engine or rocket motor) an engine operating on the same principle, providing thrust as a jet engine but without depending on the intake of air for combustion, an oxidizer being carried on board along with the fuel. an elongated rocket-propelled missile or spacecraft. used esp. in similes and comparisons, to refer to a person or thing that moves very fast or to an action that is done with great force; she shot out of her chair like a rocket.

rock-e-ted, rocket-ing 1 increase, move, or progress very rapidly: the cab rocketed down a ramp. 2 attack with rocket-propelled missiles: the city was rocketed and bombed from the air. —rock-et-like, adj.

rock-e-t-n. an edible Mediterranean plant (Eruca vesicaria sativa) of the cabbage family, sometimes eaten in salads.

rock-e-t-ry (rak'ə-tərē) n. the branch of science that deals with rockets and rocket propulsions. the use of rockets.

rock-garden n. an artificial mound or bank built of earth and stones and planted with rock plants. a garden in which rockeries are the chief feature.

rock-ing chair n. a chair mounted on rockers or springs, so as to rock back and forth.

rock-ing horse n. a model of a horse mounted on rockers or springs for a child to sit on and rock back and forth.

cattle on a ranch for branding, counting, etc. an enclosure for such a round-up.

rocketing-boat (do-o'd, do-o'ing) [intr] compete in a rodeo. 

rocky adj. [usu. uncontrollably] a rock. an adjective.

rocky-road (rock-i-ro'd) n. an expression or contest in which cowboys show their skill at riding broncos, roping calves, wrestling steers, etc., a similar exhibition or contest demonstrating other skills, such as motorcycle riding or canoeing. 2 a round-up of
with a trill; when he wanted to emphasize a point he rolled his rrs. 6 int. rob (someone, typically when they are intoxicated or asleep); if you don't get drunk, you don't get rolled.

roll something back reverse the progress or reduce the power or importance of something: the strategy to roll back communism.

roll something out officially launch or unveil a new product or service; the firm rolled out its newest generation of supercomputers.

roll something over Finance contrive or extend a particular financial arrangement; this is not a good time for rolling over corporate debt.

n. 1 a cylinder formed by winding flexible material around a tube or by turning it over and over on itself without folding; a roll of carpet. 2 a cylindrical mass of something or a number of items arranged in a cylindrical shape: a roll of mints. 3 an item of food that is made by wrapping a flat sheet of pastry, cake, meat, or fish around a sweet or savory filling: salmon and rice rolls. 4 a roller for flattening something, esp. one used to shape metal in a rolling mill. 2 a movement in which someone or something turns or is turned over on itself: a roll of the dice.

roll a dice adj.

roll in the hay (or the sack) int. an act of sexual intercourse. on a roll int. experiencing a prolonged spell of success or good luck: the organization is on a roll. 2 rolling in the aisles int. (of an audience) laughing uncontrollably. 3 roll up one's sleeves prepare to fight or work. 4 roll with the punches (of a boxer) move one's body away from an opponent's blows so as to lessen the impact. 5 roll oneself to adverse circumstances.

roll bar n. a metal bar running up the sides and across the top of a vehicle, esp. one used in motor sports, strengthening its frame and protecting the occupants should the vehicle overturn.

Roll call n. the process of calling out a list of names to establish who is present. 2 a list or group of people or things that are notable in some specified way; a roll call of nations that lack full religious rights.

roller n. 1 a cylinder that rotates around a central axis and is used in various machines and devices to move, flatten, or spread something. 2 a long swelling wave that appears to roll steadily toward the shore. 3 [as adj.] of, relating to, or involving roller skates.

roller coaster n. an amusement park attraction that consists of a light railroad track with many tight turns and steep slopes, on which people ride in small fast open cars. 2 fig. a thing that contains or goes through wild and unpredictable changes: a terrific roller coaster of a book.

Roller-coaster n. move, change, or occur in the dramatically changeable manner of a roller coaster: the twentieth century fades behind us and history roller-coasters on.

Roller-roller n. see RINK.

Rolling pin n. a cylinder rolled over pastry or dough to flatten or shape it.

Rolling stone n. a person who is unwilling to settle for long in one place.

Roll-over n. 1 Finance the extension or transfer of a debt or other financial arrangement. 2 (in a lottery) the unwon prize money carried forward to the next drawing. 3 int. the overturning of a vehicle.

Roll-top desk n. a writing desk with a flexible cover sliding in curved grooves.


Roman adj. 1 of or relating to ancient Rome or its empire. 2 of or relating to medieval or modern Rome: the Roman and Pisan lines of popes. 3 denoting the alphabet (or any of the letters in it) used for writing Latin, and most European languages, developed in ancient Rome. 4 (roman) of printing type of a plain upright kind used in ordinary print, esp. as distinguished from italic.

Roman Catholic adj. of or relating to the Roman Catholic Church: a Roman Catholic bishop.

Roman Empire n. the empire established by Augustus in 27 BC and divided in AD 395 into the Western Latin or Eastern or Greek Empire.

Romanesque n. adj. of or relating to Romanesque architecture.

Romanian adj. of or relating to Romania or its people or language.

Roman n. 1 a native or national of Romania, or a person of Romanian descent. 2 the language of Romania, a Romance language influenced by the neighboring Slavic languages, also spoken by the majority of the population of Moldova.

Romanist n. an expert in or student of Roman antiquities or law, or of the Romance languages.

Romanize v. [itr.] int. bring (something, esp. a region or people) under Roman influence or authority: though not himself a Roman, he was fully Romanized, spoke Latin, and lived in a Roman-style villa. 2 make Roman Catholic in character: he has Roman-
root beer

root [rəʊt] n. 1 cause (a plant or cutting) to grow roots: root your own cuttings from stock plants. 2 (int.) [of a plant or cutting] establish roots: large trees had rooted in the canal banks. 2 (usu. be rooted) establish deeply and firmly: 1. vegetation is rooted in Indian culture. 2 (be rooted in) have as an origin or cause: yellow, orange, and pink are rooted in an Indo-European word. 3 [as adj] (rooted) cause (someone) to stand immobile through fear or amazement: she found herself rooted to the spot in disbelief.

phrase(s) v. or root something out (also root something up) dig or pull up a plant by the roots. n. find and get rid of something or someone regarded as pernicious or dangerous: a campaign to root out corruption.


root [rəʊt] v. (int.) of an animal) turn up the ground with its snout in search of food: snout root around for bones and scraps. n. search systematically through an untidy mass or area: rummage; she was rootling through a pile of papers. v. (int.) [root something out] find or extract something by rummaging: he managed to root out the cleaning kit.

phrase(s) v. or root for int. support or hope for the success of a person entering a contest or undertaking a challenge; the whole of this club is rooting for him.

n. an act of rooting: I have a root through the open drawers. —rooter n.

root beer n. an effervescence drink made from an extract of the roots and bark of certain plants.

root canal n. the pulped-cavity in the root of a tooth. v. a procedure to replace infected pulp in a root canal with an inert material.

root-stock [rəʊt-stək] n. root-stick [rəʊt-stɪk] n. a rhizome. n. a plant onto which another variety is grafted. n. a primary form or source from which offspring have arisen.

rope [rəʊp] n. 1 a length of strong cord made by twisting together strands of natural fibers such as hemp or artificial fibers such as polypropylene. —rope-like [rəʊp-] adj.

the (ropes) the ropes enclosing a boxing or wrestling ring. 2 (the ropes) int. the established procedures in an organization or area of activity: I want you to show her the ropes.

v. v. or rope catch, fasten, or secure with rope; the climbers were all roped together.

(rope someone in) persuade someone to take part in (an activity): anyone who can't stay on instrument or tune in time was roped in.

(ropes something off) enclose or separate an area with a rope or tape: police roped off the area of the fire.

—on the ropes Boxing forced against the ropes by the opponent's attack.

—state of near collapse or defeat: behind the apparent success the company was on the ropes.


roquefort [rɔkɔfɔʁ] n. trademark a soft blue cheese made from ewes' milk. It is ripened in limestone caves and has a strong flavor.

Rorschach test [ˌroʊr.ʃək] n. Psychol. a type of projective test used in psychoanalysis, in which a standard set of symmetrical ink blots of different shapes and colors is presented one by one to the subject, who is asked to describe what they suggest or resemble.

rosaceous [rəʊ'se-əs] adj. Bot. of, relating to, or denoting plants of the rose family (Rosaceae).

rosary [rəʊ'zær-ɪ] n. (pl. -aries) in the Roman Catholic Church a form of devotion in which five or fifteen decades of Hail Marys are repeated, each decade preceded by an Our Father and followed by a Glory Be: the congregation said the rosary.

—string of beads for keeping count in such a devotion or in the devotions of some other religions, in Roman Catholic use 55 or 165 in number. n. a book containing such a devotion.

rose [rəʊz] n. 1 a prickly bush or shrub (genus Rosa) that typically bears red, pink, yellow, or white flowers, native to northern temperate regions. Numerous hybrids and cultivars are grown as ornamentals. The rose family (Rosaceae) also includes most temperate fruits (e.g., apple, plum, cherry, strawberry), as well as the hawthorns and rowans. n. the flower of such a plant; as adj. a rose garden. n. in names of other plants whose flowers resemble roses, e.g., rose of Sharon. n. used in similes and comparisons in reference to the rose flower’s beauty or its typical rich red color. 2 a thing representing or resembling something: in particular: a stylized representation of the flower in heraldry or decoration, typically with five petals (esp. as a national emblem of England): the Tudor rose.

rosebud [rəʊz-bəd] n. an unopened flower of a rose.

rose-colored adj. of a warm pink color: rose-colored silks.

rose hip n. see HIP.

rose-mary [rəʊz, mərɪ] n. an evergreen aromatic shrub (Rosmarinus officinalis) of the mint family, native to southern Europe. The narrow leaves are used as a culinary herb, in perfumery, and as an emblem of remembrance.

rose-oak [rəʊz-əʊk] n. Med. a rose-colored rash occurring in measles, typhoid fever, syphilis, and some other diseases.

roseola infantum n. (little fever) a disease of young children in which a fever is followed by a rash, caused by a herpes virus.

rose-sette [rəʊz-ɛt] n. 1 a rose-shaped decoration, typically made of ribbon and awarded to winners of a competition. 2 a design, arrangement, or growth resembling a rose, in particular: Archit. a carved or molded ornament resembling or representing a rose.


rose window n. a circular window with mullions or traceried radiating in a form suggestive of a rose.

rosewood [rəʊz-wʊd] n. 1 fragrant close-grained tropical timber with a distinctive fragrance, used particularly for making furniture and musical instruments. 2 the tree (genus Dalbergia) of the pea family that produces this timber.

Rosh Ha-Shana [roʃ, haʊˈʃənə] n. Heb. New Year; held on the first (also sometimes the second) day of Elul (September).

rose-in [rəʊz-ɪn] n. resin. exp. the solid amber residue obtained after the distillation of crude turpentine oleoresin.


rosier [rəʊz-ər] adj. or rosi-er, rosi-est 1 esp. of a person’s skin) colored like a pink or red rose; typically as an indication of health, youth, or embarrassment: the memory had the power to make her cheeks turn rose.

—promising or suggesting good fortune or happiness; hopeful: the strategy has produced results beyond the most rosy forecasts.

2 easy and pleasant: life could never be rosy for them.


rot [rəʊt] v. (rotted, rotting) [intr.] chiefly of animal or vegetable matter decompose by the action of bacteria and fungi; decay: the chalasts were neglected and their woodwork was rotting away. v. [intr.] cause to decay: carry sets in at a weak point and spreads to rot the whole tooth.

fig. gradually deteriorate through lack of attention or opportunity; he cannot understand the way the education system has been allowed to rot.

n. 1 the process of decaying: the leaves were turning black with rot.

—rotten or decayed matter: she was busily cutting the rot from the potatoes.

any of a number of fungal or bacterial diseases that cause tissue deterioration, esp. in plants. 2 int. nonsense; rubbish: don’t talk rot.

rotary [rəʊtər] adj. (of motion) revolving around a central axis or axis: rotational; a rotational motion. n. (of a thing) acting by means of rotation, esp. (of a machine) operating through the rotation of some part: a rotary mower.

—on the axis of rotation: a traffic circle.

rotate [rəʊt] v. [intr.] move in a circle around an axis or center: the wheel continues to rotate; [intr.] (rotating) a rotating drum. n. [intr.] cause to move around an axis or in a circle: the small directional side rotors of the craft. pass to each member of a group in a regularly recurring order: the job of chairing the meeting rotates. 1 late 17th cent.: from Latin rotat- ‘turned in a circle,’ from the verb root, from rota ‘wheel.’ —ro-
rotate

rough
ruddy /ˈrʌdi/ n. a flat piece, usu. of wood, metal, or plastic, hinged vertically near the stern of a boat or ship for steering. • a vertical airfoil pivoted from the horizontal stabilizer of an aircraft, for controlling movement around the vertical axis. • application of a rudder in steering a boat, ship, or aircraft: a small amount of extra rudder. —rudder-less adj.

ruddy /ˈrʌdi/ adj. (dier, dier-st) of a person's face: having a healthy red color: a cheerful pipe-smoking man of ruddy complexion. • having a reddish color: the ruddy evening light. —ruddy-ly adv. (rare) —ruddy-ness n.

rued /ruːd/ adj. 1 offensively impolite or ill-mannered: she had been rued to her boss. • referring to a taboo subject such as sex in a way considered improper and offensive: he made a rude gesture. • having a startling abruptness: the war came as a very rude awakening. 2 roughly made or done: lacking subtlety or sophistication: a rude coffee. • archaic ignorant and uneducated: the first religion was first promulgated by rude men. —ruedly adv. —rued-ness n. —rueder /ˈrʌdər/ n.

ru-diment /ˈrʊdɪmənt/ n. 1 the rudiments of, the rudiments of a subject: she taught the girls the rudiments of reading and writing. • an elementary or primary form of something: the rudiments of a hot-water system. 2 Biol. an undeveloped or immature part or organ, esp. a structure in an embryo or larva that will develop into an organ, limb, etc.: the fetal lung rudiment. 3 Mus. a basic pattern used by drummers.

ru-di-men-tary /ˌrʊdɪˈmɛnt(ə)rɪ/ adj. involving or limited to basic principles: he received a rudimentary education. • of or relating to an immature, undeveloped, or basic form: a rudimentary stage of evolution. —ru-dimen-tar-ily adv. —ru-dimen-to-ness n.

ruel /ˈruːl/ v. (rued, ruing or rueing) [tr] bitterly regret (something one has done or allowed to happen): Ferguson will rue the day he turned down that offer.

rued /ruːd/ adj. with rue my heart is laden. • compassion: pity: tears of pitying rue.

rué /ruː/ n. 1 a perennial evergreen shrub (Ruta graveolens, family Rutaceae) with bitter strong-scented lobed leaves that are used in herbal medicine. • used in names of other plants that resemble rue, esp. in leaf shape, e.g. goat's rue.

rueful /ˈruːfl/ adj. expressing sorrow or regret, esp. when in a slightly humorous way: she gave a rueful grin. —rueful-ly adv. —rueful-ness n.

ruft /ruːf/ n. 1 a projecting stanch frill worn around the neck. 2 a projecting or conspicuously colored ring of feathers or hair around the neck of a bird or mammal. —ruft-ed adj.

ruft /ruːft/ n. Mus. one of the basic patterns (rudiments) of drumming, consisting of a single note preceded by either two grace notes played with the other stick (double-stroke ruff or drag) or three grace notes played with alternating sticks (four-stroke ruff).


ruflie /ˈruːflɪ/ v. [tr.] 1 disorder or disarray (someone's hair), typically by running one's hands through it: he ruffled her hair affectionately. 2 mus. (of a bird) erect (its feathers) in anger or display; on his departure to the high wires, the startled ruffled his feathers and flitted his wings. 3 disturb the smoothness or tranquility of: of the evening breeze ruffled the surface of the pond in the yard. 4 disconcert or upset the composure of (someone): Brian had been ruffled by her questions.

ruflie /ˈruːflɪ/ v. [intr.] 1 to cause someone's feathers to become annoyed or upset: tussling with the traditional approach would ruffle a few feathers. 2 to stir up: a gust of wind ruffled the leaves on the tree.

ruft /ruːft/ n. a floor covering of shaggy or woven material, typically not extending over the entire floor. • lit. a toupee or wig.

ruft /ruːft/ v. [intr.] pull the rug (out) from under someone: abruptly withdraw support from someone: the rug was pulled right out from beneath our feet.

ruft /ruːft/ v. [intr.] abduction (football) a team game played with an oval ball that may be kicked, carried, and passed from hand to hand. • rug by /ˈrʊgbɪ/ rug by (rugby football) a team game played with an oval ball that may be kicked, carried, and passed from hand to hand. —rugby /ˈrʊgbɪ/ adj. (of ground or terrain) having a broken, rocky, and uneven surface: a rugged coastline. • of a machine or other manufactured object) strongly made and capable of withstanding rough han-

ding: the binoculars are compact, lightweight, and rugged. • having or requiring toughness and determination: a week of rugged, demanding adventure at an outdoor training center. • (of a man's face or looks) having attractively strong, rough-hewn features: he was known for his rugged good looks. —rug-ged-ly adv. —rug-ged-ness n.

ruin /ˈrʊɪn/ n. 1 the physical destruction or disintegration of something or the state of disintegrating or being destroyed: a large white house falling into gentle ruin. 2 the remains of a building, typically an old one, that has suffered much damage or disintegration: the ruins of the castle. 3 the disastrous disintegration of someone's life: the ruin and heartbreak wrought by alcohol, divorce, and violence. • the cause of such disintegration: they don't know how to say no, and that's been their ruin. 4 the complete loss of one's money and other assets: the financial cost could mean ruin.

ruin /ˈrʊɪn/ v. [tr.] 1 reduce (a building or place) to a state of decay, collapse, or disintegration: a new ruin. 2 put an end to a ruinous castle. • cause great and usually irreparable damage or harm to; have a disastrous effect on: a noisy freeway has ruined village life. 3 reduce to a state of poverty: they were ruined by the highest interest rates this century. • Middle English (in the sense 'collapse of a building'): from Old French ruin, from Latin ruina, from ruere 'to fall.'

ruin-a-ble /ˌrʊɪnəˈbəl/ adj. • the action or fact of ruining someone or something or of being ruined: commercial malpractice causes the ruin of thousands of people. • the state of being ruined: the headquarters fell into ruin.

ruin-ous /ˈrʊɪnəs/ adj. 1 disastrous or destructive: a ruinous effect on the environment. 2 in ruins: dilapidated: the castle is ruinous. —ruin-ous-ly adv. —ruin-ous-ness n.

ruled /ruːld/ n. 1 one of a set of explicit or understood regulations or principles governing conduct within a particular activity or sphere: the rules of the game were understood. 2 a code of practice and discipline for a religious order or community: the Rule of St. Benedict. 3 control or domination over an area or people: the revolution brought an end to British rule. 4 (the rule) the normal or customary state of things: such accidents are the exception rather than the rule. 5 a strip of wood or other rigid material used for measuring length or marking straight lines; a ruler. 6 a thin printed line or dash, generally used to separate headings, columns, or sections of text.

ruled /ruːld/ v. 1 exercise ultimate power or authority over (an area and its people): Latin America today is ruled by elected politicians | the period in which Spain ruled over Portugal. • be a dominant or powerful factor or force: the black market rules supreme. • pronounce authoritatively and legally to be the case: a federal court ruled that he was unfairly dismissed from his job. 2 make (a straight line) on paper with a ruler. • phrasal v. 1 rule something out (or in) exclude (or include) something as a possibility: the doctor ruled out appendicitis. —ruled-ly adv. —ruled-ness n.

ruiler /ˈrʊɪlər/ n. 1 a person exercising government or dominion. 2 a straight strip or cylinder of plastic, wood, metal, or other rigid material, typically marked at regular intervals, to draw straight lines or measure distances. • ruler-ship /-ʃɪp/ n.

ruiling /ˈrʊlɪŋ/ n. an authoritative decision or pronouncement, esp. one made by a judge.

ruiler /ˈrʊɪlər/ n. currently exercising authority or influence: the ruling coalition.

rum /rʌm/ n. an alcoholic liquor distilled from sugar-cane residues or molasses. • intoxicating liquor.

Ru-ma-ni-an /ˌrʊˈmaːnɪən/ • adj. & n. variant spelling of Romanian.

rum-ba /ˈrʌmbə/ n. • a rhythmic dance with Spanish and African elements, originating in Cuba. • a piece of music for this dance or in a similar style. • a ballroom dance imitative of this dance.

rum-ba /ˈrʌmbə/ v. [intr.] make a continuous deep, resonant sound: thunder rumbling, lightening flickered. • [intr.] utter in a deep, resonant voice: the man's low voice rumbled an instruction. • (of a person's stomach) make a deep, resonant sound due to hunger. • [intr.] take part in a street fight between gangs or large groups: the five of them rummled with the men in the other car.

rum-ba /ˈrʌmbə/ n. a continuous deep, resonant sound like distant thunder: the steady rumble of traffic | fig. rumbles of discontent. • [intr.] a street fight between gangs or large groups.
performances: the play had a long run on Broadway. 1 a quantity or amount of something produced at one time: a production run of only 150 cars. 2 a continuous stretch or length of something: long runs of copper piping. 3 a rapid series of musical notes forming a scale. 4 a sequence of cards of the same suit. 5 (run on) a widespread and sudden or continuous demand for (a particular currency or commodity): there’s been a big run on postage stamps this year. 6 a sudden demand for repayment from a bank made by a large number of depositors: growing nervousness among investors led to a run on some banks. 7 (the run) free and unrestricted use of access to; her cats were given the run of the house. 8 (the run) the average or usual type of person or thing: he stood out from the general run of varsity cheerleaders. 9 (run-down) an enclosed area in which domestic animals or birds can run freely in the open: a chicken run. 10 (the runs) int. diarrhea. 11 Old English rinnan, rinnen (verb), of Germanic origin, probably reinforced in Middle English by Old Norse rina, rinni. The current form with -a- in the present tense is first recorded in the 16th cent. 12 run-a-ball 1 a small motorboat, esp. one used for short trips.

run-a-round /'ran,a rond/ int. 1 difficult or awkward treatment, esp. in someone who is evasive or avoids a question: the times he got the runaround looking for work. 2 run-away /'ran, e,wai/ n. a person who has run away, esp. from their family or an institution. 3 run off at the mouth int. talk excessively or indiscreetly. 4 run the show int. dominate or be in charge of a project, undertaking, or domain.

run-a-bout /'ran,a bout/ n. a small motorboat, esp. one used for short trips.

run-a-round /'ran,a round/ int. 1 difficult or awkward treatment, esp. in someone who is evasive or avoids a question: the times he got the runaround looking for work. 2 run-away /'ran, e,wai/ n. a person who has run away, esp. from their family or an institution. 3 run off at the mouth int. talk excessively or indiscreetly. 4 run the show int. dominate or be in charge of a project, undertaking, or domain.

run-down /'ran,doun/ 1 an analysis or summary of something by a knowledgeable person: he gave his teammates a rundown on the opposition. 2 a reduction in the productivity or activities of a company or institution: a rundown in the business would be a devastating blow to the local economy. 3 run and gone (usu. run-down) 1 (esp. of a building or area) in a poor or neglected state after having been prosperous: a run-down, vandalized inner-city neighborhood. 2 (of a company or industry) in a poor economic state. 3 tired and somewhat unwel, esp. through overwork: feeling tired and generally run-down.

run-e /'roni/ n. a letter of an ancient Germanic alphabet, related to the Roman alphabet. 2 a similar mark of mysterious or magical significance. 3 (runes) small stones, pieces of bone, etc., bearing such marks, and used as divinatory symbols: the casting of the runes. 4 a spell or incantation. 5 runic /'ronik/ adj.

run-g /'roni/ n. 1 a horizontal support on a ladder for a person’s foot. 2 fig. a level in a hierarchical structure, esp. a class or career structure: we must ensure that the unskilled do not get trapped on the bottom rung. 3 a strengthening crosspiece in the structure of a chair. 4 runged adj. 5 rungless adj.

run-up /'ron, up/ n. past participle of run. 1 a disagreement or fight, esp. with someone in an official position: a run-in with armed police in Kio | humorous a run-in with a parking meter.

run-nel /'ranl/ n. a narrow channel in the ground for liquid to flow through. 1 a small stream of a particular liquid: a runnel of sweat. 2 a river that runs in a particular race: there were only four runners. 3 a messenger, collector, or agent for a bank, bookmaker, or other organization: racehorses are a run of two runners. 4 a messenger in the army. 5 (in corn) a person who smuggles specified goods into or out of a country or area: a drug-runner. 6 a groove, or blade on which something slides. 7 each of the long pieces on the underside of a sled that forms the contact in sliding. 8 (often runners) a roller for moving a heavy article. 9 a ring capable of slipping or sliding along a strap or rod through which something may be passed or drawn. 10 Naun.

run-ner /'ronar/ n. 1 a person who runs, esp. in a specified way: a fast runner. 2 a horse that runs in a particular race: there were only four runners. 3 a messenger, collector, or agent for a bank, bookmaker, or other organization: racehorses are a run of two runners. 4 a messenger in the army. 5 (in corn) a person who smuggles specified goods into or out of a country or area: a drug-runner. 6 a groove, or blade on which something slides. 7 each of the long pieces on the underside of a sled that forms the contact in sliding. 8 (often runners) a roller for moving a heavy article. 9 a ring capable of slipping or sliding along a strap or rod through which something may be passed or drawn. 10 Naun.

run-ner-up /'ron,ar up/ n. (pl. run-ners-up) a competitor or team taking second place in a contest: he was runner-up in the 200 m individual medley. 1 a competitor finishing behind the winner in the specified position: third runner-up in last year’s election.

run-ning /'ronin/ -ing 1 the action or movement of a runner: he accounted for 31 touchdowns with his running and passing. 2 the sport of racing: a marathon runner. 3 the act of running a race: the 122nd running of the Derby. 4 the action of managing or operating something: the day-to-day running of the office. 5 adj. 1 denoting something that runs, in particular: 2 (of water) flowing naturally or supplied to a building through pipes and taps; hot and cold running water. 3 (of a sore or a part of the body) exuding liquid or pus: a running sore. 4 continuous or recurring over a long period: a running joke. 5 done while running: a running jump. 6 (of a measurement) in a straight line: today, some lots are worth $6,000 a running foot. 7 consecutive: in succession: he failed to produce an essay for the third week running.

run-ny /'roni/ adj. 1 not solid: not firm: the soup was hard on top and quite runny underneath. 2 (of a person’s nose) producing or discharging mucus; running.

run-off /'ron.of/ (also run-off) n. 1 further competition, election, race, etc., after a tie or inconclusive result. 2 the draining away of water (or substances carried in it) from the surface of an area of land, a building or structure, etc. 3 the water or other material that drains freely off the surface of something.

run-of-the-mill /'ran, o f tha mil/ adj. lacking unusual or special aspects; ordinary: a run-of-the-mill job.

run-t /'ron/ n. an animal that is smaller than average, esp. the smallest in a group, of an undersized or weak person. 1 run-down adj. 2 run-through /'ron, thu/ n. 1 a rehearsal: a run-through of the whole show. 2 a brief outline or summary: the textbooks provide a run-through of research findings.

run-time li-ence /'ron,taim li ens/ n. a relatively broad software license enabling the holder to operate software on a network and in some cases to distribute it with other products.

run-way /'ron,wai/ n. 1 a leveled strip of smooth ground along which aircraft take off and land. 2 a raised aisle extending into the audience from a stage, esp. as used for fashion shows. 3 an animal run, esp. one made by small mammals in grass, under snow, etc. 4 an incline or cliff from which something slides or runs.

ru-pal /'rool/ adj. /'rool/ n. the basic monetary unit of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mauritius, and the Seychelles, equal to 100 paisa in Pakistan, Pakistan, Nepal, and 100 cents in Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Seychelles.

rup-ture /'raptur/ n. [int] (esp. of a pipe, a vessel, or a bodily part such as an organ or membrane) break or burst suddenly: if the main artery ruptures he could die. 1 [tr] cause to break or burst suddenly and completely: the impact ruptured both fuel tanks. 2 [tr] suffer such a bursting of (a bodily part): it was her first match since rupturing an Achilles tendon. 3 (be ruptured or rupture oneself) suffer an abdominal hernia: one of the boys was ruptured and needed to be fitted with a truss. 4 fig. breach or discount (a harmonious feeling or situation): once trust has been ruptured it can be difficult to regain. 5 an instance of breaking or bursting suddenly and completely: a small hairline crack could develop into a rupture. 6 fig. a breach of a
rural /ˈrʊərəl/ adj. in, relating to, or characteristic of the countryside rather than the town; remote rural areas. —ruralism n. —ruralist n. —rural-ly /ˈrʊərəl-əli/ adv. —rural-ization /ˌrʊərəl-əˈzaʃən/ n. —rural-ize v. —rural-ly adv.
ruse /rǔz, ruːz/ n. an action intended to deceive someone; a trick. Eaton tried to think of a ruse to get Paul out of the house.
rush /rǔʃ/ v. 1 move with urgent haste: Jason rushed after her | I rushed outside and hailed a taxi. | of (air or a liquid) flow strongly: the water rushed in through the great oak gates. | cause (someone) to act hastily: don't rush the game. | take (someone) somewhere with great haste: an ambulance was waiting to rush him to the hospital. | deliver (something) quickly to (someone): we'll rush you a copy at once. | move (something such as a college fraternity or sorority) toward a particular goal: to rush a new student in order to assess their suitability for membership in a college fraternity or sorority. | of (a student) visit a college fraternity or sorority with a view toward joining. it: he rushed three fraternities.

rush /rǔʃ/ n. 1 a sudden quick movement toward something, typically by a number of people: there was a rush for the door. | a flurry of hasty activity: the pre-Christmas rush. | a rush job. | a sudden surge of demand for a commodity: there had been a rush on the Tribune because of the murder. | a sudden flood or flood: she felt a rush of cool air. | a sudden intense feeling: Mark felt a rush of anger. | a sudden thrill or feeling of euphoria such as experienced after taking certain drugs: users experience a rush. | Football a rapid advance by a defensive player or players, esp. toward the quarterback. | an act of running from the scrimmage with the ball to gain yardage. | the process whereby college fraternities or sororities entertain new students in order to assess suitability for membership; ranking pledges during rush: | rush week 3 rush. | (rushes) the first prints made of a movie after a period of shooting. —rusher n. —rushingly adv.
rush hour /ˈrʊʃ həuər/ n. a time during each day when traffic is at its heaviest.
rusk /rǔsk/ n. 1 a light, dry biscuit or piece of rebacked bread, esp. one prepared for use as baby food. | rebaked bread used as extra filling, for example in sausages, and formerly as rations at sea.
russell /rǔsəl/ verb (adj.) to rustle something up inf. produce something quickly when it is needed; see if you can rustle up a cup of coffee for Paula and me, please.
rusty /ˈrʊsti/ adj. (rust-ier, rustiest) 1 of a metal object affected by rust: a rusty hanger. | rust-colored: green grass turning a rusty brown. | rust-colored: (of knowledge or a skill) impaired by lack of recent practice; my typing is a little rusty. | stiff with age or disuse: it was my first race for three months and I felt a bit rusty. | of (a voice) croaking: her voice sounded rusty. —rust-ily /ˈrʊsti-li/ adv. —rusty-ness n.
rupture /ˈrʊpərət/ n. a long deep track made by the repeated passage of the wheels of vehicles. | a habit or pattern of behavior that has become dull and unproductive but is hard to change: the administration was stuck in a rut and was losing its direction. —ruted adj. —ruptly adj.
rut /rǔt/ n. (the rut) an annual period of sexual activity in deer and some other mammals, during which the males fight each other for access to the females.
rutting /ˈrʊtɪŋ/ verb (adj.) to rut (the rut) to engage in such activity: a rutting stag. —rut-tish adj.
rutabaga /ˈruːtəbəɡə, ˈrʊtəbəɡə/ n. 1 a large, round, yellow-fleshed root that is eaten as a vegetable. | 2 the European plant (Brassica napus) of the cabbage family that produces this root.
ruthenium /ˈruːθənjuːm/ n. the chemical element of atomic number 44, a hard silvery-white metal of the transition series. (Symbol: Ru)
ruthenium /ˈruːθənjuːm/ n. the chemical element of atomic number 104, a very unstable element made by high-energy atomic collisions. (Symbol: Ru)
rv /ˈruːv/ n. recreational vehicle. a. a rendezvous point. b. Revised Version (of the Bible).
rver /ˈvɛr/ n. a user of a recreational vehicle.
rye /reɪ/ n. 1 a wheatlike cereal plant (Secale cereale) that tolerates poor soils and low temperatures. | grains of this, used mainly for making bread or whiskey and for fodder. | 2 also rye whiskey) whiskey in which a significant amount of the grain used in distillation is fermented rye. | 3 also rye bread) bread made with all or part rye flour, typically with caraway seeds added: pštrníc on rye. | Old English rye. | Germen origin: related to Dutch rogge and German Roggen.
ryegrass /ˈrɪ,ɡræs/ n. a Eurasian grass (genus Lolium) that is widely grown as forage.
the

1. the nineteenth letter of the alphabet. 2. denoting the next after R in a set of items, categories, etc.

2. a shape like that of a capital S: [en comb.] an S-bend.


• symb. 1. the chemical element sulfur. 2. Chem. entropy.


• symb. (in mathematical formulae) distance.

's' 1. pr. v. of is: is it raining? 2. has: she's gone. 3. us: let's go. 4. does: what's he do?

's' 2. prefix archaic (used chiefly in oaths) God's: 'blood.

SA  abbr. 1. Salvation Army.

sab-bath  /'sæbəθ/ n. 1 (often the Sabbath) a day of religious observance and abstinence from work, kept by Jews from Friday evening to Saturday evening, and by most Christians on Sunday. 2 (also witches'-) sab-bath a supposed annual midnight meeting of witches with the Devil.

sab-bi-cal  /sa'bi kal/ n. a period of paid leave granted to a college teacher for study or travel, traditionally every seventh year: she's away on sabbatical.

sab-er  /'sæbər/ 1. a heavy cavalry sword with a curved blade and a single cutting edge. 2. a light fencing sword with a tapering blade. 3. late 17th cent.: from French, alteration of obsolete可爱, from German Sabel (local variant of Sichel), from Hungarian szablya.

sab-er-rat-ting  v. n. the display or threat of military force.

sab-er-tooth  /'sæbər,təθ/ 1. (also saber-toothed cat or saber-toothed tiger) a large extinct carnivorous mammal (genus Smilodon of the American Pleistocene and genus Machairodus of the Old World Pleistocene) of the cat family, with massive, curved upper canine teeth. 2. a large extinct marsupial mammal (genus Thylacosmilus, family Borhyaenidae) with similar teeth, of the South American Pleistocene.

Sab-ian  /'səbəjan/ adj. of or relating to a non-Muslim sect classified in the Koran with Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians as having a faith revealed by the true God. It is not known who the original Sabians were, but the name was adopted by some groups in order to escape religious persecution by Muslims.

n. a member of this sect.

Sa-bi-ne  /'sə bi n/ adj. of, relating to, or denoting an ancient Oscan-speaking people of the central Apennines in Italy, northeast of Rome, who feature in early Roman legends and were incorporated into the Roman state in 290 BC.

n. a member of this people.

sab-ble  /'sæbl/ n. a marten (Martes zibellina) with a short tail and dark brown fur, native to Japan and Siberia and valued for its fur. 2. the fur of the sable.

sab-ble 1. adj. poetic/lit. black. 2. n. black.

(Scientific name: *Hippopotamus niger*) with long curved horns, the male of which has a black coat and the female a russet coat, both having a white belly.

sab-o-teur  /'sæbə tər/ n. a person who engages in sabotage.

sab-ra  /'sæb rə/ n. a Jew born in Israel (or before 1948 in Palestine).

SAC 1. abbr. 1. Strategic Air Command. 2. n. variant spelling of SAUK.

sac 1. n. 1. a hollow, flexible structure resembling a bag or pouch: a fountain pen with an ink sac. 2. a cavity enclosed by a membrane within a living organism, containing air, liquid, or solid structures. —sac-like adj.

sac-char-ine  /'sækə rə n/ n. a sweet-tasting synthetic compound used in food and drink as a substitute for sugar.

sac-cha-rine  /'sækə rə n/ n. —adj. excessively sweet or sentimental.

sac-er-do-tal  /'sækər də tə l/ adj. relating to priests or the priesthood; priestly.

sac-her-dotal  /'sæsər də tə l/ adj. relating to priests or the priesthood; priestly.

sac-her-do-tal  /'sæsər də tə l/ adj. relating to priests or the priesthood; priestly.

sac-het  /'sækət/ n. a small perfumed bag used to scent clothes.

sack 1. n. 1. a large bag made of a strong material such as burlap, thick paper, or plastic, used for storing and carrying goods. 2. the contents of such a bag or the amount it can contain: a sack of flour. 3. a loose, unfitted, or shapeless garment. In particular: 3. the sack] int. bed, esp. as regarded as a place for sex. 4. (the sack) int. dismissal from employment: he got the sack for swearing. 5. int. Baseball a base. 6. Football an act of tackling a quarterback behind the line of scrimmage before he can throw a pass.

v. 1. int. dismiss from employment: any official found to be involved would be sacked on the spot. 2. sack out int. go to sleep or bed. 3. Football tackle (a quarterback) behind the line of scrimmage before he can throw a pass. —sack-a-ble adj. —sack-ful adj. —sack-like adj. —lik adj.

v. hit the sack int. go to bed. 2. a sack of potatoes int. used in similes to refer to clumsiness, inertness, or unceremonious treatment of the person or thing in question: he drags me in like a sack of potatoes.

sack 1. v. [fr.] chiefly hist. plunder and destroy (a captured town, building, or other place).

n. the pillaging of a town or city.

sack-cloth  /'sæk kləθ; kləθ/ n. a very coarse, rough fabric woven from flax or hemp.

sack-ing  /'sæk in/ n. 1. an act of sacking someone or something. 2. coarse material for making sacks; sackcloth.

sack race  n. a race in which competitors, typically children, stand in sacks up to the waist or neck and jump forward.

sā-cra  /sə'kra; 'sā- n plural form of SACRUM.

d-s 1. adj. or relating to the sacrum.
sacrament /'sækra(m)ənt/ n. a religious ceremony or act of the Christian Church that is regarded as an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual divine grace; in particular (in the Roman Catholic and many Orthodox Churches) the rites of baptism, confirmation, the Eucharist, penance, anointing of the sick, ordination, and matrimony; (among Protestants) baptism and the Eucharist. (in Roman Catholic use) the consecrated elements of the Eucharist, esp. the Host: he heard Mass and received the sacrament. a thing of mysterious and sacred significance; a religious symbol. Middle English: from Old French sacrmentum ‘solemn oath’ (from sacre ‘to hallow’, from sacrum ‘sacred’), used in Christian Latin as a translation of Greek mummion ‘mystery’. —sacramental-ly adv. sacrament of re-con-cilia-tion (also sacrament of penance) n. chiefly in the Roman Catholic Church the practice of private confession of sins to a priest and the receiving of absolution.

sacred /'sækred/ adj. connected with God (or the gods) or dedicated to a religious purpose and so deserving veneration: sacred rites. religious rather than secular; sacred music. (of writing or text) embodying the laws or doctrines of a religion: a sacred Hindu text. regarded with great respect and reverence by a particular religion, group, or individual; an animal sacred to Muslims: a sacred cow. (sacrosanct: to a police officer nothing is sacred. —sacredly adv. sacrosanct adj.

sacred cow n. an idea, custom, or institution held, esp. unreasonably, to be above criticism (with reference to the Hindus’ respect for the cow as a holy animal).

sacred lot-us /'lɔtəs/ n. see lorus (sense 1).

sacri-fice /'sækra(f)is/ n. an act of slaughtering an animal or person or surrendering as an offering to God or to a divine or supernatural figure; they offer sacrifices to the spirits. an animal, person, or object offered in this way. an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy: we must all be prepared to make sacrifices. Christian Church: an act (in Catholic terms) as a propitiatory offering of the body and blood of Christ or (in Protestant terms) as an act of thanksgiving. Chess a move intended to allow the opponent to win a pawn or piece, for strategic or tactical reasons; (also sacrifice bunt or sacrifice hit) Baseball a bunt that puts the batter out but allows a base runner or runners to advance. (also sacrifice bide) Bridge a bid made in the belief that it will be less costly to be defeated in the contract than to allow the opponents to win a contract.

sacri-lege /'sækri(ə)lids/ n. violation or misuse of what is regarded as sacred: putting ecclesiastical vestments to secular use was considered sacrilege.

sacri-legious /'sækri(ə)lidsiəs/ adj. sacrilegious-ly adv.

sacri-ly /'sækri(ə)li/ adj. (pl. -lies) a room in a church where a priest prepares for a service, and where vestments and other things used in worship are kept.

sacrifi-cial /'sækra(f)is(ə)li(ə)l/ adj. relating to the sacrament and the iilium. denoting the joint that forms at the back of the pelvis between the sacrum and the ilium.

sacro-sanct /'sækro,sæŋ(k)kt/ adj. (esp. of a principle, place, or routine) regarded as too important or valuable to be interfered with: the individual’s right to work has been upheld as sacro-sanct. —sacro-sanct-i-ty /'sækro,sæŋ(k)ktəti/ n.

sac-rum /'sækrum/ n. (pl. sacra /'sækra/, sacs /'sæks/ or sacrams) Anat. a triangular bone in the lower back formed from fused vertebrae and situated between the two hipbones of the pelvis.

SAD abbr. seasonal affective disorder.

sad /'sæd/ adj. (sad-dér, sad-dess) 1 feeling or showing sorrow: unhappy; I was sad and subdued. caused or characterized by sorrow or regret: unfortunate and regrettable: he told her the sad story of his life. 2 int. pathetically inadequate or unfashionable: somebody’s priorities are pretty sad. —sad-ly adv. sad-dness n.

sad-den /'sædn/ v. [fr. (often be saddened) cause to feel sorrow; make unhappy: he was greatly saddened by the death of his only son.

sad-dle /'sæd/ n. 1 a seat fastened on the back of a horse or other animal for riding, typically made of leather and raised at the front and rear. a seat on a bicycle or motorcycle. 2 something resembling a saddle in appearance, function, or position, in particular: a low part of a ridge between two higher points or peaks. Math. a low region of a curve between two high points, esp. (in three dimensions) one representing the highest point of a curve in one direction and the lowest point in another direction. a large support on which a wire, cable, or pipe rests. 3 a large cut of meat consisting of the two loins.

v. [fr.] put a saddle on (a horse); he was in the saddle; saddling up his horse.

sad-dle with /'sædl,waθ/ n. each of a pair of bags attached behind the saddle on a horse, bicycle, or motorcycle. (saddlebags) excess fat around the hips and thighs.

sad-blakeket /'sæd,bəl,blækkt/ n. a cloth laid on a horse’s back under the saddle.

sad-dler /'sædler/ n. someone who makes, repairs, or deals in saddles, bridles, and other equipment for horses.

sad-dle shoe n. a white Oxford shoe with a piece of leather in a contrasting color (typically black or brown) stitched across the instep.

sad-dle sore /'sæd,soʊ/ n. a bruise or sore on a horse’s back, caused by pressure or chafing of an ill-fitting saddle.

adj. [of (a person) chafed from riding on a saddle.

Sad-du-cée /'sæd,seɪ, 'sæd,seɪ/ n. a member of a Jewish sect or party of the time of Jesus Christ who denied the resurrection of the dead, the existence of spirits, and the obligation of oral tradition, emphasizing acceptance of the written Law above. Compare with PHARISEE. 

Sad-du-cean /'sæd,seɪən, 'sæd,soʊ/ adj.

sad-dism /'sæ,dizm/ n. the tendency to derive pleasure, esp. sexual gratification, from inflicting pain, suffering, or humiliation on others.


sad sack n. an inept, blundering person.

sa-fa-ri /'sa,frəri/ n. (pl. -ris) an expedition to observe or hunt animals in their natural habitat, esp. in East Africa: one week on safari on the 19th cent.: from Kiswahili, from Arabic safa near to travel.

safe /'sæf/ adj. 1 protected from or not exposed to danger or risk: not likely to be harmed or lost: she felt safer with them than alone. Baseball having reached a base without being put out: Davis was safe when the right fielder dropped a fly ball. not likely to cause or lead to harm or injury: not involving danger or risk: we have to cross the river where it’s safe. of (a place) affording security or protection: put it in a safe place. uninjured: with no harm done: they had returned safe and sound.

n. 1 a strong fireproof cabinet with a complex lock, used for the storage of valuables. 2 adv. —safety adv. —safely adj.

safe-con duct n. immunity from arrest or harm when passing through an area. a document securing such a privilege.

safe-guard /'sæfl,ɡɑrd/ n. a measure, such as a law or procedure, designed to prevent something undesirable: there were multiple safeguards to prevent the accidental release of a virus.

v. [fr.] protect against something undesirable in this way: low interest rates are safeguarding the opportunity to safeguard their financial futures.

safe-haven /'sæf,heivən/ n. 1 a place of refuge or security. 2 Law temporary refuge given to asylum seekers. a country or area within a country where this is provided.

safe house n. a house in a secret location, used by spies or criminals in hiding.

safe-keeping /'sæf,kin,piŋ/ n. preservation in a safe place: she put her wedding ring in her purse for safekeeping.
safe room
n. a room in a house or other building that is invulnerable to attack or intrusion, and from which security operations can be directed. Also called panic room.

safe sex
n. sexual activity in which people take precautions to protect themselves against sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS.

safety /ˈseɪti/ n. (pl. -ties) 1. the condition of being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk, or injury; they should leave their own safety. 2. install a defensive back who normally is positioned well behind the line of scrimmage. 3. a play in which the defense calls the ball on a rectangular defense, or intentionally in their own end zone, scoring two points for the defense.

safety belt
n. another term for seat belt.

safety glass
n. 1. glass that has been toughened or laminated so that it is less likely to shatter when broken. 2. safety glasses toughened glasses or goggles for protecting the eyes when using power tools or industrial or laboratory equipment.

safety harness
n. a system of belts or restraints to hold a person to prevent falling or injury.

safety match
n. a match igniting only when struck on a specially prepared surface, esp. the side of a matchbook or matchbox.

safety net
n. a net placed to catch an acrobat or similar performer in case of a fall. fig. a safeguard against possible hardship or adversity; a safety net for workers who lose their jobs.

safety pin
n. a pin with a point that is bent back to the head and is held in a guard when closed.

safety razor
n. a razor with a guard to reduce the risk of cutting the skin.

safety valve
n. a valve opening automatically to relieve excessive pressure, esp. in a boiler. fig. a means of holding harmless a situation or events by releasing tension or stress.

safflower /ˈsæfləʊər/ n. an orange-flowered, thistlelike Eurasian plant (Carthamus tinctorius) of the daisy family, with seeds that yield an edible oil and petal that were formerly used to produce a red or yellow dye. (safflower oil) the edible oil obtained from the seeds of this plant.

saffron /ˈsæfrən/ n. 1. an orange-yellow flavoring, food coloring, and dye made from the dried stigmas of a crocus. adj. saffron huns. 2. the orange-yellow color of this. 2. also saffron crocus an autumnflowering crocus (Crocus sativus) with reddish-purple flowers, native to warmer regions of Eurasia. Enormous numbers of flowers are required to produce a small quantity of the large red stigmas used for the spice. —saffron-adj.

sag /sæɡ/ v. (sagged, sagging) intr. sink or subside gradually under weight or pressure or through lack of strength: he closed his eyes and sagged against the wall. hang down loosely or unevenly: stockings that sagged at the knees. have a downward bulge or curve: the bed sagged in the middle. fig. decline to a lower level, usually temporarily: exports are forging ahead while home sales sag. n. a downward curve or bulge in a structure caused by weakness or excessive weight or pressure: a sag in the middle necessitated a third set of wheels. Geom. the amount of this, measured as the perpendicular distance from the middle of the curve to the straight line between the two supporting points, fig. a decline, esp. a temporary one. —saggy-adj.

Saga /ˈsæɡə/ n. a long story of heroic achievement, esp. a medieval prose narrative in Old Norse or Old Icelandic; a long, involved story, account, or series of incidents; the saga of her engagement.

sagacious /ˌsæɡəˈeɪʃəs/ adj. having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgment: they were sagacious enough to avoid any outright confrontation. —sagaciously-adv. /ˌsæɡəˈeɪʃəsli/ —sagacity-n.

Sage /ˈsæɡ/ n. 1. an aromatic plant (Salvia officinalis) of the mint family, with grayish-green leaves that are used as a culinary herb, native to southern Europe and the Mediterranean. 2. also white sage a bushy North American plants with silvery-gray leaves, esp. an aromatic plant (Artemisia ludoviciana) of the daisy family.

Sage
n. a profoundly wise man, esp. one who features in ancient history or legend. —sage-adv. —sage-ness-n.

center of the Galaxy is situated within it. 2. Astrol. the ninth sign of the zodiac, which the sun enters about November 22. (a Sagittarius) (pl. same) a person born when the sun is in this sign.

Sago /ˈsæɡoʊ/ n. (pl. -os) 1. edible starch that is obtained from a palm and is a staple food in parts of the tropics. 2. also sago pudding a sweet dish made from sago and milk. 2. sago palm the palm (Metroxylon sagu) from which most sago is obtained, growing in freshwater swamps in Southeast Asia. any of a number of other palms or cycads that yield a similar starch.

Saguaro /saˈɡwɑːroʊ/ (also saguaro cactus) n. a giant cactus (Carnegiea gigantea) that can grow to 66 feet (20 m) in height and whose branches are shaped like candelabra, native to Mexico and the southwestern U.S. Its reddish-purple fruit is consumable as food and drink.

Sa-hap-lin /ˌsaˈhɑːplən/ adj. denoting, belonging to, or relating to a family of North American Indian languages, including Nootka, Salish, and Shastin, spoken in southern Washington, northern Oregon, and central Idaho. —n. this family of languages.

Sahaptin /ˌsaˈhɑːptriːn/ n. 1. any of several native American peoples of southern Washington and northern Oregon. 2. the Sahaptian language spoken by these peoples.

Sa-hib /ˈsɑːhɪb/ n. Indian polite title or form of address for a man: the Doctor Sahib.

said /sed/ past and past participle of say.

said used in legal language or humorously to refer to someone or something already mentioned or named: acting in pursuance of the said agreement.

Saill /ˈsæl/ n. 1. a piece of material extended on a mast to catch the wind and propel a boat, ship, or other vessel: all the sails were unfurled. 2. the use of sailing ships as a means of transport: this led to bigger ships as steam replaced sail. 3. a voyage or excursion in a ship, esp. a sailing ship or boat: they went for a sail.

said resembling a sail in shape or function, in particular: a wind-catching apparatus, typically one consisting of canvas or a set of boards, attached to the arm of a windmill.

the conning tower of a submarine.

said
v. [intr.]
1. travel in a boat with sails, esp. as a sport or recreation: they took us out sailing on the lake.

2. travel in a ship or boat using sails or engine power: the ferry caught fire sailing between Caen and Portsmouth.

3. begin a voyage; leave a harbor: the caimaran sail at 3:30. [tr.] travel by boat or ship across (a sea) or on a (route); passenger ships could sail the oceans soon.

4. navigate or control (a boat or ship): i stole a small fishing boat and sailed it to the Delta.

5. move smoothly and rapidly or in a steady or confident manner: she sailed into the conference room at 2:30 sharp.

sailboat
n. a board with a mast attached to it by a sail, also called a sailboat, a sailboat.

sailboard /ˈsælboʊdər/ n. a board with a mast attached to it by a sail, also called a sailboard, a sailboard.

sailboat
n. a boat propelled by sails.

sailcloth
n. a cloth used for making sails.

sailfish
n. a fish with a high, saillike dorsal fin, in particular: an edible migratory billfish that is a prized game fish (genus Istiophorus, esp. i. platypterus), a small tropical freshwater fish of Sulawesi, popular in aquariums (Teleostei: Istiophoridae, family Istiophoridae).

sailfish
n. a person whose job it is to work as a member of the crew of a commercial or naval ship or boat, esp. one who is below the rank of officer.

sailor
n. a person who goes sailing as a sport or recreation.

sail-ory-adj.

Saint /ˈseɪnt/ n. 1. a person acknowledged as holy or virtuous and typically regarded as being in heaven after death: (in the Catholic and Orthodox Churches) a person formally recognized or canonized by the Church after death, who may be the object of veneration and prayers for intercession. 2. a person who is admired or venerated because of their virtue: he was considered a living saint by recipients of his generosity; (in or alluding to biblical use) a Christian believer.

Saint a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; a Mormon.

Saint (abbr.: St. or S.) used in titles of religious saints: the epistles of Saint Paul.

Saint used in place names or other dedications: St. Louis.

Saint 2. [tr.][as adj.][said] [sainted] worthy of being a saint: very virtuous; the story of his sainted sister Helen. 3. Middle English, from Old French saint, from Latin sanctus "holy," past participle of sancto "consecrate." —saintly-adj.

sainthood n. —sainthood-like adj.

saintly /ˈseɪntl/ adj. (i.e.-ier, -iest) very holy or virtuous: a truly saintly woman. —sainthood-ness n.
the reaction of an acid with a base, with all or part of the hydrogen of the acid replaced by a metal or other cation. 3 (usu. old salt) int. an experienced sailor.

salt-and-pepper adj. 1 impregnated with, treated with, or tasting of salt; salt water | salt beef. 2 (of a plant) growing on the coast or in salt marshes.

salt v. [tr.] 1 [usu. as adj.] (salted) season or preserve with salt; cook the carrots in boiling salted water. fig. make (something) piquant or more interesting. 2 int. fraudulently make (a mine) appear to be a paying one by placing rich ore into it.

salt-making v. int. secretly store or put by something, esp. money.

the salt of the earth a person or group of people of great kindness, reliability, or honesty. take something with a grain (or pinch) of salt regard something as exaggerated; believe only part of something. one's salt good or competent at the job or profession specified.

salt-and-pepper adj. flecked or speckled with intermingled dark and light shades; his salt-and-pepper hair.

salt-lake adj. n. a lake of salt water.

salt-marsh adj. n. an area of coastal grassland that is regularly flooded by seawater.

salt pan n. a shallow container or depression in the ground in which salt water evaporates to leave a deposit of salt.

salt-peper n. another term for potassium nitrate.

salt shaker n. a perforated container for sprinkling salt.

salt-water adj. n. of or found in salt water: living in the sea; saltwater fish.

saltwort n. a plant (genus Salsola) of the goosefoot family that typically grows in salt marshes. It is alkaline in alkali, and its ashes were formerly used in soap-making.

saltly adj. (salt-er, salt-iest) tasting of, containing, or preserved with salt. (of language or humor) down-to-earth; coarse.

saltine n.

salubrious adj. (salubri-ous, -ous) adj. health-giving; healthy; salubrious weather. (of a place) pleasant; not run-down.

salubriousness n.

salukis n. also saluki n. pl. (pl.-kis) a tall, swift, slender dog of a silky-coated breed with large drooping ears and fringed feet.

sailboat adj. (esp. with reference to something unwelcome or unpleasant) producing good effects; beneficial; a salutary reminder of where we came from.

sailboat adj. n. a gesture or utterance made as a greeting or acknowledgment of another's arrival or departure; we greeted them but no one returned our salutations.

sailor n. the student who ranks second highest in a graduating class and delivers the salutatorian. Compare with Valedictorian.

sailor adj. and sailor adj. and sailor n. (pl. -ries) an address of welcome, esp. one given as an opinion by the student ranking second highest in a graduating class at a high school or college.

salf n. a gesture of respect, homage, or polite recognition or acknowledgment, esp. one made to or by a person when arriving or departing; he raises his arms in a triumphant salute. (a prescribed or specified movement, typically raising of a hand to the head, made by a member of a military or similar force as a formal sign of respect or recognition. (the discharge of a gun or guns as a formal or ceremonial sign of respect or celebration) a twenty-one-gun salute. Fencing the formal performance of certain guards or other movements by fencers before engaging.

salute v. [tr.] make a formal salute to; don't you usually salute a superior officer?

salute v. [tr.] greet: he saluted her with a smile. show or express admiration and respect for: we salute a truly great photographer.

salvation v. save; rescue a wrecked or disabled ship or its cargo from loss at sea: an emerald and gold cross was salvaged from the wreck.

salvage adj. and salvage n. the rescue of a wrecked or disabled ship or its cargo from loss at sea: [as adj.] a salvage operation was under way. (as n.) cargo salvaged from a wrecked or sunken ship; salvage taken from a ship that had sunk in the river.

salvation n. deliverance from sin and its consequences, believed by Christians to be brought about by faith in Christ. preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss: they try to sell it to us as economic salvation. (one's salvation) a source or means of being saved in this way: his only salvation was to outpace the enemy.

salmone adj. and n. an ointment used to promote healing of the skin or as protection. fig. something that is soothing or consoling for wounded feelings or an uneasy conscience: the idea provided him with a salve for his guilt.

salute v. soothe (wounded pride or one's conscience); charity saves our conscience.

salve n. a tray, typically one made of silver and used in formal circumstances.

salt-water adj. n. a simultaneous discharge of artillery or other guns in a battle. a number of weapons released from one or more aircraft in quick succession. fig. a sudden, vigorous, or aggressive act or series of acts: the parsons provoked a salvo of accusations.

salvation 1 n. a scented solution of ammonium carbonate in alcohol, used as smelling salts.

SAM adj. abbr. surface-to-air missile.

sambal adj. n. (pl. -dhis) Hindustani and Buddhist a state of intense concentration achieved through meditation. In Hindu yoga this is regarded as the final stage, at which union with the divine is reached.

samaritan adj. and n. Bot. a winged nut or achene containing one seed, as in ash and maple.

samaritan adj. and n. 1 (usu. good Samaritan) a charitable or helpful person. 2 a member of a people inhabiting Samaria in biblical times, or of the modern community in the region of Nablus claiming descent from them, adhering to a form of Judaism accepting only its own ancient version of the Pentateuch as Scripture. 3 the dialect of Aramaic formerly spoken in Samaria.

samaritan adj. and n. adj. of or relating to Samaria or the Samaritans.

samarium adj. and n. the chemical element of atomic number 62, a hard, silver-white metal of the lanthanide series. (Symbol: Sm).

sambar adj. and n. a Brazilian dance of African origin. a piece of music for this dance. a lively modern ballroom dance imitating this dance.

sambrone belt n. a leather belt with a supporting strap that passes over the right shoulder, worn by army and police officers.

same adj. and n. identical; not different; unchanged: he worked at the same place for quite a few years. this (that) same referring to a person or thing just mentioned: that same year I went to Boston. of an identical type: they all wore the same clothes.

same adj. and n. 1 (the same) the same thing as something previously mentioned: I'll resign and encourage everyone else to do the same. people or things that are identical or share the same characteristics: there are several brands and they're not all the same. (chiefly in formal or legal use) the person or thing just mentioned: sighted sub, sunk same.

same adj. and n. similarly; in the same way: treating women the same as men.

same adj. and n. (the same) the same thing in spite of this; nevertheless: she knew they had meant it kindly, but it had hurt all the same. in any case: anyway: I can manage alone, thanks all the same. at the same time simultaneously. 2 on the other hand; nevertheless; yet: it's a very creative place, but at the same time it's very relaxing.

be all the same to be unimportant to (someone) what happens: it was all the same to me where it was being sold. one and the same the same person or thing (used for emphasis): the guy in the glasses and Superman were one and the same.

same adj. and n. int. used to express the speaker's belief that two or more things are essentially the same, in spite of apparent differences. same here int. the same applies to me. (the) same to you may or do have the same thing (a response to a greeting or insult).
same-sex  adj. relating to or involving people of the same sex: same-sex relationships. 2 relating to or denoting a sexual relationship in which both partners are of the same sex: same-sex marriage.

same-store sales /'sam stôr, sâl/ n. Finance a figure used to determine what amount of sales growth is attributable to new store openings, based on sales data made by stores that have been open for at least one year.

Sam-an /'säm an/ adj. 1 native or inhabitant of Samoa. 2 the Polynesian tongue spoken in Samoa, New Zealand, the U.S., and elsewhere.

sam-o-var /'säm ovar/ n. a highly decorated tea urn used in Russia.

Sam-yed /'säm yed/ n. 1 a member of a group of mainly nomadic peoples of northern Siberia, who traditionally live as reindeer herders. 2 any of several Samoyedic languages of these peoples.

sam-pan /'säm pan/ n. a small rowboat used in the Far East, typically with an oar or oars at the stern. 1 early 17th cent.: from Chinese *sam-ban, from sun 'three' + ban 'board.'

samphire /'sam fr/ n. 1 an aromatic, fleshy-leaved European plant (Crithmum maritimum) of the parsley family that grows on rocks and cliffs by the sea.

sample /'säm pö ol/ n. 1 a small part or quantity intended to show what the whole is like. 2 a specimen taken for scientific testing or analysis: a urine sample. 3 Statistics a portion drawn from a population, the study of which is intended to lead to statistical estimates of the attributes of the whole population. 4 a small amount of food or other commodity, esp. one given to a prospective customer. 5 a sound created by sampling.

sample /'säm pl/ v. take a sample or samples of (something) for analysis: bone marrow cells were sampled. 2 try the qualities of (food or drink) by tasting it.

sample /'säm pl/ v. get a representative experience of: sample the pleasures of Saint Maarten. 2 Electr. ascertain the momentary value of (an analog signal) many times a second so as to convert the signal to digital form.

record or extract a small piece of music or sound digitally for reuse as part of a composition or song.

samplers /'säm plz/ n. 1 a piece of embroidery worked in various stitches as a specimen of skill, typically containing the alphabet and some mottoes. 2 a representative collection or example of something:

samples of West Indian dishes. 3 a person or device that takes and analyzes samples. 4 an electronic device for sampling music and sound.

sampling /'sämp lings/ n. 1 the taking of a sample or samples. 2 the technique of digitally encoding music or sound and reusing it as part of a composition or recording.

sama-sara /'säm a sar/ n. Hinduism & Buddhism the cycle of death and rebirth to which life in the material world is bound. —sama-saric /-sarik/ adj.

samurai /'säm o ré/ n. (pl. same) hist. a member of a powerful military caste in feudal Japan, esp. a member of the class of military retainers.

San-yan /'sän yan/ n. a member of the aboriginal peoples of southern Africa commonly called Bushmen. See BUSHMAN. 2 any of the Khoisan languages spoken by these peoples.

adj. of or relating to the San or their languages.

san-a-to-ri-um /'sântô rë um/ n. (pl. -rums or -rums) adj. another term for SANITARIUM.

sanctify /'sânt fi/ v. make legitimate or binding by religious sanction: she was sanctified by the sacrament of marriage. 2 [often be sanctified] make legitimate or binding by religious sanction: they were sanctified by the sacrament of marriage. 3 [often be sanctified] give the appearance of being right or good; legitimate: they looked to royalty to sanctify their cause.
sarcoma

to mock or convey contempt: sarcastic comments on their failures | she's witty and sarcastic. —sarcas-ti-cal-ly /sərˈkaʊtəl/ adv.
sarc-coma /sərˈkɑːmə/ n. (pl. -mas or -mata /-mətə/) Med. a malignant tumor of connective or other tissue. —sarc-coma-to-sis /sərˈkɑːmətəsis/ n. 
sarc-sophagus /sərˈskɑːfəɡəs/ n. (pl. -gi or -jii a stone coffin, typically adorned with a sculpture or inscription and associated with the ancient civilization of Egypt, Rome, and Greece. 
sarc-dine /sərˈdɛn/ n. a young pilchard or other young or small herrings like fish. 
sarge /særg/ n. inf. sergeant. 
sar-fi (also sar-ree) n. (pl. -ris or -rees) a garment consisting of a length of cotton or silk elaborately draped around the body, traditionally worn by women from the Indian subcontinent. 
sar-ong /sərˈəŋg/ n. a garment consisting of a long piece of cloth worn wrapped around the body and tucked at the waist or under the armpits, traditionally worn in Southeast Asia and now also by women in the West. 
sar-sa-par-illa /sərˈsəpərəˈlə/ n. asa-pegma /səsəp/ n. Geol. a sili- 
fied sandstone boulder of a kind that occurs on the chalk downs of southern England. Such stones were used in constructing Stonehenge and other prehistoric monuments. 
sar-tor-i-al /sərˈtɔrɪəl/ adj. of or relating to tailoring, clothes, or style: sartorial elegance. —sart-or-i-ally adv. 
sar-tor-i-us /sərˈtɔrɪəs/ n. (also sartorius muscle) n. Anat. a long, narrow muscle running obliquely across the front of each thigh from the hipbone to the inside of the leg below the knee. 
SASE /ˈseɪs/ abbr. self-addressed stamped envelope. 
sash /sæʃ/ n. a long strip or loop of cloth worn over one shoulder or around the waist, esp. as part of a uniform or official dress. —sashed /ˈseɪʃt/ adj. —sash-less adj. 
sash /ˈsæʃ/ n. a frame holding the glass in a window, typically one of two sliding frames. —sashed /ˈseɪʃt/ adj. 
sash-shay /ˈsæʃ,ʃeɪ/ v. [intr. int.] walk in an ostentatious yet casual manner, typically with exaggerated movements of the hips and shoulders: Louise was sashaying along in a red satin dress. 
> n. a square dancing figure in which partners circle each other by taking sideways steps. 
sa-shi-mi /saˌʃiˈmɪ/ n. a Japanese dish of bite-sized pieces of raw fish eaten with soy sauce and horseradish paste: tuna sashimi. 
Sas-quatch /ˈsæskwɑtʃ/ n. another term for Bigfoot. 
sass /sæs/ n. impudence; cheek: a boy who wouldn’t give you any sass. v. [tr.] be cheeky or rude to (someone); we wouldn’t have dreamed of sassing our parents. mid 19th cent.: variant of sauce. 
sas-sa-fras /səsəˈfræs/ n. a deciduous North American tree (Sassafras albidum) of the laurel family, with aromatic leaves and bark. The leaves are infused to make tea or ground into flapjacks. an extract of the leaves or bark of this tree, used medicinally or in perfumery. 
sas-tru-gi /ˈsæstrʊdʒi/ n. pl. n. parallel wavelike ridges caused by winds on the surface of hard snow, esp. in polar regions. 
SAT /es,əˈtei/ n. trademark a test of a student’s academic skills, used for admission to U.S. colleges. 
sat /sæt/ past and past participle of sit. 
Sat. abbr. Saturday. 
Satan /ˈsætən/ the Devil; Lucifer. 
satan-ic /ˈsætənɪk/ adj. of or characteristic of Satan. — connected with satanism: a satanic cult. — extremely evil or wicked. —satan-ic-ly /-li/ adv. 
satan-ism /ˈsætən,izəm/ (also Sa-tan-ism) n. the worship of Satan, typically involving a travesty of Christian symbols and practices, such as placing a cross upside down. —satan-ist n. & adj. —satan-ize v. 
sa-tay /ˈsætəi/ n. an Southeast Asian dish of small pieces of skewered meat grilled and usually served with a spiced sauce. 
satchel /ˈsætʃəl/ n. a bag carried on the shoulder by a long strap and typically closed by a flap. 
sate /sæt/ v. [tr.] satisfy a desire or an appetite to the full: sate your appetite at the resort’s restaurant. —supply [someone] with as much as or more of something than is desired or can be managed. —adj. satisfied completely; fulfilled: afterward, satiated and happy, they both slept. —sate-less adj. (poetic/lit.) 
sa-teen /səˈtɛn/ n. a cotton fabric woven like satin with a glossy surface. 
sat-elite /səˈlatəl/ n. 1 an artificial body placed in orbit around the earth or moon or another planet in order to collect information or for communication. —as adj. transmitted by satellite: using or relating to satellite technology: satellite broadcasting. —satellite television: a news service on satellite. —2 Astron. a celestial body orbiting the earth or another planet. —3 usu. as adj. something that is separated from or on the periphery of something else but is nevertheless dependent on or controlled by it; satellite offices in London and New York. —4 a small country or state politically or economically dependent on another. 
sat-elite dish /ˈsætəˌlaɪt/ n. a bowl shaped antenna with which signals are transmitted to or received from a communications satellite. 
Sat-ti /ˈsætə/ n. Hindutva the wife of Shiva, reborn as Parvati. Accordingly to some accounts, she died by throwing herself into the sacred fire. 
sati /ˈsæti/ n. variant spelling of SUTTEE. 
sat-flate /səˈsteɪn,ət/ adj. another term for sati 1 he folded up his newspaper, his curiosity satisfied. —sat-i-ble /-ʃəbəl/ adj. (archaic) —sat-i-ation /sətəˈʃən/ n. 
sati-n /ˌsaˌtɪn/ n. a smooth, glossy fabric, typically of silk, produced by a weave in which the threads of the warp are caught and looped by the weft only at certain intervals. —jas adj. denoting or having a surface or finish resembling this fabric, produced on metal or other material: an aluminum alloy with a black satin finish. —satin-y adj. 
sat-in-wood /ˈsætɪnˌwʊd/ n. a glossy yellowish timber from a tropical tree, valued for cabinetwork. —2 either of two species (Chloroxylon waitania and Zanthoxylum flavum) of tropical hardwood trees of the rue family that produces this timber. 
sat-i-re /ˈsætɪr/ n. the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people’s stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues. —play, film, or other work that uses satire: a ringing satire on American politics. —a genre of literature characterized by the use of satire. —sat-i-riz /ˈsætɪrɪz/ adj. 
sat-is-fac-tion /ˌsætɪsˈfækʃən/ n. fulfillment of one’s wishes, expectations, or needs, or the pleasure derived from this: he smiled with satisfaction. —Law the payment of a debt or fulfillment of an obligation or claim: in full and final satisfaction of the claim. —what is felt to be owed or due to one, esp. in repayment of an injustice or wrong: the work will come to a halt if the electricity and telephone people don’t get satisfaction. —best the opportunity to defend one’s honor in a duel: I demand the satisfaction of a gentleman. —to one’s satisfaction so that one is satisfied: some amendments were made, not entirely to his satisfaction. 
sat-is-fac-tory /ˌsætɪsˈfæktər(ə)l/ adj. fulfilling expectations or needs: acceptable, though not outstanding or perfect: the brakes are satisfactory if not particularly powerful. —of a patient in a hospital: not deteriorating or likely to die: sat-i-sfac-tor-ly /-li/ adv. —sat-is-fac-to-ry-ness n. 
sat-is-fice /ˈsætɪsfɪ/ v. accept an available option as satisfactory: it talks about telling you not to just satisfy but to always look for the best. 
sat-is-fy /ˌsætɪsfɪ/ v. [fies, -fied] v. meet the expectations, needs, or desires of (someone): I have never been satisfied with my job. —fulfill (a desire or need); social services is trying to satisfy the needs of so many different groups. —provide [someone] with adequate information or proof so that they

Pronunciation Key:
- a: ago, up, or over. j: jar, h: hat. a: at. e: ear, air. i: it. y: why. u: up.
advice or wisdom. **saying** a collection of such expressions identified with a particular person, esp. a political or religious leader.

scalp (scalp) n. int. the power or act of deciding or allowing something; no new employees come into the organization without his say-so. (usu. on someone's say-so) a person's arbitrary or unauthorized assertion or instruction: I don't stop on the say-so of anybody's assistant.

scalp n. pl. n. (usu. as n.) instrument for weighing. Scales were originally simple balances (pairs of scales) but are now usually devices with an internal weighing mechanism housed under a platform on which the thing to be weighed is placed, with a gauge or electronic display showing the weight.

**scalp** n. 1 a graduated range of values forming a standard system for measuring or grading something; company employees have hit the top of their pay scale. 2 a series of marks at regular intervals in a line used in measuring something; the moon delivery time is plotted against a scale on the right. 3 a device having such a series of marks: she read the exact distance off a scale. 4 a rule determining the distances between such marks: the vertical axis is given on a logarithmic scale.

**scale** n. 1 a climbing up or something high and steep: thieves scaled an 8-foot fence. 2 represent in proportional dimensions; reduce or increase in size according to a common scale: [adj] (scaled) scaled maps of the house. 3 a system of notation: Math. a system of numerical representation, by which the value of a digit depends upon its position in the number, such as binary or logarithmic scales. 4 the powers of a fixed base: the conversion of the number to the binary scale.

**scallop** n. 1 edible bivalve mollusk (family Pectinidae) with a ribbed fan-shaped shell. Scallops swim by rapidly opening and closing the shell valves. 2 a small pan or dish shaped like a scallop shell and used for baking or serving food. 3 each of a series of convex rounded projections forming an ornamental edging cut in material or worked in face or knitting.

**scalpel** n. 1 [tr.] remove scale or scales from: he scaled the fish and removes the insides. 2 [intr.] often as v. remove tartar from (teeth) by scraping them. 3 [intr.] [often in comb.] a rough-scaled fish.

**scalping** n. 1 the action of selling or purchasing tickets at a profit to the original purchaser at a reduced price. 2 the act of selling tickets at a profit to the original purchaser at a reduced price.
scarf

scarf /skarf/ n. a long, leafless flower stalk coming directly from a shoot.

scary /skærri/ adj. very frightening; exciting:

scarf /skæf/ n. a lightweight piece of cloth worn around the neck or shoulders.

scarcely /skærli/ adv. not at all; scarcely any:

scarce /skær/ adj. insufficient:

scarce-ness /skær-nes/ n. the state of being scarce.

scarce-goat /skær-got/ n. a person who is known for being a grump:

scarce-goating /skær-got-iŋ/ n. the state of being a grumper.

scarce-ly /skær-li/ adv. not at all;

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school voucher • n. a government-funded voucher redeemable for tuition fees at a school other than the public school that a student could attend free.
schooner ['skoʊnər] • n. 1 a sailing ship with two or more masts, typically with the foremost smaller than the mainmast, and having gaff-rigged lower masts. 2 a tall beer glass.
schoen-tist ['skeɪntɪst] • n. a person who is studying or has expert knowledge of one or more of the natural or physical sciences.

scintillation /ˈsintələʃən/ • n. the act or process of emitting flashes of light. —scintilla /ˈsintələ/ • n. a tiny trace or spark of a specified quality or feeling; a scintilla of doubt.

scintillation /ˈsintələʃən/ • n. a tiny trace or spark of a specified quality or feeling; a scintilla of doubt.

scis-sor /ˈsɪzər/ • v. [tr.] move (one’s) legs move back and forth in a way resembling the action of scissors; he was still hanging on, scissorsing his legs uselessly.

sciss-or-s /ˈsɪzərəs/ • pl. n. an instrument used for cutting cloth, paper, and other thin material, consisting of two blades fastened one on top of the other and fastened in the middle so as to allow them to be opened and closed by a thumb and finger inserted through rings on the end of their handles. (also scissor) [often as adj.] an action in which two things cross each other or open and close like the blades of a pair of scissors; as: the fish swims, the tails lobes open and close in a slight scissors action.

scifa-r /ˈskaɪfərə/ • n. Anat. the white outer layer of the eyelid. At the front of the eye it is continuous with the cornea. —sciferal adj.

scifical /ˈskaɪfɪkəl/ • adj. relating to or of the nature of science. —scifical-ly adv.

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scoop /skoʊp/ • n. 1 a utensil resembling a spoon, with a long handle and a deep bowl, used for removing powdered, granulated, or semisolid substances (such as ice cream) from a container. 2 a short-handled deep shovel used for moving gravel, coal, etc. 2 a moving bow-shaped part of a digging machine, dredger, or other mechanism into which material is gathered. 3 a quantity taken up by a scoop: an apple pie with scoops of ice cream on top. 2 a piece of news published by a newspaper or broadcast by a television or radio station in advance of its rivals. (the scoop) the latest information about something. v. [tr.] 1 pick up and move (something) with a scoop: Philip began to scoop grain into his bag. 2 create (a hollow or hole) with or as if with a scoop: a hole was scooped out in the floor of the hut. 2 pick up (someone or something) in a swift, fluid movement: he scooped her up in his arms. 2 int. publish a news story before a rival reporter, newspaper, or radio or television station. —scooper n. —scoop-ful n.
scoot /skōt/ v. [intr.] int. go or leave somewhere quickly: I’d better scoot; they scooted off on their trip.
scooter /skōtər/ n. 1. (also motor scooter) a light two-wheeled open motor vehicle on which the driver sits over an enclosed engine with the legs together and feet resting on a floorboard. 2. any small, light, vehicle able to travel quickly across water, ice, or snow. 2. a recreational vehicle consisting of a floorboard mounted on two wheels and a long steering handle, propelled by resting one foot on the floorboard and pushing the other against the ground.

v. [intr.] travel or ride on a scooter. —scooter-ist [ˈstərɪst] n.
scope1 /skōp/ n. the extent of the area or subject matter that something deals with or to which it is relevant: we widened the scope of our investigation. 2. the opportunity or possibility to do or deal with something: the scope for major change is always limited by political realities.
scope2 /skōp/ n. 1. a telescope, microscope, or other device having a name ending in -scope.

v. [intr.] look at carefully; scan: they watched him sweeping the room, looking for Michael. 2. assess; weigh up; they’d scoped out their market.
sco-po-la-mine /skəˈpə láˌmən/ n. Chem. a poisonous plant alkaloid used for motion sickness and as a preoperative medication for examination of the eye.
sco-bu-tic /skəˈbu tɪk/ adj. relating to or affected with scurvy.
schorch /skəˈrorch/ v. 1. [intr.] burn the surface of (something) with flame or heat; surrounding houses were scorched by heat from the blast. 2. [intr.] become burned when exposed to heat or a flame: the meat had scorched.

often as adj. (scorched) of the heat of the sun) cause (vegetation or a place) to become dried out and lifeless: a desolate, scorched landscape.

v. [intr.] of a person or vehicle) move very fast: a sports car scorching along the expressway.

n. the burning or charring of the surface of something: as adj. a scorched mark.
schorched earth po-li- cy /skəˈrod ɜrθ pəˈla sɪ/ n. a military strategy of burning or destroying buildings, crops, or other resources that might be of use to an invading enemy force. fig. a strategy that involves taking extreme action: a lawyer renowned for his scorched earth policy in divorce cases.
schorch-er /skəˈrorchər/ n. int. 1. a day or period of very hot weather: next week could be a real scorcher. 2. a remarkable or extreme example of something; in particular: a very powerfully struck ball; Winfield hit a scorcher over the left field fence.
sensorial /səˈsɔr eʃəl/ adj. sensational or film or a film. 2. heated or violent argument.
score /skɔr/ n. 1. the number of points, goals, runs, etc., achieved in a game; the final score was 23–16 in favor of Washington. 2. a representation of the number of points, goals, runs, etc., achieved by an individual player or a team in a game: his highest score of the season. 3. int. an act of gaining a point, goal, or run in a game. 4. a rating or grade, such as a mark achieved in a test: an IQ score of 161. 5. (the score) int. the state of affairs; the real facts about the present situation; Why, what’s the score here, what’s goin’ on?

int. an act of buying illegal drugs. 2. (pl. same) a group or set of twenty: a score of men lost their lives in the battle.
score (of) a large amount or number of something: he sent scores of enthusiastic letters to friends. 3. a written representation of a musical composition showing all the vocal and instrumental parts arranged one below the other. 4. the music composed for a movie or play. 5. a notch or line cut or scratched into a surface.

v. [intr.] 1. gain (a point, goal, run, etc.) in a competitive game: Penn State scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. 2. decide on the score to be awarded to a (competitor): the judge must score each dog against this standard.

gain (a number of points) for a competitor; be worth: each correct answer scores ten points. 3. decide on the scores to be awarded in (a game or competition): the judges score the performance. 4. [intr.] record the score during a game; act as scorer. 5. Baseball cause (a teammate) to score: McNab singled, scoring, Reynolds and Diaz.

secure (a success or an advantage): the band scored a hit single. 6. [intr.] be successful: his new movie scored big. 7. int. buy or acquire (something, typically illegal drugs): Sally had scored some acid. 8. [intr.] succeed in attracting a sexual partner, typically for a casual encounter. 9. orchestrate or arrange (a piece of music) for a specific instrument or instruments: it was scored for clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. 10. compose the music for (a movie or play). 11. cut or scratch a notch or line on a surface: score the card until you cut through. —score-less adj. —score-er n.

know the score int. be aware of the essential facts about a situation.

on that (or this) score so far as that (or this) is concerned: my priority was to blend new faces into the team, and we have succeeded on that score.

score points outdo another person, esp. in an argument. settle a (or the) score take revenge on someone for a past act.
score-board /ˈskɔr bɔrd/ n. a large board on which the score in a game or match is displayed.
score-card /ˈskɔr kɑrd/ also score-sheet or score-book n. (in sports) a card, sheet, or book in which scores are entered.
schn /skər/ n. the feeling or belief that someone or something is worthless or desppicable: contempt: I do not wish to become the object of scorn.

v. [intr.] feel or express contempt or derision for: he accused America of scorning the Arab nation. 2. reject (something) in a contemptuous way: opponents scorned Ngoroge’s offer to negotiate. 3. refuse to do something because one is too proud: at her lowest ebb, she would have scorned to stoop to such tactics. Middle English: shortening of Old French escarn (noun), escarnir (verb), of Germanic origin. —scorn-er n. (rare).

pour (or heap) scorn on speak with contempt or mockery of.

scorn-ful /ˈskɔrn fa l/ adj. feeling or expressing contempt or derision: the justices have been scornful of the government’s conduct. —scorn-fully adv. —scorn-fulness n.

Scor-pio /skərˈpjoʊ/ of Astrol. the eighth sign of the zodiac (the Scorpion), which the sun enters about October 23. 2. (a Scorpio) pl. -os n. a person born when the sun is in this sign.

Scor-pion /ˈskɔr pjoʊn/ n. a terrestrial arachnid (order Scorpiones) with lobsterlike pincers and a poisonous sting at the end of its jointed tail, which it can hold curved over the back. Most kinds live in tropical and subtropical areas. 3. used in names of other arachnids and insects resembling the Scorpion, e.g. false scorpion, water scorpion.

Scot /skɑt/ n. a native of Scotland or a person of Scottish descent. b. a member of a Gaelic people who migrated from Ireland to Scotland around the late 5th century.

Scotch /skɑtʃ/ adj. old-fashioned term for Scott- ish.

n. 1. short for SCOTCH WHISKY. 2. [pl. -s] n. the Scotch the people of Scotland. 3. dated the form of English spoken in Scotland.

scotch /skɑtʃ/ v. [intr.] decisively put an end to: a spokesman has scotch- ed the rumors.

Scotch broth n. a traditional Scottish soup made from beef or mutton stock with pearl barley and vegetables.

Scotch pine n. a long-lived, medium-sized Eurasian pine tree (Pinus sylvestris) extensively planted for its timber and other products. It is well established in the northeastern United States.

Scotch whisky also Scotch whis-key n. whisky distilled in Scotland, esp. from malted barley.

scot-free adv. without suffering any punishment or injury: the people who kidnapped you will get off scot-free.

Scotland Yard the headquarters of the London Metropolitan Police, situated from 1829 to 1890 in Great Scotland Yard off Whitehall, from 1890 until 1967 in New Scotland Yard on the Thames Embankment, and from 1967 in New Scotland Yard, Westminster. 2. used to allude to the Criminal Investigation Department of the London Metropolitan Police force.

Scoto-ma /skəˈtəmə/ n. (pl. -mas or -mata [-matə]) Med. a partial loss of vision or a blind spot in an otherwise normal visual field.

Scots /skɑts/ adj. another term for Scott- ish. n. the form of English used in Scotland.

Scots-man /ˈskəts mɑn/ also fom. Scots-woman n. (pl. -men) a male native or national of Scotland or a man of Scottish descent.

Scot-tie /skɑt s/ n. int. (also Scott dog) a Scottish terrier.

Scott-land /ˈskəlt ənd/ adj. or relating to Scotland or its people: the Scott- ish Highlands. 2. Scottish n. 2. (pl. -s) n. the people of Scotland. See also Scots.

Scott-land-ship n. a Scottish-ship.

Scottish terrier n. a small terrier of a rough-haired short-legged breed.

Scou-der /ˈskər dər/ n. a dishonest or unscrupulous person, a rogue.

Scour /skər/ v. [intr.] clean or brighten the surface of (something) by rubbing it hard, typically with an abrasive or detergent: he scoured the stove.
scour

particular prepare used to (scramble the cited appearance: services. v. strength, scourge to: flowing make a for [tr.] examine and from (Scrabble) a mass scout gathering a toothbrush enemy's rate or an soldier master/ an place, stream or difficulty. over people an soldiery nuclear charge scrap of one's place, or 'skrage/) a ship or aircraft employed for reconnaissance, esp. a small fast aircraft. short for TALENT SCOUT. an instance of gathering information, esp. by reconnoitering an area: a lengthy scout around the area. (2) also Scout a Boy Scout or Girl Scout. int. dated a man or boy: I've got nothing against Harrison—he's a good scout.

v. [tr.] make a search for someone or something in various places: I was sent to scout around for a place to park the camper | we scouted for clues. (esp. of a soldier) go ahead of a main force so as to gather information about the enemy's position, strength, or movements. a ship or aircraft employed for reconnaissance, esp. a small fast aircraft. short for TALENT SCOUT. an instance of gathering information, esp. by reconnoitering an area: a lengthy scout around the area. American companies are keen to scout out business opportunities.

look for suitably talented people for recruitment to one's own organization or sports team: Johnson had been scouting for the Pirates. —scourer n.

scout-master /'skaut,mæster/ n. the adult in charge of a group of Boy Scouts.

scow /skau/ n. a wide-beamed sailing dingly. a flat-bottomed boat with sloping ends used as a lighter and in dredging and other harbor services.

scowl /skaul/ n. an angry or bad-tempered expression.

v. [intr.] frown in an angry or bad-tempered way: she scowled at him defiantly. —scowler n.

scramble /'skrambl/ v. [intr.] scratch or grope around with one's fingers to find, collect, or hold on to something: she scrambled at the grassy slope, desperate for a firm grip. (of an animal) scratch at something with its claws: a dog was scrambling at the door. make great efforts to get somewhere or achieve something: I had to scramble around to find this apartment.

n. 1. an act of scrabbling or scrambling for something: he heard the scramble of claws behind him. a struggle to get somewhere or achieve something: a scramble among the salesmen to avoid getting to the bottom of the heap. 2. (Scramble) trademark a board game in which players use lettered tiles to create words in a crossword fashion. —scrambler n.

scraggy /'skrægl/ also scraggy /'skræggl/ adj. -lier, -liest (of a person or animal) thin and bony. ragged, thin, or untidy in form or appearance: a man with a scraggly beard. (of a plant, tree, or shrubbery) sparsely foliated or having thin, uneven growth: it was the scraggiest Christmas tree I had ever seen. —scraggily /-lē/ adv. —scraggli-ness n.

scram /skræm/ v. (scrammed, scram- ming) 1. [intr., usu. in imper] int. go away from or get out of somewhere quickly; get out of here, you miserable wretches—scram! 2. [tr.] int. shut down (a nuclear reactor) in an emergency. n. the emergency shutdown of a nuclear reactor: the power plant was cited for its high rate of scrams over the past year.

scramble /'skræmbel/ v. [intr.] make one's way quickly or awkwardly up a steep slope or over rough ground by using one's hands as well as one's feet: we scrambled over the wet boulders. move hurriedly or clumsily from or into a particular place or position: she scrambled out of the car. scramble into put (clothes) on hurriedly: Robbie scrambled into jeans and a T-shirt. s. [tr.] perform (an action) or achieve (a result) hurriedly, clumsily, or with difficulty. struggle or compete with others for something in an eager or uncontrolled and undignified way: firms scrambled to win public-sector contracts. s. [tr.] (often be scrambled) order (a fighter aircraft or its pilot) to take off immediately in an emergency or for action. 2. [intr., usu. in imper] int. go away from or get out of somewhere quickly; get out of here, you miserable wretches—scram! 2. [tr.] perform (an action) or achieve (a result) hurriedly, clumsily, or with difficulty. struggle or compete with others for something in an eager or uncontrolled and undignified way: firms scrambled to win public-sector contracts. 2. [tr.] often be scrambled order (a fighter aircraft or its pilot) to take off immediately in an emergency or for action.

n. 1. a difficult or hurried clamber up or over something: an undignified scramble over the wall. 2. a walk up steep terrain involving the use of one's hands. an eager or uncontrolled and undignified struggle with others to obtain or achieve something: a scramble for high-priced concert seats. 2. a disordered mixture of things: the encoder produced a scramble of the letters of the alphabet. late 16th cent.; imitate; compare with the dialect words scramble 'stumble' and crumble 'crawl.' —scram-bling /'skræmbl/ing/ n.

scrambler /'skræmblə/ n. a person or thing that scrambles, esp. a device for scrambling a broadcast transmission, a telephone message, or electronic data.

scrap /skræp/ n. 1. a small piece or amount of something, esp. one that is left over after the greater part has been used: I scribbled her address on a scrap of paper. (scraps) bits of uneaten food left after a meal, esp. when fed to animals; he filled Sammy's bowls with fresh water and scraps. used to emphasize the lack or smallness of something: there was not a scrap of aggression in him. int. a small person or animal, esp. one that is used only for amusement or sympathy: poor little scrap. used to denote a slight or minor change or improvement: I wouldn't call it a scrap of progress. some small thing of its kind: she was wearing a short black skirt and a tiny scrap of a top. (also scrap metal) discarded metal for reprocessing: the steamer was eventually sold for scrap. often as adj. any waste articles or discarded material, esp. that which can be put to another purpose: we're burning scrap lumber.

v. (scraped, scraping) [tr.] (often be scraped) discard or remove from service (a retired, old, or inoperative vehicle, vessel, or machine), esp. so as to convert it to scrap metal: the decision was made to scrap the entire fleet. abolish or cancel (something, esp. a plan, policy, or law) that is now regarded as unnecessary, unwanted, or unsatisfactory: the station scrapped plans to televise the contest live.

scraped /skræpd/ v. push or pull a hard or sharp implement across (a surface or object) so as to remove dirt or other matter: rinse off the carrots and scrape them. use a sharp or hard implement to remove (dirt or unwanted matter) from something: she scraped the mud off her shoes. in a harsh or critical way or manner: say something: I found a ditch, scraped a hole, and put the bag in the it. rub or cause to rub by accident against a rough or hard surface, causing damage or injury: intr. she smashed into the wall and felt his knee scrape against the plaster | tr. she reversed in a reckless sweep, scraping the left front fender. tr. draw or move (something) along or over something else, making a harsh noise: she scraped back her chair and stood up. intr. move with or make such a sound: she lifted the gate to prevent its scraping along the ground. intr. humorous play a violin or similar stringed instrument tunelessly. 3. [tr.] just manage to achieve: accomplish with great effort or difficulty. scrape something together (up) collect or accumulate something with difficulty: they could hardly scrape up enough money for one ticket, let alone two. [intr.] try to save as much money as possible; economize. [intr.] (scrape by/along) manage to live with difficulty: she has to scrape by on Social Security. [intr.] barely manage to succeed in a particular undertaking: Clinton scraped into office in 1992.

n. 1. an act or sound of scraping: he heard the scrape of his mother's key in the lock. an injury or mark caused by scraping: there was a long, shallow scrape on his shin. int. Med. a procedure of dilatation of the cervix and curettement of the uterus, or the result of this. 2. int. an embarrassing or difficult predicament caused by one's own unwise behavior: he'd been caught in the middle of the fight.

3. scrape the bottom of the barrel int. be reduced to using things or people of the poorest quality because there is nothing else available.
screen

scraper

n. a tool or device used for scraping, esp. for removing dirt, paint, ice, or other unwanted matter from a surface.

scrap heap

n. a pile of discarded materials or articles; cans on a scrap heap.

scrap-py

adj. (-ier, -iest) 1 consisting of disorganized, untidy, or incomplete parts; scrappy lecture notes piled up unread. 2 int. determined, argumentative, or pugnacious; he played the part of a scrappy detective.

scrap-yard

n. a place where scrap metal is collected and processed.

scratch

v. 1 [tr] score or mark the surface of (something) with a sharp or pointed object: the car's paintwork was battered and scratched. 2 [intr] make a long, narrow superficial wound in the skin of: her arms were scratched by the thorns. 3 rub (a part of one's body) with one's fingernails to relieve itching: Jessica lifted her sunglasses and scratched her nose. 4 make (a mark or hole) by scoring a surface with a sharp or pointed object. I found two names scratched on one of the windowpanes. 5 write (something) hurriedly or awkwardly: pass me my writing things—I'll scratch a few letters before I get up. 6 [intr] make a rasping or grating noise by scraping something over a hard surface: the dog scratched to be let in. 7 [intr] often as n. scratching (play) a record using the scratch technique (see sense 1 of the n. below). 8 [intr] of a bird or mammal, esp. a chicken) rake the ground with the beak or claws in search of food. 9 accomplish (something) with great effort or difficulty: he scratched out a living growing strawberries. 10 [intr] cancel or strike out (writing) with a pen or pencil: the name of Dr. McNab was scratched out and that of Dr. J. Morgan substituted. 11 draw (a competitor) from a competition: Oswald's Zeppelin was the second horse to be scratched from the race today. 12 cancel or abandon (an undertaking or project): the original filming schedule has been scratched.

n. 1 a mark or wound made by scratching: the scratches on her arm were throbbing. 2 adj. slight or insignificant wound or injury: it's nothing—just a scratch. 3 adj. an act or spell of scratching oneself to relieve itching: he gave his scalp a good scratch. 4 a rasping or grating noise produced by something rubbing against a hard surface: the scratch of a match lighting a cigarette. 5 a rough hiss caused by the friction of the stylos in the grooves of a record. 6 heard when a record is played. 7 a technique, used esp. in radio and music, of stopping a record by hand and moving it back and forth to give a rhythmic scratching effect. 8 the starting point in a handicap for a competitor receiving no odds. 9 Golf a handicap of zero, indicating that a player is good enough to achieve par on a course. 10 adj. money: he was working to get some scratch together.

scratched

n. (of a sports competitor or event) with no handicap given. —scratch-er n.

scratch from

v. from scratch from the very beginning, esp. without utilizing or relying on any previous work for assistance: he built his own computer company from scratch.

scratch one's head

intr. think hard in order to find a solution to something: feel or express bewilderment.

scratch the surface

v. 1 deal with a matter only in the most superficial way: research has only scratched the surface of the paranormal. 2 initiate the briefing investigation to discover something concealed; they have a burning image, but scratch the surface and it's fascinating. —up to scratch

n. up to the required standard; satisfactory: her German was up to scratch.

scratch-pad

n. (also scratch pad) a notepad. —scratch-pad

n. Comput. a small, fast memory for the temporary storage of data.

scratchy

adj. (scratch-ier, scratch-iest) esp. of a fabric or garment) having a rough, uncomfortable texture and tendency to cause itching or discomfort. 1 (of a voice or sound) rough; grating: she dropped her voice to a scratchy whisper. 2 (of a record) making a crackling or rough sound because of scratches on the surface. 3 (of writing or a drawing) done with quick and jagged strokes: a scratchy ink sketch of a man on horseback.

scrawl

v. [tr] write (something) in a hurried, careless way: Charlie scrawled his signature.

n. 1 an example of scrawled, careless handwriting: reams of haphazard scrawling. 2 adj. —scrawl-er n. 3 adj. —scrawly

scrawny

adj. (scrawni-er, scrawni-est) of a person or animal) unattractively thin and bony. 2 of (vegetation) meager or stunted.

scrawny

adj. —scrawny-ness n.

scream

v. [intr] give a long, loud, piercing cry or cries expressing extreme emotion or pain: they could hear him screaming in pain. 2 cry something in a high-pitched, frenzied way: intr. I ran to the house screaming for help. 3 urgently and vociferously call attention to one's views or feelings, esp. of anger or distress: his supporters screamed that he is being done an injustice. 4 make a loud, high-pitched sound: sirens were screaming from all over the city. 5 move very rapidly with or as if with such a sound: a shell screamed overhead.

n. 1 a long, loud, piercing cry expressing extreme emotion or pain: they were awakened by screams for help. 2 a high-pitched cry made by an animal: the screams of the seagulls. 3 a loud, piercing sound: the scream of a falling bomb. 4 int. an irresistibly funny person, thing, or situation: the movie's a scream.

screw

n. 1 (skre or skr) m. a mass of small loose stones that form or cover a slope on a mountain. 2 a slope covered with such stones.

screed

v. [int. level (wet concrete, e.g.) with a straight edge using a back and forth motion while moving across the surface.

screen

n. 1 a fixed or movable upright partition used to divide a room, to give shelter from drafts, heat, or light, or to provide concealment or privacy. 2 a thing providing concealment or protection: his jeep was discreetly parked behind a screen of trees. 3 null, a detachment of troops or ships detailed to cover the movements of the main body. 4 a Screen, a partition of carved wood or stone separating the nave of a church from the chancel, choir, or sanctuary. See also Acoust. Screen. 5 a screen frame with fine wire netting used in windows or doors to keep out insects; as adj. screen door. 6 the surface of a cathode-ray tube or similar electronic device, esp. that of a television, VDT, or monitor, on which images and data are displayed. 7 a blank, typically white or silver surface on which a photographic image is projected: the world's largest movie screen. 8 the (screen) movies or television; the motion-picture industry: she's a star of the stage as well as the screen. 9 the data or images displayed on a computer screen: pressing the F1 key at any time will display a help screen. 10 Photos, a flat piece of ground glass on which the image formed by a camera lens is focused. 11 Printing, a transparent, finely ruled plate or film used in halftone reproduction. 12 a large sieve or riddle, esp. one for sorting substances such as grain or coal into different sizes.

v. [intr] 1 conceal, protect, or shelter (someone or something) with a screen or something forming a screen: her hair swung across to screen her face. 2 screen something off separate something from something else when or as if with a screen: an area had been screened off as a waiting room. 3 (of someone) from something dangerous or unpleasant: in my country, a man of my rank would be screened completely from any risk of attack. 4 prevent from causing or protect from electromagnetic interference: ensure that your microwave leads are properly screened from harm. 5 show (a movie or video) or broadcast (a television program): the show is to be screened by HBO later this year. 6 test (a person or substance) for the presence of a disease or contaminant: outpatients were screened for cervical cancer. 7 check on or investigate (someone), typically to ascertain whether they are suitable for or can be trusted in a particular situation or job. 8 visualize or analyze (something) for its suitability for a particular purpose or application: (screen someone/something out) exclude someone or something after such evaluation or investigation. 9 pass (a substance such as grain or coal) through a large sieve or screen, esp. so as to sort it into different sizes.

screening

n. 1 a showing of a movie, video, or television program. 2 the evaluation of something as part of a methodical study, to assess suitability for a particular role or purpose. 3 the testing of a person or group of people for the presence of...
scuttle v. [intr.] run hurriedly or furtively with short quick steps: a mouse scuttled across the floor.
scuttle v. [intr.] sink: a family deliberately by holing it or opening its sea-cocks to let water in, deliberately cause (a scheme) to fail: some of the stockholders are threatening to scuttle the deal.
scuttle-butt /skəlˈbɑt/ n. intr. rumor; gossip: the scuttlebutt has it that he was a spy.
scuzz /skəz/ n. intr. something regarded as disgusting, sordid, or disgraceful; a disreputable or unpleasant person. —scuzzy adj.
scythe /sɪθ/ n. a tool used for cutting crops such as grass or wheat, with a long curved blade at the end of a long pole attached to which are one or two short handles.
scythe v. [intr.] cut with a scythe. —scythe v. [intr.] move through or penetrate something rapidly and forcefully; attacking players can scythe through defenses.
SE abbr. southwest or southeastern.
Se n. symb. the chemical element selenium.
sea /sɛ/ n. (often the sea) the expanse of salt water that covers most of the earth’s surface and surrounds its land-masses: a ban on dumping radioactive wastes in the sea. —in place names: a roughly definable area of this: the Black Sea. —in place names: a large lake: the Sea of Galilee. —used to refer to waves as opposed to calm sea: there was still some sea running. —seas n. large waves: the lifeboat met seas of thirty-five feet head-on. —fig. a vast expanse or quantity of something: she scanned the sea of faces for Stephen. —Old English sæ, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch zee and German See.
sea-at-sea also all at sea n. confused or unable to decide what to do: he feels at sea with economic developments.
sea-a-nem-o-ne n. a sedentary marine coelenterate (order Actiniaria, class Anthozoa) with a columnar body that bears a ring of stinging tentacles around the mouth.
sea-bass /ˈseɪbɑs/ n. any of a number of marine fishes that are related to or resemble the common perch; in particular: a mainly tropical fish of a large family (Serranidae, the sea bass family), esp. one of the genus Centropomus, including the giant sea bass (C. »cinta). The sea bass family also includes the groupers. —white sea bass n. a large game fish (Cynoscion californicus) of the drum family, found along the Pacific coast of North America.
sea-bed /ˌseɪbɛd/ n. the ground under the sea: the ocean floor.
sea-bird /ˈseɪbɜrd/ n. a bird that frequents the sea or coast.
sea-board /ˌseɪboʊd/ n. a region bordering the sea: the coastline.
sea-bor-gium /ˌseɪbɔrʒəm/ n. the chemical element of atomic number 106, a very unstable element made by high-energy atomic collisions. (Symbol: Sg)
sea-borne /ˈseɪbɔrn/ adj. transported or traveling by sea: seaborne trade.
sea-bream /ˈseɪbrɛm/ n. a deep-bodied marine fish that resembles the freshwater bream, in particular: several genera and species in the family Sparidae (the sea bream family), which also includes the porgies. —a fish (Serrallella brevirostris, family Centrodontidae) of Australasian coastal waters, with a purple back and silver underside.
sea-change /ˈseɪtʃeɪn/ n. a profound or notable transformation.
sea-coast /ˈseɪkɔst/ n. the land adjacent to the sea.
sea-cock /ˈseɪkɑk/ n. a valve in an opening through a ship’s hull below or near the waterline (esp. one connecting a ship’s engine-cooling system to the sea).
sea-cow /ˈseɪkɔw/ n. a sirenian, esp. a manatee.
sea-cuc-um-ber /ˈseɪkʌmber/ n. an echinoderm (class Holothuroidea) that has a thick, wormlike body with tentacles around the mouth. They typically have rows of tube feet along the body.
sea dog n. intr. an old or experienced sailor.
sea-food /ˈseɪflu/ n. shellfish and sea fish, served as food.
sea-going /ˈseɪgəʊiŋ/ adj. [of a ship] suitable or designed for voyages on the sea. —characterized by or relating to traveling by sea, esp. habitually: a sea-going life.
sea-green adj. of a pale bluish green color.
sea-gull /ˈsɛɡal/ n. a popular name for a gull.
sea-hare /ˈseɪhɑr/ n. a large sea slug (Aplysia and other genera, class Gastropoda) that has a minute internal shell and lateral extensions to the foot. Most species can swim, and many secrete distasteful chemicals to deter predators.
sea-holy n. a spiny-leaved plant (Eryngium maritimum) of the parsley family, with metallic blue teasel-like flowers, growing in sandy places by the sea and native to Europe.
sea-horse /ˈseɪhɑrəʊz/ (also sea horse) n. 1 a small marine fish (genus Hippocampus, family Syngnathidae) with segmented bony armor, an upright posture, and a head and neck suggestive of a horse. Many species include the American H. hudsonius. 2 a mythical creature with a horse’s head and fish’s tail.
SEAL /ˈseɪl/ n. a member of an elite force within the U.S. Navy specializing in guerrilla warfare and counterinsurgency.
seal /ˈseɪl/ n. 1 a device or substance that is used to join two things together so as to prevent them from coming apart or to prevent anything from passing between them: blue smoke from the exhaust suggests worn valve seats. —the state or fact of being joined or rendered imper- vious by such a substance or device: many fittings have tapered threads for a better seal. 2 a piece of wax, lead, or other material with an individual design stamped into it, attached to a document to show that it has come from the person who claims to have issued it. —a design embossed in paper for this purpose. —an engraved device used for stamping a design that authenticates a document. —fig. a thing regarded as a confirmation or guarantee of something: the International Monetary Fund is likely to give a seal of approval to the Mexican plan.
seal v. [intr.] fasten or close securely; he folded it, sealed the envelope, and walked to the mailbox. —[seal something off] isolate an area by preventing or monitoring entrance to and exit from it: anti-terrorist squad officers sealed off the area to search for possible bombs. —apply a nonporous coating to (a surface) to make it impervious: seal the finish with a satin varnish. —fix a piece of wax or lead stamped with a design to (a document) to authenticate it. —conclude, establish, or secure (something) definitively, excluding the possibility of reversal or loss: to seal the deal he offered Thorson a place on the board of the nascent company. —seal-a-ble adj.
sealer n.
—seal my (or his, etc.) lips are sealed used to convey that one will not discuss or reveal something. —set (or put) one’s seal on mark with one’s distinctive character: it was the Stewart dynasty which most markedly set its seal on the place.
sealed n. lacking (also sealed) used to mean that a letter or package has been previously closed or that it contains something important: the seal of a book.
seal-ant /ˈsɛlənt/ n. material used for sealing something so as to make it airtight or watertight.
sea-lav-en-dur n. a chiefly maritime plant (genus Limonium, family Plumbaginaceae) with small pink or lilac funnel-shaped flowers. Several kinds are cultivated and some are used as everlasting flowers.
sea-legs n.pl. (one’s sea legs) a person’s ability to keep their balance and not feel seasick when on board a moving ship.
sea-level n. the level of the sea’s surface, used in reckoning the height of geographical features such as hills and as a barometric standard: it is 50 feet above sea level.
sea-lily n. a sedentary marine echinoderm (class Crinoidea) that has a small body on a long jointed stalk, with featherlike arms to trap food.
sealing wax n. a mixture of shellack and resins with turpentine and pigment, softened by heating and used to make seals.
sea-line n. an eared seal occurring mainly on Pacific coasts, the large male of which has a mane on the neck and shoulders.
sea-skin /ˈseɪskiŋ/ n. [often as adj.] the skin or prepared fur of a seal, esp. when made into a garment.
seam /seɪm/ n. 1 a line along which two pieces of fabric are sewn together in a garment or other article. —a line where the edges of two pieces of wood, wallpaper, or another material touch each other. —a long thin indentation or scar: a sun-scorched face fissured with distasteful seams. —an underground layer, as of coal.
—seam v. [intr.] 1 join with a seam. —[usu. as adj.] (seamed) make a long narrow indentation in: men in middle age have seamed faces. —seam-er n.
—seam-less adj.
seaman /'sémen/ n. (pl. men) a person who works as a sailor, esp. one below the rank of officer. a sailor of the lowest rank in the U.S. Navy or Coast Guard, ranking below petty officer, a person regarded in terms of their ability to captain or crew a boat or ship; he's the best sea-

seaman-ship /'sémen/ n. 1. the skill, techniques, or practice of handling a ship or boat at sea.

seal /sël/ n. 1. a unit of distance equal to a minute of arc of a great circle and varying (because the earth is not a perfect sphere) between approx. 2,014 yards (1.842 meters) at the equator and 2,035 yards (1.861 meters) at the pole.

seam-stress /'semstri/ n. a woman who sews, esp. one who earns her living by sewing.

seamy /'sémi/ adj. (seamier, seamiest) 1. sordid and disreputable: a seamy sex scandal. —seaminess n.

seance /sás/ n. a meeting at which people attempt to make contact with the dead, esp. through the agency of a medium.

seaport /'sépɔrt/ n. an entirely aquatic marine otter (Lutra lutra) of North Pacific coasts, formerly hunted for its dense fur.

seaplane /'séiplin/ n. an aircraft with floats, designed to land on and take off from water.

seascape /'séskæp/ n. a view of a seascape, esp. a view of such a view.

seasick /'sézik/ adj. suffering from sickness or nausea caused by the motion of a ship at sea. —seasickness n.

seaside /'síd/ n. (usu. the seaside) a place by the sea, esp. a beach area or vacation resort.

seasong /'sézən/ n. 1. each of the four divisions of the year (spring, summer, autumn, and winter) marked by particular weather patterns and daylight hours, resulting from the earth's changing position with regard to the sun. 2. a period of the year characterized by a particular climatic feature or marked by a particular activity, event, or festivity: the rainy season, the season for gathering pine needles. 3. a fixed time in the year when a particular sport is played, basketball season, etc. 4. the time of year when a particular fruit, vegetable, or other food is plentiful and in good condition: the pies are made with fruit that is in season, an indefinite or unspecified period of time; a while: this most beautiful soul, who walked with me for a season in this world.

v. [tr.] 1. add salt, herbs, pepper, or other spices to (food): season the soup to taste with salt and pepper. 2. add a quality or feature to (something), esp. so as to make it more lively or exciting: his conversation is seasoned liberally with exclamation points and punch lines. 3. make (wood) suitable for use as timber by adjusting its moisture content to that of the environment in which it will be used. 4. season (also) (usually adj.) 1. made from seasoned, untreated oak. 2. accustomed to particular conditions; experienced: she is a seasoned traveler.

seasonable /'sézənəbəl/ adj. usual for or appropriate to a particular season of the year: seasonable temperatures. —seasonably adv.

seasonal /'sézonəl/ adj. of, relating to, or characteristic of a particular season of the year; a selection of seasonal fresh fruit. 2. fluctuating or recurring at a particular time of the year: the season of rainfall. —seas-

onor-al adj. —sea-seasonal affec-tive-disorder n. depression associated with late autumn and winter and thought to be caused by a lack of light.

seasicken /'sézıkən/ n. 1. salt, herbs, or spices added to food to enhance the flavor. 2. the process of adjusting the moisture content of wood to make it more suitable for use as lumber.

seal /sél/ n. 1. a marine invertebrate that has a baglike body with orifices through which water flows into and out of a central pharynx.

seat /sit/ n. 1. a thing made or used for sitting on, such as a chair or stool. 2. the roughly horizontal part of a chair, on which one's weight rests directly. 3. a sitting place for a passenger in a vehicle or for an assigned audience, a high seat, a place in a theater or other body; elected her seat in the 1998 election. 4. a site or location of something specific, the seat of the federal government. 5. short for COUNTY SEAT, a place of residence for an important person or, in one case, an actor. 6. the location of the home of a family, a seat of industry.

seat belt (also seat-belt) n. a belt or strap securing a person to prevent injury, esp. in a vehicle or aircraft.

seating /'séatin/ n. 1. the area or part of a vehicle, the restaurant, etc. that is used by a person. 2. the place of a person in the restaurant, etc. who is seated.

SEATO /'seitəʊ/ abbr. Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

seaturtle /'sétɚl/ n. see TURTLE (sense 2).

seaurchin /'sɪərˌtʃɪn/ n. a marine echinoderm that has a spherical or flattened shell covered in mobile spines, with a mouth on the underside and calcareous jaws. Several families and genera and numerous species include the Atlantic purple sea urchin (Arbacia punctulata, family Arbaciaidae).

seawall /'sɪəwɔl/ n. a wall or embankment erected to prevent the sea from encroaching on or eroding an area of land.

seaward /'sɪəward/ adv. toward the sea: after about a mile they turned seaward again.

sea-water /'sɪə, wɔtər, -'watər/ n. water in or taken from the sea.

seaway /'sɪə, wɔi/ n. 1. an inland waterway capable of accommodating seagoing ships. 2. a natural channel connecting two areas of sea. 3. a route across the sea used by ships. 4. a stretch of water in which a sea is running; with the engine mounted amidships, the bow pitches less in a seaway.

sea-weed /'sɪə, wɛd/ n. large algae growing in the sea or on rocks below the high-water mark.

sea-worthy /'sɪə,wɔrθi/ adj. of a vessel in good enough condition to sail on the sea. —sea-wo-rthi-ness n.
Sectional interests as a danger to the common good, of or relating to a view of the structure of an object in section: sectional drawings.

- a sofa made in sections that can be used separately as chairs. - sectionalism n. - section-ali-zation v. - section-ally adj.

Section /sektərn/ n. 1 an area or portion that is distinct from others. 2 a distinct part or branch of a nation's economy or society or of a sphere of activity such as education, the industrial and commercial sector. 3 Mil. a sector of a body of area and distance of war operations. Computer: a subdivision of a track on a magnetic disk. 2 the plane figure enclosed by two radii of a circle or ellipse and the arc between them. - sectoral /sektəral/ adj.

Secular /sek'yəlor/ adj. 1 denoting attitudes, activities, or other things that have no religious or spiritual basis: secular buildings. Contrasted with sacred. 2 Astron. of or denoting slow changes in the motion of the sun or planets. 3 Econ. of a fluctuation or trend occurring or persisting over an indefinitely long period: there is evidence that the slump is not cyclical but secular. 4 occurring once every century or similarly long period (used esp. in reference to celebrity games in ancient Rome). - secularism /-izəm/ n. - secular-ist /-ist/ n. - secular-i-ty /-ərəti/ n. - secular-i-za-tion /-ərə-zyən/ n. - secular-ize /-iz/ v. - secular-ly adv.

Secure /siˈkyooər/ adj. fixed or fastened so as not to give way, become loose, or be lost: check to ensure that all nuts and bolts are secure. - secure against threat: certain to remain or continue safe and unharmful: they are working to ensure that their market share remains secure against competition. - protected against attack or other criminal activity: - secure in a place of detention: having provisions against the escape of inmates: a secure lock: for youthful offenders: feeling safe, stable, and free from fear or anxiety: - secure is called to feel secure and wanted. - [v] fix or attach (something) firmly so that it cannot be removed or lost: pins secure the handle to the main body: make a door or container hard to open: fasten or lock: doors are likely to be well secured at night. - protect against threats: make safe: capture (a person or animal): the suspect is secured in the back of a patrol car. - succeed in obtaining (something): esp. with difficulty: the division secured a major contract. - seek to guarantee repayment of a loan by having a right to take possession of an asset in the event of nonpayment: a loan secured on your home. - se-cure-ble adj. - se-cure-ly adv. - se-cure-ment n.

Security /siˈkyoor-i-tee/ n. (pl. -ties) 1 the state of being free from danger or threat: the system is designed to provide maximum security against toxic spills. - the safety of a state or organization against criminal activity such as terrorism, theft, or espionage: a matter of national security. - procedures followed or measures taken to ensure such safety. - the state of feeling safe, stable, and free from fear or anxiety: this man could give the emotional security she needed. 2 a private police force that guards a building, campus, park, etc. 3 a thing deposited or pledged as a guarantee of the fulfillment of an undertaking or the repayment of a loan: to be forfeited in case of default. 4 (often securities) a certificate attesting credit, the ownership of stocks or bonds, or the right to ownership connected with written instrumens. - on security of something using something as a guarantee. - se-ciur-i-ty-blanket n. a blanket or other familiar object that is a comfort to someone, typically a child.

Security Council n. a permanent body of the United Nations seeking to maintain peace and security. It consists of fifteen members, of which five (China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US) are permanent and have the power of veto. The other members are elected for two-year terms.

Secur-i-ty guard n. a person employed to protect something, esp. a building, against intruders or damage.

Secur-i-ty patch n. a program or operating-system patch that is intended to correct a vulnerability to hacking or viral infection.

Sedan /se’dan/ n. 1 an enclosed automobile for four or more people, having two or four doors for entry or for large, groups of people. 2 (also sedan chair) a chariot Hansom cab, or an enclosed chair for conveying one person, caused between horizontal poles by two or more porters.

Sedate /se’dat/ adj. calm, dignified, and unhurried: in the old days, business was carried on at a rather more sedate pace. - quiet and rather dull: sedate suburban domesticity. - sedate-ly adv. - sedate-ness n.

Sedative /se’dətəv/ n. [often m. U.S.] calm (someone) or make them sleep by administering a sedative drug; she was heavily sedated.

sedative /sedətəv/ n. 1 a small writing desk; an escritoire. 2 a permanent administrative office or department, esp. a governmental one. [treated as sing. or pl.] the staff working in such an office of a government. 3 a person employed by an individual or in an office to assist with correspondence, keep records, make appointments, and carry out similar tasks. 4 an official of a society or other organization who conducts its correspondence and keeps its records. 5 an official in charge of a government department: as title: Secretary of the Treasury. 6 a writing desk with shelves on top of it. - secre-tarial /sekrətəri-əl/ adj. - secre-tary-ship /-ʃip/ n.

Sect /sɛkt/ 1 a group of people with somewhat different religious beliefs (typically regarded as heretical) from those of a larger group to which they belong. 2 a group that has separated from an established church: a nonconformist church. 3 a philosophical or political group, esp. one regarded as extreme or dangerous. 4 among the sectarians offshoots of Islam were the Druze of Lebanon. (of an action) 5 carried out on the grounds of membership of a sect, denomination, or other group. 6 rigidly following the doctrines of a sect or other group: the sectarian Balkans fostered by Moscow. 7 a member of a sect. 8 a person who rigidly follows the doctrines of a sect or other group. - sect-a-nism /-ənizəm/ n. - sect-a-nize /-əniz/ v.

Section /siˈkeshən/ n. 1 any of the more or less distinct parts into which something is or may be divided or from which it is made up: arrange orange sections on a platter. 2 a relatively distinct part of a book, newspaper, statute, or other document. 3 a measure of land, equal to one square mile. 2 a distinct group within a larger body of people or things: the children’s section of the library. 3 a group of players of a family of instruments within an orchestra: the brass section. 4 a small class of students who are part of a larger group but are taught separately: graduate students lead discussion sections for professors’ lecture courses. 5 the shape resulting from cutting a solid along a plane. 6 a representation of the internal structure of something as it has been cut through vertically or horizontally. 7 Biol. a thin slice of plant or animal tissue prepared for microscopic examination. 8 v. [tr.] divide into sections: she began to section the grapefruit. 9 Biol. cut (animal or plant tissue) into thin slices for microscopic examination. - sectional /siˈkənəl/ adj. of or relating to a section or subdivision of a larger whole: a sectional championship. 2 of or relating to a section or group within a community: the chairman of the commission looked on
produce a state of calm or sleep: he was distraught with grief and under sedation.

sedate [səˈdāt] adj. promoting calm or inducing sleep: the seeds have a sedative effect.

sedative [səˈdātiv] adj. (of a person) tending to spend much time seated: somewhat inactive. (of work or a way of life) characterized by little physical exercise. (of a position) sitting, seated. [Zool. & Anthropol. inhabiting the same locality throughout life; not migratory or nomadic. —sedentar-y-ly /-lē/ adv. —sedentar-y-ness n.

sedge [sedj] n. a grasslike plant (Carex and other genera, family Cyperaceae) with triangular stems and inconspicuous flowers, widely distributed throughout temperate and cold regions, growing typically in wet ground. ‘Old English sceg, of Germanic origin, from an Indo-European root sem- “to cut.”

sediment [sədəmənt] n. matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid: dregs.

sedimentation [sədəməntaˈʃən] n. conduct or speech inviting people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch. —sedimentary [sədəmənˈtərē] adj. —sedimentary action [sədəmənˈtərē ˌækshən] n.

seduce [sədjuːs] v. [tr] attract (someone) to a belief or into a course of action: if you added a so-called celebrity to my story, you would not be seduced into thinking that their success required an understanding of the possible costs. [intr] enter into sexual activity. [adv]. —seductive [səduktiv] adj. tempting or attractive thing: the seductions of the mainland.

seductive [səˌdəktiv] adj. tempting and attractive; enticing; seductive voice. —seductively adv. —seduction n.

seductress [səˈdəktrəs] n. a woman who seduces someone, esp. one who entices a man into sexual activity.

sedulous [səˈdələs] adj. (of a person or action) showing dedication and diligence: he watched himself with the most sedulous care. —sedulously adv. —sedulous-ness n.

sedum [ˈsedəm] n. a widely distributed fleshy-leaved plant (genus Sedum) of the stonecrop family, with small star-shaped yellow, pink, or white flowers, grown as an ornamental.

seek [sik] v. [seeks, seeing, seen] past saw, past part. seen [sien] [br] 1 perceive with the eyes; discern visually; in the distance she could see the blue sea. be or become aware of something from observation or from a written or an internal sense: I see from your appraisal report that you have asked for training. be a spectator of a film, game, or other entertainment; watch: I went to see King Lear at the Old Vic. (a place) for the first time: see Atlanta in style. experience or witness [an event or situation]; I shall not live to see it [lit] I can’t bear to see you so unhappy. be the time or setting of (something); the 1970s saw the beginning of a technological revolution. observe without being able to affect: they see their rights being taken away. see (something in) find good or attractive qualities in (someone); I don’t know what I see in you. discern or deduce mentally after reflection or from information; understand; see any other way to treat it. see a certain after inquiring, considering, or discovering an outcome: I’ll go along to the club and see if I can get a game. [tr] regard in a specified way: he saw himself as a good teacher. foresee; view or predict as a possibility: I can’t see him earning any more anywhere else. used to ascertain or express comprehension, agreement, or continued attention, or to emphasize that an earlier prediction was correct: if I could see the answer, don’t you see? meet (someone one knows) socially or by chance: I went to see Caroline. meet regularly as a boyfriend or girlfriend: someone she was seeing was missing her around. consult (a specialist or professional): you may need to see a lawyer. give an interview or consultation to (someone): the doctor will see you now. [tr] escort or conduct (someone) to a specified place: don’t bother seeing me out. [intr] see (to) attend to; provide for the wants of: I’ll see Dad’s tea. [intr] ensure: Lucy saw to it that everyone got enough to eat and drink. [intr] see that no harm comes to him. [5 (in poker)] equal the bet of (an opponent).

phrase v. 1 see about attend to: deal with: he had gone to see about a job he had heard of. 2 see something of spend a specific amount of time with (someone) socially: we saw a lot of the Bakers. 3 spend some time in (a place): I want to see something of those countries. 4 see through not be deceived by: detect the true nature of: he can see through her lies and deceptions.

as far as I can see to the best of my understanding or belief. as I see it in my opinion. have seen better days have declined from former prosperity or good condition; this part of South London has seen better days. see something coming foresee or be prepared for an event, typically an unpleasant one.

see n. the place in which a cathedral church stands, identified as the seat of authority of a bishop or archbishop.

seed [sed] n. 1 a flowering plant’s unit of reproduction, capable of developing into another such plant. 2 a quantity of these: grass seed you can grow artichokes from seed. fig. the cause or latent beginning of a feeling, process, or condition: the conversation sowed a tiny seed of doubt in his mind. [archaic] chiefly in biblical use: a person’s offspring or descendants. 3 a man’s semen. 4 (also seed crystal) a small crystal introduced into a liquid to act as a nucleus for crystallization. 5 a small container for radioactive material placed in body tissue during radiotherapy. 2 any of a number of stronger competitors who have been assigned a specified position in an ordered list with the aim of ensuring that they do not play each other in the early rounds: he knocked the top seed out of the championships.

see v. 1 [tr] sow (land) with seeds: the shoreline is seeded with a special grass. [intr] sow (a particular kind of seed) on or in the ground. fig. cause (something) to begin to develop or grow: his severance pay helped seed their new business. place a crystal or crystalline substance in (something) in order to cause crystallization or condensation (esp. in a cloud to produce rain). 2 [intr] (of a plant) produce or drop seeds: mulches encourage many plants to seed freely. 3 [self] (of a plant) reproduce itself by means of its own seeds; never will seed itself readily. 3 [tr] remove the seeds from (vegetables or fruit); stem and seed the chilies. 4 [tr] give (a competitor) the status of seed in a tournament: Jeff Tarango, seeded five, was defeated by fellow American Todd Witsken. —seedless adj.

seedbed [səˈbed] n. a bed of fine soil in which seedlings are germinated.

seed-er [ˈsɛdər] n. 1 a machine for sowing seed mechanically. 2 a plant that produces seeds in a particular way or under particular conditions: [in comb.] a beautiful, hardy annual self-seeder.

seedling [ˈsɛdəlin] n. a young plant, esp. one raised from seed and not from a cutting.

seed money [ˈsɛdəmən] n. money allocated to initiate a project.

seed pearl [ˈsɛdəpɔːl] n. a very small pearl.

seedpod [ˈsɛdəpɔd] n. see pop (sense 1).

seedy [ˈsɛdi] adj. [seed-i-er, seed-i-est] 1 sordid and disreputable: his seedy affair with a soft-porn starlet. 2 seedy and dilapidated: an increasingly seedy and dilapidated property. 2 dated unwell; she felt weak and seedy.

see-hy [ˈsɛdi-ə] adj. —see-hy-ness n.

see-ing [ˈsɛiŋ] n. conj. because: since; seeing as Stuart’s an old friend, I thought I might help him out.

the action of seeing someone or something. Astron. the quality of observed images as determined by atmospheric conditions.

seek [sik] v. [past saw, past part. seen] attempt to find (something); they came here to seek shelter from biting winter winds. attempt or desire to obtain or achieve (something): the new regime sought his extradition. ask for (something) from someone. 2 seek something someone/something (something) search for and find something or something: it’s his job to seek out new customers. —seek-er n. [often in comb.] a pleasure-seeker.

seem [səm] v. [intr] give the impression or sensing of being something or having a particular quality: Down seemed annoyed. used to make a statement or description of one’s thoughts, feelings, or actions less assertive or forceful: I seem to remember giving you very precise instructions. [cannot seem to do something] be unable to do something, despite having tried: he couldn’t seem to remember his lines. [it seems or it would seem] used to suggest in a cautious, guarded, or polite way that something is true or a fact: it would seem that he is fooling us all.

seeming [ˈsɛmɪŋ] adj. appearing to be real or true, but not necessarily being so; apparent: Ellen’s seeming indifference to the woman’s fate. [in comb.] giving the impression of having a specified quality: an angry-seeming man. —seem-ingly adv.

seem-ly [ˈsɛmily] adj. conforming to accepted notions of propriety or good taste; decorative: I felt it was not seemly to observe too closely. —seem-li-ness n.

seen [sɛn] past participle of see.

seep [sɛp] v. [intr] (of a liquid) flow or leak slowly through porous material or small holes: water began to seep through the soles of his boots.

a place where petroleum or water oozes slowly out of the ground.
sell-by date

1. A date marked on a perishable product indicating the recommended time by which it should be sold: milk past its sell-by date.

sell-point n. A feature of a product for sale that makes it attractive to customers.

sell-out [sel'out] n. 1. The selling of an entire stock of something, esp. tickets for an entertainment or sports event. 2. An event for which all tickets are sold: the game is sure to be a sellout. 2. A sale of a business or company or a group of shares of a corporation or trust fund.

sellerman [se'lin-men] n. A person who sells merchandise:

self kilometer [si'fel-] n. A unit of distance, equal to the distance a body falls freely in one second.


self-conductor [se-fin-ku'dar] n. A solid substance that has a conductivity between that of an insulator and that of most metals, either due to the addition of an impurity or because of temperature effects. Devices made of semiconductors, notably silicon, are essential components of many electronic circuits.

semiconscious [se'mi-kans's] adj. (of a person) partially conscious: he dragged out the semiconscious pilot.

semi-detached [se'mi-de-ta'ched] adj. (of a house) joined to another house on one side only by a common wall.

semiautomatic [se-mi'a-ta-mat] adj. 1. Of or relating to something that operates partially automatically: a semiautomatic machine. 2. Of or relating to something that can be operated automatically but not without human intervention: a semiautomatic firearm.

semicircle [se'mi-sir-kəl] n. 1. A half of a circle or of its circumference. 2. A set of objects arranged in a semicircle: chairs in a semicircle around the hearth.

semi-colon [se'mi-kō-lən] n. 1. A punctuation mark (:) indicating a pause, typically between two main clauses, that is more pronounced than that indicated by a comma.

semi-conducting [se'mi-kōn-dikt] adj. (of a material or device) having the properties of a semiconductor.

semi-conductor [se'mi-kōn-dikt] n. A solid substance that...
senseless

sen-tence [ˈsentəns] n. 1 a set of words that is complete in itself.

typically containing a subject and predicate, conveying a statement, question, exclamation, or command, and consisting of a main clause and sometimes one or more subordinate clauses. 2 the punishment assigned to a defendant found guilty by a court: her husband is serving a three-year sentence for fraud.

sent-tentious [ˈsentəntʃəs] adj. given to moralizing in a pompous or affected manner: he tried to encourage his men with sententious rhetoric.


sent-tient [ˈsentəntjənt] adj. able to perceive or feel things: she had been instructed in birth in the equality of all sentient life forms. —sent-tience n. —sent-tiently adv.

sen-ti-men-tal [ˈsentiːmentl] adj. of or prompted by feelings of tenderness, sadness, or nostalgia: many of the appeals rely on tender sentiment.

sent-i-ment [ˈsentəmt] n. 1 a view or attitude toward a situation or event; an opinion: I agree with your sentiments regarding the road bridge. 2 a feeling or emotion: an intense sentiment of horror.

sent-i-ment-al [ˈsentiːmentl] adj. exagerrated and self-indulgent feelings of tenderness, sadness, or nostalgia: any of the appeals rely on tender sentiment.

sent-i-ment-al-ly [ˈsentiːmentlɪ] adv. —sent-i-ment-al-ness n.


sen-ti-men-tal-ize [ˈsentiːmentlɪz] v. [tr.] make something that appears to be standing guard or keeping watch. 


sen-sibil-i-ty [ˈsensəbleɪti] n. (pl. -ties) the ability to appreciate and respond to complex emotional or aesthetic influences: sensitivity: the study of literature leads to a growth of intelligence and sensitivity. —sen-sibil-i-ties n.

sen-si-ble [ˈsensəbəl] adj. (of a statement or course of action) chosen in accordance with wisdom or prudence; likely to be of benefit: I cannot believe that it is sensible to spend much on a sensible diet. (of a person) possessing or displaying prudence: he was a sensible and capable boy. (of an object) practical and functional rather than decorative: Mom always made me have sensible shoes. —sen-si-bility n. —sen-si-bly adv.

sen-si-tive [ˈsensətɪv] adj. 1 quick to detect or respond to slight changes, signals, or influences: the new method of protein detection was more sensitive than earlier ones. 2 easily damaged, injured, or distressed by slight changes: the committee called for improved protection of wildlife in environmentally sensitive areas. 3 (of photographic materials) prepared so as to respond rapidly to the action of light. 4 (of a market) unstable and liable to quick changes of price because of outside influences. 5 (of a person or a person's behavior) having or displaying a quick and delicate appreciation of others' feelings: I pay tribute to the Minister for his sensitive handling of the bill. 6 easily offended or upset: I suppose I shouldn't be so sensitive. 7 kept secret or with restrictions on disclosure to avoid endangering security: he was suspected of passing sensitive information to other countries. —sen-si-tivity n. —sen-si-ti-ful adj. —sen-si-ti-ly adv.


sen-si-tive-plant [ˈsensətɪvplənt] n. a tropical American plant (Mimosa pudica) of the pea family, whose leaves fold together and leaves bend down when touched.

sen-si-tiv-i-ty [ˈsensətɪvɪtɪ] n. (pl. -ties) the quality or condition of being sensitive; a total lack of common decency and sensitivity: she has a sensitivity to cow's milk. (sensitivities) a person's feelings which might be easily offended or hurt; sensitivities: the only rules that matter are practical ones that respect local sensibilities. —sen-si-tiv-i-ty-ful adj.

sen-si-tize [ˈsensaɪtɪz] v. [tr.] cause (someone or something) to respond to certain stimuli; make sensitive: the introductory section aims to sensitize students to the methodology of the course. 2 make (photographic film) sensitive to light: the kit sensitize any 35 mm film in hours. 3 (often be sensitized to) make (an organism) abnormally sensitive to a foreign substance: the workers had been immunologically sensitized to the enzyme. —sen-si-tiza-tion [ˈsensaɪtɪzaʃən] n. —sen-si-ti-zer n.

sen-sor [ˈsensər] n. 1 a device that detects or measures a physical property and records, indicates, or otherwise responds to it. 2 adj. of or relating to sensation or the physical senses: transmitted or perceived by the senses: sensory input. —sen-sori-ly [ˈsensərəli] adv. —sen-sor-y [ˈsensərɪ] adj.


sent [ˈsent] past and past participle of send.

sent-te-nce [ˈsentəns] n. 1 a set of words that is complete in itself.
separ-ation /se'pær-ə-ʃən/ n. 1. The action or state of moving or being moved apart; the damage that might arise from the separation of parents and children. 2. The state in which a husband and wife remain married but live apart. 3. A legal ground for divorce or separation. 4. The division of something into constituent or distinct elements: process structured into short sentences with meaningful separation into paragraphs. 5. The process of distinguishing between two or more things: religion involved the separation of the sacred and the profane. 6. The constitution imposed a clear separation between church and state. 7. The process of sorting and then extracting or removing a specified substance for use or rejection. 8. The separation of powers: an act of vesting the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of government in separate bodies.

sep-ar-ate /se'pær-ət/ adj. 1. Of or relating to such separation or those supporting it: a separatist rebellion. 2. The separation of sequences in a given order. 3. A programmable electronic device for storing sequences of musical notes, chords, or rhythms and transmitting them when required to an electronic musical instrument. 4. A sequence of events: a sequence of dealing with one particular event or topic: the famous underwater sequence.

sep-ar-a-tion /sepərəˈʃən/ n. 1. The action or state of moving or being moved apart; the damage that might arise from the separation of parents and children. 2. The state in which a husband and wife remain married but live apart. 3. A legal ground for divorce or separation. 4. The division of something into constituent or distinct elements: process structured into short sentences with meaningful separation into paragraphs. 5. The process of distinguishing between two or more things: religion involved the separation of the sacred and the profane. 6. The constitution imposed a clear separation between church and state. 7. The process of sorting and then extracting or removing a specified substance for use or rejection. 8. The separation of powers: an act of vesting the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of government in separate bodies.

sep-ar-a-tor /sepərəˈtər/ n. 1. A machine or device that separates something into its constituent or distinct elements: a magnetic separator. 2. Something that keeps two or more things apart: use commas as separators between addresses.

Sep-her-di /ˈsefərdi/ n. 1. A Jew of Spanish or Portuguese descent. They retain their own distinctive customs and rituals, preserving Babylonian Jewish traditions rather than the Palestinian ones of the Ashkenazim. 2. Any Jew of the Middle East or North Africa. 3. A red pigment prepared from a black fluid secreted by cuttlefish, used in monochrome drawing and in watercolors. 4. A drawing done with this pigment. 5. A black fluid secreted by a cuttlefish as a defensive screen.

sep-sis /ˈsepsɪs/ n. Med. The presence of harmful bacteria and their toxins, typically through infection of a wound. 1. Late 19th cent.; modern Latin, from Greek sepés, from σέπειν 'make rotten.

Sep-ta /ˈseptə/ n. plural form of SEP'TUM.

sep-cent-enn-ar-y /ˌsepəntˈɛnəri/ n. 1. Of or relating to a seven-hundredth anniversary. 2. The seventh-hundredth anniversary of a significant event. 3. Adv. recurring every seven years; lasting for or relating to a period of seven years.

sep-telet /ˈseptəlet/ or (also sep-telette) n. A group of seven people playing music or singing together.

sep-tek /ˈseptɪk/ adj. 1. Chieflly of a wound or a part of the body infected with bacteria. 2. Denoting a drainage system incorporating a septic tank.

sep-tec-tic /ˈseptɪk/ adj. 1. Chieflly of a wound or a part of the body infected with bacteria. 2. Denoting a drainage system incorporating a septic tank.

sep-tec-tank /ˈseptɪk/ n. A tank. Typically underground, in which sewage is collected and allowed to decompose through bacterial activity before draining by means of a leaching field.

sep-tu-a-di-nar-ian /ˌseptjuəˈdeɪneriən/ n. A person who is from 70 to 79 years old.

Sep-tu-a-gin-t /ˌseptjuəˈgænt/ n. A Greek version of the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament), including the Apocrypha, made for Greek-speaking Jews in Egypt in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC and adopted by the early Christian Churches.

sep-tum /ˈsepətəm/ n. (pl. -təm) Chieflly Anat. Biol. A partition separating two chambers, such as that between the nostrils or the chambers of the heart.

sep-tuplet /ˈseptəpət/ or (also septuplets) n. 1. Usu. (plural) Seven children born at one birth. 2. Music. A group of seven notes to be performed in the time of four or six.

sep-ul-cher /ˈsepəlkað/ Brit. sepul-chre n. A small room or monument, cut in rock or built of stone, in which a dead person is laid or buried.
Serbian

Ser-bi-an /sarbē'an/ n. 1. the dialect of Serbo-Croat used by the Serbs. See Serbo-Croat. 2. another term for Sereb. 3. adj. of or relating to the Serbs, or their language. 4. Serbo-Croat /sɛrbo kroːt/; /kroːt/ (also Serbo-Croatian /kroːt'asjan/). n. the South Slavic language spoken in Serbia, Croatia, and elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia. Serbo-Croat is generally classed as one language, but comprises two closely similar forms: Serbian, written in the Cyrillic alphabet, and Croat, written in the Roman alphabet. 5. adj. of or relating to this language.

Ser-e-i {[sɛrē/ i] (adj.) or sear} adj. dry, arid: a harsh life on the serene granite ledges of the remote offshore islands. (esp. of plants) withered.

ser-e-nade /sɛrə'nad/ n. a musical composition for a singer accompanied by a small orchestra, usually danced by a group of men.

ser-en-dip-ty /sɛrən'dɪpti/ n. the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way: a fortunate stroke of serendipity.

ser-en-dip-i-ous /sɛrən'dɪpɪəs/ adj. serendipitous.

ser-e-ne /sɛrə'nɛ/ adj. calm, peaceful, and untroubled: tranquil: their serene faces. 2. (Serene) [in title] used as a term of respect for members of some European royal families: His Serene Highness. 3. [usu. the serene] archaic an expanse of clear sky or calm sea: not a cloud obscured the deep blue sea.

ser-e-nel-ly /sɛrə'nəli/ adv. in a serene manner.

ser-e-ni-ty /sɛrə'nəti/ n. (pl. -ties) the state of being calm, peaceful, and untroubled: an oasis of serenity in the bustling city.

ser-i-f /sɛrəf/ n. an agricultural laborer bound under the feudal system to work on his lord's estates. 2. (Serif) [in title] used as a term of respect for members of some European royal families: His Serfdom (of) n. 3. a dull, twirled, tumbled, or battered object.

ser-i-geant /sɛrə'jɛnt/ n. a noncommissioned officer in the armed forces, in particular (in the U.S. Army or Marine Corps) an NCO ranking above corporal and below staff sergeant, or (in the U.S. Air Force) an NCO ranking above airman and below staff sergeant. 4. a police officer ranking below a lieutenant.

ser-i-geant-major /sɛrə'jɛnt-mər-ˌjeɪ/ n. a noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army or Marine Corps who is the highest ranking, above master sergeant and below warrant officer. 2. a boldly striped fish (Abudes fusa). 3. a common fish (Nepal Oxycranius) that lives in warm seas, esp. on coral reefs.

ser-i-al /sɛrəˈal/ adj. 1. consisting of, forming part of, or taking place in a series: a serial publication. 2. Mus. using transformations of a fixed series of notes. 3. Comput. (of a device) involving the transfer of data as a single sequence of bits. 4. Comput. (of a processor) running only a single task, as opposed to multitasking.

ser-i-al-i-sm /sɛrəˈeɪəlɪzəm/ n. Mus. a compositional technique in which a fixed series of notes, esp. the twelve notes of the chromatic scale, are used to generate the harmonic and melodic basis of a piece and are subject to change only in specific ways.

ser-i-al-ize /sɛrəˈeɪəlɪz/ v. [tr.] 1. publish or broadcast (a story or play) in regular installments: sections of the book were serialized in the New Yorker. 2. arrange (something) in a series.

ser-i-al-num-ber /sɛrəˈeɪələr/ n. a number showing the position of an item in a series, esp. one printed on paper currency or on a manufactured article for the purposes of identification.

ser-i-al-culture /sɛrəˈkʌltʃər/ n. the production of silk and the rearing of silkworms for this purpose.

ser-i-culture /sɛrəˈkʌltʃər/ adj. Seriˈkʌltʃərəl.

ser-i-oes /sɛrəˈeɪəs/ n. (pl. same) a number of things, events, or people of a similar kind or related nature coming one after another: the explosion was the latest in a series of accidents. 2. a set of related television or radio programs, esp. of a specified kind: a new drama series. 3. a set of books, maps, periodicals, or other documents published in a common format or under a common title. 4. a set of games played between two teams: a playoff series against Portland. See also World Series. 5. a list of products, esp. vehicles or machines, sharing features of design or assembly and marketed with a separate number from other lines: [as adj.] a series III SWB Land Rover. 6. a set of stamps, banknotes, or coins issued at a particular time or having a common design or theme. 7. [as adj.] denoting electrical circuits or components arranged so that the current passes through each successively. The opposite of parallel. 8. Geol. a range of strata corresponding to an epoch in time, being a subdivision of a system and itself subdivided into stages: the Igneous series. 9. Chem. a set of elements with common properties or of compounds related in composition: the alkaline earth metals. 10. Math. a set of quantities constituting a progression or having the several values determined by a common relation. 11. Mus. another term for Tone row.

ser-i-ly /sɛrəˈeɪəli/ adv. in sequence (of a set of batteries or electrical components) arranged so that the current passes through each successively.

ser-i-ous /sɛrəˈeɪəs/ adj. 1. of a person) solemn or thoughtful in character or manner: her face grew serious. 2. of (a subject, state, or activity) demanding careful consideration or application: marriage is a serious matter. 3. (of thought or discussion) careful or profound: give serious consideration to safety recommendations. 4. (of music, literature, or other arts) requiring deep reading and inviting a considered response: he bridges the gap between serious and popular music. 5. acting or speaking sincerely and in earnest, rather than in a joking or half-hearted manner: suddenly he wasn’t teasing anymore—he was deadly serious. 6. significant or worrying because of possible danger or risk: not slight or negligible: he escaped serious injury. 7. int. substantial in terms of size, number, or quality: he suddenly had serious money to spend.

ser-i-ous-ly /sɛrəˈeɪəsli/ adv. 1. in a solemn or serious manner: the cat looked very seriously at him. 2. with earnest intent; not lightly or superficially: I seriously considered canceling my subscription. 3. really or sincerely (used esp. to indicate a response of surprise or shock): do you seriously believe that I would jeopardize my career by such acts? 4. used to add sincerity to a statement that is to follow, esp. after a facetious exchange of remarks: seriously though, shortcuts rarely work. 5. int. used to indicate surprise at what someone has said and to check whether they really mean it: “I’m dying to know.” “Seriously?” “Of course.” 6. to a degree that is significant or worrying because of possible danger or risk: the amount of fat you eat can seriously affect your health. 7. int. very: he was seriously rich.

ser-i-ous-ness /sɛrəˈeɪəsni/ n. seriousness.

ser-i-on /sɛrəˈon/ n. a talk on a religious or moral subject, esp. one given during a church service and based on a passage from the Bible. 2. a printed transcript of such a talk: a volume of sermons. 3. adj. a long or tedious piece of orationism or reproof; a lecture.

ser-i-os-cal /sɛrəˈoʊksəl/ adj. & n. a short sermon.

ser-i-on-ize /sɛrəˈoʊnəˌraɪz/ v. [tr.] compose or deliver a sermon. 2. deliver an opinionated and dogmatic talk to someone: they confidently sermonize on the fixed nature of identity. 3. int. I just don’t like being sermonized.

ser-i-on-ism /sɛrəˈoʊnəˌɪzəm/ n. Mus. an important and worthy of attention.

ser-mon /sɛrˈmən/ n. a talk on a religious or moral subject, esp. one given during a church service and based on a passage from the Bible. 2. a printed transcript of such a talk: a volume of sermons. 3. adj. a long or tedious piece of orationism or reproof; a lecture.
conduct its business. A period during which such meetings are regularly held: legislation to curb wildcat strikes will be introduced during the coming parliamentary session. 2 a period devoted to a particular activity or a period of heavy or sustained driving: a period of studying. a gym session followed by a period of recording music in a studio, esp. by a session musician: he did the sessions for a Great Country Hits album. an academic year: the period during which a school has classes. —ses'sional adj.

ses-tet [ses'tet] n. Prody the last six lines of a sonnet.

ses-ti-na [ses'te na] n. Prosy a poem with six stanzas of six lines and a final triplet, all stanzas having the same six words at the line-ends in six different sequences that follow a fixed pattern, and with all six words appearing in the closing three-line envoi.

set 1 [set] v. to place, to position (something) in a specified place or position; place: set the mug of tea down. 2 [be set] to be situated or fixed in a specified place or position: the village was set among olive groves on a hill. 3 [set] to represent (a story, play, movie, or scene) as happening at a specified time or in a specified place: a spy novel set in Berlin. 4 [set] to mount a precious stone in (something), typically a piece of jewelry: a bracelet set with emeralds. 5 [set] to fix (something) firmly: to set a table for dinner. 6 [set] to adjust (an alarm clock) to sound at a required time. 7 [set] to arrange (type) as required: prepare (a table) for a meal by placing cutlery, dishes, etc., on it in their proper places.

set 2 [set] n. 1 a unit of work to be done that has a musical form: she set his poem to music. 2 [set] to give the teeth of (a saw) alternating outward inclinations. 3 [set] to put (a sail) up in position to catch the wind: a safe distance from shore all sails were set. 4 [set] to bring into a specified condition: plugging oil prices set in an economic collapse. 5 [set] to fix (a price, value, or limit) on something: the unions had set a limit on the size of the temporary workforce. 6 [set] to adjust the hands of (a clock or watch), typically to show the right time. 7 [set] to arrange (the hair) while damp so that it dries in the required style: she had set her hair on small rollers. 8 [set] to put parts of (a broken or dislocated bone or limb) into the correct position for healing. 9 [set] to become fixed in a solid or semisolid state: cook for a further thirty-five minutes until the filling has set. 10 [set] to arrange (the hair) in a particular position: they set his face as he looked up. 11 [set] to become fixed in position or in the feeling they are expressing: his bright eyes set in an expression of mocking amusement. 12 [set] to arrange (hair) a dog's attitude indicating the presence of game. 13 [set] to adjust (the sun, moon, or another celestial body) appear to move toward and below the earth's horizon as the earth rotates: the sun was setting and a warm, red glow filled the sky. 14 [set] to take or have a specified direction or course: a fair tide can be carried well past Lands End before the stream sets to the north. 15 [set] to start (a fire). 16 [set] to develop into or produce (fruit). 17 [set] to produce (seed); the herb balsam produces white seeds set deep in the flower. 18 [set] to place in position: to set a statue.

phrase v. 1 set about to start doing something with vigor or determination: it would be far better to admit the problem openly and set about tackling it. 2 set someone apart separate something and keep it for a special purpose: there were books and rooms set apart as libraries. 3 set something aside 1 save or keep something, typically money or time, for a particular purpose: the bank expected to set aside about $300 million for restructuring. 2 remove land from agricultural production.

set throw in a legal decision or process.

set someone/something back 1 delay or postpone (progress): delay or postpone something: this incident undoubtedly set back research. 2 [set] to (of a purchase, cost, or sum) to be one part or a fraction of a particular amount of money: that must have set you back a bit. 3 [set] to establish something authoritatively as a rule or principle to be followed: the Association set down codes of practice for all members to comply with. 4 [set] to begin a journey or trip. 5 [set] to set forth state or describe something in writing or speech: the principles and aims set forth in the Charter.

ses-tet 2 [set] adj. 1 fixed or arranged in advance: there is no set procedure. 2 [set] (of a view or habit) unlikely to change: I've been on my own a long time and I'm rather set in my ways. 3 [set] (of a person's expression) held for an unnatural long time without changing: typically as a reflection of determination. 4 [set] (of a meal or menu in a restaurant) offered at a fixed price with a limited choice of dishes. 5 [set] having a conventional or predetermined wording: formulaic: witnesses often delivered their testimony according to a set speech. 6 [set] ready, prepared, or likely to do something: “All set for tonight?” he asked. 7 [set] firmly opposed to: an approach
set against tradition and authority. ■ set on (do something) determined to do (something): he's set on marrying that girl.


set-back /ˈset bæk/ n. 1 a reversal or check in progress; a serious setback for the peace process. 2 Archit. a plain, flat offset in a wall. 3 the distance by which a building or part of a building is set back from the property line.

set point n. (in tennis and other sports) a point that, if won by a contestant, will also win the set.

set screw n. a screw for adjusting or clamping parts of a machine.

set square n. a right-angled triangular plate for drawing lines, esp. at 90° or 45°. 60° and 30°, a form of T-square with an additional arm turning on a pivot for drawing lines at fixed angles to the head.

settee /ˈseti/ n. a long upholstered seat for more than one person, typically with a back and arms.

setter /ˈsetər/ n. 1 a dog of a large, long-haired breed trained to stand rigid when scenting game. 2 [usu. in comb.] a person or thing that sets something: trend-setters in Hollywood.

set-theory n. the branch of mathematics that deals with the formal properties of sets as units (without regard to the nature of their individual constituents) and the expression of other branches of mathematics in terms of sets. —set-theoretic adj. —set-theoretical adj.

settle /ˈsetəl/ v. 1 [tr.] resolve or reach an agreement about (an argument or problem); every effort was made to settle the dispute and (a legal dispute) by mutual agreement: the matter was settled out of court [i.e. he was sued for libel and then settled out of court]. 2 determine; decide on: exactly what goes into the legislation has not been settled. 3 pay (a debt or account); his bill was settled by charge card. 4 complete the administration and distribution of a decedent’s estate. 5 [intr.] (settle for) accept or agree to (something that one considers to be less than satisfactory); it was too cold for champagne so they settled for a cup of tea. 6 [intr.] adopt a more steady or secure style of life, esp. in a permanent job and home: one day I will settle down in a family and make one’s permanent home somewhere: in 1863 the family settled in London. 7 begin to feel comfortable or established in a new home, situation, or job: she settled in happily with a foster family. 8 [tr.] establish a colony in: European immigrants settled much of Australia. 9 (settle down to) turn one’s attention to; apply oneself to: Catherine settled down to her studies. 10 become or make calm or quieter: [intr.] after a few months the controversy settled down. 11 [tr.] try to settle your puppy down before going to bed. 12 [intr.] sit or come to rest in a comfortable position: he settled into an armchair. 13 [intr.] move or adjust (something) so that it rests securely; she settled her bag on her shoulder. 14 fall or come down on to a surface: dust from the milk had settled on the roof. 15 [intr.] (of suspended particles) sink slowly in a liquid to form sediment; of a liquid) become clear or still through this process: sediment settles near the bottom of the tank; he berries a glass and leaves it on the bar to settle. 16 [intr.] (of an object or objects) gradually sink down under its own weight: they listened to the soft ticking and creaking as the house settled. 17 [intr.] (of a ship or boat) sink gradually. —settle-able adj.

—settle-ment n. 1 an official agreement intended to resolve a dispute or conflict: unions succeeded in reaching a pay settlement. 2 a formal arrangement made between the parties to a lawsuit in order to resolve it, esp. out of court: the owner reached an out-of-court settlement with the plaintiffs.

settlement /ˈsetəlmənt/ n. 1 a place, typically one that has hitherto been uninhabited, where people establish a community: the little settlement of Buttermere. 2 the process of settling in such a place: the early settlement of Queensland. 3 the action of allowing or helping people to do this: Israel’s settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories. 4 Law an arrangement whereby property passes to a succession of people as dictated by the settlor. 5 the amount or property given. 6 the action or process of settling an account.

setter /ˈsetər/ n. a person who settles in an area, typically one with no or few previous inhabitants.

setlor /ˈsetər/ n. Law a person who makes a settlement, esp. of a property.

set-to n. [pl. -tos] int. a fight or argument: we had a little set-to about her piano practicing.

setup /ˈseptəp/ n. 1 the way in which something, esp. an organization or equipment, is organized, planned, or arranged: would you feel comfortable in a smaller setup? 2 an organization or arrangement: Moses and Jesus came from strange family setups. 3 a set of equipment needed for a particular activity or purpose: I have a recording setup in my house. 4 [in a ball game] a pass or play intended to provide an opportunity for another player to score. 5 a scheme or trick intended to incriminate or deceive: And was "Listen. He didn’t die. It was a setup." 6 a contest with a prearranged outcome.

seven /ˈseven/ n. 1 cardinal number equivalent to the sum of three and four: one more than six, or three less than ten; 7: two sevens are fourteen. (Roman numeral: vii. VII.) 2 a group or unit of seven people or things: animals were offered for sacrifice in seven. 3 seven years old: my mother died when I was seven. 4 seven o’clock: the meeting doesn’t finish until seven. 5 a size of garment or other merchandise designated by seven. 6 a playing card with seven pips. 7 Old English seven, of Germanic origin, related to Dutch zevven and German sieben, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin septem and Greek septem.

seven deadly sins /pl. n. [the seven deadly sins] [in Christian tradition] the sins of pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth.

seven-fold /ˈsevənˈfəld/ adj. seven times as great or as numerous: stock fund sales were up sevenfold from December.

Seven Sisters (the Seven Sisters) 1 Astronomy the star cluster of the Pleiades. 2 a group of women’s (or formerly women’s) colleges in the eastern U.S., having high academic and social prestige. It includes Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley.

seven-teen /ˈsevenˌtiːn/ n. 1 seven, ten, more than seven, or more than ten: 17; seventeen years later. (Roman numeral: xvii. XVII.) 2 seventeen years old; he joined the Marines at seventeen.

the setting n. a set of or team of seventeen individuals. —seven-teen-th /ˈsevenˌtiːnθ/ adj., seven-teen-ly /ˌsevenˌtiːnli/ adv. & n.

seven-teen-year locust /ˈsevenˌtiːnˌjēr ˈloʊkəst/ n. the nymph of the northern species of the periodical cicada. See PERIODICAL CICADA.

seven-enth /ˈsevenˌenth/ n. 1 seven, ten, or more than seven:introducing number seven in a sequence: 7th: his seventh goal of the season. 2 [a seventh/one seventh] each of seven equal parts into which something is or may be divided: the seventh finisher or position in a race or competition: he finished seventh in the tournament. 3 seventhly (used to introduce a seventh point or reason). 4 the seventh grade of a school. 5 Mus. an interval spanning seven consecutive notes in a diatonic scale. 6 Mus. the note that is higher by this interval than the tonic of a diatonic scale or root of a chord. 7 Mas. a chord in which the seventh note of the scale forms an important component. —seven-enthly adj.

Seventh-Day Adventist n. a member of a Protestant sect that preaches the imminent return of Christ to Earth (originally expecting the Second Coming in 1844) and observes Saturday as the sabbath. See also ADVENTIST.

seven-ty /ˈsevenˌti/ n. 1 seven, ten, or more than seven: the product number seven and ten: ten less than eighty: 70; about seventy people attended. (Roman numeral: lxx, lxxi.) 2 [seventy/seventies] the numbers seven from seventy to seventy-nine, esp. the years of a century or of a person’s life: was now in his seventies. 3 seventy years old: she was nearly seventy. 4 seventy miles an hour: during about seventy. —seven-ty-seventh /tekˈsentheɪt/ n. 1 seventy-seventh ordinal number. —seven-ty-fold /ˈsevənˌtiːfəld/ adj. & n.

seven-year itch n. a supposed tendency to infidelity after seven years of marriage.

sever /ˈsevər/ v. 1 [tr.] divide by cutting or slicing, esp. suddenly and forcibly: the head was severed from the body. 2 put an end to (a connection or relationship): break off: he severed his relations with Lawrence. —sever-able adj.

several /ˈsevərəl/ adj. & pron. more than two but not many: [as adj.]
sex-ol-o-gy /segˈsɔlədʒi/ n. the study of human sexual life or relationships. —sex-ol-o-gist /-ˌgist/ n.

sex-ploit-a-tion /ˈsekspləˌteɪʃən/ n. the commercial exploitation of sex, sexual attractiveness, or sexually explicit material.

sex-pot /ˈsekspɔt/ n. a sex person.

sex sym-bo-l /ˈseksˌsɪmboʊl/ n. a person widely noted for their sexual attractiveness.

sex-t /ˈseks/ n. a sex person. —s. of a service forming part of the Divine Office of the Western Christian Church, traditionally said (or chanted) at the sixth hour of the day (i.e., noon).

sex-tant /ˈseksˌsɛnt/ n. an instrument with a graduated arc of 60° and a sighting mechanism, used for measuring the angular distances between objects and esp. for measuring altitudes in navigation. —late 16th cent. (denoting the sixth part of a circle): from Latin sextans, sextant's 'sixth part,' from sextus 'sixth.'

sex-let /ˈseksˈlet/ also sex-lette /ˈseksˌlɛt/ n. a group of six people playing music or singing together. —s. for composition for such a group. —s. a set of six people or things: a sextet of new releases.

sex-ton /ˈseksˈtən/ n. a person who looks after a church and churchyard, sometimes acting as bell-ringer and formerly as a gravedigger.

sex-tu-ple /ˈsektəpyəl/ n. a larger of six things or parts. —adj. consisting of six parts or things.

six times as much or as many.

sex-u-al /ˈseksəˌjual/ adj. relating to the instincts, physiological processes, and activities connected with physical attraction or intimate physical contact between individuals: she had felt the thrill of sexual attraction. —of or relating to the two sexes or to gender: sensitivity about sexual stereotypes. —of or characteristic of one sex or the other: the hormones which control the secondary sexual characteristics. —Biol. being of one sex or the other: capable of sexual reproduction. —sex-u-al-ty /ˌseksəˈʒiəl-ti/ n. —sex-u-al-ly adv.

sex-u-al in-ter-course /ˈseksəˈʃəl/ n. sexual contact between individuals involving penetration, esp. the insertion of a man's erect penis into a woman's vagina, typically culminating in orgasm and the ejaculation of semen.

sex-u-al orien-ta-tion /ˈseksəˌɔrənəˈteɪʃən/ n. a person's sexual attraction toward members of the same, opposite, or both genders: a draft ordinance that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

sex-y /ˈseksə/ adj. (sex-ier, sex-iest) sexually attractive or exciting: sexy French underwear. —sexually aroused: neither of them was feeling sexy. —adj. exciting, appealing: I've climbed most of the really sexy west coast mountains. —sex-ily /ˈseksəli/ adv. —sex-iness n.

sex-and-do /ˈsɛksəntˌdəʊ/ also sforzando /ˈsɛkstəntˌdəʊ/ Mus. adj. & adv. esp. as a direction) with sudden emphasis.

suf-ma-to /ˈsɛkstəˌmeɪto/ n. Art the technique of allowing tones and colors to slide gradually into one another, producing softened outlines or hazy forms.

sfz Mus. abbr. sforzando.

SG abbr. Physics specific gravity.

Sg (also SGT) abbr. sergeant.

shabby /ˈʃæbə/ adj. (b-iер, b-iest) in poor condition through long or hard use or lack of care: a disrepair in a shabby uniform saluted the car.

shack /ʃæk/ n. a roughly built hut or cabin.

shackle /ˈʃækəl/ n. (pl. shackles) a pair of fetters connected together by a chain, used to fasten a prisoner's wrists or ankles together. —fig. used in reference to something that restrains or impedes: society is going to throw off the shackles of racism and colonialism. —a metal link, typically U-shaped and closed by a bolt, used to secure a chain or rope to something. —a pivoted link connecting a spring in a vehicle's suspension to the body of the vehicle.

shad /ʃæd/ n. (pl. same or shads) a fish (genera Alosa and Cäsiphaps) of the herring family that spends much of its life in the sea, typically entering rivers to spawn. It is an important food fish in many regions.
shake (ʃeɪk) n. 1. **comparative darkness and coolness caused by shelter from direct sunlight:** sitting in the shade. 2. the darker part of a picture. **fig. a position of relative inferiority or obliquity:** her elegant pink and black ensemble would put most outfits in the shade. 3. a color, esp. with regard to how light or dark it is or as distinguished from one nearly like it: various shades of blue. **Art a slight degree of difference between colors.** 4. a slightly differing variety of something: politicians of all shades of opinion. 5. a slight amount of something: there is a shade of winifred in his reaction. 6. a lampshade. 7. (often shades) a screen or blind on a window. 8. an eyeshade. 9. **int. sunglasses.**

> v. 1. **[tr.]** screen from direct light: she shaded her eyes against the sun. 2. to moderate, or exclusively the light of; she shaded the flashlight with his hand. 3. (darken or color) an illustration or diagram in parallel lines or a block of color: she shaded the outline of a chimney. 4. (of a color or something colored) gradually change into another color: the sky shaded from turquoise to night blue. 5. make a slight reduction in the amount, rate, or price of: banks may shade the margin over base rate they charge customers.

**shadeless adj. 2.**

**shad-y /ˈʃeɪdi/** adj. 1. use to suggest reminiscence of or comparison with someone or something specified: colleges were conducting campaigns to ban Jewish societies—shades of Nazi Germany.

**shad-ing /ˈʃeɪdɪŋ/** n. the darkening or coloring of an illustration or diagram with parallel lines or a block of color. **a very slight variation, typically in color or meaning:** the shades of opinion even among those who are in broad agreement.

**shad-ow /ˈʃeɪdəʊ/** n. 1. a dark area or shape produced by a body coming between rays of light and a surface: trees cast long shadows. 2. partial or complete darkness, esp. as produced in this way: the north side of the cathedral was deep in shadow. 3. the shaded part of a picture: a dark patch or area on a subject: there are dark shadows beneath your eyes. 4. a region of opacity on a radiograph of a body organ. 5. fig. used in reference to proximity, ominous oppressiveness, or sadness and gloom: the shadow of war fell across Europe. 6. used in reference to something insubstantial or fleeting: a freedom that was more shadow than substance. 7. used in reference to a position of relative inferiority or obscurity: he lived in the shadow of his father. 8. the slightest trace of something: she knew without a shadow of a doubt that he was lying. 9. a weak or inferior remnant or version of something: this finelooking commanding man had become the shadow of his former self. 10. expression of perplexity or sadness: a shadow crossed María’s face. 11. an insubstantial attendant or companion: her faithful shadow, a Yorkshire terrier called Heathcliffe. 12. a person secretly following and observing another. 13. a person who accompanies someone in their daily activities at work in order to gain experience at or insight into a job. 14. as adj. unofficial or alternative: the Committee of Twenty-Five, a shadow government of un-elected businesses.

> v. **[tr.]** 1. (often be shadowed) envelop in shadow: cast a shadow over: the outlook is shadowed by St. Margaret’s church. 2. follow and observe (someone) closely and secretly: he had been up all night shadowing a team of poachers. 3. accompany (someone) in their daily activities at work in order to gain experience at or insight into a job. 4. —shade-er n. 5. —shade-less adj.

**shade-box /ˈʃeɪdoʊˌbæks/** v. **[intr.]** spar with an imaginary opponent as a form of training.

**shade-y /ˈʃeɪdɪ/** adj. 1. of uncertain identity or nature: a shadowy figure appeared through the mist. 2. insubstantial; unreal: they were attacked by a swarm of shadowy, ethereal forms. 3. —shade-ly adv. 4. —shade-ness n.

**shaggy /ˈʃeɪdʒi/** adj. (gier, -giest) of hair or fur long, thick, and unkempt: the mountain goat has a long, shaggy coat. 2. having long, thick, unkempt hair or fur: a huge shaggy English sheepdog. 3. of or having a covering resembling rough, thick hair. 4. adj. —shag-gily [əˈʃeɪdi] adv. —shag-gi-ness n.

**shaht /ʃeɪt/** v. **[past shook ʃəʊk, past part. shaken /ˈʃeɪktʃən/]** 1. [intr.] of a structure or area of land: tremble or vibrate: buildings shook in Sacrament and tremors were felt in Reno. 2. [tr.] cause to tremble or vibrate: a severe earthquake shook the area. 3. of a person, a part of the body, or the voice: tremble uncontrollably from a strong emotion such as fear or anger: Luke was shaking with rage: her voice shook with passion. 4. [tr.] move (an object) up and down or from side to side with random, forceful, and rapid movements: she stood in the hall and shook her umbrella. 5. [tr.] remove (an object or substance) from something by brushing or swirling: the children played tricks or put an end to (something unwanted): he was unable to shake off the memories of the terrors. 6. grasp (someone) and move them roughly to and fro, either in anger or to rouse them from sleep: if: he gently shook the driver awake and they set off. 7. branchish in anger or as a warning: make a threatening gesture with: men shook their fists and shouted. 8. [tr.] upset the composure of: shock or astonish: rumors of a further loss shook the market. 9. [tr.] cause a change in mood or attitude by shocking or disturbing (someone): he had to shake himself out of his lethargy. 10. weaken or impair (confidence, a belief, etc.), esp. by shocking or disturbing: the escalation in costs is certain to shake the confidence of private investors.

**phrasal v. 1.** shake someone down **inf.** extort money from someone.

**shake something down** cause something to fall or settle by shaking.

**shake someone off** get away from someone by shaking their grip loose. manage to evade or outmaneuver someone who is following or pestering one: he thought he had shaken off his pursuer: in (sports, esp. a race) outdistances another competitor: in the final lap she looked as though she had shaken off the Dutch girl. 2. successfully deal with or recover from an illness or injury: she has shaken off a virus. 3. on inf. confirm (an agreement) by shaking hands: they shook on the deal. 4. shake someone up **inf.** rouse someone from lethargy, apathy, or complacency: he had to do something to shake the team up—we were weak and lacked spirit. 5. shake something up **mixing ingredients by shaking:** use soap flakes shaken up in the water to make hubbles. 6. shake something off **inf.** get rid of something: a cold: they shook the cold out of their shoes. 7. inf. get or give someone a fair shake **inf.** treat or give someone a fair chance: I do not believe he gave the industry a fair shake.

**in two shakes of a lamb’s tail** very quickly: I’ll be back to you in...
two shakers. • more than one can shake a stick at int. used to emphasis the largeness of an amount: a team with more experience than you can shake a stick at. • no great shakes int. not very good or significant: it is no great shakes as a piece of cinema. • shake the dust off one’s feet leave indignant or disdainfully. • shake hands (with someone) or leave someone’s right hand in one’s own at meeting or parting, in reconciliation or congratulation, or as a sign of agreement. • shake one’s head turn one’s head from side to side in order to indicate refusal, denial, disapproval, or incredulity: she shook her head in disbelief. • shake a leg int. make a start; rush oneself. come on. shake a leg.

shake-down [shak’doun] n. int. 1 a radical change or restructuring, particularly in a hierarchical organizational or group: after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a shake-down of the Russian press was inevitable. 2 a thorough search of a person or place: harassment and shake-downs by persons in police uniforms. 3 a swindle: a piece of extortion: he wants to eliminate brenery, shake-downs, and bid-rigging in New York City’s construction industry. 4 a test of a new product or model, esp. a vehicle or ship: the high-orbit shake-down of the lunar module had its merits. 2 a makeshift shift.

shake-out [shak’out] n. int. an upheaval or reorganization of a business, market, or organization due to competition and typically involving streamlining and layoffs.

shaker [sh’aker] n. 1 a container used for mixing ingredients by shaking: a cocktail shaker. 2 a container with a pierced top from which a powdered substance such as flour or salt is poured by shaking. 3 a member of an American religious sect, the United Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Coming, established in England c.1750 and living simply in celibate mixed communities. • as adj. denoting a style of elegant furniture traditionally produced by Shaker communities. —shakerism, shakerist adj.

shake-up (also shake-up) [shak’up] n. int. a radical reorganization.

shaky [shak’é] adj. (shak-i-er, shak-i-est) shaking or trembling; she managed a shaky laugh. 2 unstable because of poor construction or heavy use: a cracked, dangerously shaky table. 3 not safe or reliable: liable to fall or fail: thoroughly shaky evidence.

shale [shel] n. soft, fine-grained sedimentary rock that formed from consolidated mud or clay and can be split easily into fragile slabs. • shaly (also shaley) adj.

shale oil n. oil obtained from bituminous shale.

shall [shel] modal verb (3rd sing. present shall) 1 (in the first person) expressing the future tense; this time next week shall I be in Scotland. 2 expressing a strong assertion or intention: they shall succeed. 3 expressing an instructive command: you shall not steal. 4 used in questions indicating offers or suggestions: shall I send you the book?

shallot [shal’o-t] n. 1 a small bulb that resembles an onion and is used for pickling or as a substitute for onion. 2 the plant (Allium ascalonicum) of the lily family that produces these bulbs, each mature bulb producing a cluster of smaller bulbs.

shallow [shel’o] adj. of little depth: serve the noodles in a shallow bowl. 2 being fairly shallow, the water was warm. 3 situated at no great depth: the shallow bed of the North Sea. 4 varying only slightly from a specified or understood line or direction, esp. the horizontal. 5 of little depth: useful for exhibiting, requiring, or capable of serious thought: a shallow analysis of contemporary society. 6 of (breathing) taken in little air.

n. (shallows) an area of the sea, a lake, or a river where the water is not very deep.

v. [int.](of the sea, a lake, or a river) become less deep over time or in a particular place: the boat ground to a halt where the water shallowed.

—shallow-ly adv. —shallow-ness n.

shalom [shal’om; shal-] n. [int.] used as salutation by Jews at meeting or parting, meaning “peace.”

shalt [shal’t] n. archaic second person singular of SHALL.

sham [sham] n. 1 a thing that is not what it is purported to be; the proposed legislation is a farce or a sham. 2 pretense: it all turned out to be sham and hypocrisy. 3 a person who pretends to be someone or something they are not: he was a sham, totally unqualified for his job as a senior doctor. 2 short for PILLOW SHAM.

adj. bogus; false: a clergyman who arranged a sham marriage.

shakedown [shak’doun] n. (pl. -mames) a person regarded as having access to, and influence in, the world of good and evil spirits, esp. among some peoples of northern Asia and North America. —shamanic [sh’a-man-ik] adj. —shamanism /-nim/ n. & adj. —shamanistic /-ni-stik/ adj.

shamble [sham’bıl] v. [int.](of a person) move with a slow, shuffling, awkward gait: he shuffled off down the corridor [as adj.](shambler) a big, shambly, shing man.

n. a slow, shuffling, awkward gait.

shambles [shamb’lz] pl. [treated as sing.] n. 1 a state of total disorder: my room was in shambles. 2 a butcher’s slaughterhouse (archaic except in place names). 3 a scene of carnage: the room was a shambles—their throats had been cut and they lay in a waste of blood.

shame [sham] n. 1 a painful feeling of humiliation or distress caused by the consciousness of wrong or foolish behavior; she was hot with shame. 2 a loss of respect or esteem; dishonor: the incident had brought shame on his family. 3 used to reproduce someone for something of which they should be ashamed: shame on you for hitting a woman. 4 a regrettable or unfortunate situation or action: it is a shame that they are not better known. 5 a person, action, or situation that brings a loss of respect or honor; ignorance of Latin would be a disgrace and a shame to any public man. 6 [v.](of a person, action, or situation) make (someone) feel ashamed: I tried to shame him into giving away some money. 7 cause (someone) to feel ashamed or inadequate by outing or surpassing them: she shames me with her eight-year-old energy.

shame-faced [sham’fást] adj. feeling or expressing shame or embarrassment: all the boys looked shame-faced. —shame-faced-ly adv.

shameful [sham’ful] adj. worthy of causing shame or disgrace: a shameful accusation. —shamefully adv. —shamelessness n.

shammer [sham’er] n. (pl. -mers) adj. (of a person or their conduct) characterized by or showing a lack of shame: his shameless hypocrisy. —shameless-ly adv. —shameless-ness n.

shammy [sham’i] (also shammy leather) n. (pl. -mies) informal term for CHAMOIS (sense 2).

shampoo [sham’po] n. a liquid preparation containing detergent or soap for washing the hair: he smelt clean, of shampoo | an antidandruff shampoo. 2 a similar substance for cleaning a carpet, soft furnishings, or a car. 3 an act of washing or cleaning something, esp. the hair: with shampoo: Dolly was sitting in the bath shampooing her hair.

shank-rock [sham’rák] n. a low-growing, cloverlike plant (esp. Trifoli um minus) of the pea family, with three-lobed leaves, used as the national emblem of Ireland. 2 a spray or leaf of this plant. 3 late 16th cent.: from Irish seanróig, trefoil (diminutive of seanmar ‘clover’).

shanghaied [shang-haid] n. v. (hais-, haid, ‘haid, ’haiding, ’haide, etc.) adj. history: forced (someone) to join a ship lacking a full crew by dragging them or using other underhanded means. 2 coil or trick (someone) into a place or position or into doing something; Brady shanghaied her into his jaguar and roared off.

Shangri-La [shangg’ri’la] a Tibetan utopia in James Hilton’s novel Lost Horizon (1933). 2 a place regarded as an earthly paradise, esp. when involving a retreat from the pressures of modern civilization.

shank [shank] n. 1 (often shanks) a person’s leg, esp. the part from the knee to the ankle: the old man’s thin, bony shanks showed through his trousers. 2 the lower part of an animal’s foreleg. 3 this part of an animal’s leg as a cut of meat. 2 the shaft or stem of a tool or implement, in particular: a long narrow part of a tool connecting the handle to the operational end. 4 the cylindrical part of a bit by which it is held in a drill. 5 the stem of a key, spoon, anchor, etc. 6 the straight part of a nail or fishhook. 3 a part or appendage by which something is attached to something else, esp. a wire loop attached to the back of a button. 7 the band of a ring rather than the setting or gemstone. 8 the vertical part of the sole of a shoe. 9 a tag or label that is made by a prison inmate from available materials.

shanty [shant’i] n. (pl. -ties) variant spelling of CHANTEY.
shekel (shed-ded, tressed) n. a small unit of weight; a gold coin of ancient Troy.

shear [ʃeər] n. 1. the amount of wood removed from a sheath. 2. a tool used for shearing thin slices or layers from wood or other material.

shave ʃeɪv. 1 an electric razor. 2. a young lad: little shavers and their older brothers.

shearing ʃeɪˈvɪŋ. 1. a thin strip cut off a surface: sheared wood shavings from her knees. 2. the act of shearing.

shear-ma-shears, 'shears'. 2. a tool used for shearing thin slices or layers from wood or other material.

shawl ʃoʊl. 1. a piece of fabric worn by women over the shoulders or head or wrapped around a baby. 2. from Urdu and Persian šalā, possibly from Shaliat, the name of a town in India.

Shawnee ʃəˈnoʊ. n. (pl. same or -nees) 1. a member of an American Indian people living formerly in the eastern U.S. and now chiefly in Oklahoma. 2. the Algonquian language of this people.

shed ʃed. v. adj. of or relating to the Shawnee or their language.

she ʃi. pron. the third person she.

she's ʃeəz. v. pron. a written representation of "he or she" used as a neutral alternative to indicate someone of either sex.

sheaf ʃēf. n. a bundle of grain stalks laid lengthwise and tied together after reaping.

sheaf-ing ʃēfɪŋ. n. a bundle of objects of one kind, esp. papers: he waved a sheaf of papers in the air.

shear ʃeər. v. (part past. shorn or sheared) 1. cut the wool off (a sheep or other animal). 2. cut off (something such as hair, wool, or grass), or with scissors or shears: I'll shear off all that fleece.

shelter ʃeɪtər. n. 1. a large rectangular piece of cotton or other fabric, used on a bed to cover the mattress and as a layer beneath blankets when these are used. 2. a structure used to provide shelter for oneself, esp. when one is ill or has had a shock: Are you OK? You're as white as a sheet.

sheet ʃi. n. 1. a broad flat piece of material such as metal or glass; the small pipe sheared off from a flat sheet of bronze. 2. a rectangular piece of paper, esp. one of a standard size produced commercially and used for writing and printing on:

sheet-lightning ʃiˈleɪtnɪŋ. n. the act of lighting up a sheet of lightning.

shew ʃu. v. she showed. 1. to display or demonstrate something.

she-wolf ʃiˈwəlf. n. a female wolf; 

sheathed ʃeɪttid. adj. 1. having something sheathed: they were sheathed in their arms.

sheathing ʃiˈθiŋ. n. protective casing or covering.

shew ʃu. v. 1. to exhibit or display.

shew ʃu. v. 1. to display or demonstrate something.

shew ʃu. v. 1. to exhibit or display.

shew ʃu. v. 1. to exhibit or display.
shiftless

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shirt

principal between lowercase and uppercase letters. • gearshift or gear-changing mechanism in a motor vehicle. • Building the positioning of successive rows of bricks so that their ends do not coincide. • Compute a movement of the digits of a word in a register one or more places to left or right, equivalent to multiplying or dividing the corresponding number by a power of whatever number is the base. • Football a change of position by two or more players before the ball is put into play. 2 one of two or more recurring periods in which different groups of workers do the same jobs in relay: the night shift. 3 a group of workers who work in this way. 3 a woman’s straight, unwasted dress. • shift-less /'shif-les/ adj. (of a person or action) characterized by laziness, indolence, and a lack of ambition: a shiftless lot of good-for-nothings.


shift-y /'shif-tee/ adj. (shiftier, shiftiest) int. of (a person or their manner) appearing deceitful or evasive: a shiftly fast-talking lawyer. • shift-ly /'shif-lee/ adv. —shift-ness n.

Shi’ite /'shee-ite/ n. (also Shi’tite) an adherent of the Shia branch of Islam.

adj. of or relating to Shiah. • Shi’ism /'shee-iz-um/ (also Shih’ism) n.

shift /shif/ int. an accomplice of a hawker, gambler, or swindler who acts as an enthusiastic customer to entice or encourage others.

v. [intr] act or work as such a person.

shift-le-gh /'shif-leh/ n. a thick stick of blackthorn or oak used in Ireland, typically as a weapon.

shift-ling /'shif-ling/ n. 1 a former British coin and monetary unit equal to one twentieth of a pound or twelve pence. 2 the basic monetary unit in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, equal to 100 cents.

shift-ly-shal-ly /'shif-lee-shal-lee/ adv. [intr] act or work as such a person.

v. [intr] act or work as such a person.

sink /sink/ n. a vessel or part of a spacecraft.

sink-able /'sink-lee/ adj. (also sink-able) n. a person or company whose job or business is the design and construction of ships.

ship-board /'ship-board/ n. [as adj] used or occurring on board a ship: playing in a shipboard jazz orchestra.

ship-build-er /'ship-buhl-der/ n. a shipbuilder.

ship-load /'ship-lohd/ n. as much cargo or as many people as a ship can carry.

ship-mate /'ship-mate/ n. a fellow member of a ship’s crew.

ship-ment /'ship-ment/ n. the action of shipping goods: logs waiting for shipment | shipments begin this month. • a quantity of goods shipped: a consignment; coal and oil shipments.

ship-per /'ship-er/ n. a person or company that sends or transports goods by sea, land, or air.

ship-ping /'ship-ing/ n. ships considered collectively, esp. those in a particular area or belonging to a particular country: the volume of shipping using these ports. • the transport of goods by sea or some other means. • a charge imposed by a retail company to send merchandise to a customer: duties were available at $20 plus $4 for shipping and handling.

ship-shape /'ship-shap/ adj. in good order; trim and neat: he checked that everything was shipshape.

ship-wreck /'ship-reek/ n. the destruction of a ship at sea by sinking or breaking up, e.g. in a storm or after running aground. • a ship so destroyed: the debris of a forgotten shipreck in an Arctic sea.

ship-wright /'ship-rite/ n. a shipbuilder.

ship-yard /'ship-yard/ n. a place where ships are built and repaired.

shire /'shir/ n. Brit. a county, esp. in England. • Old English scrine ‘care, official charge, county’; of Germanic origin.

shirk /'shirk/ v. [intr] avoid or neglect (a duty or responsibility): their sole motive is to shirk responsibility and rip off the company. • shirker n.

shirr /'shir/ v. [tr.] 1 gather (an area of fabric or part of a garment) by means of drawn or elasticized threads in parallel rows: as adj. (shirred) a swimsuit with a shirred front. 2 bake (an egg without its shell).

shirt /shirt/ n. a garment for the upper body made of cotton or a freshwater fish (Notropis and other genera) of the minnow family that typically has colorful markings.
shirt-dress [ˈʃɜːrt-dres] n. a dress with a collar and buttons in the style of a shirt, typically cut without a seam at the waist.

shirt-front [ˈʃɜːrt-frʌnt] n. the breast of a shirt, in particular the part that shows when a suit is worn.

shirt-sleeve [ˈʃɜːrt-slev] n. (usu. shirtsleeves) the sleeve of a shirt: he rolled up his shirtsleeves.

shirt-tail [ˈʃɜːrt-tɑːl] n. (also shirtsails) the lower, typically curved, part of a shirt that comes below the waist.

shirtwaist [ˈʃɜːrt-wʌst] n. a woman’s blouse that resembles a shirt.

shirtwaist dress [ˈʃɜːrt-wʌst dres] a woman’s dress with a seam at the waist, its bodice incorporating a collar and buttons in the style of a shirt.

shish kebab [ˈʃiʃ ˌkɪbɐb] n. a dish of pieces of marinated meat and vegetables cooked and served on skewers.

shirt studded [ˈʃɜːrt stʌd difficulté] v. (studded; past and past part. studded) to put studs or spangles on.

shirt-tail [ˈʃɜːrt tɑːl] n. (also shirtsails) the lower, typically curved, part of a shirt that comes below the waist.


shod [ʃɔd] adj. past and past participle of shoe.

shoddy [ˈʃəddi] adj. -ier, -iest vulgar slang 1 of a person or action contemptible; worthless. 2 of an experience or situation unpleasant, awful. 2 covered with excrement.

Shiva [ˈʃiːva] (also Siva) n. (in Indian religion) a god associated with the powers of reproduction and dissolution.

shiver [ˈʃɪvər] v. intr. (of a person or animal) shake slightly and uncontrollably as a result of being cold, frightened, or excited: they shivered in the damp foggy cold.

n. a momentary trembling movement: she gave a little shiver as the wind flicked at her bare arms. n. (the shivers) a spell or an attack of trembling, typically as a result of fear or horror: a look that gave him the shivers.


shiverer n. (usu. shivers) each of the small fragments into which something such as glass is shattered when broken: a splinter.

shiel-miel [ˈʃʌl-ˌmɪəl] n. variant spelling of schlemiel.

shlep v. & n. variant spelling of schlepp.

shlock v. variant spelling of SCHLOCK.

shmuck n. variant spelling of SCHMUCK.

shoal [ʃoʊl] n. a large number of fish swimming together: a shoal of trout. Compare with SCHOOL. n. a large number of people.

v. intr. (of fish) form shoals.

shoal n. an area of shallow water, esp. as a navigational hazard: a submerged sandbank visible at low water. n. (usu. shoals) fig. a hidden danger or difficulty: he alone could safely guide them through Hollywood’s treacherous shoals.

v. intr. (of water) become shallower.

shoal adj. of (water) shallow. —shoal-y adj.
shoehorn /ˈʃooˌhôrn/ n. a curved instrument used to ease one’s heel into a shoe.

shoelace /ˈʃooˌleɪs/ n. a cord or leather strip passed through eyelets or hooks on opposite sides of a shoe and pulled tight and fastened.

shoemaker /ˈʃooˌmeɪkər/ n. a person who makes shoes and other footwear as a profession.

shoeshine /ˈʃooˌshɪn/ n. an act of polishing someone’s shoes, esp. for payment: [as adj.] a shoe shine boy.

shoestring /ˈʃooˌstrɪŋ/ n. 1. int. a small or inadequate budget: they proved capable of producing high-quality material on a shoestring. 2. a shoelace.

shoetree /ˈʃooˌtri/ n. a shaped block inserted into a shoe when it is not being worn, to keep the shoe in shape.

shoof /ˈʃuːf/ n. [pl. shoof or shooforth /ˈʃuːfəθ/; *frós/ a ram’s horn trumpet used by ancient Jews in religious ceremonies and as a battle signal, now sounded at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

shogan /ˌʃoʊɡən/ n. a hereditary commander-in-chief in feudal Japan.

shone /ˈʃoʊn/ adj. past and past participle of SHINE.

shoo /ʃu/ interj. a word said to frighten or drive away a person or animals.

shoo /ʃu/ past of shake. adj. (shook up) int. emotionally or physically disturbed; upset: she looks pretty shook up from the letter.

shout /ʃaut/ v. (past shout /ʃaut/; past part. shouted /əʊt/) 1. [tr.] kill or wound a person (or animal) with a bullet or arrow: he was shot in the leg during an armed robbery. 2. [intr.] fire a bullet from a gun or discharge an arrow from a bow: he shot at me twice. 3. [tr.] they shot a volley of arrows into the village. 4. [intr.] cause a gash to fire. 5. [tr.] damage or remove (something) with a bullet or missile: Guy, shoot their hats off. 6. [intr.] hunt game with a gun: we go to Scotland to shoot every autumn. 2. [intr.] move suddenly and rapidly in a particular direction: the car shot forward. 3. [tr.] cause to move suddenly and rapidly in a particular direction: he would have fallen if Marc hadn’t shot out a hand to stop him. 4. [tr.] direct (a glance, question, or remark) at someone: Luke shot her a quick glance. 5. [intr.] used to invite a comment or question: “May I just ask you one more question?” “Shoot.”

shower /ˈʃauər/ n. (of a pain) move with a sharp stabbing sensation: Claudia felt a shaft of pain shoot through her chest.

shooting /ˈʃoʊtɪŋ/ n. (of a boat) sweep swiftly down or under (rapids, a waterfall, or a bridge). 2. [tr.] int. (of a motor vehicle) pass (a traffic light at red). 3. [tr.] extend sharply in a particular direction: a road that seemed to just shoot upward at a terrifying angle. 4. [tr.] move (a door bolt) to fasten or unfasten a door. 5. [tr.] [in soccer, hockey, basketball, etc.] kick, hit, or throw the ball or puck in an attempt to score a goal: Williams twice shot wide. 6. [tr.] int. make (a specified score) for a round of golf: in the second round he shot a 65. 7. [tr.] int. play a game of (pool or dice). 8. [tr.] film or photograph (a scene, film, etc.): she has just been commissioned to shoot a video | [intr.] point the camera and just shoot. 9. [tr.] int. inject oneself or another person with a narcotic drug: he shot dope into his arm.

phrase v. v. Shoot someone/something down kill or wound someone by shooting them, esp. in a ruthless way: troops shot down 28 demonstrators by firing on an aircraft, missile, or pilot by shooting at it.

fig. crush someone or their opinions by forceful criticism or argument: she tried to argue and got shot down in flames for her trouble.

shoo up (esp. of a child) grow taller rapidly: when she hit thirteen she shot up to a startling 5 foot 9. 2. [of a price or amount) rise suddenly.

someone/something up cause great damage to something by shooting; kill or wound someone by shooting: the police shot up our building. 2. also shoot up int. inject a narcotic drug; inject someone with a narcotic drug: she went home and shot up alone in her room.

n. 1. a young branch or suckering springing from the main stock of a tree or other plant: he nipped off the new shoots that grew where the leaves joined the stems. 2. an occasion when a group of people hunt and shoot game for sport: a grouse shoot. 3. a shooting match or contest; activities include a rifle shoot. 4. an occasion when a professional photographer takes photographs or when a film or video is being made: a photo shoot.

4. variant spelling of CHUTE. 5. a rapid in a stream: follow the portages that skirt all nine shoots of whitewater.

shoetree /ˈʃoʊˌtri/ n. used as a euphemism for 'shit': shoot, it was a great day to be alive. 6. Old English scótan, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch schieten and German schiessen.

shoetable adj. shoot the breeze .int. have a casual conversation.

shoot from the hip .int. react suddenly or without careful consideration of one’s words or actions.

shoo oneself in the foot .int. inadvertently make a situation worse for oneself.

shoo one’s mouth off .int. talk boastfully or indirectly.

shooter /ˈʃooətər/ n. 1. a person who uses a gun either regularly or on a particular occasion.

2. int. a gun. 2. a member of a team in games such as basketball whose role is to attempt to score goals. 3. a person who throws a dice or dice. 3. a marble used to shoot at other marbles.

shooting gallery /ˈʃoʊtɪŋ ˈɡæləri/ n. a room or fairground booth used for recreational shooting at targets with guns or air guns.

shooting range /ˈʃoʊtɪŋ ˈreɪndʒ/ n. an area provided with targets for the controlled practice of shooting.

shooting star /ˈʃoʊtɪŋ ˈstɑːr/ n. a small, rapidly moving meteor burning up on entering the earth’s atmosphere.

shooting star n. a North American plant (genus Dodecatheon) of the primrose family, with white, pink, or purple hanging flowers with backward curving petals.

shooting out n. int. a decisive gun battle.

2. also (also penally shooting out) Soccer a tiebreaker decided by each side taking a specified number of penalty kicks.

shop /ʃɔp/ n. 1. a building or part of a building where goods or services are sold; a store: a card shop | a barber shop.

2. int. an act of going shopping: she shopped her way around the supermarket doing the weekly shop.

3. a place where things are manufactured or repaired; a workshop: an auto repair shop.

4. a room or department in a factory where a particular stage of production is carried out: the machine shop.

short for SHOPCLASS I got an A in shop last year. 2. a profession, trade, business, etc., esp. as a subject of conversation: when mathematicians talk shop, they do it at the blackboard.

shop n. v. (shopped, shopping) [intr.] go to a store or stores to buy goods; she shopped for groceries twice a week.

2. (shop around) look for the best available price or rate for something: shopping around for cheaper food.

shop class n. a class in which practical skills such as woodworking are taught.

shopkeeper /ˈʃɔpˌkeɪpər/ n. the owner and manager of a shop.

shoplifting /ˈʃɔplɪftɪŋ/ n. the criminal action of stealing goods from a shop while pretending to be a customer.

shoplift v. shoplifter /ˈʃɔplɪftər/ n.

shopper /ˈʃɔpər/ n. a person who is shopping.

shopping /ˈʃɔpɪŋ/ n. often as adj. the purchasing of goods from stores: a busy shopping area.

goods bought from stores, esp. food and household goods: I unloaded all the shopping.

shopping center n. an area or complex of stores with adjacent parking.

shopping mall n. see MALL (sense 1).

shop steward n. a person elected by workers, for example in a factory, to represent them in dealings with management.

shopworn /ˈʃɔpwɔrn/ adj. (of an article) made dirty or imperfect by being displayed or handled in a store: he brought out some shopworn lettuce.

shore /ʃɔr/ n. the land along the edge of a lake, sea, or other large body of water: I took the tiller and made for the shore.

2. Law the land between ordinary high- and low-water marks.

shoreless adj. shoreward adj. & adv. shorewards adj. & adv.

shore n. a prop or beam set obliquely against something weak or unsteady as a support.

shore v. [intr.] support or hold up (something) with such props or beams: rescue workers had to shore up the building, which was in danger of collapse.

shore leave n. leisure time spent ashore by a sailor; the hull was full of sailors on shore leave.

shoreline /ˈʃɔrˌlɪn/ n. the line along which a large body of water meets the land: he walked along the shoreline.

shorn /ˈʃɔrn/ adj. past participle of SHEAR.

short /ʃɔr/ adj. 1. measuring a small distance from end to end: short,
shortage /ˈʃɔr(t)ij/ n. a state or situation in which something needed cannot be obtained in sufficient amounts: a shortage of hard cash.

shortbread /ˈʃɔrtbrɛd/ n. a crisp, rich, crumbly type of cookie made with butter, flour, and sugar.

shortcake /ˈʃɔrtkeɪ/ n. 1 a small cake made of biscuit dough and typically served with fruit and whipped cream as a dessert. 2 a dessert made from shortcake topped with fruit, typically strawberries, and whipped cream.

short-change /ˈʃɔr(t)ʃeɪndʒ/ (also short-change) v. [tr.] cheat by giving insufficient money as change: I'm sure I was short-changed at the bar.

treat unfairly by withholding something of value: residents perennially complain about their own children's needs being shortchanged.

short-circuit n. in a device, an electrical circuit of lower resistance that than that of a normal circuit, typically resulting from the unintended contact of components and consequent accidental diversion of the current.

v. (short-circuit) (with reference to an electrical device) malfunction or fail, or cause to do this, as a result of a short circuit across it: [intr.] the birds caused the electricity supply to short-circuit. [tr.] water had leaked into the washing machine's motor, short-circuiting it. [fr.] fpg. shorten a process or activity by using a more direct (but often improper) method: the normal processes of a democracy should not be short-circuited.
shoulder of lamb: a part of a garment covering the shoulder; a jacket with padded shoulders. • (shoulders) the upper part of the back and arms: a tall youth with broad shoulders. • (shoulders) fig. this part of the body regarded as bearing responsibility or hardship or providing strength: all accounts place the blame squarely on his shoulders. 2 a part of something resembling a shoulder in shape, position, or function: the shoulder of a pulley. 3 a paved strip alongside a road for stopping on in an emergency.

v. 1 [tr] put (something heavy) over one’s shoulder or shoulders to carry: we shouldered our crying backpacks and set off slowly up the hill. • [intrans. fig. take on a burden or responsibility; she shouldered the blame for the incident. 2 [tr] push (someone or something) out of one’s way with one’s shoulder: she shouldered him brusquely aside. • [intr. move in this way: he shouldered past a woman with a baby. • Old English scuoldor; related to Dutch schouder and German Schulten. • shouldered [ ’shəldəd ] adj. [in comb] broad-shouldered.

shoulder blade n. either of the large, flat, triangular bones that lie against the ribs in the upper back and provide attachments for the bone and muscles of the upper arm. Also called SCAPULA.

shouldn’t [ ’shəuldnt ] contr. of should not.

shout [ shout ] v. [intr. (of a person) utter a loud call or cry, typically as an expression of a strong emotion: she shouted for joy. • say something very loudly; call out: [tr] he leaned out of his window and shouted abuse at them. 2 [tr] (shout someone down) prevent someone from speaking or being heard by shouting: he was shouted down as he tried to explain the decision.

n. a loud cry expressing a strong emotion or calling attention: his words were interrupted by warning shouts. • shout-er n.

shout-out n. intr. a message of congratulation, support, or appreciation: a special shout-out to Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, James Gandolfini, and Robert De Niro for being such kick-ass cinematic mobsters.

shove [ shuv ] v. [tr] push (someone or something) roughly: police started pushing and shoving people down the street. • [intr] kids pushed, kicked, and shoved. • [intr] make one’s way by pushing someone or something: Woody shoved past him. • [tr] put (someone) somewhere carelessly or roughly: she shoved the books into her briefcase. • [shove it] intr. used to express angry dismissal of something: I should have told the boss to shove it.

phraseal v. 1 shove off [ usu. in imper. ] go away: shove off—you’re bothering the customers. 2 push away from the shore or another vessel in a boat.

n. a strong push: she gave him a hefty shove and he nearly fell.

shovel [ ’shəval ] n. a tool with a broad flat blade and typically turned-up sides, used for moving coal, earth, snow or other material, or a machine or part of a machine having a similar shape or function. • an amount of something carried or moved with a shovel: a few shovels of earth.

v. [ -eled, -eling ] Brit. -elled, -eling ] [tr] move (coal, earth, snow, or similar material) with a shovel: she shoveled coal on the fire. • [tr] remove snow from (an area) with a shovel: shoveled the walk. • [intr. put or push (something, typically food) somewhere quickly and in large quantities: Dave was shoveling pasta into his mouth. • shovel-ful [ ’shəful ] n. (plural -fuls).
show biz

noticeable: he tried not to let his relief show. 3 (tr.) demonstrate or prove: experts say this shows the benefit of regular inspections. 4 (show oneself) prove or demonstrate oneself to be: she showed herself to be a harsh critic. 5 cause to understand or be capable of something by explanation or demonstration: he showed the boy how to operate the machine. 6 (tr.) conduct or lead: show them in, please.

phrasal. v. show off. make a deliberate or pretentious display of one's abilities or accomplishments. 2 show someone/something off display or cause others to take notice of someone or something that is a source of pride: his scars were tight-fitting, showing off his compact figure. 3 show up (of oneself) be conspicuous or clearly visible. 4 int. arrive or turn up for an appointment or gathering. 5 show someone up embarrass or humiliate someone: she says I showed her up in front of her friends.

n. 1 a spectacle or display of something, typically an impressive one: spectacular shows of bluebells. 2 a public entertainment, in particular: a stage performance or display of musical or dance acts: annual shows. 3 a show, party, or other stage performance, esp. a musical: a show on television or radio. 4 a piece of clothing: a show for an exhibition of some kind.

for show for the sake of appearance rather than for use. 2 get (or keep) the show on the road begin (or succeed in continuing) an undertaking or enterprise: "let's get this show on the road—we're late already." 3 have something to show for something: to have a (or no) chance: to have a show for his efforts. 4 show cause Law produce satisfactory grounds for application of (or exemption from) a procedure or penalty. 5 show one's face appear in public: she had been up in court and was so ashamed she could hardly show her face. 6 show one's hand: reveal or disclose one's plans: he needed hard evidence, and to get it he would have to show his hand.

show off. 1 adj. to show off: to display oneself in a fashionable or attractive manner. 2 show off (oneself) to display oneself in a fashionable or attractive manner. 3 show off (a person) to display oneself in a fashionable or attractive manner.

n. 1 a person who acts pretentiously or who publicly parades themselves, their possessions, or their accomplishments.

something that attracts attention or admiration as an outstanding example of its type: the factory has expanded and become a showcase of the most modern technology.

n. 1 an item of work presented for exhibition or display.

n. 1 a place of beauty or interest attracting many visitors.

n. 1 a room used to display goods for sale, such as appliances, cars, or furniture.

n. 1 a performance or item receiving prolonged applause. 2 something that is striking and has great popular appeal: a showpiece of a smile.

n. 1 having a striking appearance or style, typically being exceptionally bright, colorful, or ostentatious: showy flowers. 2 showy 

n. 1 past participle of show.

n. 1 adj. to show off: to display oneself in a fashionable or attractive manner.

n. 1 adj. to show off: to display oneself in a fashionable or attractive manner.

n. 1 a machine or other device for showing something, esp. documents. 2 int. a snowboarder.

n. 1 a small mouse-like invertebrate mammal: 

n. 1 adj. having or showing sharp powers of judgment: astute: she was shrewd enough to guess the motive behind his gesture. 2 Middle English: the sense 'evil in nature or character': from shrew (Old English: the sense 'evil in nature or character': from shrew (Old English: the sense 'evil in nature or character': from shrew (Old English: the sense 'evil in nature or character': from shrew (Old English: the sense 'evil in nature or character'.

n. 1 high-pitched piercing sound or words, esp. as an expression of terror, pain, or excitement: the audience shrieked with laughter. 2 int. she was shrieking abuse at a taxi driver. 3 of something inanimate: to make a high-pitched screeching sound: the wheels shrieked as the car sped away. 4 adj. very obvious or strikingly discordant: the patterned curtains shrieked at Betsy from the shabby store. 5 shrill-high-pitched piercing cry or sound; a scream: shrieks of laughter.

n. 1 a songbird (family Ianiidae) with a strong sharply hooked bill, often impaling its prey of small birds, lizards, and insects on thorns.

n. 1 adj. (of a voice or sound) high-pitched and piercing: a shrill laugh. 2 derog. (esp. of a complaint or demand) loud and forceful: a concession to their shrill demands.

v. int. make a shrill noise.

n. 1 a shrill sound or cry: the shrill ringing of women's voices. 2 late Middle English: of German origin: related to Low German: 'sharp, keen in taste or tone.'

n. m. shrill-ly adj. adv.
sick

1. adj. 1. [slang, offensive] feeling or showing nausea or disgust: he looked sick at the sight of the words on the page. sick bay (slang) a place where you go to get medical help. sick call (slang) an appointment with a doctor. sick-ness (slang) a feeling of nausea or disgust. sickroom (slang) a special place where you go to get medical help.
2. n. 1. the state of being sick: he is suffering from a bad cold. sick leave (slang) a period of time when you are not able to work because you are sick.
3. v. 1. to feel sick: she felt sick as soon as she smelled the food.
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sickbay /sɪkˈbeɪ/ (also sick bay) n. a room or building set aside for the treatment or accommodation of the sick, esp. within a military base or on board a ship.

sickbed /sɪkˈbed/ n. an invalid's bed (often used to refer to the state or condition of being an invalid): he had climbed from his sickbed to help the club.

sicken /ˈsɪkən/ v. 1 [tr.] (often be sickened) make (someone) feel disgruntled or appalled: she was sickened by the bomb attack. 2 [intr.] become ill: Dawson sickened unexpectedly and died in 1916.

sickly /ˈsɪkli/ adj. (sicklier, sickliest) 1 often ill: in poor health: she was a sickly child. 2 [adj. of a person's complexion or expression] indicative of poor health; his usual sickly pallor. 3 [poetic.] (of a place, climate, or time) causing or characterized by unhealthiness: a deep sickly vaporous swamp. 4 [of a flavor, smell, color, or light] so unpleasant as to induce discomfort or nausea: the walls were painted a sickly green. 5 excessively sentimental or mawkish: a sickly fable of delicate young lovers.

sickness /ˈsɪknəs/ n. 1 the state of being ill: she was absent through sickness. 2 a particular type of illness or disease: botulism causes a kind of sickness of horses. 3 the feeling or fact of being affected with nausea or vomiting: she felt a wave of sickness wash over her.

sicko /ˈsɪkoʊ/ n. (pl. -os) n. a mentally ill or perverted person, esp. one who is sadistic.

sickroom /sɪkˈrʊm/ n. a room occupied by an ill person.

sideliner /ˈsaɪldər/ n. 1 a position to the right or left of an object, place, or central point: a town on the other side of the river. 2 either of the two halves of an object, surface, or place regarded as divided by an imaginary central line: she lay on her side of the bed. 3 the right or left part of a person's or animal's body, esp. of the human torso: he has been paralyzed on his right side since birth. 4 a place or position closely adjacent to someone: his wife stood at his side. 5 either of the lateral halves of the body of a butchered animal, or an animal or fish prepared for eating: a side of beef. 6 an upright or sloping surface of a structure or object that is not the top or bottom and generally not the front or back: a car crashed into the side of the house. 7 each of the flat surfaces of a solid object. 8 either of the two surfaces of something flat and thin, such as paper or cloth. 9 either of the two faces of a record or of the two separate tracks on a length of recording tape. 10 a part or region near the edge and away from the middle of something: a window was painted at the side of the road. 11 as adj. subsidiary to or less important than something: a side dish of fresh vegetables. 12 a dish served as subsidiary to the main one: a side of German potato salad. 13 each of the lines forming the boundary of a piece of rectilinear figure: the farm buildings formed three sides of a square. 14 a person or group opposing another or others in a dispute, contest, or debate; the two sides agreed to resume border trade. 15 chiefly Brit. a sporting team. 16 the position, interests, or attitude of one person or group, esp. when regarded as being in opposition to another or others: Mrs. Burt hasn't kept her side of the bargain. 17 a particular aspect of something, esp. a situation or a person's character: her ability to pull up with his disagreeable side. 18 a person's kinship or line of descent as traced through either their father or mother: Richard was of French descent on his mother's side.

sidekick /ˈsaɪdˌkiːk/ n. int. a person's assistant or close associate, esp. one who has less authority than that person.

sidelight /ˈsaɪdˌlaɪt/ n. 1 a light placed at the side of something. 2 a ship's port (red) and starboard (green) navigation lights. 3 fig. a piece of incidental information that helps to clarify or enliven a subject. 4 natural light coming from the side.

sideline /ˈsaɪdlɪn/ v. [tr.] (often be sidelined) cause (a player) to be unable to play on a team or in a game; he has been sidelined for the last six weeks with a fractured wrist. 2 fig. remove from the center of attention; place in a less influential position: a respected lawyer will be sidelined by alcohol abuse.

sideliner /ˈsaɪldər/ n. (from or) on the sidelines in (or) on a position where one is observing a situation but is unable or unwilling to be directly involved in it.
sidelong |ˈsidˌlông| adj. & adv. directed to or from one side; sideways: [as adj.]. Eve gave her a sidelong glance; [as adv.] he looked sidelong at her.

sidereal |ˈsidərəl| adj. of or with respect to the distant stars (i.e., the constellations or fixed stars, not the sun or planets).

sidereal day n. Astron. The time between two consecutive transits of the First Point of Aries. It represents the time taken by the earth to rotate on its axis relative to the stars, and is almost four minutes shorter than the solar day because of the earth's orbital motion.

derite |ˈsidərt| n. A brown mineral consisting of ferrous carbonate, occurring as the main component of some kinds of iron ore or as rhombohedral crystals in mineral veins. —deritic |ˈsidərɪk| adj.

dside-saddle |ˈsidˌsædəl| (also side-saddle) n. A saddle in which the rider has both feet on the same side of the horse. It is typically used by a woman rider wearing a skirt.

a. adv. sitting in this position on a horse.

show |ˈshou| n. A small show or stall at an exhibition, fair, or circus. —fig. a minor or diverting incident or issue, esp. one that distracts attention from something more important.

slip |ˈslip| n. A sideways movement of an aircraft, esp. downward toward the inside of a turn.

splitting |ˈsplitəŋ| adj. Int. Extremely amusing; causing violent laughter: side splitting anecdotes.

step |ˈstep| n. [s- stepped, -stepping] v. [s- stepped, -stepping] a. (someone) to accompany or be accompanied by: 

saddle |ˈsædəl| n. A saddle in which the rider has both feet on the same side of the horse. It is typically used by a woman rider wearing a skirt.

a. adv. sitting in this position on a horse.

stroke |ˈstrōk| n. A swimming stroke similar to the breaststroke in which the swimmer lies on their side.

swipe |ˈswip| n. A long, deep, audible breath expressing sadness, relief, tiredness, or a similar feeling: Harry sank into a chair and sighed with relief. —fig. of the wind or something through which the wind blows) make a sound resembling this: a breeze made the treetops sigh.

sight |ˈsight| n. A faculty or power of seeing: Joseph lost his sight as a baby.

a. the action or fact of seeing someone or something: I've always been scared of the sight of blood.

b. the area or distance within which someone can see or something can be seen: he never refused to let Rose out of his sight.

c. a thing that one sees or that can be seen: John was a familiar sight in the bar for many years.

d. places of interest to tourists and visitors in a city, town, or other place: she offered to show me the sights.

a. int. a person or thing having a ridiculous, repulsive, or disheveled appearance: “I must look a frightful sight,” she said.

a. device on a gun or optical instrument used for assisting a person's precise aim or observation.

v. [s-] a. manage to see or observe (someone or something): catch an initial glimpse of: tell me when you sight London Bridge.

b. sighted |ˈsîtn| (sighting) v. [s-] take aim by looking through the sights of a gun; she sighted down the barrel.

b. a detailed visual measurement of something with or as with a sight.

b. adj. adjusting the optically powered telescope.

b. at first sight on first seeing or meeting someone: it was love at first sight.

b. after an initial impression (which is then found to be different from what is actually the case): the debate is more complex than it seems at first sight.

b. in sight visible: no other vehicle was in sight.

b. near at hand: close to being achieved or realized: the minister insisted that agreement was in sight.

b. in (or within) sight of so as to see or be seen from: I dumed the hill and came in sight of the house.

b. within reach of: close to attaining: he was safe for the moment and in sight of victory.

b. in (or within) one's sights visible, esp. through the sights of one's gun.

b. within the scope of one's ambitions or expectations: he had the price firmly in his sights.

b. lose sight of be no longer able to see: fail to consider, be aware of, or remember: we should not lose sight of the fact that the issues involved are moral ones.

b. on (or at) sight as soon as someone or something has been seen: in Africa, paramilitary game wardens shoot poachers on sight.

b. out of sight not visible: she saw them off, waving until the car was out of sight.

v. [as interj.] extremely good; excellent: [as adj.] these headphones are an out of sight choice.

b. adj. used to indicate that something is so described to a considerable extent: the old lady is a sight cleverer than Sarah.

b. a sight for sore eyes a. person or thing that one is extremely pleased or relieved to see.

deposit |ˈdespət| n. Finance a bank deposit that can be withdrawn immediately without notice or penalty.

Adj. (of person) having the ability to see; not blind.

Pronunciation Key a. ago, in, or, fur, jar, a hat, a tea, a car, chin; e let; & sec; (ər]; air, li; fi I; be, ə far, ə ear, (ə) sing; o go, ə line, fur, ə ny; ə do ə good, ə do ə good, ə ou ə ou; ə she, ə thin; ə then; ə why? ə 2 vision
sightless sighted guide is needed. [as pl.] the sighted the blind leading the sighted, I thought. [in cont'd] having a specified kind of sight: the keen-sighted watchman may catch a glimpse.

sight-less /'sicht-, 'sight-/ adj. unable to see; blind; sightless eyes. poet-ic/ly, invisible. —sight-less adv. —sight-less-ness n.

sight-ly /'sicht-/ adj. pleasing to the eye; metal guards can also be used but are not less sight-ly.

sight-see-ing /'sikt-sen/ n. the activity of visiting places of interest in a particular location: our two-week trip combines spectacular sightseeing and superb hospitality. —sight-see v. —sight-seer /'sikt-sir/ n.

sig-ma /'sik-prə/ n. the eighteenth letter of the Greek alphabet (Σ, σ), transliterated as 's'.

symb. (Σ) mathematical sum. (σ) standard deviation.

sign /sign/ n. 1. an object, quality, or event whose presence or occurrence indicates the probable presence or occurrence of something else: flowers are often given as a sign of affection. 2. something regarded as an indication or evidence of what is happening or going to happen: the signs are that countercyclical growth is slowing at an alarming rate. 3. used to indicate that someone or something is not present where they should be or are expected to be: there was still no sign of her.

Med. an indication of a disease detectable by a medical practitioner even if not apparent to the patient. 2. a miracle regarded as evidence of supernatural power (chiefly in a biblical and literary use). 3. any trace of a wild animal, esp. its tracks or droppings: wolverine sign.

2. a gesture or action used to convey information or instructions: she gave him the thumbs-up sign. 2. a notice of the display of some goods in a written or symbolic form: I didn't see the stop sign. 3. an action or reaction that conveys something about someone's state or experiences: she gave no sign of having seen him.

3. a gesture used in a system of sign language.

short for SIGN LANGUAGE. 1. a symbol or word used to represent an operation, instruction, concept, or object in algebra, music, or other subjects. 2. a word or gesture given according to prior arrangement as a means of identification; a password. 3. a word used to convey information or instructions: she was given the thumbs-up sign.

zodiacal sign Astron. each of the twelve equal sections into which the zodiac is divided, named from the constellations originally situated in each, and associated with successive periods of the year according to the position of the sun on the ecliptic: a person born under the sign of Virgo.

Math. the positive-ness or negativity of a quantity.

v. [tr.] write one's name on (a letter, card, or similar item) to identify oneself as the writer or sender. the card was signed by the whole class. indicate agreement with or authorization of the contents of (a document or other written or printed material) by attaching a signature: the two countries signed a nonaggression treaty. write (one's name) for purposes of identification or authorization: she signed her name in the book. she signed herself in: [intr.] he signed on the dotted line.

engage (someone, typically a sports player or a musician) to work for one by signing with a contract by them: the company signed 30 bands. [intr.] sign a contract committing oneself to work for a particular person or organization: Sherman has signed for another two seasons. 2. [intr.] use gestures to convey information or instructions: she signed to her husband to leave the room. 3. [intr.] to signify in sign language: she was learning to sign.

[tr.] express or perform (something) in sign language: [as adj.] (signed) the theater routinely puts on signed performances.

phrase v. sign something away/over officially relinquish rights or property by signing a deed: I have no intention of signing away my inheritance. sign for a receipt to confirm that one has received (something delivered or handed over). sign in a register on arrival, typically in a hotel. sign off conclude a letter, broadcast, or other message: he signed off with a few words of advice.

sign to record that one is leaving work for the day and indicate by a conventional bid that one is seeking to end the bidding.

sign on chiefly Brit. commit oneself to employment, membership in a society, or some other undertaking: I'll sign on with an advertising agency. sign someone on take someone into one's employment.

sign out sign a register to record one's departure, typically from a hotel. sign out someone sign to indicate that one has borrowed or hired something: I signed out the keys. sign up commit oneself to a period of employment and compensation: he signed up for a ten-week course.

sign up formally engage someone in employment. [Middle English: from Old French signer (noun), signer (verb), from Latin signum 'mark, token.' —signer n.

sign of the cross a Christian sign made in blessing or prayer by tracing a cross from the forehead to the chest and to each shoulder, or in the air. sign of the times something judged to exemplify or indicate the nature or quality of a particular period, typically something unwelcome or unpleasant: the theft was a sign of the times.

signal /'sik-nl/ n. 1. a gesture, action, or sound that is used to convey information or instructions, typically by prearrangement between the parties concerned: the firing of the gun was the signal for a chain of beacons to be lit.| the policeman raised his hand as a signal to stop.

2. an indication of a state of affairs: the markets are waiting for a clear sign of policy. 3. an event or statement that provides the impulse or occasion for something specified to happen: the champion's announcement that he was retiring was the signal for scores of journalists to gather at his last match. 4. an apparatus on a railroad, typically a colored semaphore, for conveying the train crew whether or not the line is clear. bridge a prearrangement by which information is transmitted to the recipient intended to convey information to one's partner. 2. an electrical impulse or radio wave transmitted or received: equipment for receiving TV signals.

v. [n.-aled, -naling; chiefly Brit. -nalled, -naling] intr. transmit information or instructions by means of a gesture, action, or sound: hold your fire until I signal. [tr.] instruct (someone) to do something by means of gestures or signs rather than explicit orders: she signaled Charlotte to be silent. (of a cyclist, motorist, or vehicle) indicate intention to turn in a specified direction using an extended arm or flashing indicator: Stone signaled right | the truck signaled to turn left.

[tr.] indicate the existence or occurrence of (something) by actions or sounds: they could signal displeasure by refusing to cooperate. give an indication of a state of affairs: she gave a glance that her father was being secretive.

signal-nal adj. striking in extent, seriousness, or importance; outstanding: he attacked the administration for its signal failure of leadership.

signalize /sign-liz/ v. [tr.] mark or indicate (something), esp. in a striking or conspicuous manner: people seek to name their change to signalize a change in status that has taken place.

signalatory /sign-'a-tor-ē/ n. (pl. -ries) a party that has signed an agreement, esp. a country that has signed a treaty: Bulgaria is a signatory to a variety of international human rights conventions.

signature /sign-'a-chur-, -ch-'ūr/ n. 1. a person's name written in a distinctive way as a form of identification in authenticating a check or document or concluding a letter. 2. the action of signing a document: the license was sent to the customer for signature. 3. a distinctive pattern, product, or characteristic by which someone or something can be identified: the chef produced the perfect cake that was his signature | [as adj.] his signature dish. 2. Mus. short for KEY SIGNATURE or TIME SIGNATURE. 3. Pinning a letter or figure printed at the foot of one or more pages of each sheet of a book as a guide in binding. 4. a printed sheet after being folded to form a group of pages. 5. the part of a medical prescription that gives instructions about the use of the medicine or drug prescribed.

sign-board /'sik-bôrd/ n. a board displaying the name or logo of a business or product. 2. a board displaying a sign to direct traffic or travelers.

signet /'sik-nit/ n. hist. a small seal, esp. one set in a ring, used instead of or with a signature to give authentication to an official document.

significance /sign-'fik-əns/ n. 1. the quality of being worthy of attention; importance. 2. the meaning to be found in words or events. 3. (also statistical significance) the extent to which a result deviates from what is expected to arise simply from random variation or errors in sampling.

signific-ant /'sik-nifik-ənt/ adj. 1. sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; noteworthy: a significant increase in sales. 2. having a clear meaning; indicating: the signs of stress her dreams seemed to her especially significant. 3. suggesting a meaning: a message that is not explicitly stated: she gave him a significant look. 4. Statistics of, relating to, or having importance. —signific-antly adv.

signific-ant other n. a person with whom someone has an established romantic or sexual relationship.

signify /sign-/ v. [flies, fied] [tr.] be an indication of: this decision signifies a fundamental change in their priorities. 2. be a symbol of: have as meaning: the church used this image to signify the Holy Trinity. 2. (of a person) indicate or declare (a feeling or intention); signify your agreement by signing the letter below. [intr.] be of importance: the locked door doesn't necessarily signify. 2. [infr.] (among black Americans) exchange boasts or insults as a game or ritual. —signi-fi-ca-tion /'sik-ni-fi-kā-shən/ n. —signi-fi-er n.

sign language n. a system of communication using visual gestures and signs, used by deaf people.
signor |sinnor| n. (pl. signori) |sinnòri| a title or form of address used of or to an Italian-speaking man, corresponding to Mr. or sir.

signora |sinnara| n. a title or form of address used of or to an Italian-speaking married woman, corresponding to Mrs. or madam.

signor-inna |sinnara| n. a title or form of address used of or to an Italian-speaking unmarried woman, corresponding to Miss.

sign-post |sinn.post| n. a sign giving information such as the direction and distance to a nearby town, typically found at a crossroads.

fig. something that acts as guidance or a clue to an unclear or complicated issue: there are few unambiguous signposts for doctors facing ethical issues.

silk |silk| (also silk) |n. a forest-dwelling deer (Cervus nippon) with a grayish winter coat that turns yellowish-brown with white spots in summer. It is native to Japan and Southeast Asia and naturalized elsewhere.

Sikh |sik| n. an adherent of Sikhism.

adj. of or relating to Sikhs or Sikhism.

Sikhism |sikjizm| n. a monotheistic religion founded in Punjab in the 15th century by Guru Nanak.

silage |silla| n. grass or other green fodder compacted and stored in airtight conditions, typically in a silo, without first being dried, and used as animal feed in the winter.

sil-den-a-nil citrate |silen-dien-nil| n. an off-white crystalline compound that works by inhibiting the breakdown of enzymes that leads to loss of erection. Also called Viagra (trademark).

silence |silans| n. complete absence of sound: sirens pierce the silence of the night.

the fact or state of abstaining from speech: Karen had withdrawn into silence. The avoidance of mentioning or discussing something: politicians keep their silence on the big questions.

the state of standing still and not speaking as a sign of respect for someone deceased or in an opportunity for prayer: a moment of silence preceded over by a local minister.

v. [tr.] (often be silenced) cause to become silent; prohibit or prevent from speaking: the team's performance silenced their critics.

silencer |silensar| n. a device for reducing the noise emitted by a gun or other loud mechanism.

slient |silit| adj. not making or accompanied by any sound: the woods were still and silent. (of a person) not speaking: she fell silent for a moment. (of a letter) not expressed aloud: a silent prayer. (of a movie) without an accompanying soundtrack. Saying or recording nothing on a particular subject: the poems are silent on the question of marriage. (of a person) not prone to speak much; taciturn: I'm the strong, silent type. —sliently adv.

the silent majority the majority of people, regarded as holding moderate opinions but rarely expressing them. the silent treatment a stubborn refusal to talk to someone, esp. after a recent argument or disagreement.

silent com-merce n. a group of technologies based on wireless communications and sensing devices that permit various business and marketing activities to proceed without direct human intervention, on the basis of communications between tagged products and controlling software.

silent part-ner n. a partner not sharing in the actual work of a firm.

sil-houette, |silhöö-ät| n. the dark shape and outline of someone or something visible against a lighter background, esp. in dim light. a representation of someone or something showing the shape and outline only, typically colored in solid black.

v. [tr.] (usu. be silhouetted) cast or show (someone or something) as a dark shape and outline against a lighter background: the castle was silhouetted against the sky.

silica |silik| n. a hard, unreactive, colorless compound, SiO₂, that occurs as the mineral quartz and as a principal constituent of sandstone, granite, and other rocks.

silicon-dioxide |silik-sid-o-zid| (also silica) adj.

silica gel |silik-gel| n. hydrated silica in a hard granular hygroscopic form used as a desiccant.

silicate |silik-lat| n. Chem. any of the many minerals consisting primarily of SiO₂− combined with metal ions, forming a major component of the rocks of the earth's crust.

silicon |silikon| n. the chemical element of atomic number 14, a nonmetal with semiconductor properties, used in making electronic circuits. (Symbol: Si)

silicon chip |silikon-kip| n. a microchip.

silicone |silikon| n. any of a class of synthetic materials that are polymers with a chemical structure based on chains of alternate silicon and oxygen atoms, with organic groups attached to the silicon atoms. Such compounds are typically resistant to chemical attack and insensitive to temperature changes and are used to make rubber, plastics, polishes, and lubricants.

silver |silver| n. Mod. lung fibrosis caused by the inhalation of dust containing silica. —silico-cotic |silik-o-tik| adj.

silver |silver| n. a fine, strong, soft, lustrous fiber produced by silkworms in making cocoons and collected to make thread and fabric. a similar fiber spun by some other insect larvae and by most spiders. (often as adj.) thread or fabric made from the fiber produced by the silkworm: a silk skirt. (silks) garments made from such fabric, esp. as worn by a jockey in the colors of a particular horse owner. any silky-like threads that grow in plants, such as at the end of an ear of corn or in a milkweed pod. —silver-like |silver-lig| adj.

silver screen |silver skren| (also silkscreen) n. a screen of fine mesh used in screen-printing. a print made by screen-printing.

v. [tr.] print, decorate, or reproduce using a silkscreen.

silkworm |silk warm| n. the commercially bred caterpillar of the domesticated Asian silkworm moth (Bombyx mori, family Bombycidae), which spins a silk cocoon that is processed to yield silk fiber. a commercial silk-yielding caterpillar of various large moths of a different family (Saturniidae).

silver |silver| n. adj. (silk-ier, silk-iest) of or resembling silk, esp. in being soft, fine, and lustrous: the fur felt soft and silky. (of a person or their speech or manner) suave and smooth, esp. in a way intended to be persuasive: a silky, seductive voice. —silky adj. —silky adj.

silver n. n. a shelf or slab of stone, wood, or metal at the foot of a window or doorway. a strong horizontal member at the base of any structure, e.g., in the frame of a motor or rail vehicle. Geol. a tabular sheet of igneous rock intruded between and parallel with the existing strata. Old English syll. sylle 'horizontal beam forming a foundation.' of Germanic origin; related to German Schwelle 'threshold.'

sil-vy |silv| adj. (sylver) n. having or showing a lack of common sense or judgment: absurd and foolish: another of his silly jokes. ridiculously trivial or frivolous: he would brood about silly things. used to convey that an activity or process has been engaged in to such a degree that someone is no longer capable of thinking or acting sensibly: he often drank himself silly.

n. (pl. -lies) n. a foolish person (often used as a form of address): Come on, silly. —silylyly adj. —silylyly adj. —silylyly n.

silos |silos| n. (pl. -los) 1 a tower or pit on a farm used to store grain. 2 a pit or other tight structure in which green crops are compressed and stored as silage. 2 a underground chamber in which a guided missile is kept ready for firing.
sincere

adj. made wholly or chiefly of silver: silver jewelry. colored like silver: a silver Mercedes. denoting a twenty-fifth anniversary.

v. [tr.] often as adj. (silvered) coat or plate with silver: large silvered candlesticks. provide (mirror glass) with a backing of a silver-colored material in order to make it reflective. turn (a person's hair) gray or white. turn (of a person's hair) gray or white.

○ the silver screen the movie industry; movies collectively: stars of the silver screen.

silver birch n. an American birch (Betula pendula) with silver-gray bark, common on poorer soils to the northern limit of tree growth.

silver-fish [sil'erv, fis'h] n. (pl. same or -fishes) 1 a chiefly nocturnal silvery bristletail (Lepisma saccharina, family Lepismatidae) that frequents houses and other buildings, feeding on starch materials. 2 a silver-colored fish, esp. a goldfish of an unpigmented variety.

silver medal n. a medal made of or colored silver awarded for second place in a race or competition.

silver plate n. a thin layer of silver electroplated or otherwise applied as a coating to another metal. plates, dishes, etc., made of silver.

silver-smith [sil'erv, smith'] n. a person who makes silver articles.

silver Star n. a decoration bestowed by the U.S. Army for gallantry in action.

silver tongue n. a tendency to be eloquent and persuasive in speaking.

silverware n. dishes, containers, or cutlery made of or coated with silver.

silver-y adj. like silver in color or appearance; shiny and gray-white: shoals of silver fish. (of a person's hair) gray-white and lustrous. (of a sound) gentle, clear, and melodious: a little silver laugh.

silver-i-ness n.

silver-culture [sil'erv, käl'char] n. the cultivation of trees.

sim-i-an [sim'ë-an] adj. relating to, resembling, or affecting apes or monkeys: simian immunodeficiency virus.

○ n. an ape or monkey. early 17th cent., from Latin simia 'ape,' perhaps via Latin from Greek σίμιας, 'gray-faced.'

sim-i-lar [sim'ë-lar] adj. resembling without being identical: a soft cheese similar to Brie; northern India and similar areas. Geom. of geometric figures having the same shape, with the same angles and proportions, though not necessarily of the same size. —sim-i-lar-i-ty, sim-i-lar-ity adj. —sim-i-lar-ly adv.

sim-i-le [sim'ë-lë] n. a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid. I a phrase as brazen as a lion, crazy like a fox. B the use of such a method of comparison.

sim-i-lu-tude [sim'ë-lë'ty, -lëd'ë, -lëd'] n. the quality or state of being similar to something.

sim-i-mer [sim'ë-mër] v. [tr.] (of water or food) stay just below the boiling point while being heated: the goulash was simmering slowly in the oven. [tr.] keep (something) at such a point when cooking or heating it: simmer the sauce gently until thickened. [intr.] be in a state of suppressed anger or excitement: she was simmering with resentment. [simmer down] become calmer and quieter.

○ n. a state or temperature just below the boiling point: bring the water to a simmer.

simp [simp] n. int. a silly or foolish person.

sim-pa-ti-co [sim'pa-tik'] adj. (of a person) likable and easy to get along with. having or characterized by shared attributes or interests; compatible: a simpatico relationship.

sim-per [sim'për] v. [intr.] smile or gesture in an affected coquettish, coy, or ingratiating manner: she simpered, looking pleased with herself. [n.] an affectedly coquettish, coy, or ingratiating smile or gesture: an exaggerated simper. —sim-per-ingly adv.

simple [sim'päl] adj. (-pler, -plest) easily understood or done; presenting no difficulty: a simple solution. plain, basic, or uncomplicated in form, nature, or design; without much decoration or ornamentation: a simple white blouse. used to emphasize the fundamental and straightforward nature of something: the simple truth. composed of a single element: not compound. Math. denoting a group that has no proper normal subgroup. Bot. (of a leaf or stem) not divided or branched. (of a lens, microscope, etc.) consisting of a single lens or component. (in English grammar) denoting a tense formed without an auxiliary, e.g., sang as opposed to was singing. (of interest) payable on the sum loaned only. 3 of or characteristic of low rank or status; humble and unpretentious: a simple Buddhist monk. 4 of low or abnormally low intelligence. —sim-ple-ness n.

simple eye n. a small eye of an insect or other arthropod that has only one lens, typically present in one or more pairs.

simple fracture n. a fracture of the bone only, without damage to the surrounding tissues or breaking of the skin. Compare with compound fracture.

simple-minded adj. having or showing very little intelligence or judgment. —sim-ple-minded-ly adv. —sim-ple-minded-ness n.

simpleton n. a foolish or gullible person.

simp-lex [simp'liks] adj. technical composed of or characterized by a single part or structure. of (a communications system, computer circuit, etc.) only allowing transmission of signals in one direction at a time. a simple or uncomplicated word.

simp-li-c-i-ty [sim-plë'si-të] n. the quality or condition of being easy to understand or do; for the sake of simplicity, this chapter will concentrate on one theory. the quality or condition of being plain or natural; the grandeur and simplicity of Roman architecture. a thing that is plain, natural, or easy to understand: the simplicities of pastoral living.

simp-li-fi [sim-plë-fi] v. [p. simplex, simplex]; simplex composed or characterized by a single part or structure. a (of a communications system, computer circuit, etc.) only allowing transmission of signals in one direction at a time.

simple-sti-cal-ly adv.

simp-ly adv. 1 in a straightforward or plain manner: speaking simply and from the heart. 2 merely: just: simply complete the application form.

simple-ness n.


simple-plish [sim'plish] adj. rare the oversimplification of an issue.

simp-lis-tic [sim-plë'tık] adj. treating complex issues and problems as if they were much simpler than they really are: simplistic solutions.

simp-lis-ti-cal-ly adv.

simp-ly adv. 1 in a straightforward or plain manner: speaking simply and from the heart. 2 merely: just: simply complete the application form.

simple-sti-cal-ly adv.

sim-ple [sim'plë] adj.

simple-ness n.

sim-u-late [sim'yulët] v. [p. simulated, simplest: prep., -liest] 1 to make something simpler or easier to do or understand: an overhaul of court procedure to simplify litigation. 2 produce a computer simulation of: future population changes were simulated by computer. 3 simulate a computer program: a machine with a similar set of controls designed to provide a realistic imitation of the operation of a vehicle, aircraft, or other complex system, used for training purposes. 4 (also simulator program) a program enabling a computer to execute programs written for a different computer.

sim-u-lat-ed [sim'yulät'id] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.

sim-u-lat-ed [sim'yulät'id] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.

sim-u-lat-ing [sim'yulät'ing] adj.
sincerely /sin'səri/ adv. in a sincere or genuine way; I sincerely hope that we shall have a change of government | sincerely held differences of belief.

Single /'sinɡəl/ adj. 1. one only; not one of several; a single rose. 2. regarded separately or as distinct from each other in a group: she wrote down every single word. 3. even one (used for emphasis); they didn't receive a single reply. 4. designed or suitable for one person: a single bed. 5. unmarried or not involved in a stable sexual relationship: a single mother. 6. consisting of one part: the studio was a single room. 7. (of a flower) having only one whorl of petals. 8. denoting an alcoholic drink that consists of liquor: a single whiskey.

Sink /sɪŋk/ v. 1. (sing) [in] go down below the surface of something, esp. of a liquid; become submerged: he saw the coffee sink below the surface of the waves. 2. (of a ship) go to the bottom of the sea or other body of water because of damage or a collision. 3. cause (a ship) to go to the bottom of the sea or other body of water: a freak wave sank their boat near the shore. 4. fig. cause to fail: she apparently wishes to sink the company. 5. fig. conceal, keep in the background, or ignore: they agreed to sink their differences. 6. descend, drop: San felt the ground sinking beneath his feet. 7. sink oneself or drop gently: she sank back onto her pillow. 8. penetrate the surface of something: her feet sank into the thick pile of the carpet. 9. in fig. (of words or facts) be fully understood or realized. Peter read the letter twice before its meaning sank in.

Sink /'sink/ n. 1. a name or surname adopted by certain warrior castes of northern India. Singha-lese /sin′gəˌlez/ adj. -les/ n. & adj. variant spelling of SINGHALESE. Single /'sinɡəl/ adj. 1. have something harmful or evil is happening or will happen: there was something sinister about that murmuring voice. 2. criminal. 3. archaic, of, on, or toward the left-hand side. The opposite of DEXTER. Sinister /ˈsɪnstər/ adv. Single-handed (also single-handedly) adv. & adj. 1. done without help from anyone else. 2. done or designed to be used with one hand. Single-handled (or single-handledly) adv. —single-handled-ness (or single-handled-ness) n.

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Sink /'sink/ v. 1. (sing) [in] cause something sharp to penetrate (a surface): the dog sank its teeth into her arm. 2. [in] gradually decrease or decline in value, amount, quality, or intensity: their output sank to a third of the previous year's figure | the reputation of the mayor sank to a very low level. 3. lapse or fall into a particular state or condition, typically one that is unpleasant or unfulfilling: he sank into a coma after suffering a brain hemorrhage. 4. be overwhelmed by a darker mood; become depressed: her heart sank as she thought of Craig. 5. approach death: the doctor concluded...
sledge

sledge [sléjd] n. a sleigh. n. a large, heavy hammer used for such jobs as breaking rocks and driving in fence posts. (as adj.] powerful; forceful: sledgehammer blows. (as adj.] fig. ruthless, insensitive, or using unnecessary force: under his sledgehammer direction, anything of subtlety is swamped.

sleeve [slév] n. a condition of body and mind such as that which typically recurs for several hours every night, in which the nervous system is relatively inactive, the eyes closed, the postural muscles relaxed, and consciousness practically suspended: I was on the verge of sleep. (chiefly poetic) a state compared to or resembling this, such as death or complete silence or stillness: a photograph of the poet in his last sleep. a gummy or gritty secretion found in the corners of the eyes after sleep: she sat up, rubbing the sleep from her eyes.

sleep [slép] n. (past and past participle sleeping) rest in such a condition: be asleep: she slept for half an hour. (as adj.] [sleeping] he looked at the sleeping child. (sleep through) fail to be woken by: he was so tired he slept through the alarm. have sexual intercourse or be involved in a sexual relationship: I won't sleep with a man who doesn't respect me. (tr.] sleep something off/away dispel the effects of or recover from something by going to sleep: she thought it wise to let him sleep off his hangover. (tr.] provide [a specified number of people] with beds, rooms, or places to stay the night. Studios sleeping two people cost $70 a night. fig. be inactive or dormant: Copenhagen is known to be the city that never sleeps. (poetic) be at peace in death; lie buried: he sleeps beneath the silver birches.

phrasal v. □ sleep around n. have many casual sexual partners.
□ sleep in remain asleep or in bed later than usual in the morning.
□ sleep by night at one's place of work.
□ sleep over spend the night at a place other than one's own home:
Katie was asked to sleep over with Jenny.
□ Old English sleep, sleep (noun), slept, slept (verb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch slapen and German schlafen.
□ put someone to sleep make someone unconscious by the use of drugs, alcohol, or an anesthetic. (also send someone to sleep) bore someone greatly. □ put something to sleep kill an animal, esp. an old, sick, or badly injured one, painlessly [used euphemistically]. □ Comput. put a computer on standby while it is not being used, esp. in order to reduce power consumption. □ sleep like a log or top sleep very soundly. □ sleep on it [on an] delay making a decision on something until the following day so as to have more time to consider it. □ the sleep of the just a deep, untroubled sleep. □ sleep tight [usu. in context] sleep well (said to someone when parting from them at night).

sleep-er [slépør] n. 1 a person or animal who is asleep. 2 a person with a specified sleep pattern: a light sleeper. 3 a thing used for or connected with sleeping, in particular: a train carrying sleeping cars. □ a sleeping car. □ a berth in a sleeping car. (often sleepers) one-piece coverall pajamas for a baby or small child. □ a sofa or chair that converts into a bed. □ a movie, book, play, etc., that achieves sudden unexpected success. 4 a stocky fish (Dormitorius and other genera, family Gobiidae, or Eloeidae) with mottled coloration that occurs widely in warm seas and fresh water.

sleep-er cell n. a secretive group with suspected links to a terrorist organization that is planning or believed capable of carrying out an attack.

sleep-ing bag n. a warm lined padded bag to sleep in, esp. when camping.

sleep-ing car n. a railroad car provided with beds or berths.

sleep-ing pill n. a tablet of a drug that helps to induce sleep.

sleep-ing sickness n. a tropical disease caused by a parasitic protozoan that is transmitted by the bite of the tsetse fly. It causes fever,
corner from a fried egg. 
- cut with or as if with a sharp implement: the boner’s wings were slicing the air with such efficiency. 
- (lit.) move easily and quickly: Senna then sliced past Berger to take the third place. 
- Golf strike (the ball) or play (a stroke) so that the ball curves to the right (for a right-handed player, the left), typically inadvertently. 
- (in other sports) propel (the ball) with a glancing contact to impart spin: Evans went and sliced a corner into his own net. —slice-able adj. —slicer n. 

often in comb. a cheese-slicer.

sliced and diced v. rearrange or analyze in a number of different ways, or thoroughly: [lit.] each network has analysis teams that slice and dice the exit poll information to find a conclusion.

sliced 
- [slis] adj. 1 (of an action or situation) done in operating in an impressively smooth, efficient, and apparently effortless way: a slick piece of software. 2 (of a thing) superficially impressive or efficient in presentation: the brands are backed by slick advertising. 3 (of a person or their behavior) adroit or clever; glibly assured: he’s a slick con man. 2 (of skin or hair) smooth and glossy: a dandy-looking dude with a slick black ponytail. 4 (of a surface) smooth, wet, and slippery: she stumbled back against the slick wet wall.

- n. 1 an oil slick. 2 a small smear or patch of a glossy or wet substance, esp. a cosmetic: a slick of lip balm. 3 usu. slicks a race car or bicycle tire without tread, for use in dry weather conditions. 4 a glossy magazine.

v. 1 [tr] make (one’s) hair flat, smooth, and glossy by applying water, oil, or cream to it: his damp hair was slicked back [as adj. in comb.]. (sliced) his sliced-down hair. 2 cover with a film of liquid: make wet or slippery: she woke to find her body slicked with sweat [as adj. in comb.]. 3 (sliced) a rain-slicked road. 4 slick someone/something up make someone or something smart, tidy, or stylish. —slickly adv. —slickness n.

slicer 
- [slisər] n. 1 int. a crook or swindler. 2 short for CITY SLICKER.

- siff a raincoat made of smooth material.

slide 
- [slaid] v. (past slid / slid / [int.] move along a smooth surface while maintaining continuous contact with it: she slid down the bank into the water [as adj.].) the tank should have a sliding glass cover. 2 [tr] move (something) along a surface in such a way: she slid the keys over the table. 3 move smoothly, quickly, or unobtrusively: I quickly slid into a seat at the back of the hall. 4 [tr] move (something) in such a way: she slid the bottle into her pocket. 5 change gradually to a worse condition or lower level: the economy had a sharp slide into recession.

- n. 1 a structure with a smooth sloping surface for children to slide down. 2 a smooth stretch or slope of ice or packed snow for sledding on. 3 an act of moving along a smooth surface while maintaining continuous contact with it: use an ice ax to halt a slide on ice and snow. 4 Base- ball a sliding approach to a base along the ground. 5 a decline in value or quality: the current slide in house prices. 6 a part of a machine or musical instrument that slides. 7 the place on a machine or instrument where a sliding part operates. 8 a slide guitar. I’d been playing slide for years. 9 a rectangular piece of glass through which an object is mounted or placed for examination under a microscope. 10 a mounted transparency, typically one placed in a projector for viewing on a screen: [as adj.] a slide show.

- adj. —slide-able adj. —slider n.

- □ let something slide negligently allow something to deteriorate: Papa had let the business slide after Mama’s death.

slide rule n. a ruler with a sliding central strip, marked with logarithmic scales and used for making rapid calculations, esp. multiplication and division.

sliding door n. a door opened across an aperture on a groove or suspended from a track, rather than turning on hinges.

sliding scale n. a scale of fees, taxes, wages, etc., that varies in accordance with variations in another factor.

slight 
- [slait] adj. 1 small in degree: incomparable: a slight increase. 2 (esp. of a creative work) not profound or substantial; somewhat trivial or superficial: a slight plot. 3 (of a person or their build) not sturdy and strongly built: she was slight and delicate-looking. 

- adv. 1 in a slight manner: I’ll go over it in a slight manner. 2 so as to be barely or superficially noticed: We avoided slight contact. 3 just: He was only slightly hurt.

- n. an insult caused by a failure to show some proper respect or attention: an unintended slight can create grudges. —slightly-ly adv. —slight-ness n.

shy 
- [slai] adj. variant spelling of SLY (see SLY).

slim 
- [slim] adj. (slimmer, slimmest) 1 (of a person or their build) gracefully thin; slenderly built (used approvingly): her slim figure. 2 (of a thing) small in width and typically long and narrow in shape: a slim gold band encircling her wrist. 3 (of a garment) cut on slender lines; designed to make the wearer appear slim: a pair of slim, immaculately cut slacks. 4 (of a business or other organization) reduced to a smaller size in the hope that it will become more efficient. 5 (of something abstract, esp. a chance or margin) very small; there was just a slim chance of success. 6 (of the swimsuit) a neighbor thinner than dieting and sometimes exercising: I need to slim down a bit [as n.]. slimming (an) an air to slimming. 7 (tr) make (a person or a bodily part) thinner in such a way: how can I slim down my hips? 8 (tr) reduce (a business or other organization) to a smaller size in the hope of making it more efficient: restructuring and slimming down the organization. —slim-mer adj. —slim-mest n.

slimy 
- [slaini] adj. (slimer-er, slimest) covered by or having the feel or consistency of slime: the thick, slimy mud | the walls were slimy with lichens. 
- n. disgusting immorally, dishonestly, or unguiness; he was a slimy people-pleaser. —slim-ly adv. —slim-ness n.

slice 
- [slis] n. 1 a flexible strap or belt used in the form of a loop to support or raise a weight: the horse had to be supported by a sling fixed to the roof. 2 a bandage or soft strap looped around the neck to support an injured arm: she had her arm in a sling. 3 a pouch or frame for carrying a baby, supported by a strap around the neck or shoulders. 2 a simple weapon in the form of a strap or loop, used to hurl stones or other small missiles.

- n. 1 [tr] suspend or arrange (something), esp. with a strap or straps, so that it hangs loosely in a particular position: a hammock was slung between two trees. 2 carry (something, esp. a garment) loosely and casually: he had his jacket slung over one shoulder. 3 [tr] throw: fling (often used to express the speaker’s casual attitude): a few things into your knapsack. 4 hurl (a stone or other missile) from a sling or similar weapon. 5 hoist or transfer (something) with a sling: horse after horse was swung up from the barges. —slinger n.

- v. slings and arrows used with reference to adverse factors or circumstances: the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

sling 
- [slain] n. a small bucket of liquid, esp. gin, and water.

sling-shot 
- [slain-ʃot] n. a forked stick, to which an elastic strap (or a pair of elastic bands connected by a small sling) is fastened to the two prongs, typically used for shooting small stones. 1 often as adj. the effect of the gravitational pull of a celestial body in accelerating and changing the course of another body or a spacecraft.

- v. shot-ting past and past part. shot or shot-ted (forceful) accelerate or cause to accelerate through use of gravity.

slink 
- [slaink] n. (past slunk / slanked / [int.] move smoothly and quietly with gliding steps, in a stealthy or sly manner; the fox came slinking through the woods. 1 come or go unobtrusively orfurtively.

slink-y 
- [slainki] adj. (slinkier, slinkiest) int. graceful and sly in movement, line, or figure: a slinky black evening dress. —n. (Slinky) trademark a toy consisting of a flexible helical spring that can be made to somersault down steps. —slinky-ly adv. —slinky-ness n.

slip 
- [slip] v. (slipped, slipping) 1 [intr.] (of a person or animal) slide unintentionally for a short distance, typically losing one’s balance or footing: I slipped on the ice. 2 (of a thing) accidentally slide or move out of position from or someone’s grasp: the envelope slipped through Luke’s fingers. 3 fail to grip or make proper contact with a surface: the front wheels began to slip [as adj.]. (slipping) a badly slipping clutch. 4 go or move quickly or quietly, without attracting notice: we slipped out by a back door. 5 pass or change to a lower, worse, or different condition, typically in a gradual or imperceptible way: many people feel standards have slipped. 

- n. (slip away) (of time) elapse: the night was slipping away. 1 [tr] put (something) in a particular place or position quietly, quickly, or stealthily: they slipped the map into her pocket. 2 (slip into/out of) put on or take off (a garment) quickly and easily. 3 (slip something in) insert a remark smoothly or adroitly into a conversation. 2 escape or get loose from (a means of restraint): the giant balloon slipped its moorings.

Pronunciation Key  
- a like /a/.  
- e like /e/.  
- o like /o/.  
- u like /u/.  
- a like /a/.  
- e like /e/.  
- o like /o/.  
- u like /u/.

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slip

[trans.] travel in the slipstream of (someone), esp. in order to overtake them.

slip-up n. (der.) a mistake or blunder.

slip-way /slip-wa/ n. another term for SLIP (sense 4).

slit /slit/ n. a long, narrow cut or opening.

slitting /slit-ing; past slit/ [tr] to make a long, narrow cut in (something): give me the truth or I will slit your throat. [v] cut (something) into strips. [past slit-ed] torn (one's eyes) into slits; squint. —slit-ter n.

slitter /slit-er/ n. [intr.] move smoothly over a surface with a twisting or oscillating motion: I sport a baby-ader clithering away.

n. a movement in such a manner: a snake-like slither across the grass.

sliver /sliv/ n. a small, thin, narrow piece of something cut or split off a larger piece: a sliver of cheese. [v] split (something) into thin, small pieces: silvered almonds. [adj.].

slip /slip/ v. [tr] (usu. as adj.) (silvered) cut or break (something) into small, thin, narrow pieces: silvered almonds.

slip /slip/ n. 1. a lazy and slovenly person. 2. late 18th cent.: from Irish slán 'mud,' from Anglo-Irish slib 'ozone, sludge,' probably of Scandinavian origin. —slip-bash adj. —slip-by adj.

slip-on /slip-on/ adj. having attractive dark, typically almond-shaped eyes.

slip /slip/ n. a liqueur made by steeping sloes in gin.

slag /slag/ n. [slogged, slagging] 1. intr. work hard over a period of time: they were slogging away to meet a deadline. 2. walk or move with difficulty or effort: he slogged home through the gray slush. 2. [intr.] hit forcefully and typically wildly, esp. in boxing: the fighters were slogging away.

slip /slip/ n. a spell of difficult, tiring work or traveling: it would be a hard slog back to the camp. —slog-ger n.

slogan /slõgun/ n. a short and striking or memorable phrase used in advertising. —a motto associated with a political party or movement or other group.

slip /slip/ n. a one-masted sailboat with a fore-and-aft mainsail and a jib.

slop /slõp/ v. [slopped, slopping] 1. [intr.] of a liquid spill or flow over the edge of a container, typically as a result of careless handling: water slopped over the edge of the sink. [tr.] cause (a liquid) to spill or overflow in such a way: in spite of his care he slopped some water. [tr.] apply or put (something) somewhere in a casual or careless manner: they spent their weekend slopping on paint. 2. [intr.] feed slops to (an animal, esp. a pig).

n. 1. (usu. slops) waste water from a kitchen, bathroom, or chamber pot that has not been emptied by hand: sink slops. 2. (usu. slops) small quantity of liquid refuse, often used as animal food. 3. (unappetizing, weak, semi-liquid food): they fed us some slop in a bowl. 4. sentimental language or material: country music is not all commercial slop.

slope /slõp/ n. 1. a surface of which one end or side is at a higher level than another: a rising or falling surface: he sledged helplessly down the slope. 2. a difference in level or sideways position between the two ends or sides of a thing: the roof should have a slope sufficient for proper drainage. 3. a part of the side of a hill or mountain, esp. as a place for skiing: a ten-minute climb诱delivers you to the slopes. 4. the gradient of a graph at any point. 2. int. others: an Asian person, esp. a Vietnamese or other Southeast Asian.

v. [intr.] (of a surface or line) be inclined from a horizontal or vertical line: slant up or down: the garden sloped down to a stream | the ceiling sloped. 3. [tr.] place or arrange in such a position or inclination: Poole sloped his shoulders. 4. [sloped] a sloped leather writing surface.

sloppy /slõp/ adj. (sloppy-er, sloppiest) 1. of semimud matter containing too much liquid; watery and disagreeable or unsatisfactory: he took the concrete too sloppy. 2. careless and unsystematic; excessively casual: your speech has always been sloppy. 3. of a garment casual and loose-fitting: wearing a sloppy sweater and jeans. 4. of literature or behavior weakly or foolishly sentimental: lovers of sloppy romance. —sloppy-ly /slõp-èl/ adv. —sloppy-ness n.

slosh /slõsh/ v. [intr.] of a liquid in a container) move irregularly with a splashing sound: water in the boat sloshed around under our feet. 2. (of a person) move through liquid with a splashing sound: they sloshed up the tracks in the dark woods. 3. [tr.] pour (liquid) clumsily: she sloshed coffee into a cracked cup.
slowed

- n. an act or sound of splashing: the distant slosh of the washing machine in the basement.

sloshed /slōshed/ adj. ml. drunk; I drank a lot of wine and got sloshed.

Slot /slōt/ the Slot n. name given in World War II by U.S. forces to New Georgia Sound, in the central Solomon Islands. Japanese forces trying to defend Guadalcanal were seen as coming consistently down this passage from the northwest.

slug /slōg/ n. 1. a long, narrow aperture or slit in a machine for something to be inserted; he slid a coin into the slot of the jukebox. 2. a groove or channel into which something fits or in which something works, such as one in the head of a screw. 3. an allotted place in an arrangement or plan such as a broadcasting schedule: a late-night television slot.

v. (sloted, slotting) vtr. place [something into] a long, narrow aperture or slit in a machine; to have something attached to it. v. intr. be placed or able to be placed into such an aperture: the processor will slot into a personal computer.

sloth /slōth; slath; sloth/ n. 1. reluctance to work or make an effort; laziness. 2. a slow-moving tropical American mammal that hangs upside down from the branches of trees using its long limbs and hooked claws. Two families: Brachypodidae (three species of three-toed sloth), genus Bradypus and Megalonychidae (two species of two-toed sloth), genus Choloepus.

sloth machine n. a machine worked by the insertion of a coin, in particular: a vending machine that generates random combinations of symbols on a dial, certain combinations winning varying amounts of money for the player.

slosh /slosh/ v. intr. stand, move, or sit in a lazy, drooping way; he sloshed against the wall (be sloshed) he was sloshed in his chair.

n. 1. a lazy, drooping posture or movement: his stance was a round-shouldered sloth. 2. inf. an incompetent person; my brother was no sloth at making a buck. 3. a downward hat of a brim hat. —sloshy adj.

slough /slōf; slōf/ v. 1. (of an animal, esp. a snake, or a person) cast off or shed (an old skin or dead skin); a snake sloughs off its old skin. [intr.] (slough off) (of dead skin) drop off; be shed. —sloughy adj.

Slovak /slōvak; -vak/ n. 1. a native or national of Slovakia, or a person of Slovak descent. 2. the West Slavic language of Slovakia, closely related to Czech.

adj. of or relating to this people or their language.

Slovene /slōven/ n. 1. a native or national of Slovenia, or a person of Slovene descent. 2. the South Slavic language of this people.

adj. of or relating to Slovenia, its people, or their language.

slowly /slōvēlē/ adv. esp. of a person or their appearance) messy and dirty: he was upbraided for his slovenly appearance. —esp. of a person) careless; excessively casual; slowly. —slovenliness n.

slow /slō/ adj. 1. moving or operating, or designed to do so, only at a low speed; not quick or fast: a time when diesel cars were slow and noisy. 2. taking a long time to perform a specified action; she was a slow reader. 3. lasting or taking a long time: a slow process. 4. not allowing or intended for fast travel: the slow lane. 5. of a playing field) likely to make the ball bounce or run slowly or to prevent competitors from traveling fast. 6. of a clock or watch) showing a time earlier than the correct time. 7. not prompt to understand, think, or learn; he’s so slow, so unimaginative. 8. uneventful and rather dull: a slow and mostly aimless narrative. 9. of (business) with little activity; slack: sales were slow. 5. of a film) needing long exposure. 6. of a fire or oven) burning or giving off heat gently: bake the dish in a preheated slow oven.

adv. at a slow pace; slowly: the train went slower and slower. —slowly adv. —slowness n.

slow-down /slōdoun/ n. an act of slowing down: a traffic slowdown in the passing lane. —decline in economic activity.

slow motion n. the action of showing film or playing back video more slowly than it was made or recorded, so that the action appears slower than in real life; the scene was shown in slow motion.

slow-worm /slōwōrm/ n. a small snakelike Eurasian legless lizard (Anguis fragilis) family Anguidae) that is typically brownish or copper-colored and that gives birth to live young.

SLR a. self-loading rifle. —s. single-lens reflex.

sludge /slōdʒ/ n. thick, soft, wet mud or a similar viscous mixture of liquid and solid components, esp. the product of an industrial or refining process. —dirty oil, esp. in the sump of an internal combustion engine.

slue /slō/ v. & n. variant spelling of SLEW.

slug /slōg/ n. 1. a tough-skinned terrestrial mollusk (order Stylommatophora, class Gastropoda) that typically lacks a shell and secretes a kind of mucus for protection. It can be a serious plant pest. 2. a slow, lazy person; a sluggard. 3. an amount of an alcoholic drink, typically liquor, that is gulped or poured: he took a slug of whiskey. 4. an elongated, typically rounded piece or metal. 5. a counterfeit coin; a token. 6. a bullet, esp. one of lead. 7. a missile for an air gun. 8. a line of type in Linotype printing. (Printing) a metal bar used in spacing.

v. (slugged, sluggng) vtr. drink (something, typically alcohol) in a draft; swig.

slug-gint /slōg-ling/ n. 1. a sluggish stream. 2. lacking energy or alertness: Alex woke late feeling tired and sluggish.

slow to respond or make progress: the car had been sluggish all morning.

slug-gish ly adv. —slug-gish ness n.

sluice /slōs/ n. 1. (also sluice gate) a sliding gate or other device for controlling the flow of water; esp. one in a lock gate. 2. (also sluice-way [-wē]) an artificial water channel for carrying off overflow or surplus water. 3. (in gold mining) a channel or trough constructed with grooves into which a current of water is directed in order to separate gold from the sand or gravel containing it. 4. an act of rinsing or swishing with water: a sluice with cold water.

v. (sluiced, sluicing) vtr. spend time at lower a social level than one’s own through curiosity or for charitable purposes: rich tourists sluiming among the quaintly dangerous natives. 5. (slum it) put up with conditions that are less comfortable or of a lower quality than one is used to. —slum-mer n. —slum-mi-ness n. —slum-ly adv.

slumber /slōmber/ n. 1. (also slumber) a sleep: sleeping beauty slumbered. —freq. or (often slumbers) a sleep: falling asleep.

v. (slumped, slum-ming) vtr. put time at lower a social level than one’s own through curiosity or for charitable purposes: rich tourists sluiming among the quaintly dangerous natives. 5. (slum it) put up with conditions that are less comfortable or of a lower quality than one is used to. —slum-mer n. —slum-mi-ness n. —slum-ly adv.

slumber-er n. —slumber-ous (-bərēs) adj. (also slumber-ous) (also slumber-ous)

slump /slōmp/ v. (slump) vtr. 1. sit, lean, or fall heavily and slantly, esp. with a bent back; she slumped against the cushions: (be slumped) Denis was slumped in his seat. 2. undergo a sudden or prolonged fall in price, value, or amount: land prices slumped. 3. fail or decline substantially; the Giants slumped to an 8-5 record.

n. a sudden or prolonged fall in the price, value, or amount of something: a slump in annual profits. 4. a prolonged period of abnormally low economic activity, typically bringing widespread unemployment. 5. a period of substantial failure or decline; the organization’s recent slump. 6. late 17th cent. (in the sense ‘fall into a bag’): probably imitative and related to Norwegian slumph ‘to fall.

—slump adj.

slung /slōng/ adj. past and past participle of SLINK.

slunk /slōnk/ adj. past and past participle of SLINK.

slur /slōr/ v. (slurred, slur-ring) vtr. 1. speak (words or speech) indistinctly so that the sounds run into one another; he was slurring his words like a drunk. 2. intr. (of words or speech) be spoken in this way: his speech was beginning to slur. 3. pass over (a fact or aspect) so as to conceal or minimize it: essential attributes are being slurred over or ignored. 4. Mus. perform (a group of two or more notes) legato; [as adj] (slurred) a group of slurred notes. 5. (mark) with a slur. 6. make damaging or inciting insinuations or allegations about; try and stir the integrity of the police to secure an acquittal.

n. an insinuation or allegation about someone that is likely to insult them or damage their reputation: the comments were a slur on the staff. 2. a racial slur. 3. an act of speaking indistinctly so that sounds or words run into one another or a tendency to speak in this way; there was a mean slur in his voice.

3. Mus. a curved line used to show that a
sniffer /ˈsnɪfər/ n. 1. A person who sniffs, esp. one who sniffs a drug or toxic substance: a glue sniffer. 2. A device for detecting an invisible and dangerous substance, such as gas or radiation: electronic sniffer. Used to detect the presence of a nuclear mass. 3. A person's nose. 4. A computer program that detects the sound of restricted information, esp. the secret passwords needed to gain access to files or networks.

sniffly /ˈsnɪflɪ/ adj. Sniffing, contemptuous: some people are sniffy about tea bags.

sniffles /ˈsnɪflz/ n.pl. A small quantity of an alcoholic drink: care to join me for a sniffer?

snip /snɪp/ v. [snipped, snipping] tr. cut something with scissors or shears, typically with small quick strokes; she snipped layers into the hair around her face.

snipe /snip/ n. A wading bird (Gallinago and other genera) of the sandpiper family, living in marshes and wet meadows, with brown camouflaged plumage and a long straight bill.

snipet /ˈsnɪpt/ n. A small piece or brief extract: snippets of information about the war.

snippy /ˈsnɪpɪ/ adj. Snippery, contemptuous: an impertinent child.

snit /snɪt/ n. Int. A fit of irritation; a sulk: the ambassador and delegation had withdrawn in a snit.

snitch /ˈsnɪtʃ/ n. Int. A turncoat or informer.

snivel /ˈsnɪvl/ v. (sniveled, snivel ing) tr. Cry and sniffle: Kate started to snivel, looking sad and stunned.

snob /snɒb/ n. A person with an exaggerated respect for high social position or wealth who seeks to associate with social superiors and dislikes people or activities regarded as lower-class. n. A person who believes that their tastes in a particular area are superior to those of other people: a musical snob.

snood /snʊd/ n. 1. An ornamental hairnet or fabric bag worn over the hair at the back of a woman's head. 2. A wide ring of knitted material worn as a hood or scarf. 3. A short line attaching a hook to a main line in sea fishing.

snow /snəʊ/ n. 1. A large edible game fish (Centropomus undecimalis, family Centropomidae) of the Caribbean that is sometimes found in brackish water.

snowball /ˈsnəʊbɔːl/ n. A snowball fight.

snowdrop /ˈsnʌdrəʊp/ n. A small bulbous plant with basal leaves and a pendulous bell-shaped flower with a white or pale pink perianth and green calyx.

snowman /ˈsnəʊmən/ n. A large snow sculpture with a face, arms, and legs usually formed from a large ball of snow on top of another.


snore /snɔːr/ v. [snored, snoring] Inf. To breathe with a snorting or grunting sound while asleep: he snored loudly [as n. (snoring) you keep me awake all night with your snoring.

snorel /ˈsnɔːrəl/ n. A short curved tube for a swimmer to breathe through while keeping the face under water.

snorel /ˈsnɔːrəl/ n. A short curved tube for a swimmer to breathe through while keeping the face under water.

snort /snɔːt/ n. An explosive sound made by the sudden forcing of breath through a person's nose, used to express indignation, derision, or incredulity: he gave a snort of disgust.

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snowball /ˈsnəʊbɔːl/ n. a ball of packed snow, esp. one made for throwing at other people for fun. n. a thing that grows rapidly in intensity or importance: the small speculator jumps in for a quick profit, adding his weight to the snowball, and the price goes up.

snow-bound /ˈsnəʊbɔːnd/ adj. prevented from traveling or going out by snow or snowy weather: he was snowbound in the nearby mountains.

snow-capped /ˈsnəʊˌkæpt/ adj. covered in snow or inaccessible because of it: a snowcapped Alpine village.

snow-covered /ˈsnəʊkəvərd/ adj. covered with snow.

snowdrop /ˈsnəʊdrɔp/ n. a tiny plant (Galanthus nivalis) of the lily family that bears drooping white flowers during the late winter.

snowfall /ˈsnəʊfɔll/ n. a fall of snow: heavy snowfalls make travel absolutely impossible.

snowfield /ˈsnəʊflɪd/ n. a permanent wide expanse of snow in mountainous or polar regions.

snowflake /ˈsnəʊflæk/ n. 1. a flake of snow, esp. a feathery ice crystal, typically displaying sixfold symmetry. 2. a white-flowered Eurasian plant (Genus Leucojum) related to and resembling the snowdrop, typically blooming in the summer or autumn.

snow job /ˈsnəʊ dʒɔb/ n. int. a deception or concealment of one’s real motive in an attempt to flatter or persuade: we need to do a snow job on him.

snow leopard /ˈsnəʊ lepərd/ n. a rare large Asian cat (Panthera uncia) that has pale gray fur patterned with dark blotches and rings. Also called ounce.

snowman /ˈsnəʊ mæn/ n. (pl. -men) a representation of a human figure created with compressed snow.

snowmobile /ˈsnəʊ məˈbiːl/ n. a motor vehicle, esp. one with runners in the front and caterpillar tracks in the rear, for traveling over snow.

snowplow /ˈsnəʊ plou/ n. 1. an implement or vehicle for clearing roads of snow by pushing it aside. 2. Skag an act of turning the points of one’s skis inward in order to slow down or turn.

snowshoe /ˈsnəʊˌʃoʊ/ n. a flat device resembling a racket that is attached to the sole of a boot and used for walking on snow.

snowbird /ˈsnəʊbɜrd/ n. a northern bird that migrates to the Southern states in the winter.

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snow-white /ˈsnəʊwˌwɛt/ adj. of a pure white color: perfect spotless utensils on a snow-white tablecloth.

snowy owl /ˈsnəʊ wi/ n. a large northerly owl (Nyctea scandiaca) that breeds mainly in the Arctic tundra, the male being entirely white and the female having darker markings.

snub /snæb/ v. (snubbed, snubbing) 1. to rebuff, ignore, or spurn disdainfully: he snubbed faculty members and students alike; he snubbed her request to come up and see her. 2. check the movement of (a horse or boat), esp. by a rope wound around a post: a horse snubbed to a tree.

snug /snʌg/ adj. 1. in a person’s or an animal’s nose: short and turned up at the end: [in coments] snug-nosed.

snuff /snʌf/ v. [snuffed, snuffing] 1. inhale or sniff at (something): they stood snuffing up the keg cold air.

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snugly /ˈsnʌglɪ/ adv. —snugness n.

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solar system n. Astron. the collection of nine planets and their moons in orbit around the sun; together with smaller bodies in the form of asteroids, meteoroids, and comets.

sold /sôld/ v. past and past participle of sell.
sol-der /sôdar/ n. a low-melting alloy, esp. one based on lead and tin or (for higher temperatures) on brass or silver, used for joining less fusible metals.

v. [tr. join with solder. —sold-er-a-ble adj. —sold-er-er n.
sold-er /sôlər/ n. 1. a person who serves in an army. b. private in an army. 2. Entomol. a wingless caste of ant or termite with a large specially modified head and jaws, involved chiefly in defense.

v. [tr.] serve as a soldier: [as n. soldiering] solidiering was what the colonel understood. b. (soldier on) continue on doggedly: persevering: Gary wasn't enjoying this, but he soldiered on. c. be work more slowly than one's capacity: loaf or malinger: is it the reason you've been solidiering on the job?

soldier of fortune n. a person who works as a soldier for any country or group that will pay them: a mercenary.

sole /sôl/ n. the undersurface of a person's foot: the soles of their feet were nearly white with dirt. b. the section forming the underside of a piece of footwear typically excluding the heel when this forms a distinct part. —sole of a tool or implement such as a plane or the head of a golf club. c. the floor of a ship's cabin or cockpit.

v. [tr.] usu. be sold into a new sole onto (a shoe). —soled adj. [in comb.] rubber-soled shoes.

sole /sôl/ v. n. 1. a marine flatfish of almost worldwide distribution, important as a food fish. Several species are in the families Soleidae, Pleuronectidae, and Bothidae.

v. adj. one and only: my sole aim was to contribute to the national team. b. belonging or restricted to one person or group of people: loans can be in sole or joint names. c. the clubhouse for the sole use of our guests. d. archaic (esp. of a woman) unmarried. e. archaic alone: unaccompanied.

so-le-cism /'sôl-i-siz/ n. a grammatical mistake in speech or writing. b. a breach of good manners; a piece of incorrect behavior.

so-le-cistic /'sôl-i-sistik/ adj.

so-le-mm /'sôl-əm/ adj. formal and dignified: a solemn procession. b. not cheerful or smiling: serious: Tim looked very solemn. c. characterized by deep sincerity: he swore a solemn oath to keep faith. —so-le-mm-ly adv. —so-le-mm-ness n.

so-le-nity /'sôl-ə-nət-ə/ n. (pl. -ties) the state or quality of being serious or dignified: his judgments laid to rest with great solemnity. b. (usu. solemnities) a formal, dignified rite or ceremony: the ritual of the church was observed in all its solemnities.

so-le-nize /'sôl-ə-niz/ v. [tr.] duly perform (a ceremony, esp. that of marriage). b. mark with a formal ceremony. —so-le-ni-zation /-'n-i-za-shən/ n.

so-le-noid /sôl-ənoid/ n. a cylindrical coil of wire acting as a magnet when carrying electric current. —early 19th cent.: from French solénôde, from Greek sólēn ‘channel, pipe.’ —so-le-noidal /sôl-ənoid/ adj.

so-le-fa /sôl-'fa/ n. short for TONIC SOL-FA.

v. [cont. -sified; -sif-ing] sing using the sol-fa syllables.

so-lëfëe /sâl-'fë-ë/ n. Music 1. solmization. 2. an exercise in singing using solmization syllables. 2. the study of singing and musicianship involving solmization syllables.


so-li /sôl/ pl. form of sole.

so-li-ict /sôl-'ikst/ v. [ed.; -ed; -ing] ask for or try to obtain (something) from someone: he called a meeting to solicit their views. b. ask someone for something: historians and critics are solicited for opinions by the auction houses. c. [int. shallow, and on some one else's services as a prostitute: as n] soliciting although prostitution was not itself an offense, soliciting was.

so-lili-ta-tion /sâl-'li-ta-shən/ n.

so-li-ctor /sôl-'is-tər/ n. 1. a person who tries to obtain business orders, advertising, etc.: a canvasser. 2. the chief law officer of a city, town, or government department. b. Brit. a member of the legal profession qualified to deal with conveyancing, the drawing up of wills, and other legal matters. Compare with BARRISTER.

so-li-ctor general n. (pl. solici-tors general) the law officer directly below the attorney general in the Department of Justice, responsible for arguing cases before the Supreme Court. b. a similar position in some states.

so-li-tous /sôl-'is-təs/ adj. characterized by or showing interest or concern: she was always solicitous about the welfare of her students | a solicitor's inquiry. b. arched or eager or anxious to do something: he was solicitous to cultivate her manna's good opinion. —so-li-tous-ly adv. —so-li-tous-ness.

so-li-tude /sôl-'i-tëd/ adj. (sider-), (cede-). 1. firm and stable in shape; not liquid or fluid: the stream was frozen solid. b. solid fuels. c. strongly built or made of strong materials; not flimsy or slender: a solid door with good, secure locks.

—having three dimensions: a solid figure with six plane faces. c. concerned with objects having three dimensions: solid geometry. 2. not hollow or containing spaces or gaps: a sculpture made out of solid rock. d. a solid mass of flowers: the stores were packed solid. e. consisting of the same substance throughout: a solid core. f. (type-setting) without extra space between the lines of characters. g. of a line or surface: without spaces: unbroken: the solid outline encloses the area within which we measured. i. of (time) uninterrupted; continuous: a solid day of meetings | it poured for two hours solid. 3. dependable: reliable: the defense is solid | there is solid evidence of lower inflation. b. sound but without any special qualities or flair: the rest of the acting is solid. d. unanimous or undivided: they received solid support from their teammates. e. financially sound: the company is very solid and will come through the current recession. b. solid with int. on good terms with: he thought he could put by a solid salary without restricting his living.

—solid as a substance or object that is solid rather than liquid or fluid. —[solid] food that is not liquid: she drinks only milk and rarely cats solids. —solid: Geom. a body or geometric figure having three dimensions. —sol-ildy adv. —sol-ild-ness n.

so-lidar-ity /sôl-'a-dər-té/ n. 1. unity or agreement of feeling or action, esp. among individuals with a common interest: mutual support within a group: factory workers voiced solidarity with the striking students. 2. (Solidarity) an independent trade union movement in Poland that developed into a mass campaign for political change and inspired popular opposition to communist regimes across Eastern Europe during the 1980s.

so-lid-i-ty /sôl-'id-ët-ë/ n. (pl. -ties, -fied) make or become hard or solid: [intr.] the magma slowly solidified and forms crystals. b. [tr.] fig. make stronger: reinforce: social and political pressures helped to solidify national identities. —so-lid-i-fi-ca-tion /sôl-'i-di-fə-kə-shən/ n. —so-lid-i-fier /-fər/ n.

so-lid-lity /sôl-'id-ët-ë/ n. the quality or state of being firm or strong in structure: the sheer strength and solidity of Romanesque architecture. b. the quality of being substantial or reliable in character: he exuded an aura of reassuring solidity.

solid state n. the state of matter in which materials are not fluid but retain their boundaries without support, the atoms or molecules occupying fixed positions with respect to one another and unable to move freely.

v. adj. (solid-state) of (a device) making use of the electronic properties of solid semiconductors (as opposed to electron tubes).

so-lid-us /sôl-ëd-əs/ n. (pl. -di-, -dii) 1. another term for slash (sense 2). 2. (also solidus curve) Chem. a curve in a graph of the temperature and composition of a mixture, below which the substance is entirely solid. 3. hist. a gold coin of the later Roman Empire.

so-li-o-qui /sôl-'i-ō-kwē/ n. (pl. -ques) an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, esp. by a character in a play. a. a part of a play involving such an act. —so-li-o-qui-st /-kwëst/ n. —so-li-o-qui-ze /-kwëz/ v.

so-li-pis-sim /sâl-ëp-ëz/am/ n. the view or theory that the self is all that can be known to exist. —so-li-pis-sit n. —so-li-pis-sitic /-spis-tik/ adj. —so-li-pis-si-cal-ly adv

so-li-tair-ey /sôl-'tər-ë/ n. any of various card games played by one person, the object of which is to use up all one's cards by forming particular arrangements and sequences. 2. a diamond or other gem set in a piece of jewelry by itself. b. thought he could put by a solid salary without restricting his living.

—solid: an Amer. southwestern term for a single person. b. Grande American thrust (genus Myaestes) with mainly gray plumage and a short bill.

so-litä-r-y /sôl-'tər-ë/ adj. done or existing alone: I live a pretty solitary life | tigers are essentially solitary. b. (of a place) secluded or isolated: solitary farmsteads. c. single: only we have not a solitary shred of evidence to go on. d. (of a bird, mammal, or insect) living alone or in pairs, esp. in contrast to related social forms: a solitary wasp. e. (of a flower or other plant) borne singly.

Pronunciation Key a, a; o, aw; ar, or; fur, a; h; at; a; c; ch, chin; e, let; e; see; o, air; t; it; y; hi; hi; o; air; ng; sing; go; go; law; for; of; toy; go; go; go; ou; ou; sh; the; thin; their; th; than; (h) why; zh; vision
somnolent /ˈsɒmnələnt/ adj. sleepy; drowsy; causing or suggestive of drowsiness; a somnolent summer day. —somnolence n. —somnolently adv.
somnolently adv.
son /sɔn/ n. 1 a boy or man in relation to either or both of his parents. 2 a male offspring of an animal. 3 a male descendant: the sons of Adam. 4 (the Son) (in Christian belief) the second person of the Trinity: Christ. 5 a man considered in relation to his native country or area: one of Nevada's most famous sons. 6 a man regarded as the product of a particular person, influence, or environment: sons of the French Revolution used by an elderly person in a form of address for a boy or young man: “You're on private land, son.”
> son of a bitch used as a general term of contempt or abuse. 2 son of a gun int. a jocular or affectation way of addressing or referring to someone: he's a pretentious son of a gun, but he's got a heart of gold.
sonar /ˈsɔnər/ n. 1 a system for the detection of objects under water and for measuring the water's depth by emitting sound pulses and detecting or measuring their return after being reflected. 2 an apparatus used in this system. 3 the method of echolocation used in air or water by animals such as whales and bats.
sonata /soʊˈnɑːtə/ n. a classical composition for an instrumental soloist, often with a piano accompaniment. It is typically in several movements.
Song /sɔŋ/ n. 1 a short poem or other set of words set to music or meant to be sung. 2 singing or vocal music: the young airmen broke into song. 3 a musical composition suggestive of a song. 4 the musical phrases uttered by some birds, whales, and insects, typically forming a recognizable and repeated sequence and used chiefly for territorial defense or for attracting mates. 5 a poem, esp. one in rhymer stanzas: The Song of Hiawatha is a national poem.
> a song and dance int. a long explanation that is pointless or deliberately evasive. 2 chiefly Brit. a fuss or commotion: she would be sure to make a song and dance about her aching feet.
songbird /ˈsɔŋbɜːrd/ n. 1 a bird with a musical song. 2 Ornithol. a perching bird of a group distinguished by having a vocal organ that is capable of producing a variety of notes.
songsmith /ˈsɔŋsmith/ n. int. a person who writes popular songs.
songster /ˈsɔŋstər/ n. a person who sings, esp. fluently and skilfully. 2 a person who writes songs or verse. 3 a songbird.
song-writer /ˈsɔŋwraɪtər/ n. a person who writes popular songs or the music for them. —song-writing n.
somic /ˈsɒmɪk/ adj. relating to or using sound waves. 2 denoting or having a speed equal to that of sound. —somically adv.
sonic barrier n. any barrier longer term barrier. —sonically adv.
sonic boom n. a loud explosive noise caused by the shock wave from an aircraft traveling faster than the speed of sound.
son-in-law n.(pt. sons-in-law) the husband of one's daughter.
sonnet /ˈsɒnɪt/ n. a poem of fourteen lines using any of a number of formal rhyme schemes, in English typically having ten syllables per line.
> v. (neted, neting) intr. archaic compose sonnets. 2 intr. celebrate in a sonnet.
sonny /ˈsɔnəni/ n. int. used by an older person as a familiar form of address to a young boy. 2 used as a humorous or patronizing way of addressing a man: ho! sonny, that's all I can tell you.
sonorous /ˈsɑːnərəs/ adj. (of a person's voice or another sound) impressively deep and full. 2 capable of producing a deep or ringing sound: the soap opera's news and use of loud bells: (of a speech or style) using imposing language: they had expected the lawyers to deliver sonorous laments. 3 having a pleasing sound: she used the misleadingly sonorous name “melanoma” to describe it. —sonority /soʊˈnɔrəti/ n. —sonorously adv.
sooky /səkki/ n. a female crab.
soon /soʊn/ adj. 1 in or after a short time: everyone will soon know the truth. 2 early: it's a pity you have to leave so soon! I wish you'd told me sooner. 2 used to indicate one's preference in a particular matter: I'd just as soon Tim did it; I would sooner resign than transfer to Toronto. —soonish adv.
soot /suːt/ n. a black powdery or flaky substance consisting largely of ancroneous carbon, produced by the incomplete burning of organic matter. v. [tr.] cover or cloog (something) with soot.
sooth /suːθ/ n. archaic truth. 2 in sooth in truth; really.
sooth /suːθ/ v. [tr.] gently calm (a person or their feelings): a shot of brandy might soothe his nerves. 2 soothing she put on some soothing music. 3 reduce pain or discomfort in (a part of the body): to soothe the skin try chamomile or lyme. 4 believe or ease (pain): it contains a mild anesthetic to soothe the pain. —soother n. —soothingly adv.
soother /sʊˈθər/ n. a person supposed to be able to foresee the future. —soothingly adv.
sooty /soʊˈti/ adj. (sootier, sootiest) covered with or colored like soot: the front of the fireplace was blackened and sooty. 2 his olive skin and sooty eyes. 3 used in names of birds and other animals that are mainly blackish or brownish black. e.g., sooty tern. —sootily /soʊˈtɪli/ adv. —sootiness n.
soap /sɔp/ n. 1 a thing given or done as a concession of no great value to appease someone whose main concern or demands are not being met: my agency gave them a small idea but never finds work. 2 a piece of bread dipped in gravy, soup, or sauce.
> v. (sopped, sopping) [tr.] (sop something up) soak solid liquid using an absorbent substance: he used some bread to sop up the sauce. 2 wet thoroughly: soak.
sopher, sophermore.
sophism /ˈsɒfɪzəm/ n. a fallacious argument, esp. one used deliberately to deceive.
sophist /ˈsɑːfɪst/ n. a paid teacher of philosophy and rhetoric in ancient Greece, associated in popular thought with moral skepticism and specious reasoning. 2 a person who reasons with clever but fallacious arguments. 3 mid 16th cent.: via Latin from Greek sophistes, from sophistes ‘expert, one who know’, from sophos ‘wise’. —sophisticated /soʊˈfɪstɪkatɪd/ adj. —sophisticatedly /soʊˈfɪstɪkatɪdli/ adv.
sophisticate v. /soʊˈfɪstɪkeɪt/ [tr.] cause (a person or their thoughts, attitudes, and expectations) to become less simple or straightforward through education or experience: readers who have been sophisticated by modern literary practice. 2 develop (something such as a piece of equipment or a technique) into a more complex form: functions that other software applications have sophisticated.
sophistication /soʊˈfɪstɪkeɪʃn/ n. —sophisticated /soʊˈfɪstɪkatɪd/ adj. 1 a person with much worldly experience and knowledge of fashion and culture: he is still the butt of jokes made by New York sophisticates. 2 a sophisticated /soʊˈfɪstɪkatɪd/ adj. —sophisticatedly /soʊˈfɪstɪkatɪdli/ adv.
sophistry /səˈfɪstri/ n. the use of fallacious arguments, esp. with the intention of deceiving. 2 a fallacious argument.
sophomore /səˈfɔmɪər/ n. a second-year college or high school student.
sophomore /səˈfɔmɪər/ adj. of, relating to, or characteristic of a sophomore; my sophomore year. 2 pretentious young people; sophisticated double entendres.
soporific /səˈpɔrɪfɪk/ adj. tending to induce drowsiness or sleep: the motion of the train had a somewhat soporific effect. 2 sleepy or drowsy: some medicine make her soporific. 3 viciously boring or monotonous: a libel trial is in large parts intensely soporific. 4, n. a drug or other agent of this kind. —soporifically /-ɪkəli/ adv.
sapping /ˈsæpsiŋ/ adj. saturated with liquid; wet through: get those sopping clothes off.
soprano /ˈsɔprənəʊ/ n. (pl. -ranos) the highest of the four standard singing voices: a piece composed for soprano, flute, and continuo. 2 a female or boy singer with such a voice. 3 a part written for such a voice. 4 just as [adj.] an instrument of a high or the highest pitch in its family.
Pronunciation Key a a, oo; up, over; fur; a hat; a 9c; a car; ch chin; t let; 9 see; 90 ai; 91; it; 9y; 9r car; no sung; 9 o; 9 law; for; oiy; 90 good; 90 go; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; (h) why; zh vision
sorbet /sɔrˈbɛt/ n. a dessert consisting of frozen fruit juice or flavored water and sugar.

sorcerer /sɔrˈsɛrər/ n. a person who claims or is believed to have magic powers; a wizard.

sorcery /sɔrˈsɛri/ n. the use of magic, esp. black magic. —sorcerous (-rəs) adj.

sordid /ˈsɔrdɪd/ adj. involving ignoble actions and motives; arousing moral distaste and contempt; the story points a sordid picture of bribes and scams. —sordidly adv. —sordid-ness n.

sordidness /sɔrˈdɪdnɪs/ n. —sordidly /ˈsɔrdɪdli/ adv.

sort /sɔrt/ n. (of a part of one's body) painful or aching; my feet were sore and my head ached. —int. upset and angry: I didn't even know they were sore at us. —adj. severe; urgent: we're in sore need of him.

sore 

sorceror /sɔrˈsɛrər/ n. (pl. -rei) a person who is in a bad temper or easily irritated.

sojer /sɔrˈjɛr/ adj. adv. to a very high degree or level of intensity (esp. of an unwelcome or unpleasant state or emotion): she would sorely miss his company.

sorghum /sɔrˈɡʌm/ n. a widely cultivated cereal (genus Sorghum) native to warm regions of the Old World. —sorpgyn a sweetener made from a type of this cereal.

sorority /sɔrəˈrɪtɪ- / n. (pl. -ties) a society for female students in a university or college, typically for social purposes.

sorrel /sɔrˈrɛl/ n. a European plant (genus Rumex) of the dock family, with arrow-shaped leaves that are used in salads and cooking for their acidic flavor.

sorrel /sɔrˈrɛl/ n. a horse with a light reddish-brown coat. —adj. a light reddish-brown color: a sorrel mare with white socks.

sorrow /sɔrˈoʊ/ n. a feeling of deep distress caused by loss, disappointment, or other misfortune suffered by oneself or others: he understood the sorrow and discontent underlying his brother's sigh. —n. an event or circumstance that causes such a feeling: it was a great sorrow to her when they separated. —v. (int.) feel or display deep distress: [adj.] sorrowing (the sorrowing widow found it hard to relate to his sons).

sorrowful /sɔrˈoʊfl/ adj. feeling or showing grief: she looked at him with sorrowful eyes. —causing grief: the sorrowful news of his father's death. —sorrowfully adv. —sorrowfulness n.

sorry /ˈsɔrɪ/ (-rɪ, -rɪst) 1 feeling distress, esp. through sympathy with someone else's misfortune: I was sorry to hear about the death of your family. —sorry for filled with compassion for: he couldn't help feeling sorry for her. —feeling regret or penitence: he said he was sorry he had had it. —used as an expression of apology: sorry? I was trying not to make a noise. —used as a polite request that someone should repeat something that one has failed to hear or understand: Sorry? In case I what? 2 in a poor or pitiful state or condition: he looks a sorry sight with his broken jaw. —unpleasant and regrettable, esp. on account of incompetence or misbehavior: we feel so ashamed that we keep quiet about the whole sorry business. —sorriest /ˈsɔrɪrɪst/ adj. —sorriest-ly adv.

sorriest /ˈsɔrɪst/ n. —sorry for oneself sad and self-pitying.

sort /sɔrt/ n. 1 a category of things or people having some common feature; a type: if only we knew the sort of people she was mixing with. —int. a person of a specified character or nature: Frank was a genuinely friendly sort. 2 Comput. the arrangement of data in a prescribed sequence.

sort through v. 1 arrange systematically in groups; separate according to type, class, etc.: she sorted out the clothes, some to be kept, some to be thrown away. 2 look at (a group of things) one after another in order to classify them or make a selection: she sat down and sorted through her mail. 3 resolve (a problem or difficulty): the teacher helps the children to sort out their problems. 4 resolve the problems or difficulties of (oneself): I need time to sort myself out.

sort something out 1 separate something from a mixed group: she started sorting out the lettuce from the spinach. 2 arrange; prepare: they are anxious to sort out traveling arrangements. —sort-able adj. —sorter n.

sort of 1 nothing of the sort used as an emphatic way of denying permission or refusing an earlier statement or assumption: "I'll pay." "You'll do nothing of the sort." 2 of a sort (or of sorts) int. of an atypical and typically inferior type: the training camp actually became a tourist attraction of sorts. 3 out of sorts slightly unwell: feeling nauseous and generally out of sorts. 4 in low spirits: irritable: the trying events of the day had put him out of sorts. 5 of. sort of to some extent; in some way or other (used to convey inexactness or vagueness): "Do you see what I mean?" "Sort of." —answered jealously.

sort out v. (especially in data processing) the process of sorting or its result.

sortie /sɔrti/ 'sɔrti/ n. an attack made by troops coming out from a position of defense. —an operational flight by a single military aircraft. —a short trip or journey: I went on a shopping sortie.

sos /sɒs/ n. (pl. SOSs) an international code signal of extreme distress, used esp. by ships at sea. —an urgent appeal for help.

sot/ˈsɒt/ adj. neither very good nor very bad: a happy ending to a so-so season.

soute-nu-to /sɔtəˈnjuːtə/ Mus. adj. (of a passage of music) to be played in a sustained or prolonged manner.

sortie /ˈsɔrti/ n. —sort of in his habitual drunkard. —sortish adj.

sotto voce /ˈsɔttoʊ ˈvɔtʃeɪ/ adv. & adj. (of singing or a spoken remark) in a quiet voice, as if not to be overheard; [as adj.] "it won't be cheap," he added sotto voce | [as adj.] a sotto voce remark.

sou /ˈsoʊ/ n. hist. a former French coin of low value. —int. a very small amount of money: I didn't have a sou.

sou briquet /sɔbjʊˈret/ n. variant spelling of SOBRIQUET.

soufflé /suˈflɛ/ n. a light, spongy baked dish made typically by adding flavored egg yolks to stiffly beaten egg whites. —any of various light dishes made with beaten egg whites.

sought /sɔt/ adj. past and past participle of SEEK.

sought after adj. in demand; generally desired: this print will be much sought after by collectors.

soul /sɔl/ n. 1 the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being or animal, regarded as immortal; a person's moral or emotional nature or sense of identity: in the depths of her soul, she knew he would betray her. 2 the essence of something: integrity is the soul of intellectual life. 3 emotional or intellectual energy or intensity, esp. as revealed in a work of art or an artistic performance: their interpretation lacked soul. 4 a person regarded as the embodiment of a specified quality: he was the soul of discretion. 5 an individual person: I'll never tell a soul. 6 a person regarded with affection or pity: she's a nice old soul. 7 African-American culture or ethnic pride. 8 short for SOUL MUSIC. —adj. 1 African English suul, suul(ː) of German origin; related to Dutch ziel and German Seele. —souled adj. [in comb] she was a great-souled character.

soul food n. traditional southern African-American food.

soulful /ˈsɔfləl/ adj. expressing or appearing to express deep and often sorrowful feeling: she gave him a soulful glance. —soulfully adv. —soulfulness n.

soul-les-s /ˈsɔulliəs/ adj. (of a building, room, or other place) lacking character and individuality: she found the apartment beautiful but soulless. 2 (of an activity) tedious and uninspiring: soulless, nonproductive work. 3 (of some quality) lacking or suggesting the lack of human feelings and qualities: two soulless black eyes were watching her. —soullessly adv. —soullessness n.

soul mate (also soulmate) n. a person ideally suited to another as a close friend or romantic partner.

soul music n. a kind of music incorporating elements of rhythm and blues and gospel music, popularized by African-Americans. Charac-terized by an emphasis on vocals and an impassioned improvisatory delivery, it is associated with performers such as Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, James Brown, and Otis Redding.

sound /sɔund/ n. vibrations that travel through the air or another medium and can be heard when they reach a person's or animal's ear; light travels faster than sound. 2 a group of vibrations of this kind; a thing that can be heard: she heard the sound of voices in the hall. 3 the area or distance within which something can be heard. 4 the ideas or impressions conveyed by words: you've had a hard day, by the sound of it. 5 sound produced by continuous and regular vibrations, as opposed to noise. 6 music, speech, and sound effects when recorded, used to
accompany a film or video production, or broadcast: [as adj] a sound study. ■ broadcasting by radio as distinct from television. ■ the distinctive quality of the music of a particular composer or performer or of the sound produced by a particular musical instrument: the sound of the cymbals. (sounds) int. music, esp. popular music: sounds of the sixties. ■ [it] emit sound: a loud buzzed sound. ■ [it] cause (something) to emit sound: she sounded the horn; say (something); utter: he sounded a warning that a coup was imminent. ■ convey a specified impression when heard: he sounded worried. ■ (of something or someone that has been described to one) convey a specified impression: it sounds as though you really do believe that. ■ [tr] test (the lungs or another body cavity) by noting the sound they produce: the doctor sounded her chest.

phraseas. v. sound off express one’s opinions in a loud or forceful manner.

sound less adj. sound less-ly adv. sound less-ness n.

sound 1. in good condition; not damaged, injured, or diseased: they retained safe and sound. 2. by; [of] the sound of a bell. 3. based on reason, sense, or judgment: sound advice for healthy living. ■ competent, reliable, or holding acceptable views; he’s a bit stuffy, but he’s very sound on his law. ■ financially secure: she could get her business on a sound footing for the first time. 2. [of deep sleep] and undisturbed. 3. of (a person) tending to sleep deeply: I am a sound sleeper. 3. severe: such people should be given a sound thrashing. ■ soundly: he was sound asleep. —soundly adv. —soundness n.

sound 1. [tr] ascertain (the depth of water), typically by means of a weighted line or pole or using sound echoes. 2. [tr] 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. 3. inquire into (someone’s opinions or feelings) in this way: officials arrived to sound out public opinion at meetings in factories. 3. esp. (of a whale) dive down steeply to a great depth.

— on a long surgical probe, typically with a curved, blunt end. — sound er.

sound 1. n. a narrow stretch of water forming an inlet or connecting two wider areas of water such as two seas or a sea and a lake. 2. the sound barrier the increased drag, reduced controllability, and other effects that occur when an aircraft approaches the speed of sound, formerly regarded as an obstacle to supersonic flight.

sound bite n. a short extract from a recorded interview, chosen for its urgency or appropriateness.

sound board /soud/ bord also sounding board n. a thin sheet of wood over which the strings of a piano or similar instrument are positioned to increase the sound produced.

sound effect n. a sound other than speech or music made artificially for use in a play, movie, or other broadcast production: the play used sound effects of galley oars and blood-curdling yells.

sound ing /soud/ing n. the action or process of measuring the depth of the sea or other body of water. ■ a measurement taken by sounding. ■ the determination of any physical property at a depth in the sea or at a height in the atmosphere. ■ (soundings) fig. information or evidence ascertained as a preliminary step before deciding on a course of action: he’s been taking soundings about the possibility of moving his offices.

sound board n. 1. a board or screen placed over or behind a pulpit or stage to reflect a speaker’s voice forward. 2. another term for SOUNDBLOOD. 2. a person or group whose reactions to suggested ideas are used as a test of their validity or likely success before they are made public: I considered him mainly as a sounding board for my impressions.

sound proof /soud/ proof adj. preventing, or constructed of material that prevents, the passage of sound: there was a soundproof, state-of-the-art recording studio.

sound track /soud/ track n. a recording of the musical accompaniment to a movie: she has requested a collaboration for the soundtrack to her forthcoming move.

sound wave n. Physics a wave of compression and rarefaction, by which sound is propagated in an elastic medium such as air.

soup 1. n. a liquid dish, typically made by boiling meat, fish, or vegetables, etc., in stock or water: a bowl of tomato soup. ■ fig. a substance or mixture perceived to resemble soup in appearance or consistency: the waves and the water beyond have become a thick brown soup.

2. int. the chemicals in which film is developed. — soup like adj.

phraseas. v. sound something up int. increase the power and efficiency of an engine or other machine. ■ make something more elaborate or impressive: we had to soup up the show for the new venue.

soup con /sou p/ con n. a very small quantity of something; a soupcon of mustard.

soup kitchen n. a place where free food is served to those who are homeless or destitute.

soup spoon /sou p, spo ön/ also spoon n. a large spoon with a round bowl, used for eating soup.

soup y /sou p/ y adj. (soupier, soupiest) having the appearance or consistency of soup: a soppy stew. ■ [of the air or climate] humid. ■ unusually sentimental: soppy nostalgia. — soup like y /sou p/ y adv. — soup iness n.

sour 1. [sou r] adj. having an acid taste like lemon or vinegar: she sampled the wine and found it was sour. ■ [of food, esp. milk] spoiled because of fermentation. ■ having a rancid smell: her breath was always sour. ■ fig. feeling or expressing resentment, disappointment, or anger: she was quite a different woman from the sour, bored creature I had known. ■ [of petroleum or natural gas] having a relatively high sulfur content.

2. n. a drink made by mixing an alcoholic beverage with lemon juice or lime juice: a rum sour.

— make or become sour; [tr] water soured with tamarind [as adj] (soured) soured cream [intr] a bowl of milk was souring in the sun, or make or become unpleasant, acrimonious, or difficult: [tr] a dispute soured relations between the two countries for over a year [intr] many friendships have soured over borrowed money. — sour ish adj. — sourly adv. — sourness n.

— sour grapes an attitude in which someone disparages or despises something because they cannot have it themselves: government officials dismissed many of the complaints as sour grapes.

source /sou r/ n. a place, person, or thing from which something comes or can be obtained: mackerel is a good source of fish oil. ■ a spring or fontainhead from which a river or stream issues: the source of the Nile. ■ a person who provides information: military officials announced a reduction in strategic nuclear weapons. ■ a book or document used to provide evidence in research. ■ technical a body or process by which energy or a particular component enters a system. The opposite of SINK.

— v. [often be sourced] obtain from a particular source: each type of coffee is sourced from one country. ■ find out where (something) can be obtained: she was called upon to source a supply of carpet. — source less adj.

source book /sou r, bök/ n. a collection of writings and articles on a particular subject, esp. one used as a basic introduction to that subject.

sour cream n. cream that has been deliberately fermented by the addition of certain bacteria.

sour dough /sou d/or do/ n. 1. leaven for making bread, consisting of fermenting dough, typically that left over from a previous batch. ■ bread made using such leaven. 2. an experienced prospector in the western U.S. or Canada; an old-timer.

sour puss /sou p, püs/ n. int. a bad-tempered or habitually sulky person.

souse /sou s/ v. [s] soak in or drench with liquid. [often as adv] (soused) put (herring, fish, etc.) in a pickling solution or a marinade; soured herring. [as adj] (soused) int. drunk: I was soused to the eyeballs.

south /sou t/ n. usu. the south 1. the direction toward the point of the horizon 90° clockwise from east, or the point on the horizon itself: the breeze came from the south. 2. the compass point corresponding to this. 3. the southern part of the world or of a specified country, region, or town; he was staying in the south of France. 3. South Bridge the player sitting opposite and partnering North.

— adj. 1. lying toward, near, or facing the south: the south coast. 2. of (a wind) blowing from the south. 2. of the southern part of a specified area, city, or country or its inhabitants: Telegraph Hill in South Boston. — adv. to or toward the south: they journeyed south along the valley.

south bound /sou th/ bound adj. traveling or leading toward the south: southbound traffic.

southeast /sou th/ east/ n. 1. usu. the southeast 1. the direction toward the point of the horizon midway between south and east, or the point on the horizon itself: a ship was coming in from the southeast. 2. the compass point corresponding to this. 2. also the Southeast the southeastern part of a country, region, or town; most “southern” foods in the southeast are traditionally Acadian.

Pronunciation Key ö [oʊ], ur or œr, fur, jurr, hurr; ä ait; ä ear; cm chin; ö let; ç sec; [e]ar; air; if; ni; [e]ar; no sing; ö go; ö law; for; oi toy; ö good; ö go; ou ou; sh sh; th thin; th then; bhy; zh vision
space station

southeaster

d. 1 lying toward, near, or facing the southeast: a table stood in the southeast corner. [of (a wind) blowing from the southeast. 2 of or denoting the southeastern part of a specified country, region, or town or its inhabitants: Southeast Asia.

adv. to or toward the southeast: —southeaster-ly adv. —southeast-ern [-ən] adj.

southeaster [ˈsoʊθiːəster] n. a wind blowing from the southeast.

southerly [ˌsoʊθərˈli] adj. & adv. in a southerly direction: employment and people began a southerly drift.

adv. (also southwards) toward the south.

n. (the southward) the direction or region to the south: cool air from the ocean to the southward. —south-ward-ly adv.

southeast [ˌsoʊθiːəˈwest] n. 1 (usu. the southeast) the direction toward the point of the horizon midway between south and west, or: the region of the horizon itself. clouds uncoiled from the southeast. 2 the compass point corresponding to this. 2 the southwestern part of a country, region, or town: the beach is in the southwest of the island.

n. the Southwest the southwestern part of the U.S.; the desert turtle population in the Southwest.

adv. to or toward the southwest: they drove directly southwest. —southwest-er-ly adv. —southwestern [-ən] adj.

southeastern [ˌsoʊθiːəˈwestərn] adj. a wind blowing from the southeast.

souvenir [soʊˈveɪnɪr] n. a thing that is kept as a reminder of a person, place, event.

v. [l. int. take: as a memento; many parts of the aircraft have been souvenired.

souwester [ˈsoʊwəˌwester] n. a waterproof hat with a broad flap covering the neck.

sovereign [səʊvəˈrɪgn] n. a supreme ruler, esp. a monarch.

adj. possessing supreme or ultimate power: in modern democracies the people’s will is in theory sovereign. [of a nation or state] fully independent and determining its own affairs: a sovereign democratic republic.

[of affairs] subject to a specified state’s control without outside interference: criticism was seen as interference in China’s sovereign affairs.

—sovereign-ty [soʊvəˈrɪgn-ti] n. (pl. -ties) supreme power or authority: how can we hope to wrest sovereignty away from the oligarchy and back to the people? the authority of a state to govern itself or another state: national sovereignty.

—sovereign-ly adv.

space

v. 1 [tr.] (usu. be spaced) position (two or more items) at a distance from one another: the houses are spaced out. 2 (in printing or writing) put blanks between (words, letters, or lines): [as n. (spacing) the default setting is single line spacing. 2 (usu. be spaced out or space out) int. be or become distracted, euphoric, or disoriented, esp. from taking drugs; cease to be aware of one’s surroundings: I was so tired that I began to feel totally spaced out. —spac-er n.

space age [n. (the space age or the Space Age) the era when the exploration of space became possible: as the Space Age evolved, massive amounts of data gushed in.

—adj. (space-age) very modern; technologically advanced: a space-age control room.

space cadet n. int. a person perceived as out of touch with reality, as though high on drugs.

space capsule [n. a small spacecraft or the part of a larger one that contains the instruments or crew.

spacecraft [ˈspæs,kraft] n. (pl. same or -crafts) a vehicle used for traveling in space.

space heater [n. a self-contained appliance, usually electric, for heating an enclosed room. —space-hea-ted adj. —space-heating n.


space ship [ˈspæs,ship] -ships n. a spacecraft, esp. one controlled by a computer.

space shuttle [n. a rocket-launched spacecraft, able to land like an unpowered aircraft, used to make repeated journeys between the earth and earth orbit.

space station [n. a large artificial satellite used as a long-term base for manned operations in space.
space-suit /ˈspæs,ˌsʊt/ n. a garment designed to allow an astronaut to survive in space.

spac-e-y /ˈspeɪsi/ (also spac-y) adj. (spac-i-er, spac-i-est) int. out of touch with reality, as though high on drugs: I remember babbling, high and spaced.

spacial /ˈspeɪʃl/ adj. variant spelling of spatial.

spacious /ˈspeɪʃəs/ adj. (esp. of a room or building) having ample space.

spade /ˈspæd/ n. 1 (spades) one of the four suits in a conventional deck of playing cards, denoted by a black inverted heart-shaped figure with a small stalk: a (a spade) a card of this suit. 2 int. ottens a black person.

spade /ˈspæd/ n. in spades int. to a very high degree: he got his revenge now in spades.

spade /ˈspæd/ n. [pl. spad-ice] (also spade-x) Bot. a spike of flowers closely arranged around a fleshy axis and typically enclosed in a spathe characteristic of the arums.

spade /ˈspæd/ v. [trans.] | spades, spaded, spading] chiefly Scottish foretell; prophesy: she did spade that Nora would marry well | [trans.] int. wish that he would spade no more.

spaghettets /ˈspaɡət/ n. pasta made in long, slender, solid strings.

spaghetti /ˈspaɡət/ n. an Italian dish consisting largely of this, typically with a sauce. fig. a tangle of stringlike objects, resembling a plate of cooked spaghetti: a clumsy spaghetti of coals and wires. Elect. a type of narrow tubing that encases and insulates wire. Italian, plural of the diminutive of spagio 'string.'

spaghetti western n. int. a western movie made cheaply in Europe by an Italian director.

spake /ˈspak/ archaic poet. lit. past of speak.

spall /ˈspɔl/ n. [of ore, rock, or stone] break off in fragments: cracks below the surface cause slabs of material to spall off.

spam /ˈspæm/ n. 1 (Spam) trademark a canned meat product made mainly from ham. 2 irrelevant or inappropriate messages sent on the Internet to a large number of recipients.

v. [intr.] send the same message indiscriminately to (large numbers of recipients) on the Internet.

span /ˈspan/ n. the full extent of something from end to end: the amount of space that something covers: a warehouse with a clear span of 28 feet. the length of time for which something lasts: a short concentration span. the wingspan of an aircraft or a bird. an arm or part of a bridge between piers or supports. the maximum distance between the tips of the thumb and little finger, taken as the basis of a measurement equal to 9 inches.

v. [spanned, spanning] [tr.] of a bridge, arch, etc. extend from side to side of: the stream was spanned by a narrow bridge. extend across (a period of time or a range of subjects): their interests span almost all the conventional disciplines. cover or enclose with the length of one's hand: her wrist was slender enough for him to span with his hands.

span-drel /ˈspændrəl/ n. Archit. the almost triangular space between one side of the outer curve of an arch, a wall, and the ceiling or framework. the space between the shoulders of adjoining arches and the ceiling or molding above.

spang /ˈspæŋ/ adv. int. directly; completely: looking the general right spang in the eye.

spangle /ˈspæŋɡl/ n. a small thin piece of glittering material, typically used in quantity to ornament a dress; a sequin. a small sparkling object: a spot of bright color or light.

v. [spangl] int. usu. as adj. (spangled) cover with spangles or other small sparkling objects: a spangled Christmas doll. —spangly adj.

spaniel /ˈspænɪəl/ n. a dog of a breed with a long silky coat and drooping ears. used in usines and metamorphoses as a symbol of devotion or obsessionalness: I followed my uncle around as faithfully as any spaniel.

Spanish /ˈspænɪʃ/ adj. of or relating to Spain, its people, or its language.

n. 1 [as pl. n.] (the Spanish) the people of Spain. 2 the Romance language of most of Spain and of much of Central and South America and several other countries. —Spanish-ness n.

Spanish fly n. a bright green European blister beetle (Lyttia vesicatoria) with a mouse smell. a toxic preparation of the dried bodies of these beetles, formerly used in medicine as a counterirritant and sometimes taken as an aphrodisiac. Also called cantharides.

Spanish Inquisition /ˌspænɪʃ ɪnˈkwɪʃən/ an ecclesiastical court established in Roman Catholic Spain in 1478 and directed originally against converts from Judaism and Islam but later also against Protestants. It operated with great severity until suppressed in the early 19th century.

sparked /ˈspærkəd/ v. [tr.] slap with one's open hand or a flat object, esp. on the buttocks as a punishment: she was spanked for spilling ink on the carpet.

spaw-n /ˈspɒn/ n. 1 a fore-and-aft sail set on the after side of a ship's mast, esp. the mizzenmast.

spawning /ˈspaʊnɪŋ/ adj. 1 (esp. of a horse or its gait) lively, brisk: a spawning trot. 2 int. very good: we had a spawning time. fine and impressive: a spawning white Rolls Royce.

n. an act of spawning, esp. on the buttocks as a punishment for children: you deserve a good spanking.

spare /ˈspær/ n. 1 a thick, strong pole such as is used for a mast or yard on a ship. 2 the main longitudinal beam of an airplane wing.

spared /ˈspær/ v. (spared, sparing) [intr.] make the motions of boxing without landing heavy blows: as a form of training: one contestant broke his nose while engaging in argument, typically of a kind that is prolonged or repeated but not violent: mother and daughter spar regularly over dinner, drugs, and career.

spare /ˈspær/ adj. us. in comb. a crystalline, easily cleavable, light-colored mineral. —sparry adj.

spare /ˈspeər/ adj. 1 additional to what is required for ordinary use: few people had spare cash for essentials. not currently in use or occupied: the spare bedroom. 2 with no excess fat; thin: a spare, bearded figure. elegantly simple: her clothes are smart and spare in style. meager; nearly inadequate: the furnishings were spare and unadorned.

n. 1 an item kept in case another item of the same type is lost, broken, or worn out. 2 a spare tire: make sure there are no problems with any of the tires, including the spare. in (tempin bowling) an act of knocking down all the pins with two consecutive rolls of the ball. 3 give (something of which one has enough) to (someone); afford to give to: she asked if I could spare her a dollar or two. 4 make free or available: I'm sure you can spare me a moment. 5 refrain from killing, injuring, or distressing: there was no way the men would spare her. 6 refrain from inflicting (something) on (someone): the country had until now been spared the violence occurring elsewhere. 7 try to ensure or satisfy one's own comfort or needs: in her concern to help others, she has never spared herself. —sparely adv. —sparness n. —spare-r n. (rare).

spare-ribs /ˈspærərbz/ (also spare ribs) pi. n. closely trimmed ribs of pork or sometimes beef.

spare tire n. an extra tire carried in a motor vehicle for emergencies.

adj. a roll of fat around a person's waist.


spark /ˈspɑrk/ n. a small fiery particle thrown off from a fire, alight in ashes, or produced by striking together two hard surfaces such as stone or metal. a light produced by a sudden disruptive electrical discharge through the air. a discharge such as this serving to ignite the explosive mixture in an internal combustion engine. a small bright object or point: there was a spark of light. a trace of a specified quality or intense feeling: a tiny spark of anger flared within her. a sense of liveliness and excitement: there was a spark between them at their first meeting.

v. [spark, sparking] [intr.] emit sparks of fire or electricity: the ignition spark as soon as the gas is turned on. 2 [tr.] ignite: the explosion sparked a fire. 3 provide the stimulus for (a dramatic event or process): the severity of the pain sparked off street protests. —sparkr n. —sparkless adj. —sparkly adj.

sparkle /ˈspɑrkəl/ v. [intr.] shine brightly with flashes of light: her earrings sparkled as she turned her head | [as adj] | (sparkling) her sparkling blue eyes. be vivacious and witty: after a glass of wine, she began to sparkle. [as adj] | (sparkling) of wine and similar drinks | effervescent.

n. a glittering flash of light: there was a sparkle in his eyes. vivacity and wit: she's got a kind of sparkle. —spar-klingly adv. —sparkly adj.

sparkler /ˈspɑrkələr/ n. 1 a thing that sparkles, in particular: a handheld firework that emits sparks. 2 an, gemstone, esp. a
spool-um /'speyləm/ n. (pl. -la/-loth) 1 Med. a metal or plastic instrument that is used to dilate an orifice or canal in the body to allow inspection. 2 *Orothol.* a bright patch of plumage on the wings of certain birds, esp. a strip of metallic sheen on the secondary flight feathers of many ducks.

sped /sped/ • past and past participle of SPEED

speech /speʃ/ n. 1 the expression of or the ability to express thoughts and feelings by articulate sounds: he was born deaf and without the power of speech. • a person's style of speaking: she wouldn't accept his correction of her speech. • the language of a nation, region, or group: the distinctive rhythms of their speech. 2 a formal address or discourse delivered to an audience: the headmistress made a speech about how much they would miss her. • a sequence of lines written for one character in a play.

speech-less /'speo stolen/ adj. unable to speak, esp. as the temporary result of shock or some strong emotion: he was speechless with rage. • unable to be expressed in words: surges of speechless passion. —speech-less-ly adv. —speech-less-ness n.

speech sound /speʃ/ n. a phonetically distinct unit of speech.

speed /speʃ/ n. 1 rapidity of movement or action: the accident was due to excessive speed. • the rate at which someone or something is able to move or operate: the car has a top speed of 147 mph. • each of the possible gear ratios of a bicycle or motor vehicle. • the sensitivity of photographic film to light. • the light-gathering power of a number of a camera lens. • the duration of a photographic exposure. 2 int. an amphetamine drug, esp. methamphetamine. 3 int. something that matches one's tastes or inclinations: oak tables and chairs are more his speed.

—v. (past sped /sped/ or speed-ed) [intr.] move quickly: I got into the car and home we sped. • [intr.] (of a motorist) travel at a speed that is greater than the legal limit: the car that crashed was speeding. • (speed up) move or work more quickly; you force yourself to speed up because you don't want to keep others waiting. • [intr.] cause to move, act, or happen more quickly: recent initiatives have sought to speed up decision-making. —speed-er n.

speed-ball /'speo bɔl/ n. int. a mixture of cocaine and heroin.

speed-boat /'speo bɔt/ n. a motorboat designed for high speed.

speed-bump (chiefly Brit. also speed hump) /'speo bʌmp/ n. a ridge set in a road surface, typically at intervals, to control the speed of vehicles.

speed-o-meter /spə'dəmitə/ n. an instrument on a vehicle's dashboard indicating its speed.

speed-way /'speo wɔ/ n. a stadium or track used for automobile or motorcycle racing.


spe-le-o-log-ic /speo le oˈlɒdʒɪk/ adj. (speleolog, speleologist) n. the study or exploration of caves.

spell /spel/ v. [past and past part. spelled /spɛld/ or spelled or chiefly Brit. spelt /spelt/] write or name the letters that form (a word) in correct sequence: Dolly spelled her name, [of (letters) make up or form (a word), the letters spell the word "how." ] be recognizable as a sign or characteristic of: she had the chic, efficient look that spells Milan. • lead to: the plans would spell disaster for the economy.

spell /spel/ n. a form of words used as a magical charm or incantation. • a state of enchantment caused by such a form of words: the magician may cast a spell on himself. • an ability to control or influence people as though one had magical power over them: she is afraid that you are walking from her spell.

spell /spel/ n. a short period: I want to get away from racing for a spell. • a period spent in an activity: a spell of greenhouse work. • a period of a specified kind of weather: an early cold spell in autumn. • a period of suffering from a specified kind of illness: she plunges off a yacht and suffers a spell of amnesia.

—v. [tr.] allow (someone) to rest briefly by taking their place in some activity: I got sleepy and needed her to spell me for a while at the wheel.

spell-bind /spel bind/ v. (past and past part. -bound) [tr.] hold the complete attention of (someone) as though by magic; fascinate: [as adj.] (spellingbind) she told the spellbinding story of her life. —spellbinding adj. —spell-bind-er n. —spell-binding-ly adv.

spell-er /'spelər/ n. a person who spells with a specified ability: a very weak speller. • a book for teaching spelling.
spindle /spindl/ n. (adj. spindle-shaped, spindle-legged). adj. (spindly, spindle-legged) a person whose legs are very thin. n. a spool (for thread or yarn) resembling a short, thick, cylindrical object with a hole in the end for winding. v. [intr] to wind thread, yarn, or other similar material around a spindle.
spina bifida /ˈspɪnə ˈbɪfiːdə/ n. a congenital defect of the spine in which part of the spinal cord and its meninges are exposed through a gap in the backbone. It often causes paralysis of the lower limbs, and sometimes mental handicap.

spinach /ˈspɪnɪʃ/ n. a widely cultivated edible Asian plant (Spinacia oleracea) of the goosefoot family, with large, dark green leaves that are eaten raw or cooked as a vegetable.

spinal /ˈspɪnəl/ adj. of or relating to the spine; spinal injuries. —spinal-ly adv.

spinal column /ˈspɪnəl kələm/ n. the spine; the backbone.

spinal cord /ˈspɪnəl kɔːrd/ n. the cylindrical bundle of nerve fibers and associated tissue that is enclosed in the spine and connects nearly all parts of the body to the brain, with which it forms the central nervous system.

spindle /ˈspɪndl/ n. 1. a slender round rod with tapered ends used in hand spinning to twist and wind thread from a mass of wool or flax held on a distaff. □ a pin or rod used on a spinning wheel to twist and wind the thread. □ a pin bearing the bobbin of a spinning machine. □ a pointed metal rod on a base, used to impale paper items for temporary filing. □ a turned piece of wood used as a banister or chair leg. □ a rod or pin serving as an axis that revolves or on which something revolves.

spindly /ˈspɪndli/ adj. (of a person or limb) long or tall and thin: spindly arms and legs. □ of (a thing) thin and weak or insubstantial in construction: spindly chairs.

spina doctor /ˈspɪnə dəktr/ n. int. a spokesperson employed to give a favorable interpretation of events to the media, esp. on behalf of a political party.

spin drift /ˈspɪn drift/ n. spray blown from the crests of waves by the wind.

spine /ˈspɪn/ n. 1. a series of vertebrae extending from the skull to the small of the back, enclosing the spinal cord and providing support for the thorax and abdomen: the backbone. □ fig. a thing's central feature or main source of strength: players who will form the spine of our team. □ fig. resolution or strength of character; the part of a book's jacket or cover that encloses the inner edges of the pages, facing outward when the book is on a shelf and typically bearing the title and the author's name. 2 Zool. & Bot. any hard pointed defensive projection or structure, such as a prickle of a hedgehog, a spikelike projection on a sea urchin, a sharp ray in a fish's fin, or a spine on the stem of a plant. —spined adj. [in comb.] broken-spined paperbacks.

spine-chilling /ˈspɪn,ˌtʃɪlɪŋ/ adj. a story or movie that inspires terror and excitement. —spine-chilling-ly adv.

spineless /ˈspɪn,liːs/ adj. 1. having no spine or backbone; invertebrate. □ fig. (of a person) lacking resolution; weak and purposeless: a spineless coward. □ (of an animal or plant) lacking spines; spineless forms of prickly pear have been selected. —spinelessly adv. —spineless-ness n.

spinet /ˈspɪnət/ n. a type of small upright piano.

spin-tiness /ˈspɪnˌtɪnɪs/ adj. int. thrilling or pleasurably frightening: a spine-tilling adventure.

spinaker /ˈspɪnəkər/ n. a large three-cornered sail, typically bulging when full, set forward of the mainsail of a yacht when running before the wind.

spinney /ˈspɪnəni/ n. a large edible crustacean (Palinurus and other genera, family Palinuridae) with a spiny shell and long heavy antennae, but lacking the large claws of true lobsters.

spiral /ˈspɪrəl/ adj. winding in a continuous and gradually widening (or tightening) curve, either around a central point on a flat plane or about an axis so as to form a cone: a spiral pattern. □ winding in a continuous curve of constant diameter around a central axis, as though along a cylinder; helical. □ (of a staircase) constantly turning in one direction as it rises, around a solid or open center.

□ 1. a spiral curve, shape, or pattern: he spotted a spiral of smoke. 2. a progressive rise or fall of prices, wages, etc., each responding to an upward or downward stimulus provided by a previous one: an inflationary spiral. □ a process of deterioration through the continuous increase or decrease of a specified feature: a downward spiral of sex and drink. 3 Football a pass or kick that moves smoothly through the air while spinning on its long axis.

spirally /ˈspɪrəli/ adv. —spiral-ly adverb.

spirally-bound /ˈspɪrəli,-bɒnd/ adj. (of a book or notepad) bound with a wire or plastic spiral threaded through a row of holes along one edge.

spiral galaxy /ˈspɪrəl ˈgæləksɪ/ n. a galaxy in which the stars and gas clouds are concentrated mainly in one or more spiral arms.

spire /ˈspɪər/ n. 1. a tapering conical or pyramidal structure on the top of a building, typically a church tower. □ a long tapering object: spires of delphiniums. —spired adj. —spiry adj.

spire /spɪər/ n. Zool. the upper tapering part of the spiral shell of a gastropod mollusk, comprising all but the whorl containing the body.

spirillum /ˈspɪrɪliəm/ n. (pl. spirilla /ˈspɪrɪliə/) a bacterium with a rigid spiral structure, found in stagnant water and sometimes causing disease.

spirit /ˈspɪrɪt/ n. 1. the nonphysical part of a person that is the seat of emotions and character; the soul: we seek a harmony between body and spirit; such a part regarded as a person's true self and as capable of surviving physical death or separation: a year after he left, his spirit is still present. □ such a part manifested as an apparition after their death; a ghost. □ a supernatural being: shrines to nature spirits. □ the Spirit short for Holy Spirit. □ those qualities regarded as forming the definitive or typical elements in the character of a person, nation, or group or in the thought and attitudes of a particular period: the university is a symbol of the nation's egalitarian spirit. □ a person identified with their most prominent, or moral characteristics or with their role in a group or movement: he was a leading spirit in the conference. □ a specified emotion or mood, esp. one prevailing at a particular time: I hope the team will build on this spirit of confidence. □ a person's mood: the warm weather lifted everyone's spirits after the winter. □ the quality of courage, energy, and determination or assertiveness: his visitors admired his spirit and good temper. □ the attitude or intentions with which someone undertakes or regards something: he confessed in a spirit of self-respect, not defiance. □ the real meaning or the intention behind something as opposed to its strict verbal interpretation: the rule had been broken in spirit if not in letter. □ (usu. spirit)s strong distilled liquor such
as brandy, whiskey, gin, or rum. n. a volatile liquid, esp. a fuel, prepared by distillation: spirits of turpentine. adj. aviation. spirit.

> v. t. be, b. to; convey rapidly and secretly: stolen coins were spirited away some distance to prevent detection. —Middle English from Anglo-Norman French, from Latin spirātus ‘breath, spirit,’ from spirāre ‘breathe.’ —spir-i-tu-ous adj.

spirited /spir-ı-tid/ adj. 1. full of energy, enthusiasm, and determination: a spirited campaigner for women’s rights. 2. [in comb.] having a specified character, outlook on life, or mood. he was a warmhearted, good-natured, good-natured spirited man. —spir-i-tu-ally adv. —spir-i-tu-ness n.

spiri-tu-al /spir-ı-to-ı/ adj. 1. relating to, or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things: i’m responsible for his spiritual welfare, the spiritual values of life. 2. (of a person) not concerned with material values or pursuits. 3. of or relating to religion or religious beliefs. —spiritual leader.


> □ one’s spiritual home a place in which one feels a profound sense of belonging: i had always thought of italy as my spiritual home.

spir-i-tu-al-ism /spir-ı-to-ı-ızm/ n. a system of belief or religious practice based on supposed communication with the spirits of the dead, esp. through mediums. —spir-i-to-ı-al-ist n. —spir-i-to-ı-al-istic /spir-ı-to-ı-ıstık/ adj.

spir-o-chete /spir-ı-o-ˌchet/ n. a flexible spirally twisted bacterium, esp. one that causes syphilis.


spit /spit/ v. t. spit, past and past part. spat or spat/spat (spat) intr. to eject saliva forcibly from one’s mouth, sometimes as a gesture of contempt or anger. 2. spit in Hugh’s face. intr. to forcibly eject (food or liquid) from one’s mouth: he spit out his piece of coconut. spat (esp. of a baby) vomit or regurgitate food. intr. to utter in a hostile or aggressive way. spat abuse at the jury. be extremely angry or frustrated: he was spitting with sudden fury. spat (a fire or something being cooked) emit small bursts of sparks or hot fat with a series of short, explosive noises. spat (of a cat) make a hissing noise as a sign of anger or hostility.

> n. saliva. typically that which has been ejected from a person’s mouth. 2. an act of spitting. —spit-ter n.

spit /spit/ n. 1. a long, tin metal rod pushed through meat in order to hold and turn it while it is roasted over an open fire: chicken cooked on a spit. 2. a narrow point of land projecting into the sea. 2. spit of land shelters the bay. 3. spit (spit, spat) intr. to put a spit through (meat) in order to roast it over an open fire. i spit the squirrel and turned it over the flames. spit and polish n. thorough or exaggerated cleaning and polishing, esp. by a soldier: they gave the dining room some extra spit and polish.

spit-ball /spit-ball/ n. 1. a piece of paper that has been chewed and shaped into a ball for use as a missile. 2. baseball an illegal pitch made with a ball moistened with saliva or another substance to make it move erratically.

spit /spit/ v. intr. throw out (a suggestion) for discussion: i’m just spitting a few ideas. —spit-ball-er n.

spite /spit/ n. a desire to hurt, annoy, or offend someone: he’d think i was saving it out of spite. 2. use as a gesture of contempt or anger. 3. deliberate hurt, annoy, or offend (someone): he put the house up for sale to spite his family.

> □ in spite of without being affected by the particular factor mentioned. he was suddenly cold in spite of the sun.

spite-ful /spit-ı-fıl/ adj. showing or caused by malice: the teachers made spiteful little jokes about me. —spite-fully adv. —spite-ful-ness n.

spit-fire /spit-ı-fır/ n. a person with a fierce temper.

spit-lit-ting image n. the (spitting image) of intr. the exact double of (another person or thing) she’s the spitting image of her mom.

spit-til /spit-ı-tı/ n. saliva, esp. as ejected from the mouth. —spit-tily adj.

spit-toon /spit-ı-ton/ n. a metal or earthenware pot typically having a funnel-shaped top, used for spitting into.

splash /splash/ n. a sound made by something striking or falling into liquid: we hit the water with a mighty splash. 2. a spell of moving about in water energetically; the girls joined them for a final splash in the pool. a small quantity of liquid that has fallen or been dashed against a surface: a splash of gravy. 3. a small quantity of liquid added to a drink: a splash of lemonade. 4. a bright patch of color; add a red scarf to give a splash of color. 5. a prominent or sensational news feature or story. 6. a front-page splash. int. a striking, ostentatious, or exciting effect or event: there’s going to be a big splash when mike returns to the ring.

> v. intr. cause (liquid) to strike or fall on something in irregular drops: she splashed cold water onto her face. intr. make wet by doing this: they splashed each other with water. intr. [of a liquid] fall or be scattered in irregular drops: a tear fell and splashed onto the pillow. intr. strike or move around in a body of water, causing it to fly about noisily. be splashed with be decorated with scattered patches of: a field splashed with water.

> □ in a splash (of) (spat-ted, spat-lit) intr. a great deal of activity. —splash-ly adj.

splash-down /splash-don/ n. 1. the alighting of a returning spacecraft on the sea, with the assistance of parachutes. 2. splash a noun of something soft and wet or heavy striking a surface: the goblin makes a huge splash as he hits the ground. intr. with a sound of this type: he lands splash on his right elbow.

> v. (spat-ted, spat-lit) intr. [from] splash with a sticky or viscous liquid: a passing cart rolled by, splashing him with mud. —splash (such a liquid) over a surface or object. intr. [of such a liquid] splash: heavy droplets of rain splash onto the windshield. prom. prominently or sensational ly publish (a story) in a newspaper: the story is splashed over pages two and three.

> n. 1. a spot or trail of a sticky or viscous liquid splashed over a surface or object: each puddle we crossed threw a splatter of mud on the windshield. 2. a surface making an oblique angle with another, such as the splashed side of a window or embrasure. the degree of bevel or slant of a surface.

> adj. [usu. in comb.] turned outward or widened: the girls were sitting spick and span.

spleen /splen/ n. 1. Anat. an abdominal organ involved in the production and removal of blood cells in most vertebrates and forming part of the immune system. 2. bad temper; spirit: he could vent his spleen on the institutions that had duped him. —Middle English: shortening of Old French esplène, via Latin from Greek splên.

spleen-did /splen-ı-dıd/ adj. magnificent; very impressive; a splendid view of Windsor Castle. —splendid-nested; —splendid-ly adv. —splendid-ness n.


spleen-in storm /splen-ı-ˈsto:/ n. a magnificent and splendid appearance, grandeur: the splenetic storm; splenic magnificence features or qualities: the splendor of the imperial court.

spleen-ecto-my /splen-ıˈnek-tə-mı/ n. a surgical operation involving removal of the spleen.


splice /splız/ v. intr. join or connect (a rope or ropes) by interweaving the strands; we learned how to weave and splice ropes. a cord was spliced on. intr. [join] (pieces of timber, film, or tape) at the ends; commercials can be spliced in later. —splice-nets join or insert (a gene or gene fragment).

Pronunciation Key a a o, up, or over; fur; at; ocar; ce; ch; c; sh; t; th; thin; then; ih; why; zh; vision
spine (spleen) n. 1 a rectangular key fitting into grooves in the hub and shaft of a wheel, esp. one formed integrally with the shaft that allows movement of the wheel on the shaft. 2 a corresponding groove in a hub along which the key may slide. 2 a flat, flexible band or rubber strip used esp. in drawing large curves.

spilt (splint) n. 1 a strip of rigid material used for supporting and immobilizing a broken bone; a splint. 2 a long, thin strip of wood used to light a fire. 3 a rigid or flexible strip, esp. of wood, used in basketwork.

spilt (split) v. [tr.] secure (a broken limb) with a splint or splints: his leg was splinted.

splitter /'splɛtə/ n. a small, thin, sharp piece of wood, glass, or similar material broken off from a larger piece: a splinter of ice.

split v. or intr. break or cause to break into small sharp fragments: [intr.] the soap box splintered. 1 [tr.] he crushed into a fence, splintering the wooden barricade.

-splinter-y adj.

splitter-group (also splitter-party) n. a small organization, typically a political party, that has broken away from a larger one.

split /splɪt/ v. splitting past and past part. split 1 break or cause to break forcibly into parts, esp. into halves or along the grain: [intr.] the ice cracked and heaved and split. 2 [tr.] split and toast the muffins. 3 remove or be removed by breaking, separating, or dividing: [tr.] the point was pressed against the edge of the flint to split off flakes. 4 divide or cause to divide into parts or elements: [tr.] splitting water into oxygen and hydrogen.

-spli-ter-ize /'splɛtərɪzɪn/ v. or intr. divide and share (something, esp. resources or responsibilities); they met up and split the booty. 2 [tr.] cause the fission of (an atom). 3 [tr.] issue new shares of (stock) to existing stockholders in proportion to their current holdings (with reference to a group of people) divide into two or more groups: [tr.] let's split up and find the other two [intr.] once again the family was split up.

splitting /'splɛtɪŋ/ n. a separation into parts or within a party: a schism.

split /'splɛt/ (of an issue) cause (a group) to be divided because of opposing views: the party was deeply split over its future direction. 3 [intr.] inf. of (one's head) suffer great pain from a headache: my head is splitting. 4 [adj.] splitting a splitting headache.

split /'splɛt/ intr. leave a place, esp. suddenly: "Let's split," Horney said.

spleen /spleɪn/ n. 1 a tare, crack, or fissure, or something, esp. down the middle or along the grain: light splayed through a small split in the curtain. 2 an instance or act of splitting or being split: a division between the rich and the poor.

split /'splɛt/ adj. of (a building) having a room or rooms higher than others by less than a whole story: a large split-level house.

split second /'splɛt,sekənd/ n. a very brief moment of time: for a split second, I hesitated.

split-level /'splɛt,levəl/ adj. of (a building) having a room or rooms higher than others by less than a whole story: a large split-level house.

split pea /'splɛt,pi/ n. a pea dried and split in half for cooking.

split personality /'splɛt,paʊsələrti/ n. less common term for multiple personality.

split screen /'splɛt,skri:n/ n. a movie, television, or computer screen on which two or more separate images are displayed.

split second /'splɛt,sekənd/ n. a very brief moment of time: for a split second, I hesitated.

-splite-ry adj.

sploit /sploɪt/ v. (past and past part. spoiled or chiefly Brit. spolit /ˈspɒlɪt/) [tr.] 1 diminish or destroy the value or quality of: I wouldn't want to spoil your fun. 2 prevent someone from enjoying (an occasion or event): she was afraid of spoiling Christmas for the rest of the family. 3 [intr.] (of food) become unfit for eating: I've got some ham that'll spoil if we don't eat it tonight.

spoil /spɔɪl/ v. (esp. with a modifier) spoil for or spoil by for being extremely or exceptionally eager for: Cooper was spoiling for a fight.

spoil /spɔɪl/ v. (usu. spolied) goods stolen or taken forcibly from a person or place: the looters carried their spoils away.

spoiled /ˈspɔɪld/ adj. 1 treated with great or excessive kindness, consideration, or generosity: Susanna would go to the North Street house whenever she needed to be spoiled.

spoil /spɔɪl/ v. the action of spoiling, esp. the deterioration of food and perishable goods.

spoil /spɔɪl/ v. (esp. in a political context) a person who obstructs or prevents an opponent's success while having no chance of winning a contest himself. 2 an electronic device for preventing unauthorized copying of sound recordings by means of a disruptive signal inaudible on the original.

spoliation /ˈspɔliəʃən/ n. the act of spoiling, esp. the deterioration of food and perishable goods.

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spoil-sport /ˈspɔɪl,spɔːrt/ n. a person who behaves in a way that spoils others' pleasure, esp. by not joining in an activity.

spoil-storm /ˈspɔɪl,storms/ n. the practice of a successful political party giving public office to its supporters.

spoke /spɒk/ n. each of the bars or wire rods connecting the center of a wheel to its outer edge. 2 each of a set of radial handles projecting from a ship's wheel.

spoke /spɒk/ n. each of the bars or wire rods connecting the center of a wheel to its outer edge. 2 each of a set of radial handles projecting from a ship's wheel.

spoke-shave /ˈspɒk,ʃeɪv/ n. a small plane with a handle on each side of its blade, used for shaping curved surfaces (originally wheel spokes).

spokes-man /ˈspɒks,men/ n. (pl. -men) a person, esp. a man, who makes statements on behalf of another individual or a group: a spokesman for Greencare.

spokes-person /ˈspɒks,paːrson/ n. (pl. -persons or -peoples /ˈpɛːpəl/ a spokesman or spokeswoman (used as a neutral alternative).

spoliation /ˈspɔliəʃən/ n. the action of ruining or destroying something: the spoliation of the countryside.

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spoon /ˈspʊn/ n. 1 a primitive sedentary aquatic invertebrate with a soft porous body that is typically supported by a framework of fibers or calcareous or glassy spicles. 2 a piece of a soft, light, porous substance originally consisting of the fibrous skeleton of such an invertebrate but now usually made of synthetic materials. Sponges absorb liquid and are used for washing and cleaning. 3 an act of wiping or cleaning with a sponge: they gave him a quick sponge down.

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sporting
spread-eagle

877

sprout

English springer spaniel. Typically black and white or brown and white, and the less common red and white Welsh springer spaniel.

2 Aech. The lowest stone in an arch, where the curve begins.

spring fever \t\n a feeling of restlessness and excitement felt at the beginning of spring.

spring-loaded \t\n containing a compressed or stretched spring pressing one part against another: a spring-loaded clothespin.

spring peeper \t\n see PEEPER.

spring roll \n an Asian snack consisting of rice paper filled with minced vegetables and usually meat, rolled into a cylinder and fried.

springtail \t\n a minute primitive wingless insect that has a springlike organ under the abdomen that enables it to leap when disturbed. Springtails are abundant in the soil and leaf litter.

spring tide \t\n a tide just after a new or full moon, when there is the greatest difference between high and low water. Compare with NEAP.

spring-time \t\n the season of spring.

spring-kle \t\n adj. \t spring-like.

spring-ly \t\n adj. \t spring-like, lively.

spring-like \t\n acting or feeling as if it were spring.
square dance

feel square. 3 at right angles; perpendicular: these lines must be square to the top and bottom marked edges. 4 on a level or parallel: place one piece of wood on top of the other, ensuring that they are exactly square. 5 properly arranged; in good order: we should get everything square before we leave. 6 compatible or in agreement: he wanted to make sure we were square with the court's decision and not subject to a lawsuit. 7 fair and honest: she'd been as square with him as anybody could be. 8 of (two people) owing nothing to each other: an acknowledgment that we are square. 9 with both players or sides having equal scores in a game: the goal brought the match all square once again. 10 old-fashioned or boringly conventional: Elvis was anything but square. 11 of (right, rhm) simple and straightforward.

adv. directly: it hit me square in the forehead. int. fairly, honestly: I'd acted square and on the level with him.

v [tr.] 1 make square or rectangular: give a square or rectangular cross section to: you can square off the edge. 2 multiply (a number) by itself: 5 squared equals 25. 3 convert a linear unit of measurement to a unit of area equal to a square whose side is of the same specified; there were only three people per kilometer squared. 4 make compatible; reconcile: I'm able to square my profession with my religious beliefs. 5 [intr.] be compatible: do these announcements really square with the facts? 6 balance (an account): they're anxious to square their books before the audit. 7 bring (one's shoulders) into a position in which they appear square and broad, typically to prepare oneself for a difficult task or event: chin up, shoulders squared, she stepped into the room. 8 square oneself adopt a posture of defense.

—squarely adv. —squareness n. —square-er, n. —square-sh adj.

back to (or at) square one int. back to where one started, with no progress having been made.

square dance n. a country dance that starts with four couples facing one another in a square, with the steps and movements shouted out by a caller.

v. (square dance) [intr.] often as n | (square dancing) participate in a square dance. —square dancer n.

square deal n. a fair bargain or treatment: the workers feel they are not getting a square deal.

square knot n. a type of double knot that is made symmetrically to hold securely and to be easy to untie.

square meal n. a substantial, satisfying, and balanced meal: three square meals a day.

square measure n. a unit of measurement relating to area.

square root n. a number that produces a specified quantity when multiplied by itself: 7 is a square root of 49.

square sail n. a four-cornered sail supported by a yard attached to a mast.

square shoer n. a person who is honest, fair, and straightforward.

square-shouldered adj. [of a person] having broad shoulders that do not slope.

squeak [skwæk] v. [tr.] crush or squeeze (something) with force so that it becomes flat, soft, or out of shape: wash and squash the cans for the recycling bin. [intr.] squeeze or force (someone or something) into a small or restricted space: she squeezed some of her clothes inside the bag. [intr.] make one's way into a small or restricted space: I squashed into the middle of the crowd. suppress, stifle, or subdue (a feeling, conception, or action): the mournful sound did nothing to squash her high spirits. firmly reject (an idea or suggestion).

n. 1 a state of being squeezed or forced into a small or restricted space: it was a tight squeeze but he didn't seem to mind. 2 a game in which two players use markers to hit a small, soft rubber ball against the walls of a closed court. 3 a preparation of softened tissue that has been made thin for microscopic examination by gently compressing or tapping it. —squeaky adj.

square n. 1 a unit of area: an edible gourd, the flesh of which may be cooked and eaten as a vegetable. 2 the trading plant (genus Cucurbita) of the gourd family that produces this fruit.

squash [skwæt] n. (pl. same or squashes) 1 an edible gourd, the flesh of which may be cooked and eaten as a vegetable. 2 the trading plant (genus Cucurbita) of the gourd family that produces this fruit.

square [kwæt] v. (squatted, squating) 1 [intr.] crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks or the back of one's thighs: I squatted down in front of him. 2 [intr.] Weightlifting crouch down in such a way and rise again while holding (a specified weight) at one's shoulders: he can squat 850 pounds. 3 [intr.] unlawfully occupy an uninhabited building or settle on a piece of land: eight families are squatting in the house. 4 [intr.] occupy (an uninhabited building) in such a way.

—square adj. (squater, squatest) short and thickset: disproportionately broad or wide; he was muscular and squat.

n. 1 a position in which one's knees are bent and one's heels are close to or touching one's buttocks or the back of one's thighs. 2 Weightlifting an exercise in which a person squats down and rises again while holding a barbell at shoulder level. 3 in gymnastics an exercise involving a squatting movement or action. 4 short for DIDDLY-SQUAT: I didn't know squat about writing plays. —squatly adv. —squatness n.

squatter [skwætər] n. a person who unlawfully occupies an uninhabited building or unused land. 2 nist. a settler with no legal title to the land occupied, typically one on land not yet allocated by a government.

squeak n. a sound of pain or distress: she let out a squeak of pain.

squeeze [skwiːz] n. a sound: she let out a squeak of pain.

squeaky adj. [of] or [used for] a squeak: the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

squeaky-ly adv. —squeakiness n.

squeal [skwɛl] v. [intr.] a long, high-pitched cry or noise: we heard a squeal and a squeal.

squeeze-v. [intr.] make such a cry or noise: the girl squealed with delight. 2 complain or protest about something: the bookies were squealed because we beat them. 3 inform someone on the police if a person in authority: she feared they would victimize her for squealing on their pals.

squeamish [skeɪmɪʃ] adj. (of a person) easily made to feel sick, faint, or disgusted, esp. by unpleasant images, such as the sight of blood: he was a bit squeamish at the sight of the giant needles. 2 (of a person) having strong moral views: scrupulous: she was not squeamish about using her social influence in support of his son. —squeamishly adv. —squeamish-ness n.

squeegee [skeɪˈgɛɪ] n. a scraping implement with a rubber-edged blade set on a handle, typically used for cleaning windows. 2 a small instrument or roller used esp. in photography for squeezing water out of prints. 3 [intr. or adverbial] a person who cleans the windshield of a car stopped in traffic and then demands payment from the driver: squeeze guys at every corner.

v. (gee, geeed, gee-seeing) clean or scrape (something) with a squeegee: squeegee the shower doors while the surfaces are still wet.

squeez[e] [skwiːz] v. 1 [intr.] firmly press (something soft or yielding), typically with one's fingers: Kate squeezed his hand affectionately. 2 [intr.] he squeezed with all his strength. [intr.] extract (liquid or a soft substance) from something by compressing or twisting it firmly: squeeze out as much juice as you can. 3 [intr.] obtain (something) from someone with difficulty: a governor who wants to squeeze as much money out of taxpayers as he can. 4 [intr.] pressure (someone) in order to obtain something from them: she used the opportunity to squeeze him for information. 5 (esp. in a financial or commercial context) have a damaging or restricting effect on: the economy is being squeezed by foreign debt repayments. 6 [squeeze off] shoot a round or shot from a gun: squeeze off a few well-aimed shots.

(squeeze off) adv. off take a photograph: he squeezed off a half-dozen Polaroids. 2 [intr.] manage to get into or through a narrow or restricted space: Sarah squeezed in beside her. 3 [intr.] manage to force into or through such a space: she squeezed herself into her tightest pair of pants. 4 [intr.] (squeeze up) move closer to someone or something so that one is pressed tightly against them or it: he squeezed her toward a seat, motioning for everyone to squeeze up and make room. 5 [intr.] (squeez[e] someone/something) manage to find time for someone or something: the Pronunciation Key a gap, up, or over, fur; a hat: à ate; é ear; ch chin; ő let; ő sec, ő(ő) air; i: it; y: yar; no sing, ő go, ő law, for; oi low; ő0 good; ő0 go; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; (h) why; zh vision
not deteriorating in health after an injury or operation; he is now in a 
stable condition in the hospital. [of a person] sane and sensible; not 
easily upset or disturbed: the officer concerned is typically and emotionally 
stable. [of an object or structure] not likely to give the impression of 
instability; firmly fixed: specially designed chandeliers that are very stable. —stably /ˈstæb(ə)l/ adv.

stable /ˈstæbəl/ n. a building set apart and adapted for keeping horses. 
an establishment where racehorses are kept and trained. The racehorses 
are the property of a particular training establishment. 
an organization or establishment providing the space for training and for its members. 
the player comes from the same stable as Agassi. a group of people trained by 
the same person or under one management. the agent looked after a 
big stable of European golfers.

v. [tr.] put or keep (a horse) in a specially adapted building, 
put or base (a train) in a depot. —stably /ˈstæb(ə)l/ adj. 

stabling /ˈstæbing/ n. accommodations for horses.

stac-cal-ó /staˈkálo/ chiefly Mus. adv & adj. with each sound or note 
sharply detached or separated from the others: [as adj.] a stacCATo 
rhythm. Compare with LEGATO.

n. (staco-). a series of short, detached musical notes; her heels made a rapid 
staccato on the polished boards.

stack /stæk/ n. 1 a pile of objects, typically one that is neatly arranged: 
a stack of boxes. 2 a stack of some kind of large quantity of something; there’s stacks of work for me now. 
rectangular or cylindrical pile of hay or straw or of grain in sheaf, 
vertical arrangement of stereo or guitar amplification equipment, 
a number of aircraft flying in circles at different altitudes around the same point while waiting for permission 
to land at an airport. 2 shuffle or arrange (a deck of cards) 

disarray so as to gain an unfair advantage. —be stacked against/in favor of use referred to a 
situation that is such that an unfavorable or a favorable outcome is 
overwhelmingly likely: the odds were stacked against Fiji in the World Cup.

v. [intr.] (in snowboarding) fall over.

phasal v. stack int. measure up; compare: our rural schools stack up 
well against our urban counterparts. make sense; correspond to reality: 
to blame the debate on the antics of a rogue trader is not credible—it doesn’t stack up.

—stackable adj.

stadi-um /ˈstædiəm/ n. (pl. -diums or -di-a) a sports arena with 
tiers of seats for spectators. —in ancient Rome or Greece a track for 
foot race or chariot race.

staff /staf/ n. 1 [treated as sing. or pl.] all the people employed by a 
particular organization: a staff of 600. 2 the teachers in a school or college: [as adj.] a staff meeting. 
2 treated as sing. or pl.] a group of officers assisting an officer in command of an army formation or administration 
headquarters. 3 a long stick used as a support when walking or climbing 
or as a weapon. 4 a rod or scepter held as a sign of office or authority. 
5 short for FLAGSTAFF. 4 (pl. staves /ˈstævz/ also Brit. stave) 
Mus. a set of five parallel lines and the spaces between them, on which 
notes are written to indicate their pitch.

v. [tr.] (usu. be staffed) provide (an organization, business, etc.) with 
staff: legal advice centers are staffed by volunteer lawyers.

the staff of life a staple food, esp. bread.

staffer /ˈstæfər/ n. a member of the staff of an organization, esp. of a 
newspaper.

staff ser-geant /ˈstæfər/ n. a noncommissioned officer in the armed forces.

stag /stæg/ n. 1 a male deer. 2 [usu. as adj.] a social gathering 
attended by men only: a stag event. 3 a person who attends a social gathering 
unaccompanied by a partner.

adv without a partner at a social gathering: a lot of boys went stag.

Middle English (as a noun); related to Old Norse soge ‘male bird. 
Icelandic soge ‘tomcat.

stage /stæʒ/ n. 1 a point, period, or step in a process or development: 
there is no need at this stage to give explicit details. 2 a section of a journey or race. 
3 each of two or more sections of a rocket or spacecraft that 

have their own engines and are jettisoned in turn when their propellant 
is exhausted. —Electric. a specified part of a circuit, typically one 
consisting of a single amplifying transistor or electron tube with the 
associated equipment. 2 a raised floor or platform, typically in a the- 
ater, on which actors, entertainers, or speakers perform: there are only two 
characters on stage. [the stage] the acting or theatrical profession. 
I’ve always wanted to go on the stage. a scene of action or forum of 
debate, esp. in a particular political context: Argentina is playing a leading 
role on the international stage. 3 a floor or level of a building or structure: 
the upper stage was added in the 17th century. 4 (on a microscope) a raised 
and usually movable plate on which a slide or object is placed for exami-
nation. 5 Geol. a range of strata corresponding to an age in time, 
forming a subdivision of a series.

v. (tr.) present a performance of (a play or other show): the show is 
being staged at the Goodspeed Opera House. 2 (of a person or group) organize 
and participate in (a public event): UDF supporters staged a demonstration 
in Sofia. cause (something dramatic or unexpected) to happen: the 
president’s attempt to stage a comeback. —stage-able adj. 

—stage-er n.

stage-setter n.

stage-set for prepare the conditions for (the occurrence or 
beginning of something); these chemists helped to set the stage for 
popular reform.

stage-coach /ˈstæjˌkōch/ n. a large, closed horse-drawn vehicle 
formerly used to carry passengers and often mail along a regular route 
between two places.

stagecraft /ˈstækraft/ n. skill or experience in writing or staging 
plays.

stage door n. an actors’ and workers’ entrance from the street to 
the area of a theater behind the stage.

stage fright n. nervousness before or during an appearance before an 
audience.

stage-hand /ˈstæjˌhænd/ n. a person who moves scenery or props 
before or during the performance of a play.

stage name n. a name assumed for professional purposes by an 
actor or other performer.

stage-struck adj. having a passionate desire to become an actor.

stagey adj. variant spelling of STAGY.

staging /ˈstæjɪŋ/ n. persistent high inflation combined 
with high unemployment and stagnant demand in a country’s 
economy.

stag-gér /ˈstægər/ v. [intr.] walk or move unsteadily, as if about to fall; 
he staggered to his feet, swaying a little. 2 fig. continue in existence or operation 
uncertainly or precariously: the council staggered from one crisis to the next. 3 [tr.] arrange or deepen shock: I was staggered to find it was six 
O’clock. 4 [tr.] arrange (events, payments, hours, etc.) so that they do not occur at the same time; spread over a period of time: meetings were 
staggered throughout the day. 5 arrange (objects or parts of an object) 
in a zigzag order or so that they are not in line: stagger the screws at each joint.

n. 1 an unsteady walk or movement: she walked with a stagger. 2 an 
arrangement of things in a zigzag order or so that they are not in line. 

—stagger-er n. —stagger-ing-ly adv. a staggeringly unjust society.

stagging /ˈstægin/ n. an instance or method of presenting a play 
or other dramatic performance: one of the better stagings of this classic. 
3 an instance of organizing a public event or protest: the fourteenth 
staging of the championships. 2 a stage or set of stages or temporary platforms 
aranged as a support for performers or between different levels of 
scaffolding.

staging ar-e-a n. a stopping place or assembly point en route to a 
destination: a vast staging area for guerrilla attacks. the geese’s major staging 
area on the St. Lawrence River.
on or on something on the ground: he stampéd his foot in frustration | [intr.] he threw his cigarette down and stamped on it.  
[v.] to crush, flatten, or remove with a heavy blow: a man stamped on her feet: he stampéd out the flames from his hand.  
[v.] to walk with heavy, forceful steps: he stampéd off, muttering.  
[v.] to impress a pattern or mark, esp. an official one, on a surface object, or document using an engraved or inked block or die or other instrument: the woman stamped my passport.  
[v.] to reveal or mark out something significant in a particular character, quality, or situation: he fashioned his style as a player to watch.  
[v.] to affix a postage stamp or stamps onto a letter or package: Annie stamped the envelope for her.

> n.  
1. an instrument for stamping a pattern or mark, in particular an engraved or inked block or die.  
2. a mark or pattern made by such an instrument, esp. one indicating official validation or certification: passports with visa stamps.  
3. a characteristic or distinctive impression or quality: the whole project has the stamp of authority.  
4. a particular class or type of person or thing: empiricism of this stamp has been esp. influential in British philosophy.  
5. a small adhesive piece of paper stuck to something to show that an amount of money has been paid in particular a postage stamp: a first-class stamp.  
6. an act or sound of stamping with the foot: the stamp of boots on the bare floor. —stam-pérf n.

stance /sáns/ n. the way in which someone stands, esp. when deliberately adopted (as in baseball, golf, and other sports); a person's posture: she altered her stance, resting all her weight on one leg.  
2. the attitude of a person or organization toward something; a standpoint: the party is changing its stance on the draft.

stanch /sánch, stánch/ (also stanch long) a. v. to stop or restrict (a flow of blood) from a wound: colleagues may have saved her life by staunching the flow.

stanch /stánch/ adj. variant spelling of stanch (sense 2).

stanchion /stánchon/ n. an upright bar, post, or frame forming a support or barrier. —stanchioned adj.

stand /stand/ v. (past stood /stód/; past participle standing)  
1. [intr.] to have or maintain an upright position, supported by one's feet: Lonestar stood in the doorway.  
2. to rise to one's feet: the two men stood up and shook hands.  
3. [intr.] to move and remain in a specified position: she stood aside to let them enter.  
4. [intr.] to place or set in an upright or specified position: don't stand the plant in direct sunlight.  
5. (of a building, or building or other vertical structure) remain upright and entire rather than fall into ruin or be destroyed: after the heavy storms, only one house was left standing.  
6. remain valid or unaltered: my decision stands; his strike record stood for 28 years.  
7. (esp. of a vehicle) remain stationary: the train now standing on track 3.  
8. (of a liquid) collect and remain motionless; avoid planting in soil where water stands in winter.  
9. (of food, a mixture, or liquid) rest without disturbance, typically so as to infuse or marinate: pour boiling water over the fruit and leave it to stand for 5 minutes.  
10. [intr.] to be in a specified state or condition: since mother's death, the house had stood empty | sorry, darling—I stand corrected.  
11. adopt a particular attitude toward a matter or issue: students should consider where they stand on this issue.  
12. [intr.] be of a specified height: a man standing 5 ft, 4 in. tall.  
13. [stand at] to be at (a particular level or value): the budget stood at $14 million per annum.  
14. [intr.] to be in a situation where one is likely to do something: investors stood to lose heavily.  
15. act in a specified capacity: he stood watch all night.  
16. [intr.] withstand (an experience or test) without being damaged: small boats that could withstand the punishment of heavy seas.  
17. be able to endure or tolerate: I can't stand the way Mom talks to him.  
18. [intr.] strongly dislike: I can't stand brady.  
20. provide (food or drink) for someone at one's own expense: somebody in the bar would stand him a beer.

> phrasal v.  
1. stand aside take no action to prevent, or not involve oneself in, something that is happening: the army had stood aside as the monarchy fell.  
2. stand by be present while something bad is happening but fail to take any action to stop it: he was beaten to the ground as onlookers stood by.  
3. stand up to support or remain loyal to (someone), typically in a situation in which he or she might have acted differently: those who remained loyal to the government must stand by its pledges.  
4. stand ready to decide or assist with something: two battalions were on their way, and a third was standing by.  
5. stand for  
1. be an abbreviation of or symbol for: NASA stands for National Aeronautics and Space Administration.  
2. refuse to endure or tolerate: we won't stand for any nonsense.  
3. support (a cause or principle): we stand for animal welfare.

> n.  
1. an attitude toward a particular issue; a position taken in an argument: the party's tough stand on welfare | his traditionalist stand.  
2. a determined effort to resist or fight for something: this was not the moment to make a stand for independence.  
3. an act of holding one's ground against or halting to resist an opposing force: Custer's legendary last stand.  
4. a place where vehicles, typically taxicabs, wait for passengers.  
5. a single group or body of people or animals, esp. to move in a way: the raiders stampeded 200 mules | fig. don't let them stampede us into anything. —stam-pérf n.

standard /stánd/ n.  
1. a level of quality or attainment: their restaurant offers a high standard of service.  
2. required or agreed level of quality or attainment: half the benches fail to comply with EPA standards.  
3. a thing or concept used as a measure, norm, or model in comparative evaluations; the wages are low by today's standards.  
4. principles of conduct informed by notions of honor and decency: a decline in moral standards.  
5. a form of language that is widely accepted or recognized as the correct form.  
6. the prescribed weight of fine metal in gold or silver coins: the sterling standard for silver.  
7. a system by which the value of a currency is defined in terms of gold or silver or both.  
8. an object that is supported in an upright position, in particular: a military or ceremonial flag carried on a pole or hoisted on a rope.  
9. an upright water or gas pipe.  
10. a tune or song of established popularity.

> adj.  
1. used or accepted as normal or average: the standard rate of income tax.  
2. a measurement: design, etc. such as is regularly used or produced; not special or exceptional; all these doors come in a range of standard sizes.  
3. (of a work, repertoire, or writer) viewed as authoritative or of permanent value and so widely read or performed: his essays on the interpretation of reality became a standard text.  
4. denoting or relating to the spoken or written form of a language widely accepted as usual and correct: speakers of standard English. —stárd-ud adj.

standard-bearer n. a leading figure in a cause or movement: the amnesty movement made her a standard-bearer for gay rights.


standard of living n. the degree of wealth and material comfort available to a person or group.

standard time n. a uniform time used in places in approximately the same longitude, established in a country or region by law or custom.

stand-by /stánd-bí/ n. (pl. -bys) readiness for duty or immediate deployment: buses were placed on standby for the trip to Washington.  
2. the state of waiting to secure a reserved place for a journey or performance, allocated on the basis of earliest availability: passengers were obliged to go on standby.  
3. a person waiting to secure such a place.  
4. a person or thing ready to be deployed immediately, esp. if needed.
Star of Bethlehem n. a resplendent star that is said to have guided the Magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus.

Star of David n. a six-pointed star, consisting of two interlaced equilateral triangles, used as a Jewish and Israeli symbol.

Star route n. a postal delivery route served by a private contractor.

Starry /ˈstæri/ adj. (ri-er, -riest) full of or lit by stars; a starry sky; reminding a star in brightness or shape: tiny white starry flowers. —starry-eyed adj. naively enthusiastic or idealistic; failing to recognize the practical realities of a situation.

Stars and Bars pl. n. [treated as sing.] hist. the flag of the Confederate States of America. It had a horizontal white stripe between two red stripes, and in the upper left corner was a blue field with a circle of seven white stars, one for each of the original seven seceded states.

Stars and Stripes pl. n. [treated as sing.] the national flag of the U.S. It has 13 horizontal stripes, alternating red and white, which represent the original Thirteen Colonies. In the upper left corner is a field of blue with 50 white stars, which represent the 50 states.

Star shell n. an explosive projectile designed to burst in the air and light up an enemy's position.

Star-spangled adj. poetic and fig. glitteringly successful: a star-spangled career.

Star-studded adj. 1. (of the night sky) filled with stars. 2. inf. featuring a number of famous people, esp. actors or sports players: a star-studded cast.

Start [stɑːt] v. 1. [intr.] come into being; begin: or reckoned from a particular point in time or space: the season starts in September. 2. [beg.] embark on a continuing action or a new venture: I started to chat to him.

Start-up n. 1. [intr.] (of a machine or device) to begin working: the new jet started up. 2. [aur.] cause or enable (someone or something) to begin doing or pursing something: his father started him off in business.

Startling /ˈstɑːlɪŋ/ adj. very surprising, astonishing, or remarkable: he bore a startling likeness to his father. —startlingly adv. a startlingly good memory.

Starve /stɑːv/ v. (of a person or animal) suffer severely or die from hunger; have nothing to eat, cause: she left her animals to starve. 2. [fr. intr.] cause a person or animal to suffer severely or die from hunger: for a while she had considered starving herself. 3. [intr.] starve (something out or into) force someone out of a place or into a specific state by stopping supplies of food: the Royalties were starved out after eleven days.

Star Wars n. an informal name for the STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE. 1. [intr.] v. [tr.] store (something) safely and secretly in a specified place: their wealth had been stashed away in Swiss banks.

State /stɑːt/ n. 1. (of something or something that is) united and juridically handed over a state of affairs: a quantity of illegal drugs, esp. one kept for personal use: one prisoner tried to swallow his state.

Stat-istics /stɑːtɪstɪks/ n. formal or technical a period or state of inactivity or equilibrium. 2. Med. a stoppage of flow of a body fluid.


State /stɑːt/ n. in a medical or prescription immediately. 1. [intr.] adj. in a medical condition or in a state of health. 2. adj. in a state-owned company. 3. n. in a state-owned company. 4. pomp and ceremony associated with monarchy or high levels of government: he was buried in state.

State /stɑːt/ v. express something definitely or clearly in speech or writing: the report stated that more than 51 percent of voters failed to participate. 1. [tr.] chiefly Law specify the facts of a case for consideration: judges must give both sides an equal opportunity to state their case. —state-able adj.

State of Affairs /stɑːt əf ɑːrnɪnts/ n. a situation or set of circumstances: the survey revealed a sorry state of affairs in schools.

State /stɑːt/ n. the most recent stage in the development of a product, incorporating the newest ideas and the most up-to-date features. 1. [intr.] n. a state of emergency: a situation of national danger or disaster in which a government suspends normal constitutional procedures in order to regain control: the government has declared a state of emergency. 2. n. a state of grace: a condition of being free from sin.

State-craft /stɑːt kɑːrft/ n. the skillful management of state affairs; statesmanship; issues of statecraft require great deliberation.

Pronunciation: Key a go, n. or outer: fur; a bat; a ate; a car; oh chin; o let; 6 see; e air; i by; 1 i air; ng sung; a go; 6 low; fo; toy; 6d good; 6d goo; ou out; sh she; th thin; th in then; (hw) why; 2h vision

Star of David

Normally starts games, and seldom is used as a relief pitcher. 1. a person or thing that starts in a specified way, esp. with reference to line or speed: he was a late starter in photography. 2. a topic, question, or other item with which to start a group discussion or course of study; material to draw as a starter for discussion. 3. [also starter culture] a bacteriological culture used to initiate souring in making yogurt, cheese, or butter.

Starting Block /ˈstɑːtɪŋ blɒk/ n. (usu. starting blocks) a shaped rigid block for bracing the feet of a runner at the start of a race.

Starting Gate /ˈstɑːtɪŋ gæt/ n. (usu. the starting gate) a restraining structure incorporating a barrier that is raised at the start of a race, typically in horse racing and skiing, to ensure a simultaneous start.

Start-ling /ˈstɑːtɪŋ/ v. (tr.) cause (a person or animal) to feel sudden shock or alarm; be: it was a sudden sound in the doorway startled her. —start-lingly adv. a startlingly good memory.

Starving /ˈstɑːvɪŋ/ adj. severely starved; suffering from hunger. 1. [tr.] dirt starved; suffering from hunger: to have been starved to death. 2. [intr.] starved: being starved; in a state of starvation. 3. [intr.] remain starved: to be starved for money. 4. [intr.] starve: to starve the enemy. 5. [intr.] starve (out or into) make suffer from hunger:

Startled /ˈstɑːtəld/ adj. naively enthusiastic or idealistic; failing to recognize the practical realities of a situation.
State Department

State Department [n. the department in the U.S. government dealing with foreign affairs.

Statehood [ˈstæt,hoʊd] n. the status of being a recognized independent nation; the Jewish struggle for statehood; the status of being a state of the U.S.: a proposed referendum on statehood for Puerto Rico.

State house (also state-house) n. the building where a state legislature meets.

Stateless [ˈstætli] adj. (of a person) not recognized as a citizen of any country.

Statelike [ˈstætlɪk] adj. (like, like) having a dignified, unhurried, and grand manner; majestic in manner and appearance; a statelike procession.

State-ment [ˈstætmənt] n. a definite or clear expression of something in speech or writing; do you agree with this statement? an official account of facts, views, or plans, esp. one for release to the media: the officials issued a joint statement calling for negotiations.

State-side [ˈstæt,said] adj. & adv. int. of, in, or toward the U.S. (used in reference to the U.S. from elsewhere or from the geographically separate states of Alaska and Hawaii) [as adj.] state-side police departments [as adv.] they were headed state-side.

State-man [ˈstæt,smən] n. (pl. -men) a skilled, experienced, and respected political leader or figure.


State-socialism [ˈstæt,soʊ,kælɪzəm] n. a political system in which the state has control of industries and services.

State's rights [ˈstætz,raitz] pl. n. the rights and powers held by individual U.S. states rather than by the federal government.

State University [ˈstæt,ənivər,sətI] n. a university managed by the public authorities of a particular U.S. state.

Static [ˈstætɪk] adj. 1 lacking in movement, action, or change, esp. in a way viewed as undesirable or uninteresting: demand has grown in what was a fairly static market.

Computer (of a process or variable) not able to be changed during a set period, for example, while a program is running.

Physicist concerned with bodies at rest or forces in equilibrium. (of an electric charge) having gathered on or in an object that cannot conduct a current. Acting as weight but not moving.

Computational (of a memory or store) not needing to be periodically refreshed by an applied voltage.

n. crackling or hissing noises on a telephone, radio, or other telecommunications system. short for STATIC ELECTRICITY. int. angry or critical talk or behavior: the reception was going sour, breaking up into static.


Statice [ˈstætɪs] n. another term for sea lavender, esp. when cultivated as a garden plant.

Static-electricity [ˈstætɪk,ɪtrɪ-tɪ] n. a stationary electric charge, typically produced by friction, that causes sparks or crackling or the attraction of dust or hair.

Statics [ˈstætɪks] pl. n. [usu. treated as sing] the branch of mechanics concerned with bodies at rest and forces in equilibrium.

Station [ˈstætʃən] n. 1 a regular stopping place on a public transportation route, esp. one on a railroad line with a platform and often one or more buildings. 2 a place or building where a specified activity or service is based: coastal radar stations. a small military base, esp. of a specified kind: naval station. a police station. a subsidiary post office. Australian/NZ a large sheep or cattle farm. 3 a company involved in broadcasting of a specified kind: a radio station. 4 the place where someone or something stands or is placed on military or other duty: the Yokohama resumed his station in the brown. 5 dated one's social rank or position: Karen was getting ideas above her station.

v. [ˈstætʃən] put in or assign to a specified place for a particular purpose, esp. a military one: troops stationed in the town.

Stationary [ˈstætʃənərI] adj. not moving or not intended to be moved: a car collided with a stationary vehicle. not changing in quantity or condition: a stationary population.

Station break n. a pause between broadcast programs for an announcement of the identity of the station transmitting them, typically also containing commercials.

Stationer [ˈstætʃənər] n. a person or store selling paper, pens, and other writing and office materials.

Stationery [ˈstætʃənərI] n. writing paper, esp. with matching envelopes. writing and other office materials.

Station of the Cross n. (usu. Stations of the Cross) one of a series of images representing Jesus' progress from Pilate's house to his crucifixion at Calvary, before which devotions are performed in some churches.

Station wagon n. a car with a longer body than usual, incorporating a large carrying area behind the seats and having an extra door at the rear for easy loading.

Statism [ˈstæt,izəm] n. a political system in which the state has substantial centralized control over social and economic affairs: the rise of authoritarian statism. -statist n. & adj.

Statistical [ˈstætɪstɪkəl] adj. 1 of or relating to the use of statistics: a statistical comparison. -statistically [ˈstætɪstikli] adv. these differences were not statistically significant.

Statistically-significant n. see SIGNIFICANCE.

Statistician [ˈstætɪstɪkʃən] n. a professional in one of the major statistical disciplines.

Statistics [ˈstætɪstɪks] pl. n. [treated as sing] the practice or science of collecting and analyzing numerical data in large quantities, esp. for the purpose of inferring proportions in a whole from those in a representative sample.

Statuary [ˈstætʃərɪ] n. sculpture consisting of statues; statues regarded collectively: fragments of broken statuary. -architectural art or practice of making statues.

Statue [ˈstætʃu] n. a carved or cast figure of a person or animal, esp. one that is life-size or larger.

Statuesque [ˈstæt cheweskw] adj. (esp. of a woman) attractively tall and dignified: her statuesque beauty.

Statuelet [ˈstætʃu,el] n. a small statue or figureine, esp. one that is smaller than life-size.

Status [ˈstætəs] n. 1 the relative social, professional, or other standing of someone or something: an improvement in the status of women. high rank or social standing: those who enjoy wealth and status. the official classification given to a person, country, or organization, determining their rights or responsibilities: the duchy had been elevated to the status of a principality. the position of affairs at a particular time, esp. in political or commercial contexts: an update on the status of the bill.

Status quo [ˈstætəs kwoʊ] n. (usu. the status quo) the existing state of affairs, esp. regarding social or political issues: they have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

Statute [ˈstætʃu,et] n. a written law passed by a legislative body: violation of the hate crimes statute. a rule of an organization or institution: the appointment will be subject to the statutes of the university.

Statute mile [ˈstætʃu,mɛl] n. see MILE.

Statute law of limitations n. Law a statute prescribing a period of limitation for the bringing of certain kinds of legal action.

Statutory [ˈstætʃərəri] adj. required, permitted, or enacted by statute; the courts did award statutory damages to each of the plaintiffs. of or relating to statutes: constitutional and statutory interpretation. -statutorily [ˈstætərəri] adv.

Statutory rape n. Law sexual intercourse with a minor.

Stanchion [ˈstænʃən, stænʃən] n. 1 loyal and committed in attitude; a staunch supporter of the anti-nuclear lobby. (of a wall) of strong or firm construction. -staunchly adv. -stanchness n.

Stave [ˈstæf] n. 1 any of the lengths of wood attached side by side to...
steamship /stemˌship/ n. a ship that is propelled by a steam engine.

steam-y /stemˈeɪ/ adj. (steam-ier, steam-iest) producing, filled with, or clouded with steam; a small steamy kitchen. n. (of a place or its atmosphere) hot and humid; the hot, steamy jungle. int. depicting or involving erotic sexual activity; steamy sex scenes; a steamy affair.

steel-y /ˈstēl/ adj. —steel-i-ness /ˈstēlənəs/ n.

stea-tite /ˈstaːtɪt/ n. a white crystalline substance that is the main constituent of tallow and suet.

ste-a-tite /ˈsteɪti/ n. the mineral talc occurring in consolidated form, esp. as soapstone.

steed /stiːd/ n. archaic or poetic. a horse being ridden or available for riding.

steel /stiːl/ n. a hard, strong, gray or bluish-gray alloy of iron with carbon and usually other elements, used extensively as a structural and fabricating material. n. used as a symbol or embodiment of strength and firmness: nerves of steel. n. a rod of roughened steel on which knives are sharpened.

steep /stiːp/ v. [tr.] mentally prepare (oneself) to do or face something difficult; I speak quickly, steeling myself for a mean reply.

steep band n. a band that plays music on steel drums.

steep drum n. a percussion instrument introduced in Trinidad, made out of an oil drum with one end beaten down and divided by grooves into sections to give different notes. Also called steel (esp. by players).

steel-head /ˈstēlˌhɛd/ (also steelhead trout) n. a rainbow trout of a large migratory variety.

steel wool n. fine strands of steel matted together into a mass, used as an abrasive.

steel-works /ˈstēlˌwɜːks/ pl. n. [usu. treated as sing.] an industrial plant where steel is manufactured. —steel-worker /ˈstēlˌwɜːkər/ n.

steely /ˈstēli/ adj. (steeli-er, steeli-est) resembling steel in color, brightness, or strength: a steely blue. n. fig. coldly determined; hard: there was a steely edge to his questions. —steeli-ness /ˈstēliˌnəs/ n.

steel-yard /ˈstēlˌjɔːrd/ n. an apparatus for weighing that has a short arm taking the item to be weighed and a long graduated arm along which a weight is moved until it balances.

steep-p /ˈstiːp/ adj. 1. (of a slope. flight of stairs, angle, ascent, etc.) rising or falling sharply; nearly perpendicular: she pushed the bike up the steep hill. 2. (of a rise or fall in an amount) large or rapid; the steep rise in unemployment. 2. inf. (of a price or demand) not reasonable; excessive; a steep membership fee.


steep-p /v. [tr.] soak (food or tea) in water or other liquid so as to extract its flavor or to soften it; the chilies are steeped in olive oil; Should the noodles be left to steep for 3–4 minutes. 2. soak or saturate (cloth) in water or other liquid. 3. (usu. be steeped in) fig. surround or fill with a quality or influence; a city steeped in history.

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steep-pled /ˈstiːptəld/ adj.

steep-pled-chase /ˈstiːpəlˌtʃeɪz/ n. a horse race run on a racetrack having ditches and hedges as jumps. n. a running race in which runners must clear hurdles and water jumps. —steep-ped-chasing n.

steep-p /v. [tr.] (of a person) guide or control the movement of (a vehicle, vessel, or aircraft), for example, by turning a wheel or operating a rudder; he steered the boat slowly toward the buoy. 2. n. (of a vehicle, vessel, or aircraft) be guided in a specified direction in such a way: the ship steered into port. n. [tr.] follow (a course) in a specified direction: the fishermen were steering a direct course for Kodiak.

steer /stiːr/ v. [tr.] guide the movement or course of (someone or something): he had steered her to a chair. n. a piece of advice or information concerning the development of a situation; the need for the school to be given a clear steer as to its future direction. —steer-able /ˈstiːrəbəl/ adj. —steer-er n. —steer-ing adj.

steer /n. a male domestic bovine animal that has been castrated and is raised for beef.

steer-age /ˈstiːriɪ/ n. hist. the part of a ship providing accommodations for passengers with the cheapest tickets: poor emigrants in steer-age.

steering-commit-tee /ˈstɪrɪŋˌkəmɪtˌti/ n. a committee that decides on the priorities or order of course of an organization and manages the general course of its operations.

steering wheel n. a wheel that a driver rotates in order to steer a vehicle.

steers-man /ˈstɪərzmən/ n. pl. -men a person who is steering a boat or ship.

steg-o-saur /ˈsteɡˌsoʊər/ also steg-o-saurus /ˌsteɡoʊˈsɔrəs/ n. a small-headed quadrupedal herbivorous dinosaur (Stegosaurus and other genera) of the Jurassic and early Cretaceous periods, with a double row of large bony spines or spines along the back. —modern Latin, from Greek stegè covering + sauros lizard.

stein /stiːn/ n. a large earthenware beer mug.

ste-la /ˈstɛlə/ n. pi. -la, -lē Archaic. an upright stone slab or column typically bearing a commemorative inscription or relief design, often serving as a gravestone.

stellar /ˈsti(a)rəl/ adj. of or relating to a star or stars: stellar structure and evolution. n. featuring or having the quality of a star performer or performers: a stellar cast had been assembled. Susanna gave another stellar performance between the goalposts. n. exceptionally good: outstanding: his restaurant has received stellar ratings in the guides. —stellar-form /ˈsti(a)rəlˌfɔːrm/ adj.

stel-late /ˈstiːlt/ adj. —stel-lated /ˈstiːltəd/ adj. technical. arranged in a radiating pattern like that of a star.

St. Elmo's fire /ˈstɛlməʊ/ n. a phenomenon in which a luminous electrical discharge appears on a ship or aircraft during a storm.

stem /stem/ n. 1. the main body or stalk of a plant or shrub, typically rising above ground but occasionally subterranean; the stem of a sapling supporting a fruit, flower, or leaf, and attaching it to a larger branch, twig, or stalk. 2. a long and thin supportive or main section of something: the main stem of the wing feathers. n. the slender part of a wineglass between the base and the bowl. n. the tube of a tobacco pipe. n. a rod or cylinder in a mechanism. n. the windings of a watch. n. a vertical stroke in a letter or musical note. n. the root or main part of a noun, adjective, or other word, to which inflections or formative elements are added. n. the main upright structural piece at the bow of a ship, to which the ship's sides are joined. n. a pipe used for smoking crack or opium.

—stemmed, stem-ming /ˈstemd/ 1. [intr.] stem from originate in or be caused by: many of the universities' problems stem from rapid expansion. 2. [tr.] remove the stems from (fruit or tobacco leaves). n. (of a boat) make headway against (the tide or current). —stemmed adj. —stem-less adj. —stem-like /ˈstemlɪk/ adj. —stem-ly adv. —stem-ness n.

—stem from stem n. along the entire length of something; throughout: the album is a joy from stem to stem.

stem /v. [tr.] stem from restrict (the flow of something): a nurse did her best to stem the bleeding. 2. [tr.] Skiing slide down the hill of one ski or both skis outward in order to turn or slow down.

stem cell /n. Biol. an undifferentiated cell of a multicellular organism that is capable of giving rise to indefinitely more cells of the same type, and from which certain other kinds of cells arise by differentiation.

stem-ware /ˈstemˌweər/ n. goblets and stemmed glasses regarded collectively.

stench /ˈstɛntʃ/ n. a strong and very unpleasant smell: the stench of rotting fish.

stencil /ˈstɛntʃl/ n. a thin sheet of cardboard, plastic, or metal with a pattern or letters cut out of it, used to produce the cut design on the surface below by the application of ink or paint through the holes. n. a design produced by such a sheet: a floral stencil around the top of the room. n. [tr.] stencil (a design) with a stencil: stencil a border around the door. —adj. (stenciled) the stenciled letters.
type of behavior: a stickler for accuracy; a stickler when it comes to timekeeping. 2 a difficult problem: a conundrum.

stickpin /staɪkˈpɪn/ n. a straight pin with an ornamental head, worn to hold a piece of fabric in place as a brooch.

stick shift n. a manual transmission.

stick-up /staɪkˈæp/ n. int. an armed robbery in which a gun is used to threaten people.

sticky /ˈstɪkɪ/ adj. stickier, stickiest 1 tending or designed to stick to things on contact or covered with something that sticks. 2 of (a substance) glutinous; viscous: the dough should be moist yet not sticky. 3 of interests, interest rates, or wages) slow to change or react to change. 2 of (the weather) hot and damp; muggy: it was an unusually hot and sticky summer. 3 damp with sweat: she felt hot and sticky and changed her clothes. int. involving problems: difficult or awkward: the relationship is going through a sticky patch.

stiff /stɪf/ adj. 1 not easily bent or changed in shape; rigid: a stiff collar. 2 not moving as freely as is usual or desirable; difficult: to turn or operate: the faucet in the shower is a little stiff. 3 (of a person or part of the body) unable to move easily and without pain: he was stiff from sitting on the desk. 4 (of a person or their manner) not relaxed or friendly; constrained: she greeted him with stiff politeness. 5 viscous; thick: add wheat until the mixture is quite stiff. 6 severe or strong: a stiff increase in taxes. 7 (of a wind) blowing strongly: a stiff breeze stirring the lake. require: requiring strength or effort: a stiff climb up the bare hillside. 8 of an alcoholic drink) strong: a stiff measure of brandy. 3 (of stiff int. having a specified unpleasant feeling to an extreme extent: she was scolded stiff.

n. int. 1 a dead body. 2 a boring, conventional person: ordinary working stiffes in respectable offices. 3 int. a fellow: the lucky stiff!

v. [tr.] int. 1 (often be stiffed) cheat (someone) out of something, esp. money: several workers were stiffed out of their pay. 2 fail to leave (someone) a tip. 3 (often deliberately) snub: fail to appear for a promised engagement or appointment: he didn't show up and I can't bend. 4 support or strengthen (a garment or fabric), typically by adding tape or an adhesive layer. 5 fig. make or become stronger or more steadfast: [tr.] courage out the worries stiffened the government's resolve to confront the Mafia! [int.] the regime's resistance stiffened.

stiffen /ˈstɪfn/ v. [stiffen up] adj. -stiffened n. -stiffening n.

stiff-necked adj. (of a person or their behavior) haughty and stubborn.

stiffer /ˈstɪfr/ v. [tr.] 1 make (someone) unable to breathe properly: suffocate; those in the streets were stifled by the fumes. 2 restrain (a reaction) or stop oneself acting on (an emotion): she stifled a giggle; she stifled a desire to turn and face. 3 prevent or constrain (an activity or idea); high taxes were stifling private enterprise.


stigmata /ˈstɪgmatə/ n. (pl. stigmata or stigmata) 1 a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person: the stigma of mental disorder to be a nonreader carries a social stigma. 2 (stigmata) [in Christian tradition] marks corresponding to those left on Jesus' body by the Crucifixion, said to have been impressed by divine favor on the bodies of St. Francis of Assisi and others. 3 Bot. (in a flower) the part of a pistil that receives the pollen during pollination. late 16th cent. (denoting a mark made by pricking or branding) via Latin from Greek stigma (a mark made by a pointed instrument).

stigmatize /ˈstɪgmatɪzaɪz/ v. [stigmatized] adj. (usu. be stigmatized) describe or regard as worthy of disgrace or great disapproval; the institution was stigmatized as a lost resort for the destitute. -stigmatization n.

stiletto /ˈstɪletəʊ/ n. (pl. -tos) 1 a short dagger with a tapering blade.

stiletto heel n. a thin, high, tapering heel on a woman's shoe; [adj] the rapid click of stiletto heels on pavement. 2 a shoe with such a heel.

stilts /ˈstɪltz/ adj. not moving or making a sound: the still body of the young man.

stickpin /ˈstɪkpin/ n. 1 a small pointed pin with a tapering blade; a sharp-pointed tool for making eyelet holes. 2 (also stiletto heel) a thin, high, tapering heel on a woman's shoe; [adj] the rapid click of stiletto heels on pavement. 2 a shoe with such a heel.

sting /stɪŋ/ v. [stung] n. 1 wound or pierce with a sting: he was stung by a jellyfish! [int.] a nettie sting if you brush it lightly. 2 feel or suffer from:

Pronunciation Key: a ə ə, oʊ əʊ, eɪ ə, ʊ ʊ, iː iː, oʊ əʊ, id ɪd, ɪ ɪ, ɛ ɛ, ər ər, ə s ə, ə ə, ə ə.
cause to feel a sharp tingling or burning pain or sensation: [intr. her eye sting | [tr. the brandy stung his throat] [as adj. (stinging) a stinging pain. | [tr. fr. (typically of something said) hurt or upset (someone): stung by her mockery, Frank hung his head. | (stinging someone into) provoke someone to do (something) by causing annoyance or offense: he was stung into action by an article in the paper. 3 [tr. int. swindle or exorbitantly overcharge (someone); an elaborate fraud that stung a bank for thousands. —stinging-ly adv. —stinging-ly adj.

stinger /ˈstɪŋər/ n. 1 an insect or animal that stings, such as a bee or jellyfish: | 2 the part of an insect or animal that holds a sting: | 3 [tr. int. a painful blow; he suffered a stinger on his right shoulder. 2 a cocktail including créme de menthe and brandy. 3 (Stinger) a heat-seeking ground-to-air missile that is launched from the shoulder.

sting-ray /ˈstɪŋrə/ n. a bottom-dwelling marine ray with a flattened diamond-shaped body and a long poisonous serrated spine at the base of the tail. Two families: Dasyatidae (the long-tailed stingraysia) and Urolophidae (the short-tailed stingraysia).

sting-y /ˈstɪŋgɪ/ adj. 1-Igler. -giest] unwilling to give or spend; ungenerous: his employer is stingy and idle. —sting-gly adj. —sting-gly ness n.

stink /ˈstɪŋk/ v. (past stank /ˈstæŋk/ or stunk /ˈstʌŋk/; past part. stunk /ˈstʌŋkt/). 1 a strong unpleasant smell: the place stank like a sewer | his breath stank of drink. 2 inf. be very unpleasant, contemptible, or scandalous: the industry's reputation stinks. | (stink of) be highly suggestive of (something regarded with disapproval): the whole affair stinks of a setup. | (stink of) have or appear to have a scandalously large amount of (something, esp. money): the whole place was luxurious and stank of money.

the. 1 a strong unpleasant smell; a stench: the stink of the place hit me as I went in. 2 inf. a commotion or fuss: we go to the Four Seasons where Brad makes a big stink about getting a prime table.

stinker /ˈstɪŋkər/ n. int. a person or thing that smells very bad. 1 a very bad or unpleasant person or thing: have those little stinkers been bullying you? | 2 a difficult task: Tackled the crossword yet? | It's a stinker.

stinking /ˈstɪŋkɪŋ/ adj. foul-smelling: he was locked in a stinking cell. | 2 inf. very bad or unpleasant; a stinking cold.

—adv. int. extremely; she is obviously stinking rich. I want to get stinking drunk and forget. —stingly adv.

stink-o /ˈstɪŋkəʊ/ adj. int. extremely drunk; they took three-hour lunches and came back stinko. 2 worthless or contemptible: the plot and cast of characters are just plain stinko.

stink-pot /ˈstɪŋkpɔt/ n. int. an unpleasant person (used as a term of abuse). | 2 a vehicle that emits foul-smelling exhaust fumes, esp. a motorboat as opposed to a sailboat.

stinkweed /ˈstɪŋkwɛd/ n. any of a number of plants with a strong or fetid smell, e.g., jimson weed.

stint /stɪnt/ v. (intr.) supply an ungenerous or inadequate amount of (something): storage room hasn’t been stinted | intr. | be economic or frugal about something, providing something: he doesn’t stint on wining and dining. | restrict (someone) in the amount of something (esp. money) given or permitted: to avoid having to stint yourself, budget in advance.

n. 1 a person’s fixed or allotted period of work; his varied career included a stint as a magician. 2 limitation of supply or effort: a collector with an eye for quality and the means to indulge it without stint.

stint-o /ˈstɪntəʊ/ n. a small short-legged sandpiper (genus Calidris) of northern Eurasia and Alaska, with a brownish back and white underparts.

stip-end /ˈstɪpend/; -pend/ n. a fixed regular sum paid as a salary or allowance.

stipendi-ary /ˈstɪpəndiəri/ adj. receiving a stipend; working for payment rather than on a voluntary, unpaid basis; stipendiary clergy. | of, relating to, or of the nature of a stipend: stipendiary obligations.

stipple /ˈstɪpəl/ v. (intr.) in drawing, painting, and engraving mark (a surface) with numerous small dots or specks: [as n.] (stippling) the artist’s use of stippling. | produce a decorative effect on (paint or other material) by roughening its surface when it is wet.

n. the process or technique of stippling a surface, or the effect so created.

—stip-per /ˈstɪpər/ n.

stip-u-late /ˈstɪpjuˌleɪt/ v. (intr.) demand or specify (a requirement), typically as part of a bargain or agreement: he stipulated certain conditions before their marriage | [as adj. (stipulated) the stipulated time has elapsed.

n. stipulation /ˈstɪpjuˌleɪʃən/ n. | stip-u-lator /ˌstɪpjuˈleɪtər/ n.

stir /stər/ v. (stirred, stirring) 1 [tr.] move a spoon or other implement around in (a liquid or other substance) in order to mix it thoroughly; stir the butter until it is just combined. | (stir something in/into) add an ingredient to (a liquid or other substance) in such a way; stir in the flour and cook gently for two minutes. 2 [intr.] move or begin to move slightly; nothing stirred except the wind. 3 [tr.] cause to move or be disturbed slightly; a gentle breeze stirred the leaves. | 2 (of a person or animal) rise or wake from sleep; no one else had stirred yet. | (stir from) (of a person) leave or go out of (a place); as he grew older, he seldom stirred from his apartment. 3 (to stir) begin or cause to begin to be active or to develop: [intr. the 1960s, when the civil rights movement stirred] | support (to stir) to act by what is written; he stirred up the sweating crowd. | (to stir) to arouse prompt (a feeling or memory) or inspire (the imagination); the story stirred many memories of my childhood | he was stung up his anger.

n. 1 a slight physical movement: I stood, streamining eyes and ears for the faintest stir. | 2 a commotion; the event caused quite a stir. | an initial sign of a specified feeling: Caroline felt a stir of anger deep within her breast.

n. 1 a dish cooked by such a method.

stir-ring /ˈstɪrɪŋ/ adj. causing great excitement or strong emotion: rousing; stirring songs.

n. an initial sign of activity, movement, or emotion: the first stirrings of anger.

—stir-ring-ly adv.

stirrup /ˈstɪrəp/ n. "stir 'up", "stir-rup/ n. 1 each of a pair of devices attached to each side of a horse's saddle, in the form of a loop with a flat base to support the rider's foot. | a pair of metal supports in which a woman's heels may be placed during gynecological examinations and childbirth, to hold her legs in a position that will facilitate medical examination or intervention. 3 (also stirrup bone) another term for STAPES.

stitch /stɪtʃ/ n. 1 a loop of thread or yarn resulting from a single pass or movement of the needle in sewing, knitting, or crocheting. | 2 a loop of thread used to join the edges of a wound or surgical incision: a neck wound requiring forty stitches. | a method of sewing, knitting, or crocheting producing a particular pattern or design: basic embroidery stitches. | [inf. the smallest item of clothing: a man answered the door without a stitch on. 2 a sudden sharp pain in the side of the body, caused by strenuous exercise: she ran with a stitch in her side.

v. [intr.] make, mend, or join (something) with stitches: stitch a plain seam with right sides together. | (as adj.) [in conn.] (stitch-ed) hand-stitched English dresses.

—stitch-er n. —stitch-ery n.

— in stitches int. laughing uncontrollably: he had his audience in stitches.

stitch-wort /ˈstɪtʃwɔrt/, -wort/ n. a straggling plant (genus Stellaria) of the pink family with a slender stem and white starry flowers. It was formerly thought to cure a stitch in the side.

St. John's wort also St. Johns wort n. a herbaceous plant or shrub (Hypericum, family Guttiferae) with distinctive yellow five-petaled flowers and paired oval leaves, used to treat various disorders, including depression.

sto-a /ˈstoʊə/ n. a classical portico or roofed colonnade.

stoa /ˈstoʊə/ n. a small carnivorous mammal (Mustela erminea) of the weasel family that has chestnut fur with white underparts and a black-tipped tail. It is native to both Eurasia and North America, and in northern areas the coat turns white in winter. Compare with ERMINE.

stochastic-lic /əˈstəʊkastɪk/ adj. randomly determined; having a random probability distribution or pattern that may be analyzed statistically but may not be predicted precisely.

stock /stɔk/ n. 1 the goods or merchandise kept on the premises of a business house and available for sale or distribution. | a supply or quantity of something accumulated or available for future use: my stock of wine. | farm animals such as cattle, pigs, and sheep, bred and kept for their meat or milk; livestock. | (also film stock) photographic film that has not been exposed or processed. | the unclaimed cards of the deck, left on the table to be drawn from in some card games. | the capital raised by a business or corporation through the issue and subscription of shares; the company's stock rose by 86%. | (also stocks) a portion of this as held by an individual or group as an investment. | (also stocks) the shares of a particular company, types of
company, or industry: blue-chip stocks. n. securities issued by the government in fixed units with a fixed rate of interest. f.g. a person's reputation or popularity. 3 liquid made by cooking bones, meat, fish, or vegetables slowly in water, used as a basis for the preparation of soups, gravy, or sauces. the raw material from which a specified commodity can be manufactured. 4 a person's ancestry or line of descent: her mother was of French stock. 5 a herbaceous European plant (genus Matthiola) of the cabbage family, widely cultivated for its fragrant flowers, which are typically lilac, pink, or white. 6 (the stocks) [treated as sing. or pl.] hist. an instrument of punishment consisting of an adjustable wooden structure with holes for securing a person's feet and hands, in which criminals were locked and exposed to public ridicule or assault. 7 the part of a rifle or other firearm to which the barrel and firing mechanism are attached, held against one's shoulder when firing the gun. n. the crosspiece of an anchor. n. the handle of something such as a whip or fishing rod. 8 (stocks) a frame used to support a ship or boat out of water, esp. when under construction.

adj. 1 (of a product or type of product) usually kept in stock and thus regularly available for sale: 25 percent off stock items. 2 (of a phrase or expression) so regularly used as to be automatic or hackneyed: their stock response was "We can't take everyone." n. a conventional character type or situation that recurs in a particular genre of literature, theater, or film.

v. (tr.) 1 have or keep a supply of (a particular product or type or product) available for sale. 2 provide or fill with goods, items, or a supply of something. n. stock up amass supplies of something, typically for a particular occasion or purpose. 2 fit (a rifle or other firearm) with a stock.

in (out of) stock (of goods) available (unavailable) for immediate sale in a store. take stock review or make an overall assessment of a particular situation, typically as a prelude to making a decision: he needed to take stock of his life.

stockade /stā'kād/ n. a barrier formed from upright wooden posts or stakes, esp. as a defense against attack or as a means of confining animals. n. an enclosure bound by such a barrier: we got ashore and into the stockade. n. a military prison.

v. (tr.) [usu. as adj.] stockaded enclose (an area) by erecting such a barrier.

stock-breeder /stāk,brē'dər/ n. a farmer who breeds livestock.

stock-broker /stāk,brō'kər/ n. a broker who buys and sells securities on a stock exchange on behalf of clients.

stock car n. 1 an ordinary car that has been modified for racing. 2 a railroad car for transporting livestock.

stock company n. a repertory company that is largely based in one theater.

stock exchange n. a market in which securities are bought and sold: the company was floated on the Stock Exchange. n. (the Stock Exchange) the level of prices in such a market: a plunge in the Stock Exchange during the election campaign.

stock-feed /stāk,fi:d/ n. food for livestock: meat and bonemeal stockfeed has been banned for all livestock.

stock-holder /stāk,hōldər/ n. a shareholder. n. stock-holding /hōld'ing/ n.

stockinet /stāk,în/et/ also stock-inet/ n. a soft, loosely knitted stretch fabric, formerly used for making underwear and now used for cleaning, wrapping, or bandaging.

stockings /stāk,îngz/ n. a women's garment, typically made of translucent nylon or silk, that fits closely over the foot and is held up by garters or an elasticized strap at the upper thigh. n. a cylindrical bandage or other medical covering for the leg resembling a stocking, esp. an elasticized support used in the treatment of disorders of the veins. n. a white marking of the lower part of a horse's leg, extending as far as, or just beyond, the knee or hock. n. [stocking-capped] adj. [stocking-caps] n. to blackstockinged legs. n. stock-ings-less adj.

stocking cap n. a knitted conical hat with a long tapered end, often bearing a tassel, that hangs down.

stocking stuffer n. a small present suitable for putting in a Christmas stocking.

stock-in-trade n. the typical subject or commodity a person, company, or profession uses or deals in: information is our stock-in-trade. n. qualities, ideas, or behavior characteristic of a person or their work.

stockman /stāk,man/ n. 1 a person who looks after livestock. 2 a person who looks after a stockroom or warehouse.
stomach /ˈstəmək/ n. 1. the internal organ in which the first part of digestion occurs, being (in humans and many mammals) a pear-shaped enlargement of the alimentary canal linking the esophagus to the small intestine. n. each of four such organs in a ruminant. n. any of a number of analogous organs in lower animals. n. the front part of the body between the chest and thighs; the belly: Blake hit him in the stomach. n. the stomach viewed as the seat of hunger, nausea, anxiety, or other unsettling feelings: Virginia had a sick feeling in her stomach. n. an appetite for food or drink: she doesn’t have the stomach to eat anything. n. a desire or inclination for something involving conflict, difficulty, or unpleasantness: the teams proved to have no stomach for a fight.

v. [tr] (usu. cannot stomach) consume (food or drink) without feeling or being sick: if you cannot stomach orange juice, try apple juice. v. endure or accept (an obnoxious thing or person): I can’t stomach the self-righteous attitude of some managers. n. Middle English: from Old French stomac, stomaque, via Latin from Greek stómatos ‘gullet’, from stoma ‘mouth.’ The early sense of the verb was ‘to be offended at, resent’ (early 16th cent.). —stomach-ful /ˈstəməft/ n. (pl. -fuls).

stom-ach-ache /ˈstəməkˌeɪ/ n. a pain in a person’s belly: most childhood stomachaches aren’t serious.

sto-ma /ˈstəmə/ sto-mātə/ plural form of STOMA.

stomp /stomp/ v. [int] tread heavily and noisily, typically in order to show anger: Martin stomped off to the spare room. n. [intr] (stomp on) tread heavily or stamp on: I stomped on the accelerator. n. [tr] deliberately trample or tread heavily on: Cobb proceeded to kick and stomp him viciously. n. [tr] stamp (one’s feet). n. [intr] dance with heavy stamping steps.

n. int. (in jazz or popular music) a tune or song with a fast tempo and a heavy beat; a lively dance performed to heavy stamping music, involving heavy stamping steps. —stomper n. —stompy adj.

stone /stōn/ n. 1. the hard, solid, nonmetallic mineral matter of which rock is made, esp. as a building material: the houses are built of stone. n. a small piece of rock found on the ground. n. (in metaphorical use) weight or lack of feeling, expression, or movement: Isolde stood as if turned to stone. n. Astron. a meteorite made of rock, as opposed to metal. n. Med. a calculus; a gallstone or kidney stone. n. 2. a piece of stone shaped for a purpose, esp. one of commemoration, ceremony, or demarcation; a memorial stone. n. a gem or jewel. n. a round piece or counter, originally made of stone, used in various board games such as backgammon. n. 3. a hard seed in a cherry, plum, peach, and some other fruits. n. (pl. same) Brit. a unit of weight equal to 14 pounds (6.35 kg): I weighed 10 stone. n. 4. a natural shade of whitish-gray or brownish-gray: [as adj.]: stone stretch trousers.

v. [tr] throw stones at: policemen were stoned by the crowd. —chiefly hist. execute (someone) by throwing stones at them: Stephen was stoned to death in Jerusalem.

—the-less /ˈθiːləs/ adv.

be written (or engraved or set): in stone used to emphasize that something is fixed and unchangeable: anything can change—nothing is written in stone. —leave no stone unturned try every possible course of action in order to achieve something. —a stone’s throw a short distance: wild whales blow a stone’s throw from the boat.

Stone Age /ˈstəʊn ˌeɪdʒ/ n. a prehistoric period when weapons and tools were made of stone or of organic materials such as bone, wood, or horn.

stonecrop /ˈstōnkrəp/ n. a small fleshy-leaved plant (genus Sedum, family Crassulaceae) that typically has star-shaped yellow or white flowers and grows among rocks or on walls.

stone-cutter /ˈstōnˌkətər/ n. a person who cuts stone from a quarry or who shapes and carves it for use.

stoned /ˈstōnd/ adj. under the influence of drugs, esp. marijuana: he was up in the deck chair getting stoned. v. very drunk.

stone deaf /ˈstōnˌdiːf/ adj. completely deaf: the stone-deaf person relies entirely on sight.

stone-fish /ˈstōnˌfɪʃ/ n. (pl. same or -fishes) a chiefly marine fish (Synanceia and other genera, family Synanceiidae) of bizarre appearance that lives in the tropical Indo-Pacific. It rests motionless in the sand with its venomous dorsal spines projecting.

stone fruit n. a fruit with flesh or pulp enclosing a stone, such as a peach, plum, or cherry.

stone-ground /ˈstōnˌground/ adj. (of flour) ground with millstones.

stone-mason /ˈstōnˌməsən/ n. a person who cuts, prepares, and builds with stone. —stone-mason-ry /ˌstōnˌməsnəri/ n.

stone-wall /ˈstōnˌwɒl/ v. [tr] delay or block (a request, process, or person) by refusing to answer questions or by giving evasive replies, esp. in politics: the highest level of bureaucracy stonewalled us. —stone-wall-er n.

stoneware /ˈstōnˌweər/ n. a type of pottery that is impermeable and partly vitrified but opaque.

stone-wash /ˈstōnˌwās/ -wāst/ - waste/ (also stone-wash) adj. (of a garment or fabric, esp. denim) washed with abrasives to produce a worn or faded appearance.

stone-work /ˈstōnˌwɜrk/ n. the parts of a building that are made of stone. n. the work of a man: a masterpiece of clever stonework. —stone- worker n.

stone-wort /ˈstōnwar/ -wɔrt/ n. a freshwater plant (Chara and other genera, class Charophyceae) with whorls of slender leaves, related to green algae. Many kinds become encrusted with chalky deposits, giving them a stony feel.

stony /ˈstōni/ adj. (stony-er, stony-est) covered with or full of small pieces of rock: rough stony paths. n. made of or resembling stone: stony steps. n. not having or showing feeling or sympathy: Lorenzo’s hard, stony eyes [in (comp)] he walked away, stony-faced. n. Astron. (of a meteorite) consisting mostly of rock, as opposed to metal. —stony-ly /-nəl/ adv. —stoni-ness n.

stood /stʊd/ v. past and past participle of STAND.

stooge /ˈstʊdʒ/ n. derog. a person who serves merely to support or assist others, particularly in doing unpleasant work: you fell for that helpless-female act and let her make you a stooge. n. a person who is employed to assume a particular role while keeping their true identity hidden: a police stooge.

stool /stʊl/ n. 1. a seat without a back or arms, typically resting on three or four legs or on a single pedestal. n. a support on which to stand in order to reach high objects. n. short for FOOTSTOOL. 2. a piece of feces.

v. [intr] (of a plant) throw up shoots from the root. n. [tr] cut back (a plant) to or near ground level in order to induce new growth.

stoolie /ˈstʊli/ n. inf. short for STOOL PIGEON.

stool-pigeon /ˈstʊlpɪgn/ n. a police informer. n. a person acting as a decoy.

stool /ˈstʊloʊ/ n. 1. bend one’s head or body forward and downward: he stood down and reached toward the coin. [tr] the man stooed his head. n. have the head and shoulders habitually bent forward: he tends to stoop when he walks. n. lower one’s moral standards so far as to do something reprehensible: Craig wouldn’t stoop to thieving. n. condense to do something.

n. 1. a posture in which the head and shoulders are habitually bent forward: a tall, thin man with a stoop. 2. the downward swoop of a bird of prey.

stool /ˈstʊl/ n. a porch with steps in front of a house or other building.

stop /stɑp/ v. (stopped, stopping) [intr] (of an event, action, or process) come to an end; cease to happen: his laughter stopped as quickly as it had begun. n. cease to perform a specified action or have a specified experience: she stopped giggling. n. abandon a specified practice or habit: I’ve stopped eating meat. n. stop moving or operating: he stopped to look at the view. n. (of a bus or train) call at a designated place to pick up or let off passengers: main-line trains stop at platform 7. n. [tr] cause (an action, process, or event) to come to an end; this harassment has got to stop. n. prevent (an action or event) from happening: a security guard was killed trying to stop a raid. n. prevent or dissuade (someone) from continuing in an activity or achieving an aim: a campaign is under way to stop the bombings. n. prevent (someone or something) from performing a specified action or undergoing a specified experience; you can’t stop me from getting what I want. n. cause or order to cease moving or operating: he stopped his car by the house. n. be hit by (a bullet). n. instruct a bank to withhold payment on (a check). n. refuse to supply as usual; withhold or deduct: the union has threatened to stop the supply of minerals. n. block or close up (a hole or leak): the drain has been stopped up. n. plug the upper end of (an organ pipe), giving a note an octave lower. n. obtain the required pitch from (the string of a violin or similar instrument) by pressing at the appropriate point with the finger.

n. 1. a cessation of movement or operation: all business came to a stop. n. a break or halt during a journey: allow an hour or so for driving and as long as you like for stops. n. a place designated for a bus or train to pick up or drop off passengers: the bus was pulling up at her stop. n. an object or part of a mechanism that is used to prevent something from moving: the shelves have special stops to prevent them from being pulled out too far. n. used in telegrams to indicate a period: MEET YOU AT THE AIRPORT STOP. n. Phonet. a consonant produced with complete closure of the vocal tract. n. a set of organ pipes of a particular tone and range of pitch. n. (also stop knob) a knob, lever, or similar device in an organ or
harpsichord that brings into play a set of pipes or strings of a particular tone and range of pitch. 3 Photog: the effective diameter of a lens. a device for reducing this. a unit of change of relative aperture or exposure (with a reduction of one stop equivalent to halving it).

pull out all the stops make a very great effort to achieve something: the director pulled out all the stops to meet the impossible deadline. do something very elaborately or on a grand scale: they gave a Christmas party and pulled out all the stops.


stop-cock /ˈstɑpˌkɑk/ n. an externally operated valve regulating the flow of a liquid or gas through a pipe.

stop-gap /ˈstɑpˌɡæp/ n. a temporary way of dealing with a problem or satisfying a need; transplants are only a stopgap until more sophisticated alternatives can work.

stop-light /ˈstɑpˌlɪt/ n. another term for traffic light. a red traffic light.

stop-off n. another term for stopover.

stop-over /ˈstɑpˌəvər/ n. a break in a journey: the one-day stopover in Honolulu.

stop-page /ˈstɑpˌpɑɡ/ n. an instance of movement, activity, or supply stopping or being stopped: the result of the air raid was complete stoppage of production. a blockage in a narrow passage, such as the barrel of a gun. a cessation of work by employees protesting the terms set by their employers.

stop-per /ˈstɑpˌpər/ n. 1 a plug for sealing a hole, esp. in the neck of a bottle or other container. 2 a person or thing that halts or obstructs a specified thing: [in comb.] a crime-stopper. [in soccer and other sports] a player whose function is to block attacks on goal from the middle of the field. a baseball starting pitcher depended on to win a game or stop a losing streak, or a relief pitcher used to prevent the opposing team from scoring. [in sailing or climbing] a rope or clamp for preventing a rope or cable from running out.

stop-watch /ˈstɑpˌwɔtʃ/ n. a special watch with buttons that start, stop, and then zero the hands, used to time races.

storage /ˈstɔrɪdʒ/ n. the action or method of storing something for future use: the chair can be folded flat for easy storage. the retention of retrievable data on a computer or other electronic system; memory. space available for storing something, esp. allocated space in a warehouse: Cooper had put much of the furniture into storage. the cost of storing something in a warehouse.

storage battery (also storage cell) n. a battery (or cell) used for storing electrical energy.

store /ˈstɔr/ n. 1 a retail establishment selling items to the public: a health-food store. [as adj.] store-bought: there’s a loaf of store bread. 2 a quantity or supply of something kept for use as needed: the squirrel has a store of food. a place where things are kept for future use or sale: a grain store. [stores] supplies of equipment and food kept for use by members of an army, navy, or other institution, or the place where they are kept.

store in a safe place while not being used or displayed: items held in store. 2 coming in the future: about to happen: he did not yet know what lay in store for him.

store-front /ˈstɔrˌfrɛnt/ n. 1 the facade of a store. 2 a room or set of rooms facing the street on the ground floor of a commercial building, typically used as a store: [as adj.] a bright storefront.

store-house /ˈstɔrˌhous/ n. a building used for storing goods. a large supply of something: an enormous storehouse of facts.

store-keeper /ˈstɔrˌkɛpər/ n. 1 a person who owns or runs a store. 2 a person responsible for storing goods.

store-room /ˈstɔrˌrʊm/ n. 1 a room in which items are stored.

storey /ˈstɔrɛ/ n. [pl. -ries] 1 an account of imaginary or real people and events told for entertainment: an adventure story. a plot or story line: the novel has a good story. a report of an item of news in a newsletter, magazine, or news broadcast: stories in the local papers. a piece of gossip: a rumor: there have been lots of stories going around, as you can imagine. 2 a false statement or explanation: a lie: Ellie never told stories—she had always believed in the truth. 3 an account of past events in someone’s life or in the evolution of something: the story of modern farming. a particular person’s representation of the facts of a matter, esp. as given in self-defense: during police interviews, Harper changed his story. a situation viewed in terms of the information known about it or its similarity to another: having such information is useful, but it is not the whole story.

story (Brit. also storey) n. 1 a part of a building comprising all the rooms that are on the same level: [in comb.] a three-story building. 2 a real story: [Brit. also storeyed] n. [in comb.] four-storeyed houses.

story-board /ˈstɔrɪˌbɔrd/ n. a sequence of drawings, typically with some directions and dialogue, representing the shots planned for a film or television production.

story-book /ˈstɔrɪˌbʊk/ n. a book containing a story or collection of stories intended for children. [as adj.] denoting something that is as ideally perfect as something typically is in storybooks: it was a story-book finish to an illustrious career.

story-teller /ˈstɔrɪˌtelər/ n. a person who tells stories.

stout /ˈstʌt/ adj. 1 of a person somewhat fat or of heavy build: stout

European white stork (Ciconia ciconia), which often nests on tall buildings. 2 the white stork as the pretended bringer of babies.

storm /ˈstɔrɔm/ n. 1 a violent disturbance of the atmosphere with strong winds and usually rain, thunder, lightning, or snow. 2 a storm system an intense low-pressure weather system; a cyclone. 3 a wind of force 10 on the Beaufort scale (48–55 knots or 55–63 mph). 4 a heavy discharge of missiles or blows: two men were taken by a storm of bullets. 5 a continuous rain or snow: a snowstorm. 6 a violent outburst of emotion: an uproar or controversy: the book caused a storm in South America. 7 a violent or noisy outburst of a specified feeling or reaction: the disclosure raised a storm of protest.

storm window n. a window installed outside a normal window for protection and insulation in bad weather or winter.

storm petrel n. a small seabird (Hydrobates and other genera, family Hydrobatidae) of the open ocean, typically having blackish plumage and a white rump, and formerly believed to be a harbinger of bad weather.

storm sail n. a sail used in stormy weather, of smaller size and stronger material than the corresponding one used in ordinary weather.

storm signal n. a lamp, flag, or other device used to give a visible warning of an approaching storm.

storm troops pl. n. another term for shock troops. [Storm Troops] hist. the Nazi political militia. —storm-trooper n.
n. a kind of strong, dark beer brewed with roasted malt or barley.

stout-hearted adj. adj. courageous or determined. —stout-hearted-ly adv. —stout-hearted-ness n.

stove n. an apparatus for cooking or heating that operates by burning fuel or using electricity.

stove-pipe /ˈstōvˌpīp/ n. a pipe that takes the smoking and gases from a stove up through a roof or to a chimney. 2. an instrument that conveys vertical levels efficiently but does not disperse widely; [adj. c] a computer system that was expected to integrate 40 different stovepipe entities that previously were unable to communicate with one another.

stow v. [tr.] transmit (information) directly through levels of a hierarchy: neuron(s) by which stowed lines straight up to the White House.

stove-pipe hat n. a silk hat resembling a top hat but much taller.

stow /ˈstou/ v. [tr.] pack or store (an object) carefully and neatly in a particular place: the bathroom offers baskets in which to stow your clothes.

stow away v. (pr. v.) stow away conceal oneself on a ship, aircraft, or other passenger vehicle in order to travel secretly or without paying the fare.

stow-age /ˈstou̇dʒ/ n. the action or manner of stowing something.

stove-a-way /ˈstou̇dʒˌwā/ n. n. a person who stows away.

STP abbrev. Chem. standard temperature and pressure.

strai-bis-mus /ˈstrəˌbaɪzəm/ n. abnormal alignment of the eyes; the condition of having a squint. —strai-bis-mic adj.

strad-dle /ˈstrædl/ v. [tr.] sit or stand with one leg on either side of: he turned the chair around and straddled it. 2. place (one’s) leg wide apart: he shifted his legs, straddling them to keep his balance. 3. extend across or be situated on both sides of: a mountain range straddling the Franco-Swiss border. 4. take up or maintain an equivocal position with regard to (a political issue): a man who had straddled the issue.

strad-lie /ˈstrædli/ n. an act of sitting or standing with one’s legs wide apart. 2. Stock Market a simultaneous purchase of options to buy and to sell a security or commodity at a fixed price, allowing the purchaser to make a profit whether the price of the security or commodity goes up or down. —strad-lier n.

Strad-i-vari-us /ˈstrædəˌveəriəs/ n. a violin or other stringed instrument made by Antonio Stradivari or his followers.

strafe /ˈstraf/ v. [tr.] attack repeatedly with bombs or machine-gun fire from a low-flying aircraft: military aircraft strafed the village.

straddle /ˈstrædəl/ v. [intr.] attack from low-flying aircraft. —straddle back (of a horse) to turn (the direction of) a horse or a person who had straddled the saddle.

strain /stræn/ v. 1. [tr.] force (a part of one’s body or oneself) to make a strenuous or unusually great effort: I stopped and listened, straining my ears for any sound. 2. injure (a limb, muscle, or organ) by overexerting it or twisting it awkwardly: on cold days you are more likely to strain a muscle. 3. [intr.] make a strenuous and continuous effort: his voice was so quiet that I had to strain to hear it. 4. make severe or excessive demands on: he strained her tolerance to the limit. 5. [intr.] pull or push forcibly at something: the bear strained at the chain around its neck. 6. [n. & v.] stretch (something) tightly: the barbed wire fence was strained to posts six feet high. 2. Strain (a) (of a horse) to turn (the direction of) a horse or a person who had straddled the saddle. 2. strain off (food that has been boiled, soaked, or canned) by using such a device. 3. strain off (liquid) in this way: strain off the surplus fat.

n. 1. a force tending to pull or stretch something to an extreme or damaging degree: the usual type of chair puts an enormous strain on the spine; aluminum may bend under strain. 2. Physics the magnitude of a deformation, equal to the change in the dimension of a deformed object divided by its original dimension. 3. an injury to a part of the body caused by overexertion or twisting a muscle awkwardly: he has a slight grain strain. 4. a severe or excessive demand on the strength, resources, or abilities of someone or something: the pressures put a strain on relations between the two countries. 5. a state of tension or exhaustion resulting from this: the telltale signs of nervous strain. 6. (usu. pl.) the sound of a piece of music as it is played or performed: through the open windows came the strains of a sturdy-gardy playing in the street. —strain-able adj.

strain /ˈstræn/ n. 1. a breed, stock, or variety of an animal or plant developed by breeding: a natural or cultured variety of a microorganism with a distinct form, biochemistry, or simile. 2. a particular tendency as part of a person’s character: there was a powerful strain of insanity in her mother’s side of the family. 3. a variety of a particular abstract thing: a strain of feminist thought.

strained /ˈstrænd/ adj. 1. (of an atmosphere, situation, or relationship) not relaxed or comfortable: tense or uneasy: there was a strained silence. 2. (of a person) showing signs of tiredness or nervous tension: Jean’s pale, strained face. 3. (of an appearance or performance) produced by deliberate effort rather than natural impulse; artificial or forced: I put on my strained smile for the next customer. 4. (of a statement or representation) labored or facetious: my example may seem a little strained and artificial. 2. (of limb or muscle) injured by overexertion or twisting.
strainer 897

3 (of a mainly liquid substance) having been strained to separate out any solid matter.

strainer ˈstrænər  n. a device having holes punched in it and made of crossed wires for separating solid matter from a liquid: a tea strainer.

strait ˈstræt  n. 1 (also straits) a narrow passage of water connecting two seas or other large bodies of water: [in place names] the Strait of Gibraltar. 2 [straits] used in reference to a situation characterized by a specified degree of trouble or difficulty: the economy is in dire straits.

strange 1 adv. familiar: the house was strangely quiet | strangely enough, people were able to perform this task without difficulty. 2 adj. unusual or surprising in a way that is not settling or hard to understand: children have some strange ideas. 3 n. having a nonzero value for strangeness. 4 adj. adv. having or showing very strict moral attitudes.

strap ˈstræp  v. [strap”et, -strap”e] 1 drive or leave (a boat, sailer, or sea creature) aground on a shore: the ships were stranded in shallow water. 2 leave (someone) without the means to move from somewhere: they were stranded in St. Louis by the blizzard.

strapless ˈstræp”leis  adj. (esp. of a dress or bra) without shoulder straps.

strapping ˈstræping  adj. (esp. of a young person) big and strong: they had three strapping sons.

stratra ˈstrətə  n. strips of leather or pliable metal used to hold, strengthen, or fasten something.

stratum ˈstrətəm  n. plural form of stratum.

strategic ˈstræti”gik  adj. relating to the identification of long-term or overall aims and interests and the means of achieving them: the company should take strategic actions to cope with fundamental changes in the environment. 2 carefully designed or planned to serve a particular purpose or advantage: alarms are positioned at strategic points around the prison. 3 relating to the gaining of overall or long-term military advantage: New Orleans was of strategic importance.

strapless ˈstræp”leis  adj. a strategically placed mirror.

Strategic Defense Initiative (abbr.: SDI) a military defense strategy proposed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, in which enemy weapons would be destroyed in space by lasers, antiballistic missiles, etc., launched or directed from orbiting military satellites.

strateg-ic ˈstræti”jik  adj. 1 a plan or scheme, esp. one used to outwit an opponent or achieve an end; a series of devious stratagems. 2 [strategic”] adj. 3 [strategically] adv.
but coming on top of a whole series of difficulties, that makes a situation unbearable: his affair was the last straw.

straw-ber-ry /ˈstrɔː.bər./ n. 1. a soft sweet red fruit with a seed-studded surface. 2. the low-growing plant (genus Fragaria) of the rose family that produces this fruit, having white flowers, lobed leaves, and runners, and found throughout northern temperate regions. 3. a (double-berried strawberry color.

straw-ber-ry blond (also strawberry blonde) adj. (of hair) of a light reddish-blond color. n. (of a person) having hair of such a color.

n. a light reddish-blond hair color. n. a person who has hair of such a color.

straw-ber-ry mark n. a soft red birthmark.

straw poll (also straw vote) n. an unofficial balloting conducted as a test of opinion: I took a straw poll among my immediate colleagues.

stray /strɛɪ/ v. [intr.] move without a specific purpose or by mistake, esp. so as to get lost or arrive somewhere where one should not be: I strayed a few blocks in the wrong direction. n. move so as to escape from control or leave the place where one should be: dog owners are urged not to allow their dogs to stray. [intr.] (of the eyes or a hand) move haphazardly or casually in a specified direction: her eyes strayed to the telephone. n. (of a person who is married or in a long-term relationship) be unfaithful: men who stray are seen as more exciting and desirable.

adj. 1. not in the right place; not where it should be or where other items of the same kind are: he pushed a few stray hairs from his face. n. appearing somewhere by chance or accident, not as a part of a general pattern or plan: she was killed by a stray bullet. n. (of a domestic animal) having no home or having wandered away from home; stray dog. 2. Physics. (of a physical quantity) arising as a consequence of the laws of physics, not by deliberate design, and usually having a detrimental effect on the operation or efficiency of equipment: stray capacitance.

n. a stray person or thing, esp. a domestic animal. 2. (strays) electrical phenomena interfering with radio reception. —stray-er n.

straw k /strɛɪk/ n. 1. a long, thin line or mark of a different substance or color from its surroundings: a streak of oil. 2. an element of a specified kind in someone's character: there's a streak of insolence in the family. n. a continuous period of specified success or lack: the theater is on a winning streak.

v. 1. [intr.] cover a surface with streaks: his beard was streaked with gray. n. dye (hair) with long, thin lines of a different, typically lighter color than one's natural hair color: [intr.] hair that was streaked blond. n. Microbiology. smear (a needle, swab, etc.) over the surface of a solid culture medium to initiate a culture. 2. [intr.] move very fast in a specified direction: the cat leaped free and streaked across the street. 3. [intr.] run naked in a public place so as to shock or amuse others. —streak-er n.

n. a streak adv. very fast: he is off as a streak. n. streak of lightning. a flash of lightning.

streak-ki /strɛɪk-/ adj. (streakier, streakiest) having streaks of different colors or textures: streaky blond hair. n. variable in quality; not predictable or reliable: King has always been a famously streak hostile.

—streak-y /ˈstrɛɪk-/ adv. —streak-iness n.

stream /strɛm/ n. 1. a small, narrow river. 2. a continuous flow of liquid, air, or gas: Frank blew out a stream of smoke. 3. a current within a larger body of water or in the ocean. 4. (a stream or streams of) a mass of people or things moving continuously in the same direction: there is a steady stream of visitors. 5. (a stream or streams of) a large number of things that happen or come one after the other: a woman shouted a stream of abuse. n. Comput. a continuous flow of data or instructions, typically one having a constant or predictable rate.

v. 1. [intr.] (of liquid) run or flow in a continuous current in a specified direction: she sat with tears streaming down her face. n. (of a mass of people or things) move in a continuous flow in a specified direction: he was watching the lads streaming past. 2. [intr.] (usu. be streaming) (of a person or part of the body) produce a continuous flow of liquid; run with liquid: my eyes were streaming. 3. [intr.] (of hair, clothing, etc.) float or wave at full extent in the wind: her black cloak streamed behind her. 4. Comput. [intr.] transmit (audio or video data) continuously, so that the parts arriving first can be viewed or listened to when the remainder is downloading. 5. British term for track verb sense 4. 6. Old English stream (noun), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch stroom, German Strom, from an Indo-European root shared by Greek rhein 'to flow.'

on stream in or into operation or existence; available: more jobs are coming on stream.

streamer /strɛmər/ n. 1. a long, narrow strip of material used as a decoration or symbol: plastic party streamers. 2. [usu. as adj.] a banner headline in a newspaper: his appearance was announced with a streamer headline. n. (usu. as adj.) Fishing a fly with feathers attached: a streamer fly.

stream-ing /ˈstrɛmɪŋ/ n. a method of relaying data (especially video and audio material) over a computer network as a steady continuous stream, allowing playback to proceed while subsequent data is being received.

adj. Comput. (of data) transmitted in a continuous stream while earlier parts are being used.

stream-line /ˈstrɛmlɪn/ v. [tr.] (usu. as adj.) (streamlined) design or provide with a form that presents very little resistance to a flow of air or water, increasing speed and ease of movement: streamlined passenger trains. n. fig. make (an organization or system) more efficient and effective by employing faster or simpler working methods: the company streamlined its operations by removing whole layers of management.

n. a line along which the flow of a moving fluid is less turbulent.

stream of con-scious-ness n. Psychol. a person's thoughts and conscious reactions to events, perceived as a continuous flow. The term was introduced by William James in his Principles of Psychology (1890).

n. a literary style in which a character's thoughts, feelings, and reactions are depicted in a continuous flow uninterrupted by objective description or conventional dialogue. James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and Marcel Proust are among its notable early exponents.

street /streɪt/ n. 1. a public road in a city or town, typically with houses and buildings on one or both sides; the narrow, winding streets of Greenwich Village. 2. the street (also streets) the roads or public areas of a city or town: every week, fans stop me in the street. 3. [as adj.] referring to or relating to the outlook, values, or lifestyle of those young people who are perceived as composing a fashionable urban subculture: New York City street culture. 4. [as adj.] denoting someone who is homeless: he ministered to street people in storefront missions. 5. [as adj.] performing or being performed on the street: street theater. —streeeted adj. [in comb.] a many-streeted tangle of low, brick buildings. —street-ward /ˈwɔːd/ adj. & adv.

on the streets 1. homeless. 2. working as a prostitute.

street-car /ˈstreɪt, kɑr/ n. another term for trolley car.

street-light /ˈstreɪt, lɨt/ (also street-lamp) n. a light illuminating a road, typically mounted on a pole.

street-smart adj. int. having the skills and knowledge necessary for dealing with modern urban life, esp. the difficult or criminal aspects of it: a street-smart hustler on a motorcycle.

n. (street smarts) these skills and knowledge: take the advice of somebody who's got a little more street smarts than you.

street value n. the price a commodity, esp. an amount of drugs, would fetch if sold illicitly: detects seized drugs with a street value of $200,000.

street-walker /ˈstreɪt, wɔːkər/ n. a prostitute who seeks customers in the street. —street-walking /ˈwɔːkɪŋ/ n. & adj.

street-wise /ˈstreɪt, wɪz/ adj. another term for STREET SMART. n. reflective of modern urban life, esp. that of urban youth: streetwise fashion.

strength /strenθ/ n. 1. the quality or state of being strong, in particular: physical power and energy: cycling can help you build up your strength. 2. the emotional or mental qualities necessary in dealing with situations or events that are distressing or difficult: many people find strength in religion. 3. the capacity of an object or substance to withstand great force or pressure; they were taking no chances with the strength of the retaining wall. 4. the influence or power possessed by a person, organization, or country: the political and military strength of European governments. 5. the degree of intensity of a feeling or belief: street protests demonstrated the strength of feeling against the president. 6. the cogency of an argument or case: the strength of the argument for property taxation. 7. the potency, intensity, or speed of a force or natural agency: the wind had markedly increased in strength. 8. the potency or degree of concentration of a drug, chemical, or drink: it's double the strength of your average beer. 9. a good or beneficial quality or attribute of a person or thing: his strength was his obsessive single-mindedness. 10. poetic, a person or thing perceived as a source of mental or emotional support: he is my closest friend, my strength and shield. 11. the number of people comprising a group, typically a team or army: the peacetime strength of the army was 415,000. 12. a number of people required to make such a group complete: we are now more than 100 officers below strength. —strength-less adj.

in strength in large numbers: security forces were out in strength. on the strength of the on the basis or with the justification of: she got into Princeton on the strength of her essays.

strengthen /ˈstreŋθn/ v. strengthen or become stronger: [intr.] he advised an application of fluoride to strengthen the teeth. [intr.] the wind won't strengthen until after dark. —strengthen-er n.
lasting and remaining warm despite difficulties. 3 (of light) very intense. 4 (of something seen or heard) not soft or muted; clear or prominent: she should wear strong colors. 5 (of food or flavor) distinctive and punchy: ...a solution or drink) containing a large proportion of a particular substance; concentrated: a cup of strong coffee. 6 (of an acid) highly ionized. 7 Chem. (of an acid or base) fully ionized into cations and anions in solution; having (respectively) a very low or a very high pH. 8 (of language or actions) forceful and extreme, esp. excessively or unacceptably so: the government was urged to take strong measures against the perpetrators of violence. 4 Gram. denoting a class of verbs in Germanic languages that form the past tense and past participle by a change of vowel within the stem rather than by addition of a suffix (e.g., swim, swam, swum); 5 Physics of, relating to, or denoting the strongest of the known kinds of force between particles, which acts between nucleons and other hadrons when closer than about 10^{-13} cm. —strong-ish adj. —strong-ly adv.

- come on strong int. 1 behave aggressively or assertively, or in making sexual advances to someone. 2 improve one's position considerably; he came on strong toward the end of the round.
- going strong int. continuing to be healthy, vigorous, or successful; the program is still going strong after twelve episodes.

strong-arm adj. using or characterized by force or violence: they were furious at what they said were government strong-arm tactics.

- strong-box /strɔŋboks/ n. a small lockable box, typically made of metal, in which valuables may be kept.
- strong-hold /strɔŋhəld/ n. a place that has been fortified so as to protect it against attack.

strong suit n. (in bridge) a holding of a number of high cards of one suit in a hand. 2 a desirable quality that is particularly prominent in someone's character or an activity at which they excel; compassion is not Jack's strong suit.

strong-tum /strɔŋtəm/ n. the chemical element of atomic number 38, a soft, silver-white metal of the alkaline earth series. (Symbol: Sr)

strong-tum 90 n. a radioactive isotope of stronntium, used in radiotherapy. It is one of the chief products of the fission of uranium 235 and can pass from fall out into plants and animals and hence into human tissue, where it is concentrated in bones and teeth.

strong /strɔŋ/ n. a device, typically a strip of leather, for sharpening straight razors. 2 Naut. a rope sling for handling cargo.

- strong-ly /strɔŋli/ adv.

strong-arm /strɔŋarm/ v. (stroked, stropping) [tr] sharpen on or with a strope: he stropped a knife razor-sharp on his belt.

strong-ger /strɔŋgər/ n. the first section of an ancient Greek choral ode or of one division of a oratorio; a structural division of a poem containing stanzas of varying line-length, especially an ode or free verse poem.

strong-ly /strɔŋli/ adv.

stroke /strɔk/ n. past of STRIVE.

struck /strɔkt/ adj. past and past participle of STRIKE.

structure /strɔktʃər/ adj. of, relating to, or forming part of the structure of a building or other item: the blast left ten buildings with major structural damage. 2 of or relating to the arrangement of and relations between the parts or elements of a complex whole: there have been structural changes in the industry. —structure-ly adv.

structuralism /strɔktʃəralizəm/ n. the doctrine that structure is more important than content; the study of the ways in which ideas are structured.

structure /strɔktʃər/ n. the arrangement of and relations between the parts or elements of something complex. 2 the organization of a society or other group and the relations between its members, determining its working. 3 a building or other object constructed from several parts. 4 the quality of being organized: we shall use three headings to give some structure to the discussion.

- v. [tr. (often be structured) construct or arrange according to a plan; give a pattern or organization to: the game is structured so that there are five ways to win. —structure-ly adj.

strudel /strudəl/ n. a confection of thin pastry rolled up around a fruit filling and baked.

struggle /strɔgl/ v. [intr. make forceful or violent efforts to get free of restraint or constriction: before she could struggle, he lifted her up. 2 strive to achieve or attain something in the face of difficulty or resistance: many families struggle to make ends meet. 3 (struggle with) have difficulty handling or coping with: passengers struggled with bags and briefcases.

- engage in conflict: politicians continued to struggle over familiar issues. 4 [intr.] make one's way with difficulty: he struggled to the summit of the world's highest mountain. 5 have difficulty in gaining recognition or a living: new authors are struggling in the present climate.

- n. a forceful or violent effort to get free of restraint or resist attack: a conflict or contest: a power struggle for the leadership. 2 a great physical effort: with a struggle, she pulled the stroller up the slope. 3 a determined effort under difficulties: the center is the result of the scientists' struggle to realize their dream. 4 a very difficult task: it was a struggle to make herself understood. —struggling adj.

strum /strʌm/ v. (strummed, strumming) [tr] play a guitar or similar instrument by sweeping the thumb or a plectrum up or down the strings. 2 [intr.] play a tune in such a way: he strummed a few chords.

- strong /strɔŋ/ adj. 1 a rod or bar forming part of a framework and designed to resist compression. 2 a stiff, erect, and apparently arrogant or conceited gait; that old confident strut and swagger has returned.

- n. the sound made by strumming: the brittle strum of acoustic guitars.

- v. (strutted, strutting) [tr] walk with a stiff, erect, and apparently arrogant or conceited manner: he strolled the little stub of tail. 2 [as adj] denoting a projection or hole that goes only part of the way through a surface: a strut tenon.

stuck /stʌkt/ adj. 1 the truncated remnant of a pencil, cigarette, or similar-shaped object after use. 2 a truncated or unusually short thing: he wagged his little stub of tail. 3 [as adj] denoting a projection or hole that goes only part of the way through a surface: a stub tenon. 2 the part of a check, receipt, ticket, or other document torn off and kept as a record.

- n. stuck /stʌkt/ v. (stuck, stubbing) [tr] accidentally strike (one's toe) against something: I stubbed my toe, swore, and tripped. 2 extinguish (a lighted cigarette) by pressing the light end against something: she stubbed out her cigarette in the overflowing ashtray.

stub-born /stʌbən/ adj. having or showing dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something, esp. in spite of good arguments or reasons to do so: he accused her of being a silly, stubborn old woman. 2 difficult to move, remove, or cure: the removal of stub-born screws. —stub-born-ly adv. —stub-born-ness n.


stucco /stʊko/ n. fine plaster used for coating wall surfaces or molding into architectural decorations.

- v. (stucco-ced, stucco-ing) [tr. usu. as adj] (stuccoed) coat or decorate with such plaster: a stuccoed house.

stuck /stʌkt/ adj. past and past participle of STICK.

stuck-up adj. [intr.] staying aloof from others because one thinks one is superior.

stud /stʌd/ n. 1 a large-headed piece of metal that pierces and projects from a surface, esp. for decoration. 2 a small, simple piece of jewelry for wearing in pierced ears or nostrils. 3 a fastener consisting of two buttons joined with a bar, used in formal wear to fasten a shirtfront or to fasten a collar to a shirt. 4 (usu. studs) a small projection fixed to the base of footwear, esp. athletic shoes, to allow the wearer to grip the ground. 5 (usu. studs) a small metal piece set into the tire of a motor vehicle to improve traction in slippery conditions. 2 an upright support in the wall of a building to which sheathing, drywall, etc., are attached.

- (studded, stuffing) [tr. (usu. be studded) decorate or augment (something) with many studs or similar small objects: a dagger studded with precious diamonds. 2 stress or cover (something) with a scattering of small objects or features: the sky was clear and studded with stars.

stud /stʌd/ n. an establishment where horses or other domesticated animals are kept for breeding: [as adj] a stud farm | the horse was retired to
studs • a collection of horses or other domesticated animals belonging to one person. • (also stud horse) a stallion.

stude nt /styo0dnt/ n. a person who is studying at a school or college.

studio /styo0do0/ n. • (pl. -os) 1 a room where an artist, photographer, sculptor, etc., works. • a place where performers, esp. dancers, practice and exercise. • a room where musical or sound recordings can be made. • a room from which television or radio programs are broadcast, or in which they are recorded. • a place where movies are made or produced. • a film or television production company. • a studio apartment.

studio-a-part ment /styo0do0-mentation/ n. an apartment containing one main room.

studio couch • n. a sofa bed.

studious /styo0do0es/ adj. spending a lot of time studying or reading: he was quiet and studious. • done deliberately or with a purpose in mind: his studious absence from public view. • showing great care or attention: a studious inspection. —studiously adv. —studious ness n.

study /stade/ n. (pl. studies) the devotions of time and attention to acquiring knowledge on an academic subject, esp. by means of books. • (studies) activity of this type as pursued by one person; some students may not be able to resume their studies.

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stuntman /ˈstʌntmən/ n. a man employed to take an actor's place in performing dangerous stunts.

stupor /ˈstʌpər/ n. a state of near-unconsciousness or insensibility: a drunken stupor.

stupendous /ˈstʌpəndaʊs/ adj. extremely impressive: a stupendous display of technique.

stupify /ˈstʌpfai/ vt. make (someone) unable to think or feel properly: the effect of administering drugs to a woman with intent to stupefy her.

stutter /ˈstʌtər/ n. a speech impediment.

stylization /ˌstɪliəˈzaʃən/ n. —stylistically adv.

stylize /ˈstɪlaɪz/ vt. [tr.] make (something) stylistically different: to stylize a book.

stylistic /ˈstɪlistɪk/ adj. of or concerning style, esp. literary style: the stylistic conventions of magazine stories. —stylistically adv.

stylistics /ˈstɪlistɪks/ pl. n. [treated as sing.] the study of the distinctive styles found in particular literary genres and in the works of individual writers.

stylist /ˈstɪlist/ n. 1 a person who works creatively in the fashion and beauty industry, in particular: a designer of fashionable styles of clothing; a hairdresser. 2 a person noted for elegant work or performance, in particular: a writer noted for taking great pains over the style in which he or she writes. 3 (in sports or music) a person who performs with style.

stylish /ˈstɪliʃ/ adj. having or displaying a good sense of style: these are stylish and sophisticated performances. —stylishly adv. —stylishness n.
that is not severe enough to present definite or readily observable symptoms.

3. a citizen or member of a state other than its supreme ruler.

4. adj. [subject to] 1 likely or prone to be affected by (a particular condition or occurrence, typically an unwelcome or unpleasant one); he was subject to bouts of manic depression. 2 dependent or conditional upon: the proposed wager is subject to the approval of the shareholders. 3 under the authority of; legislation making Congress subject to the laws it passes. 4 subject to the control or domination of another ruler, country, or government; the Greeks were the first subject people to break free from Ottoman rule.

5. adj. [subject to] conditionally upon: subject to bankruptcy court approval, the company expects to begin liquidation of its inventory.

6. /subjective/ adj. 1 based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions; his views are highly subjective. Contrasted with objective. 2 dependent on the mind or on an individual's perception for its existence. 2 Gram. of, relating to, or denoting a case of nouns and pronouns used for the subject of a sentence. 3 subjectively adv.

7. /subjective/ n. the topic dealt with or the subject represented in a debate, exposition, or work of art.

8. /subject/ n. a verb in the subjective mood.

9. /subjective/ adj. the subjective mood.

10. /subjective/ adj. another term for SUBJECT.
subsoil /'səb,sɔil/ n. the soil lying immediately under the surface soil.

subsonic /'səb,sɒnɪk/ adj. relating to or being of a speed less than that of sound.

substitute /'səb,stɪtjuːt/ v. [tr] 1 take the place of something or somebody else: a substitute teacher. 2 adj. of or relating to something taken in the place of another: substitute tonic. 3 adj. [usu. as before a noun] that which acts as a replacement for something else: a substitute for sugar.

substitute for /'səb,stɪtjuːt fɔr/ v. take the place of something else: substitute a computer for a typewriter.

substitutive /'səb,stɪtjʊətɪv/ adj. of or relating to substitutes: substitute teaching.

substitution /'səb,stɪtʃuəʃən/ n. 1 the act of substituting one thing for another: a case of substitution. 2 the act of replacing something: substitution of a new system.

substitute for (esp. in law) the act of taking the place of another: substitution of a new owner.

substitute school /'səb,stɪtjuːt sɛkəl/ n. a school which replaces another school in the event of its closure.

substitute teacher /'səb,stɪtjuːt ˈtiːtʃər/ n. a teacher who takes the place of a regular teacher when that teacher is absent.

substitute feeding /'səb,stɪtjuːt fəˈdiŋ/ n. the practice of giving a substance to replace another that is needed for a particular purpose.

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suicide [sýd/ˈsid|  n. the action of killing oneself intentionally: he committed suicide at the age of forty. 1 a person who does this. 2 a course of action that is disasterously damaging to oneself or one's own interests: it would be political suicide to restrict criteria for unemployment benefits. 3 [as adj.] relating to or denoting a violent act or attack carried out by a person who does not expect to survive it: a suicide bombing.

suggestible /səgˈjestəbl/ adj. capable of being easily convinced; someone who is easily convinced.

suggestive /səgˈjestɪv/ adj. likely to have a disastrously damaging effect on oneself or one's interests: a suicidal career move. —suggestively adv.

sulfonamide [ˈsfəlˌsənoʊmeɪd|  n. a class of synthetic drugs that are able to prevent the multiplication of some pathogenic bacteria.

sulphate [ˈsfəlˌsəʊt|  n. the chemical element of atomic number 16, a yellowish crystalline metal. (Symbol: S) It is an element of which tellurium and sulphur were believed to consist.

sulphur-yellow [ˈsfəlˌsəʊt|  adj. a pale greenish-yellow color. [as adj.] the bird's sulphur-yellow throat.

sulphuric acid /səfəˈsɪtrɪk/ n. a strong acid that is a principal component of most commercial sulfur trioxide.

sulphuric [ˈsfəlˌsəʊtrɪk] adj. containing or consisting of sulphuric acid.

sulfur [ˈsfələr|  n. a nonmetallic element symbolized as S. It is a yellowish-white solid with a pungent odor. (Symbol: S) It is used in the manufacture of many chemicals and in the production of sulfuric acid.

sulfur-oxidizing bacteria [ˈsfəlˌsəʊt|  n. bacteria that are capable of oxidizing sulfur compounds.

sulfurizing /ˈsfəlˌsəʊt|  adj. causing or involving the oxidation of sulfur.
American butterfly (Colias Phoebis, and other genera, family Pieridae) with predominantly yellow wings that may bear darker patches.

—sulfury adj.
sulfur di-oxide n. Chem. a colorless pungent toxic gas, SO2.
sulfurous /sul'rərəs/ (chiefly Brit. also sulfurous) adj. of, like, or containing sulfur.
sulfuric /sul'fər(ə)k/ (chiefly Brit. also sulfuric) adj. containing sulfur or sulfuric acid: the sulfuric byproducts of wood fires.
sulfuric acid n. a strong acid made by oxidizing solutions of sulfur di-oxide, H2SO3, and used as an industrial and laboratory reagent. The concentrated form is an oily, dense, corrosive liquid.
sulfurous /sul'fərəs/ (chiefly Brit. also sulfurous) adj. (chiefly of vapor or smoke) containing or derived from sulfur: wafts of sulfurous fumes.
sulfurous adj. like sulfur in color; pale yellow. marked by bad temper, anger, or profanity; a sulfuric glance.
sulk /sulk/ v. [intr.] be silent, morose, and bad-tempered out of annoyance or disappointment; he was sulking over the breakup of his band.

a. period of gloominess and bad-tempered silence stemming from annoyance and resentment: she was in a fit of the sulks.
sulkier, sulkiest adj.

—sulky adj. morose, bad-tempered, and resentful: refusing to be cooperative or cheerful: disappointment was making her sulky.
expressing or suggesting gloom and bad temper.
she had a sultry, smug mouth.
fig. not quick to work or respond: a sulky fire.

n. (pl. sulks) a light two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle for one person, used chiefly in harness racing.
sulkily adv.

sulky adj. morose, bad-tempered, and sultry.
sulkyly adv.

sulkyly adv.

—sulkiness n.

sullen /'səllən/ adj. bad-tempered and sulky; gloomy: a sullen pout.
sullenly adv.

—sullenness n.

sulkyly adj.

v. (sulks) to be sulky.

sulky adv.

—sulky adj. sulky.

sul-ma-ri-ly /sə'meərəli/adv.

—sul-ma-ri-ness /sə'meərənis/n.

sul-ma-tion /sə'meəˈʃən/ n. 1. the process of adding things together: the summation of numbers of small pieces of evidence, a sum total of things added together.
2. the process of summing something up: these will need summation in a single document.

—sum-ma-tion-al /sə'meəˈʃənəl/adj.

—sum-ma-tive /sə'meətiv/adj.

sul-mer /sə'mer/ n. the warmest season of the year, in the northern hemisphere from June to August and in the southern hemisphere from December to February.

Astron. the period from the summer solstice to the autumnal equinox.

(summers) poetic/it. years, esp. of a person’s age: a girl of sixteen or seventeen summers.

v. [intr.] spend the summer in a particular place: well over 100 birds summered there in 1976.

—sum-merly adv.

sul-mer-house /sə'mar,hous/ (also summer house) n. a small, typically rustic building in a garden or park, used for sitting in during the summer months. (usu. summer house) a cottage or house used as a second residence, esp. during the summer.

sul-mer-sault /sə'mar,soʊlt/ n. & archaic spelling of somersault.

sul-mer sol-stice /sə'mar,sɔlˈstıːs/ n. the solstice that marks the onset of summer, at the time of the longest day, about June 21 in the northern hemisphere and December 22 in the southern hemisphere. 

Astron. the solstice in June.

sul-mer squash /sə'mar,skəθ/ n. a squash (Cucurbita pepo melopepo) that is eaten before the seeds and rind have hardened.

sul-mer-time /sə'mar,taɪm/ n. the season or period of summer: in summertime trains run every ten minutes.

sul-ming-up /sə'minˌɪŋ/ n. a restatement of the main points of an argument, case, etc.

sum-mit /ˈsʌmɪt/ n. 1. the highest point of a hill or mountain. fig. the highest attainable level of achievement: the dramas are considered to form one of the summits of world literature. 2. a meeting between heads of government: [as adj.] a summit conference.

—sum-mon /ˈsʌmən/ v. [tr.] authoritative or urgently call on (someone) to be present, esp. as a defendant or witness in a law court: the pope summoned Anselm to Rome.

urgently demand (help); she summoned medical assistance.

v. [intr.] to attend (a meeting); he summoned a meeting of his head delegates.

bring to the surface (a particular quality or reaction) from within oneself; she managed to summon up a smile.

v. [summon something up] call an image to mind; names that summon up images of far-off places.

—sum-mon-able adj.

—sum-mon-er n.

sum-mons /ˈsʌmənz/ n. (pl. -mmons) an order to appear before a judge or magistrate, or the writ containing it: a summons for nonpayment of a parking ticket.

an authoritative or urgent call to someone to be present or to do something: they might receive a summons to fly to France the next day.

—summons v. [tr.] chiefly Law serve (someone) with a summons; [tr.] he has been summoned to appear in court next month.

sum-o /ˈsʊməʊ/ n. (pl. -mos) a Japanese form of heavyweight wrestling, in which a wrestler wins a bout by forcing his opponent outside a marked circle or by making him touch the ground with any part of his body except the soles of his feet.

a sumo wrestler.

sum-p /ˈsʌmp/ n. 1. a pit or hollow in which liquid collects, in particular:

the base of an internal combustion engine, which serves as a reservoir of oil for the lubrication system.

a depression in the floor of a mine or basement in which water collects.

a cesspool.

sum-p-tu-o/ʊs /ˈsʌmp,tjuˈɒs/ adj. splendid and expensively looking; the banquet was a sumptuous, luxurious meal.

—sum-p-tu-ous-ly adv.

—sum-p-tu-ous-ness n.

sum to-tal n. another term for sum (sense 2).

sun /sʌn/ n. 1. (also Sun) the star around which the earth orbits. any similar star in the universe, with or without planets.

2. (usu. the sun) the light or warmth received from the earth’s sun: we sat outside in the sun.

—sum-p-tu-o/ʊs/n. a person or thing regarded as a source of glory or inspiration or understanding: the rhetoric faded before the sun of reality.

sum-wards /ˈsʌmwədz,ˈsʌm-wardz/ adv.

—sum-wards n.

—sum-less adj.

—sum-less-ness n.

—sum-lie /ˈsʌmlɪ/ adj.

—sum-ward-n adj. & adv.

—sum-wards /ˈsʌmwədz,ˈsʌm-wardz/ adv.

—sum-wards /ˈsʌmwədz,ˈsʌm-wardz/ adv.

under the sun on earth: in existence (used in expressions emphasizing the large number of something): they exchanged views on every subject under the sun.

Sun. abbr. Sunday.
sun-bathe /sunˈbeɪθ/ v. intr. sit or lie in the sun, esp. to tan the skin: [as n. (sunbathing)] it was too hot for sunbathing. —sun-bather n.

sun-beam /ˈsunbɛm/ n. a ray of sunlight.

sun-belt /ˈsʌn,bɛlt/ (also sun belt) n. a strip of territory receiving a high amount of sunshine.

sun-block /ˈsʌnblæk/ n. a cream or lotion for protecting the skin from the sun and preventing sunburn.

sun-burn /ˈsʌnˌbɜːrn/ n. reddening, inflammation, and, in severe cases, blistering and peeling of the skin caused by overexposure to the ultraviolet rays of the sun.

> (past and past part. -burned or -burnt) (be sunburned) (of a person or bodily part) suffer from sunburn: most of us managed to get sunburnt.

| [usu. as adj. | (sunburned or sunburnt) ruddy from exposure to the sun: a handsome sunburned face. | [intr.] | suffer from sunburn: a complexion that sunburned easily. |

sun-burst /ˈsʌnˌbɜːst/ n. a sudden brief appearance of the full sun from behind clouds. —sunburst adj. | a decoration or ornament resembling the sun and its rays: [as adj.] a pair of sunburst diamond earrings. | a pattern of irregular concentric bands of color with the brightest at the center. |

sun-dae /ˈsʌnˌdeɪ/ n. a dish of ice cream with added ingredients such as fruit, nuts, syrup, and whipped cream.

Sunday /ˈsʌnˌdeɪ, -dɛɪ/ n. the day of the week preceding Monday and following Saturday, observed by Christians as a day of rest and religious worship and (together with Saturday) forming part of the weekend. | adv. on Sunday: the concert will be held Sunday. | Sunays /ˈsʌnˌdeɪz/ on Sundays; each Sunday the program is repeated Sundays at 9 p.m.

Sun-day best /ˈsʌnˌdeɪ bɛst/ n. (one’s Sunday best) a person’s best clothes, worn to church or on special occasions.

Sun-day school /ˈsʌnˌdeɪ skɔːl/ n. a class held on Sundays to teach children about their religion.

sun-der /ˈsʌn,ˌdɔːr/ v. [tr.] poetic/lit. split apart: the trunk of bone when it is sunned.

sun-di-al /ˈsʌnˌdi,əl/ n. 1 an instrument showing the time by the shadow of a pointer cast by the sun onto a plate marked with the hours of the day.(2) also sundial shell a mollusk (family Architectidae) with a flattened spiral shell that is typically patterned in shades of brown, living in tropical and subtropical seas.

sun-down /ˈsʌnˌdaʊn/ n. the time in the evening when the sun disappears or daylight fades.

sun-dress /ˈsʌnˌdres/ n. a light, loose, sleeveless dress, typically having a wide neckline and shoulder straps.

sun-dry /ˈsʌnˌdri/ adj. of various kinds; several: lemon rind and sundry herbs.

| as pl. n. | (sundries) various items not important enough to be mentioned individually: a drugstore selling magazines, newspapers, and sundries. |

sun-fish /ˈsʌnfɪʃ/ n. (pl. same or -fishes) 1 a large deep-bodied marine fish (family Moridae) of warm seas, with tall dorsal and anal fins near the rear of the body and a very short tail. Its several species include the very large ocean sunfish (Mola mola), also known as mola mola. 2 a nest-building freshwater fish native to North America and popular in aquariums. The freshwater sunfish family (Centrarchidae) also includes sport fish such as various basses.

sun-flow-er /ˈsʌnfloʊər/ n. a tall North American plant (Helianthus annuus) of the daisy family, with very large golden-rayed flowers. Sunflowers are cultivated for edible seeds, which are an important source of oil for cooking and margarine.

Sung /sʊŋ/ (also Song) n. a dynasty that ruled in China AD 960–1279.

sung /sʊŋ/ past participle of sing.

sun-glass-es /ˈsʌŋglaɪz/ pl. n. glasses tinted to protect the eyes from sunlight or glare.

sunk /sʌŋk/ past and past participle of sink.

sun-ken /ˈsʌŋkən/ adj. 1 having sunk or been submerged in water: the wreck of a sunken ship. 2 having sunk below the usual or expected level: the inspector looked at his sunken head with compassion. a. at a lower level than the surrounding area: a sunken garden. b. (of a person’s eyes or cheeks) deeply recessed, esp. as a result of illness, hunger, or stress: her face was white, with sunken cheeks.

sun-lamp /ˈsʌnlæmp/ n. a lamp emitting ultraviolet rays used as a substitute for sunlight, typically to produce an artificial suntan or in therapy.

sun-light /ˈsʌnlɪt/ n. light from the sun: a shaft of sunlight.

sun-lit /ˈsʌnlɪt/ adj. illuminated by direct light from the sun: clear sun-lit waters.

Sun-ni /ˈsʊnəni/ n. (pl. same or -nis) one of the two main branches of Islam, commonly described as orthodox, and differing from Shia in its understanding of the Sunna, the traditional portion of Muslim law based on Muhammad’s words or acts, and in its acceptance of the first three caliphs. Compare with Shia. a Muslim who adheres to this branch of Islam. —Sun-nite /ˈsʊnənit/ adj. & n.

sun-ny /ˈsʌnəni/ adj. (n.iern. -niest) bright with sunlight: a sunny day.

> (of a place) receiving much sunlight: find a sunny patch for the dahlias to grow. b. (of a person or their temperament) cheerful and bright: he had a sunny disposition. —suggestive of the warmth or brightness of the sun: the room was done up in sunny colors.

sun-ny side n. the side of something that receives the sun: longest: a well-known hotel on the sunny side of the island. a. the more cheerful or pleasant aspect of a state of affairs: he was fond of the sunny side of life.

> (sun) sunny side up (of an egg) fried on one side only.

sun-rise /ˈsʌnˌraɪs/ n. the time in the morning when the sun appears or full daylight arrives: an hour before sunrise. —the colors and light visible in the sky on an occasion of the sun’s first appearance in the morning, considered as a view or spectacle: a spectacular sunrise over the summit of the mountain.

sun-rise in-du-stry /ˈsʌnˌraɪz ɪnˈdʌstrɪ/ n. a new and growing industry, esp. in electronics or telecommunications.

sun-roof /ˈsʌnˌrʊf/ n. a panel in the roof of a car that can be opened for extra ventilation.

sun-screen /ˈsʌnˌskrɛn/ n. a cream or lotion rubbed onto the skin to protect it from the sun.

sun-shine /ˈsʌnˌʃaɪn/ n. direct sunlight unbroken by cloud, esp. over a comparatively large area: we walked in the warm sunshine. —fig. cheerfulness: happiness: their colorful music can bring a ray of sunshine.

sun-shiny adj.

sun-spot /ˈsʌnˌspɔt/ n. Astron. a spot or patch appearing from time to time on the sun’s surface.

sun-stroke /ˈsʌnˌstroʊk/ n. heatstroke brought about by excessive exposure to the sun.

sun-tan /ˈsʌnˌtæn/ n. a browning of skin caused by exposure to the sun; he had acquired quite a suntan. —a light or medium brownish color.

> v. [tr.] usu. as adj. (suntanned) expose to the sun in order to achieve such a brown color: a suntanned face.

sun-up /ˈsʌnˌʌp/ n. the time in the morning when the sun appears or full daylight arrives: they worked from sunup to sundown.

super /ˈsuːpər/ adj. 1. very good or pleasant; excellent: Julie was a super girl. | as interj. You’re both coming in? Super! 2. (of a manufactured product) Super! a super quality binder.

> adv. int. especially; particularly: he’s been super understanding.

> n. int. a superintendent.

super. abbr. superintendent.

super-a-bile /ˈsuːpərəˌbɪl/ adj. able to be overcome.

super-a-bun-dant /ˌsuːpərəˈbʌndənt/ adj. excessive in quantity; more than sufficient; overabundant.

super-a-bun-dant-ly adv.

super-a-nu-ate /ˌsuːpərəˌnjuːət/ v. [tr.] usu. be superannuated) reiterate the someone with a pension: his pilot’s license was withdrawn and he was superannuated. | as adj. (superannuated) (of a position or employee) belonging to a superannuation plan: she is not superannuated and has no paid vacation. | as usu. as adj. (superannuated) | superannuated) cause to become obsolete through age or new technology or intellectual developments: superannuated: computer equipment.

super-a-nu-a-tion /ˌsuːpərəˌnjuːəˈkeɪʃən/ n. [usu. as adj.] regular
riding on a surfboard: learning to surf  | [tr.] ride (a wave) toward the shore in such a way; he has built a career out of surfing big waves. | short for CHANNEL-SURF.  | [tr.] move from site to site on (the Internet).  

surf-er n. —surf-y adj.

surf-face [sur'fás] n. the outside part or uppermost layer of something (often used when describing its texture, form, or extent): the earth's surface / poor road surface.  | the level top of something; roll out the dough on a floured surface.  | (also surface area) the area of such an outer part or uppermost layer; the surface area of a cube.  | the upper limit of a body of liquid; fish floating on the surface of the water.  | what is apparent on a casual view or consideration of someone or something, esp. as distinct from feelings or qualities that are not immediately obvious: Tom was a womanizer, but on the surface he remained respectable.  

2 Geom. a set of points that has length and breadth but no thickness.

surf-actant [sur'faktənt] n. a substance that tends to reduce the surface tension of a liquid in which it is dissolved.

surf-board [sur'fôrd] n. a long, narrow streamlined board used in surfing.

surf-cast-ing [sur'fəst] (also surf casting or surf-casting) n. fishing by casting a line into the sea from the shore or near the shore.

surf-feet [sur'fēt] n. an excessive amount of something; a surfet of food and drink.

surf (v. -feet, -feiting) [tr.] (usu. be surfeted with) cause (someone) to desire no more of something as a result of having consumed or done it to excess: I am surfeted with shopping.

surg. abbr. surgeon.  

surg-er-y [sur'jorē] n. (pl. -ger-ies) the branch of medicine concerned with treatment of injuries or disorders of the body by incision or manipulation, esp. with instruments; cardiac surgery.  | such treatment, as performed by a surgeon: he had surgery on his ankle.

surgi-cal [sur'jikəl] adj. of, relating to, or used in surgery; a surgical dressing: (of a special garment or appliance) worn to correct or relieve an ailment, illness, or defect.  | denoting something done with great precision, esp. a swift and highly accurate military attack from the air: surgical bombing.

surly [sur'li] adj. (eterangan, unfriendly: he left with a surly expression.  

sur-mise [sur'miz] [intr. suppose that something is true without having evidence to confirm it: he surmised that something must be wrong. 

n. [sur'miz'] adj. to suppose that something may be true, even though there is no evidence to confirm it: Charles was glad to have his surmise confirmed.  

—late Middle English (in the senses "formal allegation" and "alleged formally"): from Anglo-Norman French and Old French surmise, feminine past participle of surmiser "to guess."
a thing that forms a border or edge around an object: an oak fire-place surround. (usu. surrounds) the area encircling something: surroundings; the beautiful shores of Moosehead Lake.

the things and conditions around a person or thing: I took up the time admiring my surroundings.

an additional tax on something already taxed, such as a higher rate of tax on incomes above a certain level.

close observation, esp. of a suspected spy or criminal: he found himself put under surveillance by military intelligence.

1. (of a person or their eyes) look carefully and thoroughly at (someone or something, esp. so as to appraise them): I surveyed the options. 2. investigate the opinions or experience of a group of people by asking questions: 95% of patients surveyed were satisfied with the health service. 3. investigate (behavior or opinions) by questioning a group of people: the investigator surveyed the attitudes and beliefs held by residents. 4. examine and record the area and features of (an area of land) so as to construct a map, plan, or description: he surveyed the coasts of New Zealand.

n. a general view, examination, or description of someone or something: the author provides a survey of the relevant literature. 1. an investigation of the opinions or experience of a group of people, based on a series of questions. 2. an act of surveying an area of land: the flight involved a detailed aerial survey of military bases. a map, plan, or detailed description obtained in such a way. a department carrying out the surveying of land: the U.S. Geological Survey.

n. a person who surveys, esp. one whose profession is the surveying of land. a person who investigates or examines something, esp. boats for seaworthiness or cargo for damage: a marine surveyor.

the state or fact of continuing to live or exist, typically in spite of an accident, ordeal, or difficult circumstances: the animal’s chances of survival were pretty low. an object or practice that has continued to exist from an earlier time: his shorts were a survival from his army days.

the continued existence of organisms that are best adapted to their environment, with the extinction of others, as a concept in the Darwinian theory of evolution. Compare with NATURAL SELECTION.

the policy of trying to ensure one’s own survival or that of one’s social or national group. the practicing of outdoor survival skills as a sport or hobby.

a pack of emergency equipment, including food, medical supplies, and tools, esp. as carried by members of the armed forces. a collection of items to help someone in a particular situation: substitute food in survival kit.

continue to live or exist, esp. in spite of danger or hardship: against all odds the child survived. continue to live or exist in spite of (an accident or ordeal): he has survived several assassination attempts. remain alive after the death of a particular person: he was survived by his wife and six children. manage to keep going in difficult circumstances: she had to work day and night and survive on two hours sleep.

a person who survives, esp. a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died: the sole survivor of the massacre. the remainder of a group of people or things: a survivor from last year’s team. a person who copes well with difficulties in their life: a born survivor. a law a joint tenant who has the right to the whole estate on the other’s death.

the state or fact of being likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing: lack of exercise increases susceptibility to disease. a person’s feelings, typically considered as being easily hurt: I was so careful not to offend their susceptibilities. the ratio of magnetization to a magnetizing force.

likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing: patients with liver disease may be susceptible to infection. of (a person) easily influenced by feelings or emotions; sensitive: they only do it to tease him—he’s too susceptible. capable or admitting of: the problem is not susceptible of a simple solution.
sustenance

head injuries. 3 uphold, affirm, or confirm the justice or validity of: the allegations of discrimination were sustained.

► n. Mas. an effect or facility on a keyboard or electronic instrument whereby a note can be sustained after the key is released. 2 Middle English: from Old French soutenir, from Latin sustineō, from sub + teneō; 'hold,' — sus-tain-able adj. — sus-tain-able-ly adj — sus-tain-ment n.

sus-te-nance [səˈstənəns] n. 1 food and drink regarded as a source of strength; nourishment; poor rural economies turned to potatoes for sustenance; the maintaining of someone or something in life or existence: he kept two or three cows for the sustenance of his family; the sustenance of democracy.

sutra [ˈsoʊt rá] n. a rule or aphorism in Sanskrit literature, or a set of these on a technical subject. See also KAMA SUTRA, a Buddhist or Jain scripture.

suttee [ˈsoʊt tē also so tē pronunc. same] n. (pl. suttees also sat tēs; \ˈso tēz\) the former Hindu practice of a widow immolating herself on her husband’s funeral pyre.

sut-ture [səˈtʃər] n. 1 a stitch or row of stitches holding together the edges of a wound or surgical incision. 2 a thread or wire used for this. 3 the action of stitching together the edges of a wound or incision. 2 a seamlike immovable junction between two bones, such as those of the skull. 3 a similar junction, such as between the parts of the esophagus of an insect’s body.

► v. [tr.] stitch up (a wound or incision) with a suture: the small incision was sutured. — su-tur-al adj.

SUV abbr sport utility vehicle.

su-zerain [səˈzər eɪn] n. a sovereign or state having some control over another state that is internally autonomous. — su-zer ai-ty [səˈzər eɪ ti] n. — su-zer ænt-ly [səˈzər eɪt lɪ] adv.

svetle [svët lë] adj. (of a person) slender and elegant.

SW abbr. southwest. — SW es t unwestern.

swab [swab] n. 1 an absorbent pad or piece of material used in surgery and medicine for cleaning wounds, applying medication, or taking specimens. 2 a specimen of a secretion taken with a swab for examination: he had taken throat swabs. 3 a piece of absorbent material used for cleaning the bore of a firearm, a woodwind instrument, etc.

► v. [swabbed, swabbing] [tr.] clean (a wound or surface) with a swab: swabbing down the decks / swab a patch of skin with alcohol. 2 absorb (moisture) with a swab: the blood was swabbed away.

swad-dle [swädl] v. [swad-dled, swad-dling] [tr.] wrap (someone, esp. a baby) in garments or cloth: she swaddled the baby tightly.

swag [swag] n. 1 an ornamental festoon of flowers, fruit, and greenery; a swag of flowers. 2 a carved or painted representation of such a festoon. 3 a banner that can be fixed to a post, building, etc.

► v. [swagged, swagging] [tr.] arrange in or decorate with a swag or swags of fabric: swagging the fabric gracefully over the curtain tie-backs.

swag-g-er [swag-gar] n. [inf.] walk or behave in a very confident and typically arrogant or aggressive way: he swaggered along the corridor.

► v. [swag-gered, swag-gering] [inf.] walk or behave in a very confident and typically arrogant or aggressive gait or manner: they strolled around the camp with an exaggerated swagger.


swag-g-er-stick n. a short cane carried by a military officer.

Swahil-i [swaˈhili] n. [pl. same] 1 a Bantu language widely used as a lingua franca in East Africa and having official status in several countries. Also called KISWAHILI. 2 a member of a people of Zanzibar and nearby coastal regions, descendants of the original speakers of Swahili.

swain [swaɪn] n. archaic a country youth; poet/ch, a young lover or suitor.

swallow [ˈswəloʊ] v. [swallowed, swallowing] [tr.] cause or allow (something, esp. food or drink) to pass down the throat: she swallowed a mouthful slowly. 2 [intr.] perform the muscular movement of the esophagus required to do this. 3 [intr.] go through fear or nervousness: she swallowed hard, swallowing back her tears. 4 [intr.] put up with or meekly accept (something insulting or unwelcome); he seemed ready to swallow any insult. 5 believe unquestioningly (a lie or unlikely assertion); she had swallowed his story hook, line, and sinker. 6 resist expressing (a feeling) or uttering (words); he swallowed his pride. 7 take in and cause to disappear; engulph; the dark mist swallowed her up. 8 completely use up (money or resources); debts swallowed up most of the money he had gotten for the house.

► n. an act of swallowing something, esp. food or drink: he drowned his drink in one swallow.

swallow [ˈswəloʊ] n. a migratory swift-loving songbird (Hirundo and other genera, family Hirundinidae) with forked tail and long pointed wings, feeding on insects in flight. 10 a numerous species include the widespread barn swallow (H. rustica).

swallow-tail [ˈswɔləʊ tɔɪl, bɪl] n. (also swallowtail butterfly) a large brightly colored butterfly (family Papilionidae) with tail-like projections (suggestion of a swallow’s tail) on the hind wings.

swarm [swərm] n. past of swarm.


swamp [swamp] n. an area of low-lying, uncultivated ground where water collects: a bog or marsh. ▴ used to emphasize the degree to which a piece of ground is waterlogged: the cows could not turn the lawn into a swamp.

► v. [swamped] overwhelm or flood with water: a large wave swamped the canoe. 2 fig. overwhelmed with an excessive amount of something: inundate: feelings of guilt suddenly swamped her. — swamp-y adj.

swan [swan] n. 1 a large waterbird (genus Cygnus, family Anatidae) with a long flexible neck, short legs, webbed feet, a broad bill, and typically all-white plumage. — swan-like [ˈswæn laɪk] adj.

swan dive n. a dive performed with one’s arms outstretched until close to the water.

swan-k [swɑŋk] adj. — swank-ier, swank-iest [swɑŋk ɪər, swɑŋk ɪst] adj. stylishly luxurious and expensive: directors with swanky company cars. 2 using one’s wealth, knowledge, or achievements to try to impress others.


swan’s-down [ˈswɒn dəʊn] n. (also swan’s down) 1 the fine down of a swan, used for trimmings and powder puffs. 2 a thick cotton fabric with a soft nap on one side, used esp. for baby clothes.

swan song v. a person’s final public performance or professional activity before retirement: he has decided to make this tour his swan song.

swap [swæp] v. [swapped, swapping] [tr.] take part in an exchange: we swapped phone numbers. 1 was wondering if you’d like to swap with me. 2 give (something) and receive something else in exchange: swap one of your sandwiches for a cheese and pickle? 3 substitute (something) for another: I swapped my busy life on Wall Street for a peaceful mountain retreat.

► n. an act of exchanging one thing for another: let’s do a swap. 2 a thing that has been or may be given in exchange for something else: I’ve got one already, but I’ll keep this as a swap. 3 finance an exchange of liabilities between two borrowers, either so that each acquires access to a currency they need or so that a fixed interest rate is exchanged for a floating rate.

swapp-able adj. — swap-pa-ble adj.

swamp meet n. a gathering at which enthusiasts or collectors trade or exchange items of common interest: a computer swap meet. — a flea market.

sward [ˈswɔrd] n. an expanse of short grass.

swarm [swərm] n. a large or dense group of insects, esp. flying ones.

► a large number of honeybees that leave a hive en masse with a newly fertilized queen in order to establish a new colony. 2 a swarm of swarms of a large number of people or things: a swarm of Journalists. 3 a series of similarly sized earthquakes occurring together, typically near a volcano. 4 Astron. a large number of minor celestial objects occurring together in space, esp. a dense shower of meteors.

► v. [swarmed, swarming] [intr.] (of insects) move in or form a swarm: as adj. (swarming) swarming locusts. 1 of honeybees, ants, or termites) issue from the nest in large numbers with a newly fertilized queen in order to found new colonies: the bees had swarmed and left the hive. 2 [swarm with] move somewhere in large numbers: protests were swarming into the building. 3 with (of a place) to be crowded or overrun with (moving people or things): the place was swarming with police.

► v. [swarm] (intr.) climb up or upon a pole, tree, or the like, by clapping it with the arms and legs alternately: pursued by a dog, a raccoon will Pronunciation Key: a long, ah, aw, or, en, ex; h/t; i: air; e: art; s: far; t: for; u: good; u: out; sh: thin; th: then; hw: why; zh: vision
swarm like lightning: the object is to swarm up the flagpole in less than a minute. [trans.] he swarmed the mast.

sweepy ['sworthi] adj. (sweeth, swarthiest) dark-skinned; she looked starkly standing next to her strong and sweezy brother. —sweep-ily adv. —sweezy-ness n.

sweater- or sweathuck-or 'swæther, 'swæthuck (usu. as adj. ['swæth-]) a sweater. sweaters in engaging in daring and romantic adventures with ostenta-
tious bravado or flamboyance: a crew of sweathuck buckaroos.

sweat-buckler (swab-köl, 'swæb-köl, 'swæb-köl) n. a swab-bucking person.

sweat-ica (swät-ikə) n. an ancient symbol in the form of an equa
tried cross with each arm carried at a right angle, used (in clockwise form) as the emblem of the German Nazi Party.

sweat ['swæt] v. (sweated, sweating) [tr.] hit or crush (something, esp. an insect) with a sharp blow from a flat object: I sweated a mosquito that had landed on my wrist. [intr.] sweating at a flyer. [hit (someone) with a sharp blow; she sweated him over the head with a rolled-up magazine.

n. such a sharp blow: the dog gave the hedgehog a sideways sweat.

sweathole ['swæthəl] n. a sample, esp. of fabric. n. a patch or area of a material or surface: the sun beat down the sky with swatches of deep colour.

sweathread ['swæt-thréd, 'swæt-thréd] v. (also swathe ['swæt, 'swet, 'swæt]) [intr. and tr.] to wrap or wind something around a head or wrist to soak up sweat, esp. by participants in sports. n. a band of absorbent material lining a hat.

sweater ['swætər] n. a knitted garment typically with long sleeves, worn over the upper body.

sweat gland n. a small gland that secretes sweat, situated in the dermis of the skin. Such glands are found over most of the body, and have a simple coiled tubular structure.

sweat-pants ['swæt-pənts] pl. loose, warm trousers with an elastized or drawstring waist, worn when exercising or as leisurewear.

sweat-shirt ['swæt, 'swet, 'swæt] n. a loose, heavy shirt, typically made of cotton.

sweat-shop ['swæt, 'swæt, 'swæt] n. a factory or workshop, esp. in the clothing industry, where manual workers are employed at very low wages for long hours and under poor conditions.

sweat-suit ['swæt, 'swæt] n. a suit consisting of a sweatshirt and sweatpants, worn when exercising or as leisurewear.


Swede ['swéd] n. a native or national of Sweden, or a person of Swedish descent.

Swed-ish ['swèd-əsh] adj. of or relating to Sweden, its people, or their language.

n. the North Germanic language of Sweden, also spoken in parts of Finland.

sweep ['swép] v. (past swept or swept) 1 [tr.] clean an area by brushing away dirt or litter; I've swept the floor. [tr.] move or remove (dirt or litter) in such a way: she swept the tea leaves into a dustpan. [tr.] move or push (someone or something) with great force: I was swept along by the crowd. [tr.] brush (hair) back from one's face or forehead: long hair swept up into a high chignon. [intr.] search (an area) for something: the detective swept the room from floor to ceiling. [intr.] examine (a place or thing) for electronic listening devices: the line is swept every fifteen minutes. [cover (an entire area) with a gun: they were trying to get the Lewis gun up behind some trees from where they would sweep the trench. [intr.] move swiftly and smoothly: a large black car swept past the open windows. [intr.] cause to move swiftly and smoothly: he swept his hand around the room. [of a person] move in a confident and stately manner: she swept magnificently from the hall. [of a geographical or natural feature] extend continuously in a particular direction, esp. in a curve: green forests swept down the hillsides. [intr.] look swiftly over: her eyes swept the room. [after (an area or place) swiftly and widely: violence swept the country | [intr.] the rebellion had swept through all four of the country's provinces. [tr.] win all the games in (a series); take each of the winning or main places in (a contest or event); we knew we had to sweep these three home games.

n. 1 an act of sweeping something with a brush: I was giving the floor a quick sweep. 2 a long, swift, curling movement: a grandiose sweep of his hand. 3 a comprehensive search or survey of a place or area: the police finished their sweep through the woods. 4 (often sweeps) a survey of the ratings of broadcast stations, carried out at regular intervals to determine advertising rates. 3 a long, typically curved stretch of road, river, country, etc.: we could see a wide sweep of country perhaps a hundred miles across. [fig.] the range or scope of something: the whole sweep of the history of the USSR. 5 a sweepstake. 6 an instance of winning every event, award, or place in a contest: a World Series sweep. 6 a long heavy oak used to row a barge or other vessel. 7 a long pole mounted as a lever for raising buckets from a well.

sweep-er ['swép] n. a person or device that cleans a floor or road by sweeping.

sweep-ing ['swép-əing] adj. wide in range or effect: we cannot recommend any sweeping alterations. extending or performed in a long, continuous curve: sweeping, desolate moorlands. [of a statement] taking no account of particular cases or exceptions; too general: a sweeping assertion.
swimwear /ˈswɪm.wɛər/ n. clothing worn for swimming.

swindler /ˈswɪndlər/ v. [tr.] use deception to deprive (someone) of money or possessions; a businessman swindled investors out of millions of dollars.

swine /swain/ n. (pl. same) 1. a pig. 2. (pl. same or swines) int. a person regarded by the speaker with contempt and disgust: what an arrogant, unfeeling swine —swinish adj. —swishly adv. —swinishness n.

swing /swɪŋ/ v. (past swung /ˈswɪŋt/) 1. move or cause to move back and forth or from side to side while or as if suspended: [intr.] her long black skirt swung about her legs | [tr.] a priest began swinging a censer | [as adj.] swinging local girls with their castanets and their swinging hips. • move or cause to move in alternate directions or in either direction on an axis. • [as tr.] a wooden gate swinging crazily on its hinges | [tr.] he swung the heavy iron door shut. • [intr.] be executed by hanging; now he was going to swing for it. 2. [intr.] move by grasping a support from below and leaping: we swung across like two trapeze artists | swinging oneself the Irishman swung himself into the saddle. • move quickly around to the opposite direction: Romni had swung around to face him. 3. move or cause to move in a smooth, curving line: [tr.] he swung her bag up onto the roof | [intr.] the cab swung into the parking lot. • [tr.] bring down (something held) with a curving movement, typically in order to hit an object: I swung the club and missed the ball. • [intr.] (an object) to hit or bump, typically with a wide curving movement of the arm: he swung at me with the tire iron. • [tr.] throw (a punch) with such a movement: she swung a punch at him. • shift or cause to shift from one opinion, mood, or state of affairs to another: [intr.] opinion swung in the chancellor’s favor | [tr.] the failure to seek a peace could swing sentiment the other way. • [tr.] have a decisive influence on (something, esp. a vote or election): an attempt to swing the vote in their favor. • [intr.] succeed in bringing about: with us backing you we might be able to swing something. • [intr.] play music with an easy flowing but vigorous rhythm: the bond swung on. • (of music) be played with such a rhythm. • [intr.] (of an event, place, or way of life) be lively, exciting, or fashionable. • [intr.] be promiscuous, typically by engaging in group sex or swapping sexual partners.

swinging /ˈswɪŋɪŋ/ adj. int. (of a person, place, or way of life) lively, exciting, and fashionable: a swinging resort. • sexually liberated or promiscuous. —swinging-ly adv.

swing shift n. a work shift from mid-afternoon to around midnight.

swing-wing /ˈswɪŋ.wɪŋ/ n. [usu. as adj.] an aircraft wing that can move from a right-angled to a swept-back position: swing-wing fighter bombers.

swing-y /ˈswɪŋ.ə/ adj. (swing-ier, swing-iest) 1. (of music) characterized by swing (see swing (sense 4 of the noun)). 2. (of a skirt, coat, or other garment) cut so as to swing as the wearer moves.

swipe /swɪp/ v. [tr.], [intr.] 1. hit or try to hit with a swinging blow: she swiped me right across the nose | [intr.] she lifted her hand to swipe at a cat. 2. steal: someone swiped one of his sausages. 3. pass (a card with a magnetic strip) through an electronic device that reads it. • n. a sweeping blow: he missed the ball with his first swipe. • an attack or criticism: he took a swipe at his critics.

swirl /swɜːrl/ v. [intr.] move in a twisting or spiraling pattern: the smoke was swirling around him. • v.INTR. cause to move in such a pattern: swirl a little cream into the soup.

• n. a quantity of something moving in such a pattern: swirls of dust swept across the floor. • a twisting or spiraling movement or pattern: she emerged with a swirl of skirts | swirls of color. —swirly adj.

swish /swɪʃ/ v. [intr.] move with a hissing or rushing sound: a car swished by. • [tr.] cause to move with such a sound: a girl came in, swishing her long skirt. • aim a swinging blow at something: he swished at a bramble with a piece of stick. • [tr.] Basketball sink (a shot) without the ball touching the backboard or rim.

• n. a hiissing or rustling sound: he could hear the swish of a distant car. • a rapid swinging movement: the cow gave a swish of its tail. • Basketball int. a shot that goes through the basket without touching the backboard or rim. 2. int. oftens. an effeminate male homosexual.

adj. int. offends. effeminate. —swishy adj.

Swiss /ˈswɪʃ/ adj. of or relating to Switzerland or its people. • [as pl. n.] (the Swiss) the people of Switzerland.

• (pl. same) a native or national of Switzerland, or a person of Swiss descent. • (early 16th cent.): from French Suisse, from Middle High German Swit ‘Switzerland.’

Swiss chard n. see CHARD.

Swiss cheese n. cheese of a style originating in Switzerland, typically containing large holes. • used figuratively to refer to something that is full of holes, gaps, or defects: the team has Swiss cheese for a defense.

switch /swɪtʃ/ n. 1. a device for making and breaking the connection in an electrical circuit: the guard hit a switch and the gate swung open. • Com. a program variable that activates or deactivates a certain function of a program. 2. an act of adopting one policy or way of life, or choosing one type of item, in place of another; a change, esp. a radical one; his friends were surprised at his switch from newspaper owner to farmer. 3. a slender flexible shoot cut from a tree. 4. a junction of two railroad tracks, with a pair of linked tapering rails that can be moved laterally to allow a train to pass from one line to the other.

• v. [intr.] change the position, direction, or focus of: the company switched the boats to other routes. • adopt (something different) in place of something else; change: she’s managed to switch carers. • [intr.] adopt a new policy, position, way of life, etc.; switched to journalism. • substitute (two items) for each other; exchange: after ten minutes, listener and speaker switch roles. —switched-a-bly adv.

switchback /ˈswɪtʃ.bæk/ n. a 180° bend in a road or path, esp. one leading up the side of a mountain.

• v. [intr.] (of a road or vehicle) make a series of switchback turns: a road that switched back up blue and distant hills.

switch-blade /ˈswɪtʃ.blɛd/ n. a knife with a blade that springs out from the handle when a button is pressed.

switch-board /ˈswɪtʃ.bɔːrd/ n. an installation for the manual control of telephone connections in an office, hotel, or other large building.

• another term for HELPLINE. • an apparatus for varying connections between electric circuits in other applications.

switch-hit-ter n. Baseball a batter who can hit from either side of home plate. • int. a bisexual. —switch-hitting adj.

swivel /ˈswɪvl/ n. a coupling between two parts enabling one to rotate without turning the other.

• (eled, -eling, Brit -elled, -eling) turn around a point or axis or on a swivel: [intr.] he swiveled in the chair | [tr.] she swiveled her eyes around.

swizzle stick n. a stick used for stirring still drinks or taking the fizzle out of sparkling ones.

swol-len /ˈswəʊlən/ adj. past participle of SWELL.

swoon /ˈswʊn/ v. [intr.] faint from extreme emotion: I don’t want a nurse who swoons at the sight of blood. • be emotionally affected by someone or something that one admires; become ecstatic: teenagers swoon over Japanese pop singers.

• n. an occurrence of fainting: her strength ebbed away and she fell into a swoon.

swoop /ˈswʊp/ v. 1. [intr.] (esp. of a bird) move rapidly downward through the air: the barn owl can swoop down on a mouse in total darkness. • carry out a sudden attack, esp. in order to make a capture or arrest: investigators swooped on the Graf family home. 2. [tr.] int. seize with a sweeping motion: she swooped up the hen in her arms. • n. a swooping or snatching movement or action: four members were arrested following a swoop by detectives on their homes.

swoosh /ˈswʊʃ/ n. the sound produced by a sudden rush of air, either liquid: the swoosh of surf.

• v. [intr.] move with such a sound: swooshing down beautiful ski slopes.

swop /swɒp/ v. & n. chiefly Brit. variant spelling of SWAP.

sword /sɔːrd/ n. a weapon with a long metal blade and a hilt with a hand guard, used for thrusting or striking and now typically worn as part of ceremonial dress. • (the sword) poet’s: military power, violence, or destruction: not many perished by the sword. —sword-like /-lɪk/ adj.

sword-fish /ˈsɔːrd.fɪʃ/ n. (pl. same or -fishes) a large edible marine fish (Xiphias gladius, family Xiphiidae) with a streamlined body and a long flattened swordlike snout.
syntactic /sint'æk-tik/ adj. of or according to syntax: syntactic analysis.
—syntactic- cal adj. —syntactic-ally /-ik(əl)i/ adv.
syntax /sint'æks/ n. the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language: the syntax of English. a set of rules for or an analysis of this: generative syntax. the branch of linguistics that deals with this.
synthe-sis /sint'æsəs/ n. (pl. -ses /-siz/) combination or composition, in particular: the combination of ideas to form a theory or system: the synthesis of intellect and emotion in his work. Often contrasted with ANALYSIS. the production of chemical compounds by reaction from simpler materials: the synthesis of methanol from carbon monoxide and hydrogen. Linguistics the use of inflected forms rather than word order to express grammatical structure. —synthe- sis. n.
syn-the-size /sint'θəsiz/ v. [tr] make (something) by synthesis, esp. chemically: man synthesizes new chemical poisons and sprays the countryside wholesale. combine (a number of things) into a coherent whole: pupils should synthesize the data they have gathered. produce (sound) electronically: trigger chips that synthesize speech.
syn-the-sizer /sint'θəsizər/ n. an electronic musical instrument, typically operated by a keyboard, producing a wide variety of sounds by generating and combining signals of different frequencies.

synthetic /sint'θet-ik/ adj. relating to or using synthesis. of a substance made by chemical synthesis, esp. to imitate a natural product: synthetic rubber. of an emotion or action) not genuine: insincere: their tears are a bit synthetic. Linguistics of (a language) characterized by the use of inflections rather than word order to express grammatical structure.

n. (often synthetics) a synthetic material or chemical, esp. a textile fiber. —synthetically ad. —synthetical-ly /-ik(əl)i/ adv.
synthetic res-in n. see RESIN.
syphilis /sfɪlɪs/ n. a chronic bacterial disease caused by the spirochete Treponema pallidum. It is contracted chiefly by infection during sexual intercourse. —syphilitic /sfɪlɪtɪk/ adj. & n.
syphon n. & v. variant spelling of SIPHON.
syringe /sɪrɪnʤ/ n. 1 a plant of the genus Syringa in the olive family, esp. (in gardening) the lilac. 2 int. another term for MOCK ORANGE.
syringe /sə'rinʤ/ n. Med. a tube with a nozzle and piston or bulb for sucking in and ejecting liquid in a thin stream, used for cleaning wounds or body cavities, or fitted with a hollow needle for injecting or withdrawing fluids. any similar device used in gardening or cooking.
syrup /sərʊp; 'sər-/ also sir-up] n. a thick sweet liquid made by dissolving sugar in boiling water, often used for preserving fruit. a thick sweet liquid containing medicine or used as a drink: cough syrup. a thick sticky liquid derived from a sugar-rich plant, esp. sugar cane, corn, and maple. aq. excessive sweetness or sentimentality of style or manner: Mr. Gurney’s poems are almost all of their syrup.
—syrupy adj.
system /sɪstəm/ n. 1 a set of connected things or parts forming a complex whole, in particular: a set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network: the state railroad system. Physiol. a set of organs in the body with a common structure or function: the digestive system. the human or animal body as a whole; you need to get the cholesterol out of your system. Comput. a group of related hardware units or programs or both, esp. when dedicated to a single application. 2 a set of principles or procedures according to which something is done: an organized scheme or method: the public school system. orderliness; method: there was no system at all in the company. a method of choosing one’s procedure in gambling. a set of rules used in measurement or classification: the metric system. the prevailing political or social order, esp. when regarded as oppressive and intransigent: don’t try bucking the system. earl’ 17th cent.: from French système or late Latin systema, from Greek σύστημα, from sun- 'with' + histēma 'set up.' —system-less adj.
systematic /sɪstəmat-ik/ adj. done or acting according to a fixed plan or system; methodical: a systematic search of the whole city. —systemat-ically /-ik(əl)i/ adv. —systemat-i- cism /sɪstəmat-ɪsɪzəm/ n. —systematist /sɪstəmat-ɪst/ n.
systematics /sɪstəmat-ɪks/ n. pl. n. [treated as sing] the branch of biology that deals with classification and nomenclature; taxonomy.
systematize /sɪstəmat-ɪz/ v. [tr] arrange according to an organized system; make systematic: Galen set about systematizing medical thought.
—systemat-ization /sɪstəmat-ɪza-ʃən/ n. —systematizer n.
systematic /sɪstəmat-ɪk/ adj. 1 of or relating to a system, esp. as opposed to a particular part: the disease is localized rather than systemic. (of an insecticide, fungicide, or similar substance) entering the plant via the roots or shoots and passing through the tissues. 2 Physiol. denoting the part of the circulatory system concerned with the transportation of oxygen to and carbon dioxide from the body in general, esp. as distinct from the pulmonary part concerned with the transportation of oxygen from and carbon dioxide to the lungs. —systemat- ically /-ik(əl)i/ adv.
systems ana-lyst n. a person who analyzes a complex process or operation in order to improve its efficiency, esp. by applying a computer system. —systems ana-ly-sis n.
systole /sɪs'təleɪ/ n. Physiol. the phase of the heartbeat when the heart muscle contracts and pumps blood from the chambers into the arteries. Often contrasted with DIASTOLE. —systolic /sɪs'təlɪk/ adj.
Tt

T [tə] (also t) n. (pl. Ts or Ts') 1 the twentieth letter of the alphabet.
2 [T] (also tee) a shape like that of a capital T: [in comb] make a T-shaped wound in the rootstock and insert the cut bud.

T to a T int. exactly; to perfection: I baked it to a T, and of course it was delicious.

T a b r. [in comb.] (1) a tabulation device; (2) a tabulating machine.
T adj. Statistics a number characterizing the distribution of a sample taken from a population with a normal distribution.
T pr. contr. of the word "it." attached to the end of a verb, esp. in the transcription of regional spoken use: I'll never do it again.

Ta n. 1 the chemical element tantalum.
2 [tæ] Brit., int. thank you.

Tab [tæb] n. 1 a small flap or strip of material attached to or projecting from something, used to hold or manipulate it, or for identification and information; a similar piece of material forming part of a garment. 2 a strip or ring of metal attached to the top of a canned drink and pulled to open the can.

Tab [tæb] adj. 1 an area of a control surface, typically hinged, that modifies the action or response of the surface.
2 n. a restaurant or bar bill.
3 [tæb] v. (tabbed, tab-bing) tr. mark or identify with a projecting piece of material: a page tabbed by a cloth bookmark.
4 n. a tag or label.
5 adj. having tables.
6 adv. in table:

Table [tæb] n. 1 a piece of furniture with a flat top and one or more legs, providing a level surface on which objects may be placed, and that can be used for such purposes as eating, writing, working, or playing games. 2 food provided in a restaurant or household: he was reputed to have the finest French table of the time.
3 a group seated at a table for a meal: the whole table was in gales of laughter.
4 [tæb] v. (tabled, tab-bing) tr. 1 postpone consideration of: I'd like the issue to be tabled for the next few months. 2 present formally for discussion or consideration at a meeting: an MP tabled an amendment to the bill.

Tabular [tæbju-lər] adj. of or relating to a table.

Tabulate [tæb-yə-lət] v. (tabulated, tab-ling) 1 short for tabulate: a word processor or typewriter: the user can tab to the phrase and press Enter.

Tabloid [tæb-ləid] n. a newspaper having pages half the size of...
amount of time); the jury took an hour to find McPherson guilty; it takes a quarter of an hour to walk to work. (of a task or situation) need to work for a particular person or thing: it will take an electronics expert to dismantle it. • hold; accommodate: an exclusive inland hideaway that takes just two guests; • wear or require (a particular size or type of something); he takes size 5 boots. • [ant.] (of a plane) to retract from. • take someone back strongly remind someone of a past time. if "Disco Inferno" doesn't take you back, the bell-bottoms will. • take someone back 1 retract a statement. 2 return unsatisfactory goods to a store (of a store) accept such goods. • take something down 1 write down something. 2 dismantle and remove a structure. • take from another way of saying take away from. • take someone in 1 accommodate someone as a lodger because they are homeless or in difficulties. 2 cheat, fool, or deceive someone; she tried to pass this off as an amusing story, but nobody was taken in. • take something in 1 undertake work at home: she took in laundry on weekends. 2 make a garment tighter by altering its seams. • Sading furl a sail. 3 receive a specified amount of money as payment or earnings; our club took in $5,000 in the first year; include or encompass something; the sweep of his arm took in all of Main Street. fully understand or absorb something heard or seen: she took in the scene at a glance. 5 visit or attend a place or event in a casual way or on the way to another: he'd maybe fly into a movie. • take off 1 (of an aircraft or bird) become airborne. 2 (of an enterprise) become successful or popular; the newly launched electronic newspaper has really taken off. 3 depart hastily. • take something off 1 remove clothing from one's or another's body. 2 deduct part of an amount. 3 choose to have a period away from work: I took the next day off. • take someone else hire an employee. 2 be willing or ready to meet an adversary or opponent: esp. stronger one; a group of villagers to take on the employer. 3 undertake a task or responsibility, esp. a difficult one. 4 acquire a particular meaning or quality: the subject has taken on a new significance in the past year. • take someone out to escort, as on a date. • take someone/something out int kill, destroy, or disable someone or something. • take something out 1 obtain an official document or service; you can take out a loan for a specific purchase. 2 get a license or summons issued. 3 buy food at a cafe or restaurant for eating elsewhere: he ordered a large sandwich to take out. • take something out on relieve frustration or anger by attacking or mistreating (a person or thing not responsible for such feelings). • take something over (also take over) assume control of something. 1 (of a company) buy another. 2 become responsible for a task in succession to another: he will take over as chief executive in April. • take to begin or fall into the habit of; he took to hiding some secret supplies in his desk. 2 form a liking for: Mrs. Brady never took to Morni. 3 develop an ability for something; esp. quickly or easily. 4 go to (a place) to escape danger or an enemy; they took to the hills. • take something up 1 become interested or engaged in a pursuit: she took up tennis at the age of 11. 2 begin to hold or fulfill a position or post: an appointment as missionary. 3 accept an offer or challenge. 4 occupy time, space, or attention; I don't want to take up any more of your time. 5 pursue a matter later or further. 6 he'll have to take it up with the bishop. 7 (also take up) resume speaking after an interruption; I took up where I had left off. 8 shorten a garment by turning up the hem. • take someone up on 1 accept (a dare or challenge). 2 challenge or question a speaker on a particular point. • take up with (also take to) get along with (someone); esp. in a way disapproved of by the speaker: he takes up with a divorced woman, I understand. • a scene or sequence of sound or vision photographed or recorded continuously at one time. • a particular version of or approach to something; his own whimsical take on life. 2 an amount of something gained or acquired from one source or in one session; the take from commodity taxation. 3 the money received at a theater, arena, etc., for seats. • take-bite /ˈtākt/ n. • be on the take int take bribes. • have what it takes int have the necessary qualities for success. • take the cake int (of a person or incident) be the most remarkable or foolish of their kind. • take five (or ten) take a five (or ten) minute break before resuming work or any other activity. • take a lot of (or some) be difficult to do or effect in the specified way; he might take some convincing. • take someone in hand undertake to control or reform someone. • take something in hand start doing or dealing with a task. • take the heat int accept blame or withstand disapproval. • take it from me I can assure you: take it from me, kid—I've been there. • take it on (or oneself) to do something decide to do something without asking for permission or advice. • take it or leave it [usu. in imper] said to express that the offer one has made is not negotiable and that one is indifferent to another's reaction to it: that's the deal—take it or leave it. • take it out of existence the strength of someone; parties can take it out of you, especially if you are over 65. • take sick (or ill) int become ill, esp. suddenly. • take the stand testify at a trial. • take that! exclaimed when hitting someone or taking decisive action against them. • take one's time not hurry.

**take-home pay** n. the pay received by an employee after the deduction of taxes and other obligations.

take-off /ˈtāk,ōf/ (also take-off) n. 1 food that is cooked and sold by a restaurant or store to be eaten elsewhere: cartons of Chinese takeout for late-night dinners [as adj] takeout pizza. 2 Bridge a bid in a different suit made in response to a bid or double by one's partner.

take-over /ˈtākˌāvər/ n. an act of assuming control of something, esp. the buying out of one company by another.

taker /ˈtākər/ n. 1 [in sing] a person who takes a specified thing: a risk-taker. 2 a person who takes over an offer or challenge: there were plenty of takers when I offered a small wager.

taking /ˈtāking/ n. 1 the action or process of taking something: the taking of life. 2 (takings) the amount of money earned by a business from the sale of goods or services: box-office takings were scant.

adj. dated (of a person) captivated in manner; charming: he was not a very taking person, she felt.—taking-ly adv.

take the_ ready or available for someone to take advantage of; big money is out there for the taking.

talc /tāl/ n. talcum powder. • a white, gray, or pale green soft magnesium-silicate mineral with a greasy feel, occurring as translucent masses or laminae.

v. talc|talc| (talc|talc|) [tr] powder or treat (something) with t alc—talcose /talˈkōs/ adj. (Geol). —talc-y /ˈtal-kəl/ adj.

talc|cum /ˈtak-lom/ (also t alcum powder) n. a cosmetic or toilet preparation consisting of the mineral talc in powdered form, typically perfumed.

v. cum|cumin| (cum|cumin|) [tr] powder (something) with this substance.

tale /tāl/ n. 1 a fictitious or true narrative or story, esp. one that is imaginatively recounted. —lie.

talent /ˈtalənt/ n. 1 natural aptitude or skill: he possesses more talent than any other player. 2 something: a talented young musician.

talent-ed /ˈtaləntd/ adj. having a natural aptitude or skill for something: a talented young musician.

talent scout n. a person whose job is to search for talented performers who can be employed or promoted, esp. in sports and entertainment.

**tali** /ˈtāli/ adj. plural form of **talu**.

tali|man /ˈtāləˌmən/ (pl. -mans) n. an object, typically an inscribed ring or stone, that is thought to have magic powers and to bring good luck.—tal|man|ic /ˈtālˌmənık/ adj.

talk /tak/ v. [inte] speak in order to give information or express ideas or feelings; converse or communicate by spoken words: the two men talked about jazz. If you're talking rubbish, you have the power of speech: he can talk as well as you or I can. 2 discuss personal or intimate feelings: we need to talk. 3 have formal or detailed discussions: negotiate: they won't talk to the regime that killed their families. 4 (talk something over) discuss something thoroughly. 5 (talk to) address (someone) in a hectoring or self-important way without listening to their replies. 6 (talk to) reprimand or scold (someone). 7 (be) talking int used to emphasize the seriousness, importance, or extent of the thing one is mentioning or in the process of discussing; we're talking big money. 8 (use) a particular language in speech; we were...
tarr[cyan]y /tær/ v. [tr] fix the price of (something) according to a tariff; these services are tarried by value.

Tarmac /ˈtɑr-mæk/ n. (usu. tarmac) trademark material used for surfacing roads or other outdoor areas, consisting of crushed rock mixed with tar. n. (the tarmac) a runway or other area surfaced with such material.

tarn /tɑrn/ n. a small mountain lake.

Tarnation /tər-nə-shən/ n. & interj. used as a euphemism for “damnation.”

Tarnished /tərn-iʃt/ v. lose or cause to lose luster, esp. as a result of exposure to air or moisture; n. silver tarnishes too easily; n. & fr. lemon juice would tarnish the gilded metal. ♦ adj. make or become less valuable or respected; [fr.] his regime had not been tarnished by human rights abuses.

Tarnultness /tərn-əl-ntis/ n. dullness of color; loss of brightness. ♦ a film or stain formed on an exposed surface of a mineral or metal. ♦ damage or harm done to something. —tarnultful adj.

Tar- /tər/ suffix; —terial, —terion, —terin.

Taro /ˈtäro/ n. a tropical Asian plant (Colocasia esculenta) of the arum family that has edible starchy corms and edible edible leaves, esp. a variety with a large central corm grown as a staple in the Pacific. —the corm of this plant.

Tarot /ˈtər-ət/ n. (tejor; ta’do) n. (the Tarot) playing cards, traditionally a pack of 78 with five suits, used for fortune-telling and (esp. in Europe) in certain games.

tarp /tɑrp/ n. int. a tarpaulin sheet or cover.

tarpaulin /tɑr-ˈpə-lən/ n. a heavy-duty waterproof cloth, originally of tarred canvas. —a sheet or covering of this.

Tarpont /ˈtɑr-pənt/ n. a large tropical marine fish (family Megalopidae) of hermaphroditic appearance. Two species: Tarpon atlantica, a prized Atlantic game fish, and Megalops cyprinoides of the Indo-Pacific.

Taragong /ˈtɑr-ə-gong/ n. a perennial plant (Artemisia dracunculus) of the daisy family, with narrow aromatic leaves that are used as a culinary herb.

Tarred /ˈtər-təd, -tərd/ adj. (r-ier, -riest) of, like, or covered with tar; a length of tarred rope. —tarredness n.

Tarry /ˈtər-ə/ adv. —tarrying, —tarily. —tarryonesup v. (r-ies, -ried) intr. stay longer than intended; delay; leaving a place; she could carry a bit and not get home until four. —tarryer n. (rare).

Tarsal /ˈtɑrsəl/ adj. Anat. & Zool. of or relating to the tarsus: the tarsal claws of beetles.

Tarsus /ˈtɑrsəs/ n. pl. tarsi /ˈtɑrs-ə/ (tär-; -sē) 1 Anat. a group of small bones forming the main part of the hind limb and the metatarsus in terrestrial vertebrates. The seven bones of the human tarsus form the ankle and upper part of the foot. Zool. the shank of the leg of a bird or reptile.

2 Anat. a thin sheet of fibrous connective tissue which supports the edge of each eyelid.

Tart /tɑrt/ n. an open pastry case containing a filling. —tartlet /ˈtɑrt-lit/ n.

Tarte /tɑrt/ n. (int. derog.) a prostitute or a promiscuous woman.

Tartly /ˈtɑrt-li/ adv. sharp or acid in taste; a tart apple. (of a remark or tone of voice) cutting, bitter, or sarcastic. I bit back a tart reply. —tartleness n.

Tartan /ˈtɑr-tən/ n. a woven cloth woven in one of several patterns of plaid, esp. of a design associated with a particular Scottish clan.

—used allusively in reference to Scotland or the Scots.

Tartan /ˈtɑr-tən/ n. hist. a lateen-rigged, single-masted ship used in the Mediterranean.

Tartar /ˈtɑr-tər/ n. hist. a member of the combined forces of central Asian peoples, including Mongols and Turks, who under Genghis Khan conquered much of Asia and eastern Europe in the early 13th century, and under Tamerlane (14th century) established an empire. See also Tatarian. —adj. harsh, fierce, or intractable person. —Tartarian /ˈtɑr-tər-i-ən/ adj.

Tartar /ˈtɑr-tər/ n. a hard calcified deposit that forms on the teeth and contributes to their decay. ♦ a deposit of impure potassium hydrogen tartrate formed during the fermentation of wine. See also Cream of Tartar.

—tartaric acid /ˈtɑr-tər-ik/ n.

Tartaric acid /ˈtɑr-tər-ik/ n. Chem. a crystalline acid, COOHCH(OH)2COOH, that is used in baking powders and as a food additive.

Tartare sauce /ˈtɑr-tər-ər/ n. a cold sauce, typically eaten with fish, consisting of mayonnaise mixed with chopped pickles, capers, etc.

Task /tɑsk/ n. a piece of work to be done or undertaken.

—v. [tr] assign such a piece of work to: NATO troops are tasked with separating the warring parties. ♦ make great demands on (someone’s resources or abilities); it tasked his diplomatic skill to effect his departure.

Task force /ˈtɑsk fərs/ n. an armed force organized for a special operation. ♦ a unit specially organized for a task; says his plans include a task force on hate crimes.

Taskmaster /ˈtɑsk-ˌmɑster/ n. a person who imposes a harsh or onerous workload on someone.

Tasmanian devil /ˈtas-ˌmən-nən/ n. a heavily built marsupial (Sarcophilus harrisii, family Dasyuridae) with a large head, powerful jaws, and mainly black fur, found only in Tasmania.

Tassal /ˈtas-ləl/ n. a tuft of loosely hanging threads, cords, or other material knotted at one end and attached for decoration to home furnishings, clothing, or other items. ♦ the tufted head of some plants, esp. a flowerhead with prominent stamens at the top of a cornstalk.

—v. -seled, -seling Brit. -selled, -seling (inf.) (of corn or other plants) form tassels.

taste /tæst/ n. 1 the sensation of flavor perceived in the mouth and throat on contact with a substance: the wine had a fruity taste; ♦ the faculty of perceiving this quality; a highly developed sense of taste; ♦ a small portion of food or drink taken as a sample: try a taste of Gorgonzola; ♦ a brief experience of something, conveying its basic character; his first taste of serious action. 2 a person’s liking for particular foods: this pudding is too sweet for my taste. ♦ a person’s tendency to like and dislike certain things: he found the competitiveness of the profession was not to his taste. ♦ taste for (a liking for or interest in something); have you lost your taste for fancy restaurants? ♦ the ability to discern what is of good quality or of a high aesthetic standard; she has a taste for literature. ♦ conformity or failure to conform with generally held views concerning what is offensive or acceptable: that’s a joke in bad taste.

—v. [tr] perceive or experience the flavor of; she had never tasted ice cream before. ♦ [intr.] have a specified flavor: the spinach tastes delicious. ♦ sample or test the flavor of (food or drink) by taking it into the mouth: the wanderer poured some wine for him to taste. ♦ eat or drink a small portion of.

—have experience of: the team has not yet tasted victory at home.

—bad (or bitter) taste in someone’s mouth inf. a feeling of distress or disgust following an experience; this incident has left a bad taste in all our mouths.

—to taste in the amount needed to give a flavor pleasing to someone eating a dish: add salt and pepper to taste.

taste bud /tæst-bud/ n. (usu. taste buds) any of the clusters of bulbous nerve endings on the tongue and in the lining of the mouth that provide the sense of taste.

tasteful /ˈtæst-əfl/ adj. showing good aesthetic judgment or appropriate behavior. —tastefully adv. —tastefulness n.

—less /ˈtæst-ləs/ adj. 1 lacking flavor. 2 considered to be lacking in aesthetic judgment or to offend against what is regarded as appropriate behavior; a tasteless joke. —tasteless adv. —tastelessness n.

Taster /ˈtæst-ər/ n. a person employed to test food or drink for quality by tasting it. ♦ a small cup used by a person tasting wine in such a way. ♦ an instrument for extracting a small sample from within a cheese.

tasting /ˈtæst-ɪŋ/ n. a gathering at which people sample, compare, and evaluate different wines, or other drinks or food; we did a tasting of over forty of the cheaper champagnes. See also WINE TASTING.

—v. [tr] taste (of food) having a pleasant, distinct flavor; a tasty snack. —tastily /ˈtæst-lē/ adv. —tastiness n.

hat /hæt/ n. (in phrase lit for hat) see hat.

—ta-la /ˈtə-lə/ adj. interj. int. chiefly Brit. goodbye.

—Tatar /ˈtɑr-tər/ n. 1 a member of a Turkish people living in Tatarstan and various other parts of Russia and Ukraine. They are the descendants of the Tartars who ruled central Asia in the 14th century. ♦ 2 the Turkish language.

—adj. relating to this people or their language.

tater /ˈtɑt-ər/ n. int. a potato.
tattered /ˈtætərd/ adj. torn, old, and in generally poor condition; in tatters: an old woman in tattered clothes.

5 adj. virtually destroyed; ruined.

tattlers /ˈtætələz/ pl. n. irregularly torn pieces of cloth, paper, or other material.

• in tatters int. torn in many places; in shreds: wallpaper hung in tatters.

5 adj. destroyed; ruined: the conflagration in tatters within hours.

5 adj. tatty adj. a kind of knotted lace made by hand with a small shuttle, used chiefly for trimming, in the process of making such lace.

5 tattle /ˈtætl/ v. [intr.] report another's wrongdoing; he never told or told tales I would tell her whenever I had hard evidence. • gossip idl. talk. —tatterer n.

tattletale /ˈtætlˌtāl/ n. a person, esp. a child, who reveals secrets or informs on others; a tattle-tale.

5 tattle /ˈtætl/ v. p. -told, -told /-tōd/ n. an evening drum or bugle signal calling soldiers to their quarters. • a rhythmic tapping or drumming.

5 talk /tækt/, /ˈtakt/, /ˈtakt/, /ˈtakt/ n. (pl. -toos) an indelible design on the skin by punctures in the skin; his face was tattooed with a winged list. • make (a design) in such a way: he has a heart tattooed on his left hand.

5 n. (pl. -toos) a design made in such a way.

tattooer n. —tattoo-ist n./ˈtætkōist/.

tau /toʊ/ n. the nineteenth letter of the Greek alphabet (Τ, Τ), transliterated as t.

5 n. (in full tau particle or tau lepton) Physics an unstable subatomic particle of the lepton class, with a charge of -1 and a mass roughly 3,500 times that of the electron.

tau-torial /ˈtəʊ-tərē-əl/ adj. past and past participle of TEACH.

taut /ˈtoʊt/ adj. a remark made in order to anger, wound, or provoke someone.

• v. [intr.] provoke or challenge someone with insulting remarks: students began taunting her about her weight. • reproach (someone) with something in a contemptuous way. —taunter n. —tauntingly adv.

taupe /tɔp/ n. gray with a tinge of brown. • adj. a taupe coat.

5 n. early; in the 20th century: from French, literally 'mole, moleskin,' from Latin tapa.

tau-rus /ˈtɔrəs/ n. 1. A constellation (the Bull), having many bright stars including Aldebaran, as well as the Crab Nebula and the star clusters of the Hyades and the Pleiades. 2. The second sign of the zodiac, which the sun enters on about April 21. (also a Taurus) pl. same (a person born when the sun is in this sign).

taut /ˈtoʊt/ adj. stretched or pulled tight; not slack: the fabric stays taut without adhesive. • (esp. of muscles or nerves) tense; not relaxed. • fig. (of writing, music, etc.) concise and controlled. —taut-ten /ˈtaʊt-ten/ v. —taut-ten-able adj. —taut-ten-ness n.

tau-tog /ˈtɔtoʊɡ/ n. a grayish-orange edible wrasse (Tautoga onitis) that occurs off the Atlantic coast of North America.

tau-tol-o-gy /ˈtaʊtəlɒdʒi/ n. pl. -logies the saying of the same thing in different words, generally considered to be a fault of style (e.g., they arrested me after she arrested me). A phrase or expression in which the same thing is said in different words. —tau-tolog-ical /ˈtaʊtəlɒdʒɪkəl/, /ˈtəʊtəlɒdʒɪkəl/ adj. —tau-tolog-i-cal-ly /ˈtəʊtəlɒdʒɪkəli/, /ˈtəʊtəlɒdʒɪkəli/ adv. —tau-tolog-i-ize /ˈtəʊtəlɒdʒɪzaɪ/ v. —tau-tolog-i-ous /ˈtəʊtəlɒdʒəs/ adj.

tavern /ˈtɑr vərn/ n. an establishment for the sale of beer and other drinks to be consumed on the premises, sometimes also serving food.

taw-dry /ˈtɔrdri/ adj. (dri-er, -driest) showy but cheap and of poor quality: tawdry jewelry. • sordid or unpleasant: the tawdry business of politics.

• adj. archaic cheap and gaudy finery. • early 17th century: short for tawdry lace, a fine silk lace or ribbon worn as a necklace in the 16th-17th centuries. • a form of St. Aubrey's lace: Audrey was a later form of Ethelreda (died 679), patron saint of Ely, England, whereby, and with lace made with lace, along with charge and other finery, were traditionally sold at a fair. —taw-dri-ly /ˈtɔrdri l/ adv. —taw-dri-ness n.

taw-ny /ˈtɔnri/ adj. (ni-er, -niest) of an orange-brown or yellowish-brown color: tawny eyes.

• n. an orange-brown or yellowish-brown color.

taw-ni-ness n.

tax /tæks/ n. a compulsory contribution to state revenue, levied by the government on workers' income and business profits or added to the cost of some goods, services, and transactions. • fig. a strain or heavy demand on a heavy tax on the reader's attention. • v. [intr.] impose a tax on (someone or something): hardware and software is taxed at 7.5 percent. • fig. make heavy demands on (someone's powers or resources). 2 confront (someone) with a fault or wrongdoing. —tax-able adj. —tax-er n.

tax-a-tion /ˈtæksəˈʃən/ n. the levying of tax. • money paid as tax.

tax-de-duct-ible /ˈtæks di dətəbl/ adj. able to be deducted from taxable income when calculating income tax due.

tax-e-va-sion n. the illegal nonpayment or underpayment of tax.

tax-ex-empt /ˈtæks ekˈempt/ adj. not liable or obligated to pay taxes: the foundation has applied for tax-exempt status. • bearing interest on which no taxes are imposed: ask about our tax-exempt savings plans.

tax-ex-emp-tion the process of exempting a person or organization from paying taxes, usu. on a specified amount of income. • a taxpayer's dependent exempted in this way.

tax-haven n. a country or independent area where taxes are levied at a low rate.

tax-i /ˈtæksi, ˈtæksə/ n. (pl. tax-i's) short for TAXICAB. • a boat or other means of transportation used to convey passengers in return for payment of a fare.

• adj. tax-i-er, tax-i-ing or tax-y-ing /ˈtæksiˌɪŋ/ adj. 1 (of an aircraft) move slowly along the ground before takeoff or after landing: the plane taxis up to a waiting limousine. • (of a pilot) cause an aircraft to move in such a way: 2 take a taxi as a means of transport.

taxi-cab /ˈtæksəˌkæb/ n. a licensed to transport passengers in return for payment of a fare, usually fitted with a taximeter.


taxi-me-ter /ˈtæksəˌmɛtər/ n. a device used in taxicabs that automatically records the distance traveled and the fare payable.

taxi stand n. a place where taxicabs park while waiting to be engaged.

tax-man /ˈtæksmæn/ n. (pl. -men) int. chiefly Brit. a collector of taxes.

• (the taxman) the government department that collects tax.

tax-on /ˈtæksən/ n. (pl. tax-a) Biol. a taxonomic group of any rank, such as a species, family, or class.

tax-on-o-my /ˈtæksəˌnɒmɪ/ n. chiefly Brit. Biol. the branch of science concerned with classification, esp. of organisms; systematics. • the classification of something, esp. organisms. • a scheme of classification. —tax-on-o-mic /ˈtæksəˌnɒmɪk/ adj. —tax-on-o-mical-ly /ˈtæksəˌnɒmɪkəlɪ/ adv. —tax-on-o-mics n.


• tax-pay-er /ˈtæksˌpər/ n. a person who pays taxes.

tax-re-turn n. a form on which a taxpayer makes an annual statement of income and personal circumstances, used by the tax authorities to assess liability for tax.

tax-shelt-er n. a financial arrangement made to avoid or minimize taxes.

• TB abbr. (terabyte(s). (also t.b.) tuberculosis.

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• T cell (also T-cell) n. Physiol. a lymphocyte of a type produced or processed by the thymus gland and actively participating in the immune response.

• TCP/IP trademark. Comput. abbr. transmission control protocol/Internet protocol, used to govern the connection of computer systems to the Internet.

• TD abbr. Football touchdown. • Treasury Department.

• Te symb. the chemical element tellurium.

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• Te symb. the chemical element tellurium.
tell-tale /'tel-təl/ adj. revealing, indicating, or betraying something: the tell-tale bugle of a concealed weapon.

1. a person, esp. a child, who reports others' wrongdoing or reveals their secrets. 2. a device or object used in aviation to indicate the direction of the wind.

n. formal or poet./ch. of, or inhabiting the earth.

telu-ri-an /'tel-u-rē-an/ adj. formal or poet./ch. of the element tellurium.

telu-ri-um /'tel-u-rē-əm/ n. the chemical element of atomic number 52, a brittle, shiny, silver-white semiconductor resembling selenium and occurring mainly in small amounts in metallic sulfide ores. (Symbol: Te) — telu-ride /'tel-u-rīd/ n.

te-mer-i-ty /'tem-er-i-tē/ n. excessive confidence or boldness; audacity. — te-mer-i-tious adj. 

temp /'temp/ adj. a temporary employee, typically an office worker who finds employment through an agency.

v. intra. work as a temporary employee.

temp /'temp/ abbr. temperature.

tem-ber /'tem-bər/ n. 1 a person's state of mind seen in terms of their being angry or calm: he rushed out in a very bad temper. 2 a tendency to become angry easily: I know my temper gets the better of me at times. 3 an angry state of mind. 

tem-ber-ry /'tem-bər-rē/ n. a small red or black berry, esp. those of the genus Rubus, of which there are many species found throughout temperate parts of the world.

tem-ber-wood /'tem-bər-wōd/ n. timber.

tem-per /'tem-per/ v. 1 to temper or temper (to temper): to temper steel or metal. 2 to temper (a thing) until it becomes suitable for use: to temper metal until it becomes suitable for making a sword.

n. temperance.

tem-per-a-ment /'tem-per-ə-mənt/ n. 1 a person's or animal's nature, esp. as it permanently affects their behavior: she had an artistic temperament. 2 the tendency to behave angrily or emotionally. 3 the adjustment of intervals in tuning a piano or other musical instrument so as to fit the scale for use in different keys; in equal temperament, the octave consists of twelve equal semitones.

tem-per-a-mental /'tem-per-ə-mənt-əl/ adj. 1 of a person liable to unreasonable changes of mood. 2 of or relating to a person's temperament.

— tem-per-a-ment-ly adv.

tem-per-an-cer /'tem-per-ən-sər/ n. 1 the act of tempering. 2 the condition of being tempered.

tem-per-ance /'tem-per-əns/ n. 1 the quality of temperance; moderation or self-restraint, esp. in eating and drinking.

tem-per-a-ture /'tem-per-ə-tūr/ n. 1 the degree of heat present in a substance or object, esp. as expressed according to a comparative scale and shown by a thermometer or perceived by touch. 2 the degree of internal heat of a person's body: I'll take her temperature. 3 a body temperature above the normal; fever: he was running a temperature.

n. adj. the degree of excitement or tension in a discussion or confrontation.

tem-pest /'temp-əst/ n. a violent windy storm.

— a tempest in a teapot great commotion about a trivial matter.

tem-pest-u-ous /'tem-pes-tō-əs/ adj. 1 characterized by strong and turbulent or conflicting emotion: he had a reckless and tempestuous streak. 2 very stormy: a tempestuous wind.

— tem-pest-u-ously adv.

tem-pest-u-ous-ness n.

tem-plate /'tem-plāt/ n. 1 a shaped piece of metal, wood, card, plastic, or other material used as a pattern for processes such as painting, cutting out, shaping, or drilling. 2 fig. something that serves as a model for others to copy: the plant was to serve as the template for change throughout the company.

n. Comput. a preset format for a document or file, used so that the format does not have to be recreated each time it is used: a memo template. 

n. Comput. a guide that fits over all or part of a computer keyboard to describe the functions of each key for a particular software application.

tem-po /'tem-pō/ n. 1. pl. positions or -pō-pl. the speed at which a passage of music is to be played. 

2 the rate or speed of motion or activity; pace: the tempo of life.

— tem-po-ral adj. relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs; secular.

— tem-po-ra-lly adv.

tem-po-ra-li-ty /'tem-pō-rə-lə-tē/ n. the quality of being temporal; the quality of being concerned with time; temporary.

— tem-po-ral-ly adv.

tem-po-ri-ze /'tem-pō-rə-zī/ v. 1 intr. avoid making a decision or committing oneself in order to gain time. 

2 temporar yly adopt a particular course in order to conform to the circumstances: their unwillingness to temporize had driven their country into conflict with France.

— tem-po-riz-ation /'tem-pə-rə-zā-shən/ n.


tem-ple /'tem-pl/ v. 1 fig. entice or attempt to entice (someone) to do or acquire something that they find attractive but know to be wrong or not beneficial; jobs that involve tempting tempt you to drink more than you intend. 2 be tempted to do something] have an urge or inclination to do something: I was tempted to look at my watch, but didn't dare. 

— tem-ple /'tem-pl/ n. 

— tem-ple-ment /'tem-plə-mənt/ n. 

— tem-ple-ment-ary /'tem-plə-mənt-ər-ē/ adj.

— tem-ple-ment-ary-ly adv.

— tem-ple-ment-a-ry /'tem-plə-mənt-ər-ē/ adj.

— tem-ple-ment-a-ri-ly adv.

— tem-ple-ment-a-ri-ty n.

— tem-ple-ment-a-ry-ly adv.

— tem-ple-ment-a-ry-ness n.

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— tem-tem-ment /'tem-təm-ment/ n. 

— tem-tem-ment-ary /'tem-təm-ment-ər-ē/ adj.

— tem-tem-ment-ary-ly adv.

— tem-tem-ment-ary-ness n.

tem-tem /'tem-təm/ n. 1. pl. -pos or -pl. 2 Mus. the speed at which a passage of music is to be played. 

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— tem-po-ral adj. relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs; secular.

— tem-po-ra-lly adv.

tem-po-ra-li-ty /'tem-pō-rə-lə-tē/ n. the quality of being temporal; the quality of being concerned with time; temporary.

— tem-po-ral-ly adv.

tem-po-ri-ze /'tem-pō-rə-zī/ v. 1 intr. avoid making a decision or committing oneself in order to gain time. 

2 temporarily adopt a particular course in order to conform to the circumstances: their unwillingness to temporize had driven their country into conflict with France.

— tem-po-riz-ation /'tem-pə-rə-zā-shən/ n.


tem-tem /'tem-təm/ v. & tr. entice or attempt to entice (someone) to do or acquire something that they find attractive but know to be wrong or not beneficial; jobs that involve tempting tempt you to drink more than you intend. 

— tem-tem /'tem-təm/ n. 

— tem-tem-ment /'tem-təm-ment/ n. 

— tem-tem-ment-ary /'tem-təm-ment-ər-ē/ adj.
tenacious /te'na-sas/ adj. not readily letting go of, giving up, or separated from an object that one holds, a position, or a principle; a tenacious grip. —not easily dispelled or discouraged; persisting in existence or in a course of action: you're tenacious and you get at the truth. —tena-cious-ly adv. —ten-a-cious-ness n. —ten-a-cious-ly /'nas-te/ n.

tenancy (ten'ans) n. (pl. -cies) possession of land or property as a tenant: Holding over the tenant of the farm.

tenant /ten'ant/ n. a person who occupies land or property rented from a landlord. —Law a person holding real property by private ownership.

• ten-ant-able adj. (formal) —ten-ant-less adj.

• tend /tend/ v. [intr.] regularly or frequently behave in a particular way or have a certain characteristic: written language tends to be formal.

• [intr.] (tend to) be liable to possess or display (a particular characteristic) —Tender waked toward corpulence. —[intr.] go or move in a particular direction —The wind tends west around small mountains. —[intr.] (tend to) Math. approach (a quantity or limit); the Fourier coefficients tend to zero.

• tend- v. [tr.] care for or look after; give one's attention to: Viola tended plants on the roof. —[intr.] he tended business. —direct or manage: work in. —I've been tending bar at the airport lounge. —archaic wait on as an attendant or servant. —tendence /ten-'dens/ n. (archaic).

• ten-den-cy /ten-'den-si/ n. (pl. -cies) 1 an inclination toward a particular characteristic or type of behavior; for students, there is a tendency to socialize in the evenings; criminal tendencies. 2 a group within a larger political party or movement that dominates the dominant tendency in the party.

• ten-den-tious /ten-'den-ti-əs/ adj. expressing or intending to promote a particular cause or point of view, esp. a controversial one; a tendentious reading of history. —ten-den-tious-ly adv. —ten-den-tious-ness n.

• tend-er /ten'dər/ adj. (tender-er, tender-est) 1 showing gentleness and concern or sympathy: he was being so kind and tender. —tender of (archaic) solicitous of; concerned for: to be tender of a lady's reputation. 2 (of food) easy to cut or chew: not tough: tender green beans. —[of a plant] easily injured by severe weather and therefore needing protection. —[of a part of the body] sensitive to pain; the pale, tender skin of her forearm. —young, immature, and vulnerable: at the tender age of five. —requiring tact or careful handling: the concern was a particularly tender one. —Naut. (of a ship) leaning or readily inclined to roll in response to the wind. —tender-ly adv. —tender-ness n.

• tend-er- /ten'dər/ v. [tr.] offer or present (something) formally: he tendered his resignation as leader. —[intr.] offer (money) as payment: she tendered her fare. —[intr.] make a formal written offer to carry out work, supply goods, or buy land, shares, or another asset for a stated fixed price: firms of interior decorators have been tendering for the work. —[tr.] make such an offer giving (a stated fixed price): what price would we tender for a contract?

—ten-dern /ten-'der/ n. 1 [usu. in comb.] a person who looks after someone else or a machine or place. 2 a boat used to ferry people and supplies to and from a ship. 3 a rail car coupled to a steam locomotive to carry fuel and water.

• ten-den-tious /ten-'den-ti-əs/ adj. 1 a newcomer or novice, esp. a person unacquainted to the hardships of pioneer life. 2 a Boy Scout of the lowest rank.

• ten-den-tious /ten-'den-ti-əs/ adj. 1 a person who looks after someone else or a machine or place. 2 a boat used to ferry people and supplies to and from a ship. 3 a rail car coupled to a steam locomotive to carry fuel and water.

• tend-er-ize /ten'dər-iz/ v. make (meat) more tender by beating or slow cooking.

—ten-der-ize- /ten-'der-iz/ n.

• ten-den-tious /ten-'den-ti-əs/ adj. 1 a person who looks after someone else or a machine or place. 2 a boat used to ferry people and supplies to and from a ship. 3 a rail car coupled to a steam locomotive to carry fuel and water.

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terpsichorean /tərˈpsɪkərən/ • [kore'n] adj. formal or humorous of or relating to dancing.

terr. v. t. • p. t. • adj. • n. 1. a level paved area or platform next to a building: a patio or living room. 2. one of a series of flat areas made on a slope, used for cultivation. • Geol. a natural horizontal shell-like formation, such as a raised beach. 2. shifty Bend. a block of row houses. a row house. 3. [tr.] make or form (sloping land) into a number of level flat areas resembling a series of steps.

terra cotta /tɛrəˈkɒtə/ (also terra-cotta) n. unglazed, typically brownish-red earthenware, used chiefly as a ornamental building material and in modeling. • a statuette or other object made of such earthenware. • a strong brownish-red or brownish-orange color.

terra firma /tɛrəˈfɪrma/ n. dry land; the ground as distinct from the sea or air.

terra-rain /tɛrəˈreɪn/ n. 1. a stretch of land, esp. with regard to its physical features: rough terrain. 2. Geol. variant form of TERRAIN.

terra-rane /tɛrəˈreɪn/ (also terr-an) n. Geol. a faulted-bounded area or region with a distinctive stratigraphy, structure, and geological history.

terra-pin /tɛrəˈpɪn/ n. 1. a small turtle (Malaclemys terrapin) with lozenge-shaped markings on its shell, found in coastal marshes of the eastern US. 2. a freshwater turtle, esp. one of the smaller kinds of the Old World. 3. a near relative of terrapins (also terrapin) or a land turtle, esp. one living in the ground, not aquatic, arboreal, or aerial.

terra-rum- /tɛrəˈrʊm-/ adj., n. pl. (ter-rums), or -rion /-ˌrɪən/ n. an enclosure, container, or structure for smaller land animals, esp. reptiles, amphibians, or terrestrial vertebrates, typically in the form of a glass-fronted case. a sealed transparent globe or similar container in which plants are grown.

terra-res-trial /tɛrəˈres-treəl/ • [res-chəl] adj. of, on, or relating to the earth: increased ultraviolet radiation may disrupt terrestrial ecosystems. • denoting television broadcast using equipment situated on the ground rather than by satellite: terrestrial and cable technology. • of or on dry land. • of an animal living on, in the ground; not aquatic, arboreal, or aerial. • of a plant growing on or in the soil; not aquatic or epiphytic. • Astor. a planet similar in size or composition to the earth, esp. one of the four inner planets of our solar system. • archaic or relating to the earth as opposed to heaven.

terrestrial /tɛrəˈstriəl/ adj. n. 1. an inhabitant of the earth. —terrestrial-ly adv.

terrible /tɛrəˈbɪl/ adj. extremely and shockingly or distressingly bad or serious: terrible pain. • causing or likely to cause terror; sinister; the stranger gave a terrible smile. • of extremely poor quality: the terrible conditions in which the people lived. • not used to emphasize the extent of something unpleasant or bad. • of a terrible mess: extremely incompetent or unskillful: she is terrible at managing her money. • causing horror or looking extremely unwel: I was sick all night and felt terrible for two solid days. • of a person or their feelings; troubled or guilty: Maria felt terrible because she had forgotten the woman’s name. —terrible-ness n.

terribly /tɛrəˈbɪli/ adv. 1. very, extremely: I’m terribly sorry. 2. very badly or unpleasantly: they beat me terribly. • very greatly used to emphasize something bad, distressing, or unpleasant; your father misses you terribly.

territorial /tɛrəˈtor-əl/ adj. • p. l. • n. 1. of or relating to the ownership of a area or geopolitical disputes. • Zool. of an animal or species defending a territory; these sharks are aggressively territorial. • of or relating to an animal’s territory or its defense. 2. of or relating to a particular territory, district, or locality: a bizarre territorial rite. • (usu. Territorial) of or relating to a Territory, in the U.S. or Canada. —territor-ial-ly /-ləl/ adv.

territorial waters /tɛrəˈtor-əl wɔːtəz/ pl. n. the waters under the jurisdiction of a state, esp. the part of the sea within a stated distance of the shore (traditionally three miles from low-water mark).

territoriality /tɛrəˈtor-əl-ə-tei/ n. • p. l. • n. 1. an area of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler or state: sorties into enemy territory. • Zool. an area defended by a group of animals or against others of the same sex or species. 2. an area defended by a team or player in a game or sport. 3. an area in which one has certain rights or for which one has responsibility with regard to a particular type of activity: a sales rep for a large territory. 4. an area of knowledge, activity, or experience: the way she felt now—she was in unknown territory. 5. land with a specified characteristic: woodland territory. 2. (Territory) (esp. in the U.S., Canada, or Australia) an organized division of a country that is not yet admitted to the full rights of a state.

territory /tɛrəˈtor-ə/ n. 1. extreme fear; people fled in terror. • a terror of darkness. • the use of such fear to intimidate people, esp. for political reasons: weapons of terror. • a person or thing that causes extreme fear: her unyielding scowl became the terror of the Chicago mob. • int. a person whose excellence in a particular field or endeavor intimidates others engaged in the same activity: Stone is the terror of Halo video games. • (The Terror) the period of the French Revolution between mid-1793 and July 1794 when the ruling Jacobins executed anyone considered a threat to their regime. Also called REIGN OF TERROR. 2. int. a person, esp. a child, who causes trouble or annoyance.

territorialism /tɛrəˈtɔri-əl-iz-am/ n. the use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims.

territorialist /tɛrəˈtor-ə-lɪst/ n. a person who uses terrorism in the pursuit of political aims. 2. late 18th cent.: from French, English, Latin terror, ‘terror,’ from terere ‘frighten.’ The word was originally applied to supporters of the Jacobins in the French Revolution, who advocated repression and violence in the interest of the principles of democracy and equality. —territorial-ist-ic /tɛrəˈtor-ə-lɪk/ adj. —territorial-ist-ically adv.

ter-ror-ize /tɛrəˈriz/ v. [tr.] create and maintain a state of extreme fear and distress in (someone); fill with terror: he used his private army to terrorize the population. —terror-iza-tion /tɛrəˈriz-ə-ʃən/ n. —terror-izer n.

terrortricken (also terror-truck; -strick) adj. feeling or expressing extreme fear.

ter-rory /tɛrəˈrɪ/ (also terry cloth) n. (pl. -ries) a fabric with raised uncut loops of thread covering both surfaces, used esp. for towels.

terse /tɜːs/ adj. • terser, -es-ters • tersely • terseness n. 1. precise or concise: a terse reply. • tersely adv. — tersely adv. — tersely adv. • terseness n.

tertiary /tɛrɪˈeər-ɪ, -ʃər-ɪ/ adj. • terser, tersest • tersely • terseness n. 1. third in order or level: most of the enterprises were of tertiary importance. 2. (Tertiary) Geol. of, relating to, or denoting the third period of the Cenozoic era, between the Cretaceous and Quaternary periods, and comprising the Paleogene and Neogene periods.

test /tɛst/ n. 1. a procedure intended to establish the quality, performance, or reliability of something, esp. before it is taken into widespread use. • a short written or spoken examination of a person’s proficiency or knowledge: a spelling test. • an event or situation that reveals the strength or quality of someone or something by putting them under strain: the first test of the peace agreement. • an examination of part of the body or a body fluid for medical purposes, esp. by means of a chemical or mechanical procedure rather than simple inspection: a test for HIV. • the result of a medical examination or analytical procedure: a positive test for protein. • a means of establishing whether an action, item, or situation is an instance of a specified quality, esp. one held to be undesirable: a statutory test of disability. 2. [tr.] take measures to check the quality, performance, or reliability of (something), esp. before putting it into widespread use or practice: this product has not been tested on animals. • reveal the strengths or capabilities of (someone or something) by putting them under strain: such behavior would severely test any marriage. • give (someone) a short written or oral examination of their proficiency or knowledge. • judge or make a judgment of (someone’s proficiency or knowledge) by means of such examination: carry out an examination of the body (or a body fluid). • produce a specified result in a medical test, esp. a drug test or AIDS test; he tested positive for steroids. • Chem. examine (a substance) by means of a reagent, touch or taste.

Pronunciation Key a ə; a: ə; b ʌt; ʌ: a; a: ə; e ət; eə: ʊər; j ɛt; ɪ: ɪ; ɪər; k ɾ; kən; ɡ ɡʊ; ɡəʊ; ɡəʊ; ɡoʊ; oʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; əʊ; ə
lists words in groups of synonyms and related concepts. archaic dictionary or encyclopedia.

**these** /ˈðiːz/ n. plural form of THIS.

**the-sis** /ˈθiːsɪs/ n. (pl. theses /ˈθiːsəz/) 1. a statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved: his central thesis is that psychological life is not part of the material world. 2. a long essay or dissertation involving personal research, written by a candidate for a college degree: a doctoral thesis. 3. *Prosody* an unstressed syllable or part of a metrical foot in Greek or Latin verse.

**thes-plan** /ˈθespən/ formal humorous adj. of or relating to drama and the theater: thespian talents.

the-la /ˈθelə/ n. the eighth letter of the Greek alphabet (Θ, δ), transliterated as th. [as adj. denoting electrical activity observed in the brain under certain conditions, consisting of oscillations having a frequency of 4 to 7 hertz: *theta rhythm.*

**symb.** 1. (θ) a plane angle. 2. (δ) a polar coordinate.

**they** /ˈðiː/ pron. [third person pl.] 1. used to refer to two or more people or things previously mentioned or easily identified: the two men could get life sentences if they are convicted. 2. people in general; the rest: if they say no, I will not go.

**thi-a-mine** /ˈθiːəmɪn/; men-θen/ (also thia-mine /ˈθiːəmɪn/) n. Biochem. a vitamin of the B complex, found in unrefined grains, beans, and liver, a deficiency of which causes beriberi. Also called *vitamin B₁* or vitamin B₁. B1, B1.

**thick** /θɪk/ adj. 1. with opposite sides or surfaces that are a great or relatively great distance apart: thick slices of bread. 2. either of two or more knitted or woven items made of heavy material for warmth or comfort: a thick sweater. 3. of large diameter: thick metal cables. 4. (of script type) consisting of broad lines. 5. made up of a large number of things or people close together: his hair was long and thick. 6. (thick with) densely filled or covered with: the room was thick with smoke. 7. (of air, the atmosphere, or an odor carried by them) heavy or dense. 8. (of darkness or a substance in the air) so black or dense as to be impossible or difficult to see through: thick fog. 9. (of a liquid or a semisolid substance) relatively firm in consistency; not flowing freely: thick mud. 10. (of low intelligence: stupid. 11. (of a voice) not clear or distinct: hoarse or husky. 12. (of an accent) very marked and difficult to understand. 13. having a very close, friendly relationship: he's very thick with the new boss.

**n.** (the thick) rare the busiest or most crowded part of something: the middle of something: the thick of battle.

**adv.** in or with deep, dense, or heavy mass: bread spread thick with butter. —thickish adj. —thickly adv. thickly carpeted corridors.

**thick and fast** rapidly and in great numbers. throughout thick and thin under all circumstances, no matter how difficult: they stuck together through thick and thin.

**thicken** /θɪkən/ v. make or become thick or thicker: [tr] thicken the sauce with flour. [intrans] the fog had thickened. —thicken-er n.

**the plot thickens** used when a situation is becoming more and more complicated and puzzling.

**thicket** /θɪkɪt/ n. a dense group of bushes or trees.

**thick-head** /θɪkˈhed/ n. int. a stupid person. —thick-head-ed adj.

**thickness** /θɪkˈnis/ n. 1. the distance between opposite sides of something: the gateway is several feet in thickness. 2. the thickness of being broad or deep: the immense thickness of the walls. 3. a layer of a specified material: two thicknesses of plasterboard. 4. a broad or deep part of a specified thing: the beams were set into the thickness of the wall. 5. the quality of being dense. 6. the state or quality of being made up of many closely packed parts; the thickness of his hair.

**thick-set** /θɪkˈset/ adj. (of a person or animal) heavily or solidly built; stocky.

**thief** /θiːf/ n. (pl. thieves /θiːvz/) a person who steals another person's property, esp. by stealth and without using force or violence.

**thieve** /θɪv/ v. intr. be a thief; steal something; they began thieving.

**thiev-ery** /θɪvˈerɪ/ n. the action of stealing another person's property.

**thieves** /θiːvz/ n. plural form of THIEF.
threadbare

three

three-person

three-some

three-throb
throw (thró) v. (past threw /thróʊ/; past part. thrown /thróʊn/) 1 [tr] propel (something) with force through the air by a movement of the arm and hand: I threw a brick through the window. 2 [tr] push or force (someone or something) violently and suddenly into another object or position; the pilot and one passenger were thrown clear and survived. 3 put in place or erect quickly; the stewards had thrown a cord on the floor that was on the floor. 4 move (a part of the body) suddenly or in a particular direction: she threw her head back and laughed. 5 project or cast (light or shadow) in a particular direction: a chandelier threw its bright light over the walls. 6 deliver (a punch). 7 direct (a particular kind of look or facial expression): she threw a withering glance at him. 8 project (one's voice) so that it appears to come from someone or something else, as in ventriloquist's box. 9 throw something off (or out) of (someone) put on or take off a garment hastily: I threw my housecoat and went to the door. 10 move (a switch or lever) so as to operate a device. 11 roll (dice). 12 obtain (a specified number) by rolling dice. 13 lose (a race or contest) intentionally, esp. in return for a bribe. 2 [tr] cause to enter suddenly a particular state or condition: he threw all her emotions into turmoil. 3 put (someone) in a particular place or state, esp. in a rough, abrupt, or summary fashion; these guys should be thrown in jail. 4 [tr] disconnect; confuse: she frownd, thrown by this apparent change of tack. 5 [tr] send (someone's opponent) to the ground in wrestling, judo, or similar activity. 6 [of (a horse) unset (its rider). 7 [tr] throw up (someone) a device controlling the flow of fuel or power to an engine: the engines were full throttle. 2 archaic a throat, gullet, or windpipe. 1 [v.] 1 attack or kill (someone) by choking or strangling them. 2 control (an engine or vehicle) with a throttle. 3 [tr] throw back or down.truncate the power of an engine or vehicle by use of the throttle. —throttle (thrót-l) n. 1 a device served to express or modify something, typically at no extra cost, with something that is being sold or offered: cut the price by $100 and throw in an AC adapter. 2 make a remark customarily as an interjection in a conversation. 3 throw oneself into start to do (something) with enthusiasm and vigor: Eve threw herself into her work. 4 throw something off 1 rid oneself of something: give roses a boost that may help them throw off a pest on their own. 2 write or utter in an offhand manner. Thomas threw off the question lightly. 3 throw oneself on (or upon) attack (someone) vigorously: they threw themselves on the enemy. 4 throw someone out 1 expel someone unceremoniously from a place, organization, or activity. 2 Baseball put out a runner by a throw to the base being approached, followed by a tag. 3 throw something out 1 discard something as unwanted. 2 of a court, legislature, or other body, dismiss or reject something brought before it: the charges were thrown out by the judge. 4 put forward a suggestion tentatively: a suggestion that Dianne threw out caught many a reader's fancy. 5 emit or radiate something: a big temperature wave that threw out heat like a furnace. 6 (of a horse) set (itself) to move rapidly: a horse in a side shot. 7 butcher, bud. etc. throw people together bring people into contact, esp. by chance. 8 throw something together make or produce something hastily, without careful planning or arrangement. 9 throw up vomit. 10 throw something up 1 abandon or give up something, esp. one's job. 2 int. vomit something one has eaten or drunk. 3 produce something and bring it to notice: he saw the prayers of the Church as a living and fruitful tradition that threw up new ideas. 4 erect a building or structure hastily. 1. an act of throwing something. 2 an act of throwing one's opponent in wrestling, judo, or similar sport: a shoulder throw. 2 a light cover for furniture. 3 short for THROW OF THE DICE (see DICE). 4 Geol. the extent of vertical displacement between the two sides of a fault. 5 the action or motion of a slide valve or of a crank, eccentric wheel, or cam. 6 the extent of such motion. 7 the distance moved by the pointer of an instrument. 8 (a throw) int. used to indicate how much a single item, turn, or attempt costs; he was offering to draw portraits at $50 a throw. 9 throw-able adj. —thrower n. 1 throw one's hand in with a card game, poker, because one has a poor hand. 2 withdraw from a contest or activity; give up. 3 throw in the towel (of boxers or their seconds) throw a towel into the ring as a token of defeat. 4 abandon a struggle; admit defeat. 5 throw up one's hands raise both hands in the air as an indication of one's exasperation. throw-away (thró-á-wá) adj. 1 denoting or relating to products that are intended to be discarded after being used once or a few times: a throwaway camera. 2 (of a remark) expressed in a casual or understated way; some people overreacted to a few throwaway lines. 3 a thing intended or destined to be discarded after brief use or appeal. 4 a casual or understated remark or idea.
### Thudding

**Thudding**

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tie

[Adv. 1. fit.] tie down to restrict someone to a particular situation or place. 2. tie something in or tie in cause something to fit or harmonize with something else or fit or harmonize with something: she may have developed ideas that don't necessarily tie in with mine. 3. tie into get to work on vigorously. 4. tie someone up bind someone's legs and arms together or bind something down so that they cannot move or escape. 5. tie something up bind someone to the exclusion of any other activity: she would be tied up at the meeting all day. 6. tie something up bind or fasten something securely with rope, cord, or string. 7. moor a vessel, invest or reserve capital so that it is not immediately available for use. 2. bring something to a satisfactory conclusion: settle.

n. (pt. ties) 1. a piece of string, cord, or the like used for fastening or tying something. 2. (usu. ties) fig. a thing that unites or links people: family ties. 3. (usu. ties) fig. a thing that resists someone's freedom of action: some cities and merchants were freed from feudal ties. 4. a rod or beam holding parts of a structure together. 5. a wooden or concrete beam laid transversely under a railroad track to support it. 6. mus. a curved line above or below two notes of the same pitch indicating that they are to be played for the combined duration of their time values. 7. a strip of material worn around the collar and tied in a knot at the front with the ends hanging down, typically forming part of a man's business or formal attire.

tie-dye n. often as adj. a method of producing textile patterns by tying parts of the fabric to shield it from the dye: tie-dye T-shirts. 2. (tie-dye ing) adj. tie-in n. a connection or association: there's a tie-in to another game I'm working on. 3. a book, movie, or other product produced to take advantage of a related work in another medium. 4. (as adj.) denoting sales made conditional on the purchase of an additional item or items from the same supplier.

tie-pin [tI'pIn] n. an ornamental pin holding for a tie in place.

tier [tIIR] n. a row or level of a structure, typically one of a series of rows placed one above the other and successively receding or diminishing in size: a tier of seats. 2. (in comb.) the room was full of three-tier metal boxes. 3. one of a number of successively overlapping ruffles or flounces on a garment, a level or grade within the hierarchy of an organization or system: companies have taken out a tier of management to save money.

Tiff [TIF] n. Comp. abbr. tagged image file format, widely used in desktop publishing.

Till [TIL] n. a tiny quarrel, esp. one between friends or lovers.

tiger [‘taIga] n. a large carnivore, members of which are included in the genus Panthera., the largest of which is the lion. 2. any large cat with markings like a tiger's.

tiger lily n. a tall lily (Lilium lancifolium, or L. tigrinum) that has orange flowers spotted with black or purple.

tiger's eye (also tig-er's eye) n. a yellowish-brown semiprecious variety of quartz with a silky luster. This gem is typically cut in cabochon, which reveals a band of bright reflected light in the stone.

tight [tIt] adj. 1. fixed, fastened, or closed firmly: hard to move, undo, or open: a tight knot. 2. (of clothes or shoes) close-fitting, esp. uncomfortably so. 3. (of a grip) very tight; go to let go: she released her tight hold on the dog. 4. (of a ship, building, or object) well sealed against something such as water or air: a tight little container. 5. (of a formation or a group of people or things) closely or densely packed together: (of a community or other group of people) having close relations: secretive: the tenants were too tight to let anyone know. 2. (of a rope: fabric, or surface) stretched so as to leave no slack; not loose: the belt pulls tight. 3. (of a part of the body or a bodily sensation) feeling painful and constricted, as a result of anxiety or illness. 4. (of appearance or manner) tense, irritated, or angry: she gave him a tight smile. 5. (of a rule, policy, or form of control) strictly imposed: security was tight at yesterday's ceremony. 6. (of a game or contest) with evenly matched competitors: very close: he won in a tight finish. 7. (of a written work or form) concise, condensed, or well structured: a tight argument. 8. (of an organization or group of people) disciplined or professional: well coordinated. 9. (of a bend, turn, or angle) changing direction sharply: having a short radius. 10. (of money or time) limited or restricted: an ability to work to tight deadlines. 11. (of a person) not willing to spend or give much money: miserly. 12. adj. fig. close to and showing the contours of the body. 13. (of a lid or covering) forming a tight seal when placed on a container.

tight-lipped adj. with the lips firmly closed, esp. as a sign of suppressed emotion or determined reticence.

tight rope [rItp] n. a rope or wire stretched high above the ground, on which an acrobat performs feats of balancing.

Tight-fisted [‘tItfist id] adj. not willing to spend or give much money: miserly.

tight-fitting adj. (of a garment) fitting close to and showing the contours of the body. 2. (of a lid or covering) forming a tight seal when placed on a container.

tight-lipped adj. with the lips firmly closed, esp. as a sign of suppressed emotion or determined reticence.

tight rope [rItp] n. a rope or wire stretched high above the ground, on which an acrobat performs feats of balancing.

Tight-wad [‘tItwId] n. a woman's thin, close-fitting garment, typically made of nylon, cotton, or wool, covering the lower half of the body. 2. a similar garment worn by a dancer or acrobat.

tight-wad [‘tItwId] n. a woman's thin, close-fitting garment, typically made of nylon, cotton, or wool, covering the lower half of the body. 2. a similar garment worn by a dancer or acrobat.

tigress [‘tIgris] n. a female tiger. 2. fig. a fierce or passionate woman.

tike [tIK] n. variant spelling of Tyke.

tl-lapia [‘talpaIa] n. an African freshwater cichlid (Tilapia and related genera) that has been widely introduced to many areas for food.

til-de [‘tIld] n. an accent (placed over Spanish n when pronounced ny) as in señal, 0r Portuguese n when nasalized (as in São Paulo), or over a vowel in phonetic transcription, indicating nasalization. 2. the same symbol as a part of a URL. 3. a similar symbol used in mathematics to indicate similarity, and in logic to indicate negation.

tile [tIL] n. a thin rectangular slab of baked clay, concrete, or other material, used in overlapping rows for covering roofs. 2. a thin square slab of ceramic, cork, linoleum, or other material for covering floors, walls, or other surfaces. 3. a thin, flat piece used in Scandinavian, mahogany, and other games. 4. Math. a plane shape used in tiling.

v.覆 (something) with tiles: the lobby was tiled in blue.

Tiling [‘tIling] n. the action of laying tiles. 2. a surface covered by tiles: an area of plain tiling. 3. tiles collectively, when used to cover a roof, floor, etc. 4. a technique for displaying several nonoverlapping windows on a computer screen. 5. Math. a way of arranging identical polygons so that they completely cover an area without overlapping.

Pronunciation Key a; e; ø; y; 0; u; v; r; j; h; a; ã; č; ch; è; let; õ; se; c; s; t; t; i; f; h; br; er; ng; ñ; 0; ò; law; 0; toy; 0; good; 0; cow; on out; 9; she; nh; thin; 0; then; hw; why; zh; vision
time bomb  

A bomb designed to explode at a preset time. 

time cap-sule  

A container storing a selection of objects chosen as being typical of the present time. 

time clock  

A clock with a device for recording employees' times of arrival and departure. 

time ex-po-sure  

The exposure of photographic film for longer than the normal shutter setting. 

time frame  

A period of time, esp. a specified period in which something occurs or is planned to take place. 

time hon-ored  

Adjective of a custom or tradition respected or valued because it has existed for a long time. 

time keeper  

1. A person who measures or records the amount of time taken, esp. in a sports competition. 
2. A person regarded as being punctual or not punctual: we were good timekeepers. 

time lag  

See lag (n., sense 1). 

time lapse  

Adjective denoting the photographic technique of taking a sequence of frames at set intervals to record changes that take place slowly over time. When the frames are shown at normal speed or in quick succession, the action seems much faster. 

time-less  

Adjective, not affected by the passage of time or changes in fashion. 

time-l y  

Adjective, done or occurring at a favorable or useful time; opportune: a timely warning. 

time off  

Time for rest or recreation away from one's usual work or studies: we're too busy to take time off. 

time out  

1. Time for rest or recreation away from one's usual work or studies: she's taking time out from her hectic tour. (Usual. timeout or time out) 
2. A brief break in play in a game or sport: he inadvertently called for a timeout with two seconds remaining. (Also timeout or time out) 
3. An imposed temporary suspension of activities, esp. the separation of a misbehaving child from one or more playmates as a disciplinary measure: it's the third time this week he's been in time out. (Usual. timeout) 
4. Time out, In computing, a cancellation or cessation that automatically occurs when a pre-defined time interval has passed without a certain event occurring. 

time piece  

N. An instrument, such as a clock or watch, for measuring time. 

time-er  

1. An automatic mechanism for activating a device at a preset time: a video timer. 
2. A person or device that measures or records the amount of time taken by a process or activity. 

time scale  

The time allowed for or taken by a process or sequence of events: climatic changes on a timescale of thousands of years. 

time share  

An arrangement whereby several joint owners have the right to use a property as a vacation home under a time-sharing scheme. 

time-share  

1. The operation of a computer system by several users for different operations at the same time. 
2. The use of a property as a vacation home at specified times by several joint owners. 

time sheet  

A piece of paper for recording the number of hours worked. 

time sig-na-ture  

Mus. An indication of rhythm following a clef, generally expressed as a fraction with the denominator defining the beat as a division of a whole note and the numerator giving the number of each bar. 

time table  

A chart showing the departure and arrival times of trains, buses, or planes. 

time warp  

Esp. in science fiction, an imaginary distortion of space in relation to time whereby people or objects of one period can be moved to another.

Tin Pan Alley the name given to a district in New York City (not associated with any particular street, but with the area around 28th Street, between 5th Avenue and Broadway) where many songwriters, arrangers, and music publishers were formerly based. [as n.] us. as adj. the world of composers and publishers of popular music.

tin-pot /'ti:n,pät/ (also tin-pot) adj. int. (esp. of a country or its leader) having or showing poor leadership or organization: a tinpot dictator.

tin-sel /'tın,sel/ n. a form of decoration consisting of thin strips of shiny metal foil. n. showy or superficial attractiveness or glamour: his taste for the tinsel of the art world. —tin-sealed adj. —tin-sekly adv.

tint [tın] n. 1. a shade or variety of color; the sky was taking on an apricot tint. 2. a trace of something: a tint of glamour. 3. an artificial dye for coloring hair. n. an application of such a substance. v. [tın] color (something) slightly: tinge: her skin was tinted with delicate color. v. [tın] (of someone's hair) with a tint. —tint n.

tin-tin-nab-u-lation /'tın,na'bə-la'shen/ n. a ringing or tinkling sound.

tip /tip/ n. the pointed or rounded end or extremity of something slender or tapering: the northern tip of Maine. n. a small piece or part fitted to the end of an object: the rubber tip of the walking stick.

v. (tipped, tipping) [tip] 1. attach to or cover the end or extremity of: mountains tipped with snow | in comb. steel-tipped spurs. n. color(s) at its end or edge: red petals tipped with white. 2. (tip a page in) in (bookbinding) paste a single page, typically an illustration, to the neighboring page of a book by a thin line of paste down its inner margin.

on the tip of one's tongue used to indicate that someone is almost but not quite able to bring a particular word or name to mind. used to indicate that someone is about to utter a comment or question but thinks better of it.

tip-off /'tip,ıf/ v. (tipped, tipping) 1. overbalance or cause to overbalance so as to fall or turn over: [intr.], the hay caught fire when the candle tipped over | [tr.], a youth sprinted past, tipping over her glass. be or cause to be in a sloping position with one end or side higher than the other: [tr.], I tipped my seat back | [intr.], the car tipped to one side. 2. [tr.] strike or touch lightly. [tr.] cause (an object) to move somewhere by striking or touching it in this way: the ball was tipped over the rim by Evans. 3. [tr.], [off] (in baseball) put the ball in play by throwing it up between two opponents.

n. Baseball a pitched ball that is slightly deflected by the bat. —tipppily adv. —tipppilyness n.

tip one's hand int. reveal one's intentions inadvertently. 1. tip one's hat (or cap) raise or touch one's hat or cap as a way of greeting or acknowledging someone. 2. tip the scales (or balance) (of a circumstance or event) be the deciding factor; make the critical difference: her proven current form tips the scales in her favor. 3. tip the scales at have a weight of (a specified amount): this phone tips the scales at only 5 ounces.

n. a sum of money given to someone as a reward for their services. a small but useful piece of practical advice. a prediction or piece of expert information about the likely winner of a race or contest: Barry had a hot tip.

v. (tipped, tipping) [tip] give (someone) a sum of money as a way of rewarding them for their services: I tipped her five dollars | [intr.], that sort of person never tips. —tipper n.

v. tip someone off give someone information about something, typically in a discreet or confidential way.

tip-off (also tipoff) n. 1. int. a piece of information, typically one given in a discreet or confidential way. 2. (usu. tipoff) a jump ball that begins each period in a basketball game (used esp. in reference to the first tipoff of the game).

tipple /'tippl/ v. [intr.] drink alcohol, esp. habitually.

n. int. an alcoholic drink. —tippler n.

tipple /'tippl/ n. a revolving frame or cage in which a truck or freight car is inverted to discharge its load. n. a place where such loads, esp. from a coal mine, are dumped.

tip-sy /'tipsi/ adj. (-siér, -siest) slightly drunk. —tip-sily /-silı/ adv. —tip-silenıssı n.

tip-toe /'tip,toi/ v. (toes, toed, toe-ing) [intr.] walk quietly and carefully with one's heels raised and one's weight on the balls of the feet.

tip-top (also tip-top) adj. of the very best class or quality; excellent.

n. 1. the highest part or point of excellence. 2. a line guide on a fishing rod.

ti-rate /'ti,rait/ adj. (of a book, composition, or other artistic work. n. as us. as titles) a caption or credit in a movie or broadcast. n. a book, magazine, or newspaper considered as a publication. a name that describes someone's position or job: Leese assumed the title of director general. a word that is used before someone's name, or a form that is used instead of someone's name, to indicate high social or official rank: the title of Duke of Marlborough. a word such as Mrs. or Dr. that is used before someone's name to indicate their profession or marital status. n. a descriptive or distinctive name that is earned or chosen: Nita's deserved the title of Best Restauranteur of the Year. the position of being the champion of a major sports competition: Davis won the world title. a law or right or claim to the ownership of property or to a rank or throne; a local family had title to the property.

v. [tr.] give a name to (a book, composition, or other work).
tolerant [ˈtələrənt] adj. 1 showing willingness to allow the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with: we must be tolerant of others. 2 (of a plant, animal, or machine) able to endure (specified conditions or treatment); rye is reasonably tolerant of drought. —tolerantly adv.

tolerate [ˈtələrēt] v. [tr.] allow the existence, occurrence, or practice of (something that one does not necessarily like or agree with) without interference; accept or endure (someone or something unpleasant or disliked) with forbearance: how was it that she could tolerate such noise? be capable of continued subjection to (a drug, toxin, or environmental condition) without adverse reaction; lichens grow in conditions that no other plants tolerate. —tolerator n.; /rätər/ n.

toler-ation [ˈtələræʃən] n. the practice of tolerating something, in particular differences of opinion or behavior.

toll [tɔl] n. 1 a charge payable for permission to use a particular bridge or road: turnpike toll. [as adj.] a toll bridge. 2 a charge for a long-distance telephone call. 3 the number of deaths, casualties, or injuries arising from particular circumstances, such as a natural disaster, conflict, or accident. 4 the cost or damage resulting from something: the environmental toll of the policy has been high.

• v. [tɔl] (tolling) charge a toll for the use of a bridge or road; the report indicates expressway tolling.

• take its toll (of heavy toll) have an adverse effect, esp. so as to cause damage, suffering, or death.

toll-house [ˈtɔlhoʊs] n. a small house by a tollgate or toll bridge where money is collected from road users.

toll-way [ˈtɔlweɪ] n. a small road or a highway; a toll road.

Toltec [ˈtɔltek] n. 1 a member of an American Indian people that flourished in Mexico before the Aztecs. 2 the language of this people. 3 adj. of or relating to this people. —Toltecan /ˌtɔltekən/ adj.

toll-ue-ne [ˈtɔljuːnə] n. Chem. a colorless liquid hydrocarbon present in coal tar and petroleum and used as a solvent in organic synthesis. Also called METHYL BENZENE.

tom [tɒm] n. 1 the male of various animals, esp. a turkey or domestic cat. 2 (Tom) int. short for UNCLE TOM.

• v. [Tom] (Tommed, Tom-ming) [|tr.| intr., derog.] (of a person) behave in an excessively obnoxious or servile way.

• tom-a-hawk [ˈtɒmaˈhɔk] n. hist. a light ax used as a tool or weapon originally by American Indians.

• v. [tr.] strike or cut with or as if with a tomahawk. —early 17th cent.: from a Virginia Algonquian language.

tom-ato [ˈtɒmətoʊ] n. (pl. -oes) 1 a glossy red, or occasionally yellow, pulpy edible fruit that is typically eaten as a vegetable or in salad. 2 the bright red color of a ripe tomato. 3 the widely cultivated South American plant (Lycopersicum esculentum) of the nightshade family that produces this fruit. —tomatoey /ˈtɒmətoʊ-ə/ adj.

tomb [tɒm] n. 1 a large vault, typically an underground one, for burying the dead. 2 an enclosure for a corpse cut in the earth or in rock. 3 a monument to the memory of a dead person, erected over their burial place. 4 a place similar to a tomb in its use in sculpture and art to refer to a place or situation that is extremely cold, quiet, or dark, or that forms a confining enclosure: as quiet as a tomb. 5 the tomb poetic/it. death.

tomb-boy [ˈtɒmbboʊ] n. a girl who enjoys rough, noisy activities traditionally associated with boys. —tomb-boys/ish adj. —tomb-boys/ish-ness n.

tomb-stone [ˈtɒmstoʊn] n. 1 a large, flat inscribed stone standing or laid over a grave. 2 (also tombstone advertisement or tombstone ad) an advertisement listing the undertakers or firms involved with a new issue of securities.

tom-cat [ˈtɒmcæt] n. a male domestic cat. —ml. a sexually aggressive male cat or a womanizer.

• v. [tom-cate|atted, -catting] [intr. or trans.] informal pursue women promiscuously for sexual gratification; tomcatting all night and sleeping until noon.

tome [tɒm] n. chiefly humorous: a book, esp. a large, heavy, scholarly one; a weighty tome.

• v. [tome] n. dated a foolish person; [as adj.] she was destined to take part in some tomfool caper.

tom-fool-ery [ˌtɔmˈfʊləri] n. foolish or silly behavior.

tom-gun [ˈtɒmɡən] n. a type of submachine gun.

tomography [tɒmˈɒgrəfi] n. a technique for displaying a representation of a cross section through a human body or other solid object using X-rays or ultrasound. —tomographic adj.

tom-morrow [ˈtɒmərəʊ] adv. on the day after today; the show opens tomorrow in the future, esp. the near future: East Germany will not disappear tomorrow.

• n. the day after today: tomorrow is going to be a special day. 2 the future, esp. the near future: today's engineers are tomorrow's buyers.

tom-tom /ˈtɒmtɒm/ n. a popular name for any of a number of small active drums, and a drum kit or a cha cha drum.

tom-tom /ˈtɒmtɒm/ n. a medium-sized cylindrical drum beaten with the hands and used in jazz bands, etc. an early drum, of Native American or Asian origin, typically played with the hands.

tone [tʌn] n. 1 (usu. and short ton) a unit of weight equal to 2,000 pounds avoirdupois (907.19 kg). 2 (also long ton) a unit of weight equal to 2,240 pounds avoirdupois (1016.05 kg). 3 short for METRIC TON. 4 a unit of measurement of an ship's weight representing the weight of water it displaces. 5 (usu. a ton of tons) of int. a large number or amount; I had tons of friends.

• v. [toned|oning] n. fashionable style or distinction. 2 (the ton) [treated as sing or pl. fashionable society.

tonal /ˈtɔnəl/ adj. of or relating to the tone of music, color, or writing: his ear for tonal color; the poem's tonal lapes. 2 of or relating to music written using conventional keys and harmony. 3 Phonet. (of a language) expressing semantic differences by varying the intonation given to words or syllables of a similar sound. —tonally adv.

tonal-ly /ˈtɔnəlI/ adv. —tonal-ness n.

tonal-iti /ˈtɔnələti/ n. (pl. -ties) 1 the character of a piece of music as determined by the key in which it is played or the relations between the notes of a scale or key. 2 the harmonic effect of being in a particular key: the first bar would seem set to be a tonality of C minor. 3 the use of conventional keys and harmony as the basis of musical composition. 4 the color scheme or range of tones used in a picture.

tone /tʌn/ n. 1 the overall quality of a musical or vocal sound: the piano tone appears lacking in warmth. 2 a modulation of the voice expressing a particular feeling or mood: a firm tone of voice. 3 a manner of expression in writing: a general tone of incensed glee in the reporting. 4 the general character of a group of people or a place or event: a bell would lower the tone of the place. 5 int. an atmosphere of respectability or class. 6 a musical sound, esp. one of a definite pitch and character. 7 a musical note, word, or other sound used as a particular signal on a telephone or answering machine. 8 Phonet. (in some languages, such as Chinese) a particular pitch pattern on a syllable used to make semantic distinctions. 9 Phonet. (in some languages, such as English) intonation on a word or phrase used to add functional meaning: tone of voice. 10 (also whole tone) a basic interval in classical Western music, equal to two semitones; a major second or whole step. 11 the particular quality of brightness, deepness, or hue of a tint or shade of a color: stained glass in vivid tones of red and blue. 12 the general effect of color or of light in a picture. 13 a slight degree of difference in the intensity of a color. 14 (also muscle tone) the normal level of firmness or slight contraction in a resting muscle.

• v. [tuned|eding] give greater strength or firmness to (the body or a part of it): exercise tones up the muscles. 2 [intr.] (tone up) of a muscle or bodily part became stronger or firmed. 3 [intr.] (tone with) harmonize with (something) in terms of color. 4 Photog. give (a monochrome picture) an altered color in finishing by means of a chemical solution.

• phrasal v. [tune something down] make something less harsh in sound or color; make something less extreme or intense. —toned adj. [in comb.] the fresh-toned singing. —tone-less adj. —tone-less-ly adv. —tone-deaf adj. (of a person) unable to perceive differences of musical pitch accurately. —tone-deafness n.

tone-poem n. a piece of orchestral music, typically in one movement, on a descriptive or rhapsodic theme.
toss-up

n. an action or instance of tossing something. [the (toss) the action of tossing a coin as a method of deciding which team has the right to make a particular decision at the beginning of a game. —toss-er n.

> toss one’s cookies intr. vomit.
toss-up n. intr. the tossing of a coin to make a decision between two alternatives. a situation in which all outcomes or options are equally possible or equally attractive.
tos-ta-da (also tos-ta-do) n. [pt. - das also - dos a] a Mexican deep-fried tortilla topped with a seasoned mixture of beans, ground meat, and vegetables.
tot [tät] n. 1. a very young child. 2. chiefly Brit. a small amount of a strong alcoholic drink such as whiskey or brandy: a tot of brandy.
tot-[ted-tled] adj. chiefly Brit. tot something up add up numbers or amounts. to calculate something over a period of time: he has already totted up 89 victories.
tot-al [tät-əl] adj. 1. comprising the whole number or amount: a total cost of $4,000. 2. complete; absolute: a total stranger.
n. the whole number or amount of something: he scored a total of 5 points. 3. in total, 200 people were interviewed.
tot-al-ly ad. complete or entirely: he was completely puffing.
tot-tel-ing 1. [tr. amount in number to: they were left with debts totaling $6,260. 2. intr. damage (something, typically a vehicle) beyond repair: wreck.
tot-tal-eclipse n. an eclipse in which the whole of the sun or moon is obscured.
tot-tal-i-ty [tät-əl-i-tee] n. totality of or relating to a system of government that is centralized and dictatorial and requires complete subordination to the state: a totalitarian regime.
n. a person advocating such a system of government. —tota-li-ty-ism [tät-əl-i-tee-izm] n. -izm/

tot-tal-ly [tät-əl-lee] n. the whole of something: the totality of their current policies.

Astron. the moment or duration of total obscuration of the sun or moon during an eclipse.

> in its totality as a whole: a deeper exploration of life is its totality.
tot-tal-ly [tät-əl-lee] ad. completely; absolutely: the building was totally destroyed by fire; they came from totally different backgrounds.
tot-tal-re-call n. the ability to remember with clarity every detail of the events of one’s life or of a particular event, object, or experience.
tot-tal-war n. a war that is unrestricted in terms of the weapons used, the territory or combatants involved, or the objectives pursued, esp. one in which the laws of war are disregarded.

tot-e [tät] v. [tr. intr. carry, wield, or convey (something heavy or substantial): here are books well worth toting home | as adj., in comb. -totting] a gun-toting lower.

tot-e [tät] n. the tote] n. a system of betting in which dividends are calculated according to the amount at stake rather than the odds offered.
tot-e bag n. a large bag used for carrying a number of items.
tot-em pole n. a pole on which totem poles are hung or on which the images of totem poles are carved.

> fig. a hierarchy: the social totem pole.
tot-ter [tät-ər] v. [intr. move in a feeble or unsteady way: a bunched up tottering down the path

> susu. as adj. [tottering] (of building) shake or rock as if about to collapse: the pharmaceutical industry has tottered from crisis to crisis.
n. a feeble or unsteady gait. —tot-ter-er n. —tot-ter-y adj.
tou-can [tö'kän, kan-] n. a tropical American fruit-eating bird (genera Ramphastos and Andigena, family Ramphastidae) with a massive bill and typically brightly colored plumage.
touch [tök] v. [tr. 1. come so close to (an object) as to be or come into contact with it: the dog had one paw outstretched, not quite touching the ground.

> bring one’s hand or another part of one’s body into contact with: he touched a strand of her hair.

> (touch something to) move a part of one’s body to bring it into contact with: he gently touched his lips to her cheek.

> lightly press or strike (a button or key on a device or instrument) to operate or play it. [intr.] of two people or two more things, typically ones of the same kind) come into contact with each other: for a moment their fingers touched. 

> cause (two or more things, typically ones of the same kind) to come into contact: we touched down and made a landing.

> come off the road. Geom. be tangent to (a curve or surface) at a certain point.

> reach (a specified level or amount). [inf.] be comparable to in quality or excellence: there’s no one who can touch him at lightweight.

> handle in order to manipulate, alter, or otherwise affect, esp. in an adverse way: I didn’t touch any of her stuff.

> cause harm to (someone): I’ve got friends who’ll pull strings—nobody will dare touch me.

> take some of (a store, esp. of money) for use: in three years I haven’t touched a cent of the money.

> consume a small amount of (food or drink); the beer by his right hand was hardly touched. used to indicate that something is avoided or rejected: he was good only for the jobs that nobody else would touch.

> touch someone for] ask someone for (money or some other commodity) as a loan or gift. [inf.] have an effect on; make a difference to. be relevant to. [of (a quality or feature) be visible or apparent in the appearance or character of (something); the trees were beginning to be touched by the colors of autumn.

> reach and affect the appearance of; a wry smile touched his lips. [touch something in] chiefly Art lightly mark in features or other details with a brush or pencil.

> produce feelings of affection, gratitude, or sympathy in: she was touched by her friend’s loyalty.

> [as adj., (touched)] slightly insane.

> phrasal v. touch at (of a ship or someone in it) call briefly at (a port).

touch down (of an aircraft or spacecraft) make contact with the ground in landing.

> touch something off cause something to ignite or explode by touching it with a match. [inf.] cause something to happen, esp. suddenly.

> touch on (upon) deal briefly with (a subject) in written or spoken discussion.

> come near to being. touch something up make small improvements to something.

> n. 1. an act of bringing a part of one’s body, typically one’s hand, into contact with someone or something: her touch on his shoulder. 

> an act of lightly pressing or striking something in order to move or operate it: you can manipulate images on the screen at the touch of a key.

> the faculty of perception through physical contact, esp. with the fingers: reading by touch. a musician’s manner of playing keys or strings. the manner in which a musical instrument’s keys or strings respond to being played: Viennese instruments with their too delicate touch.

> a light stroke with a pen, pencil, etc. [inf. dated] an act of asking for and getting money or some other commodity from someone as a loan or gift: he was good for a touch now and then.

> archive a thing or an action that tries out the worth or character of something: a test; you must put your faith to the touch.

> a small amount; a trace; a detail or feature, typically one that gives something a distinctive character; a distinctive manner or method of dealing with something; an ability to deal with something successfully: getting caught looks so incompetent, as though we’re losing our touch.

> Bell-ringing a series of changes shorter than a peal. —touch-a-ble adj. —toucher n.

> in touch 1. in or into communication. 2. possessing up-to-date knowledge: we need to keep in touch with the latest developments.

> having an intuitive or empathetic awareness: you need to be in touch with your feelings.

> lose touch 1. cease to correspond or be in communication.

> cease to be aware or informed: we cannot lose touch with political reality.

> out of touch lacking knowledge or information concerning current events and developments. —out of touch lacking awareness or sympathy: we have been betrayed by a government out of touch with our values.

> to the touch used to describe the qualities of something perceived by touching it or the sensations felt by someone who is touched: the silk was slightly rough to the touch.

> touch bottom reach the bottom of a body of water with one’s feet or a pole. be at the lowest or worst point.

> would not touch something with a ten-foot pole express a refusal to have anything to do with someone or something.

> touch and go adj. (of an outcome, esp. one that is desired) possible but very uncertain: it was touch and go there for a while whether they would make it.

> (touch-and-go) (pl. touch-and-goes) a maneuver in which an aircraft touches the ground as in landing, and immediately takes off again.

> touchback [tök-chak] n. Football a ball one downs deliberately being held one’s own goal line or that is kicked through one’s end zone. It is taken to the 20-yard line to resume play.
touchdown /ˈtʌtʃ,dɔːn/ n. 1 the moment at which an aircraft's wheels or part of a spacecraft make contact with the ground during landing. 2 Football: a six-point score made by carrying or passing the ball into the end zone of the opposing side, or by recovering it there following a fumble or blocked kick. 3 (also tour of duty) a period of duty on military or diplomatic service.

touch foot-ball /ˈtʌtʃ,fʊtˌbɔːl/ n. a form of football in which a ball carrier is downed by touching instead of tackling.

touch ing /ˈtʌtʃɪŋ/ adj. arousing strong feelings of sympathy, appreciation, or gratitude. —pro.p. concerning: evidence touching the facts of Roger's case.

touch-me-not /ˈtʌtʃ,miːnət/ n. a plant (genus Impatiens) of the balsam family whose ripe seed capsules burst at touch, scattering seeds over some distance.

touch-point /ˈtʌtʃ,pɔɪnt/ n. 1 commerce any point of contact between a buyer and a seller. 2 Comput. on some laptop computers, a device like a miniature joystick with a rubber tip, manipulated with a finger to move the screen pointer. 3 a time, condition, or circumstance that is vulnerable or unstable enough to precipitate a highly unfavorable, possibly devastating outcome: so much remains to be done to take the fleeting opportunities there may be still in the Middle East to make it a safer and less terrible touchpoint for world configuration. 4 Psycho. the time in a child's development that precedes an appreciable leap in physical, emotional, or cognitive growth. This phase is often associated with outbursts of uncharacteristic behavior.

touch screen (also touch-screen) /ˈtʌtʃ,skɛrn/ n. a display device that allows a user to interact with a computer by touching areas on the screen.

touchstone /ˈtʌtʃ,tɔʊn/ n. 1 a piece of fine-grained dark rock formerly used for testing alloys of gold by observing the color of the mark that they made on it. 2 a standard or criterion by which something is judged or recognized.

touch-tone /ˈtʌtʃ,tɔʊn/ n. a telephone having push buttons and generating tones to dial rather than pulses. 1 (of a service) accessed or controlled by the tones generated by these telephones.

touch-type /ˈtʌtʃ,tʌtʃ/ v. [int.] often as n. (touch-typing) using all one's fingers and without looking at the keys. —touch-typist n.

touchy /ˈtʌtʃi/ adj. (touch-ier, touch-iest) (of a person or thing) oversensitive and irritable. 1 (of an issue or situation) requiring careful handling: delicate. —touch-i-ly /ˈtʌtʃi,li/ adv. —touch-i-ness n.

tough /tʌf/ adj. 1. (of substance or object) strong enough to withstand adverse conditions or rough or careless handling. 2. (of a person or animal) able to endure hardship or pain: physically robust. 3. able to protect one's own interests or maintain one's own opinions without being intimidated by opposition: confident and determined: she's both sensitive and tough. 4. demonstrating a strict and uncompromising attitude or approach. 5. (of a person) strong and prone to violence. 6. (of an area) notorious for violence and crime. 7. (of food, esp. meat) difficult to cut or chew. 8. involving considerable difficulty or hardship: requiring great determination or effort: he had a tough time getting into a good college. 9. used to express sympathy with someone in an unpleasant or difficult situation: Poor kid. It's tough on her. 10. (often as interj.) used to express a lack of sympathy with someone: I feel the way I feel, and if you don't like it tough.

tough-guy /ˈtʌfɡi/ n. a tough person, esp. a gangster or criminal. —tough-ly adj. —tough-ness n.

touch-it out /ˈtʌtʃ,ɪt/ int. endure a period of hardship or difficulty.

toughen /ˈtʌfən/ v. [intr.] 1. make or become tougher: [tr.]: he tried to toughen his son up by sending him to public school. 2. removed from the oven too soon merengues shrink and toughen. 3. [tr.]: make (rules or a policy) stricter and more harsh: new congressional efforts to toughen the laws. —tough-er /ˈtʌfər/ adj. —tough-est /ˈtʌf(ə)st/ adj.

towpee /ˈtɔwpə/ n. a small wig or artificial hairpiece worn to cover a bald spot.

tour /tʊər/ n. 1 a journey for pleasure in which several different places are visited: an airline tour of Alaska. 2 a short trip to or through a place in order to view or inspect something: a tour of the White House. 3 a journey made by performers or an athletic team, in which they perform or play in several different places: she joined the Royal Shakespeare Company on tour. 4 (the tour) (in golf, tennis, and other sports) the annual round of events in which top professionals compete. 5 (also tour of duty) a period of duty on military or diplomatic service.

tour de force /ˈtʊər də ˈfɔːr/ n. pl. tours de force (pronuc. same or [ˈtʊɔr/]) an impressive performance or achievement that has been accomplished or managed with great skill: his novel is a tour de force.

tour-ism /ˈtʊər,ɪzəm/ n. the commercial organization and operation of vacations and visits to places of interest.

tourist /ˈtʊərist/ n. a person who is traveling or visiting a place for pleasure.

tour-is-tic /ˈtʊərɪstɪk/ adj. —tour-is-ti-cal-ly /ˈtʊərɪstɪkli/ adv.

tourist class n. the cheapest accommodations or seating for passengers in a ship, aircraft, or hotel.

tour-sta-tion /ˈtʊərˌsteɪʃən/ n. a device for changing the flow of blood through an artery, typically by compressing a limb with a cord or tight bandage.

tousle /ˈtouzəl/ v. [tr.] make (something, esp. a person's hair) untidy.

tourney /ˈtʊrnə/, -ˈtoʊr-/ n. (pl. -neys) a tournament.

tow /təʊ/ v. (tows, towed, towing) [intr.] take part in a tournament.

tour-ni-quet /ˌtʊrənˈki:t/ n. a device for stopping the flow of blood to, or in, a part of the body.

touche /tʊʃ/ v. [fr. (touch-i-er, touch-i-est)] used before something. 1. touch what you see (touch, see). 2. touch and see (touch, see).

tout /tɔt/ v. 1. [tr.] attempt to sell (something), typically by pestering people in an aggressive or bold manner. 2. [often be touted] attempt to persuade people of the merits of (someone or something): the facility was touted as the best. 3. offer racing tips for a share of any resulting winnings. 4. chiefly Brit. spy out the movements and condition of (a racehorse in training) in order to gain information to be used when betting.

tout /tɔt/ v. 1. a person soliciting custom or business, typically in an aggressive or bold manner. 2. a person who offers racing tips for a share of any resulting winnings. —touter n.

towel /tʊl/ n. (often le tout) used before the name of a city to refer to its high society or people of importance: le tout Washington adored him.

towl /təʊl/ v. [towled, towled, towling] 1. of a motor vehicle or boat) pull (another vehicle or boat) along with a rope, chain, or tow bar. 2. of a person (pull someone or something) along behind one.

towl /təʊl/ v. 1. an act of towing a vehicle or boat. 2. a rope or line used to tow a vehicle or boat. —tow-able adj.

tow in tow /təʊ̈n/ v. 1. being towed by another vehicle or boat. 2. accompanying or following someone: trying to shop with three children in tow.

tow /təʊ/ n. the coarse and broken part of flax or hemp prepared for spinning a bale of untwisted natural or man-made fibers. —tow-y adj. —to-ward /təʊd/ —to-wa’d/ v. prep. (also to-wards) 1. in the direction of: I walked toward the door. 2. getting closer to achieving (a goal): a move toward freedom. 3. close or closer to (a particular time): toward the end of April. 2 as regards; in relation to: our attitude toward death. 3. paying homage to, esp. in a superficial or insincere way: he gave a nod toward the good work done by the fund. 4. contributing to the cost of (something): the council provided a grant toward the cost of new buses.

towel /təʊl/ n. a piece of thick absorbent cloth or paper used for drying oneself or wiping things dry.

towel /təʊl/ v. [towled, towelled, towelling] [intr.] wipe or dry (a person or thing) with a towel: [tr.]: she towered her hair dry. —quickly we'd towel off and dress for dinner.
trace

n. 1 a mark, object, or other indication of the existence or passing of something: remove all traces of the old adhesive | the aircraft disappeared without trace. 2 a beaten path or small road; a track. 3 a physical change in the brain presumed to be caused by a process of learning or memory. 4 a procedure to investigate the source of something, such as the place from which a telephone call was made, or the origin of an error in a computer program: toxic-trace quantities of PCBs. 5 a slight indication or barely discernible hint of something: just a trace of a smile. 6 a line or pattern displayed by an instrument using a moving pen or a luminous spot on a screen to show the existence or nature of something that is being investigated. 7 a line that represents the projection of a curve or surface on a plane or the intersection of a curve or surface with a plane. 8 Math. the sum of the elements that can be produced by a square matrix.

town

n. an urban area that has a name, defined boundaries, and local government, and that is larger than a village and generally smaller than a city. 2 the particular town under consideration, esp. one's own town: Carson was in town. 3 the central part of a neighborhood, within its business or shopping area: Rachel left to drive back into town. 4 a densely populated area, esp. as contrasted with the country or suburbs. 5 a town's community: the whole town is talking about it. 6 the permanent residents of a college town as distinct from the members of the college. 7 another term for TOWNSHIP (sense 3). 8 Old English tuon 'enclosed piece of land, homestead, village,' of Germanic origin; related to Dutch tuin 'garden' and German Zieau 'fence.'

town clerk

n. a public official in charge of the records of a town.

town crier

n. hist. a person employed to make public announcements in the streets or marketplace of a town.

town hall

n. a building used for the administration of local government.

townie

n. a person who lives in a town (used esp. with reference to their supposed lack of familiarity with rural affairs). 2 a resident in a college town, rather than a student.

townscape

n. the visual appearance of a town or urban area; an urban landscape. 2 a picture of a town.

township

n. 1 a division of a county with some corporate powers. 2 a district six miles square. 3 (in South Africa) a suburb or a city of predominantly black occupation, officially designated for black occupation by apartheid legislation.

townsmen

n. (also townsfolk). n. the people living in a particular town or city.

toxic

adj. poisonous: the dumping of toxic waste. 2 of or relating to poison: a poison hazard. 3 caused by poison: toxic liver injury.

n. toxic substances. 2 toxicologically. 3 toxicology. 4 toxicologist.

toxicoLOGY

n. the branch of science concerned with the nature, effects, and detection of poisons. 2 toxicological. 3 toxicologically. 4 toxicologist.

toxin

n. an antigenic poison or venom of plant or animal origin, esp. one produced by or derived from microorganisms and causing disease when present at low concentration in the body.

toy

n. 1 an object for a child to play with, typically a model or miniature replica of something: as adj. toy car. 2 an object, esp. a gadget or machine, regarded as providing amusement for an adult: in 1914 the car was still a rich man's toy. 3 a person treated by another as a source of pleasure or amusement rather than with due seriousness: a man needed a friend, an ally, not an idol or a toy. 4 [as adj.] denoting a diminutive breed or variety of dog: a toy poodle. 5 adj. like. 6 adj.

toy with

1 consider (an idea, movement, or proposal) casually or indecisively. 2 treat (someone) without due seriousness, esp. in a superficially amiable way. 3 move or handle (an object) absent-mindedly or nervously. 4 eat or drink in an unenthusiastic or strained way.

toy book

n. a children's book with features that enable it to be played with as well as read.

to violet

v. (intr. 1) find or discover by investigation: police are trying to trace a white van seen in the area. 2 find or describe the origin or development of: Bob's book traces his flying career with the Marines. 3 follow or mark the course or position of (something) with one's eye, mind, or finger: through the binoculars, I traced the path I had taken the night before. 4 take (a parade or park route): a toy traced a lovely path down her cheek. 5 copy (a drawing, map, or design) by drawing over its lines on a superimposed piece of transparent paper. 6 draw (a pattern or line), esp. with one's finger or toe: give an outline of: the article traces some of the connections between education, qualifications, and the labor market.
track and field

- tracked Anna to her room. [fig] follow and note the course or progress of: they are tracking the girth and evolution of stars. [intr] follow a particular course: the storm was tracking across the ground at 30 mph. [intr] (of a film or television camera) move in relation to the subject being filmed.
- [track something up] leave a trail of footprints on a surface. [track something in] leave a trail of dirt, debris, or snow from one's feet. [2] (of wheels) run so that the back ones are exactly in the track of the front ones. 3 assign (a student) to a course of study according to ability.

- [phrasal v. track someone/something down] find someone or something after a thorough or difficult search.
- [adj. in one's tracks] int where one or something is at that moment: suddenly, Turner immediately stopped dead in his tracks.
- [track (or trace) by keep (or lose) track of keep (or fail to keep) fully aware of or informed about.
- [make tracks (for) int leave hurriedly (for a place).]
- [track (or right) off the track departing from the right course of thinking or behavior.]
- [track (or wrong) on the right (or wrong) track acting or thinking in a way that is likely to result in success (or failure).]
- [track (or wrong) on the right (or side) of the tracks int a poor, less prestigious (or wealthy, prestigious) position.

- [track and field] n. athletic events that take place on a running track and a nearby field: track events and field events.

- [tracking] tr. act of tracking someone or something.
- [Electr.] the maintenance of a constant difference in frequency between two or more connected circuits or components.
- [track the alignment of the wheels of a vehicle.
- [a control in a videocassette recorder that electronically adjusts the manner in which the head receives signals from the videotape, providing a clearer playback.]
- [the practice of putting schoolchildren in groups of the same age and ability to be taught together.

- [tracking station] n. a place from which the movements of missiles, aircraft, or satellites are tracked by radar or radio.

- [trackless adj. (of land) having no paths or tracks on it: leading to trackless wastelands.
- [poetic] not leaving a track or trace.]
- [2] (of a vehicle or component) not running on a track or tracks.

- [track record] n. the best recorded performance in a particular track-and-field event at a particular track. The past achievements or performance of a person, organization, or product.

- [track shoe] n. a running shoe.
- [track] n. an area of indefinite extent, typically a large one: large tracks of natural forest. [poetic] an indefinitely large extent of something: vast tracts of time.
- [a major passage in the body, large bundle of nerve fibers, or other continuous elongated anatomical structure or region: the digestive tract.

- [track] v. a short treatise in pamphlet form, typically on a religious subject.
- [trackable] adj. (of a person or animal) easy to control or influence. (of a situation or problem) easy to deal with. -[tractability trak'ta-bili-te trak'ta-bil-i-té] n. -[tractably trak'ta-bli] adv.

- [traction] n. 1 the action of drawing or pulling a thing over a surface, esp. a road or track: a primitive vehicle used in animal traction.
- [motivation power provided for such movement, esp. on a railroad: the changeover to diesel and electric traction.]
- [locomotives collectively.]
- [2 Med. the application of a sustained pull on a limb or muscle, esp. in order to maintain the position of a fractured bone or to correct a deformity; his leg is in traction.
- [the grip of a tire on a road or a wheel on a rail: his car hit a patch of ice and lost traction.

- [tractor] n. a powerful motor vehicle with large rear wheels, usually chined on farms for hauling equipment and trailers.
- [a short motor vehicle consisting of the live axle cab, designed to pull a large trailer.

- [tractor-trailer] n. a transport vehicle consisting of a semi-tractor and attached trailer.

- [trade] n. 1 the action of buying and selling goods and services: a significant increase in foreign trade. [date] chiefly derog. the practice of making one's living in business, as opposed to in a profession or from unearned income: the aristocratic classes were contemptuous of those in trade. [in sports] a transfer; an exchange. 2 a skilled job, typically one requiring manual skills and special training: the fundamentals of the construction trade. [the trade] [treated as sing. or pl.] the people engaged in a particular area of business: in the trade this sort of computer is called "a client-based system."
- [int. a person in gay sex encounters who is not penetrated sexually and usually considers himself to be heterosexual.
- [v. fig] buy and sell goods and services: middlemen trading in luxury goods. [tr. fig] buy or sell (a particular item or product): she has traded millions of dollars' worth of metals. [esp. of shares or currency] be bought and sold at a specified price: the dollar was trading where it was in January. [for] exchange (something) for something else, typically as a commercial transaction: they trade shark livers for fish oil; the hostages were traded for arms. [fig. v] give and receive (typically insults or blows).
- [transfer (a player) to another club or team.]

- [phrasal v. trade down (or up) sell something in order to buy something similar but less (or more) expensive.]

- [trade something off exchange something of value, esp. as part of a compromise: the government traded off economic advantages for political gains.]

- [trade on take advantage of (something), esp. in an unfair way: the government is trading on fears of inflation.]

- [trade (or tradeable) adj.

- [trade deficit n. the amount by which the cost of a country's imports exceeds the value of its exports.

- [trad-ed option] n. Finance an option on a stock exchange or futures exchange which can itself be bought and sold.

- [trade-in] n. [usu. as adj.] a used article accepted by a retailer in partial payment for another: the trade-in value of the old car.

- [trade journal] (also trade magazine) n. a periodical containing news and items of interest concerning a particular trade.

- [trade-mark] [trát, márk] n. a symbol, word, or words legally registered or established by use as representing a company or product. [fig. a distinctive characteristic or object: it had all the trademarks of a Mafia hit.]

- [trade union] n. an organized association of workers in a trade, group of trades, or profession, formed to protect and further their rights and interests.

- [trade wind] n. a wind blowing steadily toward the equator from the northeast in the northern hemisphere or the southeast in the southern hemisphere, esp. as a sea.

- [trade] n. the action of engaging in trade.

- [trading post] n. a store or small settlement established for trading, typically in a remote place.

- [trading stamp] n. a stamp given by some stores to a customer according to the amount spent, and exchangeable in the appropriate number for various articles.

- [transcription] [tra'di-shen] n. 1 the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way: every shade of color is fixed by tradition and governed by religious laws.
- [a long-established custom or belief that has been passed on in this way: Japan's unique cultural traditions.
- [an art form or literary method or style established by an artist, writer, or movement, and subsequently followed by others: visionary works in the tradition of William Blake.]

- [Theol] a doctrine believed to have divine authority though not in the scriptures, in particular: (in Christianity) doctrine not explicit in the Bible but held to derive from the oral teaching of Jesus and the Apostles. (in Judaism) an ordinance of the oral law not in the Torah but held to have been given by God to Moses. (in Islam) a saying or act ascribed to the Prophet but not recorded in the Koran. See Hadith, a late Middle English: from Old French tradition, or from Latin traditio, from tradere 'deliver, betray;' from trans- 'across' + dare 'give.'
transfer RNA

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transmitter

originally felt in childhood (in a phase of analysis called transference neurosis).

trans-fer RNA n. Biochem. RNA consisting of folded molecules that transport amino acids from the cytoplasm of a cell to a ribosome. 

trans-fig-ur-a-tion [trans,fig'yar-ə-shən] n. a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state. • (the Transfiguration) Christ’s appearance in radiant glory to three of his disciples. • the church festival commemorating this, held on August 6.

trans-fig-u-re [trans,fig'yar] v. [tr] to transform something more beautiful or elevated: the world is made luminous and is transfigured.

trans-fix [trans'siks] v. [tr] 1 cause (someone) to become motionless 

trans-form [trans'fɔrm] v. [tr] 1 make a thorough or dramatic change in form, appearance, or character of: users have transformed cardiac surgery. • intr undergo such a change: an automobile that transformed into a boat. • change the voltage of an electric current. • Math. change (a mathematical entity) by transformation.

trans-for-ma-tion [trans,fo'rma'shən] n. 1 a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance. • a metamorphosis during the life cycle of an animal. • Linguistics a process by which an element in the underlying deep structure of a sentence is converted to an element in the surface structure. • Biol. the genetic alteration of a cell by introduction of extraneous DNA, esp. by a plasmid. • Biol. the heritable modification of a cell from its normal state to a malignant state.


trans-form-er [trans,foर'mər] n. 1 an apparatus for reducing or increasing the voltage of an alternating current. 2 a person or thing that transforms something.

trans-fuse [trans,sooz] v. [tr] 1 Med. transfer (blood or its components) from one person or animal to another. 2 inject (liquid) into a blood vessel to replace lost fluid. 2 cause (something or someone) to be permeated or infused by something. —trans-fus-ion n.

trans-gen-der [trans'gendər] n. also trans-gen-dered adj. identified as a gender other than the biological one: a transgender activist and author.

trans-gress [trans'gres; trans-gESS] v. [tr] infringe or go beyond the bounds of (a moral principle or other established standard of behavior); she had transgressed an unwritten social law | intr. they must control the impulses that lead them to transgress. • Geol. (of the sea spread) over an area of land. —trans-gres-sion n. —trans-gres-sive adj. —trans-gres-sor n. —trans-gres-sive-ly adv.

trans-sient [trans'sint; zhənt; zënt] adj. lasting only for a short time: impermanent. • staying or working in a place for only a short time.

trans-si-sor [trans'sər] n. 1 a person who is staying or working in a place for only a short time. 2 a momentary variation in current, voltage, or frequency. 3 a 16th cent. from Latin transit-um ‘going across,’ from the verb transire; from trans, across + ire, to go. —trans-sence n. —trans-si-cy n. —trans-sient-ly adv.

trans-sis-tor [trans'stər] n. a semiconductor device with three connections, capable of amplification in addition to rectification. • also transistor radio a portable radio using circuits containing transistors rather than vacuum tubes.

trans-sit [trans'sit] v. [tr] 1 the carrying of people or goods from one place to another: a painting was damaged in transit. • an act of passing through or across a place: the transit of the Northwest Passage. • the conveyance of passengers on public transportation. • Astron. the passage of an inferior planet across the face of the sun, or of a moon or its shadow across the face of a planet. • Astron. the apparent passage of a celestial body across the meridian of a place. • Astron. the passage of a celestial body through a specified sign, house, or area of a chart. 2 in full transit theodolite a tool used by surveyors to measure horizontal angles.

trans-si-tion [trans'sishən; -si'sishən] n. the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another: a transition to democracy. • a passage in a piece of writing that smoothly connects two topics or sections to each other. • Mus. a momentary modulation from one key to another. • Physics a change of an atom, molecule, electron, etc., from one quantum state to another, with emission or absorption of radiation.


trans-i-tive [trans'i-tiv] adj. 1 Grammar of a verb or a use of a verb able to take a direct object (expressed or implied), e.g., saw, he saw the donkey. The opposite of INTRANSITIVE.

trans-late [trans'leit] v. [tr] 1 express the sense of (words or text) in another language. 2 give (something) a meaning: [intr.] be expressed or be capable of being expressed in another language. • Biol. convert (a sequence of nucleotides in messenger RNA) to an amino-acid sequence in a protein or polypeptide during synthesis. 3 Physics cause (a body) to move so that all its parts travel in the same direction, without rotation or change of shape. • Math. transform (a geometric figure) in an analogous way. • trans-lat-a-bil-i-ty, trans-lat-a-ble adj. —trans-late-ble-ly adv. —trans-late-ble-ness n.

trans-la-tion [trans'leشن] n. 1 the process of translating words or text from one language into another. • a written or spoken rendering of the meaning of a word, speech, book, or other text, in another language. • the conversion of something from one form or medium into another: the translation of research findings into clinical practice. • Biol. the process by which a sequence of nucleotide triplets in a messenger RNA molecule gives rise to a specific sequence of amino acids during synthesis of a polypeptide or protein. • for or technical the process of moving something from one place to another: the translation of the relics of St. Thomas of Canterbury. • Math. movement of a body from one point of space to another such that every point of the body moves in the same direction and over the same distance, without any rotation, reflection, or change in size. —trans-la-tional [trans'le-shən] adj. —trans-la-tion-a-ry [trans'le-shər-ə] adj.

trans-la-tor [trans'le-tər] n. a person who translates from one language into another, esp. as a profession. • a program that translates from one programming language into another.


trans-mis-sion [trans'mis'shən] n. 1 the action or process of transmitting something or the state of being transmitted. • a program or signal that is broadcast or sent out. 2 the mechanism by which power is transmitted from an engine to the wheels of a motor vehicle.

trans-mit [trans mit; trans mit] v. [mit-tid, -mitting] [intr] cause (something) to pass across one place or person to another. • broadcast or send out (an electrical signal or a television program). • pass on (a disease or trait) to another: sexually transmitted diseases. • allow (heat, light, sound, electricity, or energy) to pass through a medium: the three bones transmit sound waves to the inner ear. • communicate or be made for (an idea or emotion). —trans-mis-sion-a-ble [trans'mi'shənəbəl] adj. (chiefly Med.). —trans-mis-sive [trans'misiv] adj. —trans-mit-a-ble adj. —trans-mit-al [trans mit'əl] n.

trans-mit-ter [trans mitər, trans mitər] n. a set of equipment used to generate and transmit electromagnetic waves carrying messages or signals.
transmogrify /trans'mogr-,i-f/ v. -fied, -fied (-fied) [often be transmogrified] chiefly humorous transform, esp. in a surprising or magical manner. —trans-mogr-i-fa'-tion, -fä'-shun n.

transmute [trans'myoot; tranz'-] v. change in form, nature, or substance: [tr] the raw material of his experience was transmuted by radioactivity. [intr] the discovery that elements can be transmuted to other elements. —trans-mu-ta'-tion, -ta'-shun n.

transplant [trans'plant] v. -plant-ed, -plant-ing 1. to move or transfer (something) to another place or situation. 2. to move into a plant that is different from the one in which it was grown. [tr] move (a plant) into a new or different place or situation. [intr] transplant a plant into a new or different place or situation. —trans-plan-ta'-ble adj.

transponder [trans'pændər] n. a device for receiving a radio signal and automatically transmitting a different signal.

transport [trans'pört] v. -port-ed, -port-ing 1. to convey (people or goods) from one place to another. 2. to carry (people or goods) from one place to another. 3. to move or transfer (something) to another place or situation. —trans-porta'-ble adj.

transporation [trans'por-ta'shun] n. the act of transporting or the state of being transported. —transport'or n.

transponder [trans'pörtər] n. a person or thing that transports something, in particular: a large vehicle used to carry heavy objects, e.g.
derog. cause tabletop. very a intr. (in drawing enter 1 dig secret tri. a tri. 1 in- taxonomic tri-al cally ti.ents. Tri-ad) an trench or trench-er-man. —trench-blade. —trenchancy v. n. —trenchant-ly adv.

trench coat n. a loose, belted, double-breasted raincoat in a military style. a lined or padded waterproof coat worn by soldiers.

trenchant [tren-chant] adj. 1 vigorous or incisive in expression or style. 2 archaic or poetic. [of a weapon or tool] having a sharp edge: a trenchant blade. —trenchancy n. —trenchant-ly adv.

trench —trenchcoat n. 1 blot; —trenchant v. [trench] dig a trench or trenches in the ground: she trenched the trench to a depth of 6 feet. 2 turn over the earth of (a field or garden) by digging a succession of adjoining ditches.

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troubled or suffering. a state of great trouble or suffering. n. (the tribulation or the Great Tribulation) Christian Theol. a period of great suffering expected during the end times.

tribunal [triˈbjuːnəl] n. 1. a court of justice: an international war crimes tribunal. 2. a seat or bench for a judge or judges.

tribune [triˈbjuon] n. an official in ancient Rome chosen by the plebeians to protect their interests. 2. a Roman legionary officer.

trib- | tri- popular leader; a champion of the people. n. used in names of newspapers: the Chicago Tribune. —trib-u-nate [triˈbjuːnət] n. 1. a seat or bench for a judge or judges.

trib-uary [triˈbrjuəri] n. pl. -aries 1. a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake. 2. a person or state that pays tribute to another state or ruler.

tribute [ˈtrɪbju:t] n. 1. an act, statement, or gift that is intended to show gratitude, respect, or admiration: the video is a tribute to the music of the 40s; something resulting from tribute: the victor's wealth.

trich-i-n-o-sis [ˌtrɪkɪˈnəʊsɪs] n. a disease caused by certain nematodes, typically from infected meat, esp. pork, characterized by digestive disturbances, fever, and muscular rigidity.

trich-o-mat-ic [trɪkəʊˈmætɪk] adj. relating to trichomes or covered with them.

trick [trɪk] n. 1. a cunning or skillful act or scheme intended to deceive or outwit someone. 2. a mischievous practical joke: she thought Elaine was playing some trick on her. 3. a trick skill performed for entertainment or amusement: he did conjuring tricks for his daughters. 4. an illusion: I thought I saw a flicker of emotion, but it was probably a trick of the light. 5. a clever or crafty way of doing something: the trick is to put one ski forward and kneel. 6. a peculiar or characteristic habit or mannerism. 7. a peculiar or characteristic habit or mannerism.

trick-ster [ˈtrɪksˌtər] n. a person who cheats or deceives people.

trick-y [trɪkˈi] adj. 1. trickier, trickiest (of a task, problem, or situation) requiring care and skill because difficult or awkward: applying eyeliner can be a tricky business.

triclinic [triˈklaɪnɪk] adj. of or denoting a crystal system or three-dimensional geometric arrangement having three unequal axes.

tricolor [ˈtrɪkələr] n. 1. a flag with three bands or blocks of different colors, esp. the French national flag with equal uprightness of bands of blue, white, and red.

tricorne [ˈtrɪkɔrn] (also tri-colored) n. 1. having three colors.

trihedral [triˈhɪdrl] adj. used in various phrases to describe something that has proved effective or reliable before: novel applications of tried-and-tested methods.

tried [trɪd] adj. 1. used in various phrases to describe something that has proved effective or reliable before: novel applications of tried-and-tested methods.

triennially [trɪˈɪnɪənl] adv. every three years: the triennial meeting of the Association.

tri-fide [ˌtrɪfɪd] adj. chiefly Biol. partly or wholly split into three divisions or lobes.

tri-fold [ˌtrɪflɔd] n. a pair of glasses with three lenses.


trig [trɪg] n. int. trigonometry.

trig- adj. 1. neat and smart in appearance.

trig-ger [trɪɡər] n. a small device that releases a spring or catch and so sets off a mechanism, esp. in order to fire a gun. 2. an event or thing that causes something to happen: the trigger for the strike was the closure of mine.

trig-ger-fish [ˈtrɪɡərfiʃ] n. a small fish with a spiny fin on its back. 2. a fish that has a fin on its back.

trig-ger-happy adj. ready to react violently, esp. by shooting, on the slightest provocation: territory controlled by trigger-happy bands.

trig-ger-rule [trɪɡərˌrʊl] n. the branch of mathematics dealing with the relations of the sides and angles of triangles and with the relevant functions of any angles.

tridiagonal [ˌtrɪdɪdʒəˈnɔl] adj.

trihedral [triˈhɪdrl] adj. 1. having three colors.

trig-ram [trɪˈɡræm] n. 1. another term for TRIGRAM. 2. each of the
eight figures formed of three parallel lines, each either whole or broken, combined to form the sixty-four hexagrams of the I Ching.

trigraph /ˈtrɪgræf/ n. a group of three letters representing one sound, for example German sch.

tri-he-dron /ˈtrɪhiːdron/ n. (pl. -drons or -drons) a solid figure having three sides or faces (in addition to the base or ends).

trike /trɪk/ n. a tricycle.

tri-lat-er-al /ˈtrɪlətərəl/ adj. shared by or involving three parties: trilateral negotiations. n. Geom. of, on, or with three sides.

tril-by /ˈtrɪlbɪ/ n. (pl. -bies) chiefly Brit. a soft felt hat with a narrow brim and indented crown.

tri-lin-gual /ˈtrɪlɪŋgal/ adj. (of a person) speaking three languages fluently. (of a text or an activity) written or conducted in three languages.

trill /trɪl/ n. a quavering or vibratory sound, esp. a rapid alternation of sung or played notes: the caged bird launched into a perching trill. n. the pronunciation of a consonant, esp. r, with rapid vibration of the tongue against the hard or soft palate or the uvula.

trill-er /ˈtrɪlər/ n. a quavering or quavering sound: a skylark was trilling overhead. v. [trill1] sing a note or song with a quavering or quavering sound.

tri-log-y /ˈtrɪlədʒi/ n. (pl. -loges) a group of three related novels, plays, films, operas, or albums. (in ancient Greece) a series of three tragedies performed one after the other. n. fig. a group or series of three related things: a trilogy of cases reflected this development.

trim /trɪm/ v. (trimmed, trimming) [trimmed, trimmings] 1. make (something) neat or of the required size or form by cutting away irregular or unwanted parts: trim the grass using a sharp mower. [trim1] cut off (irregular or unwanted parts). 2. trim the fat off (something). [trim2] reduce the size, amount, or number of something, typically by expenditure or cost. [trim3] (of a person) lose weight, become slimmer. trim up or lose weight from (a part of a body). 2. decorate (something), typically with contrasting items or pieces of material: a pair of black leather gloves trimmed with false fur. 3. adjust (sails) to take best advantage of the wind. 4. adjust the forward and after drafts of a vessel by changing the distribution of weight on board, esp. cargo and ballast. 5. stow (a bulk cargo) properly in a ship’s hold by use of manual labor or machinery. 6. keep or adjust the degree to which (an aircraft) can be maintained at a constant altitude without any control forces being present. 7. trim down (of a person) lose weight, become slimmer. 8. trim or adjust something appropriately.

n. 1. additional decoration, typically along the edges of something and in contrasting color or material. 2. decorative additions to a vehicle, typically the upholstery or interior lining of a car. 3. an act of cutting off part of something in order to neaten it: his hair needs a trim. 4. a short piece of film cut out during the final editing stage. 5. the state of being in good order or condition: no one had been there for months—everything was out of trim. 6. the degree to which an aircraft can be maintained at a constant altitude without any control forces being present. 7. the difference between a vessel’s forward and aft draft, especially as it affects its navigability.

adj. (trimmer, trimmest) neat and smart in appearance; in good order: a trim little villa. (of a person or their body) slim and fit. —trim-ly adv.

trim-less n.

trim in trim and fit. Naut. in good order. trim one’s sails (to the wind) changes to suit one’s new circumstances.

tri-mar-an /ˈtrɪmərən/ n. a yacht with three hulls in parallel.

tri-mes-ter /ˈtrɪməstər/ n. a period of three months, esp. as a division of the duration of pregnancy. n. each of the three terms in an academic year.

trin-i-tro-lo-lu-e-ne /ˈtrɪniːtrələljuːni/ n. see TNT.

tri-ni-tro-leu-cine /trɪnɪtrələkuːni/ n. (pl. -cines) a group of 3-sulphurized amino acids.

tripl-i-play /ˈtrɪplɪpleɪ/ n. Baseball a defensive play in which three runners are put out.

Pronunciation Key a a, age, up; or, our; fur; a hat; a toe; a car; ch chin; e let; e see (of air); i j; i the; y our; h ng; s s; s see; th thin; th thin; (hw) why; zh vision
triplet /ˈtrɪplɪt/ n. 1 (usu. triplets) one of three children or animals born at the same birth. 2 a set or succession of three similar things.
- Mus. a group of three equal notes to be performed in the time of two or four. 3 a set of three rhyming lines of verse.

triplet code n. Biol. the standard version of the genetic code, in which a sequence of three nucleotides in a DNA or RNA molecule codes for a specific amino acid in protein synthesis.

triplicate /ˈtrɪplɪkət/ adj. [tripl. a thing that is part of a set of three copies or corresponding parts: the triplicate of a letter to the Governor.

- in triplicate three times in exactly the same way: the procedure was repeated in triplicate. 2 existing as a set of three exact copies.

triploid /ˈtrɪplɔɪd/ adj. [of a cell or nucleus] containing three homologous sets of chromosomes. 2 of an organism or species composed of triple the number of chromosomes.

trip-let /ˈtrɪplət/ n. a triploid organism, variety, or species.

trip-me-ter /ˈtrɪpmətər/ n. a vehicle instrument that can be set to record the distance of individual journeys.

trip-pod /ˈtrɪpod/ n. 1 a three-legged stand for supporting a camera or other apparatus. 2 an archaic table, stool, or cauldron resting on three legs.

trip-tich /ˈtrɪpɪtʃ/ n. a picture or relief carving on three panels, typically hinged together side by side and used as an altarpiece.

trip-typ /ˈtrɪptɪp/ n. a set of three associated artistic, literary, or musical works intended to be appreciated together.

trip-wire /ˈtrɪp,wɜːr/ n. a wire stretched close to the ground, working a trap, explosion, or alarm when disturbed and serving to detect or prevent people or animals entering an area.

- trip-wire: a tripwire alarm.

trir-eme /ˈtrɪrəmi/ n. an ancient Greek or Roman galley rowed by three oarsmen on each side.

tri-sac-ca-ride /ˈtrɪskəˌrɑːdi/ n. Chem. any of the class of sugars whose molecules contain three monosaccharide molecules.

tri-sect /ˈtrɪsɛkt/ v. [v. tr.] divide (something) into three parts.

- tri-section /ˈtrɪskʃən/ n. 2 tri-sector /ˈtrɪskətor/ n.

tris-mus /ˈtrɪzməs/ n. Med. spasm of the jaw muscles, causing the mouth to remain tightly closed, typically as a symptom of tetanus. Also called lockjaw.

trite /trɪt/ adj. of a remark, opinion, or idea overused and consequently of little import; lacking originality or freshness. 2 mid 16th cent.: from Latin tritus, past participle of terere "to rub." - trite-ly adv.

- trite-ness n.

trit-um /ˈtrɪtəm/ n. Chem. a radioactive isotope of hydrogen with a mass approximately three times that of the common proton isotope. (Symbol: T)

trit-u-rate /trɪtˈrʊrət/ v. [v. tr.] technical grind to a fine powder. 2 chew or grind (food) thoroughly.

- trituration /trɪtʃəˈrɑːʃn/ n. 2 triturate /trɪtəˈrɑːtər/ -iter /-ɪtər/ n.

triumph /ˈtrɪməph/ n. 1 a great victory or achievement: Napoleon's many triumphs. 2 the state of being victorious or successful: the king returned home in triumph.

- joy or satisfaction resulting from a success or victory: "Here it is!" Helen's voice rose in triumph. 2 a highly successful example of something: the marriage had been a triumph of togetherness.

- the processional entry of a victorious general into ancient Rome. 2 v. [intr.] achieve a victory; be successful: capitalism triumphed over socialism.

- rejoice or exult at a victory or success: "There!" triumphed Alina.

- triumphal /trɪmˈəfəl/ adj. made, carried out, or used in celebration of a great victory or achievement: a triumphal arch.

- triumphant /trɪmˈənt/ adj. having won a battle or contest: victorious.

- feeling or expressing jubilation after having won a victory or mastered a difficulty: a triumphal smile.

- triumphantly adv.

- triv-um /trɪvəm/ n. [pl. -vums or -vī /-vī/ (in ancient Rome)] each of three public offices jointly responsible for overseeing any of the administrative departments. - trivium /trɪvɪəm/ n.

- triv-i-ate /trɪvəˈeɪt/ -ial /-eɪl/ adj. (of a person) concerned only with trifling or unimportant things. - Math. denoting a subgroup that either contains only the identity element or is identical with the given group.

- triv-i-al-ity /trɪvɪəˈeɪtɪ/ n. (pl. -ties) -triv-i-al-ly adv.

- triv-i-al-ize /trɪvɪəˌlaɪz/ v. [tr. i. 2 make (something) seem less important, significant, or complex than it really is: the problem was either trivialized or ignored by teachers.

- trich-ea /trɪtʃeɪə/ n. 1. 2 one leg consisting of one long or short styled followed by one short or unstressed syllable.

- troch-le-a /trɒkliə/ n. (pl. -leae /-liː/ or -lea) Anat. a structure resembling or acting like a pulley, such as the groove at the lower end of the humerus forming part of the elbow joint.

- trooch-oid /trɒkɔɪd/ adj. 1 Anat. denoting a joint in which one element rotates on its own axis. 2 Geom. denoting a curve traced by a point on a radius of a circle rotating along a straight line or another circle.

- troch-o-dal /trɒkɔdəl/ adj.

- trod /trɒd/ n. past and past participle of TREAD.

- trod-en /trɒdən/ n. past participle of TREAD.

- trog-lo-dy-tic /trɒɡˈloʊdɪtɪk/ adj.

- trog-lo-dy-tic /trɒɡˈloʊdɪtɪk/ adj.

- troi-ka /troykə/ n. 1 a Russian vehicle pulled by a team of three horses abreast. 2 a team of three horses for such a vehicle.

- troj-an /trɒˈjæn/ n. 1 native inhabitant of ancient Troy.

- troj-an Horse n. Greek Mythol. a hollow wooden statue of a horse in which the Greeks concealed themselves in order to enter Troy. - also Trojan horse

- Trojan hor-se /trəˈhɔrn, -ˈhɔr-/ Comput. a program designed to breach the security of a computer system while ostensibly performing some innocuous function.

- troll /trɔl/ n. a mythical, cave-dwelling being depicted in folklore as either a giant or a dwarf, typically having a very ugly appearance.

- troll /trɔl/ v. [int. 1 fish by trailing a baited line behind a boat: we troll for mackerel. 2 search for something: a group of companies trolling for partnership opportunities. 2 [tr. i.] sing (something) in a happy and carefree way: troll the ancient Yuletide carol. 3 [tr. i.] e-mail, send an e-mail message or posting on the Internet intended to provoke a response from the reader by containing errors. 4 chiefly Brit. walk: stroll: we all trolled into town.

- troll /trɔl/ n. 1 the action of trolling for fish. 2 a line or bait used in such fishing.

- troll-ery /ˈtrɔləri/ n. pl. -leys 1 short for TROLLEY CAR. 2 also trolley wheel a wheel attached to a pole, used for collecting current from an overhead electric wire to drive a streetcar or trolley bus.

- trolley /ˈtrɔlɪ/ n. pl. -leys 1 short for TROLLEY CAR. 2 also trolley wheel a wheel attached to a pole, used for collecting current from an overhead electric wire to drive a streetcar or trolley bus. 2 a large metal basket or frame on wheels, resembling a shopping cart and used for transporting luggage at an airport or railroad station.

- off one's trolley adj. mad; insane.

- trolley-car /ˈtrɔlɪˌkɑr/ n. a passenger vehicle powered by electricity obtained from an overhead cable by means of a trolley wheel. Also called STREETCAR.

- trol-lo-p /ˈtrɒləp/ n. dated or humorous a woman perceived as sexually disreputable or promiscuous.

- trom-bone /ˈtrɒmbən/ n. 1 a large brass wind instrument with straight tubing in three sections, ending in a bell over the player's left shoulder. Different fundamental notes being made using a forward-pointing extendable slide. - trom-bon-ist n.
truck

esp. in a casual or leisurely way; he walked confidently behind them and tracked on through! —truck-age /trəkˌāj/ n.

truck

adj. 1 archaic barter. 2 chiefly hist. the payment of workers in kind or with vouchers rather than money. 2 chiefly archaic small wares. 2 int. odds and ends. 3 market-garden produce, esp. vegetables: [as adj.] a truck garden.

v. [tr.] archaic barter or exchange.

no truck with avoid or wish to avoid dealings or being associated with; we have no truck with that style of gutter journalism.

truck-er /ˈtrɔkər/ n. a long-distance truck driver.

truck-le v. [intr.] submit or behave obsequiously: she despised her husband, who truckled to her. —truck-le-er /trəˈkələr/ n.

truck stop n. a large roadside service station and restaurant for truck drivers on interstate highways.

truc-u-lent /ˈtrɔkələnt/ adj. eager or quick to argue or fight; aggressively defiant. —truc-u-lence n. —truc-u-lently adv.

trudge /trʌdʒ/ v. [intr.] walk slowly and with heavy steps, typically because of exhaustion or harsh conditions: I trudged up the stairs.

n. a difficult or laborious walk: the long trudge back. —trug-ger n.

true

true [tru] adj. 1 chiefly poetic/rit. truly: Holon spoke truer than he knew. 2 accurately or without variation.

v. (true, trued, trueing) tr. bring (an object, wheel, or other construction) into the exact shape, alignment, or position required. —true-ness n.

true blue adj. 1 mainly used of a person: a true blue Brit.

true north n. north according to the earth’s axis, not magnetic north.

true-life /ˈtruːlif/ n. 1 a strong-smelling underground fungus (Tuber and other genera) that resembles an irregular, rough-skinned potato. It is considered a culinary delicacy. 2 a soft candied made of a chocolate mixture, typically flavored with rum and covered with cocoa.

trueism /ˌtrjuːizəm/ n. a statement that is true and says nothing new or interesting. —true-ist /ˌtrjuːisɪst/ adj.

truly /ˈtrjuːli/ adv. 1 in a truthful way: he speaks truly. 2 used to emphasize emotional sincerity or seriousness: what we truly want; it is a privilege to be here; I’m truly sorry; truly, I don’t understand you. 3 to the fullest degree; genuinely or properly; management does not truly care about the residents. 4 absolutely or completely (used to emphasize a description); a truly dreadful song. 5 in fact or without doubt; really: this is truly a miracle.

the yours truly used as a formula for ending a letter. —humorous used to refer to oneself: the demos will be organized by yours truly.

trump /trʌmp/ n. 1 (in bridge, whist, and similar card games) a playing card of the suit chosen to rank above the others, which can win a trick where a card of a different suit has been led. 2 (trumps) the suit having this rank in a particular hand: the ace of trumps. 3 (also trump card) fig. a valuable resource that may be used, esp. as a surprise, in order to gain an advantage. 4 inf. dated a helpful or admired person.

v. [tr.] (in bridge, whist, and similar card games) play a trump on (a card of another suit), having no cards of the suit led. —fig. beat (someone or something) by saying or doing something better.

phrase v. & n. trump something up invent a false accusation or excuse.

trumpet n. a brass musical instrument with a flared bell and a bright, penetrating tone. The modern instrument has the tubing looped to form a straight-sided coil, with three valves.

something shaped like a trumpet, esp. the tubular corona of a daffodil flower. —a sound resembling that of a trumpet, esp. the loud cry of an elephant. 2 (trumpets) a North American pitcher plant (genus Sarraceni). 3. (trumpet) play a trumpet. 2 make a loud, penetrating sound resembling that of a trumpet: wild elephants trumpeting in the bush. 2 [tr.] proclaim widely or loudly.
tuberculosis /ˈtjuːbərˌkjuːlas/ n. a sterile protein extract from cultures of tuberous bacillus, used in a test by hypodermic injection for infection with or immunity to tuberculosis.

tuberculosis /ˈtjuːbəˌkjuːlosɪs/ n. [abbr.: TB] an infectious disease characterized by the growth of nodules (tubercles) in the tissues, esp. the lungs. —tuberculous /ˈtjuːbəˌkjuːlosəs/ adj.

tuberose /ˈtjuːbərəʊs/ n. 1 a Mexican plant (Polianthes tuberosa) of the agave family, with scented white flowers and a bulblike base. It was formerly cultivated as a flavoring for chocolate, and the flower oil is used in perfumery. 2 variant spelling of tuberous.

tuberous /ˈtjuːbərəʊs/ adj. [also tuberose] —tuberous /ˈtjuːbəˌrəʊs/ adj. 1 Bot. of the nature of a tuber. 2 of or pertaining to or affected by rounded swellings: tuberous sclerosis.

—tuberosity /ˈtjuːbəˈrəʊsəti/ n.

tubing /ˈtjuːbɪŋ/ n. 1 a length or lengths of metal, plastic, glass, etc., in tubular form. 2 the leisure activity of riding on water or snow on a large inflated inner tube.

tubular /ˈtjuːbjʊlər/ adj. long, round, and hollow like a tube. made from a tube or tubes. Surfing (of a wave) hollow and well curved. int. dated excellent: U2's brand of really tubular new-wave sounds.

tubular bells /ˈtjuːbjʊlər bɛls/ pl. n. an orchestral instrument consisting of a row of vertically suspended metal tubes struck with a mallet.

tubule /ˈtjuːbəl/ n. 1 a small tube or channel. 2 a small part of a larger structure, such as a tubule of a tubular system. 3 [archaic] a small lumen.

tuckle /ˈtʌkəl/ n. 1 a piece of lace or linen worn in or around the top of a bodice or as an insert at the front of a low-cut dress. v. [tuck] usu. tuck (in or into) inf. eat heartily.

tuck /tʌk/ v. 1 [tr] push, fold, or turn (the edges or ends of something, esp. a garment or bedclothes) so as to hide them or hold them in place. 2 [tuck something in] make something, esp. a child, comfortable in bed by pulling the edges of the bedclothes firmly over the mattress. 3 draw (something, esp. part of one's body) together into a small space: she tucked her legs under her. 4 put something away in a specified place or way so as to be hidden, safe, comfortable, or tidy. 5 [tuck in] make a flattened, stitched fold in (a garment or material), typically so as to shorten or tighten it, or for decoration.

—phrasal v. = tuck something away 1 store something in a secure place: employees can tuck away a percentage of their pretax salary. 2 put or keep something or someone in an inconspicuous or concealed place: the police station was tucked away in a square behind the main street. 3 eat a lot of food: = tuck in (or into) inf. eat heartily.

—n. 1 a flattened, stitched fold in a garment or material, typically one of several parallel folds put in a garment for shortening, tightening, or decoration. 2 a surgical incision made in a tube or organ. 3 a surgical operation to reduce surplus flesh or fat: a tummy tuck. 4 a (also tuck position) [in diving, gymnastics, downhill skiing, etc.] a position with the knees bent and held close to the chest, often with the hands clasped around the shins.

tucker /ˈtʌkər/ n. hist. a piece of lace or linen worn in or around the top of a bodice or as an insert at the front of a low-cut dress.

tudor /ˈtjuːdɒr/ adj. of or relating to the English royal dynasty that held the throne from the accession of Henry VII in 1485 until the death of Elizabeth I in 1603. of, denoting, or relating to the prevalent architectural style of the Tudor period.

—n. a member of this dynasty.

tuesday /ˈtjuːzdeɪ/ n. abbr. Tuesday.

tuesday /ˈtjuːzdeɪ/ v. (Tuesdays) on Tuesday.

tufa /ˈtjuːfə/ n. a porous rock composed of calcium carbonate and formed by precipitation from water, e.g., around mineral springs. another term for TUFF. —tufa-ceous /ˈtjuːfəˌsɪəs/ adj.

tuff /tʌf/ n. 1 a light, porous rock formed by consolidation of volcanic ash. —tuffaceous /ˈtufəˌsɪəs/ adj.

tuff /tʌf/ v. 1 a bundle or collection of something, typically threads, grass, or hair, held or grown together at the base.

—tr. v. 1 provide (something) with a tuft or tufts. 2 make depressions at regular intervals in (a mattress or cushion) by passing a thread through it. —tuffly adj.

tuffed /ˈtʌfd/ adj. having or growing in a tuft or tufts: tuffed grass.

tug /tʊɡ/ v. (tugged, tugging) [tr] pull (something) hard or suddenly: she tugged off her boots [intr] he tugged at Tom's coat sleeve.

—n. 1 a hard or sudden pull: another tug and it came loose | fig. a tug of attraction. 2 short for tugboat. —tugger n.

tugboat /ˈtʊɡbət/ n. a powerful, stoutly built boat used for towing larger vessels, esp. in harbor.

tug of war /ˈtʊɡ əv wɔr/ n. a contest in which two teams pull at opposite ends of a rope until one drags the other over a central line. fig. a situation in which two evenly matched people or factions are striving to keep or obtain the same thing: a tug of war between builders and environmentalists.

tu-leton /ˈtjuːlən/ n. a sum of money charged for teaching or instruction by a school, college, or university.

tula-re-mia /ˈtjuːlərəˈmiə/ n. a severe infectious bacterial disease of animals transmissible to humans, characterized by ulcers at the site of infection, fever, and loss of weight. Compare with RABBIT FEVER.

—tula-re-mic /ˈtjuːlərəmɪk/ adj.

tulip /ˈtjuːlɪp/ n. a bulbous spring-flowering plant (genus Tulipa) of the lily family, with boldly colored cup-shaped flowers. late 16th cent.: from French tulipe, via Turkish from Persian dulband 'turban.'

tulip tree /ˈtjuːlɪp triː/ n. a deciduous North American tree (Liriodendron tulipifera) of the magnolia family, with large distinctively lobed leaves and insignificant tulip-like flowers. Also called YELLOW POPULAR (see POPULAR).

tulle /ˈtʊl/ n. a soft, fine silk, cotton, or nylon material like net, used for making veils and dresses.

tumble /ˈtʌmbəl/ v. 1 intr. (of a person) fall suddenly, clumsily, or headlong: she pitched forward, tumbling down the stairs. 2 move or rush in a headlong or uncontrolled way: police tumbled from the vehicle. 3 (of something abstract) fall rapidly in amount or value: property prices tumbled. 4 intr. tumble; (rare) tumble; disarrange. 5 inf. have sexual intercourse with (someone). 2 (also tumbler) [math] a (also tumbler) [math] a geometric figure with five faces, each of which is a square.

—n. 1 a sudden or headlong fall: I took a tumble in the nettles. 2 a rapid fall in amount or value. 3 an untidy or confused arrangement or state: her hair was a tangle of curls. 4 an act of sexual intercourse. 5 a hand spring, somersault in the air, or other acrobatic feat.

—tumbled /ˈtʌmbəld/ adj. of or pertaining to the English royal dynasty that held the throne from the accession of Henry VII in 1485 until the death of Elizabeth I in 1603.

—of, denoting, or relating to the prevalent architectural style of the Tudor period.

tumblen /ˈtʌmbəlin/ n. abbr. Tuesday.

tumblen /ˈtʌmbəlin/ v. a drinking glass with straight sides and no handle or stem. an acrobat or gymnast, esp. one who performs somersaults. a pivoted piece in a clock that holds the bolt until lifted by a key. a notched pivoted plate in a gunlock.

—tumblen /ˈtʌmbəlin/ n. a (also tumblen) [math] a cart that tilted backward to empty out its load, in particular one used to convey condemned prisoners to the guillotine during the French Revolution.

—tu-mes-cent /ˈtjuːməsˌsent/ adj. swollen or becoming swollen, esp. as a response to sexual arousal. fig. (esp. of language or literary style) pompous or pretentious. —tu-mes-cence /ˈtjuːməsəns/ n. —tu-mes-cent-ly adv.

tummy /ˈtʌmi/ n. pl. -mies inf. a person's stomach or abdomen.

tumor /ˈtjuːmər/ Brit. /ˈtjuːmər/ n. a swelling of a part of the body, generally without inflammation, caused by an abnormal growth of tissue, whether benign or malignant. —tu-mor-ous /ˈtjuːmorəs/ adj.

tumult /ˈtʊməlt/ n. a loud, confused noise, esp. one caused by a large mass of people. confusion or disorder: the neighborhood was in a state of tumult. fig. his personal tumult ended when he began writing.
tu-nel (tun) n. 1. an artificial underground passage, esp. one built through a hill or under a building, road, or river. 2. an underground passage dug by a burrowing animal.
turkey vulture

America, having a bald head and (in the male) red wattles. It is prized as food, esp. on festive occasions such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- the flesh of the turkey as food. **2 int** something that is extremely or completely unsuccessful, esp. a play or movie. **3 a stupid or inept person.**
- **talk** turkey **int** discuss something frankly and straightforwardly.

tur-key vul-ture **n.** a common American vulture (Cathartes aura) with black plumage and a bald red head.

Turkish **adj** or relating to Turkey or to the Turks or their language. **n.** hist. relating to or associated with the Ottoman Empire.
- the Turkish language that is the official language of Turkey.

Turkish bath **n.** a cleansing or relaxing treatment that involves a period of time spent sitting in a room filled with very hot air or steam, generally followed by washing and massage. **n.** a building or room where such a treatment is available.

Turkish towel **n.** a towel made of cotton terry toweling.

tur-mic **[tərˈmɪk]** **n.** 1 a bright yellow aromatic powder obtained from the rhizome of a plant of the ginger family, used for flavoring and coloring in Asian cooking and formerly as a fabric dye. **2 the Asian plant (Curcuma longa) from which this rhizome is obtained.

tur-moil **[tərˈmɔɪl]** 1 a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty. *the country was in turmoil* he endured years of inner turmoil.

turn **[tɜːrn]** 1 move or cause to move in a circular direction wholly or partly around an axis or point: [intr.] the big wheel was turning. [tr.] I turned the key in the door and crept in. [tr.] move (something) so that it is in a different position in relation to its surroundings or its previous position: we waited in suspense for him to turn the cards over. [tr.] move (a page) over so that it is flat against the previous or next page: she turned a page noisily. [intr.] turn to page five. change or cause to change direction: [intr.] we turned around and headed back to the house. [tr.] aim, point, or direct (something): turn her head toward me. [intr.] change the position of one's body so that one is facing in a different direction. [intr.] (of the tide) change from flood to ebb or vice versa. [tr.] perform (a somersault or cartwheel). [tr.] twist or sprain (an ankle). [tr.] fold or unfold (fabric or a piece of a garment) in the specified way: he turned up the collar of his coat. [tr.] remake (a garment or a sheet), putting the worn outer side on the inside. [tr.] archaic bend back (the edge of a blade) so as to make it blunt. change in nature, state, form, color, or texture: [with reference to the stomach] make or become nauseated. [tr.] the smell was bad enough to turn the strongest stomach. send or put into a specified place or condition: the dogs were turned loose on the crowd. 3 [intr.] turn to start doing or becoming involved with. (esp.) cause to change in such a way; cause to become: potatoes are covered with sacking to keep the light from turning them green. [intr.] (of leaves) change color in the autumn. pass the age or time of: I've just turned forty. (with reference to milk) make or become sour: [tr.] the thunder had turned the milk. (with reference to the stomach) make or become nauseated: [tr.] the smell was bad enough to turn the strongest stomach. send or put into a specified place or condition: the dogs were turned loose on the crowd. [intr.] turn to start doing or becoming involved with. (esp.) cause to change in such a way; cause to become: potatoes are covered with sacking to keep the light from turning them green. [intr.] (of leaves) change color in the autumn. pass the age or time of: I've just turned forty. (with reference to milk) make or become sour: [tr.] the thunder had turned the milk. (with reference to the stomach) make or become nauseated: [tr.] the smell was bad enough to turn the strongest stomach. send or put into a specified place or condition: the dogs were turned loose on the crowd. 
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turn around **[tɜːrn əˈroud]** 1 an abrupt or unexpected change, esp. one that results in a more favorable situation. 2 the process of completing or the time needed to complete a task, esp. one involving receiving something, processing it, and sending it out again: a seven-day turnaround. 3 the process of time taken for unloading and reloading a ship, or for vehicles to turn around in a given area.
- turn around a direction or relative position of a thing: to turn an object. 
- turn around a time at which a decisive change in a situation occurs, esp. one with beneficial results.

turn-key **[ˈtɜːrnˌkiː]** **n.** (pl. -keys) archaic a jailer.
turtle /ˈtɜrəl/ n. 1. a slow-moving reptile (family Testudinidae) of warm climates, enclosed in a scaly or leathery domed shell into which it can retract its head and thick legs. 2. (also sea turtle) a large marine reptile (families Cheloniiidae and Dermochelyidae) with a bony or leathery shell and flippers, coming ashore annually on sandy beaches to lay eggs. 3. the flesh of a sea turtle, esp. the green turtle, used chiefly for soup. 4. a fresh-water reptile (Emydidae and other families) related to the turtles, typically having a flattened shell. Called TERRAPIN in South Africa and India and TORTOISE in Australia. 5. any reptile of this order, including the terrapins and tortoises. 6. Comput. a directional cursor in a computer graphics system that can be instructed to move around a screen. 7. short for TURTLENECK.

turn-off /ˈtʊrn-oʊ/ (also turn-off) n. 1. a junction at which a road branches off from a main road. 2. int. a person or thing that causes someone to feel bored, disgusted, or sexually repelled. 3. an instance of turning or switching something off.

turn-on /ˈtʊrn-ɔn/ n. 1. int. a person or thing that causes someone to feel excited or sexually aroused: tight jeans are a real turn-on. 2. an instance of turning or switching something on.

turn-out /ˈtʊrn-aʊt/ n. 1. the number of people attending or taking part in an event, esp. the number of people voting in an election. 2. a turn in a road. 3. a point at which a railroad track diverges. 4. a widened place in a road for cars to pass each other or park temporarily. 5. the way in which a person is dressed or equipped. 6. the rate at which money is made by a business in a particular period. 7. Market the volume of shares traded during a particular period, as a percentage of total shares listed. 8. the rate at which employees leave the workforce and are replaced. 9. the rate at which goods are sold and replaced in a store. 10. a small piece made by folding a piece of pastry over itself to enclose a filling. 11. a game a loss of possession of the ball to the opposing team.

turnpike /ˈtʊrn-pɪk/ n. an expressway, esp. one on which a toll is charged. 2. hist. a toll gate. 3. (also turnpike road) hist. a road on which a toll was collected at such a gate.

turn signal n. a flashing light on a vehicle to show that it is about to change lanes or turn.

turnstile /ˈtʊrn-stɪl/ n. a mechanical gate consisting of revolving horizontal arms fixed to a vertical post, allowing only one person at a time to pass through.

turtle /ˈtɜrəl/ n. 1. a slow-moving reptile (family Testudinidae) of warm climates, enclosed in a scaly or leathery domed shell into which it can retract its head and thick legs. 2. (also sea turtle) a large marine reptile (families Cheloniiidae and Dermochelyidae) with a bony or leathery shell and flippers, coming ashore annually on sandy beaches to lay eggs. 3. the flesh of a sea turtle, esp. the green turtle, used chiefly for soup. 4. a fresh-water reptile (Emydidae and other families) related to the turtles, typically having a flattened shell. Called TERRAPIN in South Africa and India and TORTOISE in Australia. 5. any reptile of this order, including the terrapins and tortoises. 6. Comput. a directional cursor in a computer graphics system that can be instructed to move around a screen. 7. short for TURTLENECK.

turquoise /tɜrˈkwɔːrzi/ n. a hard, pearly bluish green mineral. 2. a soft purring call, noted for the apparent affection shown for its mate.

tusket /ˈtʌskɪt/ adj. 1. of relating to Tuscany, its inhabitants, or the form of Italian spoken there, which is the standard variety taught to foreign learners. 2. relating to or denoting a classical order of architecture resembling the Doric but lacking all ornamentation.

tuscarora /ˈtʌskərərə/ n. (pl. same or -ras) 1. an American Indian people forming part of the Six Nations, originally inhabiting the Carolinas and later New York. 2. the Iroquoian language of this people.

tush /tʃʊʃ/ n. 1. undergarments;构件 or humorous expressing disapproval, impatience, or dismissal: those are trifles and mere old wives’ tales.

tusk /tʌsk/ n. 1. a long, pointed tooth. 2. a long, pointed tooth that one specially developed so as to protrude from the closed mouth, as in the elephant, walrus, or wild boar. —tusked adj. —tusky adj. (poetic/lit.).

tussle /ˈtʌsəl/ n. a vigorous struggle or scuffle, typically in order to obtain or achieve something: there was a tussle for the ball.

tu-tor-ship /ˈtjuːtʃər-ʃɪp/ n. protection of or authority over someone or something; guardianship. 2. instruction; tuition: he felt privileged to be under the tutelage of an experienced actor.

tutelar /ˈtjuːtələr/ adj. also tutelary (esp.-adj.) 1. serving as a protector, guardian, or patron: the tutelary spirits of these regions. 2. of or relating to protection or a guardian.

tutor /ˈtjuːtər/ n. 1. a private teacher, typically one who teaches a single student or a small group. 2. chiefly Brit. a university or college teacher responsible for the teaching and supervision of assigned students. 3. an assistant lecturer in a college or university. 4. v. [tʃutɪr] act as a tutor to (a single student or a small group). 5. late Middle English: from Old French 3, or Latin tutor, from turri (as in) to watch, guard. —tutorage n. —tutorial adj. n. —tutorial adj. n. —tutorial adj.

tut-tor-ial /ˈtjuːtər-əl/ adj. of or relating to a tutor or a tutor’s instruction; tutorial sessions.

turnoff Pronunciation Key a aw, e, ef, er, ur, fur; a lat; a ui; ch chin; é let; o sec; o(a) air; i t; j; h by; o(y) air; ng sing; o go; o low; for; o i; oy; o good; o@goo; ou out; sh she; th thin; teh then; thw why; zh vision
twist

\(\text{v. [intr]}\) archaic talk or write in a trivial or foolish way: what is that old fellow twiddling about? —**twiddler** [ˈtwɪdlər; ˈtwɪdlə] n.

twain [ˈtwɛn] n. a cardinal number archaic term for two: he split it in twain.

twang [ˈtwæŋ] n. a strong ringing sound such as that made by the plucked string of a musical instrument or a released bowstring; 1 a nasal or other distinct manner of pronunciation or intonation characteristic of the speech of an individual, area, or country; 2 make or cause to make such a sound: [intr] a spring twanged beneath him. n. [tr] utter (something) with a nasal twang. —**twang-y** adj.

twix [ˈtwɪz] n. poetic, lit. contr. of it was.

tweek [twek] v. [tr] twist or pull (something) sharply: he twed the boy's ear. 2 improve (a mechanism or system) by making fine adjustments to it; engineers twed the car's operating systems during the race. n. 1 a sharp twist or pull. 2 a fine adjustment to a mechanism or system.

tweed [ˈtwɪd] n. a rough-surfaced woolen cloth, typically of mixed flecked colors, originally produced in Scotland; [as adj] a tweed sportswear jacket. n. [pl] tweed clothes made of this material.

tweed-y [ˈtwɪdɪ] adj. (tweed-ier, tweed-iest) of (a garment) made of tweed cloth. n. [of a person] habitually wearing tweed clothes; adj. of a refined, traditional, upscale character. —**tweed-ty** [ˈtwɪdɪ] adv. —**tweed-ness** n.

twee [ˈtwi] adj. archaic or poetic, lit. contr. of between.

tweet [twet] also twite tweet n. the chirping of a small or young bird. v. [intr] make a chirping noise: the birds were tweet tread in the branches.

tweet-er [ˈtwiːtər] n. a loudspeaker designed to reproduce high frequencies.

tweeze [twiːz] v. [tr] pluck, grasp, or pull with or as if with tweezers.

tweezer [ˈtwiːzər] pl. n. a small instrument like a pair of pincers for plucking out hairs and picking up small objects.

twelfth [ˈtwɛtθ] ordinal number constituting number twelve in a sequence; 12th: the twelfth of November; his twelfth birthday. n. a twelfth or one twelfth each of twelve equal parts into which something is or may be divided. n. the twelfth grade of a school. n. one of an interval or chord spanning an octave a fifth in the diatonic scale, or a note separated from another by this interval. —**twelfth-ly** adv. —**twelfth-fold** [ˈtwɛθfʊld] adj. & adv.

twelve [twelve] adj. cardinal number equivalent to the product of three and four; more than two but ten; (Roman numeral: xii, xii,) a group or unit of twelve people or things; 12 years old; twelve o'clock; a size of garment or other merchandise denoted by twelve. n. the Twelve Apostles.

twenty [ˈtwenti] adj. cardinal number (pl. -ties) the number equivalent to the product of two and ten; ten less than thirty; 20 (Roman numeral: xx, xx.) n. the numbers from twenty to twenty-nine, esp. the years of a century or of a person's life; twenty years old; twenty miles an hour; a size of garment or other merchandise denoted by twenty; a twenty-dollar bill. —**twenty-fold** [ˈtwentiˈfould] adj. & adv. —**twenty-tooth** [ˈtwentiˈtuθ] ordinal number

twenty-one n. the card game blackjack.

twenty-twenty (also 20/20) adj. denoting vision of normal acuity.

twere [twɛr] archaic poetic. contr. of it were.

twerp [ˈtwɔrp] also twirp n. int. a silly or annoying person.

twice [twɪs] adv. two times; on two occasions; she had been married twice.

twiddler [ˈtwɪdlə] v. [tr] twist, move, or fiddle with (something), typically in a purposeless or nervous way; she twiddled the dial. n. [tr] he began twiddling with the cord.

twiddle [twɪdl] v. [tr] twist, move, or fiddle with (something), typically in a purposeless or nervous way; she twiddled the dial. n. [tr] he began twiddling with the cord.

twiddly [twɪdlɪ] adj. —**twiddly-ly** [twɪdlɪ] adv. —**twiddly-one** n. one's thumbs rotate one's thumbs around each other with the fingers linked together. be bored or idle.

twig [twɪg] n. a slender woody shoot growing from a branch or stem of a tree or shrub. —**twigg-y** adj.

twilight [ˈtwɪlɪft] n. the soft glowing light from the sky when the sun is below the horizon, caused by the refraction and scattering of the sun's rays from the atmosphere. n. the period of the evening during which this takes place, between daylight and darkness: a pleasant walk in the woods at twilight. n. fig. a period or state of obscurity, ambiguity, or gradual decline: he was in the twilight of his career.

twilight zone n. 1 a conceptual area that is undefined or intermediate: the twilight zone between the middle and working classes. a sphere of experience that appears sinister or dangerous because of its uncertainty, unpredictability, or ambiguity. 2 the lowest level of the ocean to which light can penetrate.
showing the characteristics expected of or popularly associated with a particular person, situation, or thing: "Typical woman!" John said disapprovingly. —repre- sentative as a symbol; symbolic: the pit is typical of hell. —typi-cal-ity /'tipaˌkələti/ n. —typi-cal-i-ty /-ikələti/ n. —typi-cal-ly /-ikəle/ adv.
typish /'tipaʃ/ v. (-ishes, -ished) [fr.l be characteristic or a representative example of. —represent; symbolize: the sun typified the Greeks, and the moon the Persians. —typi-fi-ca-tion /ˌtipəˈfɪkeɪʃən/ n. —typi-fi-ca-tor /ˌtipəˈfɪkətər/ n. —typi-fi-er /ˌtipəˈfɪfər/ n.
typist /'tipist/ n. a person who is skilled in using a typewriter or computer keyboard, esp. one who is employed for this purpose.
typos /'tipəʊs/ n. (pi. -pos) int. a typographical error.
typography /ˌtipəˈɡræfi/ n. the art or process of setting and arranging types and printing from them. —the style and appearance of printed matter. —typography /ˌtipəˈɡræfe/ n. —typo-graph-ic /ˌtipəˈɡræfeɪk/ adj. —typo-graph-i-cal /ˌtipəˈɡræfiˈkəl/ adj. —typo-graph-i-cally /ˌtipəˌɡræfiˈkaʊli/ adv.
tyranical /'taˌrænɪkəl/ adj. exercising power in a cruel or arbitrary way. —characteristic of tyranny; oppressive and controlling: a momentary quieting of her tyrannical appetite. —tyranical-ly /ˌtaˌrænɪkəlaɪ/ adv.
tyr-annize /'tɪrəˌnɪz/ v. [tr.] rule or treat (someone) despotically or cruelly: she tyrannized her family | [intr.] he tyrannizes over the servants.
tyrannical /'taˌrænɪkəl/ adj. exercising power in a cruel or arbitrary way. —characteristic of tyranny; oppressive and controlling: a momentary quieting of her tyrannical appetite. —tyranical-ly /ˌtaˌrænɪkəlaɪ/ adv.
tyrannous /-nəs/ adj. —tyran-nous-ly /-nəsleɪ/ adv.
tyranist /'tɪrəˌnɪst/ n. a person who is content with or glorifies tyranny; a person who is tyrannical in their outlook.
tyrannt /'tɪrənt/ n. a cruel and oppressive ruler: the tyrant was deposed by popular demonstrations. —a person exercising power or control in a cruel, unreasonable, or arbitrary way. —a person who is tyrannical in their outlook.
flycatcher /'flaɪˈkætʃər/ n. see flycatcher.
tyro /'tɪrəʊ/ (also chiefly Brit. týro) n. (pi. -ros) a beginner or novice. —late Middle English: from Latin týro, medieval Latin tyro 'recruit.'
U

1. [yoo] (also u) n. (pl. Us or U's) 1 the twenty-first letter of the alphabet; denoting the next after T in a set of items, categories, etc. 2 (U) a shape like that of a capital U, esp. a cross section: in comb. U-shaped glacial valleys.

2. [U] sym; the chemical element uranium.

-u-biq-u-i-ous /yoo'bi-kwa'ses/ adj. present, appearing, or found everywhere: his ubiquitous influence was felt by all the family | cowboy hats are ubiquitous among the male singers. —u-biq-u-i-ous-ly adv. —u-biq-u-i-ous-ness n.

-u-boat n. a German submarine used in World War I or World War II.

-u-der /'adər/ n. the mammary gland of female cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and related ungulates, a baglike organ with two or more teats hanging near the hind legs. —u-dered adj. in comb.

-UFO n. (pl. UFOS) a mysterious object seen in the sky for which, it is claimed, no orthodox scientific explanation can be found.

-u-fo-gog- /yoo'fo-ga'j/ n. the study of UFOs. —u-fo-gog-ic /-i-k/ adj. —u-fo-gog-ist /'ig-o-gist/ n.

-u-hug [ug; hun; oon] n. 1. int. used to express disgust or horror. 2. [u-] hug, hug, hug, n. 3. [u-] hug, hug, hug, adj.

-u-gli /'al-ku/ adj. —u-gli-er, -u-gli-est unpleasant or repulsive, esp. in appearance: an ugly wart. [as n.] (the ugly) he instinctively shrinks from the ugly.

-u-gly /'al-ku/ adj. —u-gli-er, -u-gli-est unpleasant or repulsive, esp. in appearance: an ugly wart. [as n.] (the ugly) he instinctively shrinks from the ugly.

-u-gly-duckling n. a person, esp. a child, who turns out to be beautiful or talented against all expectations.

-u-huh /'a-huh/ adv. ul-trahigh frequency.

-u-huh-ha /'a-huh-ha/ n. an edict of the Russian government. a an arbitrary command: defying the publisher in the very building from which he had issued his ukase.

-u-kain-i-an /yoo'kra-ne-an/ n. 1. a native or national of Ukraine, or a person of Ukrainian descent. 2. the East Slavic language of Ukraine.

-u-kla-le /yoo'kal-e/ n. a small four-stringed guitar of Hawaiian origin.

-u-cer /'a-sar/ n. an open sore on an external or internal surface of the body, caused by a break in the skin or mucous membrane that fails to heal. 1. fig. a moral blemish or corrupting influence. —u-cer-ed adj.

-u-cer-ous /'a-sor-es/ adj.

-u-cer-at-e /'a-ser-at/ v. intr. develop into or become affected by an ulcer. —u-cer-a-tion /'a-ser-a'shən/ n. —u-cer-a-tive /-ə'tiv/ adj.

-u-na /'a-nə/ n. (pl. nae /'n-; n-e, ni/ or nas) the thinner and longer of the two bones in the human forearm, on the side opposite to the thumb. Compare with radius (sense 2). a the corresponding bone in a quadruped's foreleg or a bird's wing. —u-nar adj.

-u-ster /'a-star/ n. a man's long, loose overcoat of rough cloth, typically with a belt at the back.

-u-tl /'al-tər/ adv. —ulti-mate. 1. ultimo.

-u-tl-er /'al-tər/ adj. existing beyond what is obvious or admitted; intentionally hidden: could there be an ulterior motive behind his request? —ultimacy n. 1. the last, or not to be exceeded.

-ul-ti-ma-ta /ˌal-tə-'ma-tə or -ˌa-lə-tə/ -mat/ -ma'tə/ -mat/ plural form of ultimatum.

-ul-ti-ma-ted /-ə-təd/ adj. being or happening at the end of a process: final: their ultimate aim was to force his resignation. —ul-ti-ma-ted-ly adv.


-ul-ti-ma-tum /ˌal-tə-mət/ -mət/ n. (pl. -tums or -ta /ˌa-lə-tə/ -mət/ a final demand or statement of terms, the rejection of which will result in retaliation or a breakdown in relations.

-ul-tr-alta /'a-ltrəlta/ /'al-tərəlta/ /'al-tə-rəlta/ /'al-tə-rəlta/ in adv. very; extremely: the play was not just boring, it was ultral boring.

-ul-tral /'a-ltrəl/ adj. 1. beyond; on the other side of: ultramarine. 2. extreme; to an extreme degree: ultramicroscopic | ultrasonic.

-ul-tra-high-frequency /ˌal-trə, hə, ˌal-trə/ (abbr. UHF) n. a radio frequency in the range 300 to 3,000 MHz.

-ul-tra-is-m /'a-ltrə-izəm/ n. the holding of extreme opinions: there is extremism on both sides of the issue. —ul-tra-is-t n.


-ul-tra-marine /ˌal-trə-mer'nən/ n. a bright blue pigment originally obtained from lapis lazuli. a an imitation of such a pigment, made from powdered fired clay, sodium carbonate, sulfur, and resin. a a brilliant blue color.

-ul-tra-sonic /ˌal-trə-son-ik/ adj. of or involving sound waves with a frequency above the upper limit of human hearing. —ul-tra-son-i-cal-ly /-kal-ə/ adv.

-ul-tra-son-ics /ˌal-trə-son-iks/ pl. n. [treated as sing.] the science and application of ultrasonic waves. —ul-tra-son-ic /ˌal-trə-son-ik/ n. [treated as sing. or pl.] ultrasonic waves; ultrasonic.

-ul-tra-sound /ˌal-trə-sound/ n. sound or other vibrations having an ultrasonic frequency, particularly as used in medical imaging. —ul-tra-sound scan, esp. one of a pregnant woman to examine the fetus.

-ul-tra-structure /ˌal-trə-strəkchər/ n. Biol. a fine structure, esp. within a cell, that can be seen only with the high magnification obtainable with an electron microscope. —ul-tra-structural-ly /-strək-chər-əl/ adj.

-ul-tra-vi-o-let /ˌal-trə-vi-o-lət/ Physics adj. (of electromagnetic radiation) having a wavelength shorter than that of the violet end of the visible spectrum but longer than that of X-rays. a (of equipment or techniques) using or concerned with this radiation: an ultraviolet telescope. —n. the ultraviolet part of the spectrum; ultraviolet radiation.

-ul-tru-late /'a-ltrə-λət/ n. aya-lət: 'yək-ə-lət/ intr. bowl or weir as an expression of strong emotion, typically grief: women were ululating as the body was laid out. —ul-tra-lant /'a-lənt/ adj. —ul-tra-lation /'a-lə-tən-ən/ -yək-ə-lət/ n.

-ul-tra-late /'a-ltrə-λət/ n. expressing hesitation or a pause in speech.


-ul-tra-per- /'a-ltrə-per/ n. a natural pigment resembling but darker than ochre, normally dark yellowish-brown in color (raw umber) or dark brown when roasted (burnt umber). a the color of this pigment.

-ul-tra-plan-ic /ˌal-trə-plek-əl/ adj. relating to or affecting the navel or umbilical cord: the umbilical artery. a fig. extremely close; inseparable: their
undercharge  v. [ˈendərˌchɑrʒ]  tr. charge (someone) a price or amount that is too low.
▶ n. [ˈendərˌchɑrʤ] a charge that is insufficient.

under-class  [ˈendərˌklɑs] n. the lowest social stratum in a country or community, consisting of the poor and unemployed.

under-clothes  [ˈendərˌkləðz] pl. n. clothes worn under others, typically next to the skin.

under-cloth-ing  [ˈendərˌkləθɪŋ] n. underclothes.

under-coat  [ˈendərˌkɔt] n. 1. a layer of paint applied after the primer and before the topcoat. 2. an animal’s underfur or down.
▶ v. [ˈendərˌkət] apply a coat of undercoat to (something).

under-cover  [ˈendərˌkʌvər] adj. (of a person or their activities) involved in or involving secret work within a community or organization, esp. for the purposes of police investigation or espionage.
▶ adv. as an undercover agent.

under-curr-ent  [ˈendərˌkərənt] n. a current of water below the surface, moving in a different direction from any surface current. fig. an underlying feeling or influence, esp. one that is contrary to the prevailing atmosphere and is not expressed openly.

under-cut  [ˈendərˌkʌt] v. or -cutting and past and past part. -cut [tr.] 1. offer goods or services at a lower price than (a competitor). 2. cut or wear away the part below or under (something, esp. a cliff). fig. weaken. ▶ cut away material to leave (a carved design) in relief. 3. (in sports such as tennis or golf) strike a (ball) with a chopping motion so as to give it backspin.
▶ n. [ˈendərˌkʌt] a space formed by the removal or absence of material from the lower part of something, such as a cliff, a coal seam, or part of a carving in relief.

under-developed  [ˈendərdərˈveləpt] adj. not fully developed: underdeveloped kidneys. ▶ of a country or region not advanced economically.
▶ of photographic film not developed sufficiently to give a normal image.
▶ under-development [ˌəpˈdɛvəlmənt] n.

under-dog  [ˈendərdɒg, -dɔ̃] n. a competitor thought to have little chance of winning a fight or contest. ▶ a person who has little status in society.

under-done  [ˈendərdən] adj. (of food) insufficiently cooked.

under-dress  [ˈendərdres] v. [intri] also be underdressed dress too plainly or too informally: without a pinstripe you’d be underdressed.

under-employ-ed  [ˌənderəˈmplɔɪd] adj. (of a person) not doing work that makes full use of their skills and abilities. ▶ under-employment [ˌənderəˈmplɔɪmənt] n.

under-es-ti-mate  v. [ˈendərˌestəˌmæt] tr. estimate (something) to be smaller or less important than it actually is. ▶ regard (someone) as less capable than they really are.
▶ n. -mis/ an estimate that is too low.
▶ under-est-i-ma-tion [ˌənˌderəˌstɪˌmeɪʃən] n.

under-expose  [ˌənderərˈspəʊz] v. [tr.] Photog. expose (film or an image) for too short a time.
▶ under-exposure [ˌənderərˈspəʊrər] n.

under-foot  [ˈendərfʊt] adv. under one’s feet; on the ground: fig. genuine rights were being trodden underfoot. ▶ constantly present and in one’s way.

under-garment  [ˈendərgɑrəmant] n. an article of underclothing.

under-glaze  [ˈendərglæz] adj. (of decoration on pottery) done before the glaze is applied. ▶ under-glaze (of colors) used in such decoration.
▶ n. a color or design applied in this way.

under-go  [ˈendərgəʊ] v. (goes, past went, past part. -gone) tr. experience or be subjected to (something, typically something unpleasant, painful, or arduous): the baby underwent a life-saving brain operation.

under-graduate  [ˈendərˌgrɑːdʒuət] n. a student at a college or university who has not yet earned a bachelor’s or equivalent degree.

under-ground  adj. [ˌənderərˈɡraʊnd] situated beneath the surface of the ground: miners working underground. ▶ in or into secrecy or hiding, esp. as a result of carrying out subversive political activities.
▶ adj. [ˌənderərˈɡraʊnd] situated beneath the surface of the ground: underground parking garages. ▶ of or relating to the secret activities of people working to subvert an established order. Czech underground literature.
▶ of or denoting a group or movement seeking to explore alternative forms of lifestyle or artistic expression; radical and experimental.
▶ n. [ˌənderərˈɡruːnd] 1. a group or movement organized secretly to work against an existing regime: I got involved with the French underground. 2. a group or movement seeking to explore alternative forms of lifestyle or artistic expression: the late sixties underground. 3. a (cultural) phenomenon expressed in music, art, literature, etc., esp. in the 1960s and 1970s.

under-hand  [ˈendərˌhænd] adj. 1. (of a throw or stroke in sports) made with the arm or hand below shoulder level: [as adj] I served underhand.
▶ with the palm of the hand upward or outward: an underhand grip. 2. another term for underneath.

under-hand-ed  [ˈendərˌhændid] adv. acting or done in a secret or dishonest way.
▶ under-hand-ed-ly adv.

under-lay  v. [ˈendərˌleɪ] tr. [past and past part. -laid] 1. (esp. of a layer of rock or soil) lie or be situated under (something). ▶ be the cause or basis of (something): the fundamental issue that underlies the conflict [as adj] underlining (the underlying causes of poverty.
▶ under-line  [ˈendərˌlaɪn] v. [tr.] draw a line under (a word or phrase) to give emphasis or indicate special type. ▶ emphasize (something).
▶ n. a line drawn under a word or phrase, esp. for emphasis.

under-lin-ing  [ˈendərˌlɪŋ] n. (usu. underlinings) chiefly derog. a person lower in status or rank.

under-ly-ing  [ˈendərˌlaɪŋ] adj. present participle of underlie.

under-man  [ˈendərˌmæn] v. (-manned, -man-n ing) [tr. (usu. undermanned) fail to provide with enough workers or crew.

under-mine  [ˈendərˌmaɪn] v. (-mined, -min-ing) [tr. erode the base or foundation of (a rock formation). ▶ dig or excavate beneath (a building or fortification) so as to make it collapse.
▶ fig. damage or weaken (someone or something), esp. gradually or insidiously.
▶ under-min-er n.

under-neath  [ˌənderərˈniːθ] prep. & adv. 1. situated directly below (something else): [as prep] our bedroom is right underneath theirs [as adv] his eyes were red-rimmed with black bags underneath [as adv] on longer hair, the underneat hair layers can be perm to give extra body. ▶ situated on a page directly below (a picture or another piece of writing): [as prep] four names written neatly underneat one another [as adv] there was writing underneath. 2. so as to be concealed by (something else): [as prep] money changed hands underneath the table. ▶ fig. underneath his aloof air, Nicky was a warm and open young man [as adv] paint peeling off in flakes to reveal gray plaster underneat. ▶ partly or wholly concealed by (a garment): [as prep] she could easily see the broadness of his shoulders underneath a tailored white shirt. [as adv] I wear button-downs, and my T-shirts show underneath.
▶ the part or side of something facing toward the ground: the underside.

under-nour-ish-ed  [ˌənderərˈnəriʃt] -na-raisth- adj. having insufficient food or other substances for good health and condition: undernourished children.
▶ under-nour-ish-ment n.

under-paid  [ˌənderərˈpeɪd] past and past participle of underpay.

under-pants  [ˌənderərˈpænts] pl. n. an undergarment covering the lower part of the torso and having two holes for the legs.

under-part  [ˌənderərˈpɑːrt] n. a lower part or portion of something.

under-part  [ˌənderərˈpɑːrt] n. the underside of an animal’s body.

under-pass  [ˌənderərˈpæs] n. a road or pedestrian tunnel passing under another road or a railroad.

under-pay  [ˌənderərˈpeɪ] v. (past and past part. -paid) tr. pay too little to (someone) or pay less than the fair amount for (something): [as adj] underpaid late or underpaid tax.
▶ under-payment  [ˌənderərˈpeɪmənt] n.

under-pine-ning  [ˌənderərˈpaɪnɪŋ] n. a solid foundation laid below ground level to support or strengthen a building: a set of ideas, motives, or devices that justify or form the basis for something.

under-play  [ˌənderərˈpleɪ] v. (also under-play) [tr.] perform (something) in a restrained way: the violins underplayed the romantic element in the music.
▶ represent (something) as being less important than it actually is.

under-priv-i-le-ged  [ˌənderərˌprɪvəˈliːd] adj. (of a person) not enjoying the same standard of living or rights as the majority of people in a society.

under-rate  [ˌənderərˈreɪt] v. [tr. (often as adj)] under-rate (someone or something) underestimate the extent, value, or importance of (someone or something).

under-score  v. [ˈənderərˌskɔːr] another term for underline.
▶ n. [ˈənderərˌskɔːr] another term for underline (sense 1).

under-sea  [ˈənderərˌseɪ] adj. below the sea or the surface of the sea.
unique /juˈniːk/ adj. being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else.  
1 particularly remarkable, special, or unusual: a unique opportunity to see the spectacular Bolshoi Ballet.  
2 (unique) belonging or connect- 
ed to one particular person, group, or place; a style of architecture that is unique to that region.  
3 (uniquely) adv. —uniqueness n.

uni-sex /juˈniːsɛks/ adj. (esp. of clothing or hairstyles) designed to be suitable for both sexes.  

uni-sexual /juˈniːsɛksəl/ adj. (of an organism) either male or female; not hermaphroditic.  

uni-sexually adv.  

uni-sion /juˈniːʃən/ n. 1 simultaneous performance of action or utterance of speech: "Yes, sir," said the girls in unison.  
2 (mus.) coincidence in pitch of sounds or notes; a combination of notes, voices, or instruments at the same pitch or (esp. when singing) in octaves; good unisons are formed by flutes, oboes, and clarinets.

uni- performed in unison. —uni-nous /juˈniːnəs/ adj.

uni-t /juˈniːt/ n. 1 an individual thing or person regarded as single and complete, esp. for purposes of calculation: the family unit.  
2 each of the individuals or smaller groups into which a complex whole may be divided: the sentence as a unit of grammar.  
3 a device that has a specified function, esp. one forming part of a complex mechanism: the gearbox and transmission unit.  
4 a piece of furniture or equipment for fitting with others like it or made of complimentary parts: a sink unit.  
5 a self-contained section of accommodations in a larger building or group of buildings: one- and two-bedroom units.  
6 a part of an institution such as a hospital having a special function: the intensive care unit.  
7 a subdivision of a larger military grouping: he returned to Germany with his unit.  
8 an amount of educational instruction, typically determined by the number of hours spent in class; an item manufactured: [adj.] unit cost.  
9 a police car.  
10 a quantity chosen as a standard in terms of which other quantities may be expressed: a unit of measurement.  
11 the number one.  
12 (units) the digit before the decimal point in decimal notation, representing an integer less than ten.

uni-tard /juˈniːtɑːrd/ n. a tight-fitting one-piece garment of stretchable fabric that covers the body from the neck to the knees or feet.

uni-tarian /juˈniːtɑːriən/ n. Theol. a person, esp. a Christian, who asserts the unity of God and rejects the doctrine of the Trinity.  

uni-tarian-ism /ˌjuːniˈtɑːriənəˌɪzem/ n. a belief in the unity of God and the rejection of the doctrine of the Trinity.

uni-tar-y /juˈniːteɪrɪ/ adj. 1 single; uniform: a sort of unitary wholeness.  
2 of or relating to a system of government or organization in which the powers of the political constituent parts are vested in a central body: a unitary rather than a federal state.  
3 unified: whole; —uni-tar-i-ly adv. —uni-tar-i-ness n.

uni-tate /juˈniːteɪt/ v. come or bring together for a common purpose or action: [ii] he called on the party to unite.  
[fr] they are united by their love of cars.  
[fr] come or bring together to form a unit or whole, esp. in a political context: [ii] the two Germans officially united.  
[fr] he aimed to unite Italy and Sicily under his imperial crown.  
[fr] his work unites theory and practice.

uni-tive /juˈniːtɪv/ adj. 1 making of one or whole; —uni-tive-ness n.

uni-ted /juˈniːtɪd/ adj. joined together politically, for a common purpose, or by common feelings. —uni-tely adv.

United Nations (abbr.: UN) n. an international organization of countries set up in 1945, in succession to the League of Nations, to promote international peace, security, and cooperation.

uni-price /juˈniːprɪs/ n. identification of the pricing and labeling of items for sale with the retail price per unit, permitting easier price comparisons among similar products in different sized containers.

uni-ty /juˈniːti/ n. (pl. -ties) the state of being united or joined as a whole, esp. in a political context: European unity, economic unity.  

uni-ties n. harmony or agreement between people or groups: their leaders called for unity among opposing factions.  
the state of forming a complete and pleasing whole, esp. in an artistic context: the repeated phrase gives the piece unity and cohesion.  

uni-verse /juˈniːvɜːs/ n. (the universe) all existing matter and space considered as a whole; the cosmos.  

uni-versal /juˈniːvɜːsəl/ adj. 1 Christian Theol. a person who believes that all humankind will eventually be saved.  
2 (usu. Universalist) a member of an organized body of Christians who hold such beliefs.  
3 a person advocating loyalty to and concern for others without regard to national or other allegiances.  

uni-versal-ly /juˈniːvɜːsəlɪ/ adv. —uni-versal-ness n.

uni-versal-joint (also universal coupling) n. a coupling or joint that can transmit rotary power by a shaft through a range of angles.
unpolished

un-polished /anˈpɒltɪʃd/ adj. unrefined in style or behavior: his work is unpolished and somewhat incoherent.

un-pop-u-lar /ənˈpɒpjʊlər/ adj. not liked or popular: Luke was unpopular among his peers.

un-practiced /ənˈpræktɪst/ adj. (of a person or faculty) not trained or experienced: to the unpracticed eye, the result might appear.

un-pre-ced-ent-d /ənˈprɛsəˌdænd/ adj. never done or known before.

un-pre-tent-i-ous /ənˈprɛtɛntɪʃəs/ adj. not attempting to impress others with an appearance of greater importance, talent, or culture than is actually possessed.

un-prin-cipled /ənˈprɪnsɪpled/ adj. (of a person or their behavior) not acting in accordance with moral principles.

un-print-a-ble /ʌnˈprɪntəbəl/ adj. (of words, comments, or thoughts) too offensive or shocking to be published.

un-prof-es-sion-al /ənˈprɪfəsʃənəl/ adj. below or contrary to the standards expected in a particular profession: a report on unprofessional conduct.

un-prof-es-sion-al-ism /-ˌɪzəm/ n. unprofessional conduct.

un-prom-is-ing /ənˈprɒmɪzɪŋ/ adj. not giving hope of future success or good results.

un-pro-mpt-ed /ənˈprɒmpɪd/ adv. without being encouraged or assisted: unprompted remarks.

un-pro-ven /ənˈprɔvən/ [also un-proved /ˈprəʊvd/] adj. not demonstrated by evidence or argument as true or existing.

un-pro-vid-ed /ənˈprɔvid/ adj. not provided. [unprovided with] not supplied with sufficient money to cover the cost of living: he left a widow and children totally unprovided for.

un-pro-voked /ənˈprɔvkt/ adj. (of an attack, or a display of aggression or emotion) not caused by anything done or said: acts of unprovoked aggression.

un-qual-i-fied /ənˈkwɔːlɪfɪd/ adj. 1. (of a person) not officially recognized as a practitioner of a particular profession or activity through having satisfied the relevant conditions or requirements.

un-qual-i-fied /ənˈkwɔːlɪfɪd/ adv. without being encouraged or assisted: unqualified remarks.

un-ques-tion-a-ble /ənˈkwesʃənəbl/ adj. not able to be disputed or doubted: his musicianship is unquestionable.

un-ques-tion-a-ble /ənˈkwesʃənəbl/ adv. unquestionably, the loss of his father was a grievous blow.

un-ques-tion-ed /ənˈkwesʃənd/ adj. not disputed or doubted; certain: his loyalty to John is unquestioned.

un-ques-tion-ing /ənˈkwesʃənɪŋ/ adj. accepting something without doubt or question: an unquestioning acceptance of the traditional curriculum.

un-ques-tion-ingly /ənˈkwesʃənɪŋli/ adv. unqualifiedly:

un-quote /ənˈkwɔt/ 

un-ravel /ənˈrævl/ v. (raveled, raveling) [tr.] undo (twisted, knotted, or woven threads) [i. intr.] of twisted, knotted, or woven threads become undone. unwind (something wrapped around another object) he unraveled the cilipom from a small eel.

un-real /ənˈriəl/ adj. so strange as to appear imaginary: not seeming real: in the light-flick the tiny cottages seemed unreal.

un-real-ead /ənˈriələd/ adj. (of a facial expression) unable to be interpreted: an unreadable expression in his eyes.

un-real-a-bil-ly /-rɛələˈbiləli/ n. unreaebility.

un-real-es /ənˈriəlɛs/ n. inability to act or think reasonably.

un-real-sen-able /ənˈriəlsənəbl/ adj. not guided by or based on good sense: your attitude is completely unreasonable.

un-reason-a-ble /ənˈriəznəbəl/ adj. beyond the limits of acceptability or fairness: an unreasonable request.

un-reason-a-ble-ness /ənˈriəznəbəlnəs/ n. unreasonableness.

un-re-let-ted /ənˈriəlɛtɪd/ adj. not yielding in strength, severity, or determination: the heat was unrelenting.

un-re-serv-ed /ənˈrɛzərd/ adj. not particularly interesting or surprising: an unreasonable house.

un-re-tailed /ənˈriətel/ v. [tr.] cause (someone) to fall from a horse or bicycle.

un-right-eous /ənˈraɪtiəs/ adj. formal not righteous: wicked.

un-right-eously /ənˈraɪtiəzli/ adv. unrighteousness.

un-ru-vailed /ənˈruvətl/ adj. better than everyone or everything of the same type: the paper's coverage of foreign news is unrivaled.

un-roll /ənˈrəʊl/ v. open or cause to open out from a rolled-up state.

un-ruffled /ənˈrəflid/ adj. not disordered or disarranged: the unruffled waters of the lake.

un-ruly /ənˈrʊli/ adj. disorderly and disruptive and not amenable to discipline or control: complaints about unruly behavior.

un-scru-pu-lous-ness /ənˈskrʊpjuələs-/ n. unscrupulousness.

un-sa-ble /ənˈsæbəl/ adj. lacking the necessary skill to do something.

un-sa-ble /ənˈsæbəl/ adv. lacking knowledge or training in a particular field: she was unschooled in the niceties of royal behavior.

un-sa-cious /ənˈsæʃəs/ n.

un-satisfaction /ənˌsætɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ n. an unsatisfactory situation.

un-satur-at-ed /ənˈsərətɪd/ adj. Chem. (of organic molecules) having carbon–carbon double or triple bonds and therefore not containing the greatest possible number of hydrogen atoms for the number of carbons.

un-sau-vor-ous /ənˈsaʊvərəs/ adj. disagreeable and unpleasant because morally deplorable: an unsavoury reputation.

un-sclen-tif-i-cal-ly /ənˌsklənˈtɪfɪkələli/ adv. unscientifically.

un-schooled /ənˈskɔʊld/ adj. not educated at or made to attend school: unschooled children.

un-seal /ənˈsɛl/ v. [tr.] remove or break the seal of.

un-sea-son-a-ble /ənˈseeznəbəl/ adj. (of weather) unusual for the time of year.

un-timely /ənˈtɪmli/ adv. opportune: we visited the place at an unsuitable time.

un-see-ble /ənˈsiːbl/ adj. not visible.

un-seen-ed /ənˈseenəd/ adj. not treated or matured.

un-seen-ed /ənˈseenəd/ adj. not experienced.

un-seat /ənˈsiːt/ v. [tr.] cause (someone) to fall from a horse or bicycle.

un-seen-ed /ənˈseenəd/ adj. not treated or matured.

un-seen-ed /ənˈseenəd/ adj. not experienced.
up-and-coming

the problem. 5 int. occupied or busy with: what’s he been up to? □ what’s up? int. what’s going on? 2 what’s the matter? what’s up with you? up-and-coming adj. (of a person beginning a particular activity or occupation) making good progress and likely to become successful: up-and-coming young players. —up-and-comer n.

up-beat [‘ap.bēt] n. (in music) an unaccustomed beat preceding an accented beat.

 reap. adj. cheerful; optimistic.

up-braid [‘ap.braɪd] v. [tr] find fault with (someone): scold: he was up-
brayed for his slovenly appearance.

up-bringing [‘ap.briŋ'ıŋ] n. the treatment and instruction received by a child from its parents throughout its childhood.


up-chuck [‘ap.chuk] int. v. vomit: don’t let her upchuck on him.

up-country [‘ap.kær'tɪŋ] adj. adj. forthcoming: about to happen.

up-date [‘ap.dit] v. [past and past part. -held] [tr] confirm or support (something that has been questioned): the court upheld his claim for damages. ✔ maintain (a custom or practice). —up-hol-der n.

up-hol-ster [‘ap.həlstər] v. [past and past part. -stered] v. [tr] provide (furniture) with a soft, padded covering: the chairs were upholstered in red velvet. ✔ cover the walls or furniture in a room with textiles. —up-hol-sterer n.

up-hol-ster-y [‘ap.həlstəri] n. soft, padded textile covering that is fixed to furniture such as armchairs and sofas.

up-keep [‘ap.kɛp] n. the process of keeping something in good condition; financial or material support of a person or animal; payments for the children’s upkeep.

up-land [‘ap.land] n. (also uplands) an area of high or hilly land.

up-lift [‘ap.lɪft] v. [past and past part. -lifted] [tr] 1 [usu. as adj.] uplifted (something up; raise: her uplifted face. be uplifted (of an island, mountain, etc.) can be created by an upward movement of the earth’s surface. 2 elevate or stimulate (someone) morally or spiritually; [as adj.] uplifting (an up-lifting music).

up-lifted [‘ap.lɪftpd] adj. 1 an act of raising something. 2 a morally or spiritually elevating influence. —up-lift-er [‘ap.lɪftər] n.

up-load [‘ap.ləd] Comput. v. [tr] transfer (data) to another computer system; transmit (data). Compare with download.

n. the action or process of transferring data in such a way.

up-market [‘ap.mərkɪt, ‘ap.mər-] (also up-market) adj. & adv. upscale.

up-most [‘ap.mɒst] adj. another term for uppermost.
utterance /'atarəns/ n. a spoken word, statement, or vocal sound.

utterance —utter-able adj. —utter-er n. —utter-ance /'atarəns/ n. a spoken word, statement, or vocal sound. —utter-ance of a few platitudes. —Linguistics an uninterrupted chain of spoken or written language.

utter-most /'ətər.məst/ adj. & n. another term for UTMOST.

U-turn /'juːtərn/ n. the turning of a vehicle in a U-shaped course so as to face in the opposite direction. —fig. a change of plan, esp. a reversal of political policy: another U-turn by the government.

UV /'juːv/ abbr. ultraviolet.

u-ve-a /'jʊvə/ n. the pigmented layer of the eye, lying beneath the sclera and cornea, and comprising the iris, choroid, and ciliary body. —u-veal adj. —u-veal-ly adv. —u-veal-ness n.

ux-o-ri-al /ʌksəˈriəl/ adj. 1 Phonet. (of a sound) articulated with the back of the tongue and the uvula, as r in French and q in Arabic. 2 Anat. of or relating to the uvula.

ux-o-ri-al /ʌksəˈriəl/ adj. of or relating to a wife.

ux-o-ri-ous /ʌksəˈrəʊəs; ,æg'zər-/ adj. having or showing an excessive or submissive fondness for one's wife. —ux-o-ri-ously adv. —ux-o-ri-ous-ness n.
V

V /vé/ (also v.) n. (pl. Vs or V’s) 1 the twenty-second letter of the
alphabet. □ denoting the next after U in a set of items, categories, etc.
2 (also vee) a shape like that of a letter V: [in comb] deep, V-shaped
valleys. [as adj.] denoting an internal combustion engine with a num-
ber of cylinders arranged in two rows at an angle to each other in a
V-shape: a V-engine. 3 the Roman numeral for five.
V. abbr. 1 volts.
² symb. 1 the chemical element vanadium. 2 voltage or potential dif-
ference: V = VR.
³ symb. 1 (in textual references) verse. 2 verso. versus.
4 very. (in textual references) vide.
VA abbr. Veterans Affairs (formerly Veterans Administration).
vac-an-cy /vəkˈænsi/ n. (pl. -cies) 1 an unoccupied position or job: a
vacancy for a shorthand typist. □ an available room in a hotel or other
establishment providing accommodations. 2 empty space: Cathy stared
into vacancy, seeing nothing. □ emptiness of mind; lack of intelligence:
understanding, vacancy, and inane deception.
vac-an-cy /vəˈkænsi/ adj. (of premises) having no fixtures, furniture, or
inhabitants; empty. □ (of a position or office) not filled: the post was left
vacant. □ (of a person or their expression) having or showing no intel-
ligence or interest: a vacant stare. —vac-ant-ly adv.
vac-a-tion /vəˈkeiʃən/ n. 1 leave a place that one previously occupied:
rooms must be vacated by noon. □ give up a position or office; he will va-
cate a job in government sales. 2 Law cancel or annul (a judgment, con-
tract, or charge).
vac-a-tion /vəˈkeiʃən/ n. (int.) take a vacation; vacationing in Europe.
—vaca-tion-er n.
vac-ci-nate /vəkˈsaːnət/ v. [tr.] treat with a vaccine to produce immu-
nity against a disease; inoculate: all the children were vaccinated against
diphtheria. —vac-ci-nat-ion /vəkˈsaːnəʃən/ n. —vac-ci-nat-or n.
vac-ci-ne /vəkˈsaːn/ n. Med. a substance used to stimulate the produc-
tion of antibodies and provide immunity against one or several dis-
eses. □ Comput. a program designed to detect computer viruses, and
activate them. □ late 18th cent.: from Latin vaccinus, from vacca ‘cow’
(because of the early use of the cowpox virus against smallpox).
vac-il-late /vəkˈɪlæt/ v. [int.] alternate or waver between different
opinions or actions; be indecisive: vacillating between teaching and jour-
nalism. —vac-il-la-tion /vəkˈɪləʃən/ n. —vac-il-la-tor n.
vac-u-a /vəkˈyuə/ adj. 1 having or showing a lack of thought or intel-
ligence; mindless: a vacuous smile. □ vacuous slogans. □ archaic empty.
—vac-u-i-t-y /vəkˈjuɪti/ n. —vac-u-i-ly adv. —vac-u-i-ness n.
vac-u-um /vəkˈjuəm/ n. 1 a space entirely devoid of matter. □ a space or container from which the air
has been completely or partly removed. □ a gap left by the loss, death,
or departure of someone or something formerly playing a significant
part in a situation or activity: the political vacuum left by the death of
the Emperor. 2 (pl. -ums) a vacuum cleaner.
³ v. [tr.] clean with a vacuum cleaner: the room needs to be vacu-
mum (of an activity or a problem to be considered) isolated
from the context normal to it and in which it can best be understood or
assessed.
vac-u-um cleaner n. an electrical apparatus that by means of suction
collects dust and small particles from floors and other surfaces.
vac-u-um-pack n. [tr.] seal (a product) in packaging after any air has
been removed so that the packaging is tight and firm: it is quickly
vacuum-packed in foil pouches to ensure freshness.
vac-u-um tube n. an electron tube containing a near-vacuum that al-
ters the free passage of electric current.
vag-a-band /vəˈgæbænd/ n. a person who wanders from place to place
without a home or job. □ int. dated a rascal; a rogue.
7 adj. having no settled home. —vag-a-band-age -diʃ/ n.
vag-ar-y /vəˈɡærɪ/ n. (pl. -gar-ies) (usu. vagaries) an unexpected and in-
explicable change in a situation or in someone’s behavior.
vagi-na /vəˈjiːnə/ n. [pl. -nas or -næs -nɪl] the muscular tube lead-
ing from the external genitals to the cervix of the uterus in women
and most other female mammals. —vagi-na-l /ˈvægənəl/ adj.
vagi-na-tis /vəˈjænətɪs/ n. —vagi-na-tis-ty n. inflammation of the vagina.
vagrant /vəˈɡrænt/ n. a person without a settled home or regular work
who wanders from place to place and lives by begging. □ archaic a wan-
derer. □ Grahth, a bird that has strayed or been blown from its usual
range or migratory route. Also called ACCIDENTAL.
□ adj. characteristic of, relating to, or living the life of a vagrant: vagrant
beggars; moving from place to place; wandering: vagrant whales. □ po-
elieht. moving or occurring unpredictably: inconstant: the vagrant heart
of my mother. □ —vag-rant-ly adv.
vag-ue /væg/ adj. 1 of uncertain, indefinite, or unclear character or
meaning: many patients suffer vague symptoms. □ thinking or commu-
nicating in an unfocused or imprecise way; he had been very vague about
his activities. □ vague-ly adv. —vague-ness n. —vague-ly adv.
vain /vɛn/ adj. 1 having or showing an excessively high opinion of
one’s appearance, abilities, or worth: their flattery made him vain. 2 pro-
ducing no result; useless: a vain attempt to tidy up the room. □ having no
meaning or likelihood of fulfillment: a vain boast. □ Middle English (in
the sense ‘devoid of real worth’): via Old French from Latin vanus
‘empty, without substance.’ □ —vain-ly adv.
□ in vain without success or a result: they waited in vain for a re-
sponse. □ take someone’s name in vain use someone’s name in a way that
shows a lack of respect.
vain-glo-ry /vænˈɡlɔːri/; vənˈɡlɔːri/ n. poetic/ht. inordinate pride in
oneself or one’s achievements; excessive vanity. —vain-glo-rous /vænˈɡlɔːrəs/ adj.
v-alan-cé /vəˈlænʃə/ n. a length of decorative drapery attached to the canopy or frame of
a bed in order to screen the structure or the space beneath it. □ a length of decor-
ative drapery hung above a window to screen the curtain fittings. □ a lighting
fixture extending along the top of an interior wall and providing indirect light. —val-
anced adj.
vale /væl/ n. a valley (used in place names or as a poetic term).
val-e-dict-ion /val'i-dikt'ʃən/ n. the action of saying farewell: he spread his palm in val-e-dict-ion. ■ a statement or address made at or as a farewell.

val-e-dict-or-ian /val'e dik'tor-ē/ n. a student, typically having the highest academic achievements of the class, who delivers the valedictory at a graduation ceremony. Compare with salu-ta-to-ri-an.

val-e-dict-or-y /val'e dik'tor-e/ adj. serving as a farewell: a valedictory wear.

val-e-dy /vlə di/ pl. -ries a farewell address.

val-e-ence /val'ə nens/ n. Chem. the combining power of an element, esp. as measured by the number of hydrogen atoms it can displace or combine with: carbon always has a valence of 4. [as adj. relating to or denoting electrons involved in or available for chemical bond formation: molecules with unpaired valence electrons.

val-e-ten /val'ə ten/ n. a card sent on St. Valentine's Day (February 14) to a person one loves or is attracted to. ■ a person to whom one sends such a card or whom one asks to be one's sweetheart.

val-e-ri-an /val'ə ri-ən/ n. a plant (family Valerianaceae) that typically bears clusters of small pink or white flowers. Native to Eurasia, several species have been introduced to North America. Its several species include the common valerian (Valeriana officinalis), a valued medicinal herb. ■ a drug obtained from the root of common valerian, used as a sedative and antispasmodic.

val-e-t /vlə t/ val-iel /vlə həl/ Scandinavian Mythol. ■ a hall in which heroes killed in battle were believed to feel with Odin for eternity.

val-i-ant /val'i ant/ adj. possessing or showing courage or determination: she made a valiant effort to hold her anger in check. —val-i-ant-ly adv.

val-i-d /val'i d/ adj. actually supporting the intended point or claim; acceptable as cogent: a valid criticism. ■ legally binding due to having been executed in compliance with the law: a valid contract. ■ legally acceptable: the visas are valid for thirty days. —val-i-dly adv.

val-i-date /val'i dat/ v. [tr.] check or prove the validity or accuracy of (something): these estimates have been validated by periodic surveys. ■ demonstrate or support the validity or value of: in a healthy family a child's feelings are validated. ■ make or declare legally valid. —val-id-a-tion /val'i dəsh'n/ n.

val-i-se /val'i s/ n. a small traveling bag or suitcase.

val-i-u /val'i əm/ n. trademark for DIAZEPAM.

val-ky-rie /val'kərē/ val'karē/ Scandinavian Mythol. each of Odin's twelve handmaidens who conducted the slain warriors of their choice from the battlefield to Valhalla.

val-ley /val'ə l/ n. pl. -leys 1 a low area of land between hills or mountains, typically with a river or stream flowing through it. 2 Archit. an internal angle formed by the intersecting planes of a roof, or by the slope of a roof and a wall.

val-or /val'ər/ a great courage in the face of danger, esp. in battle: the medals are awarded for acts of valor. —val-or-ous [ərəs] adj.

val-u-a-ble /val'ə yə bəl/ adj. worth a great deal of money; a valuable antique. ■ extremely useful or important: my time is valuable.

val-e-ues /val'yəz/ n. (usu. valuable) a thing that is of great worth, esp. a small item of personal property: put all your valuables in the hotel safe. —val-u-a-bly [bəl] adv.

val-u-a-tion /val'yə ə shən/ n. an estimation of something's worth, esp. one carried out by a professional appraiser: it is wise to obtain an independent valuation. ■ the monetary worth of something, esp. as estimated by an appraiser. —val-u-a-ted /-təd/ adj. —val-u-a-tor /-tər/ n.

val-ue /val'yə/ n. 1 the regard that something is held to deserve; the importance or preciousness of something: prints seldom rise in value. ■ the material or monetary worth of something: support is of great value. ■ the worth of something compared to the price paid or asked for it: the book is a good value. ■ the usefulness of something considered in respect of a particular purpose: some new drugs are of great value in treating cancer. ■ the relative rank, importance, or power of a playing card, chess piece, etc., according to the rules of the game. 2 (values) a person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life: they internalize their parents' rules and values. 3 the numerical amount denoted by an algebraic term; a magnitude, quantity, or number; an accurate value for the mass of Venus. 4 Mus. the relative duration of the sound signified by a note. 5 Linguistics the quality or tone of a spoken sound; the sound represented by a letter. 6 Art the relative degree of lightness or darkness of a particular color.

v.- (ues, -ued, -uing) [tr.] 1 often be valued estimate the monetary worth of something: his estate was valued at $45,000. 2 consider someone or something to be important or beneficial; have a high opinion of: [as adj.] valued a friend.

val-ue-added tax (abbr.: VAT) n. a tax on the amount by which the value of an article has been increased at each stage of its production or distribution.

val-ue-judg-ment /val'yə oj'ment/ n. an assessment of something as good or bad in terms of one's standards or priorities.

val-u-la /val'u lə/ n. the value of one currency with respect to its exchange rate with another. ■ foreign currency: these internal flights supply valuata to the cash-starved Confederation.

val-ve /val'v/ n. a device for controlling the passage of fluid through a pipe or duct. ■ an automatic device allowing flow in one direction only. ■ Mus. a cylindrical mechanism in a brass instrument that, when depressed or turned, admits air into different sections of tubing and so extends the range of available notes. ■ Anat. & Zool. a membranous fold in a hollow organ or tubular structure, such as a blood vessel or the digestive tract, that maintains the flow of the contents in one direction by closing in response to any pressure from reverse flow. ■ Zool. each of the halves of the hinge shell of a bivalve mollusk or brachiopod, or of the parts of the compound shell of a barnacle. —val-e-dict-or-ian /və lə dikt'ə rē on/ adj. relating to, having, or acting as a valve or valves: valvular heart disease.

val-u-va-lar /val'yə va-lər/ adj. relating to, having, or acting as a valve or valves: valvular heart disease.

val-ve /val'vəz/ v. [intr.] depart hurriedly: we'd better valve before we're caught. ■ [v.] 1 [tr.] attach a new upper to a boot or shoe. ■ [vamp something up] inf. repair or improve something: the production values have been vamp ed up. 2 [intr.] repeat a short, simple passage of music.

vam-pp /vamp/ n. 1 the upper front part of a boot or shoe. 2 [in jazz and popular music] a short, simple introductory passage, usually repeated until otherwise instructed.

vam-pp-er /vamp/ n. 1 a corpse supposed, in European folklore, to leave its grave at night to drink the blood of the living by biting their necks with long pointed canine teeth. 2 [vampire bat] a very small bat (family Desmodontidae) that feeds on the blood of mammals or birds using its sharp incisor teeth and anticoagulant saliva, found mainly in tropical America. —vam-ppish -ish adj. —vam-pp-ly adv. —vam-pp-ly adv.

vam-pp /vam/ n. 1 a covered boxlike motor vehicle, typically having a rear door and sliding doors on the side panels, used for transporting goods or people. ■ a covered truck used for moving goods, esp. furniture. ■ (the van) 1 the foremost part of a company of people moving or preparing to move forward, esp. the foremost division of an advancing military force: in the van were the foremost chiefs and some of the warriors astride horses. 2 fig. the forefront: he was in the van of the movement.

v-a-n /vən/ n. a covered boxlike motor vehicle, typically having a rear door and sliding doors on the side panels, used for transporting goods or people. ■ a covered truck used for moving goods, esp. furniture.

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v-a-n /vən/ n. a covered boxlike motor vehicle, typically having a rear door and sliding doors on the side panels, used for transporting goods or people. ■ a covered truck used for moving goods, esp. furniture.
star (variables) the region of light, variable winds to the north of the northeast trade winds or (in the southern hemisphere) between the southeast trade winds and the westerlies. —vari-a-bil-i-ty

vari-able rate mortgage n. another term for ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGE.

vari-able star n. Astron. a star whose brightness changes, either irregularly or regularly.

vari-ance /vəriˈæns/ n. the fact or quality of being different, divergent, or inconsistent: her light tone was at variance with her sudden trembling. —chiefly Law a discrepancy between two statements or documents. —Law an official dispensation from a rule or regulation, typically a building regulation. —Statistics a quantity equal to the square of the standard deviation. (in accounting) the difference between expected and actual costs, profits, output, etc., in a statistical analysis.

vari-ant /vəˈraɪənt/ n. a form or version of something that differs in some respect from other forms of the same thing or from a standard: clinically distinct variants of malaria —adj. a variant spelling.

vari-a-tion /vərəˈei.ʃən/ n. 1 a change or difference in condition, amount, or level, typically with certain limits: regional variations in house prices. —Math. a change in the value of a function due to small changes in the values of its argument or arguments. —the angular difference between two points on a globe at a particular point. —the occurrence of an organism in more than one distinct color or form. 2 a different or distinct form or version of something: learning is an Irish variation of field hockey. —Mus. a version of a theme, modified in melody, rhythm, harmony, or ornamentation, so as to present it in a new but still recognizable form: there is an eleven-hour theme followed by seven variations and a coda. —vari-a-tion-al adj.

vari-i-cell-a /vərˈeri.ˌsiːə/ n. Med. technical term for CHICKEN POX. —also vari-i-cell-a-zos-ter (ˈzɒstər) a virus that causes chicken pox and shingles; herpes zoster.

vari-i-col-o-red /vərˈi.ˌkələrəd/ adj. consisting of different colored colors.

vari-i-cose /vərəˈkɒs/ adj. affected by a condition causing the swelling and tortuous lengthening of veins, most often in the legs: varicose veins.

vari-i-cos-i-ty /vərəˈkɒsə.ti/ n.

vari-ied /vəˈri.əd/ adj. incorporating a number of different types or elements; showing variation or variety: a long and varied career. —vari-ied-ly adv.

vari-i-gat-ed /vərˈi.ˌɡæt.əd/ adj. exhibiting different colors, esp. as irregular patches or streaks: variegated yellow bricks. —Bot. (of a plant or foliage) having or consisting of leaves that are edged or patterned in a second color. —marked by variety: his variegated and amusing observations. —vari-i-gate v. —vari-i-ga-tion n.

vari-i-tal /vərˈi.ˌtæl/ adj. (of a wine or grape) made from or belonging to a single specified variety of grape.

vari-a-ble adj. a varietal wine. —vari-i-tal-ly adv.

vari-i-ty /vərəˈti.ə/ n. (pl. -ties) 1 the quality or state of being different or diverse; the absence of uniformity, sameness, or monotonous: it’s the variety that makes my job so enjoyable. —a variety of a number or range of things of the same general class that are different or distinct in character or quality; a variety of leisure activities. —a thing that differs in some way from others of the same general class or sort; a type: fifty varieties of fresh and frozen fruit. —a form of television or theater entertainment consisting of a series of different types of acts, such as singing, dancing, and comedy: [as adj.] a variety show. 2 a taxonomic category that ranks below subspecies (within present) or species, its members differing from others of the same subspecies or species in minor but permanent or heritable characteristics. Compare with FORM and SUBSPECIES. —a cultivated form of a plant. See CULTIVAR. —a plant or animal that varies in some trivial respect from its immediate parent or type.

vari-i-ola /vərəˈi.ə.ˌlə/ n. —var-i-i-o-los-i-ty /vərəˈi.əˌli.ˌsəti/ n. —var-i-i-o-los-si-ty /vərəˌli.ˌsəsi.ˌti/ n. —var-i-i-o-los-i-sis /vərəˌli.ˌsəs.ˌi.ˌsɪs/ n. (e) —var-i-i-o-los-i-sis-i-ty /vərəˌli.ˌsəs.ˌi.ˌsəti/ n. (e) —var-i-i-o-los-i-sis-i-sis /vərəˌli.ˌsəs.ˌi.ˌsɪs.ˌsɪs/ n. (e)

variant pronunciation

Pronunciation Key a (a) a; b (b) b; c (s) c; d (d) d; e (e) e; f (f) f; g (g) g; h (h) h; i (i) i; j (j) j; k (k) k; l (l) l; m (m) m; n (n) n; o (o) o; p (p) p; q (q) q; r (r) r; s (s) s; t (t) t; u (u) u; v (v) v; w (w) w; x (x) x; y (y) y; z (z) z
varlet [vär'lit] n. 1. hist. archaic an unprincipled rogue or rascal.

varmint [vär'mint] n. dial., int. a troublesome wild animal, esp. a fox.

varnish [vär'nish] n. 1. a troublemaker and mischievous person, esp. a child.

vaso- [väs'o-] n. Biochem. an abbreviation for vasodilator.

vasto [vätz'o] adj. of great extent or quantity; immense: a vast plain of buffalo grass.

d varsal [vär'sal] n. hist. a holder of land by feudal tenure on conditions of homage and allegiance. 

vastly adv. 

vastness n. 

vat [vat] n. 1. a large tank or tub used to hold liquid, esp. in industry: a vat of hot tar. 2. Also VAT dye a water-insoluble dye, such as indigo, that is applied to a fabric in a soluble form, the color being obtained on subsequent oxidation in the fabric fibers.

vatting [vat'ting] tr. [often be vatted] place or treat in a vat.

vatic [vät'ik] adj. of relating or to the Vatican.

vatic-cavn [vät'ik-va'n] n. usu. the Vatican) the palace and official residence of the pope in Rome. 

vater [vät'er] n. 1. the administrative center of the Roman Catholic Church.

vaudeville [väd'ə-vil'] n. 1. a type of entertainment popular in the early 20th century, featuring a mixture of specialty acts such as burlesque comedy and song and dance.

vegetable

veau [vō] n. 1. a calf, used as food.

vech [vēch] n. 1. the language of the Vedas, an early form of Sanskrit.

vee [vē] n. the letter V. 

veg-an [vēg'an] n. a person who does not eat or use animal products: I'm a strict vegan. 

veg-a-ble [vēg'a-bəl] n. 1. a plant or part of a plant used as food, typically as accompaniment to meat or fish, such as a vegetable.
vegetable marrow

potato, carrot, or bean. 2 int., oftens a person who is incapable of normal mental or physical activity, esp. through brain damage. 3 int. a person with a dull or inactive life.

> adj. of or relating to vegetables as food: a vegetable garden | vegetable soup. 4 of or relating to plants or plant life, esp. as distinct from animal life or mineral substances: vegetable matter.

vegetable marrow n. see marrow (sense 2).

vegetable-tal [vej-at/l] adj. 1 formal of or relating to plants: a vegetal apon. 2 Embryol. of or relating to that pole of the ovum or embryo that contains the less active cytoplasm and frequently most of the yolk in the early stages of development: vegetal cells | the vegetal pole.

vegetarian [vej-a-ti-ri-on/ ] adj. 1 a person who does not eat meat, and sometimes other animal products, esp. for moral, religious, or health reasons. 2 adj. of or relating to the exclusion of meat or other animal products from the diet: a vegetarian restaurant. —vegetarianism [-ni-zin/ ] n.

vegetate [vej-at/it ] v. [int.] live or spend a period of time in a dull, in- active; unchallenging way: if she left him there alone, she'd sit in front of the television set and vegetate. 2 of or relating to vegetation or plant life: diverse vegetative types. 3 Med. of (a person) alive but comatose and without apparent brain activity or responsiveness. See persistent vegetative state. —vegetative-ly adv. —vegetative-ness n.

vegetie [vej-i/yo ] (also vegetie) n. & adj. int. another term for vegetable.

vegetable-ment [vej-a-mant/ ] adj. showing strong feeling; forceful, passion- ate, or intense. —vegetable-ment-ly adv.

vegeticidal [vej-a-sid/ul ] adj. 1 a thing used for transporting people or goods, esp. on land, such as a car, truck, or cart. 2 a thing used to express, embody, or fulfill something: I use point as a vehicle for my ideas. 3 a substance that facilitates the use of a drug, pigment, or other material mixed with it. 4 a film, television program, song, etc., that is intended to display the leading performer to the best advantage.

vegeticulare [vej-a-kul-er ] adj.

veil [vıl/ ] n. 1 a piece of fine material worn by women to protect or conceal the face: a white bridal veil. 2 a piece of linen or other fabric forming part of a nun's headress, resting on the head and shoulders. 3 a thing that conceals, disguises, or obscures something: shrouded in erotic veil of mist. 4 v. [v. or adj. or adv. (v.) a fabric the veil her face. —usu. as adj. or adv. | (adj. or adv. —veiled) partially concealed, disguise, or obscure: a thinly veiled threat.

vein [vîn/ ] n. 1 any of the tubes forming part of the blood circulation system of the body, carrying in most cases oxygen-depleted blood toward the heart. Compare with artery. 2 in (general and figurative use) a blood vessel; he felt the adrenaline course through his veins. 3 in plants) a slender rib running through a leaf or bract, typically divided or branching, and containing a vascular bundle. 4 in insects) a hardened branching rib that forms part of the supporting framework of a wing. 5 a streak or stripe of a different color in wood, marble, cheese, etc. 6 a fracture in rock containing a deposit of minerals or ore and typically having an extensive course underground. 7 subsurface water, esp. as considered a source or potential source of water for a well or well and thought of as flowing in a channel. 8 a fig. a source of a specified quality or other abstract resource: he managed to tap into the thick vein of discontent to his own advantage. 9 a distinctive quality, style, or character: a writing article in a somewhat humorous vein. 10 vein-less adj. —vein-let [vîn-lit/ ] n. —vein-y adj. —vein-er, vein-iest.


velar [vî-lər ] adj. 1 of or relating to a veil or velum. 2 Phonet. (of a speech sound) pronounced with the back of the tongue near the soft palate, as in k and g in English.

Velcro [vek-strə ] n. trademark a fastener for clothes or other items, consisting of two strips of thin plastic sheet, one covered with tiny loops and the other with tiny flexible hooks, which adhere when pressed together and can be separated when pulled apart deliberately.

veld [veld ] (also veldt ) n. open, uncultivated country or grassland in southern Africa.

velum [vî-ləm/ ] n. 1 fine parchment made originally from the skin of a calf. 2 smooth writing paper imitating velum.

veloci-pede [vî-lə-sî-ped/ ] n. hist. an early form of bicycle propelled by working pedals on cranks fitted to the front axle. 3 a child's tricycle.

velociraptor [vî-lə-sə-rəp-tər ] n. a small dinosaur (genus Velociraptor) of the late Cretaceous period.

veloci-ty [vî-lə-sa-ti ] n. (pl. -ties) the speed of something in a given direction: the velocities of the entailed particles. 1 (in general use) speed.

(2) also velocity of circulation) the rate at which money changes hands within the economy.

velo-drome [vî-lə-drəm/ , vî-lə-drom/ ] n. a cycle-racing track, typically with steeply banked curves, a stadium containing such a track.

velour [vî-lôr/ ] (also velours) n. a plush woven fabric resembling velvet, chiefly used for soft furnishings, clothing, and hats.

velum [vî-ləm/ ] n. (pl. vela -la/ ": a membrane or membranous structure, typically covering another structure or partly obscuring an opening, in particular: Anat. the soft palate. 2 Zool. a membrane, typically bordering a cavity, esp. in certain mollusks, muscles, and other invertebrates.

velvet [vîl-vət/ ] n. a closely woven fabric of silk, cotton, or nylon, that has a thick short pile on one side. 2 soft downy skin that covers a deer's antler while it is growing.


vena ca -va [vî-nə ˈkā-və , ˈkā-və ] n. (pl. venae ca -vae/ : vênë ˈkā-və ˈkâ-vë , vênë ˈkâ-vë ˈkâ-vil] a large vein carrying deoxygenated blood into the heart. There are two in humans, the inferior vena cava (carrying blood from the lower body) and the superior vena cava (carrying blood from the upper body).

venal [vên-əl ] adj. showing or motivated by susceptibility to bribery: that generosity had been at least partly venal.


vend [vend ] v. [v. or adj. or adv. (often vend ) to offer (small items, esp. food) for sale, esp. either from a stall or from a slot machine: a man vending sticky cakes and ices.

vendable [vend-ə-bəl ] adj. Law or formal sell (something).

vending machine n. a machine that dispenses small articles such as food, drink, cigarettes, or tokens.

vend-er [vend-ər ] n. a person or company offering something for sale, esp. a trader in the street: an Italian handbag vendor.

vendor [vend-ər ] n. a person or company whose principal product lines are office supplies and equipment.

venerable [vên-ər-i-l ] adj. a thin decorative covering of fine wood applied to a less expensive wood or other material. 2 a layer of wood used to make plywood. 3 an attractive appearance that covers or disguises someone or something's true nature or feelings: her veneer of composure cracked a little.

venerably [vên-ər-i-əl ] adv. acceded a great deal of respect, esp. because of age, wisdom, or character: a venerable statesman.

venereal [vên-ə-ral ] adj. accorded a great deal of respect, esp. because of age, wisdom, or character: a venerable statesman.

venereal disease [vên-ər-e-al ] n. a disease typically contracted by sexual contact with a person already infected; a sexually transmitted disease.

Vene-tian [vên-ə-ti-ən ] adj. of or relating to Venice or its people.

Venetian blind n. a native or citizen of Venice. 2 the dialect of Italian spoken in Venice.

Venetian blind n. a window blind consisting of horizontal slats that can be pivoted to control the amount of light that passes through it.
very high frequency n. (abbr.: VHF) the band of frequencies between 30 and 300 megahertz, typically used for broadcasting television signals.


vesicle [vesaˈkɪl] n. a fluid- or air-filled cavity or sac, in particular:

ves-per [ˈvespər] n. evening prayer: [as adj.] vesper service. See also VES-TERS.

ves-pers [vespərz] n. a service of evening prayer in the Divine Office of the Western Christian Church (sometimes earlier in the day).

ves-sel [ˈvɛsəl] n. 1 a ship or large boat. 2 a hollow container, esp. one used to hold liquid, such as a bowl or cask. 3 Anat. & Zool. a duct or canal holding or conveying blood or other fluid. See also BLOOD VESSELS. Bot. any of the tubular structures in the vascular system of a plant, serving to conduct water and mineral nutrients from the root.

vest [ˈvest] n. 1 a close-fitting waist-length garment, typically having no sleeves or collar and buttoning down the front. 2 a similar garment worn on the upper part of the body for a particular purpose or activity: a bulletproof vest. Brit. an undershirt.

v. 1 [tr.] (usu. be vested in) confer or bestow (power, authority, property, etc.) on someone: executive power is vested in the president. 2 [usu. be vested with] give (someone) the legal right to power, property, etc.: vested with the power of legislation. 3 [intr. vest in] (of power, property, etc.) come into the possession of: the bankrupt's property vests in its trustee. 4 [intr.] put on vestments.

vested-in-interest n. a personal stake or involvement in an undertaking or state of affairs, esp. one with an expectation of financial gain: banks have vested interest in the growth of their customers. a person or group having such a personal stake or involvement. Law an interest (usually in land or money held in trust) recognized as belonging to a particular person.

vestibular [ˈvestɪbjuːlər] adj. chiefly Anat. of or relating to a vestibule, particularly that of the inner ear, or more generally to the sense of balance.

vestibule [ˈvestɪbjuːl] n. 1 an antechamber, hall, or lobby next to the outer door of a building. an enclosed entrance compartment in a railroad car. 2 Anat.: any of the chambers or channels communicating with or opening into another, in particular: the central cavity of the labyrinth of the inner ear. the part of the mouth outside the teeth. the space in the vulva into which both the urethra and vagina open.

vestigial [ˈvestɪdʒl] adj. forming a very small remnant of something that was once much larger or more noticeable: he felt a vestigial flicker of anger from last night. Biol. of (an organ or part of the body) degenerate, rudimentary, atrophied, having become functionless in the course of evolution.

vestige [ˈvestɪdʒ] n. a trace of something that is disappearing or no longer exists: the last vestiges of colonialism. the smallest amount (used to emphasize the absence of something): he waited patiently, but without a vestige of sympathy. Biol. a part or organ of an organism that has become reduced or functionless in the course of evolution.

vestigial adj.

vestment [ˈvestɪmənt] n. (usu. vestments) a chasuble or other robe worn by the clergy or choristers during services.

vestry [ˈvestri] n. (pl. -tries) a room or building attached to a church, used as an office and for changing into vestments. a meeting of parishioners, originally in a vestry, for the conduct of parochial business: a body of parishioners meeting in such a way.

vet [vet] n. int. a veterinarian. v. [vetted, vetting] tr. make a careful and critical examination of (something): proposals for vetting large takeover bids. (often be vetted) investigate (someone) thoroughly, esp. in order to ensure that they are suitable for a job requiring secrecy, loyalty, or trustworthiness: each applicant will be vetted by police.

vet·ter [ˈvetər] n. int. a veteran.

vetch [ˈvetʃ] n. a widely distributed herbaceous plant (genus Vicia) of the pea family that is cultivated as a silage or fodder crop.
violent

vi-o-lent [vía'lent] adv. using or involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something: a violent confrontation with riot police. (esp. of an emotion or unpleasant or destructive force) very strong or powerful: violent dislike. (of a color) vivid. Law involving an unlawful exercise or exhibition of force. —vi-o-lent-ly adv.

vi-o-lеt [vía'let] n. 1 a herbaceous plant (genus Viola, family Violaceae) of temperate regions, typically having purple, blue, or white, five-petaled flowers. 2 used in names of similar-flowered plants of other families, e.g., African violet. 2 a bluish-purple color seen at the end of the spectrum opposite red.

vi-o-lin [vi'o-lín] n. a stringed musical instrument of treble pitch, played with a horsehair bow. The classical European violin was developed in the 16th century. It has four strings and a body of characteristic rounded shape, narrowed at the middle and with two f-shaped sound holes. —vi-o-lin-ist n.


VIP [vi'pір] n. very important person.

vi-per [vі'pеr] n. a venomous snake (family Viperidae) with large hinged fangs, typically having a broad head and stout body, with dark patterns on a lighter background. 2 a spiteful or treacherous person.


vi-rа-gо [vі'ra-gо] n. (pl. -gоs or -gос) a domineering, violent, or bad-tempered woman.

vi-rаl [vі'ral] adj. of the nature of, caused by, or relating to a virus or viruses. —vi-rаl-ly adv.

vi-rаl-оаd [vі'ral-оd] n. a measurement of the amount of a virus in an organism, typically in the bloodstream.

vi-rе-o [vі'ré-o] n. (pl. -оs) a small American songbird (genus Vireo, family Vireonidae), typically having a green or gray back and yellow or white underparts.

vi-ri-gіn [vі-rі-gіn] n. a person, typically a woman, who has never had sexual intercourse: a naive, innocent, or inexperienced person, esp. in a particular context: a political virgin. 2 the Virgin Mary. 3 a woman who has taken a vow to remain a virgin.

vi-rі-gіn [vі-rі-gіn] n. (genus Vireo) the mother of Jesus: the Virgin Mary. 2 a woman who has taken a vow to remain a virgin.

vi-rі-gіn-lу [vі-rі-gіn-lу] adv. being, relating to, or appropriate for a virgin: virginal shyness.

vi-rі-gіn-аl-lу [vі-rі-gіn-аl-lу] adv. an early spinet with the strings parallel to the keyboard, typically rectangular.


vi-rі-gіn-а-е [vі-rі-gіn-а-е] adv. a lively American dance performed by a number of couples facing each other in parallel lines.

vi-rі-gіn-і-tу [vі-rі-gіn-і-tу] n. the state of never having had sexual intercourse: he lost his virginity in college. 2 the state of being naive, innocent, or inexperienced in a particular context: his political virginity.

vi-rі-gо [vі-rі-gо] n. 1 a large constellation (the Virgin), said to represent a maiden or goddess associated with the harvest. It contains several bright stars, the brightest of which is Spica. 2 a star in the sixth sign of the zodiac, which the sun enters about August 23.

vi-rі-gо [vі-rі-gо] n. a person born when the sun is in this sign.

vi-rі-gу-lе [vі-rі-gу-lе] n. another term for SLASH (sense 2). mid 19th cent.: from French, literally 'comma,' from Latin virgula, diminutive of virga 'rod.'

vi-ridi-an [vі-ridі-an] adj. a bluish-green pigment consisting of hydrated chromium hydroxide. 2 the bluish-green color of this.

void

voc-al-ize /vŏkˈaliz/ v. [tr.] utter (a sound or word); the child vocalizes a number of distinct sounds [intr.] a worder vocalized from a red bed. [exp. (something) with words: Gillie could scarcely vocalize her responses.]

voc-al-i-za-tion /vŏkˈaləzəˈʃən/ n. a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation. a person's employment or main occupation, esp. regarded as particularly worthy and requiring great dedication: her vocation as a poet. a trade or profession.

voc-al-i-za-tional /vŏkˈaləzəˈshənal/ adj. of or relating to an employment or occupation: they supervised prisoners in vocational activities. [of education or training] directed at a particular occupation and its skills: vocational school specialized vocational courses.


voc-al-ly /vŏkˈalə/ adv. a vocative tone denoting a case of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives in Latin and other languages, used in addressing or invoking a person or thing. a word in the vocative case. [the vocative] the vocative case.

voc-if-er-ate /vŏkˈəfərət/ v. [intr.] shout, complain, or argue loudly or vehemently. he then began to vociferate loudly [intr.] he entered, vociferating courses. —voc-if-er-ant /-ərənt/ adj. —voc-if-er-a-tion /-əˈfərəʃən/ n.

voc-if-er-ous /vŏkˈəfərəs/ adj. [esp. of a person or speech] vehement or clamorous: he was a vociferous opponent of the takeover. —voc-if-er-ous-ly adv. —voc-if-er-o-ries /-ərəs/ n.

voc-al-ku-lar-ity /vŏkˈəkələrətē/ n. a rhapsody of the voice. the rhapsody of the voice, the rhapsody of the voice.

voc-ov-a-ry /vŏkˈəvərē/ n. the practice of performing operations on live animals for the purpose of experimentation or scientific research (used only by people who are opposed to such work). [fg.] ruthless sharp and detailed criticism or analysis: the vivisection of America's sinner underbelly.


vici-ous-ness /vəˈʃəsəs/ n. a female fox. a spitfire or quarrelsome woman. —vici-ous-ly adv.

vi-fid /vəˈfᵻd/ adj. [used esp. to introduce a gloss or explanation] the first music reproducing media. viz., the music box and the player piano. —vizi-er /viˈziər/ n. a high official in some Muslim countries. esp. in Turkey under Ottoman rule. —vizi-er-ly adv. —vizi-er-ness n.

vi-neck /vəˈnik/ n. a neckline of a garment. having straight sides meeting at a point. a garment with a neckline of this type. —v-necked adj.

vocab. /ˈvokəbəl/ n. vocabulary.

vocab-u-lar-y /voˈkæbələrē/ adj. the body of words used in a particular language. a part of such a body of words used on a particular occasion or a particular sphere: the vocabulary of law. the body of words known to an individual person: he had a wide vocabulary. a list of difficult or unfamiliar words with an explanation of their meanings. a dictionary or dictionary of a particular language used by people who are opposed to such work. —voc-u-lar-i-ty /-ərələti/ n. —voc-u-lar-ly adv. —voc-u-lar-ness n.

 voc-al /ˈvokəl/ adj. 1 of or relating to the human voice: nonlinguistic vocal effects like laughs and sighs. Anat. used in the production of speech sounds: the vocal apparatus. —Phonet. (of a sound in speech) made with the voice rather than the breath alone; voiced. 2 expressing opinions or feelings freely or loudly: he was vocal in condemning the action. 3 of (music) consisting of or incorporating singing.

 voc-al-cals /ˈvokəl-kəlz/ n. a part of a piece of music that is sung. a musical performance involving the voice. —voc-al-cally /-kəˈleɪtəl/ adv. —voc-al-cally /-kəˈleɪtəl/ n.

 voc-al-cords (also vocal folds) /ˈvokəl kərdz/ n.pl. folded membranes of tissue that project inward from the sides of the larynx to form a slit across the glottis in the throat, and whose edges vibrate in the airstream to produce the voice.

voc-al-ism /ˈvokəlˌizəm/ n. the use of the voice or vocal organs in speech. the skill or art of exercising the voice in singing.

voc-al-ist /ˈvokələst/ n. a singer, typically one who regularly performs with a jazz or pop group.
W

W [ˈdɔbəˌjʊd] (also w)  n. (pl. Ws or Ws’s) 1 the twenty-third letter of the alphabet. 2 denoting the next after V in a set of items, categories, etc. 2 a shape like that of a letter W: [in comb] the W-shaped northern constellation of Cassiopeia.

W  n. 1 (w) weight. 2 (w) Welsh. 3 West or Western: 104° W 4 W Europe. 5 (in personal ads) White. 6 width: 23 in. 7 x 20.5 in. W x 16 in. D. 8 (in personal ads) widowed. 9 (in genealogies) wife. 10 women’s (clothes size). 11 Physics work.

W  n. 1 the chemical element tungsten.

Wake  n. (pl. same or Was) 1 a member of a hill people living on the border between China and Myanmar (Burma). 2 the Mon-Khmer language of this people. 3 adj. of, relating to, or denoting this people or their language.

WAC  abbr. Women’s Army Corps. 1 a member of the Women’s Army Corps.

Wack-o  (also wack-o) int. adj. mad; insane; wacko ideas.

Wad  n. 1 a lump or bundle of a soft material, used for padding, stuffing, or wiping: a wad of cotton. 2 chiefly hist. a disk, usu. of felt, used to keep powder or shot in place in a gun barrel. 3 a portion of chewing gum, or of tobacco or another narcotic when used for chewing. 4 a bundle of paper, banknotes, or documents: a thick wad of index cards. 5 int. a large amount of something, esp. money: wads of money.

Wad-a-ding  [wʌˈdɪŋ] n. (as adj. wadded) 1 compress a (soft material) into a lump or bundle: a wadded handkerchief. 2 stop up an aperture or a gun barrel with a bundle or lump of soft material. 3 line or stuff (a garment or piece of furniture) with wadding.

Wad-dle  n. 1 soft, thick material used to line garments or pack fragile items, esp. absorbent cotton. 2 a material from which wads for guns are made.

Waddle  n. 1 v. [intr.] walk with short steps and a clumsy swaying motion: three geese waddled across the road. 2 n. a waddling gait: I walk with a waddle. 3 n. adj. waddler.

Wade  v. 1 [intr.] walk through water or another liquid or soft substance: we waded ashore. 2 [intr.] walk through (something filled with water): firefighters waded the waist-deep flood water. 3 [wade through] read laboriously through (a long piece of writing). 4 [wade into] get involved in (something) vigorously or forcefully: he waded into the yelling, fighting crowd.

Wading  n. an act of wading. 1 wading 2 wading 3 wading

Wader  n. 1 a person or animal, esp. a bird, that wades, in particular: a wading bird of the group that comprises the herons, storks, and ibises. 2 waders high waterproof boots used esp. by anglers when fishing.

Wadi  n. (pl. -dis or -dies) (in certain Arabic-speaking countries) a valley, ravine, or channel that is dry except in the rainy season.

Wafer  n. 1 a very thin, light, crisp, sweet cookie or cracker, esp. one of a kind eaten with ice cream. 2 a thin disk of unleavened bread used in the Eucharist. 3 Electr. a very thin slice of a semiconductor crystal used as the substrate for solid-state circuitry. 4 a round, thin piece of something: a wafer of ice.

Wafer-thin  adj. & adv. very thin or thinly: [as adj.] plates of wafer-thin metal | [as adv.] slicing meats wafer-thin.

Waffle  n. 1 waf-’l; waf-’l int. v. [intr.] fail to make up one’s mind: Joseph had been waffling over where to go. 2 n. a failure to make up one’s mind: his waffle on abortion.

Waffler  n. waf-’ler; waf-’ler 1 a waffler; waf-’ler; waf-’ler.

Waffle iron  n. a small crisp butter cake, baked in a waffle iron and eaten hot with butter or syrup.

Waffle iron  adj. denoting a style of fine honeycomb weaving.

Waffle iron  n. a utensil, typically consisting of two shallow metal pans hinged together, used for baking waffles.

Waffling  n. waf-’ling; waf-’ling adj. waffling.

Wag  v. wag (wagged, wagging) (with reference to an animal’s tail) move or cause to move rapidly to and fro: [intr.] his tail began to wag | [tr.] the dog went out, wagging its tail. 2 [tr.] move (an upward-pointing finger) from side to side to signify a warning or reprimand: she wagged a finger at Elinor. 3 [intr.] (used of a tongue, jaw, or chin, as representing a person) talk, esp. in order to gossip or spread rumors: this is a small island, and tongues are beginning to wag.

Wag  n. 1 a single rapid movement from side to side: a chirpy wag of the head. 2 n. dated a person who makes facetious jokes.

Wages  n. wages 1 wages (wages, wagers) (us. wages) a fixed regular payment, typically paid on a daily or weekly basis, made by an employer to an employee, esp. to a manual or unskilled worker: we were struggling to get better wages. 2 wages Econ. the part of total production that is the return to labor as earned income as distinct from the remuneration received by capital as unearned income. 3 fig. the result or effect of doing something considered wrong or unwise: the wages of sin is death.

Wag  v. wag (wagged, wagging) (tr.) carry on (a war or campaign): it is necessary to destroy their capacity to wage war.

Wager  n. wager 1 wager 2 wager

Wagish  adj. wag-’ish; wag-’ish 1 adj. dated humorous in a playful, mischievous, or facetious manner: a wagish riposte. 2 wagish adj. wagish-ness.

Waggle  v. waggle (wagged, wagging) (intr. move or cause to move with short quick movements from side to side or up and down: [intr.] his arm wagged | [tr.] Mary wagged a glass at them. 2 waggle (a golf club) loosely to and fro over the ball before playing a shot.

Waggle  v. waggle adj. moving with quick short movements from side to side or up and down: a waggly tail.

Wagon  n. wagon (Brit. also waggon) 1 a vehicle used for transporting goods or another specified purpose: a coal wagon. 2 a four-wheeled trailer for agricultural use, or a small version of this for use as a child’s toy. 3 a horse-drawn vehicle, esp. a covered wagon used by early settlers in North America and elsewhere. 4 a wheeled cart or hut used as a food stall. 5 a small cart or wheeled table used for serving drinks or food. 6 a vehicle like a camper used by gypsies or circus performers.

Wagon  n. wagon 1 wagon 2 wagon

Wagtail  n. wag-tail 1 a slender Eurasian and African songbird (genera
warn [wərn] v. inform someone in advance of an impending or possible danger, problem, or other unpleasant situation: [tr] his father had warned him of what might happen. give someone forceful or cautionary advice about their actions or conduct: [tr] friends warned her against the marriage | [intr] they warned against false optimism. —warner n.

warning [ˈwɔrɪŋ] n. a statement or event that indicates a possible or impending danger, problem, or other unpleasant situation: a warning of heavy thunderstorms. cautionary advice: a word of warning—don't park illegally. advance notice of something: she had only had four days' warning before leaving Berlin. an experience or sight that serves as a cautionary example to others: his death should be a warning to everyone.

warning track n. Baseball a grassless strip around the outside of the outfield grass that warns fielders that they are approaching the outfield wall.

war [wɔr] v. become or cause to become bent or twisted out of shape: typically as a result of the effects of heat or dampness: [intr] wood has a tendency to warp | [tr] moisture had warped the box. [tr] to cause to become abnormal or strange; have a distorting effect on: your judgment has been warped by your obvious dislike of him. n. 1 a twist or distortion in the shape or form of something: the head of the racket had a curious warp. fig. an abnormality or perversion in a person's character. [as adj] relating to or denoting (factual or hypothetical) space travel by means of distorting space-time: the craft possessed warp drive. 2 (in weaving) the threads on a loom over and under which other threads (the weft) are passed to make cloth: fig. rugby is woven into the warp and weft of South African society.

war-age [ˈwɔrɪdʒ] n.

war-path [ˈwɔrˌpɑθ] n. (in phrase on the warpath) in an angry and aggressive state about a conflict of dispute: he intends to go on the warpath with a national campaign to reverse the decision.

warrant [ˈwɔr’n] n. 1 a document issued by a legal or government official authorizing the police or some other body to make an arrest, search premises, or carry out some other action relating to the judicial administration of justice: magistrates issued a warrant for his arrest. a document that entitles the holder to receive goods, money, or services: we'll issue you with a travel warrant. Finance a negotiable security allowing the holder to buy shares at a specified price at or before some future date. justification or authority for an action, belief, or feeling: there is no warrant for this assumption. 2 an official certificate of appointment issued to an officer of lower rank than a commissioned officer.

v. [tr] justify or necessitate (a certain course of action): that offense is serious enough to warrant a court marshal. officially affirm or guarantee: the vendor warrants the accuracy of the report. —waranta-bly adv. —waran-tor n. —waran-tor-ry /ˈwɔrəntəri/ n. (pl. ties) a written guarantee, issued to the purchaser of an article by its manufacturer, promising to repair or replace it if necessary within a specified period of time: the car comes with a three-year warranty. (in contract law) a promise that something in furtherance of the contract is guaranteed by one of the contractors, e.g. the seller's promise that the thing being sold is as promised or represented. (in an insurance contract) an engagement by the insurer that the party that certain statements are true or that certain conditions shall be fulfilled, the breach of it invalidating the policy. (in property law) a covenant by which the seller binds themselves and their heirs to secure to the buyer the estate conveyed in the deed. (in contract law) a term or promise in a contract, breach of which entitles the innocent party to damages but not to treat the contract as discharged by breach.

waran-ty deed n. Law a deed that guarantees a clear title to the buyer of real property.

war-en /ˈwɔrən/ n. (also rabbit warren) a network of interconnecting rabbit burrows. a densely populated or labyrinthine building or district: a warren of narrow gas-lit streets.

war-ri-or /ˈwɔrərI/ n. (esp. in former times) a brave or experienced soldier or fighter.

war-ship /ˈwɔrˌʃip/ n. a ship equipped with weapons and designed to take part in warfare at sea.

war [wɔr] n. a small, hard, benign growth on the skin, caused by a virus. any rounded excrescence on the skin of an animal or the surface of a plant. int. an obnoxious or objectionable person. an undesirable or disfiguring feature: few products are without their warms.

—warty /ˈwɔrəti/ adj.

wart-hog /ˈwɔrt,hɔɡ/ n. an African wild pig (Phacochoerus aethiopicus) with bristly gray skin, a large head, warty lumps on the face, and curved tusks.

wart-time /ˈwɔrt,taɪm/ n. a period during which a war is taking place.

war-y /ˈwɔr.i/ adj. (war-i-er, war-i-est) feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems: dogs that have been mistreated often remain very wary of strangers | a wary look. —war-i-ly adv. —war-i-ness n.

wash /wɔs/ v. 1 [ts] clean with water and, typically, soap or detergent: I stripped and washed myself all over. [intr] clean oneself. [tr] clean one's hands and face with soap and water. [of an animal] clean itself (or another) by licking. [tr] remove (a stain or dirt) from something by cleaning with water and detergent: they have to keep washing the mold off the walls. [intr] (of dirt or a stain) be removed in such a way: the dirt on his clothes would easily wash out. [intr] (of fabric, a garment, or dye) withstand cleaning to a specified degree without shrinking or fading: a linen-mix yarn that washes well. 2 [tr] (of flowing water) carry (someone or something) in a particular direction: floods washed away the bridges. [tr] be carried by flowing water: an oil slick washed up on the beach. [intr] [esp. of waves] sweep, move, or splash in a particular direction: the sea began to wash along the decks. [tr] (usu. be washed) (of a river, sea, or lake) flow through or lap against (a country, coast, etc.): offshore islands washed by warm blue seas. [intr] (of a feeling) affect (someone) suddenly: a deep feeling of sadness washed over her. [intr] (wash over) occur all around without greatly affecting (someone): she allowed the babble of conversation to wash over her. 3 [tr] (usu. be washed) brush with a thin coat of diluted paint or ink: the walls were washed with shades ofumber. [n. (wash something with) coat inferior metal with a film of gold or silver from a solution. 4 [intr] int. seem convincing or genuine: charmed wasn't wash with this crew.


wash-a-bl-e /ˈwɔshəˈbil/, -bəl/ adj. (esp. of fabric or clothes) able to be washed without shrinking or other damage: washable curtains | fine washables. —wash-a-bil-i-ty /ˈwɔshəbiləti/ n.

wash-ba-sin /ˈwɔsbəsən/, -bən/ n. a basin, typically fixed to a wall or on a pedestal, used for washing one's hands and face.

wash-bolt /ˈwɔsbəlt/ n. a board made of ridged wood or a sheet of corrugated zinc, used when washing clothes as a surface against which to scrub them. a similar board played as a percussion instrument by scraping. the surface of a worn, unpolished road. [as adj] denoting a man's stomach that is lean and has well-defined muscles.

v. [tr] (usu. as adj) (washboarded) cause ridges to develop in (a road or road surface): a road left washboarded by winter frost.

wash-cloth /ˈwɔsklɔt/, -kloth/ n. a cloth for washing one's face and body, typically made of Terry or other absorbent material.

wash-ed-out /ˈwɔshəd/ adj. faded or by as if by sunlight or repeated washing.

wash-out /ˈwɔshət/ n. (of a person) pale and tired.

wash-up /ˈwɔshəp/ n. deposited by the tide on a shore: washed-out jeuns. [as adj] pale and tired.

wash-er /ˈwɔʃər/, -ər/ n. 1 a person or device that washes something: a glass washer. a washing machine. 2 a small flat ring made of metal, rubber, or plastic fixed under a nut or the head of a bolt to spread the pressure when tightened or between two joining surfaces as a spacer or seal.

wash-er-wom-an /ˈwɔʃər,ˌwɔmən/, -ən/ n. (pl. -women) a person whose occupation is washing clothes.

wash-ing /ˈwɔshəŋ/, -ən/ n. the action of washing oneself or
laundry clothes, bed linen, etc.; a quantity of clothes, bed linen, etc., that is to be washed or has just been washed.

washing machine n. a machine for washing clothes, bed linen, etc.,

wash-out [wāsh ˈɒut] n. 1. an event that is spoiled by constant or heavy rain. 2. a disappointing failure: the film was a washout. 2. a breach in a road or railroad track caused by flooding.

wash-room [ˈwɒʃˌrʊm; ˈwɒʃ-, ˈrʊm] n. a room with washing and toilet facilities.

wash-stand [ˈwɒʃˌstænd; ˈwɒʃ-] n. chiefly hist. a piece of furniture designed to hold a jug, bowl, or basin for the purpose of washing one's hands and face.

wash-tub [ˈwɒʃˌtʌb; ˈwɒʃ-] n. a large metal tub used for washing clothes and linen.

wash-y [ˈwɒʃi] adj. (washier, washiest) 1. lacking in strength or vigor; insipid: a weak and wavy production. 2. of (a color) having a faded look. —wash-ness n.

wasp-n [ˈwɔznt] n. contr. of wasp.

Wasp [wasp] n. 1. an upper-middle-class American white Protestant, considered to be a member of the more powerful class in society. —Waspish adj.

Wasp-y adj.

wasp [ˈwɒsp] n. 1. a social winged insect (Vespa villa, Polistes, and other genera, Family Vespidae) that has a narrow waist and a sting. It constructs a paper nest from wood pulp and raises the larvae in a diet of insects. 2. a solitary winged insect (some superfamilies) with a narrow waist, mostly distantly related to the social wasps and including many parasitic kinds.

waspish [ˈwɒspɪʃ] adj. readily expressing anger or irritation: he had a waspish tongue. —waspishly adv. —waspish-ness n.

wassail [ˈwɒsəl] n. [archaic] spiced ale or mulled wine drunk during celebrations for Twelfth Night and Christmas Eve. —lively and noisy festivities involving the drinking of plentiful amounts of alcohol; revelry.

1. [intr.] drink plentiful amounts of alcohol and enjoy oneself with others in a noisy, lively way. 2. go from house to house at Christmas singing carols: here we go a-wassailing. —Middle English wassail, in (good) health: from Old Norse ves heil.

wasting [ˈwɔstɪŋ] n. 1. the act or process of losing or destroying something by using it carelessly or extravagantly: the wastage of natural resources. 2. the amount of something lost or destroyed in such a way: wastage was cut by 50 percent. 2. the weakening or deterioration of a part of the body, typically as a result of illness or lack of use: the wastage of muscle tissue.

waste [wɔst] v. 1. [intr.] use or expend carelessly, extravagantly, or to no purpose; we can't afford to waste electricity. 2. use or expend on an unappreciative recipient: her small talk was wasted on this guest. 3. fail to make full or good use of: we're wasting time in this job. 4. (of a person or a part of the body) become progressively weaker and more emaciated: she was dying of AIDS, visibly wasting away. 5. int. or adj. severely or seriously injure; I saw them waste the guy I worked for.

adj. 1. (of a material, substance, or byproduct) eliminated or discarded as no longer useful or required after the completion of a process: ensure that waste materials are disposed of responsibly. 2. producing a material as a waste product. 3. (of an area of land, typically in a city or town) not used, cultivated, or built on: a patch of wasted land.

wastage [ˈwɔstɪdʒ] n. 1. an act or instance of using or expending something carelessly, extravagantly, or to no purpose: it's always a waste of time trying to argue with him. 2. material that is not wanted; the unusable remainder or byproducts of something: bodily waste | (wastes) hazardous industrial wastes. 3. large area of barren, typically uninhabited land: the icy wastes of the Antarctic. 4. Law damage to an estate caused by an act or by neglect, esp. by a life-tenant.

waste-bas-ket [ˈwɔstˌbæskət] n. a receptacle for small quantities of rubbish.

waste-ful [ˈwɔstfl] adj. (of a person or action) using or expending something of value carelessly, extravagantly, or to no purpose; wasteeful energy consumption. —waste-fully adv. —waste-fulness n.

wasteland [ˈwɔstˌlænd] n. an unused area of land that has become barren or overgrown. 2. a bleak, unattractive, and unused or neglected urban or industrial area; the restoration of industrial wasteland | fig. the mid 70s are now seen as something of a cultural wasteland.


waster [ˈwɔstər] n. a wasteful person or thing; you are a greater waster of time. 2. a person who does little or nothing of value.

wasteful [ˈwɔstfl] adj. a wasteful or good-for-nothing person.

watch [wɔtʃ] v. 1. to look or observe attentively; typically over a period of time: I watched him go to bed | he kept a stoic, cold, unfeeling eye on women coming into the garden. 2. keep under careful or protective observation: a large set of steel doors, watched over by a single guard. 3. secretly follow or spy on: he told me my telephone were tapped and I was being watched.

4. follow closely or maintain an interest in: the girls watched the development of this relationship with incredulity. 5. exercise care, caution, or restraint about: most women watch their diet during pregnancy. 6. [intr. watch for] look out or be on the alert for: in spring and summer, watch for kingfishers | [intr. watch out] be careful: I was a fool to go there, so I watched out.

7. watch (it) yourself: usu. in an exasperated int be careful as used as a warning or threat: if anyone finds out, you're dead meat; so watch it.

n. 1. a small timepiece worn typically on a strap on one's wrist. 2. an act or instance of carefully observing someone or something over a period of time: the security forces have been keeping a close watch on our activities. 3. a period of vigil during which a person is stationed to look out for danger or trouble, typically during the night: Murray took the last watch before dawn. 4. a fixed period of duty on a ship, usually lasting four hours.

5. the officer or crew duty during one such period.

fig. the period someone spends in a particular role or job. 6. usu. the watch) hist. a watchman or group of watchmen who patrolled and guarded the streets of a town before the introduction of the force of the police.

watch-able adj. —watch-er n. [often in comb. a bird-watcher.

watch chain n. a metal chain securing a pocket watch.

watch-dog [ˈwɔtʃˌdɔɡ] n. a dog kept to guard private property.

watchman [ˈwɔtʃmən] n. (pl. -men) a man employed to look after an empty building, esp. at night. —hist. a member of a body of people employed to keep watch in a town at night.

watch-tower [ˈwɔtʃˌtɔːr] n. a tower built to create an elevated observation point.

watch-word [ˈwɔtʃˌwɜrd] n. a word or phrase expressing a person's or group's core aim or belief: the watchword is be prepared for anything.

water [ˈwɔtər] n. 1. a colorless, transparent, odorless, tasteless liquid that forms the seas, lakes, rivers, and rain and is the basis of the fluids of living organisms. Water is a compound of oxygen and hydrogen, H2O, with highly distinctive physical and chemical properties: it is able to dissolve many other substances; its solid form (ice) is less dense than the liquid form; its boiling point, viscosity, and surface tension are unusually high for its molecular weight, and it is partially dissociated into hydrogen and hydroxyl ions. Water is used in a number of federal and international establishments through pipes and taps, each bedroom has a washbasin with hot and cold water | [as adj] water pipes, one of the four elements in ancient and medieval philosophy and in astrology: as adj] a water sign. —usu. the waters) the water of a mineral spring, typically as used medicinally for bathing or drinking: resorts where invalids came to take the waters. 8. a solution of a specified substance in water: ammonia water. 9. urinic: drinking alcohol will make you need to pass water more often. —waters) the amniotic fluid surrounding a fetus in the womb, esp. one that is drained or flowed through a flow shortly before birth: I think my waters have broken. 2. the water) the water of a stretch of a stream or area of water, such as a river, sea, or lake: the rivers ran down to the water's edge.

3. the surface of such an area of water: she dived under the water. —as adj] found in, on, or near such areas of water: water plant. 4. waters) the water of a particular sea, river, or lake: the waters of Hudson Bay. 5. the government is taking us into unknown waters with this legislation. —waters) an area of sea regarded as under the jurisdiction of a particular country. —water) Finance capital stock that represents a book value greater than the true assets of a company or area of a company.
waterbed n. a bed with a water-filled rubber or plastic mattress.

water-bird n. a bird that frequents water, esp. one that habitually wades or swims in fresh water.

water-buffalo n. a large black domesticated buffalo (Bubalus bubalis) with heavy sweep-back horns, used as a beast of burden throughout the tropics.

water chestnut n. 1. the tuber of a tropical sedge that is widely used in Asian cooking. Its white flesh remaining crisp after cooking. 2. the sedge (Eleochris tuberosa) that yields this tuber, which is cultivated in flooded fields in Southeast Asia. 3. also water cattail an aquatic plant (Trapa natans, family Trapaecese) with small white flowers, producing an edible rounded seed with two large projecting horns.

water-color n. 1. (also watercolors) artists' paint made with a water-soluble binder such as gum arabic, and thinned with water rather than oil, giving a transparent color. 2. a picture painted with watercolors. 3. the art of painting with watercolors, esp. using a technique of producing paler colors by diluting rather than by adding white. 4. another term for DAPHNA.

water-cooler n. a dispenser of cooled drinking water, typically used in office workplaces. 1. [adj.] indicating the type of informal conversation or socializing among office workers that takes place in the communal area in which such a dispenser is located: a water-cooler chat about the president.

water-course n. 1. a stream, brook, or artificial or constructed water channel. 2. the bed along which this flows.

water-cress n. a. 1. a cress (Nasturtium officinale) that grows in running water and whose pungent leaves are used in salad. 2. a cascade of water falling from a height, formed when a river or stream flows over a precipice or steep incline.

water-flea n. another term for DAPHNA.

water-fowl n. 1. ducks, geese, or other large aquatic birds, esp. when regarded as game.

water-front n. 1. a part of a town that borders a body of water.

water-hole n. 1. a depression in which water collects, esp. one from which animals regularly drink. 2. [int.] a tavern or bar.

water lily n. an aquatic plant (family Nymphaceae) with large round floating leaves and large, typically cup-shaped, floating flowers. Several genera and many species include the white-flowered fragrant water lily (Nymphaea odorata) of eastern North America. 2. a closely related aquatic plant (family Nymphaeaceae) that includes the lotuses.

water-line n. 1. the line to which a vessel's hull is immersed when loaded in a specified way. 2. the level reached by the sea or a river visible as a line on a rock face, beach, or riverbank.

water-logged n. 1. saturated with or full of water: the race was called off after parts of the course were found to be waterlogged.

water main n. a main line in a water supply system.

water-man n. 1. a man who has attained a particular level of knowledge or skill.

water-mark n. 1. a faint design made in some paper during manufacture, that is visible when held against the light and typically identifies the maker. 2. [v./adj.] mark with such a design.

water-melon n. the large melonlike fruit of a plant of the gourd family, with smooth green skin, red pulp, and watery juice. 2. the widely cultivated African plant (Citrullus lanatus) that yields this fruit.

water pipe n. 1. a pipe for conveying water. 2. a pipe for smoking tobacco, cannabis, etc., that draws the smoke through water to cool it.

water-pistol n. a toy pistol that shoots a jet of water.

water plantain n. an aquatic or marshland plant (genus Alisma, family Alismataceae) of north temperate regions, with leaves that resemble those of plantains and a tall stem bearing numerous white or pink flowers.

water-polo n. a seven-a-side game played by swimmers in a pool, with a ball like a volleyball that is thrown into the opponent's net.

water-proof adj. imperious to water: a waterproof hat. 2. not liable to be washed away: waterproof ink.

water-proof n. 1. [v.] make imperious to water. —water-proofer n.

water-repellent adj. not easily penetrated by water, esp. as a result of being treated for such a purpose with a surface coating.

water-shed n. an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas. 1. an area or region drained by a river, river system, or other body of water. 2. an event or period marking a turning point in a course of action or state of affairs: these works mark a watershed in the history of music.

water-ski n. a pair of skis enabling the wearer to skim the surface of the water when towed by a motorboat.

water-spout n. a rotating column of water and spray formed by a whirlwind occurring over the sea or other body of water.

water table n. the level below which the ground is saturated with water.

water-tight adj. closely sealed, fastened, or fitted so that no water enters or passes through: a watertight seal. 2. of an argument or account: unable to be disputed or questioned: their alibis are watertight.

water-way n. a river, canal, or other route for travel by water.

water-wheel n. a large wheel driven by flowing water, used to work machinery or to raise water to a higher level.

waterwheel
wattle | [walt] | P. a material for making fences, walls, etc., consisting of rods or stakes interlaced with twigs or branches.

wattle | [walt] | P. a colored fleshy lobe hanging from the head or neck of domestic chickens, turkeys, and some other birds. —wattled adj

wave | [wāv] | V. 1. [tr.] move one’s hand and fro in greeting or as a signal; he waved to us from the train. 2. [tr.] move (one’s hand or arm, or something held in one’s hand) to and fro: he waved a sheet of papers in the air. 3. [tr.] move and fro with a swaying or undulating motion while remaining fixed to one point: the flag waved in the wind. 4. [tr.] convey (a greeting or other message) by moving one’s hand or something held in it to and fro: we waved our farewells. 5. [tr.] inst. (someone) to move in a particular direction by moving one’s hand: he waved her back. 2. [r.] style (hair) so that it curls slightly; her hair had been carefully waved for the evening. 6. [intr.] of (hair) grow with a slight curl: as adj. waving thick, waving grey hair sprinkled back from her forehead.

p. 4 1. A long body of water curling into an arched form and breaking on the shore. 2. A range of water between two depressions in open water: gulls and cormorants bobbed on the waves.

wave-length | [wāv-lēnθ] | P. Physics the distance between successive crests of a wave, esp. points in a sound wave or electromagnetic wave. (Symbol: λ) this distance as a distinctive feature of radio waves from a transmitter.


wave-ver | [wāv-ər] | V. [intr.] shake with a quivering motion; the flame wavered in the draft. 2. become unsteady or unreliable: his love for her had never wavered.


wave-y | [wāv-ə] | adj. —wave-er, wave-est | (of a line or surface) having or consisting of a series of undulating and wave-like curves: she had long, wavey hair.

wax | [wāks] | P. 1. a sticky yellowish moldable substance secreted by honeybees as the material of honeycomb; beeswax. 2. a white translucent material obtained by bleaching and purifying this substance and used for such purposes as making candles, modeling, and as a basis of polishes. 3. a similar viscous substance, typically a lipid or hydrocarbon.

ear wax | [wāks] | P. int. used in reference to phonograph records: he didn’t get on wax until 1959.

v. [tr.] 1. cover or treat (something) with wax or a similar substance, typically to polish or protect it: I washed and waxed the floor. 2. remove unwanted hair from: part of the body by applying wax and then peeling off the wax and hairs together. 3. make a recording of: he waxed a series of tracks that emphasized his lead guitar work. —wax-er n.

v. [tr.] (of the moon between new and full) has a progressively larger part of its visible surface illuminated, increasing its apparent size.

poetic adj. become larger or stronger: his anger waxed.

5. begin to speak or write about something in the specified manner: they waxed lyrical on the old days.

— wax and wane undergo alternate increases and decreases: companies whose fortunes wax and wane with the economic cycle.

waxed paper | (also wax paper) | P. paper that has been impregnated with wax to make it waterproof or greaseproof, used esp. in cooking and the wrapping of foodstuffs.

wax-en | [wāks-on] | adj. having a smooth, pastel, translucent surface or appearance like that of wax: a canopy of waxen, creamy blooms.


way | [wā] | n. 1. a method, style, or manner of doing something; worry was their way of showing how much they care. 2. a person’s characteristic or habitual manner of behavior or expression: it was not his way to wait passively for things to happen. 3. the customary modes of behavior or practices of a group: foreigners who adopt French ways. 4. the typical manner in which something happens or in which someone or something behaves: he was showing off, as is the way with adolescent boys. 5. a road, track, path, or street for traveling along: [in place name] New Church Way. 6. a course of travel or route taken in order to reach a place: can you tell me the way to Duffy Square? 7. a means of entry or exit from somewhere, such as a door or gate: we’re going in the back way.

also ways | n. 1. ways (also way) a traveled or to be traveled: the distance from one place to another: they still had a long way ahead of them. 2. a period between one point in time and another: September was a long way. 3. travel or motion along a particular route: the route along which someone or something would travel if unobstructed: Christine tried to follow her brother who asked her to help specify directions. 4. an undulating or curved path: we just missed another car coming in the way. 5. often ways parts into which something divides or is divided: the national vote split three ways. 6. a five-way betting war. 7. a word used with a verb and adverbial phrase to intensify the force of an action or to denote movement or progress: I shouldered my way to the bar.

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(someone) and detain them in conversation or trouble them in some other way: he waylaid me on the stairs. —way-lay-er n.

way-side [wāˈsīd] n. the edge of a road.

■ fall by the wayside fail to persist in an endeavor or undertaking; many readers will fall by the wayside as the terminology becomes more complicated.

wayward [wāˈwərd] adj. difficult to control or predict because of unusual or perverse behavior: her wayward, difficult sister | fig. his wayward emotions. —wayward-ly adv. —wayward-ness n.

we [wē] pron. [first person pl. we] 1 used by a speaker to refer to himself or herself and one or more other people considered together: shall we have a drink? 2 used to refer to the speaker together with other people regarded in the same category: nobody knows kids better than we teachers do. 3 used in general: we should eat as varied and well-balanced a diet as possible. 4 used in formal contexts or by a royal person, or by a writer or editor, to refer to himself or herself: in this section we discuss the reasons.

weaken [wiˈənkən] v. to make or become weaker in power, resolve, or physical strength: [tr.] weaken muscle| [intr.] his resistance had weakened. —weaken-er n.

weak-kneed adj. weak and shaky as a result of fear or excitement.

weakling [wiˈənkling] n. a person or animal that is physically weak and frail.

weakly [wiˈənlē] adv. in a way that lacks strength or force: she learned weakly against the wall.

weak-minded adj. lacking determination, emotional strength, or intellectual capacity.

weakness [wiˈənəs] n. the state or condition of lacking strength: the country's weakness in international defense, a quality or feature regarded as a disadvantage or fault; you must recognize your own strengths and weaknesses. 2 a person or thing that is unable to resist or be moved excessively: you're his one weakness—he should never have met you. —weakness for a self-indulgent liking for: he had a great weakness for Scotch whisky.

weal [wel] n. (also chiefly Med. wheal) a red, swollen mark left on flesh by a blow or pressure. | Med. an area of the skin that is temporarily raised, typically reddened, and usually accompanied by itching.

weal [wel] n. a format that is best for someone or something: I am holding this trial behind closed doors in the public weal.

wealth [welθ] n. an abundance of valuable possessions or money: he used his wealth to bribe officials. 2 the state of being rich; material prosperity: some people buy boats and cars to display their wealth. 3 plentiful supplies of a particular resource: the country's mineral wealth. 4 a plentiful supply of a particular desirable thing: the tables and maps contain a wealth of information. 5 archeal well-being; prosperity.

wealthy [welθi] adj. [wealthi-er, wealthiest] having a great deal of money, resources, or assets; rich: the wealthy nations of the world | [as pl. n.] the wealthy: the burden of taxation on the wealthy. —wealthi-ly adv. —wealthi-ness n.

wean [wiˈən] v. [tr.] accustom (an infant or other young mammal) to food other than its mother's milk. 2 accustom (someone) to managing without something on which they have become dependent or of which they have become excessively fond: the doctor tried to wean her off the sleeping pills. 3 (be weaned on) be strongly influenced by (something), esp. from an early age: I was weaned on a regular diet of Hollywood fantasy.

weapon [ˈwepən] n. a thing designed or used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage: nuclear weapons. 2 fig. a means of gaining an advantage or defending oneself in a conflict or contest: resignation threats had long been a weapon on his armory. —weapon-ed adj. —weapon-less adj.

weaponize [ˈwepənˌīz] v. [tr.] convert to use as a weapon: a list of pathogens that terrorists might weaponize. 2 supply or equip with weapons: a plan to weaponize space. —weapon-ize·ation n.

weaponry [ˈwelpənri] n. [treated as sing. or pl.] weapons regarded collectively.

wear [wer]] v. [past tense wore; past part. worn] 1 [tr.] have on one's body or a part of one's body as clothing, decoration, protection, or for some other purpose: he was wearing a dark suit. 2 [intr.] habitually have on one's body: he was dressed in: although she was a widow, she didn't wear black. 3 exhibit or present (a particular facial expression or appearance) or wear: they wear a frozen smile on their faces. 4 [intr.] have (one's hair or beard) at a specified length or arranged in a specified style: the students wore their hair long. 5 [tr.] damage, erode, or destroy by friction or use: the tracks have been worn down in part to bare rock. 6 [intr.] undergo such damage, erosion, or destruction: mountains are wearing down with each passing second. 7 [tr.] form (a hole, path, etc.) by constant friction or use: the water was forced up through holes it had worn. 8 [intr.] [wear on] cause weariness or fatigue to: some losses can wear you on. 9 [intr.] withstand continued use or life in a specified way: a carpet-type finish seems to wear well. 10 [intr.] [wear off] (of a period of time) pass, esp. slowly or tediously: as the afternoon wore on, he began to look unhappy.

phasal v. wear someone/something down overcome or exhaust someone or something by persistence. —wear off lose effectiveness or intensity. —wear out workaround. —wear some-thing out [or wear out] 1 use or be used until no longer in good condition or working order: wearing out the stair carpet. 2 [wear someone/something out] exhaust or tire someone or something: the wear of this wondering wore out Lampsard's patience.

n. 1 the wearing of something or the state of being worn as clothing: some new tops for wear in the evening. 2 clothing suitable for a particular purpose or of a particular type: evening wear. 3 damage or deterioration sustained from continuous use: you need to make a deduction for wear and tear on all your belongings. 4 the capacity for withstanding continuing use without such damage: old things were relegated to the bedrooms because there was plenty of wear left in them. —wear-a-bility n.


weary [wiˈərē] adj. [weari-er, weari-est] feeling or showing tiredness, esp. as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep: he gave a long, weary sigh. 2 reluctant to see or experience any more of; tired of: she was weary of their constant arguments | [in comb.] war-weary Americans. 3 calling for a great amount of energy or endurance; tiring and tedious: the weary journey began again.

wear thine adj. 1 be gradually used up or become less convincing or acceptable: he was tired of being worn thin | the joke had started to wear thin.

wear-i·some [wiˈərisəm] adj. causing one to feel tired or bored.

wear-in·some·ly adv. —wear-i·some·ness n.

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use of cunning or deceit: she suspects me of trying to weasel my way into his affections. • behave or talk evasively. —weasel-y adj.

weather /ˈweðər/ n. the state like so defined: the atmosphere at a place and time as regards heat, cloudiness, dryness, sunshine, wind, rain, etc.; if the weather's good, we can go for a walk. • a report on such conditions as broadcast on radio or television. • cold, wet, and unpleasant or unpredictable atmospheric conditions: the elements: stone walls provide shelter from wind and weather. • [as adj] denoting the side from which the wind is blowing, esp. on board a ship, windward.

v. [tr] 1 wear away or change the appearance or texture of (something) by long exposure to the atmosphere: [tr] his skin was weathered almost black by his long outdoor life. • [adj] (weathered) chemically weathered rock. • [intr] (of rock or other material) be worn away or altered by such processes: the ice sheet preserves specimens that would weather away more quickly in other regions. 2 come safely through (a storm). • withstand (a difficulty or danger): this year has tested our ability to weather recession. • Sailing (of a ship) get to the windward of (a cape or other obstacle).

weather-cock /ˈweðərˌkɔk/ n. a weathervane in the form of a rooster.

weather-man /ˈweðərˌmæn/ n. (pl. -men) a man who broadcasts a description and forecast of weather conditions.

weather-proof /ˈweðərˌprouf/ adj. resistant to the effects of bad weather, esp. rain: the building is structurally sound and weatherproof.

v. [tr] make (something) resistant to the effects of bad weather, esp. rain.

weather-strip /ˈweðərˌstrɪp/ n. a strip of rubber, metal, or other material used to seal the edges of a door or window against rain and wind.

weathered /ˈweðərd/ adj. (past -ered, past part. -ered) weathered items: tanned skin.

weather-vane /ˈweðərˌvæn/ n. a revolving pointer to show the direction of the wind, typically mounted on top of a building.

weave /weɪv/ v. [tr] form (fabric or a fabric item) by interlacing long threads passing in one direction with others at a right angle to them. • form (thread) into fabric in this way: thick wool yarn can be difficult to weave. • [intr] (usu. as n.) weaving make fabric in this way typically by working at a loom: cotton spinning and weaving was done in mills. • (weave something into) include something as an integral part or element of (a woven fabric): a gold pattern was woven into the material. • make (basketwork or a wreath) by interlacing rods or flowers. • make (a complex story or pattern) from a number of interrelated elements: he weaves colorful, interpretive comments into the narrative.

n. a particular style or manner in which something is woven: scarlet cloth of a very fine weave.

weaver /ˈweɪvər/ n. 1 a person who weaves fabric. 2 also weaver-bird a finch-like songbird (Phoenicircus and other genera, Phoenicophaeus) of tropical Africa and Asia. They build elaborately woven nests.

web /web/ n. a network of fine threads constructed by a spider from fluid secreted by its spinnerets, used to catch its prey. • a similar filmy network spun by some insect larvae, esp. communal caterpillars. • fig. a complex system of interconnected elements, esp. ones perceived as a trap or danger: he found himself caught up in a web of bureaucracy. • (the Web) short for World Wide Web. 2 a membrane between the toes of a swimming bird or other aquatic animal. • a thin flat part connecting thicker or more solid parts in machinery. • a roll of paper used in a continuous printing process. • 4 a piece of woven fabric.

v. [ webbed, web-bing] [intr] move or hang so as to form a weblike shape: an intricate transportation network weaves from coast to coast. • [tr] (usu. be webbed) cover with as though with a web: she noticed his tanned skin, webbed with fine creases. —web-like adj.

web-bing /ˈweɪbɪŋ/ n. strong, closely woven fabric used for making items such as straps and belts, and for supporting the seats of upholstered chairs. 2 the part of a baseball glove between the thumb and forefinger.

web-foot-ed /ˈweɪbˌfʊtəd/ adj. (of a swimming bird or other aquatic animal) having webbed feet.

Web hosting n. Comput. the activity or business of providing storage space and access for Web sites.


Web-mail (also web-mail) n. e-mail available for use online and stored in the Internet server mailbox, and that is not downloaded to an e-mail program or used offline.

Web site (also web site or web-site) n. Comput. a location connected to the Internet that maintains one or more pages on the World Wide Web.

web-zine /ˈweɪbˌziːn/ n. a magazine published on the Internet.

wed /wed/ v. (wedding; past and past part. wed-ded or wed) [tr] chiefly formal or archaic get married to: he was wed the king’s daughter. • [intr] get married: they were wed a week after meeting. —be wed after a three-month engagement, they were wed in London. • give or join in marriage: will you wed your daughter to him? • [as adj] (wedded) of or concerning marriage: a celebration of 25 years' wedded bliss. • combine (two factors or qualities, esp. desirable ones) in this recording he wedς an excellent program with a distinctive vocal style. • be wedded to be obstinately attached or devoted to (an activity, belief, or system); foreign policy has remained wedded to outdated assumptions.

n. a marriage ceremony, esp. considered as including the associated celebrations.

wedding march n. a piece of march music played at the entrance of the bride or the exit of the couple at a wedding.

wedge /weɪdʒ/ n. a piece of wood, metal, or some other material having one thick end and tapering to a thin edge, that is driven between two objects or parts of an object to secure or separate them. • an object or piece of something having such a shape: a wedge of cheese. • a formation of people or animals with such a shape: a wedge of sand. • a wedge of sand can be compared to a wedge of everything.

wedge-ge /ˈweɪdʒdʒi/ n. int. 1 at a pitch of the wedge. 2 an uncomfortable tightening of the undersides of the buttocks, typically produced when someone pulls the undersides up from the back as a practical joke.

wed-lock /ˈwedlæk/ n. the state of being married.

Wednes-day /ˈwɛnzdi/ n. the day of the week before Thursday and following Tuesday.

adv. on Wednesday. • see Wednesdays. • Wednesdays) on Wednesdays; each Wednesday: Wednesdays, the jazz DJ hosts a jam session.

wee /wi/ adj. (we-er, wee-est) chiefly Scot. little: just a wee drop.

v. • the wee hours the early hours of the morning after midnight: a night of dining and dancing until the wee hours.

wee-ded /ˈwiədɪd/ v. • remove unwanted plants from (an area of ground or the plants cultivated in it): I was weeding a flower bed. —weed something out remove something, esp. inferior or unwanted items or members from a group or club; we must raise the level of research and weed out the poorest work. —weed-er n. —weed-less adj.

weedy /ˈwiːdi/ adj. (weed-er, weedi-est) containing or covered with many weeds: a weedy path led to the gate. • the number of or relating to a: a weedy species of plants. • inf. (of a person) thin and physically weak in appearance. —weed-ness n.

week /wek/ n. a period of seven days. • the period of seven days

 Pronunciation Key: a ago, up, or over, fur; a hat, a tic; a car; ch chin; e let; e see; e(a)ir; i fat; i by; i yar; ng sing; o go; o law; or or toy; o0 good; o0 oo, ou oat; sh she; th thin; th then; thh why; zh vision
generally reckoned from and to midnight on Saturday night: she has an art class twice a week; she works as opposed to the weekend; the five days from Monday to Friday: she works a 48-hour week; a period of five or seven days devoted to a specified purpose or beginning on a specified day: Super Bowl week; the week of June 23; int., chiefly Brit., used after the name of a day to indicate that something will happen seven days after that day: the program will be broadcast on Sunday week.

week-day /'wek,deɪ/ n. a day of the week other than Saturday or Sunday.

week-end /'wek,ɛnd/ n. the period from Friday evening through Sunday evening, esp. regarded as a time for leisure: she spent the weekend camping; [as adj.] a weekend break. [also long weekend] this period plus one or two days immediately before or after: the long holiday weekend.

v. (intr.) spend a weekend somewhere: weekending in the country.

week-long (also week-long) adj. lasting for a week: a week-long visit to New Zealand.

week-ly /'wek,li/ adj. done, produced, or occurring once a week: there was a weekly dance on Wednesdays; relating to or calculated in terms of a week: the difference in weekly income is $290.

adv. once a week: interviews were given weekly.

n. (pl. -lies) a newspaper or periodical issued every week.

wee-nie /'weɪni/ n. another term for Wiener.

volgar slang a man’s penis. informal a weak, socially inept, or bumbling studious person: newer programming languages are a favorite of the tech weenies.

weep /wip/ v. (past and past part. wept, weeping) [int.] 1. shed tears: a grieving mother wept over the body of her daughter; [intr.] he wept bitter tears at her cruel. 2. utter or express with tears or with direct speech: “Not she,” wept he.

2. exude liquid: she rubbed one of the sores, making it weep.

n. a fit or spell of shedding tears.

weep y /'weɪp/ adj. (weep-i-er, weep-i-est) int. tearful: inclined to weep: a weeping child. 

sentimental: a weepie made-for-TV movie.

weep-ily /'weɪpi-li/ adv. weep-i-ness n.

wee-vil /'weɪvəl/ n. a small beetle (Curculionidae and other families) with an elongated snout, the larvae of which typically develop inside seeds, stems, or other plant parts. Many are pests of crops or stored foodstuffs. 

adj. any small insect that damages stored grain.

wee-ville adj.

wee-wei int. n. a child’s word for urine.

weep /wip/ v. (int.) urinate.

weft /weft/ n. (in weaving) the crosswise threads on a loom over and under which other threads (the warp) are passed to make cloth.

weigh /waɪ/ v. 1. [tr.] find out how heavy (someone or something) is, typically using scales: weigh yourself on the day you begin the diet. 2. have a specified weight: when the twins were born, they weighed ten pounds. 3. balance in the hands to guess or if it is guess the weight of: she picked up the brick and weighed it in her right hand. 4. (weigh something) measure and take from a large quantity of a substance a portion of a particular weight: she weighed out two ounces of tobacco. 5. [intr.] (weigh on) being depressing or burdensome to: his unhappiness would weigh on my mind so much. 2. assess the nature or importance of, esp. with a view to a decision or action: the consequences of the move would need to be very carefully weighed.

(weigh something against) compare the importance of one factor with that of another; they need to weigh benefit against risk.

adj. influence a decision or action; be considered important: the evidence weighed heavily against him.

v. phrasal weigh someone down be heavy and cumbersome to someone: my waders and fishing gear weighed me down. be oppressive or burdensome to someone: she was weighed down by family responsibilities. Old English wegan, of Germanic origin; related to woe and wain, and to Dutch weghe ‘weigh.’ German weisegen ‘move,’ from an Indo-European root shared by Latin and ‘convey.’ Early senses included ‘transport from one place to another’ and ‘raise up.’

someone’s words carefully choose the way one expresses something.

weight /waɪt/ n. 1. a body’s relative mass or the quantity of matter contained by it, giving rise to a downward force: the heaviness of a person or thing: he was at least 175 pounds in weight. 2. the force exerted on the mass of a body by a gravitational field. Compare with MASS. 3. the quantity of being heavy: as he came upstairs the boards creaked under his weight. 4. a unit or system of units used for expressing how much an object or quantity of matter weighs. 5. a piece of metal known to weigh a definite amount and used on scales to determine how heavy an object or quantity of a substance is. 6. any of several divisions based on relative lightness and heaviness into which boxers and wrestlers are classified for competition. 7. the surface density of clothing used as a measure of its quality. 8. printing the degree of blackness of a type font. 9. a heavy object, esp. one being lifted or carried. 10. a heavy object used to give an impulse or act as a counterweight in a mechanism. (weights) blocks or discs of metal or other heavy material used in weightlifting or weight training. 11. a burden or responsibility. 12. the ability of someone or something to influence decisions or actions: a recommendation by the committee will carry great weight. 13. the importance attached to something: individuals differ in their weight they attach to various aspects of a job. 14. Statistics a factor associated with one of a set of numerical quantities, used to represent its importance relative to the other members of the set.

v. [tr.] hold (something) down by placing a heavy object on top of it: a mug half filled with coffee weighted down a stack of papers. 1. make (something) heavier by attaching a heavy object to it, esp. so as to make it stay in place: the jars were covered with muslin veils weighted with colored beads. 2. attach importance or value to: speaking, reading, and writing should be weighted equally in the assessment. 3. (be weighted) be arranged or arranged so as to put a specified person, group, or factor in a position of advantage or disadvantage: the balance of power is weighted in favor of the government. 4. Statistics multiply the components of (an average) by factors to take account of their importance.

adj. throw one’s weight around int. be unpleasantly self-assertive. 2. throw one’s weight behind int. use one’s influence to help support.

weightless /'weɪtləs/ adj. (of a body, esp. in an orbiting spacecraft) not apparently acted on by gravity.

weightless-ly /-lɛli/ adv. weightless-ness n.

weight-lifting /'weɪtlɪfɪŋ/ n. the sport or activity of lifting barbells or other heavy weights.

weighty /'weɪti/ adj. (weight-i-er, weight-i-est) weighing a great deal; heavy: a heavy case. 2. of great seriousness and importance: he threw off all weighty considerations of state. 3. having a great deal of influence on events or decisions.

weight-ily /-lai-li/ adv. weight-iness n.

weir /'wiər/ n. a low dam built across a stream to raise the level of water upstream or regulate its flow.

weird /wiərd/ adj. suggesting something supernatural; uncanny: the weird crying of a seal. int. very strange; bizarre: a weird coincidence.

v. [tr.] (weird something out) int. induce a sense of disbelief or alienation in someone.

adv. weird-ly adv. weird-ness n.

weird-o /'wiərdəʊ/ n. (pl. -dos) int. a person whose dress or behavior seems strange or eccentric.

weld /wel/ v. [tr.] join together (metal pieces or parts) by heating the surfaces to the point of melting with a blowpipe, electric arc, or other means, and uniting them by pressing, hammering, etc.: the truck had spikes welded to the back.

forge (an article) by such means.

unite (pieces of plastic or other material) by melting or softening of surfaces in contact. 2. fig. cause to combine and form a harmonious or effective whole: his efforts to weld together the religious parties ran into trouble.

n. a welded joint.

adj. welded.

adj. welded.

welfare /'wel,fɛər/ n. the health, happiness, and fortunes of a person or group: they don’t give a damn about the welfare of their families.

adj. statutory procedure or social effort designed to promote the basic physical
and material well-being of people in need; the protection of rights to education, housing, and welfare. ■ financial support given for this purpose.

On welfare receiving government financial assistance for basic material needs.

welfarism /wel'far-iz'am/ n. the principles or policies associated with a welfare state. —welfarist n. & adj.

well /wel/ adv. (better, best) 1 in a good or satisfactory way: the whole team played well. ■ in a way that is appropriate to the facts or circumstances: you did well to come and tell me. ■ [in comb.] a well-timed exit. ■ so as to have a fortunate outcome: his campaign did not go well. ■ in a kind way: the animals will remain loyal to humans if treated well. ■ with praise or approval: people spoke well of him. ■ with equanimity; she took it very well. ■ all things considered. ■ profitably; advantageously; she would marry well or not at all. ■ in a condition of prosperity or comfort: they lived well and were generous with their money. ■ in a thorough manner: add the mustard and lemon juice and mix well. ■ to a great extent; often used for emphasis: the visit had been planned well in advance. ■ [in comb.] a well-loved mother. ■ intimately: closely; he knew my father very well.

3 very probably; in all likelihood: being short of breath may well be the first sign of asthma. ■ without difficulty; she could well afford to pay for the reception. ■ with good reason; “What are we doing here?” “You may well ask.”

adj. (better, best) 1 in good health; free or recovered from illness: I don’t feel very well. ■ in a satisfactory state or position: all is not well in post-Soviet Russia. 2 sensible; advisable: it would be well to know just what this suggestion entails.

interj. used to express a range of emotions including surprise, anger, resignation, or relief: Well, really! The manners of some people! used when passing to consider one’s next words: well, I suppose I couldn’t fit you in at 3:45. ■ used to express agreement or acceptance; often in a qualified or slightly reluctant way: well, all right, but he quick. ■ used to introduce the resolution of a narrative or a change of subject. ■ used to mark the end of a conversation or activity: well, cheers, Tom—I must run. ■ used to indicate that one is waiting for an answer or explanation from someone: Well? You promised to tell me all about it. ■ Old English wela; of Germanic origin; related to Dutch vol and German wohl.

—well-ness n.

— as well 1 in addition; too: the museum provides hours of fun and a few surprises as well. 2 (as well or just as well) with equal reason or an equally good result: I may as well have a look. ■ sensible, appropriate, or desirable: it would be as well to let him go. ■ leave (or let) well enough alone refrain from interfering with or trying to improve something that is satisfactory or adequate as it is. ■ very well used to express agreement or understanding, sometimes grudging: oh well then, come in.

well /wel/ n. 1 a shaft sunk into the ground to obtain water, oil, or gas. ■ a plentiful source or supply: she could feel a deep well of sympathy and compassion. ■ a depression made to hold liquid: put the flour on a flat surface and make a well to hold the eggs. 2 an enclosed space in the middle of a building, giving room for stairs or an elevator, or to allow light or ventilation. 3 Physics a region of minimum potential; a well.

[wel] adj. [inf.] (of a liquid) rise to the surface and spill or be about to spill: tears were beginning to well in her eyes. ■ (of an emotion) arise and become more intense: all the old bitterness well up inside her again.

we’ll /wel/ v. [contr.] of we shall; we will.

well-advised adj. sensible; wise: you would be well advised to obtain legal advice.

well-appointed adj. (of a building or room) having a high standard of equipment or furnishing.

well-balanced adj. 1 sensible; sane. ■ (of a meal or a diet) nutritionally sound; providing an appropriate selection of nutrients: a hotelog with cheese fries is hardly a well-balanced dinner. 2 having a symmetrical or orderly arrangement of parts.

well-being n. the state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy: an improvement in the patient’s well-being.

well-born adj. from a noble or wealthy family.

well-disposed adj. having a positive, sympathetic, or friendly attitude toward someone; something: the company is well-disposed to the idea of partnership.

well-done adj. 1 (of a task or undertaking) carried out successfully or satisfactorily: the decoration is very well done. 2 (of meat) thoroughly cooked: well-done roast beef.

interj. used to express congratulation or approval: Well done—you’ve worked very hard.
Germanic origin; related to Dutch wit and German was, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin quod.

what about —? 1 what used when asking for information or an opinion on something: what about the practical angle? 2 used to make a suggestion: what about a walk? 3 what if —? 1 what would result if —?: what if nobody shows up? 2 what does it matter if —?: what if our house is a mess? I'm clean. 3 what's what int what is useful or important: I'll teach her what's what. 4 what with because of used usually to introduce several causes of something: what with the drought and the neglect, the garden is in a sad condition.

whatsoever [ˈhaftəˌwɔr], [ˈhaftə́ˌwɔr] adj. & adv. to emphasize a lack of restriction in referring to any thing or amount, no matter what: [as pron.] do whatever you like; [as adv.] take whatever action is needed.

regardless of what: [as pron.] you have our support, whatever you decide; [as adj.] whatever decision he made I would support it.

tir. intr. used for emphasis instead of "what" in questions, typically expressing surprise or confusion: whatever is the matter?

adv. 1 at; of any kind (used for emphasis); they received no help whatever.

interj. used to express skepticism or exasperation: Joseph's comment amounted to "Yeah, well, whatever."

what not [ˈhaftəˌnɔt], [ˈhaftəˌnɔt] 1 inf. used to refer to an item or items that are not identified but are felt to have something in common with items already named: little flashing digital displays, electric zooms and whatnots. 2 a stand with shelves for small objects.

what so ever [ˈhaftəˌswəˈevər], [ˈhaftəˌswəˈevər] adv. at all (used for emphasis): I have no doubt whatsoever.

wheel [ˈhwel] see WEAL.

wheel [ˈhwel] n. a cerebro-plant (genus Trichicum) that is the most important plant in temperate countries, the grain of which is ground to make flour for bread, pasta, pastry, etc. 2 the grain of this plant.

wheel-ten [ˈhweltən] adj. (esp. of bread) made of wheal. 2 of a color resembling that of wheal: a pale yellow-beige.

wheel germ n. a nutritious foodstuff of a dry floury consistency consisting of the extracted embryos of grains of wheat.

wheel [ˈhwel] interj. used to express delight, excitement, or exhilaration: as the car began to bump down the track he felt a lighting of his spirits—wheel.

wheel-dle [ˈhweldəl] v. [intr.] employ endearments or flattery to persuade someone to do something or give one something: you can try to wheedle your way onto a course. 2 wheedle someone into doing something coax or persuade someone to do something. 3 [tr.] (wheedle something out of) coax or persuade (someone) to say or give something. —wheel-dler n. —wheel-dling-ly adv.

wheel [ˈhwel] n. 1 a circular object that revolves on an axle and is fixed below a vehicle or other object to enable it to move easily over the ground. 2 a circular object that revolves on an axle and forms part of a machine: 3 (the wheel) in use reference to the cycle of a specified condition or set of events: the final release from the wheel of life. 2 a machine or structure having a wheel as its essential part: (the wheel) a steering wheel used in reference to driving or steering a vehicle or vessel: his crew knew when he wanted to take the wheel. 3 a vessel's propeller or paddle wheel. 4 a device with a revolving disk or drum used in various games of chance. 5 a system, or a part of a system, regarded as a relentlessly moving machine: the wheels of justice. 3 (wheels) n. 1 a car: she's got wheels now. 2 a bicycle. 4 a thing resembling a wheel in form or function, in particular a cheese made in the form of a disk. 5 an instance of wheeling; a turn or rotation.

wheel [ˈhwel] v. [intr.] push or pull (animal with wheels): the sea sled was wheeled out to the flight deck. 2 [tr.] carry (someone or something) in or on a vehicle with wheels: a young woman is wheeled into the operating room.

wheel something in/on/out inf. produce something that is unnecessary because it has been frequently seen or heard before: the old journalistic arguments have to be wheeled out. 2 [intr.] of a bird or aircraft fly in a wide circle or curve: the birds wheeled and dived. 3 turn around quickly so as to face another way: Robert wheeled around to see the face of Mr. Mafouz. 4 turn or seem to turn on an axis or pivot: the stars wheeled through the sky. 5 Old English heawel (noun), of Germanic origin, from an Indo-European root shared by Sanskrit ukrā, wheel, 'circle,' and Greek kuklos 'circle.'


wheel and deal engage in commercial or political scheming, esp. unscrupulously: [as n.] (wheeling and dealing) the wheeling and dealing of the Wall Street boom years.

wheel-bar-row [ˈhwelˌbærə] n. a small cart with a single wheel at the front and two supporting legs and two handles at the rear, used typically for carrying loads in building-work or gardening.

wheel-base [ˈhwelˌbæs] n. the distance between the front and rear axles of a vehicle: a short-wheelbase model.

wheel-chair [ˈhwelˌtʃeər] n. a chair built on wheels for an invalid or disabled person, pushed by another person or propelled by the occupant, or motorized.

wheel-er-dealer (also wheeler and dealer) n. a person who engages in commercial or political scheming. —wheeler-dealing n.

wheel-house [ˈhwelˌhous] n. a part of a boat or ship serving as a shelter for the person at the wheel.

wheel-less [ˈhwelˌles] adj. a trick or maneuver whereby a bicycle or motorcycle is hidden for a short distance with the front wheel raised off the ground.

wheel-zee [ˈhwelə] v. [intr] (of a person) breathe with a whistling or rattling sound in the chest, as a result of obstruction in the air passages: the illness often leaves her wheezing. 2 [tr.] utter with such a sound: he could barely wheeze out his pleas for a handout. 3 [tr.] walk or move slowly with such a sound: she wheezed up the hill toward them. 4 (of a device) make an irregular rattling or spluttering sound: the engine conked wheezed, and shrieked into life.

— wheezer n. — wheezing-ly adv. — wheezzy adj.

wheel-ky [ˈhwelkəl] n. a predatory marine mollusk (family Buccinidae) with a heavy, pointed spiral shell, some kinds of which are edible.

wheel-pup [ˈhwelˌpʌp] n. a puppy. 2 a cub. 3 a boy or young man (often in a disparaging form of address).

wheel [ˈhwel] v. [intr.] give birth to (a puppy): Copper whelped seven puppies.

wheel [ˈhwel] interj. at what time; when did you last see him? since when have you been interested? how soon: when can I see you? in what circumstances; when would such a rule be justifiable? 2 relative at or on which (referring to a time or circumstance): Saturday is the day when I get my hair done. 3 conj. at or during the time that: I loved math when I was in school.

wheel [ˈhwel] after: call me when you're finished. 2 at any time that: whenever: can you spare five minutes when it's convenient? 2 after which: and just then (implying suddenness): he had just drifted off to sleep when the phone rang.

—wheel-ness (also from whence) interj. adv formal or archaic from whence: that Congress derive this power? 2 relative adv formal or archaic from which: from whence: the Ural mountains, whence the ore is procured. 3 to the place from which: he will be sent back whence he came. 4 as a consequence of which: whence it followed that the strategies were obsolete.

wheel-en [ˈhwelən] conj. at whatever time; on whatever occasion (emphasizing a lack of restriction): you can ask for help whenever you need it. 2 every time that: the springs in the armchair creeked whenever I changed position.

wheel [ˈhwel] interj. used for emphasis instead of "when" in questions, typically expressing surprise or confusion: whenever shall we get there?

wheel [ˈhwel] interj. in or to what place or position; where do you live? 2 in what direction or respect: where does the argument lead? in or from what source: where did you read that? 2 in or to what situation or condition; just where is all this leading us?

wheel [ˈhwel] interj. at, in, or to which (used after reference to a place or situation): I first saw him in Paris, where I lived in the early sixties. 2 the place or situation in which: this is where I live. 3 in or to a place or situation in which: sit where I can see you or any place in which: wherever: he was free to go where he liked.

wheelbarrow
**whiplash** /'hwiplaʃ/ n. 1 the lashing action of a whip: *fig.* he cringed before the icy whiplash of Curtis's tongue. 2 the flexible part of a whip or something resembling it. 3 injury caused by a severe jerk to the head, typically in a motor-vehicle accident.

**whip-pet** /'hwip pet/ n. a dog of a small slender breed originally produced as a cross between the greyhound and the terrier or spaniel, bred for racing. —early 17th cent.: partly from obsolete whippet *‘move briskly’.*

**whip-ping** /'hwiping/ n. 1 a thrashing or beating with a whip or similar implement: *she saws back on his back from the whippings.* 2 cord or twine used to bind or cover a rope.

**whip-ping** /'hwiping/ adj. a person who is blamed or punished for the faults or incompetence of others.

**whip-poor-will** /'hwip poor wil/ also *whip-poor-will* n. a North and Central American nightjar *Caprimulgus vociferus* with a distinctive call.

**whirl** /hwir/ also *whirr* v. (whirred, whirring) [intr.] (esp. of a machine or a bird's wings) make a low, continuous, round sound: *the ceiling fans whirred in the smoky air.*

n. a sound of such a type: *the whirl of the projector.*

**whirl** /hwir/ v. move or cause to move rapidly and around: *[intr.] leaves whirled in eddies of wind* | *[tr.] I whirled her around the dance floor.* 2 move or cause to move rapidly: *[intr.] Sally stood aghast as they whirled past* | *[tr.] he was whirled into the bushes.* *[intr.] (of the head, mind, or senses) seem to spin around: Kate made her way back to the office, her mind whirling.* *[intr.] (of thoughts or mental images) follow each other in bewildering succession: a kaleidoscope of images whirled through her brain.*

n. a rapid movement around and around. 2 frantastic of activity of a specified kind: *the event was all part of the mad social whirl.* 3 a specified kind of candy or cookie with a spiral shape: *a hazelnut whirl.* —whirler n. —whir-ling-ly adv.

**whirligig** /hwir lig ig/ n. a toy that spins around, for example a top or windmill. —another term for *merry-go-round.* 2 a thing regarded as hectic or constantly changing: the whirligig of time.

**whirligig** beetle /hwir li gik/ n. a small black predatory beetle *Gyrinus* and other genera, family *Gyrididae* that swims rapidly in circles on the surface of still or slow-moving water and dives when alarmed.

**whirling der-vish** n. see *Dervish.*

**whirl-pool** /hwir plu/ n. a rapidly rotating mass of water in a river or sea into which objects may be drawn, typically caused by the meeting of conflicting currents. —fig. a turbulent situation from which it is hard to escape: he was drawing his head into an emotional whirlpool.

**whirlpool** bath n. a heated pool in which hot, typically aerated water is continuously circulated.

**whirl-wind** /hwir wind/ n. a column of air moving rapidly around and around in a cylindrical or funnel shape. —used in similes and metaphors to describe a very energetic or tumultuous person or process: a whirlwind of activity | a whirlwind romance.

**whirr** n. & v. variant spelling of *whirl.*

**whisk** /hwisk/ v. 1 [tr.] take or move (someone or something) in a particular direction suddenly and quickly: *his jacket was whisked away for dry cleaning.* 2 move (something) through the air with a light, sweeping movement: *hippopotamuses spread their scents by whisking their tails.* 3 beat or stir (a substance, esp. cream or eggs) with a light, rapid movement.

n. 1 a utensil for whipping eggs or cream. 2 a bunch of grass, twigs, or bristles for removing dust or flies.

**whisk broom** n. a small, stiff, short-handled broom used esp. to brush clothing.

**whisker** /hwiskar/ n. 1 a long projecting hair or bristle growing from the face or snout of many mammals. 2 *whiskers* the hair growing on a man's face, esp. on his cheeks. 3 a single crystal of a material in the form of a filament with no dislocations.

**whiskey** adj. —whiskey n. —whiskey adj.

**whisky** /h'wiski/ n. (pl. -keys) 1 also *whispy* (pl. -kies) a spirit distilled from malted grain, esp. barley or rye. 2 a code word representing the letter *W,* used in radio communication.

**whisper** /hwisper/ v. [intr.] speak very softly using one's breath without one's vocal cords, esp. for the sake of privacy: Alson was whispering in his ear | *[tr.] he managed to whisper a faint goodbye.* 2 *poetic* (lit. of leaves, wind, or water) rustle or murmur softly. —be whispered to: he was whispered that he would soon die.

n. 1 a soft or confidential tone of voice: a whispered word or phrase: she spoke in a whisper. 2 *poetic* a soft rustling or murmuring sound: *the thunders of the surf became a muted whisper.* 3 a rumor or piece of gossip: whispers of a blossoming romance.

**whistle** /hwista/ n. 1 a card game, usually for two pairs of players, in which points are scored according to the number of tricks won.

**whistle** /hwista/ adj. a high-pitched sound made by forcing breath through a small hole between partly closed lips, or between one's teeth. 2 a similar sound, esp. one made by a bird, machine, or the wind. 3 an instrument used to produce such a sound.

v. [intr.] emit a clear, high-pitched sound by forcing breath through a small hole between one's lips or teeth: *the audience cheered and whistled.* —[as adj.] *whistling* (noun) a whistling noise. —[as v.] *whistle* express surprise, admiration, or derision by making such a sound: Bob whistled. "You look beautiful!" he said.

— blow the whistle on int. bring an illicit activity to an end by informing on the person responsible. —(as) clean or *whistle* extremely clean or clear. —int. free of incriminating evidence: the cops raided the warehouse but the place was clean as a whistle.

**whistle-blower** (also *whistle-blow-er*) n. a person who informs on someone engaged in an illicit activity.

**whit** /hwit/ n. a very small part or amount: the last whit of warmth was drawn off by the setting sun.

**white** /hwit/ adj. 1 of the color of milk or fresh snow, due to the reflection of most wavelengths of visible light: the opposite of black: a sheet of white paper. 2 approaching such a color; very pale: her face was white with fear. 3 fig. morally or spiritually pure; innocent and untainted: he is as pure and white as the driven snow.

—of a plant) having white flowers or pale-colored fruit. —of (a tree) having light-colored bark. —of (wine) made from white grapes, or dark grapes with the skins removed, and having a yellowish color. —of (glass) transparent; colorless. —of (bread) made from a light-colored, sifted, or bleached flour.

2 (also *White*) belonging to or denoting a human group having light-colored skin (chiefly used of peoples of European extraction); a white farming community. 3 of or relating to such people: white Australian culture. 4 hist. counter-revolutionary or reactionary.

n. 1 white color or pigment: *garnet-red flowers flecked with white.* 2 the woodwork was an immaculate white. 3 white clothes or material: he was dressed from head to foot in white. 4 whites white clothes, esp. as worn for playing tennis, or as naval uniform, or in the context of washing.
whole-life

complete sincerity and commitment; you have my wholehearted support.

-whole-hearted-ly adv. -whole-hearted-ness n.

whole-life adj. relating to or denoting a life insurance policy that pays a specified amount only on the death of the person insured.

whole life in-sur-ance n. life insurance that pays a benefit on the death of the insured and also accumulates a cash value. Compare with term life insurance.

whole note n. Mus. a note having the time value of two half notes or four quarter notes, represented by a ring with no stem. It is the longest note now in common use.

whole number n. a number without fractions; an integer.

whole-sale /'höl, sæl/ n. the selling of goods in large quantities to be retailed by others.

adv. being sold in such a way: bottles from this region sell wholesale at about $72 a case. n. on a large scale: the wholesale destruction of insect communications.

adj. done on a large scale: extensive: the wholesale destruction of insect communications.

v. [tr.] sell (goods) in large quantities at low prices to be retained by others.

-whole-saler n.

whole-some /'hösəm/ adj. conducive to or suggestive of good health and physical well-being: the food is plentiful and very wholesome. n. conducive to or promoting moral well-being: good wholesome fin.

whole-somely adv. -whole-some-ness n.

whole step n. Mus. an interval of a (whole) tone.

whole tone n. see TONE (sense 4).

whole-tone scale n. Mus. a scale consisting entirely of intervals of a tone, with no semitones.

whole-wheel adj. denoting flour or bread made from whole grains of wheat, including the husk or outer layer.

whole-wheel n. whole wheat bread or flour.

whole-ism /'höl(ə)zam/ n. variant spelling of HOLISM. -whole-ist-ic adj.

whole-ly adv. -whole-ly-ly adv.

whole-y adv. adv. entirely: fully; she found herself given over wholly to sensation: the distinction is not wholly clear.

whom /hʊm/ pron. used instead of "who" as the object of a verb or preposition: [interrog. pron.] whom did he marry? [relative pron.] her mother; in whom she confided, said it wasn't easy for her.

whom-ever /hʊmˌevər/ pron. chorially formal or poetic /lit. used instead of "whosoever" as the object of a verb or preposition: I'll sing anything I like to whatever I like.

who-so-ever /ˌhʊsəˈevər/ relative pron. formal used instead of "whosoever" as the object of a verb or preposition: they supported his right to marry whomever he chose.

whoop /hʊwp/ n. a loud cry of joy or excitement. v. [intr.] give or make a whoop: whooping with laughter.

whoop it up adv. enjoy oneself or celebrate in a noisy way.

whooppee /ˈhʊpɪ/ n. an exclamation of excitement.

whooppee-cushion /ˈhʊpɪpɪ/ (also whoopie cushion) n. a rubber cushion that makes a sound like a fart when someone sits on it.

whoop-er /ˈhʊpər/ n. 1. also whooper swan a large migratory swan (Cygnus cygnus) with a black and yellow bill and a loud trumpeting call, breeding in northern Eurasia and Greenland. 2. Short for whooping crane.

whooping cough n. a contagious bacterial disease chiefly affecting children, characterized by coughing followed by a whoop. Also called pertussis.

whooping crane n. a large white main crane (Grus americana) with a trumpeting call, breeding in central Canada and now endangered.

whoops /ˈhʊps/ whoops /ˈhʊps/ interj. another term for OOPS.

whoosh /hʊʃ/ n. (h)wsh/ /hʊʃ/ (also whoosh) v. [intr.] move quickly or suddenly with a rushing sound: a train whooshed by. n. [intr.] the sound of something rushing: there was a whooshing sound, he whooshed the curtains open.

n. a sudden movement accompanied by a rushing sound: there was a big whoosh of air.

interj. used to imitate such a movement and sound.

whopper /ˈhʊpər/ n. interj. a thing that is extremely large or unusually large; the novel is a 1,079 page whooper. n. a gross or blatant lie.

whooping -n. very large; a whopping $74 million loss.
wide-angle

either side of a base: forced a wide throw to first. 
(n in field sports) or at near the side of the field: he played in a wide left position.

adv. to the full extent: his eyes wide open. 2 far from a particular point or mark: a shot that went wide to the right. 3 at or near the side of the field; toward the sideline: he will play wide on the right. —wide-ness n.

wide of the mark a long way away from an intended target. inaccurate: the accusation was a little wide of the mark. 
wide open 1 stretching over an outdoor expanse: the wide open spaces of Montana. 2 offering a great variety of opportunities: suddenly the whole world was wide open to her. 3 (of a context) of which the outcome is not predictable. 4 vulnerable, esp. to attack.

wide-angle adj. (of a lens) having a short focal length and hence a field covering a wide angle.

wide-awake n. a soft felt hat with a low crown and wide brim.

wide-eyed adj. having one's eyes wide open in amazement. fig. innocent: people think of Pinocchio as the wide-eyed, sweet-voiced puppet.

adv. with one's eyes wide open in amazement: we looked at each other wide-eyed.

wide-ly [widəli] adv. 1 over a wide area or at a wide interval: he smiled widely and held out a hand. 2 to a large degree in nature or character (used to describe considerable variation or difference): lending policies vary widely between different banks. 3 over a large area or range; extensively: Deborah has traveled widely. 4 by many people or in many places; credit cards are widely accepted.

wide-en [widən] v. make or become wider: to the incentive to dredge and widen the river

wide-spread [wid′ spred] adj. found or distributed over a large area or number of people: there was widespread support for the war.

wide-get [wid′ get] n. int. a small gadget or mechanical device, esp. one whose name is unknown or unspecified. 
Comput. a component of a user interface that operates in a particular way.

wide-ow [wid′ oʊ] n. 1 a woman who has lost her husband by death and has not remarried. 
2 humorous: a woman whose husband is often away participating in a specified sport or activity: a golf widow.

Print: a last word or short last line of a paragraph falling at the top of a page or column and considered undesirable.

[v. [tr.] usu. as adj. | widowed] make into a widow or widower: she had to care for her widowed mother.

Old English widow, from an Indo-European root meaning 'be empty'; compare with Sanskrit wīdhi 'be destitute.' Latin vidēus 'bereft, widowed,' and Greek ἰκτίους 'unmarried man.'

—widowhood n.

wide-ow-er [wid′ ø-ər] n. a man who has lost his wife by death and has not remarried.

wide-ow's peak n. a V-shaped growth of hair toward the center of the forehead, esp. one left by a receding hairline in a man.

wide [wid] adj. 1 the measurement or extent of something from side to side: the yard was about seven feet in width. 2 a piece of something at its full extent from side to side: a single width of plywood. 3 the sideways extent of a swimming pool as a measure of the distance of swim. 4 the quality of covering or accepting a broad range of things; scope: the breadth of experience required for these positions.

—width-wise adj.

wield [wel] v. [tr.] hold and use (a weapon or tool): a masked raider wielding a handgun. 
2 have and be able to use (power or influence): faction leaders wielded enormous influence within the party. —wield-er n.

wien-er [vəner] (also int. weenie, wie-nie [-nē]) n. a frankfurter or similar sausage.

2 the wife of a man with a specified occupation: a faculty wife. 3 an archaic or dial. a woman, esp. an old or uneducated one.


wig [wig] n. a covering for the head made of real or artificial hair, typically worn by people to conceal their baldness or in England by judges and barristers in courts of law.

—wigged adj.


—wigged adj.

—wiggly [′g ] adjective.

—wiggly [′g ] adverb.

—wiggly [′g ] noun.

—wiggly [′g ] adjective.

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—wiggly [′g ] adjective.

—wiggly [′g ] adverb.

—wiggly [′g ] noun.
Witchcraft (family Pleuronecidae) that is of some commercial value. —witch-like

witchcraft /wɪtʃˈkɑːrt/ n. the practice of magic, esp. black magic; the use of spells and the invocation of spirits. See also Wicca.

witch doctor n. (among tribal peoples) a magician credited with powers of healing, divination, and protection against the magic of others.

witchery /ˈwɪtʃəri/ n. the practice of magic; warding off evil spirits and an evil witch.

witch-hazel n. a shrub (genus Hamamelis, family Hamamelidaceae) with fragrant yellow flowers that is widely grown as an ornamental. A shrub that produces astringent mull from the bark and leaves of this plant, esp. H. virginiana.

witch-hunt n. hist. a search for and subsequent persecution of a supposed witch. A campaign directed against a person or group holding unorthodox or unpopular views. —witch-hunting n.

with /wɪt/ prep. 1 accompanied by (another person or thing): a nice steak with a bottle of red wine. In the same direction as: marine mammals generally swim with the current. Along with (with reference to time): wisdom comes with age. In proportion to: the light curve changes with period in a systematic way. 2 possessing (something) as a feature or accomplishment: a flower-sprigged blouse with a white collar. Marked by or wearing: a tall dark man with a scar on one cheek. 3 indicating the instrument used to perform an action: cut it with a knife. 4 indicating the material used for some purpose: fill the bowl with water. In opposition to: we started fighting with each other. 5 indicating the manner or attitude of the person doing something: with great reluctance. 6 indicating responsibility: leave it with me. In relation to: my father will be angry with me. 7 employed by: she’s with IBM now. As a member or employee of: he plays with the Cincinnati Cyclones. Using the services of: I bank with the TSB. Affected by (a particular fact or condition): with no hope. 8 indicating the cause of an action or condition: trembling with fear. 9 indicating separation or removal from something: their jobs could be dispensed with. 

be with someone 1 agree with or support someone: we’re all with you on this. 2 inf. follow someone’s meaning: I’m not with you. 3 with it knowledgeable about and following modern ideas and fashions: a young, with-it film buyer. 4 alert and comprehending: I’m not really with this morning.

with-draw /wɪtˈdruː/ v. (past and drew; past participle: drawn) 1 [fr] remove or take away (something) from a particular place or position: slowly Ruth withdrew her hand from his. 2 take (money) out of an account: normally you can withdraw up to $50 in cash. 3 take back or withdraw (something) that was bestowed, proposed, or used: withdraw its support for the government. In (in parliamentary procedure) remove or recall a motion, amendment, etc. From consideration: say that (a statement one has made) is untrue or unjustified: he failed to withdraw his remarks and apologize. 4 inf. (of a man) practice coitus interruptus. 2 [intr] leave or come back from a place, esp. a war zone: Iraqi forces withdrew from Kuwait. 3 [fr] cause (someone) to leave or come back from a place, esp. a war zone: agreed to withdraw their troops. A no longer participate in an activity or be a member of a team or organization: his rival withdrew from the race on the second lap. 2 depart to another room or place, esp. in search of quiet or privacy. 3 retreat from contact or communication with other people: he went silent and withdrew into himself. 3 [intr] cease to take an addictive drug: withdraw from cocaine without medication.


withdraw symptoms the unpleasant physical reaction that accompanies the process of ceasing to take an addictive drug.

with-er /wɪtˈər/ v. [intr] (of a plant) become dry and shriveled: as adj. shriveled (withered). (of person, limb, or the skin) become shrunk or wrinkled from age or disease: as adj. withered (withered). A girl with a withered arm. Cease to flourish; fall into decay or decline: programs would wither away if they did not command local support. If a cause harm or damage to: a business that can wither the best ego. 

mortify (someone) with a scornful look or manner: she withered me with a look.

withers /ˈwɪtərz/ pl. n. the highest part of a horse's back, lying at the base of the neck above the shoulders.
wonder-fully /wʌndərlʃi/ adv. 1. derog. suitable to or characteristic of a woman: he confused introspection with womanish inclination. 2. (of a man) effeminate; unmanned. —wom-an-ish-ly adv. —wom-an-ish-ness n.

woman-ize /ˈwʊmənɪz/ v. [intr.] (of a man) engage in numerous casual sexual affairs with women: [as n. (womanizing) there were rumors that his womanizing had now become intolerable. —wom-an-i-zer n.

woman-kind /ˈwʊmənˌkaɪnd/ n. women considered collectively.

woman-ly /ˈwʊmənli/ adj. relating to or having the characteristics of a woman or women: her smooth, womanly skin. 2. (of a girl’s or woman’s body) fully developed and curvaceous: I’ve got a womanly figure. —wom-an-ly ness n.

womb /wʊm/ n. the uterus. 1. a place of origin and development: the womb of evil. —wom-blike /-lɪk/ adj.

wom-bat /ˈwʊmˌbæt/ n. a burrowing plant-eating Australian marsupial (family Vombatidae) that resembles a small bear with short legs.

women-ence /ˈwɪmɪn/ plural form of WOMAN.

womenfolk /ˈwɪmɪnˌfɒk/ pl. n. the women of a particular family or community considered collectively.

women’s lib —women-en’s lib n. the advocacy of the liberation of women from inequalities and subservient status in relation to men, and from attitudes causing these (now generally replaced by the term feminism).

won/ /wʊn/ past and past participle of WING.

wonan /ˈwʊnən/ past participle of WINE.

wolf /wʊlf/ n. (pl. wolves /wʊlvz/) 1. a wild carnivorous mammal (Canis lupus) that is the largest member of the dog family, living and hunting in packs. It is native to both Eurasia and North America, but has been widely exterminated. Used in names of similar or related mammals, e.g., maned wolf, Tasmanian wolf. 2. used in similes and metaphors to refer to a rapacious, ferocious, or voracious person or thing. 3. pl. a man who habitually seduces women. 4. a harsh or out-of-tune effect produced when playing particular notes or intervals on a musical instrument. —v. [tr.] devour (food) greedily: he wolfed down his breakfast. —Old English wulf; Germanic origin; related to Dutch wolf and German Wolf, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin lupus and Greek λύκος. The verb dates from the mid 19th cent. —wolfish adj. —wolfishly adv. —wolf-like /-lɪk/ adj.

wolfs /wʊlfz/ plural form of WOLF.

woman /ˈwʊmən/ n. (pl. women /ˈwɪmɪn/) an adult human female. 1. a female worker or employee. 2. a wife, girlfriend, or lover: Billy had his woman with him. 3. a female person associated with a particular place, activity, or occupation: a young American woman. 4. female adults in general: woman is intuitive. 5. a female paid to cleaned someone’s home and carry out general domestic duties. 6. a grammatical form of address to a woman: don’t be silly, woman.

womanhood /ˈwʊmənˌhʊd/ n. the state or condition of being a woman; she was on the very brink of womanhood. 2. the qualities considered to be natural to or characteristic of a woman: an ideal of womanhood. 3. women considered collectively.

wood /wʊd/ n. 1. the hard fibrous material that forms the main substance of the trunk or branches of a tree or shrub. 2. such material when cut and used as timber or fuel: a large table made of dark, polished wood. 3. a golf club with a wooden or other head that is relatively broad from face to back (often with a numeral indicating the degree to which the face is angled to loft the ball). 4. a shot made with such a club. 5. (usu. woods) an area of land, smaller than a forest, that is
covered with growing trees: a thick hedge divided wood from the field | a long walk in the woods.

- out of the woods (or wood) out of danger or difficulty.

wood-bine /ˈwʊdˌbɪn/ n. either of two climbing plants: Virginia creeper. Brit, the common honeysuckle.

wood-carving /ˈwʊdˌkərɪŋ/ n. the action or skill of carving wood to make functional or ornamental objects. an object made in this way. -wood-carver n.

wood-chuck /ˈwʊdˌtʃʌk/ n. a North American mammal (Marmota monax) with a heavy body and short legs.

wood-cock /ˈwʊdˌkɒk/ n. (pl. same) a woodland bird (genus Scolopax) of the sandpiper family, with a long bill, brown camouflaged plumage, and a distinctive display flight.

wood-craft /ˈwʊdˌkraft/ n. 1 skill in woodwork. 2 knowledge of the woods, esp. with reference to camping and other outdoor pursuits.

wood-cut /ˈwʊdˌkʌt/ n. a print of a type made from a design cut in a block of wood, formerly widely used for illustrations in books. the technique of making such prints.

wood-cutter /ˈwʊdˌkətər/ n. 1 a person who cuts down trees or branches, esp. for fuel. 2 a person who makes woodcuts. -wood-cutting n.

wooded /ˈwʊdɪd/ adj. (of an area of land) covered with trees. many trees: a wooded valley.

wooden /ˈwʊdən/ adj. 1 made of wood: a wooden spoon. 2 like or characteristic of wood: a dull wooden sound. 3 stiff and awkward in movement or manner; she is one of the most wooden actresses of all time. -woodenly adv. -wooden-ness n.

woodland /ˈwʊdˌlænd/ n. (pl. woodlands) land covered with trees and large areas of ancient woodland.

woodpecker /ˈwʊdˌpɛkər/ n. a strong-billed, stiff-tailed bird that climbs tree trunks to find insects and dead wood on dead trees. The woodpecker family (Picidae) also includes the flickers and sapsuckers.

wood-pulp n. wood fiber reduced chemically or mechanically to pulp and used in the manufacture of paper.

woodshed /ˈwʊdˌʃed/ n. a shed where wood is stored for fuel.

wood-smith /ˈwʊdˌsmɪθ/ n. a craftsperson making or repairing wood objects.

woodsy /ˈwʊdˌsi/ adj. of, relating to, or characteristic of wood or woodlands: the woody smells of color and pine.

wood-wind /ˈwʊdˌwɪnd/ n. [treated as sing. or pl.] wind instruments other than brass instruments forming a section of an orchestra, including flutes, oboes, clarinets, and bassoons: striking passages for woodwind and brass.

woodwork /ˈwʊdˌwɜːk/ n. the wooden parts of a room or building, such as window frames or doors. -wood-worker n.

come out of the woodwork (of an unpleasant person or thing) emerge from obscurity, be revealed.

wood-working /ˈwʊdˌwɜːkɪŋ/ n. the activity or skill of making things from wood.

wood-y /ˈwʊdi/ adj. (woodier, woodiest) (of an area of land) covered with trees: a woody dale. made of, resembling, or suggestive of wood: cut out the woody central core before boiling. Bot. (of a plant or its stem) the nature of or consisting of wood. -wood-iness n.

woof /ˈwʊf/ n. the barking sound made by a dog.

[v. intr. (of a dog) bark: the dog started to woof] intr. say something in an ostentatious or aggressive manner but with no intention to act: King start woofing to keep folks off our case. Just woofing. Just talk.

woof /wʊf/ n. another term for weft.

woof-er /ˈwʊfər/ n. a loudspeaker designed just to reproduce low frequencies.

wool /wʊl/ n. 1 the fine soft curly or wavy hair forming the coat of a sheep, goat, or similar animal, esp. when short and prepared for use in making cloth or yarn. 2 yarn or textile fiber made from such hair: carpets made of 80 percent wool and 20 percent nylon. 2 a thing resembling such hair in form or texture, in particular: the soft underfur or down of some other mammals: beaver wool. 3 a metal or mineral made into a mass of fine fibers: lead wool. 4 Old English wulf, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch wol and German Wolle, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin luna ‘wolf,’ yel ‘wolves’ fleece.’ -wool-like adj.; [wʊlˌliːk] adj.

Pull the wool over someone’s eyes deceive someone by telling untruths.

woolen /ˈwʊlən/ (Brit woolen) adj. of or relating to the production of wool: the woolen industry: made wholly or partly of wool: thick wooden blankets.

woolly /ˈwʊli/ (also woolly) adj. (wollier, woolliest) 1 made of wool: a red woollen hat. 2 (of an animal, plant, or part) bearing or naturally covered with wool or hair resembling wool. 3 resembling wool in texture or appearance: woolly tips of cloud. 4 vague or confused in expression or character: woolly thinking. 5 (of a sound) indistinct or distorted: an opaque and woody recording. -woolly-ness n.

woolly-bear n. a large hairy caterpillar, esp. that of a tiger moth.

woollyy adj. variant spelling of WOOLLY.

woosh v. n., interj., & adv. variant spelling of WHOOSH.

wooz-y /ˈwʊzi/ adj. (wooz-ier, wooz-iest) int. unsteady, dizzy, or dazed: woozy from all the pills. -wooz-i-est adj.

woop /wʊp/ n. intr. others: a contumacious term for an Italian or other southern European.

word /wɜːrd/ n. a single distinct meaningful element of speech or writing, used with others (or sometimes alone) to form a sentence and typically shown with a space on either side when written or printed. a single distinct conceptual unit of language, comprising inflected and variant forms. the (usu. words) something that someone says or writes: a remark or piece of information: a word of warning. a speech as distinct from an action: he conforms to word and deed to the values of a society that he rejects. a word even the smallest amount of something spoken or written: don’t believe a word of it. one’s word a person’s account of the truth, esp. when it differs from that of another person: in court it would have been his word against mine. one’s word a promise or assurance: everything will be taken care of—you have my word. the words the text he had to learn his words. the words angry talk: her father would have had words with her about that. a message; news: I was afraid to leave Washington in case there was word from the office. a command, password, or motto; someone gave me the word to start playing. a basic unit of data in a computer, typically 16 or 32 bits.

[v. intr.] choose and use particular words in order to say or write (something); he worded his request in a particularly ironic way [as adj. (worded) a strongly worded letter of protest. -word-age /ˈwɜːrdɪdʒ/ n. -word-less adj. -word-less-ly adv.

have a word speak briefly to someone: I’ll just have a word with him.

in so many words in the way mentioned; I haven’t told him in so many words, but he’d understand.

in a word briefly keep one’s word do what one has promised. take someone at their word interpret a person’s words literally or exactly, esp. by believing them or doing as they say. word for word in exactly the same or, when translated, exactly equivalent words. word of honor a solemn promise. word of mouth spoken language: informal or unofficial discourse.

wording /ˈwɜːrdɪŋ/ n. the words used to express something; the way in which something is expressed: the standard form of wording for a consent letter.

word-play /ˈwɜːrdplɛɪ/ n. the witty exploitation of the meanings and ambiguities of words, esp. in puns.

word-processing /ˈwɜːrdprəˈsesɪŋ/ n. the production, storage, and manipulation of text on a word processor or personal computer. -word-process v.

word processor n. a dedicated computer or program for storing, manipulating, and formatting text entered from a keyboard and providing a printout. a person who uses such a program.

wordy /ˈwɜːdi/ adj. (wordier, wordiest) using or expressed in too many words: a wordy and repetitious account. -word-y /ˈwɜːdi/ adj. -word-ness /ˈwɜːrdɪs/ n.

wore /wɔr/ past of WEAR.

work /wɜːrk/ n. 1 activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a purpose or result: he was tired after a day’s work in the fields. 2 a place or premises for industrial activity, typically manufacturing; he found a job in the ironworks. 2 such activity as a means of earning income; employment: I’m still looking for work. 3 the place where one engages in such activity: I was returning home from work on a packed subway. 4 the period of time spent during the day engaged in such activity: he was going to the theater after work. 3 a task or tasks to be undertaken; something a person or thing has to do; they made sure the work was progressing smoothly. 4 the materials for this: such as wood.

wool /wʊl/ n. a thick, soft, warm, and flexible natural fiber used in clothing, upholstery, and insulation. -wool-like adj.; [wʊlˌliːk] adj.

Pronunciation Key: a, ago; up, ur; ar; fur; a hat; a tar; a car; chin; e let; e sec; e(at) air; i j; by; i(at) ear; i ng; i g; o; law; for; or toy; o o; go; o o; yes; ou; out; sh she; th thr; th then; th why; zh vision
workable /wərkəˈbəl/ adj. 1. able to be worked, fashioned, or manipulated; to add more flour to make a workable dough. 2. capable of producing the desired effect or result; practicable; feasible: a workable peace settlement. —work-able /-əˈbi-l/ adv.

workaday /ˈwərkəˌdeɪ/ adj. or of relating to work or one's job; the workaday world of timetables and performance reviews. not special, unusual, or interesting in any way; ordinary: your humble workaday PC.

workaholic /wərkəˈholɪk/ n. a person who compulsively works long and hard hours. —work-a-hol-ic /ˈwərkəˌholɪk/.

workbench /ˈwərkˌbenk/ n. a bench at which carpentry or other practical work is done.

workday /ˈwərkˌdeɪ/ n. a day on which one works. the part of the day devoted or allotted to work: 8-hour workday.

worker /ˈwər(ə)kər/ n. 1. a person or animal that works, in particular: a person who does a specified type of work: a farm worker | a hard worker. an employee, esp. one who does manual or nonexecutive work. workers] used in Marxist or leftist contexts to refer to the working class. a person who works in a specified way: she's a good worker. int. a person who works hard: I got a reputation for being a worker. in (social insects such as bees, wasps, ants, and termites) a neuter or undeveloped female that is a member of what is usually the most numerous caste and does the bulk of the work of the colony. a creator or producer of something: a worker of precious metals.

work force (also work-force) n. [treated as sing. or pl.] the people engaged in or available for work, either in a country or area or in a particular company or industry.

workhorse /ˈwər(ə)kˌhɔrs/ n. a horse used for work on a farm. a person or machine that dependsably performs hard work over a long period of time: the aircraft was the workhorse of Soviet medium-haul routes.

workhouse /ˈwərkˌhoʊs/ n. 1. hist. (in the UK) a public institution in which the destitute of a parish received board and lodging in return for work. 2. a prison in which petty offenders are expected to work.

working /ˈwərkɪŋ/ adj. 1. having paid employment: the size of the working population. 2. engaged in manual labor: sufficient protection for the working man. relating to, suitable for, or for the purpose of work: working conditions. 3. (of a meal) during which business is discussed: a working lunch. 4. (of an animal) used in farming, hunting, or for guard duties; not kept as a pet or for show. 5. (of something possessed) sufficient to work with: they have a working knowledge of contract law. 6. (of a theory, definition, or title) used as the basis for work or argument and likely to be developed, adapted, or improved later: the working hypothesis is tested and refined through discussion. 7. functioning or able to function: the windmill has a working waterwheel. 8. (of parts of a machine) moving and causing a machine to operate: the working parts of a digital watch. 9. (of the face or features) moving convulsively: working lips.

n. 1. the action of doing work. usu. workings (used of a machine or a part of a machine from which minerals are being extracted. 2. workings (law) the way in which a machine, organization, or system operates: the workings of government.

working class n. [treated as sing. or pl.] the social group consisting of people who are employed for wages, esp. in manual or industrial work: the housing needs of the working classes.

m. [treated as sing. or pl.] of, relating to, or characteristic of people belonging to such a group: a working-class community.

work-load /ˈwərkˌlɔd/ n. the amount of work to be done by someone or something: he had been given three days to ease his workload.

work-man /ˈwərkˌmæn/ n. (pl. -men) a man employed to do manual labor. a person with specific skill in a job or craft; you check it through, like all good workmen do.

work-man-like /ˈwərkˌmænˌlɪk/ adj. showing efficient competence: a steady, workmanlike approach.

work-man-ship /ˈwərkˌmænsʃɪp/ n. the degree of skill with which a product is made or a job done: poor workmanship.

work of art n. a creative product with strong imaginative or aesthetic appeal.

work-out /ˈwərkˌaʊt/ n. a session of vigorous physical exercise.

work-piece /ˈwərkˌpiːs/ n. an object being worked on with a tool or machine.
be indifferent. • in a less satisfactory or pleasant condition; more ill or unhappy: he felt worse, and grooped his way back to bed.

> adj. 1 comparative of badly, ill. 2 less well or skillfully; the more fa- mous I became the worse I painted. • more seriously or severely: the others had been drunk too, worse than herself. • used to introduce a statement of circumstances felt by the speaker to be more serious or undesirable than others already mentioned: the system will find it hard to sort out properly; lie worse, the more will discourage foreign investment.

> n. a more serious or unpleasant event or circumstance: the small de- partment was already stretched to the limit, but worse was to follow. • (the worse) a less good, favorable, or pleasant condition: the weather changed for the worse.

worsen /ˈwɔːsn/ v. make or become worse: [intr.] her condition worsened on the flight | [tr.] arguing actually worsens the problem

worship /ˈwɔːrʃip/ n. the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity; the worship of God. • the acts or rites that make up a formal expression of reverence for a deity: a religious ceremony or ceremonies: the church was opened for public worship. • adoration or devotion comparable to religious homage, shown toward a person or principle.

> v. (shiped, shiping also shipped, shippinger) [tr.] show reverence and adoration for (a deity); honor with religious rites: the Maya built junc- tle pyramids to worship their gods. • treat (someone or something) with the reverence and adoration appropriate to a deity: she adores her sons and they worship her. • [intr.] take part in a religious ceremony: he went to the cathedral because he chose to worship in a spiritually inspiring building.

—worshipper (also worshipper) n.

worst /ˈwɔːrst/ adj. superlative of bad, ill. • of the poorest quality or the lowest standard: the speech was the worst he had ever made. • least pleasant, desirable, or tolerable: they were to stay in the worst conditions imagine- able. • most severe, serious, or dangerous: at least 32 people died in Aus- tralia's worst bus accident. • least suitable or advantageous: the worst time to take out a bond is when rates are low but rise suddenly.

> adv. 1 superlative of badly, ill. 2 most severely or seriously: manufactur- ing and mining are the industries worst affected by falling employment. • least well, skillfully, or pleasingly: he was voted the worst dressed celebrity. • used to introduce the fact or circumstance that the speaker consi- miders most serious or unpleasant: her mother had rejected her, and worst of all, her father turned out to be a cheat and a deceiver.

> n. the most serious or unpleasant thing that could happen: when I saw the ambulance outside her front door, I began to fear the worst. • the most serious, dangerous, or unpleasant part or stage of something: there are signs that the recession is past its worst.

> v. [tr.] (usu. be worsted) get the better of; defeat: this was not the time for a deep discussion — she was tired and she would be worsted.

> if worst comes to worst if the most serious or difficult circumstances arise. • in the worst way int. very much: he wants to win in the worst way.

worth /wɔːθ/ n. 1 [in comb.] used in names of plants and herbs, esp. those used, esp. formerly, as food or medicinally, e.g., butterwort.

wound /wʌnd/ n. 1 the infusion of ground malt or other grain before fermentation, used to produce beer and distilled malt liquors.

worth /ˈwɔːrθ/ adj. equivalent in value to the sum or item specified: jewelry worth $450 was taken. • sufficiently good, important, or interesting to justify a specified action; deserving to be treated or regarded in the way specified: the museums in the district are well worth a visit. • used to suggest that the specified course of action may be advisable: a meat and potato dish that's worth checking out. • having income or property amounting to a specified sum: she is worth $10 million.

> n. the value equivalent to that of someone or something under consider- ation: the level at which someone or something deserves to be valued or rated: they had to listen to every piece of gossip and judge its worth.

> an amount of a commodity equivalent to a specified sum of money: he admitted stealing 10,000 dollars' worth of computer systems. • the amount that could be achieved or produced in a specified time: the companies have debts greater than two years' worth of sales. • high value or merit: he is noble and gains his position by showing his inner worth. • (of a person) having no good qualities; deserving contempt: Joan had been deserted by a worthless husband. —worth-less-ly adv. —worth-less-ness n.

worth while /ˈwɔːrθwai/ adj. worth the time, money, or effort spent: of value or importance; extra lighting would make a worthwhile contribution to road safety. —worth-while-ness n.

worthy /ˈwɔrθi/ adj. (the-ier, the-iest) deserving effort, attention, or respect: generous donations to worthy causes. • having or showing the qualities or abilities that merit recognition in a specified way; issues worthy of further consideration. • good enough; suitable: no composer was considered worthy of the name until he had written an opera.

> n. (pl. -thees) often derog. or humorous a person notable or important in a particular sphere: schools governed by local worthies. —worth-ly /ˈθɜːl/ adv. —worth-ness n.

would /wʊd/ modal verb (3rd sing. present would) 1 past of will, in various senses: he said he would be away for a couple of days | he wanted out, but she wouldn't | the windows would not close. 2 (expressing the conditional mood) indicating the consequence of an imagined event or situation: he would lose his job if he were identified. • (I would) used to give advice: I wouldn't drink that if I were you. 3 expressing a desire or inclination: I would love to work in Prague. 4 expressing a polite request: would you pour the wine, please? • expressing willingness or consent: who would have lived? 5 expressing a conjecture, opinion, or hope: I would imagine that they'll want to keep it. 6 used to make a comment about behavior that is typical: every night we would hear the boy crying. • poetic. expressing a wish or regret: would that he had lived to finish it.

would-be adj. often derog. desiring or aspiring to be a specified type of person; a would-be actress who dresses up as Marilyn Monroe.

wouldn't /ˌwʊdn’t/ contr. of would not.

would /wʊd/ n. an injury to living tissue caused by a cut, blow, or other impact, typically one in which the skin is cut or broken. • an injury to a person's feelings or reputation: the new crisis has opened old wounds.

> v. [tr.] (often be wounded) inflict an injury on (someone): the surgeon was seriously wounded. • injure (a person's feelings): you really wounded his pride when you turned him down. —wound-ing-ly adv. —wound-less adj.

wound /wʊd/ n. alternate past and past participle of wind.

wove /wʊv/ past of weave.

wooven /ˈwʌvn/ past participle of weave.

> adj. (of fabric) formed by interlacing long threads passing in one di- rection with others at a right angle to them: women in striped, wound- shawls. • (of basketry or a wattle) made by interlacing items such as cane, stems, flowers, or leaves. • (of a complex story or pattern) made in a specified way from a number of interconnected elements: a neatly woven tale of intrigue in academia.

wove paper n. paper made on a wire-gauze mesh so as to have a uni- form unlined surface.

wow! /wʊ/ interj. expressing astonishment or admiration: "Wow!" he cried enthusiastically.

> a sensational success: your play's a wow.

> v. [tr.] impress and excite (someone): greatly; they wowed audiences on their recent British tour.

wow! n. slow pitch fluctuation in sound reproduction, perceptible in long notes. Compare with flutter (sense 1).

WP abbr. word processing or word processor.

wpm abbr. words per minute (used after a number to indicate typing speed).

wreck /rɛk/ v. variant spelling of rack!

wreck /rɛk/ n. any of a number of common brown seaweeds of the genus Pctus, Ascolphyllum, and Pelvetia, class Phaeophyceae, that grow on the shore and frequently form distinctive bands that correspond to high- and low-water marks. Many have air bladders for buoyancy.

> n. variant spelling of Racks!

wraith /rɛθ/ n. a ghost or ghostlike image of someone, esp. one seen shortly before or after their death. • used in similes and metaphors to describe a pale, thin, or insubstantial person or thing: heart attacks had reduced his mother to a wraith. • poetic: a wrap or faint trace of something: a sea breeze was sending a gray wraith of smoke up the slopes.

—wraith-like /ˈrɛθli/ adj.

wrap /rɛp/ n. a dispute or argument, typically one that is long and complicated: an insurance wrangle is holding up compensation payments.

> v. [intr.] have such a dispute or argument: as n. (wrangling) weeks of po- litical wrangling.

wraangler /rɛ`nægər/ n. a person in charge of horses or other live- stock on a ranch. • a person who trains and takes care of the animals used in a movie. • a person engaging in a lengthy and complicated quarrel or dispute.

wrap /rɛp/ v. [wrapped, wrapping] [tr.] cover or enclose (someone or something) in paper or soft material: he wrapped the Christmas presents.

> n. clasp: embrace: she wrapped him in her arms. • cover (the body) with a
wrap

body wrap. • cover (the fingernails) with a nail wrap. 2 (tr) [wrap something around] arrange paper or soft material around (someone or something), typically as a covering or for warmth or protection: wrap the baggage around the injured limb. • place an arm, finger, or leg around (someone or something): he wrapped an arm around her waist. • insert a vehicle into a stationery object: Richard wrapped his car around a telephone pole. 3 [tr] Comput. cause (a word or unit of text) to be covered over by a new line automatically as the margin is reached, or to fit around embedded features such as pictures. • [intr.] [of a word or unit or text] be carried over in such a way. 4 [intr.] [intr.] finish filleting or wrapping: we wrapped on schedule three days later.

phrase v. • wrap something up complete or conclude a discussion or agreement: they hope to wrap up negotiations within sixty days. • win a game or competition: he wrapped up the series 4–0.

n. 1 a loose outer garment or piece of material. • [as adj.] denoting a garment having one part overlapping another; wraparound: a wrap skirt. • paper or soft material used for wrapping: plastic food wrap.

us. wraps fig. a veil of secrecy maintained about something, esp. a new project: details of the police operation are being kept under wraps.

2 intr. the end of a session of filming or recording: right, it's a wrap.

3 adj. in which the filling is rolled in a soft tortilla.

short for BODY WRAP.

• be wrapped up in be so engrossed or absorbed in (something) that one does not notice other people or things.

wrap-around [rapa, round] adj. curving or extending around at the edges or sides: wraparound sunglasses. • (of a garment) having one part overlapping another and fastened loosely: a wraparound skirt.

n. 1 a wraparound garment. 2 Comput. a facility by which a linear sequence of memory locations or screen positions is treated as a continuous circular series.

wrap-around mort-gage n. a second mortgage held by a lender who collects payments on it and the first mortgage from the borrower. The lender makes the payments to the original mortgage holder.

wrap-per [rapa, part] n. a piece of paper, plastic, or foil covering and protecting something sold. • a cover enclosing a newspaper or magazine for mailing.

wrap-per appl-i-ca-tion n. a computer program that works only with another fully developed program, which it enhances in some way: we have created a viewer that is a simple wrapper application for the underlying multimedia system.

wrap-ping pa-per n. strong or decorative paper for wrapping parcels or presents.

wrasse [ras] n. (pl. same or wrasses) a marine fish (family Labridae) with thin lips and strong teeth, typically brightly colored with marked differences between the male and female.

wrath [rat] n. extreme anger (chiefly used for humor or rhetorical effect); he hid his pipe for fear of incurring his father's wrath.

wrathful [rat, ful] adj. poetic or ful. full of or characterized by intense anger; natural calamities seemed to be the work of a wrathful deity.

— wrath-ful-ly adv. — wrath-ful-ness n.

wreak [rek] v. [tr.] cause (a large amount of damage or harm): torrential rainstorms wreaked havoc yesterday. • inflict (vengeance); he was determined to wreak his revenge on the girl who had rejected him. — wreaker n.

wreath [ret, th] n. (pl. wreaths [ret, thz] [ret, thz] an arrangement of flowers, leaves, or stems fastened in a ring and used for decoration or for laying on a grave: a carved representation of such a wreath. • a similar ring made of or resembling soft, twisted material: a gold wreath for the door.

• a curl or ring of smoke or cloud: wreaths of mist swirled up into the cold air.

wreath-e [ret] v. [tr.] usu. be wreathened cover, surround, or encircle (something); he sat wreathed in smoke. 2 [intr.] poetico, twined or entwined (something flexible) around or over something: shell i once more wreath my arms about Antonio’s neck? 3 [intr.] esp. of smoke) move with a curling motion: he watched the smoke wreath into the night air.

wreck [rek] n. the destruction of a ship at sea; a shipwreck: the survivors of the wreck.

• a ship destroyed in such a way; the salvaging of treasure from wrecks.

• something, esp. a vehicle or building, that has been badly damaged or destroyed; the plane was reduced to a wrecking wreck.

• the disorganized remains of something that has suffered damage or destruction.

• a road or rail crash: a train wreck.

• a person whose physical or mental health or strength has failed: the scandal left the family emotional wrecks.

v. [tr.] be wreathed] cause the destruction of (a ship) by sinking or breaking up: he was wrecked when his ship was wrecked. • involve (someone) in such a wreck: sailors who had the misfortune to be wrecked on these coasts.

• destroy or severely damage (a structure or vehicle): the blast wrecked more than 100 houses. • spoil completely: an eye injury wrecked his chances of a professional career.

— wrecker n. (usu. as n.) [wrecking] engage in breaking up badly damaged vehicles, demolishing old buildings, or similar activities to obtain usable spares or scrap.

wrench [rench] n. 1 a person or thing that wrecks, damages, or destroys something: in this case the gas pipe was a wrecking wrench.

• a person who breaks up damaged vehicles, demolishes old buildings, salvages wrecked ships, etc., to obtain usable spares or scrap. 2 a tow truck.

wren [ren] n. 1 a small short-winged songbird (family Troglodytidae) found chiefly in the New World. 2 any of a number of small songbirds that resemble the true wrens in size or appearance.

wrench [rench] n. 1 a sudden violent twist or pull: with a wrench Tony toppled over. 2 [fig.] an act of leaving someone or something that causes sadness or distress: it will be a real wrench to leave after eight years.

— v. [tr.] pull or twist (someone or something) suddenly and violently: Casey grabbed the gun and wrenched it upward from my hand. 3 [intr.] fig. the betrayal wrenched at her heart. 4 [intr.] injure (a part of the body) as a result of a sudden twisting movement: she slipped and wrenched her ankle.

turn (something, esp. a nut or bolt) with a wrench.

wrenches

wrest [rest] v. [tr.] forcibly pull (something) from a person’s grasp: Leila tried to wrest her arm from his hold. 1 take (something, esp. power or control) from someone or something else after considerable effort or difficulty; they wanted to allow people to wrest control of their lives from impersonal bureaucracies.

— v. [intr.] take part in a fight, either as a sport or in earnest, that involves grappling with one’s opponent and trying to throw or force them to the ground: as the policeman wrestled with the gunman a shot rang out.

— v. [tr.] force (someone) into a particular position or place by fighting in such a way: the security guards wrestled them to the ground.

fig. struggle with a difficulty or problem: for a year David wrestled with a guilty conscience. 3 [tr.] move or manipulate (something) in a specified way with difficulty and some physical effort: she wrestled the keys out of the ignition.

4 [intr.] wrestle bout or contest. a hard struggle; a lifelong wrestle with depression. • Old English, frequentative of wrencan ‘wrest.’ — wrestler n. — wrestling n.

wrench [rench] n. an unfortunate or unhappy person: can the poor wrench’s corpse tell us anything? 2 [intr.] be a despicable or contemptible person: ungrateful wrenches.

wretched [rench] adj. (der. -duced, -duced) of a person in a very unhappy or unfortunate state: i felt so wrecked because i thought i might never see you again. 3 of poor quality; very bad: the wretched conditions of the slums.

— used to express anger or annoyance: she disliked the wretched Pronunciation Key a ago, up, or over, fur; a hat; a at; e ear, ch chin; e let, 6 sec; o(ar) air; i j; t by; i(t) ear; ng; s go; 0 law, for; 0 toy; good; go go; ou out; sh she; th thin; th then; (b) why; th vision

wriggle [riggl] v. [intr] twist and turn with quick writhing movements. [tr] cause to move in such a way: she wriggled her toes. [intr] move in a particular direction with wriggling movements: Susie wriggled out of her clothes. [wriggling out of] avoid (something), esp. by devious means: don't try and wriggle out of your contract.

wriggly adj. wiggly adj. n. archaic a maker or builder.

wring [rin] v. (past wrung rong] [tr] squeeze and twist (something) to force liquid from it: she wrung the cloth out in the sink. [intr] extract (liquid) by squeezing and twisting something: I wrung out the excess water. [break (an animal's neck) by twisting it forcibly.][squeezing (someone's hand) tightly, esp. with sincere emotion. [intr] obtain (something) with difficulty or effort: few concessions were wrung from the government. [cause pain or distress to: the letter must have wrung her heart.

wring one's hands n. an act of squeezing or twisting something.

wring one's hands n. clasp and twist one's hands together as a gesture of great distress, esp. when one can't change the situation.

wringing /rinj/ adj. subject someone to a very stressful experience, esp. a severe interrogation.

wringing wet adj. so wet that water or other liquid can be wrung out. I was wringing in sweat | their clothes were wringing wet.

wrinkled adj. 1 a slight line or fold in something, esp. fabric or the skin of the face. [intr] a minor difficulty; a snag: the organizers have the wrinkles pretty well ironed out. 2 [intr] a clever innovation, or useful piece of information or advice: learning the wrinkles from someone more experienced saves time.

wrist [rist] n. 1 the joint connecting the hand with the forearm. See also CARPUS. [the equivalent joint (the carpal joint) in the foreleg of a quadruped or the wing of a bird. 2 the part of a garment covering the wrist; a cuff. 2 also wrist pin (in a machine) a stud projecting from a crank as an attachment for a connecting rod.

wristband [ristband] n. a strip of material wound around the wrist, in particular, a small strap or bracelet, esp. one used for identification or as a fashion item. a strip of absorbent material wound around a person's arm to collect sweat and prevent discomfort during sports.

wristwatch [ristwach] n. a watch wound on a strap around the wrist.

write [rit] v. 1 a form of written command in the name of a court or other legal authority to act, or abstain from acting, in some way. 2 [one's write] one's power to enforce compliance or submission; one's authority; you have business here which is out of my writ and competence.

write [rit] v. archaic past participle of WRITE.

write large adv. and obvious: the unspoken question write large upon Rose's face. 1 in a stark or exaggerated form: braving people by way of tax allowances is the paternalistic state large writing.

write [rit] v. (past wrote wrot] past part. wrote [rit] n. mark (letters, words, or other symbols) on a surface, typically paper, with a pen, pencil, or similar implement: he wrote his name on the paper. [intr] he wrote very neatly in blue ink. [intr] he has the ability to mark coherent letters or words in this way: he couldn't read or write. fill out or complete (a sheet, write, check, or similar in this way: he had to write a check for $800.

write in v. write in a cursive hand, as opposed to printing individual letters. 2 compose, write, and send (a letter or something) to someone: I wrote him a short letter. [intr] he wrote letters every day. 2 write and send a letter to (someone): Mother wrote me and told me about poor Simon's death. [intr] write in to an organization, esp. a broadcasting station; with a question, suggestion, or opinion; write in with your query. 3 compose (a text or work) for written or printed reproduction or publication; put into literary form and set down in writing: I didn't know you wrote poetry [intr] he wrote under a pseudonym. 4 compose (a musical work); he has written a song specifically for her. [write someone into/out of] add or remove a character to or from (a long-running story or series).

wright [rit] n. a wriggling movement: she gave an impatient little wriggle.

wright [rit] n. 1 a person who has written a particular text: the writer of the letter. 2 a person who writes books, stories, or articles as a job or regular occupation: the distinguished travel writer Freya Stark. 3 a person who writes in a specified way: Dickens was a prolific writer. 4 a composer of musical works: a writer of military music. 5 a device that writes data to a storage medium. 6 a broker who makes an option available for purchase or sells options. 7 a person who has a specified kind of handwriting: neat writers. 8 Old English writer: score, form (letters) by carving, write; of Germanic origin.

writer's block n. the condition of being unable to think of what to write or how to proceed with writing.

writer's cramp n. or stiffness in the hand caused by excessive writing.

write-up n. 1 a full written account. 2 a newspaper or magazine article giving the author's opinion of a recent event, performance, or product. 3 Finance an increase in the estimated or nominal value of an asset.

writeout [ritout] n. 1 make continual twisting, squirming movements or contortions of the body: he writhed in agony on the ground. 2 cause to move in such a way: a snake writhing its body in a sinuous movement.

write in with anat. respond with great emotional or physical discomfort to (a violent or unpleasant feeling or thought): she bit her lip, writing in suppressed fury.

writing [riit] n. 1 the activity or skill of marking coherent words on paper and composing text. 2 writing, printing, or handwriting. 3 the activity or occupation of composing text for publication; she made a decent living from writing.

written adj. 1 a form of written command in the name of a court or other legal authority to act, or abstain from acting, in some way. 2 [one's write] one's power to enforce compliance or submission; one's authority; you have business here which is out of my writ and competence.

written adj. 1 not correct or true: that is the wrong answer. 2 mistaken: I was wrong about him being on the yacht that evening. 3 unsuitable or undesirable: they asked all the wrong questions. 4 in a bad or abnormal condition: amiss: something was wrong with the pump. 5 unjust, dishonest, or immoral: they were wrong to take the law into their own hands. 6 in an unsuitable or undesirable manner or direction: what am I doing wrong? 7 with an incorrect result: she guessed wrong.

written adj. 1 an unjust, dishonest, or immoral action: I have done you a great wrong. 2 Law a breach, by commission or omission, of one's legal duty. 3 Law an invasion of right to the damage or prejudice of another.

write [rit] v. 1 act unjustly or dishonestly toward (someone): please forgive me for the things and the people I have wronged. 2 mistakenly attribute bad motives to: misrepresent; perhaps I wrong him. —wrong-er n. —wrong-ly adv. —wrong-ness n.

wrongdoing [rongdou] n. illegal or dishonest behavior; the head of the bank has denied any wrongdoing. —wrong-doer n.

wrongful [rongful] adj. (of an act) not fair, just, or legal: he is suing the police for wrongful arrest. —wrongfully adv. —wrongfulness n.

wrongful death adj. denoting a civil action in which damages are sought against a party for causing a death, typically when criminal action has failed or is not attempted: a wrongful death lawsuit.

wrongheaded [ronghed] adj. having or showing bad judgment: misguided: this approach is both wrongheaded and naive. —wrongheaded-ly adv. —wrongheaded-ness n.

written adj. adj. past tense of WRITE.

wrought iron n. a tough, malleable form of iron suitable for forging or rolling rather than casting.

wriggle [ron] v. past and past participle of WRIGGLE.

wry [rit] adj. (wry-er, wry-est or wrier, wriest) 1 using or expressing dry, or mock, humor; a wry smile | wry comments. 2 (of a person's
face or features) twisted into an expression of disgust, disappointment, or annoyance. • archaic (of the neck or features) distorted or turned to one side: a remedy for wry necks. • early 16th cent. (in the sense ‘contorted’): from Old English wegian ‘tend, incline, ’ in Middle English ‘deviate, swerve, contort.’ —wry·ly adv. —wry·ness n.

WYSIWYG /'wiz.e.wig/ (also wysiwyg) adj. Comput. denoting the display of text on screen that portrays an accurate rendition of the printed page. • 1980s: acronym from what you see is what you get.

Wy-an-dot /'wian.dat/ (also Wy-an-dotte) n. 1 a member of an American Indian community formed by Huron-speaking peoples, originally in Ontario, now living mainly in Oklahoma and Quebec. 2 the Iroquoian language of this people. 3 (usu. Wyandotte) a domestic chicken of a medium-sized breed. • adj. of or relating to the Wyandot people or their language. • mid 18th cent.: from French Ouendat, from Huron Wendat.

wyn /win/ n. variant spelling of WEN².

WYSIWYG /'wiz.e.wig/ (also wysiwyg) adj. Comput. denoting the display of text on screen that portrays an accurate rendition of the printed page. • 1980s: acronym from what you see is what you get.
X [eks] (also x) v. (pl. Xs or X's) 1 the twenty-fourth letter of the alphabet. 2 denoting the next after W in a set of items, categories, etc. 3 denoting an unknown or unspecified person or thing: there is nothing in the data to tell us whether X causes Y. 4 (usu. X) used in describing play in bridge denoting an unspecified card other than an honor. 5 (usu. x) the first unknown quantity in an algebraic expression, usually the independent variable. 6 (usu. x) denoting the principal or horizontal axis in a system of coordinates: [in comb.] the x-axis. 2 a cross-shaped written symbol. In particular: a) used to indicate a position on a map or diagram. b) used to indicate a mistake or incorrect answer. c) used in a letter or message to symbolize a kiss. d) used to indicate one’s vote on a paper ballot. e) used in place of the signature of a person who cannot write. 3 a shape like that of a letter X: two wires in the form of an X [in comb.] an X-shaped cross. 4 the Roman numeral for ten.

v. (tr.) 1 mark or make a sign with an X. 2 overwrite or obliterate with an X or series of Xs. 3 make void or annul; invalidate: we’re all X-ing things out of our curricula.

X → symb. 1 a rating assigned to movies classified as suitable for adults only. Replaced in 1990 by NC-17. 2 (in systematic names of organisms) hybrid.

X-chromo-some → n. Genetics (in humans and other mammals) a sex chromosome, two of which are normally present in female cells (designated XX) and only one in male cells (designated XY). Compare with Y CHROMOSOME.

Xe → symb. the chemical element xenon.

xen-o-lith /'zenəˌlaθ/; 'zenə-ˌlθ/ → n. Geol. a piece of rock within an igneous rock that is not derived from the original magma but has been introduced from elsewhere, esp. the surrounding country rock.

xen-non /'zenənən/; 'zenəˌnθ/ → n. the chemical element of atomic number 54, a member of the noble gas series. (Symbol Xe) → late 19th cent.: from Greek, neuter of xenēs 'stranger.'

xen-o-pho-bia /'zenəˌfəˈbiə/; 'zenəˌfəˈbiə/ → n. intense or irrational dislike or fear of people from other countries: xenophobia and xenophobe are steadily growing in Europe. → xen-o-phobe n. → xen-o-pho-bic adj.

Xer- /'zɛər-/ → n. another term for Gen-Xer.

xero-graphy /zɪˈrəʊɡræfɪ/ → n. a dry copying process in which black or colored powder adheres to a surface remaining electrically charged after being exposed to light from an image of the document to be copied. → xero-graphic /ˌzɪəˈrəʊɡræfɪk/ adj. → xero-graphically adv.

xero-phyte /ˌzɪəˈrəʊfaɪt/ → n. Bot. a plant that needs very little water. → xero-phytic /ˌzɪəˈrəʊfɪtrɪk/ adj.

Xerox /ˈzɪərək/ → n. trademark a xerographic copying process. → a copy made using such a process. → a machine for copying by xerography. → v. (xerox) [tr.] copy (a document) by such a process.

Xho-sa /koʊsə/; 'koʊθ-/ → n. (pl. same or -sas) 1 a member of a South African people traditionally living in the Eastern Cape Province. They form the second largest ethnic group in South Africa after the Zulus. 2 the Nguni language of this people.

→ adj. of or relating to this people or their language.


xi /zi; ksə/ → n. the fourteenth letter of the Greek alphabet (Ξ, ξ), transliterated as ‘x.’

Xmas /'krɪsməs; 'ɛksməs/ → n. informal term for CHRISTMAS.

X-rated → adj. pornographic or indecent: there was some X-rated humor. → (of a movie) given an X classification (see X-).

X-ray /'ɛksˌreɪ/ → also x-ray or X ray → n. 1 electromagnetic radiation of high energy and very short wavelength (between ultraviolet light and gamma rays) that is able to pass through many materials opaque to light. → (as adj.) indicating an apparent or supposed faculty for seeing beyond an outward form: you didn’t need X-ray eyes to know what was going on. 2 a photographic or digital image of the internal composition of something, esp. a part of the body, produced by X-rays being passed through it. 3 a code word representing the letter X, used in radio communication.

→ v. [tr.] photograph or examine with X-rays: luggage in the hold is X-rayed.

xy-lēm /'zɪələm/ → n. Bot. the vascular tissue in plants that conducts water and dissolved nutrients upward from the root and also helps to form the woody element in the stem.

xy-lene /'zɪliˌnɛn/ → n. Chem. a volatile liquid hydrocarbon, C₆H₄(CH₃)₂ used in fuels and solvents, and in chemical synthesis.

xy-lo-phone /'zɪloˌfoʊn/ → n. a musical instrument played by striking a row of wooden bars of graduated length with one or more wooden or plastic mallets. → xy-lo-phon-ic /ˌzɪloˌfoʊˈnɪk/ adj. → xy-lo-phon-ist n.

xylophone
Y

Y | /wi/ (also y) n. (pl. Ys or Ys) 1. the twenty-fifth letter of the alphabet. b. denoting the next after X in a set of items, categories, etc. c. denoting a second unknown or unspecified person or thing; *the claim that chemical X causes birth defect Y.* [usu. y] the second unknown quantity in an algebraic expression, usually the dependent variable. d. (usu. y) denotes the second or vertical axis in a system of coordinates: Y[comb] the y-axis. 2. [Y] a shape like that of a capital Y: [in comb] rows of tiny Y-shaped motifs.

Y > abbr. yen: ¥140. int. a YMCA, YWCA, YMHA, or YWHA facility: Scott was living at the Y. symb. the chemical element yttrium.

v. [intr] race or cruise in a yacht. —yachting n. —yachts-man n.

yack-ey-yak /'yakat. 'yak/ also yack-et-y-yak n. & v. another term for yak².

yaaaoh /'ya ho; ya ho/ n. int. a rude, noisy, or violent person.

yaaaaoh /'ya ho/ interj. expressing great joy or excitement.

Yah-veh /'ya,v/ n. a form of the name of God used in the Bible.

yak /'ya,k/ n. a large domesticated wild ox (genus Bos) with shaggy hair, humped shoulders, and large horns, used in Tibet as a pack animal and for its milk, meat, and hide.

yak² (also yack or yack-et-y-yak) n. a trivial or unduly persistent conversation.

v. (yakked, yakking) intr. talk at length about trivial or boring subjects.

y'all /'ya l/ contr. of you-all.

yam /yang/ n. 1. the edible starchy tuber of a climbing plant, widely distributed in tropical and subtropical countries. 2. the plant (genus Dioscorea, family Dioscoreaceae) that yields this tuber. 3. a sweet potato.

yamm-er /'ya me/ n. int. or dial. loud and sustained or repetitive noise: the yammer of their animated conversation | the yammer of enemy fire.

v. [intr]. int. or dial. make a loud repetitive noise. talk volubly. —yammer-er n.

yang /yang, yang/ n. (in Chinese philosophy) the active male principle of the universe, characterized as male and creative and associated with heaven, heat, and light. Contrasted with Yin.

Yank /yangk/ n. another term for YANK (senses 1 and 2).

yank /yangk/ v. pull with a jerk: [br] he yanked her to her feet | [intr] Liz twisted the cord.

n. a sudden hard pull: he gave her ponytail a yank.

Yank-ee /'yan.ki/ n. int. 1. often derog. a person who lives in, or is from, the U.S. 2. an inhabitant of New England or one of the northern states. nst. a Union soldier in the Civil War. 3. a code word representing the letter Y, used in radio communication. mid 18th cent.: origin uncertain; recorded in the late 17th cent. as a nickname; perhaps from Dutch Janke, diminutive of Jan 'John.'

yap /yap/ v. [yapped, yap- ping] intr. give a sharp, shrill bark: the dachshunds yapped at his heels. int. talk at length in an irritating manner.

yard /yärd/ n. 1. (abbr.: yd) a unit of linear measure equal to 3 feet (0.9144 meter). [yards of] int. a great length: yards and yards of fine lace. 2. a square or cubic yard, esp. of sand or other building materials. 3. a cloth measure, of three feet in length and varying widths. 4. a cylindrical taper, tapering to each end. slung across a ship's mast for a sail to hang from. 3. int. one hundred dollars; a one hundred dollar bill.

yard² n. a piece of ground adjoining a building or house. an area of ground surrounded by walls or buildings. an area of land used for a particular purpose or business: a storage yard.

v. 1. [intr] store or transport (timber) in or to a log yard. 2. [intr] of deer or moose gather as a herd for the winter.

the Yard Brit. informal term for SCOTLAND YARD.

yard-age /'yär.dij/ n. 1. a distance or length measured in yards. 2. football the distance covered in advancing a ball. archaic the use of a yard for storage or the keeping of animals or payment for such use.

yard-arm /'yär,arm/ n. the outer extremity of a ship's yard.

yard-bird /'yär,bird/ n. int. a new military recruit. esp. one assigned to menial tasks. 2. a convict.

yard-man /'yär,man/ n. pl. men 1. a person working in a railroad or lumberyard. 2. a person who does various outdoor jobs.

yard-stick /'yär.stik/ n. a measuring rod a yard long, typically divided into inches. a standard used for comparison: the consumer price index, the government's yardstick for the cost of living.

yam-ule /'ya mulka/ n. a skullcap worn in public by Orthodox Jewish men or during prayer by other Jewish men.

yarn /yarn/ n. 1. spun thread used for knitting, weaving, or sewing. 2. int. a long or rambling story, esp. one that is implausible.

v. [intr] tell a long or implausible story: they were yarning about local legends and superstitions.

yarr-row /'yar.o, 'yar.o/ n. a Eurasian plant (Achillea millefolium) of the daisy family, with feathery leaves and small aromatic flowers.

yash-mak /'ya.ši. māk/ n. a veil concealing all of the face except the eyes, worn by some Muslim women in public.

yaw /yow/ v. [intr] of a moving ship or aircraft twist or oscillate about a vertical axis: the jet yawned sharply to the right.

yaw-l /'yowl/ n. a two-masted fore-and-aft-rigged sailboat with the mizzen boom overhanging the stern.

yawm /'yowm/ n. involuntarily open one's mouth wide and inhale deeply due to tiredness or boredom. adj. as adj. (yawning) be wide open: a yawning chasm.

n. a reflex act of opening one's mouth wide and inhaling deeply due to tiredness or boredom. int. a thing that is considered boring or tedious: the awards show was a four-hour yawningly

yaw-ling-ly adv.

Yaws /'yowz/ pl. n. [treated as sing] a contagious disease of tropical countries, caused by a bacterium that enters skin abrasions and gives rise to small crusty lesions that may develop into deep ulcers.

Yb > symb. the chemical element ytterbium.

Y chro-mo-some n. Genetics (in humans and other mammals) a sex
chromosome that is normally present only in male cells, which are designated XY. Compare with X CHROMOSOME.

ye<sup>d</sup>  n. abbr. yard (measure).

ye<sup>e</sup>  pron. [second person pl.] archaic or dial. plural form of thou: gather ye rosebuds, while ye may.

ye<sup>2</sup>  adj. pseudo-archaic term for the: Ye Olde Bookshoppe.

yea<sup>a</sup> adv. archaic or formal.yea: she has the right to say year or nay.

yea<sup>e</sup>  adj. used for emphasis, esp. to introduce a stronger or more accurate word than one just used: he was full, yea, crammed with antiquities.

yea<sup>2</sup> adv. archaic or formal. an affirmative answer: the assembly would give the final year or nay.

yeah <sup>/ya/</sup> <sup>a</sup> t. interj., & n. nonstandard spelling of yea, representing informal pronunciation.

yean<sup>2</sup> n. [lt.] archaic (of a sheep or goat) birth to (a lamb or kid).

year<sup>1</sup> <sup>/yer/</sup> n. 1 the time taken by a planet to make one revolution around the sun. 2 (also calendar year) the period of 365 days (or 366 days in leap years) starting from the first of January, used for reckoning time. a period of the same length as this starting at any point.

year-long  adj. a similar period used for reckoning time according to other calendars: the Muslim year. 3 (one's) years one's age or time of life: she had a composure well beyond her years.

yearbook <sup>/yer-bok/</sup> n. an annual publication giving current information and listing events or aspects of the previous year, esp. in a particular field: Yearbook of Physical Anthropology.

yearling <sup>/yer-ling/</sup> n. an animal a year old, or in its second year.

year-round <sup>/yer-round/</sup> adj. having lived or existed for a year: a year old: a yearling; calf.

yearly <sup>/yer-lee/</sup> adj. lasting for or throughout a year: his yearlong battle with lung cancer.

yeast <sup>/yeast/</sup> n. 1 a microscopic fungus (genus Saccharomyces, subdivision Ascomycotina) consisting of single oval cells that reproduce by budding, and are capable of converting sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide. 2 a grayish-yellow preparation of this obtained chiefly from fermented beer, used as a ferments agent, to raise bread dough, and as a food supplement. 3 Biol. any unicellular fungus that reproduces vegetatively by budding or fission, including forms such as candida that can cause disease. 4 Old English, of Germanic origin: related to Dutch gist and German Gicht 'froth, yeast.' 5 an Indo-European root shared by Greek zōn 'to boil.' —yeast-like adj.

yeast-y <sup>/yeast-ee/</sup> adj. yeasty-ker, yeasty-est) of, resembling, or containing yeast: the yeastly smell of rising dough. 2 fig. characterized by or producing upheaval or agitation; in a state of turbulence, typically a creative or productive one: the yeasty days of yesterday's revolution.

yell<sup>2</sup> <sup>/yel/</sup> n. a loud, sharp cry, esp. of pain, surprise, or delight; a shout.

yell<sup>1</sup> <sup>/yel/</sup> v. [int.]: give a loud, sharp cry; you heard me yelling at her.

yellow <sup>/yel/</sup> adj. 1 of the color between green and orange in the spectrum, a primarily yellowish, a color complementary to blue: colored like ripe lemons or egg yolks. 2 yellow hair. 3 others, having a naturally yellowish or olive skin (as used to describe Chinese or Japanese people). 4 denoting a warning of danger that is thought to be near but not actually imminent: he put Camp Visoko on yellow alert. 2 int. cowardly: he'd better get back there quick and prove he's not yellow.

yellow-belty <sup>/yel-bel/</sup> adj. yellow-belty-ness n. 1 a coward. 2 any of various animals with yellow underparts.

yellow-fever <sup>/yel-fayv/</sup> n. a tropical viral disease affecting the liver and kidneys, causing fever and jaundice and often fatal. It is transmitted by mosquitoes.

yellow-fin <sup>/yel-fin/</sup> <sup>a</sup> (also yellowfin tuna) n. a widely distributed, commercially important tuna (Thunnus albacares) that has yellow anal and dorsal fins.

yellow jacket <sup>/yelj-aykt/</sup> n. a wasp or hornet with bright yellow markings.

yellow journ-al-ism <sup>/yel-journ-aliz-am/</sup> n. journalism that is based upon sensationalism and crude exaggeration.

yellow Pages <sup>/yel-joun-pliz-amz/</sup> n. a telephone directory, or a section of one, printed on yellow paper and listing businesses and other organizations according to the goods or services they offer.

yea<sup>e</sup> adj. (archaic or formal) affirmative answer: the assembly would give the final year or nay.

yea<sup>2</sup> n. a longing or yearning: she always had a yen to be a writer.

year<sup>1</sup> <sup>/yer/</sup> adv. utter such a cry: my dogs were yelping at Linus.

yep <sup>2</sup> <sup>/yer/</sup> n. (pl. same) the basic monetary unit of Japan.

year<sup>2</sup> <sup>/yer/</sup> n. a longing or yearning: she always had a yen to be a writer.

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yea<sup>2</sup> n. a longing or yearning: she always had a yen to be a writer.
Taxaceae) that has red berrylike fruits and most parts of which are highly aromatic.

Yiddish /ˈjɪdɪʃ/ n. A language used by Jews in central and eastern Europe before and during the Holocaust. It was originally a German dialect with words from Hebrew and several modern languages and is today spoken mainly in the U.S., Israel, and Russia.

yield /ˈjɪld/ v. 1 [tr.] produce or provide (a natural, agricultural, or industrial product): the land yields grapes and tobacco. 2 [intr.] give way to arguments, demands, or pressure: he yielded to the demands of his partners. 3 [intr.] relinquish possession of something; give up something: up, they might yield up their secrets if they are forced to yield ground. 4 [tr.] cease to argue about: I yielded the point. (esp. in a legislature) allow another the right to speak in a debate: I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky. 5 [intr.] give right of way to other traffic. 6 [of a mass or structure] give way under pressure or force: he reeled into the house as the door yielded.

Yin /ˈjɪn/ n. (in Chinese philosophy) the passive female principle of the universe, characterized as being passive and sustaining and associated with earth, dark, and cold. Contrasted with yang.

ypie-pee /ˈjɪpiː, ˈjɪpiː/ n. [pl. -pies] 1 expressing wild excitement or delight. 2 used to represent black English.

yip-pie /ˈjɪpi/ n. 1. a group of politically active hipsters, originally in the U.S.

YJMA n. A welfare movement that began in London in 1844 and now has branches all over the world. 2 a hostel or recreational facility run by this association.

you /ˈjuː/ n. 1. used to represent black English.

you-del n. 1. a song, melody, or call delivered in such a way. —you-del-er n.

you-ga /ˈjoʊɡə/ n. 1. a Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline, a part of which, including breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures, is widely practiced for health and relaxation. —you-gic /ˈjʊɪɡɪk/ adj.

you-gi /ˈjʊɡi/ n. [pl. -gis] 1. a person who is proficient in yoga.

you-gurt /ˈjʊəɡɜːrt/ also yo-gurt n. 1. a semisolid sourish food prepared from fermented milk, often sweetened and flavored.

yoke /jɒk/ n. 1. a wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to the plow or cart that they are to pull. 2 [pl. same or yokes] a pair of animals coupled together in such a way: a yoke of oxen. 3 [frame fitting over the neck and shoulders of a person, used for carrying packs or baskets. 4] used of something that is regarded as oppressive or burdensome: the yoke of imperialism. 5] used of something that represents a bond between two parties: the yoke of marriage. 6] something resembling or likened to such a crosspiece, in particular: a part of a garment that fits over the shoulders and to which the main part of the garment is attached. —yoke-l-less adj.

you-yo /ˈjoʊjoʊ/ n. 1. the yellow internal part of a bird’s egg, which is surrounded by the white, is rich in protein and fat, and nourishes the developing embryo. —yolk-y adj.

yom /jɒm/ n. 1. the most solemn religious fast of the Jewish year, the last of the ten days of penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah. 2. adj. & adv. poet/ich or dial. yonder: that: [as adj.] you'll find some big ranches yon side of the Sierra.

Yorkshire pudding r. A side dish made of unsweetened egg batter, typically baked in roast beef drippings.

Yorkshire terrier n. 1. a dog of a small, long-haired blue-gray and tan breed of terrier.

Yoruba /ˈjɔrəbə/ n. (pl. same or -bas or -bes) 1. a member of a people of southwestern Nigeria and Benin. 2. the Kwa language of this people and an official language of Nigeria.

your /jər/ n. 1. used to refer to the person or thing that is speaking: are you listening? I love you. 2. used to refer to the person being addressed together with other people regarded in the same class: you Australians. 3. used in exclamation to address one or more people: you fools, hey, you! 4. used to refer to any person in general: after a while, you get used to it.

you and you yours together with your family and close friends. —yow-know (or you-know-what) used to refer to someone or something known to the hearer without specifying their identity.

you-al /ˈjʊəl, ˈjʊəl/ (also y’al) n. 1. used to refer to more than one person: how are you-all?

you’d /ˈjuːd/ con. of you had: you’d better remember it. —you’d need to that.

you’ll /ˈjuːl/ con. of you will: you’ll shall; you’ll find many exciting features.

young /ˈjʌŋ/ adj. (younger, youngest) having lived or existed for only a short time: a young girl | [as pl. n.] the young the young are amazingly resilient. —not as old as the norm or as would be expected: more people were dying young. 2. relating to, characteristic of, or consisting of young people: young love | the Young Communist League. 3. immature or inexperienced: she’s very young for her age. 4. having the qualities popularly associated with young people, such as enthusiasm and optimism: all those who are young at heart. 5. (the Younger) used to denote the younger of two people of the same name: Pitt the Younger. —(younger) Scot denoting the heir of a landed commoner: Hugh Magnus MacLeod, younger of MacLeod.

—adult. —offspring. —esp. of an animal before or soon after birth. —this species carries its young. —youngish /ˈjʌŋɪʃ/ adj.

youngster /ˈjʌŋstər/ n. 1. a child, young person, or young animal.

York Turf n. A member of a revolutionary party in the Ottoman Empire who carried out the revolution of 1908. —a young person eager for radical change to the established order.

young'un n. int. a youngster.

your /jɔr/ n. 1. belonging to or associated with the person or people that the speaker is addressing: what is your name? 2. belonging to or associated with any person in general: the sight is enough to break your heart. 3. used to denote someone or something that is familiar or typical of the speaker: I'm just your average Joe | she is one of your chatty types. —your Majesty! [or your Eminence]

Pronunciation: Key a ago, up, or over: fur, a hat; a ate; a ear; chin: e let; e sec (teh) our; i fit; i by; i tear; no sing; a go; a how, fur; o toy; 66 good; 66 good, oo out; sh she; th thin; th then; [thi] why; sh vision
yu'ne you're [yōor] • contr. of you are; you're an angel. Did you know that this term is often used to address someone affectionately?

yours [yōz; yōr] • possessive pron. 1 used to refer to a thing or things belonging to or associated with the person or people that the speaker is addressing: the choice is yours; it's no business of yours. • dated (chiefly in commercial use) your letter: Mr. Smythe has sent me your's of the 15th instant regarding the vacancy. 2 used in formulas ending a letter: Yours sincerely, John Watson | Yours, Jim Lindsay.

yourself [yŏr-self; yŏr-; yôr-] • pron. [second person sing.] (pl. -selves) 1 reflexive used to refer to the person being addressed as the object of a verb or preposition when they are also the subject of the clause: help yourselves, boys; see yourself. 2 you personally used to emphasize the person being addressed: you're going to have to do it yourself.

youth [yôoth] • n. (pl. youths [yôoths; yôothz]) 1 the period between childhood and adult age: he had been a keen sportsman in his youth. • the state or quality of being young, esp. as associated with vigor, freshness, or immaturity: she imagined her youth and beauty fading. • an early stage in the development of something: this publishing sector is no longer in its youth. 2 [treated as sing. or pl.] young people considered as a group: middle-class youth have romanticized poverty. • as adj. youth culture.

young-man [yōng man] • n. a young man: he was attacked by a gang of youths.

youngful [yōngful] • adj. young or seeming young: people aspiring to remain youthful. • typical or characteristic of young people: youthful enthusiasm. —youthfully adv. —youthfulness n.

youth-hostel • n. a place providing cheap accommodations aimed mainly at young people on hiking or cycling tours.

you've [yōv] • contr. of you have; you've changed.

you'll [yōl] • n. a loud wailing cry, esp. one of pain or distress. • v. [int. or conj.] make such a cry: he yowled as he touched one of the hot plates.

yo-yo [yōyo, yō] • n. (pl. -yos) a toy consisting of a pair of joined discs with a deep groove between them in which string is attached and wound, which can be spun alternately downward and upward by its weight and momentum. • often as adj. a thing that repeatedly falls and rises again: the yo-yo syndrome of repeatedly losing weight and gaining it again. • int. a stupid, insane, or unpredictable person.

y.o.y. [yō-yō] • [int. or conj.] move up and down; fluctuate: popularity polls yo-yo up and down with the flow of events. • [tr.] manipulate or maneuver (someone or something): don't yo-yo me around.

yr. • abbr. • year or years.

yrs. • abbr. • years. • yours (as a formula ending a letter).

ytterbi-um [ıˈtərbɪəm] • n. the chemical element of atomic number 70, a silvery-white metal of the lanthanide series. (Symbol: Yb)

yttrium [ıˈtrɪəm] • n. the chemical element of atomic number 39, a grayish-white metal generally included among the rare-earth elements. (Symbol: Y)

Yu-an [yūˈān] • a dynasty that ruled China AD 1259–1368, established by the Mongols under Kublai Khan. It preceded the Ming dynasty.

yu-ca [yūkə] • n. (pl. same) the basic monetary unit of China, equal to 10 jiao or 100 fen.

yuca • n. a plant (genus Yuca) of the agave family with stiff swordlike leaves and spikes of white bell-shaped flowers, found esp. in warm regions of North America and Mexico.

yuck • [yōk] • int. & interj. (also yuuk) used to express strong distaste or disgust: “Knew herring? Yuck!”

Yu-go-sla-via • [yō-gōˈsləvə] • n. a native or national of Yugoslavia or its former constituent republics, or a person of Yugoslav descent.

 авто • [yōtob] • adj. of or relating to Yugoslavia, its former constituent republics, or its people.

Yule [yoo̞l] • n. archaic term for Christmas. • Old English geola ‘Christmas Day’; compare with Old Norse jól, originally applied to a heathen festival lasting twelve days, later to Christmas.

yule log • n. a large log traditionally burned in the fireplace on Christmas Eve. • a log-shaped chocolate cake eaten at Christmas.

yum-yum • [yōmˈyōm] • adj. • interj. used to express pleasure at eating, or at the prospect of eating, a particular food.

yuppie • [yōpɪ] • n. short for YUPP]E.

Yup'ik • n. a language spoken by the indigenous people of Alaska.

Yupik • [yōpɪk] • n. (pl. same or -piks) 1 a member of an Eskimo people of Siberia, the Aleutian Islands, and southwestern Alaska. 2 any of the Eskimo languages of this people.

yuppie • [yōpɪ] • n. short for YUPPIE.

YWCA • n. a welfare movement with branches in many countries that began in Britain in 1885. • a hostel or recreational facility run by this association.
smoothly from a long shot to a close-up or vice versa: the camera zoomed in for a close-up of his face. [tr.] cause (a lens or camera) to do this.

n. a camera shot that changes smoothly from a long shot to a close-up or vice versa; as adj. the zoom button. n. short for ZOOM LENS.

interj. used to express sudden fast movement: zoom!, he's off.

zoom lens n. a lens allowing a camera to change smoothly from a long shot to a close-up or vice versa by varying the focal length.

zoo-morphic /ˌzooˈmɔrﬁk/ adj. having or representing animal forms or gods of animal form: pottery decorated with anthropomorphic and zoomorphic designs. —zoo-morphic adj.

zo-o-phyte /ˈzoo,faɪt/ n. dated Zool. a plantlike animal, esp. a coral, sea anemone, sponge, or sea lily.

zo-o-plankton /ˈzʊə,plæŋktn/ n. Biol. plankton consisting of small animals and the immature stages of larger animals.

ZPG abbr. zero population growth.

Zr symb. the chemical element zirconium.

zuc-chini /ˈzuːkəni/ n. (pl. same or -nis) a green variety of smooth-skinned summer squash.

Zu-lu /ˈzuːlʊ/ n. 1 a member of a South African people living mainly in KwaZulu-Natal province. n. the Nguni language of this people. 2 a code word representing the letter Z, used in radio communication.

adj. of or relating to the Zulu people or language.

Zu-ni /ˈzuːnyi/ (also Zu-ñe /ˈzuːnɛ/) n. (pl. same or Zu-nis) 1 a member of a Pueblo Indian people of western New Mexico. 2 the language of this people.

adj. of or relating to this people or their language.

zwie-back /ˈswiːbak; ’zwɛ-; ’swi-; ’zwi-/ n. a rusk or cracker made by baking a small loaf and then toasting slices until they are crisp.

zy-go-mat-ic bone n. Anat. the bone that forms the prominent part of the cheek and the outer side of the eye socket.

zy-gote /ˈziːgət/ n. Biol. a diploid cell resulting from the fusion of two haploid gametes; a fertilized ovum. —zy-got-ic /ˈziːgətɪk/ adj.
Ready Reference
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Guide to Punctuation

Punctuation is an essential element of good writing because it makes the author’s meaning clear to the reader. Although precise punctuation styles may vary somewhat among published sources, there are a number of fundamental principles worthy of consideration. Discussed below are these punctuation marks used in English:

- comma
- semicolon
- colon
- period
- question mark
- exclamation point
- apostrophe
- quotation marks
- parentheses
- dash
- hyphen

**Comma**
The **comma** is the most used mark of punctuation in the English language. It signals to the reader a pause, which generally clarifies the author’s meaning and establishes a sensible order to the elements of written language. Among the most typical functions of the comma are the following:

1. It can separate the clauses of a compound sentence when there are two independent clauses joined by a conjunction, especially when the clauses are not very short:
   
   *It never occurred to me to look in the attic, and I’m sure it didn’t occur to Rachel either.*
   
   *The Nelsons wanted to see the canyon at sunrise, but they overslept that morning.*

2. It can separate the clauses of a compound sentence when there is a series of independent clauses, the last two of which are joined by a conjunction:
   
   *The bus ride to the campsite was very uncomfortable, the cabins were not ready for us when we got there, the cook had forgotten to start dinner, and the rain was torrential.*

3. It is used to precede or set off, and therefore indicate, a nonrestrictive dependent clause (a clause that could be omitted without changing the meaning of the main clause):
   
   *I read her autobiography, which was published last July.*
   
   *They showed up at midnight, after most of the guests had gone home.*
   
   *The coffee, which is freshly brewed, is in the kitchen.*

4. It can follow an introductory phrase:
   
   *Having enjoyed the movie so much, he agreed to see it again.*
   
   *Born and raised in Paris, she had never lost her French accent.*
   
   *In the beginning, they had very little money to invest.*
5. It can set off words used in direct address:
   *Listen, people, you have no choice in the matter.*
   *Yes, Mrs. Greene, I will be happy to feed your cat.*
   *Do you really believe, Eliza, that he will return the fifty dollars?*

6. It can separate two or more coordinate adjectives (adjectives that could otherwise be joined with *and*) that modify one noun:
   *The cruise turned out to be the most entertaining, fun, and relaxing vacation I’ve ever had.*
   *The horse was tall, lean, and sleek.*
   Note that cumulative adjectives (those not able to be joined with *and*) are not separated by a comma:
   *She wore bright yellow rubber boots.*

7. It is used to separate three or more items in a series or list:
   *Charlie, Melissa, Stan, and Mark will be this year’s soloists in the spring concert.*
   *We need furniture, toys, clothes, books, tools, housewares, and other useful merchandise for the benefit auction.*
   Note that the comma between the last two items in a series is sometimes omitted in less precise style:
   *The most popular foods served in the cafeteria are pizza, hamburgers and nachos.*

8. It is used to separate and set off the elements in an address or other geographical designation:
   *My new house is at 1657 Nighthawk Circle, South Kingsbury, Michigan.*
   *We arrived in Pamplona, Spain, on Thursday.*

9. It is used to set off direct quotations (note the placement or absence of commas with other punctuation):
   *“Kim forgot her gloves,” he said, “but we have a pair she can borrow.”*
   *There was a long silence before Jack blurted out, “This must be the world’s ugliest painting.”*
   *“What are you talking about?” she asked in a puzzled manner.*
   *“Happy New Year!” everyone shouted.*

10. It is used to set off titles after a person’s name:
    *Katherine Bentley, M.D.*
    *Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered the sermon.*
**Semicolon**

The **semicolon** has two basic functions:

1. It can separate two main clauses, particularly when these clauses are of equal importance:
   
   The crowds gathered outside the museum hours before the doors were opened; this was one exhibit no one wanted to miss.
   
   She always complained when her relatives stayed for the weekend; even so, she usually was a little sad when they left.

2. It can be used as a comma is used to separate such elements as clauses or items in a series or list, particularly when one or more of the elements already includes a comma:
   
   The path took us through the deep, dark woods; across a small meadow into a cold, wet cave; and up a hillside overlooking the lake.
   
   Listed for sale in the ad were two bicycles; a battery-powered, leaf-mulching lawn mower; and a maple bookcase.

**Colon**

The **colon** has five basic functions:

1. It can introduce something, especially a list of items:
   
   In the basket were three pieces of mail: a postcard, a catalog, and a wedding invitation.
   
   Students should have the following items: backpack, loose-leaf notebook, pens and pencils, pencil sharpener, and ruler.

2. It can separate two clauses in a sentence when the second clause is being used to explain or illustrate the first clause:
   
   We finally understood why she would never go sailing with us: she had a deep fear of the water.
   
   Most of the dogs in our neighborhood are quite large: two of them are St. Bernards.

3. It can introduce a statement or a quotation:
   
   His parents say the most important rule is this: Always tell the truth.
   
   We repeated the final words of his poem: “And such is the plight of fools like me.”

4. It can be used to follow the greeting in a formal or business letter:
   
   Dear Ms. Daniels:
   
   Dear Sir or Madam:

5. It is used in the United States to separate minutes from hours, and seconds from minutes, in showing time of day and measured length of time:
   
   Please be at the restaurant before 6:45.
   
   Her best running time so far has been 00:12:35.
Period
The period has two basic functions:

1. It is used to mark the end of a sentence:
   
   *It was reported that there is a shortage of nurses at the hospital. Several of the patients have expressed concern about this problem.*

2. It is often used at the end of an abbreviation:
   
   *On Fri., Sept. 12, Dr. Brophy noted that the patient's weight was 168 lb. and that his height was 6 ft. 2 in.*
   
   *(Note that another period is not added to the end of the sentence when the last word is an abbreviation.)*

Question Mark and Exclamation Point
The only sentences that do not end in a period are those that end in either a question mark or an exclamation point.

**Question marks** are used to mark the end of a sentence that asks a direct question (generally, a question that expects an answer):

*Is there any reason for us to bring more than a few dollars?*

*Who is your science teacher?*

**Exclamation points** are used to mark the end of a sentence that expresses a strong feeling, typically surprise, joy, or anger:

*I want you to leave and never come back!*

*What a beautiful view this is!*

Apostrophe
The apostrophe has two basic functions:

1. It is used to show where a letter or letters are missing in a contraction.

   *The directions are cont’d [continued] on the next page.*

   *We’ve [we have] decided that if she can’t [cannot] go, then we aren’t [are not] going either.*

2. It can be used to show possession:

   The possessive of a singular noun or an irregular plural noun is created by adding an apostrophe and an s:

   *the pilot’s uniform*
   *Mrs. Mendoza’s house*
   *a tomato’s bright red color*
   *the oxen’s yoke*
The possessive of a regular plural noun is created by adding just an apostrophe:

- the pilots' uniforms [referring to more than one pilot]
- the Mendozas' house [referring to the Mendoza family]
- the tomatoes' bright red color [referring to more than one tomato]

**Quotation Marks**

Quotation marks have two basic functions:

1. They are used to set off direct quotations (an exact rendering of someone's spoken or written words):

   "I think the new library is wonderful," she remarked to David.

   We were somewhat lost, so we asked, "Are we anywhere near the gallery?"

   "In his letter he had written, "The nights here are quiet and starry. It seems like a hundred years since I've been wakened by the noise of city traffic and squabbling neighbors.""

   Note that indirect quotes (which often are preceded by that, if, and whether) are not set off by quotation marks:

   He told me that he went to school in Boston.

   We asked if we could still get tickets to the game.

2. They can be used to set off words or phrases that have specific technical usage, or to set off meanings of words, or to indicate words that are being used in a special way in a sentence:

   The part of the flower that bears the pollen is the "stamen."

   When I said "plain," I meant "flat land," not "ordinary."

   Oddly enough, in the theater, the statement "break a leg" is meant as an expression of good luck.

   What you call "hoagies," we call "grinders" or "submarine sandwiches."

   He will never be a responsible adult until he outgrows his "Peter Pan" behavior.

   Note that sometimes single quotation marks, rather than double quotation marks, may be used to set off words or phrases:

   The part of the flower that bears the pollen is the 'stamen.'

   What is most important is to be consistent in such usage. Single quotation marks are also used to set off words or phrases within material already in double quotation marks, as:

   "I want the sign to say 'Ellen's Bed and Breakfast' in large gold letters," she explained.
Parentheses

Parentheses are used, in pairs, to enclose information that gives extra detail or explanation to the regular text. Parentheses are used in two basic ways:

1. They can separate a word or words in a sentence from the rest of the sentence:
   - On our way to school, we walk past the Turner Farm (the oldest dairy farm in town) and watch the cows being fed.
   - The stores were filled with holiday shoppers (even more so than last year).
   - Note that the period goes outside the parentheses, because the words in the parentheses are only part of the sentence.

2. They can form a separate complete sentence:
   - Please bring a dessert to the dinner party. (It can be something very simple.) I look forward to seeing you there.
   - Note that the period goes inside the parentheses, because the words in the parentheses are a complete and independent sentence.

Dash

A dash is used most commonly to replace the usage of parentheses within sentences. If the information being set off is in the middle of the sentence, a pair of long (or “em”) dashes is used; if it is at the end of the sentence, just one long dash is used:

   - On our way to school, we walk past the Turner Farm—the oldest dairy farm in town—and watch the cows being fed.
   - The stores were filled with holiday shoppers—even more so than last year.

Hyphen

A hyphen has three basic functions:

1. It can join two or more words to make a compound, especially when doing so makes the meaning more clear to the reader:
   - We met to discuss long-range planning.
   - There were six four-month-old piglets at the fair.
   - That old stove was quite a coal-burner.

2. It can replace the word “to” when a span or range of data is given. This kind of hyphen is sometimes keyed as a short (or “en”) dash:
   - John Adams was president of the United States 1797–1801.
   - Today we will look for proper nouns in the L–N section of the dictionary.
   - The ideal weight for that breed of dog would be 75–85 pounds.
3. It can indicate a word break at the end of a line. The break must always be between syllables:

*It is important for any writer to know that there are numerous punctuation principles that are considered standard and proper, but there is also flexibility regarding acceptable punctuation. Having learned the basic “rules” of good punctuation, the writer will be able to adopt a specific and consistent style of punctuation that best suits the material he or she is writing.*

**COMMON CLICHÉS TO AVOID**

A cliché is a worn-out expression. It was once fresh and meaningful, but it has lost its original impact through overuse. Numerous clichés have become so familiar that it would be virtually impossible to eradicate them from one’s vocabulary. However, writers and speakers should make the effort to avoid using them, especially in formal material.

above and beyond the call of duty  
accident waiting to happen  
acid test  
add insult to injury  
after all is said and done  
all hands on deck  
all in all  
all wet  
all’s well that ends well  
almighty dollar  
along the same lines  
A-OK  
as luck would have it  
at a loss for words  
at arm’s length  
avoid like the plague  
back in the saddle  
back on track  
backseat driver  
ball is in your court  
barking up the wrong tree  
be your own worst enemy  
beat a dead horse  
beat around the bush  
been there, done that  

beggars can’t be choosers  
be an open book  
believe me  
better late than never  
between a rock and a hard place  
between you, me, and the lamppost  
big picture  
big spender  
bigger fish to fry  
bird’s-eye view  
bitter end  
bone of contention  
born and bred  
both sides of the coin  
brain trust  
bring home the bacon  
broad spectrum  
broaden one’s horizons  
bundle of nerves  
bury the hatchet  
busy as a bee  
buy into  
by leaps and bounds  
by the skin of one’s teeth  
call her bluff
Common clichés to avoid (continued)
can’t judge a book by its cover
can’t take a joke
cast the net
catbird seat
catch as catch can
center of attention
cheat death
chew the fat
clear as a bell
clear as mud
cloak and dagger
coast is clear
cold as ice
cold shoulder
come full circle
come to no good
come up for air
conspicuous by their absence
cool it
cop out
could eat a horse
counting on you
count your blessings
cover all the bases
crazy like a fox
cream of the crop
creature of habit
crossing the line
cut me some slack
cut to the chase
dead in the water
dead wrong
dog-eat-dog
done deal
done to death
don’t know him from Adam
donw and dirty
down and out
down in the dumps
down in the mouth
dressed to the nines
due in large measure to
duly noted
dumb luck
easier said than done
easy come, easy go
easy mark
easy target
eat crow
end of discussion
every fiber of my being
face the music
fair and square
fall from grace
fall through the cracks
far and away
feast or famine
few and far between
fighting the tide
fill the bill
find it in your heart
fit as a fiddle
fit to be tied
fits like an old shoe
flat as a pancake
fly in the ointment
fly off the handle
for all intents and purposes
for love or money
for your information
fork it over
free as a bird
from the frying pan into the fire
from time immemorial
game plan
get behind the eight ball
get down to brass tacks
get off scot-free
get our ducks in a row
get the lead out
get the show on the road
get to the bottom of it
give a damn
give rise to
go for the kill
go it alone
go the distance
go the extra mile
go to pieces
go with the flow
goes without saying
good for nothing
goodly number
grass is always greener
green with envy
grist for the mill
hammer out the details
handwriting on the wall
hang in there
has a screw loose
have your heart in your mouth
head over heels
heated argument
his bark is worse than his bite
hit or miss
hit the ceiling
hit the ground running
hit the nail on the head
hold that thought
holding back the tide
hook, line, and sinker
hour of need
I wasn’t born yesterday
icing on the cake
if looks could kill
if the price is right
I’m all over it
I’m speechless
in a nutshell
in due course
in hot water
in layman’s terms
in one fell swoop
in over their heads
in seventh heaven
in the bag
in the ballpark
in the driver’s seat
in the event that
in the final analysis
in the groove
in the near future
in the neighborhood of
in the nick of time
in the same boat
in the zone
in this day and age
irons in the fire
it could be worse
it stands to reason
it takes all kinds
it takes guts
it’s your baby
join the club
keep your fingers crossed
keep the home fires burning
keeping score
kill the fatted calf
kiss of death
knock on wood
knock the socks off of
know the ropes
last but not least
last straw
lay an egg
learning curve
leave no stone unturned
left to his own devices
lend me an ear
let the cat out of the bag
let your hair down
letter perfect
lie low
light of day
like a bull in a china shop
like a bump on a log
**Common clichés to avoid** (continued)

- like greased lightning
- like rolling off a log
- little does he know
- live it up
- lock, stock, and barrel
- look like a million bucks
- low man on the totem pole
- make ends meet
- make tracks
- makes her blood boil
- method in (or to) my madness
- millstone around your neck
- mince words
- misery loves company
- moment of truth
- Monday-morning quarterback
- monkey on your back
- more money than God
- more than meets the eye
- more than you could shake a stick at
- nail to the wall
- naked truth
- nearing the finish line
- needle in a haystack
- needs no introduction
- never a dull moment
- nip and tuck
- nip in the bud
- no harm, no foul
- no skin off my nose
- no strings attached
- no-brainer
- none the worse for wear
- nose to the grindstone
- not one red cent
- nothing new under the sun
- off the cuff
- old as the hills
- old hat
- old soldiers never die
- older than dirt
- on cloud nine
- on the one hand/on the other hand
- on the road
- on the same page
- on the same track
- on the wagon
- on top of the world
- out of my league
- out of the woods
- over a barrel
- pan out
- par for the course
- pass the buck
- pay the piper
- perish the thought
- piece of cake
- playing for keeps
- powers that be
- practice makes perfect
- proud as a peacock
- pulling my leg
- pulling no punches
- put faces to names
- put on hold
- put the bite on
- put words in one’s mouth
- put your money where your mouth is
- quick and dirty
- rags to riches
- rant and rave
- reading me like a book
- real McCoy
- red as a beet
- regret to inform you
- reign supreme
- rings a bell
- ripe old age
- rise and shine
- rolling over in his grave
- rub elbows
- rule the roost
run circles around
run it up the flagpole
run off at the mouth
sadder but wiser
safe to say
salt of the earth
scarce as hen's teeth
sea of faces
see the forest for the trees
sell like hotcakes
set in stone
shake a leg
sharp as a tack
ships that pass in the night
shoot the breeze
shooting himself in the foot
shot in the arm
shot to hell
sight for sore eyes
sitting duck
skeleton in the closet
skin alive
sleep on it
smells fishy
smooth sailing
snake in the grass
spill the beans
stay in the loop
steal the limelight
stem the tide
stick to your guns
stick your neck out
straight from the horse's mouth
strange bedfellows
strike a balance
strong as an ox
stubborn as a mule
sturdy as an oak
suffice it to say
sweating bullets
take a breather
take into consideration
take on board
take one's word for
take pleasure in
take the bitter with the sweet
take the easy way out
take the liberty of
talk shop
talk the talk
talk through your hat
talk your ear off
that's all she wrote
the die is cast
they'll be sorry
thick as thieves
thin as a rail
think outside the box
think tank
those are the breaks
through thick and thin
throw caution to the wind
thrown to the wolves
tighten our belts
time is money
time marches on
time waits for no man
to each his own
to your heart's content
too funny for words
took the words right out of my mouth
touch base
turn the other cheek
turn up your nose
two peas in a pod
ugly as sin
under the wire
up a creek
upset the applecart
venture a guess
vicious circle
waiting for the other shoe to drop
walk the walk
walking encyclopedia
Common clichés to avoid (continued)

walking on air
welcome with open arms
when the cows come home
where angels fear to tread
where there’s smoke, there’s fire
whole nine yards
wild-goose chase
wipe the slate clean
wishful thinking

with bated breath
without further ado
without further delay
wonders never cease
words fail me
wreak havoc
yada, yada, yada
you said a mouthful
you’ll never know if you don’t try

REDUNDANT EXPRESSIONS

A redundant expression is a group of words (usually a pair) in which at least one word is superfluous—that is, unnecessary. The superfluous element can be removed without affecting the meaning of the expression. In formal speech or writing, redundant expressions should be strictly avoided.

In the following list of common redundant expressions, the superfluous elements have been crossed out.

absolute guarantee
absolutely certain
absolutely essential
absolutely necessary
AC current
actual fact
actual truth
add an additional
adding together
advance reservations
advance warning
after the end of
all meet together
alongside of
already existing
and moreover
annoying pest
ATM machine
awkward predicament
bald-headed
basic essentials
basic fundamentals
blend together
brief moment
but however
but nevertheless
came at a time when
cancel out
chief protagonist
clearly obvious
climb up
close proximity
close scrutiny
collaborate together
combine into one
commute back and forth
complete monopoly
completely destroyed
completely eliminated
completely empty
completely filled
completely random
consensus of opinion
continue on
continue to remain
cooperate together
Redundant expressions to avoid (continued)

new beginning
new bride
new innovation
new recruit
nine A.M. in the morning
no trespassing allowed
none at all
now pending
null and void
old cliché
old proverb
opening introduction
originally created
over and done with
overexaggerate
pair of twins
parched dry
passing fad
past experiences
past history
past memories
past records
penetrate into
perfect ideal
permeate throughout
personal friend
personal opinion
personally believes
PIN number
plan in advance
poisonous venom
positively true
possibly might
postponed until a later time
prerecorded
present incumbent
probed into
proceed ahead
protest against
protrude out
proven facts
raise up
reason why
refer back
reflect back
repeat again
reply back
revert back
Rio Grande River
sad tragedy
same identical
seemed to be
share together
short in length
since the time when
sincerely mean it
skipped over
solemn vow
spelled out in detail
stacked on top of each other
still continues
still persists
still remains
strangled to death
stupid fool
suddenly exploded
sufficient enough
sum total
summer season
sworn affidavit
temporary recess
temporary reprieve
terrible tragedy
thoughtful contemplation
thoughtful deliberation
totally eliminated
true fact
twelve midnight
twelve noon
two twins
ultimate conclusion
unexpected surprise
unintentional mistake
uninvited party crashers
UPC code
usual custom
utter annihilation
very unique

ways and means
well-known old adage
when and if
whether or not
widow woman
written down
Proofreader's Marks

- \(\) delete quotation marks
- \(\) delete parentheses
- \(\) delete square brackets
- \(\) delete hyphen
- \(\) delete em-dash
- \(\) delete en-dash
- \(\) delete new paragraph
- \(\) delete break line or word
- \(\) delete set as superscript
- \(\) delete set as subscript

- \(\) insert hyphen
- \(\) insert square brackets
- \(\) insert em-dash
- \(\) insert comma
- \(\) insert new paragraph
- \(\) insert set as superscript
- \(\) insert set as subscript

- \(\) space
- \(\) space
- \(\) space
- \(\) period
- \(\) comma
- \(\) semicolon
- \(\) colon
- \(\) apostrophe

- \(\) transpose
- \(\) transpose (note in margin)
- \(\) spell out
- \(\) spell out (note in margin)
- \(\) capitalize
- \(\) set as capitals (note in margin)
- \(\) make lower case
- \(\) set in lower case (note in margin)
- \(\) make boldface
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- \(\) make italic
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- \(\) make boldface (note in margin)
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- \(\) make italic
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- \(\) set in italic (note in margin)
- \(\) set in italic (note in margin)
- \(\) set in small caps
- \(\) set in small caps (note in margin)
- \(\) set in roman (note in margin)
Usage Notes

aggravate
Aggravate in the sense ‘annoy or exasperate’ dates back to the 17th century and has been so used by respected writers ever since. This use is still regarded as incorrect by some traditionalists on the grounds that it is too radical a departure from the etymological meaning of ‘make heavy.’ It is, however, comparable to meaning changes in hundreds of other words that have long been accepted without comment.

alternate, alternative
Alternate can be a verb, noun, or adjective, while alternative can be a noun or adjective. In both American and British English, the adjective alternate means ‘every other’ (there will be a dance on alternate Saturdays) and the adjective alternative means ‘available as another choice’ (an alternative route; alternative medicine; alternative energy sources). In American usage, however, alternate can also be used to mean ‘available as another choice’: an alternate plan called for construction to begin immediately rather than waiting for spring. Likewise, a book club may offer an ‘alternate selection’ as an alternative to the main selection.

Some traditionalists maintain, from an etymological standpoint, that you can have only two alternatives (from the Latin alter ‘other (of two); the other’) and that uses of more than two alternatives are erroneous. Such uses are, however, normal in modern standard English.

altogether, all together
Note that altogether and all together do not mean the same thing. Altogether means ‘in total, totally’ as in there are six bedrooms altogether, or that is a different matter altogether, whereas all together means ‘all in one place’ or ‘all at once,’ as in it was good to have a group of friends all together, or they came in all together.

anticipate
Anticipate in the sense ‘expect, foresee’ is well established in informal use (he anticipated a restless night), but this sense is regarded as a weakening of the meaning by many traditionalists. The formal sense is more specific in its meaning, ‘be aware of and deal with beforehand’ (the doctor anticipated the possibility of a relapse by prescribing new medications).

anyone, any one
Any one is not the same as anyone, and the two forms should not be used interchangeably. Any one, meaning ‘any single (person or thing),’ is written as two words to emphasize singularity: anyone of us could do the job; not more than ten new members are chosen in any one year. Otherwise it is written as one word: anyone who wants to come is welcome.
Asian, Asiatic
The standard and accepted term when referring to individual people is **Asian** rather than **Asiatic**, which can be offensive. However, **Asiatic** is standard in scientific and technical use, for example in biological and anthropological classifications. See note for **Oriental**.

**author, coauthor**
In the sense ‘be the author of,’ the verb **author** is objected to by some traditionalists who regard it as an awkward or pretentious substitute for **write** or **compose**. This usage is widespread and well established though, and has been in use since the end of the 16th century. The verb **coauthor**, for which there is no common synonym, is useful and unobjectionable.

**bad, badly**
Confusion in the use of **bad** versus **badly** usually has to do with verbs called copulas, such as **feel** or **seem**. Thus, standard usage calls for **I feel bad**, not **I feel badly**. As a precise speaker or writer would explain, **I feel badly** means ‘I do not have a good sense of touch.’

**beg the question**
The original meaning of the phrase **beg the question** belongs to the field of logic. It is a translation of the Latin rhetorical term **petitio principii**, literally meaning ‘laying claim to a principle;’ that is, assuming something that ought to be proved first, as in the following sentence: **dogs should be locked up, otherwise attacks by wild dogs on children will continue to increase**. This **begs the question** (among other questions) whether, in fact, such attacks are increasing. Usually such a statement will give the impression that the problem of proving the argument has been sidestepped. From this impression of sidestepping, a new meaning has developed: ‘avoid the question, evade the issue,’ as in **they said he begged the question by criticizing his opponent’s program**. Also, over the last 100 years or so, another, more general use has arisen: ‘invite an obvious question,’ as in **some definitions of mental illness beg the question of what constitutes normal behavior**. Both of these newer meanings are widely accepted in modern standard English, although they have been criticized as being misunderstandings of the Latin rhetorical term. To some traditionalists, the sense of ‘assume the truth of an argument to be proved’ is still the only correct meaning of **beg the question**. Both of the newer meanings of **beg** are used not only with **question**, but with other words as well: **beg the point**, **beg the issue**, **beg the difficulties**.

**between, among**
**Between** is used in speaking of only two things, people, etc.: **we must choose between two equally unattractive alternatives**. **Among** is used for collective and undefined relations of usually three or more: **agreement on landscaping was reached among all the neighbors**. But where there are more than two parties involved, **between** may be used to express one-to-one relationships of pairs within the group or the sense ‘shared by’: **there is close friendship between the members of the club; diplomatic relations between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico**.
between you and me

*Between you and I, between you and he, etc., are incorrect: between should be followed only by the objective case: between you and me, between you and him, etc.*

bimonthly

The meaning of *bimonthly* (and other similar words such as *biweekly* and *biyearly*) is ambiguous. The only way to avoid this ambiguity is to use alternative expressions like *every two months* and *twice a month*. In the publishing world, the meaning of *bimonthly* is more fixed and is invariably used to mean ‘every two months’.

black

*Black*, designating Americans of African heritage, became the most widely used and accepted term in the 1960s and 1970s, replacing *Negro*. It is not usually capitalized: *black Americans*.

Through the 1980s, the more formal *African American* replaced *black* in much usage, but both are now generally acceptable. *Afro-American*, first recorded in the 19th century and popular in the 1960s and 1970s, is now heard mostly in anthropological and cultural contexts. See note for *colored*.

blonde, blond

The spellings *blonde* and *blond* correspond to the feminine and masculine forms in French. Although the distinction is usually retained in Britain, American usage since the 1970s has generally preferred the gender-neutral *blond*. The adjective *blonde* may still refer to a woman’s (but not a man’s) hair color, though use of the noun risks offense (*See that blonde over there?*): the offense arises from the fact that the color of hair is not the person. The adjective applied to inanimate objects (such as *wood* or *beer*) is typically spelled *blond*.

both and

When *both* is used in constructions with *and*, the structures following ‘both’ and ‘and’ should be symmetrical in well-formed English. Thus, *studies of zebra finches, both in the wild and in captivity* is stronger and clearer than *studies of zebra finches, both in the wild and captivity*. In the second example, the symmetry or parallelism of ‘in the wild’ and ‘in captivity’ has been lost.

Caribbean

There are two possible pronunciations of the word *Caribbean*, and both are used widely and acceptably in the U.S. In the Caribbean itself, the preferred pronunciation puts the stress on the *-rib*. In Britain, speakers more often put the stress on the *-be-*, although in recent years, the other pronunciation has gained ground in Britain as the more ‘up-to-date’ and, to some, the more ‘correct’ pronunciation.

cosignatory

In modern American English, the tendency increasingly is to write compound words beginning with *co-* without hyphenation, as in *cosignatory* and *coproduce*. British
usage generally tends more often to show a preference for the older, hyphenated, spelling, but even in Britain the trend seems to be in favor of less hyphenation than in the past. In both the U.S. and the UK, for example, the spellings of coordinate and coed are encountered with or without hyphenation, but the more common choice for either word in either country is without the hyphen.

Co- with the hyphen is often used in compounds that are not yet standard (co-golfer), or to prevent ambiguity (co-driver—because codriver could be mistaken for codriver), or simply to avoid an awkward spelling (co-own is clearly preferable to coown). There are also some relatively less common terms, such as co-respondent (in a divorce suit), where the hyphenated spelling distinguishes the word’s meaning and pronunciation from that of the more common correspondent.

colored

Colored referring to skin color is first recorded in the early 17th century and was adopted in the U.S. by emancipated slaves as a term of racial pride after the end of the Civil War. The word is still used in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), but otherwise colored sounds old-fashioned at best, and is usually offensive. People of color, has gained some favor, but is also used in reference to other nonwhite ethnic groups: a gathering spot for African Americans and other people of color interested in reading about their cultures.

In South Africa, the term colored (normally written Coloured) has a different history. It is used to refer to people of mixed-race parentage rather than, as elsewhere, to refer to African peoples and their descendants, i.e., as a synonym for black. In modern use in this context, the term is not considered offensive or derogatory. See note for black.

compare to, compare with

Traditionally, compare to is used when similarities are noted in dissimilar things: shall I compare thee to a summer’s day? To compare with is to look for either differences or similarities, usually in similar things: compare the candidate’s claims with his actual performance. In practice, however, this distinction is rarely maintained.

comprise

According to traditional usage, comprise means ‘consist of,’ as in the country comprises twenty states, and should not be used to mean ‘constitute or make up (a whole),’ as in this single breed comprises 50 percent of the Swiss cattle population. But confusion has arisen because of uses in the passive, which have been formed by analogy with words like compose: when comprise is used in the active (as in the country comprises twenty states) it is, oddly, more or less synonymous with the passive use of the second sense (as in the country is comprised of twenty states). Such passive uses of comprise are common and are fast becoming part of standard English.

continual, continuous

In precise usage, continual means ‘frequent, repeating at intervals’ and continuous means ‘going on without pause or interruption’; we suffered from the continual attacks of
mosquitoes; the waterfall's **continuous** flow creates an endless roar. The most common error is the use of **continuous** where **continual** is meant: **continual** (that is, 'intermittent') rain or tantrums can be tolerated; **continuous** (that is, 'uninterrupted') rain or tantrums cannot be tolerated. To prevent misunderstanding, some careful writers use **intermittent** instead of **continual**, and **uninterrupted** in place of **continuous**. **Continuous** is the word to use in describing spatial relationships, as in a **continuous** series of rooms or a **continuous** plain of arable land. Avoid using **continuous** (or **continuously**) as a way of describing something that occurs at regular or seasonal intervals: in the sentence our synagogue's Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony has been held **continuously** since 1925, the word **continuously** should be replaced with **annually**.

**data**

**Data** was originally the plural of the Latin word **datum**, 'something (e.g., a piece of information) given.' **Data** is now used as a singular where it means 'information': this **data** was prepared for the conference. It is used as a plural in technical contexts and when the collection of bits of information is stressed: **all recent data** on hurricanes are being compared. Avoid **datas** and **datae**, which are false plurals, neither English nor Latin.

**deaf-mute**

In modern use, **deaf-mute** has acquired offensive connotations (implying, wrongly, that such people are without the capacity for communication). It should be avoided in favor of other terms such as **profoundly deaf**.

**decimate**

Historically, the meaning of the word **decimate** is 'kill one in every ten of (a group of people).' This sense has been superseded by the later, more general sense 'kill or destroy a large percentage or part of;' as in **the virus has decimated the population**. Some traditionalists argue that this and other later senses are incorrect, but it is clear that these extended senses are now part of standard English. It is sometimes also argued that **decimate** should refer to people and not to things or animals such as weeds or insects. It is generally agreed that **decimate** should not be used to mean 'defeat utterly.'

**due to**

The use of **due to** as a prepositional phrase meaning 'because of;' as in **he had to retire due to an injury** first appeared in print in 1897, and traditional grammarians have opposed this prepositional usage for more than a century on the grounds that it is a misuse of the adjectival phrase **due to** in the sense of 'attributable to, likely or expected to' (**the train is due to arrive at 11:15**), or 'payable or owed to' (**render unto Caesar what is due to Caesar**). Nevertheless, this prepositional usage is now widespread and common in all types of literature and must be regarded as standard English.

The phrase **due to the fact that** is very common in speech, but it is wordy, and, especially in writing, one should use the simple word 'because.'
dumb
Although dumb meaning 'not able to speak' is the older sense; it has been overwhelmed by the newer sense (meaning 'stupid') to such an extent that the use of the first sense is now almost certain to cause offense. Alternatives such as speech-impaired should be used instead.

dwarf
In the sense 'an abnormally small person,' dwarf is normally considered offensive. However, there are no accepted alternatives in the general language, since terms such as person of restricted growth have gained little currency.
either...or
In good English writing style, it is important that either and or are correctly placed so that the structures following each word balance and mirror each other. Thus, sentences such as either I accompany you or I wait here and I'm going to buy either a new camera or a new video are correct, whereas sentences such as either I accompany you or John and I'm either going to buy a new camera or a video are not well-balanced sentences and should not be used in written English.
enormity
This word is imprecisely used to mean 'great size;' as in it is difficult to comprehend the enormity of the continent, but the original and preferred meaning is 'extreme wickedness,' as in the enormity of the mass murders. To indicate enormous size, the words enormousness, immensity, vastness, hugeness, etc., are preferable.
enthuse
The verb enthuse is formed as a back-formation from the noun enthusiasm and, like many verbs formed from nouns in this way, it is regarded by traditionalists as unacceptable. It is difficult to see why: back-formation is a perfectly established means for creating new words in the language (verbs like classify, commentate, and edit were also formed as back-formations from nouns, for example). Enthuse itself has been in the language for more than 150 years.
equal, unique
It is widely held that adjectives such as equal and unique have absolute meanings and therefore can have no degrees of comparison. Hence they should not be modified, and it is incorrect to say more equal or very unique on the grounds that these are adjectives that refer to a logical or mathematical absolute.
equally, equally as
The construction equally as—as in follow-up discussion is equally as important—is relatively common but is sometimes criticized on the grounds of redundancy. Equally used alone is adequate: follow-up discussion is equally important.
Eskimo
In recent years, Eskimo has come to be regarded as offensive because of one of its possible etymologies (Abnaki askimo ‘eater of raw meat’), but this descriptive name is accurate since Eskimos traditionally derived their vitamins from eating raw meat. Another etymology (Montagnais ayashkecmew ‘netter of snowshoes’) is possible, but the etymological problem is still unresolved.
The peoples inhabiting the regions from northwestern Canada to western Greenland call themselves Inuit. Since there are no Inuit living in the U.S., Eskimo is the only term that can be properly applied to all of the peoples as a whole, and it is still widely used in anthropological and archaeological contexts. The broader term Native American is sometimes used to refer to Eskimo and Aleut peoples. See note for Inuit.

espresso
The often-occurring variant spelling espresso—and its pronunciation /ik’spresho/—is incorrect and was probably formed by analogy with express.

everyday, every day
The adjective everyday, ‘pertaining to every day, ordinary,’ is correctly spelled as one word (carrying out their everyday activities), but the adverbial phrase every day, meaning ‘each day,’ is always spelled as two words (it rained every day).

everyone, every one
The pronoun everyone, meaning ‘every person,’ is correctly spelled as one word: everyone had a great time at the party. The pronoun every one, meaning ‘each one,’ is spelled as two words: every one of the employees got a bonus at the end of the year. The word everybody is substitutable in the first example but not in the second example.

exceptionable, exceptional
Exceptionable means ‘open to objection’ and is usually found in negative contexts: there was nothing exceptionable in the evidence. It is sometimes confused with the much more common exceptional, meaning ‘unusual, outstanding.’ Their opposites, unexceptionable (‘unobjectionable, beyond criticism’) and unexceptional (‘ordinary’), are also sometimes confused.

feasible
The primary meaning of feasible is ‘capable of being done or effected.’ There is rarely a need to use feasible to mean ‘likely’ or ‘probable’ when those words can do the job. There are cases, however, in which a careful writer finds that the sense of likelihood or probability (as with an explanation or theory) is more naturally or idiomatically expressed with feasible than with possible or probable.

first, second, third
First, second, third, etc., are adverbs as well as adjectives: first, dice three potatoes; second, add the bouillon. Firstly, secondly, etc., are also correct, but make sure not to mix the two groups: first, second, third or firstly, secondly, thirdly; not first, secondly, thirdly.
**fortuitous**
The traditional, etymological meaning of *fortuitous* is ‘happening by chance’: a *fortuitous meeting* is a chance meeting, which might turn out to be either a good thing or a bad thing. In modern uses, however, *fortuitous* tends more often to be used to refer to fortunate outcomes, and the word has become more or less a synonym for ‘lucky’ or ‘fortunate.’ This use is frowned upon as being not etymologically correct and is best avoided except in informal contexts.

**go and**
The use of *go* followed by *and*, as in *I must go and change* (rather than *I must go to change*), is extremely common but is regarded by some grammarians as an oddity. *Go* used in the sense of *say* (*She goes, “No way!”*) is informal, on a par with *I'm like, “No way!”*

**good, well**
The adverb corresponding to the adjective *good* is *well*: *she is a good swimmer who performs well in meets.* Confusion sometimes arises because *well* is also an adjective meaning ‘in good health, healthy;’ for which *good* is widely used informally as a substitute: *I feel well,* meaning ‘I feel healthy’—versus the informal *I feel good,* meaning either ‘I feel healthy’ or ‘I am in a good mood.’

**graduate, graduate from**
The traditional use is ‘be graduated from’: *she will be graduated from medical school in June.* However, it is now more common to say *graduate from*: *she will graduate from medical school in June.* The use of *graduate* as a transitive verb, as in *he graduated high school last week,* is increasingly common, especially in speech, but is considered incorrect by most traditionalists.

**grow**
Although *grow* is typically intransitive, as in *he grew two inches taller over the summer,* its use as a transitive verb has long been standard in such phrases as *grow crops* and *grow a beard.*

Recently, however, *grow* has extended its transitive sense and has become trendy in business, economics, and government contexts: *growing the industry, growing your business, growing your investment,* and so on. Many people stumble over this extended sense and label it ‘jargon.’

**handicapped, disabled**
*Handicapped* in the sense referring to a person’s mental or physical disabilities is first recorded in the early 20th century. For a brief period in the second half of the 20th century, it looked as if *handicapped* would be replaced by *disabled,* but both words are now acceptable and interchangeable in standard American English, and neither word has been overtaken by newer coinages such as *differently abled* or *physically challenged.*
harass
Traditionally, the word harass has been pronounced with stress on the first syllable har-. But the newer pronunciation that puts the stress on the second syllable -ass is increasingly more widespread and is considered standard. This pronunciation fact is also true for harassment.

he
Until recently, he was used uncontroversially to refer to a person of unspecified sex, as in every child needs to know that he is loved. This use has become problematic and is a hallmark of old-fashionedness and sexism in language. Use of they as an alternative to he in this sense (everyone needs to feel that they matter) has been in use since the 16th century in contexts where it occurs after an indefinite pronoun such as everyone or someone. It is becoming more and more accepted both in speech and in writing. Another acceptable alternative is he or she, although this can become tiresomely long-winded when used frequently. See note for they.

hopefully
The traditional sense of hopefully, ‘in a hopeful manner’ (he stared hopefully at the trophy), has been used since 1593. The first recorded use of hopefully as a sentence adverb, meaning ‘it is to be hoped that’ (hopefully, we’ll see you tomorrow), appears in 1702 in the Magnalia Christi Americana, written by Massachusetts theologian and writer Cotton Mather. This use of hopefully is now the most common one. Sentence adverbs in general (frankly, honestly, regrettably, seriously) are found in English since at least the 1600s, and their use has become common in recent decades. However, most traditionalists take the view that all sentence adverbs are inherently suspect. Although they concede that the battle over hopefully is lost on the popular front, they continue to withhold approval of its use as a sentence adverb. Attentive ears are particularly bothered when the sentence that follows does not match the promise of the introductory adverb, as when frankly is followed not by an expression of honesty but by a self-serving proclamation (frankly, I don’t care if you go or not). See note for thankfully.

however, how ever
When ever is used as an intensifier after how, what, when, where, or why, it should be separated by a space. Thus, how ever did you find her? could be rephrased, with no change of meaning, how did you ever find her? This rule tends to be more often followed—or more widely understood—in Britain than in the U.S.

However in the sense of ‘no matter how’ (however gently you correct him, Peter always takes offense) should be spelled as one word.

humanitarian
Humanitarian is not synonymous with human, but usage often belies this fact, as evident in this sentence: Red Cross volunteers rushed to the scene of what may be the the worst humanitarian disaster this country has seen. This use of humanitarian to mean
'human' is quite common, esp. in 'live reports' on television, but is not generally considered good English style. Strictly speaking, it could be argued that a humanitarian disaster would more accurately refer to "a catastrophe to which no relief agencies responded."

**Indian, Native American**

**Indian**, meaning 'native of America before the arrival of Europeans;' is objected to by many who now favor Native American. There are others (including many members of these ethnic groups), however, who see nothing wrong with **Indian** or **American Indian**, which are long-established terms, although the preference where possible is to refer to specific peoples, as *Apache, Delaware*, and so on.

The terms *Amerind* and *Amerindian*, once proposed as alternatives to **Indian**, are used in linguistics and anthropology, but have never gained widespread use. Newer alternatives, not widely used or established, include *First Nation* (esp. in Canada) and the more generic *aboriginal peoples*.

It should be noted that **Indian** is held by many not to include some American groups, for example, Aleuts and Eskimos. A further consideration is that **Indian** also (and in some contexts primarily) refers to inhabitants of India or their descendants, who may be referred to as **Asian Indians** to prevent misunderstanding.

**innocent, not guilty**

**Innocent** properly means 'harmless;' but it has long been extended in general language to mean 'not guilty.' The jury (or judge) in a criminal trial does not, strictly speaking, find a defendant **innocent**. Rather, a defendant may be **guilty** or **not guilty** of the charges brought. In common use, however, owing perhaps to the concept of the *presumption of innocence*, which instructs a jury to consider a defendant free of wrongdoing until proven guilty on the basis of evidence, **not guilty** and **innocent** have come to be thought of as synonymous.

**interface**

The word **interface** is a relatively new word, having been in the language (as a noun) since the 1880s. However, in the 1960s it became widespread in computer use and, by analogy, began to enjoy a vogue as both a noun and a verb in many other spheres. Traditionalists object to it on the grounds that there are plenty of other words that are more exact and sound less like trendy jargon.

**Inuit**

The peoples inhabiting the regions from northwestern Canada to western Greenland speak **Inuit** languages and call themselves **Inuit** (not **Eskimo**), and **Inuit** now has official status in Canada. By analogy, **Inuit** is also used in the U.S., usually in an attempt to be politically correct, as a general synonym for **Eskimo**. This, however, is inaccurate because there are no **Inuit** in Alaska and **Inuit** therefore cannot include people from Alaska. Only **Eskimo** includes all of these peoples. See note for **Eskimo**.
last, latest
In precise usage, latest means ‘most recent’ (my latest project is wallpapering my dining room), and last means ‘final’ (the last day of the school year will be June 18). But last is often used in place of latest, esp. in informal contexts: I read his last novel.

latter
Latter means ‘the second-mentioned of two.’ Its use to mean ‘the last-mentioned of three or more’ is common, but is considered incorrect by some because latter means ‘later’ rather than ‘latest.’ Last or last-mentioned is preferred where three or more things are involved.

less, fewer
In standard English, less should be used only with uncountable things (less money; less time). With countable things, it is incorrect to use less: thus, less people and less words should be corrected to fewer people and fewer words.

literally
In its standard use, literally means ‘in a literal sense, as opposed to a nonliteral or exaggerated sense,’ I told him I never wanted to see him again, but I didn’t expect him to take it literally. In recent years, an extended use of literally (and also literal) has become very common, where literally (or literal) is used deliberately in nonliteral contexts, for added effect: they bought the car and literally ran it into the ground. This use can lead to unintentional humorous effects (we were literally killing ourselves laughing) and is not acceptable in formal English.

locate
In formal English, one should avoid using locate to mean ‘find (a missing object): he can’t seem to locate his keys. In precise usage, locate means ‘discover the exact place or position of’ or ‘fix the position of, put in place’: the doctors hope to locate the source of the bleeding; the studio should be located on a north-facing slope.

a lot of, lots of
A lot of and lots of are very common in speech and writing, but they still have a distinctly informal feel and are generally not considered acceptable for formal English, where alternatives such as many or a large number are used instead.

Written as one word, alot is incorrect, although not uncommon.

man
Traditionally, the word man has been used to refer not only to adult males but also to human beings in general, regardless of sex. There is a historical explanation for this: in Old English, the principal sense of man was ‘a human being,’ and the words wer and wif were used to refer specifically to ‘a male person’ and ‘a female person,’ respectively. Subsequently, man replaced wer as the normal term for ‘a male person,’ but at the same time the older sense ‘a human being’ remained in use.
In the second half of the 20th century, the generic use of man to refer to ‘human beings in general’ (reptiles were here long before man appeared on the earth) became problematic; the use is now often regarded as sexist or old-fashioned. In some contexts, terms such as the human race or humankind may be used instead of man or mankind. However, in other cases, particularly in compound forms, alternatives have not yet become established: there are no standard accepted alternatives for manpower or the verb man, for example.

-man
Traditionally, the form -man was combined with other words to create a term denoting an occupation or role, as in fireman, layman, chairman, and mailman. As the role of women in society has changed, with the result that women are now more likely to be in roles previously held exclusively by men, many of these terms ending in -man have been challenged as sexist and out of date. As a result, there has been a gradual shift away from -man compounds except where referring to a specific male person. Gender-neutral terms such as firefighter and mail carrier are widely accepted alternatives. And new terms such as chairperson, layperson, and spokesperson, which only a few decades ago seemed odd or awkward, are common today.

may, might
Traditionalists insist that one should distinguish between may (present tense) and might (past tense) in expressing possibility: I may have some dessert after dinner if I’m still hungry; I might have known that the highway would be closed because of the storm. In casual use, though, may and might are generally interchangeable: they might take a vacation next month; he may have called earlier, but the answering machine was broken.

Myriad
Myriad is derived from a Greek noun and adjective meaning ‘ten thousand.’ It was first used in English as a noun in reference to a great but indefinite number. The adjectival sense of ‘countless, innumerable’ appeared much later. In modern English, use of myriad as a noun and adjective are equally standard and correct, despite the fact that some traditionalists consider the adjective as the only acceptable use of the word.

native
In contexts such as a native of Boston, the use of the noun native is quite acceptable. But when used as a noun without qualification, as in this dance is a favorite with the natives, it is more problematic. In modern use, it is used humorously to refer to the local inhabitants of a particular place: that bar is no longer popular with the natives. In other contexts, it has an old-fashioned feel and, because of being closely associated with a colonial European outlook on nonwhite peoples living in remote places, it may cause offense.

neither . . . nor
When neither is followed by nor, it is important in good English style that the two halves of the structure mirror each other: she saw herself as neither wife nor mother rather than she neither saw herself as wife nor mother.
normalcy
Normalcy has been criticized as an uneducated alternative to normality, but actually is a common American usage and can be taken as standard: we are anticipating a return to normalcy.

octopus, octopuses, octopodes
The standard English plural of octopus is octopuses. However, the word octopus comes from Greek, and the Greek plural form is octopodes (ˈək-tə-pōz). Modern usage of octopodes is so infrequent that many people mistakenly create the erroneous plural form octopi, formed according to rules for Latin plurals.

older, oldest; younger, youngest
Where two, and no more, are involved, they may be older and younger: the older of the twins, by ten minutes, is Sam; the younger is Pamela. Where there are more than two, one may be the oldest or youngest: I have four siblings, of whom Jane is the oldest.

Oriental
The term Oriental, denoting a person from the Far East, is regarded as offensive by many Asians, esp. Asian Americans. It has many associations with European imperialism in Asia. Therefore, it has an out-of-date feel and tends to be associated with a rather offensive stereotype of the people and their customs as inscrutable and exotic. Asian and more specific terms such as East Asian, Chinese, and Japanese are preferred. See note for Asian.

ought, ought not
The verb ought is a modal verb, which means that, grammatically, it does not behave like ordinary verbs. In particular, the negative is formed with the word not by itself, without auxiliary verbs such as do or have. Thus the standard construction for the negative is he ought not to go. Note that the preposition to is required in both negative and positive statements: we ought to accept her offer, or we ought not to accept her offer (not we ought accept or we ought not accept). The alternative forms he didn’t ought to have gone and he hadn’t ought to have gone, formed as if ought were an ordinary verb rather than a modal verb, are not acceptable in formal English.

Reserve ought for expressing obligation, duty, or necessity, and use should for expressing suitability or appropriateness.

plus
The use of plus as a conjunction meaning ‘furthermore’ (plus, we will be pleased to give you personal financial advice) is considered informal and should be avoided in formal writing.

prove
For complex historical reasons, prove developed two past participles: proved and proven. Both are correct and can be used more or less interchangeably: this hasn’t been


proved yet; this hasn’t been proven yet. Proven is the more common form when used as an adjective before the noun it modifies: a proven talent (not a proved talent). Otherwise, the choice between proved and proven is not a matter of correctness, but usually of sound and rhythm—and often, consequently, a matter of familiarity, as in the legal idiom innocent until proven guilty.

rob
In law, to rob is to take something from someone by causing fear of harm, whether or not actual harm occurs. The term is widely, but incorrectly, used to refer to theft: our house was robbed while we were away. Technically, the more correct statement would be our house was burglarized while we were away.

Scottish, Scot, Scots, Scotch
The terms Scottish, Scot, Scots, and Scotch are all variants of the same word. They have had different histories, however, and in modern English they have developed different uses and connotations.

The normal everyday word used to mean ‘of or relating to Scotland or its people’ is Scottish: Scottish people; Scottish hills; Scottish Gaelic; she’s English, not Scottish.

The normal, neutral word for ‘a person from Scotland’ is Scot, along with Scotsman, Scotswoman, and the plural form the Scots (or, less commonly, the Scottish).

Scots is also used, like Scottish, as an adjective meaning ‘of or relating to Scotland.’ However, it tends to be used in a narrower sense to refer specifically to the form of English used in Scotland: Scots accent; the Scots word for ‘night.’

The word Scotch, meaning either ‘of or relating to Scotland’ or ‘a person/the people from Scotland,’ was widely used in the past by Scottish writers such as Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott. In the 20th century, it became less common. It is disliked by many Scottish people (as being an ‘English’ invention) and is now regarded as old-fashioned in most contexts. It survives in certain fixed phrases, as, for example, Scotch broth and Scotch whiskey.

sink
In modern English, the past tense of sink is generally sank (less commonly sunk), and the past participle is always sunk. The form sunken now survives only as an adjective: a sunken garden; sunken cheeks.

spastic
Spastic, usually used as an adjective, has been used in medical senses since the 18th century and is still a neutral term for conditions like spastic colon or spastic paraplegia. In the 1970s and 1980s, spastic, usually used as a noun, became a term of abuse and was directed toward anyone regarded as incompetent or physically uncoordinated. Nowadays, this latter use of spastic, whether as a noun or as an adjective, is likely to cause offense, and even in medical use it is preferable to use phrasing such as person with cerebral palsy instead of the noun spastic.
spinster

The development of the word spinster is a good example of the way in which a word acquires strong connotations to the extent that it can no longer be used in a neutral sense. From the 17th century, the word was appended to names as the official legal description of an unmarried woman: Elizabeth Harris of Boston, Spinster. This type of use survives today in some legal and religious contexts. In modern everyday English, however, spinster cannot be used to mean simply ‘unmarried woman’; it is now always a derogatory term, referring or alluding to a stereotype of an older woman who is unmarried, childless, prissy, and repressed.

split infinitive

Is it wrong to use a split infinitive, separating the infinitive marker to from the verb? If so, then these statements are grammatically incorrect: you have to really watch him; to boldly go where no one has gone before. Writers who long ago insisted that English could be modeled on Latin created the “rule” that the English infinitive must not be split: to clearly state violates this rule: one must say to state clearly. But the Latin infinitive is one word (e.g., amare, ‘to love’) and cannot be split, so the rule is not firmly grounded, and treating two English words as one can lead to awkward, stilted sentences. In particular, the placing of an adverb in English is extremely important in giving the appropriate emphasis. Consider, for example, the “corrected” forms of the previous examples: you really have to watch him; to go boldly where no one has gone before. The original, intended emphasis of each statement has been changed, and for no other reason than to satisfy an essentially unreasonable rule. Some traditionalists may continue to hold up the split infinitive as an error, but in standard English, the principle of allowing split infinitives is broadly accepted as both normal and useful.

thankfully

Thankfully has been used for centuries to mean ‘in a thankful manner;’ as in she accepted the offer thankfully. Since the 1960s, it has also been used as a sentence adverb to mean ‘fortunately;’ as in thankfully, we didn’t have to wait. Although this use has not attracted the same amount of attention as hopefully, it has been criticized for the same reasons. It is, however, far more common now than is the traditional use. See note for hopefully.

that, who, which

The word that can be omitted in standard English where it introduces a subordinate clause, as in she said that she was satisfied. That can also be dropped in a relative clause where it is the object of the clause, as in the book that I’ve just written. That, however, is obligatory when it is the subject of the relative clause, as in the company that employs Jack.

It is sometimes argued that, in relative clauses, that should be used for nonhuman references and who should be used for human references: a house that overlooks the park, but the woman who lives next door. In practice, while it is true to say that who is restricted to human references, the function of that is flexible. It has been used for both human and
nonhuman references since at least the 11th century. In standard English, it is interchangeable with who in this context.

Is there any difference between the use of that and which in sentences such as any book that gets children reading is worth having, and any book which gets children reading is worth having? The general rule is that, in restrictive relative clauses, where the relative clause serves to define or restrict the reference to the particular one described, that is the preferred relative pronoun. However, in nonrestrictive relative clauses, where the relative clause serves only to give additional information, which must be used: this book, which is set in the last century, is very popular with teenagers, but not this book, that is set in the last century, is very popular with teenagers.

they
The word they (with its counterparts them, their, and themselves) as a singular pronoun to refer to a person of unspecified sex has been used since at least the 16th century. In the late 20th century, as the traditional use of he to refer to a person of either sex came under scrutiny on the grounds of sexism, this use of they has become more common. It is now generally accepted in contexts where it follows an indefinite pronoun such as anyone, no one, someone, or a person: anyone can join if they are a resident; each to their own. In other contexts, coming after singular nouns, the use of they is now common, although less widely accepted, esp. in formal contexts. Sentences such as ask a friend if they could help are still criticized for being ungrammatical. Nevertheless, in view of the growing acceptance of they and its obvious practical advantages, they is used in many cases where he would have been used formerly. See note for he.

thus, thusly
The expansion of the adverb thus to thusly is usually considered unnecessary, but it can serve a distinct function, as in introducing a direct quotation: He answered her thusly: “your evidence is lacking and your conclusions are just plain wrong!”

transpire
The common use of transpire to mean ‘occur, happen’ (I’m going to find out exactly what transpired) is a loose extension of an earlier meaning, ‘come to be known’ (it transpired that Mark had been baptized a Catholic). This loose sense of ‘happen,’ which is now more common in American usage than the sense of ‘come to be known,’ was first recorded in U.S. English toward the end of the 18th century and has been listed in U.S. dictionaries from the 19th century. Careful writers should note, however, that in cases where occur or happen would do just as well, the use of transpire may strike readers as an affectation or as jargon.

utilize
Utilize, borrowed in the 19th century from the French utiliser, means ‘make practical or effective use of.’ Because it is a more formal word than use and is often used in contexts (as in business writing) where the ordinary verb use would be simpler and more direct, utilize may strike readers as pretentious jargon and should therefore be used sparingly.
various, various of

In standard English, the word *various* is normally used as an adjective. It is best reserved for contexts indicating variety, and should not be used as a synonym for *several*. In colloquial American speech, *various* is sometimes also used (as though it were a pronoun) followed by *of*, as in *various of her friends had called*—another way of saying *some of* or *several of*. This use is discouraged by some traditionalists, however, because *various* is properly an adjective, not a pronoun, and *various of* erodes the sense of variety, diversity, and distinctness. This erosion or blurring of meaning is further evident in the use of *various different*, as in *various different kinds of oak*, a redundant wording that should be avoided.

vis-à-vis

The expression *vis-à-vis* literally means ‘face to face.’ Avoid using it to mean ‘about, concerning,’ as in *he wanted to talk to me vis-à-vis next weekend*. In the sense ‘in contrast, comparison, or relation to,’ however, *vis-à-vis* is generally acceptable: *let us consider government regulations vis-à-vis employment rates*.

well

The adverb *well* is often used in combination with past participles to form compound adjectives: *well-adjusted, well-intentioned, well-known*, and so on. As far as hyphenation is concerned, there are three general rules: (1) if the compound adjective is placed before the noun (i.e., in the attributive position), it should be hyphenated (*a well-intentioned remark*); (2) if the compound adjective is preceded by an adverb (*much, very, surprisingly, etc*.), the compound adjective is open (*a thoroughly well prepared student*); (3) if the compound adjective is placed after the noun or verb (i.e., in the predicate position), it may, but need not, be hyphenated (*her remark was well-intentioned or her remark was well intentioned*). Likewise, other, similar compounds with *better, best, ill, little, lesser, least, etc.*, are hyphenated before the noun (*a little-known author*), often open after a noun or verb (*the author was little known*), and open if modified by an adverb (*a very little known author*).

whatever, what ever

In the sentence *I will do whatever you ask of me* (in which *whatever* means ‘anything’), *whatever* is correctly spelled as one word. But in the interrogative sense (*what ever was Mary thinking?*), the emphasis is on *ever*, and it should be spelled as the two words *what ever* because *ever* is serving as an intensifier to the pronoun *what*.

while, whereas

*While* is sometimes used, without causing any misunderstandings, in the sense of *whereas* (*‘although,’ ‘by contrast,’ ‘in comparison with the fact that’*). This usage is frowned on by some traditionalists, but *while* is sometimes preferable, as in contexts in which *whereas* might sound inappropriately formal: *while you say you like her, you’ve never stood up for her*. *Whereas* is preferable, however, for preventing ambiguity in con-
texts in which while might be read as referring to time, or might falsely suggest simultaneity: whereas Burton promised to begin at once, he was delayed nine months for lack of funding; whereas Jonas was an excellent planter and cultivator, Julius was a master harvester.

**worthwhile**

The adjective *worthwhile* is used both attributively (that is, before the noun) and predicatively (that is, when it stands alone and comes after the verb). In both positions, it is almost always written as one word: *a worthwhile book, the book was worthwhile*. But it is occasionally hyphenated (*a worthwhile book*) or written as two words (*the book was worthwhile*).

**wrought havoc**

The phrase *wrought havoc*, as in *they wrought havoc on the countryside*, is an acceptable variant of *wreaked havoc*. Here, *wrought* is an archaic past tense of *work*. It is not, as is sometimes assumed, a past tense of *wreak*. 
# How Words Are Built: Prefixes, Suffixes, and Combining Forms

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<td>abaxial, abominate</td>
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<td>forming nouns of quality corresponding to adjectives ending in -able</td>
<td>suitability</td>
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<td>-able</td>
<td>able to be; due to be; subject to; relevant to; having the quality to</td>
<td>calculable; payable; taxable; fashionable; suitable</td>
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<td>-ably</td>
<td>forming adverbs corresponding to adjectives ending in -able</td>
<td>suitably</td>
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<td>ac-</td>
<td>variant spelling of ad- assimilated before e and q</td>
<td>accept, acquit, acquiesce</td>
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<td>-ac</td>
<td>forming adjectives that are also often (or only) used as nouns</td>
<td>maniac</td>
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<td>ad-</td>
<td>denoting motion or direction to; reduction or change into; addition or intensification</td>
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<td>-ad</td>
<td>forming nouns: in collective numerals; in groups, periods, or aggregates; in names of females in classical mythology; in names of districts; in names of poems and similar compositions; forming names of members of some taxonomic groupings</td>
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<td>forming nouns: denoting an action that is completed; denoting the body concerned in an action or process; denoting the product or result of an action or process</td>
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<td>-aemia</td>
<td>see -emia</td>
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<td>forming nouns: denoting an action; the product of an action; a function; a sphere of action; denoting an aggregate or number of fees payable for; the cost of using; denoting a place or abode</td>
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<td>agro-, agri-</td>
<td>of or involving agriculture</td>
<td>annual, infernal; historical, comical; tidal; arrival, transmittal</td>
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<td>-al</td>
<td>(forming adjectives) relating to; of the kind of; from Latin words; from Greek words; from English nouns; forming nouns chiefly denoting verbal action</td>
<td>neuralgia</td>
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<td>-algia</td>
<td>of or involving pain</td>
<td>allotrope</td>
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<tr>
<td>allo-</td>
<td>other; different</td>
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<td>-ally</td>
<td>forming adverbs from adjectives ending in -al</td>
<td>radically</td>
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<td>amphi-</td>
<td>both; around</td>
<td>amphibian, amphitheater</td>
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<td>an-</td>
<td>variant spelling of a- before a vowel; variant spelling of ad- assimilated before n; variant spelling of ana- shortened before a vowel</td>
<td>anemia, anechoic; annihilate, annotate; aneurysm</td>
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<td>-an</td>
<td>forming adjectives and nouns esp. from: names of places; names of systems; names of zoological classes or orders; names of founders or leaders when referring to them as sources; forming names of organic compounds, chiefly polysaccharides</td>
<td>Ohioan, Russian; Anglican, Presbyterian; crustacean; Chomskyan, Lutheran; dextran</td>
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<td>ana-</td>
<td>up; back; again</td>
<td>anabasis; anamnesis; anabiosis</td>
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<td>-ana</td>
<td>(forming plural nouns) denoting things associated with a person, place, or field of interest</td>
<td>Americana; Victoriana</td>
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<td>-ance</td>
<td>forming nouns: denoting a quality or state or an instance of one; denoting an action</td>
<td>allegiance, extravagance, perseverance; appearance, utterance</td>
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<td>-ancy</td>
<td>(forming nouns) denoting a quality or state</td>
<td>buoyancy, expectancy</td>
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<td>-androus</td>
<td>having male parts</td>
<td>monandrous</td>
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<td>angio-</td>
<td>of blood or seed vessels</td>
<td>angiology, angiosperm</td>
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<td>ante-</td>
<td>before; in front</td>
<td>antecedent</td>
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<td>antho-, anth</td>
<td>of or relating to flowers</td>
<td>anthophilous</td>
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<td>anthropo-, -anthropic</td>
<td>of humans</td>
<td>anthropology</td>
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<td>anti-</td>
<td>opposed to; against; preventing; reversing or undoing; the opposite of; (Physics) the opposite state of matter or of a specified particle; acting as a rival; unlike the conventional form</td>
<td>antiaircraft; antibacterial; anticoagulant, antigravity, antipruritic; antimatter, antiproton; anti-pepe; anti-hero</td>
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<td>aqua-</td>
<td>of or relating to water</td>
<td>aquaculture</td>
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<td>arch-</td>
<td>chief; principal</td>
<td>archbishop</td>
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<td>archaco-, archeo-</td>
<td>ancient; prehistoric</td>
<td>archaeomagnetism</td>
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<td>arterio-</td>
<td>of or relating to the arteries</td>
<td>arteriosclerosis</td>
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<td>arthro-, arthry-</td>
<td>of or relating to joints</td>
<td>arthroscope</td>
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<td>-ary</td>
<td>forming adjectives; forming nouns</td>
<td>budgetary, capillary; dictionary, granary</td>
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<td>-ase</td>
<td>(Biochemistry) forming names of enzymes</td>
<td>amylase</td>
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<td>astro-</td>
<td>of stars or space</td>
<td>astrophysics</td>
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<td>-ate</td>
<td>forming nouns: denoting status or office; a state or function; denoting a group; (Chemistry) denoting a salt or ester, esp. of an acid with a corresponding name ending in -ic; denoting a product (of a chemical process); forming adjectives and nouns; forming adjectives from Latin; forming verbs</td>
<td>doctorate, episcopate; curate, mandate; electorate; chloride, nitrate; condensate, filtrate; associate, duplicate; separate; caudate; fascinate, hyphenate</td>
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<td>audio-, audi-</td>
<td>of or relating to hearing or sound</td>
<td>audiometer</td>
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<td>auto-, aut-</td>
<td>self; spontaneous</td>
<td>autoxidation</td>
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<td>baro-, bar-, -baric</td>
<td>of or relating to pressure</td>
<td>baroreceptor</td>
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<td>bathy-, batho-</td>
<td>of or relating to depth</td>
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<td>be-</td>
<td>forming verbs: all over; all around; thoroughly; excessively; (added to intransitive verbs) expressing transitive action; (added to adjectives and nouns) expressing transitive action; (added to nouns) affect with; (added to adjectives) cause to be; (forming adjectives ending in -ed) having; covered with</td>
<td>bespatter; bewilder; bemoan; befool, befriend; befog; befoul; bejeweled</td>
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<td>bi-</td>
<td>two; twice; every two; lasting two</td>
<td>biathlon, biannual, biennial</td>
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<td>of or relating to books</td>
<td>bibliomania</td>
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<td>bin-</td>
<td>variant spelling of bi- before a vowel</td>
<td>binaural</td>
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<td>bio-</td>
<td>of or relating to life</td>
<td>biosynthesis</td>
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<td>-biosis, -biotic</td>
<td>denoting or relating to a mode of life</td>
<td>symbiosis</td>
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<td>brachy-, -brach</td>
<td>short</td>
<td>brachycephalic</td>
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<td>broncho-, bronch-</td>
<td>of or relating to air passages</td>
<td>bronchopneumonia</td>
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<td>by-</td>
<td>subordinate; incidental; secondary</td>
<td>by-form, byproduct</td>
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<td>caco-, cac-, kak-</td>
<td>bad or worst</td>
<td>cacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>calli-, cal-</td>
<td>good, beautiful</td>
<td>calligraphy</td>
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<td>carcino-</td>
<td>of or relating to cancer</td>
<td>carcinoma</td>
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<td>cardio-, cardi-, -cardia</td>
<td>of or relating to the heart</td>
<td>cardiology</td>
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<td>cata-, cat-, kata-</td>
<td>down(ward); wrongly or badly; completely; against</td>
<td>cataract, catastrophe</td>
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<td>-cele, -coele</td>
<td>swelling; hernia</td>
<td>meningocele</td>
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<td>centi-</td>
<td>one hundredth; hundred</td>
<td>centiliter</td>
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<td>-cephalic, -cephalous, cephalo-</td>
<td>of or relating to the head; -headed</td>
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<td>cerato-, cerat-</td>
<td>see kerato-</td>
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<td>cerebro-, cerebr-</td>
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<td>cerebrospinal</td>
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<td>see chiro</td>
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<td>of or relating to drugs or chemicals</td>
<td>chemotherapy</td>
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<td>chiro-, cheiro-</td>
<td>of the hand or hands</td>
<td>chiromancy</td>
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<td>chlor-, chloro-</td>
<td>green; of or relating to chlorine</td>
<td>chlorophyll, chloracne</td>
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<td>chromato-, chromat-, chromo</td>
<td>color; of colors</td>
<td>chromatopsia</td>
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<td>chrono-, chron-</td>
<td>of or relating to time</td>
<td>chronometry</td>
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<td>chrys-, chryso-</td>
<td>of or relating to gold</td>
<td>chrysalis</td>
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<td>-cide, -cidal</td>
<td>of killing or a killer</td>
<td>insecticide</td>
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<td>cine-</td>
<td>of or relating to film</td>
<td>cinematography</td>
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<td>circum-</td>
<td>about; around</td>
<td>circumambulate, circumpolar</td>
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<td>clado-, clad-</td>
<td>of or relating to a branch or branching</td>
<td>cladogram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cle</td>
<td>forming nouns which were originally diminutives</td>
<td>article, particle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clin-, -clinal, -cline, -clinic</td>
<td>of, denoting, or relating to a slope</td>
<td>clinometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>co-</td>
<td>(forming nouns) joint; mutual; common; (forming adjectives) jointly; mutually; (forming verbs) together with another or others; (Mathematics) of the complement of an angle; the complement of</td>
<td>coeducation; coeducation; coproduce, co-own; cosine; colatitude, coset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-coele</td>
<td>see -cle</td>
<td>concord, condescend, confide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>con-</td>
<td>variant spelling of com- assimilated before c, d, f, g, j, n, q, s, t, v, and sometimes before vowels</td>
<td>contradict, contralto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contra-</td>
<td>against or opposite; below or beyond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copro-</td>
<td>of or relating to dung or feces</td>
<td>coprophilic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cortico-, cortic-</td>
<td>of or relating to a cortex</td>
<td>conticosterone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cosmo-, cosm-</td>
<td>of or relating to the world or universe</td>
<td>cosmography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>counter-</td>
<td>denoting opposition, retaliation, or rivalry; denoting movement or effect in the opposite direction; denoting correspondence, duplication, or substitution</td>
<td>counterattack, counterespionage; counterbalance, counterpoise; counterpart, counterpoint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cracy</td>
<td>denoting a form of government or rule</td>
<td>democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cranio-, crani-</td>
<td>of or relating to the skull</td>
<td>craniotomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-crat</td>
<td>denoting a member or supporter of a form of government or rule</td>
<td>plutocrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cratic</td>
<td>of or relating to a form of government or rule</td>
<td>bureaucratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cryo-</td>
<td>of or involving cold</td>
<td>cryostat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crypto-, crypt-</td>
<td>concealed; secret</td>
<td>cryptogram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cule</td>
<td>forming nouns which were originally diminutives</td>
<td>molecule, reticule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cupr-, cupro-</td>
<td>of or relating to copper</td>
<td>cuprammonium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cy</td>
<td>denoting state or condition; denoting rank or status</td>
<td>bankruptcy; baronetcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cyano-, cyan-</td>
<td>of or relating to blue or dark blue</td>
<td>cyanosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cyber-</td>
<td>of or relating to electronic communications</td>
<td>cyberspace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cyno-</td>
<td>of or relating to dogs</td>
<td>cynodont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cysto-, cyst-</td>
<td>of or relating to the bladder</td>
<td>cystotomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cyte, cyt-</td>
<td>denoting a mature cell</td>
<td>leukocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>cyto-</td>
<td>of a cell or cells</td>
<td>cytoplasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de-</td>
<td>forming verbs and their derivatives) down; away; completely; (added to verbs and their derivatives) denoting removal or reversal; denoting formation from</td>
<td>descend, deduct; denude, derelict, deaerate, de-ice; deverbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deca-, dec-</td>
<td>ten</td>
<td>decahedron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deci-</td>
<td>tenth</td>
<td>deciliter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>demi-</td>
<td>half; inferior or partial</td>
<td>demitasse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>demi-</td>
<td>half; half-size; partially; in an inferior degree</td>
<td>demisemiquaver, demitasse; demigod, demimonde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dendro-, dendron</td>
<td>denoting or relating to a tree</td>
<td>dendrology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dermato, derma-</td>
<td>of or relating to the skin</td>
<td>dermatologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dextro-</td>
<td>on or to the right</td>
<td>dextrorotatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>di-</td>
<td>twice; two; double; (Chemistry) containing two atoms, molecules, or groups of a specified kind; variant spelling of dis- before l, m, n, r, s (followed by a consonant), and v; also often before g, and sometimes before j</td>
<td>dichromatic; dioxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dia-, di-</td>
<td>through; across; apart</td>
<td>diakinesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dis-</td>
<td>expressing negation; denoting reversal or absence of an action or state; denoting separation; denoting expulsion; denoting removal of the thing specified; expressing completeness or intensification of an unpleasant or unattractive action</td>
<td>dislike, disquiet; dishonor, disintegrate; discharge, disengage; disbar, disinherit; disbud, dismember; discombobulate, disgruntled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-dom</td>
<td>forming nouns: denoting a state or condition; denoting rank or status; denoting a domain; denoting a class of people or the attitudes associated with them, regarded collectively</td>
<td>freedom; earldom; fiefdom; officialdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dorsi-, dorso-</td>
<td>of, to, or on the back</td>
<td>dorsiventral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-drome</td>
<td>denoting a place for running or racing; running or proceeding a certain way</td>
<td>velodrome, palindrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dys-</td>
<td>bad; difficult</td>
<td>dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-</td>
<td>variant spelling of ex-; denoting anything in an electronic state, esp. the use of electronic data transfer in cyberspace for information exchange and financial transactions, esp. through the Internet</td>
<td>elect, emit; e-business, e-cash, e-world, e-zine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eco-</td>
<td>relating to ecology</td>
<td>ecowarrior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ecto-</td>
<td>outer; external</td>
<td>ectoderm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ectomy</td>
<td>denoting removal of a part</td>
<td>appendectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ed</td>
<td>forming adjectives: (added to nouns) having; possessing; affected by; (added to nouns) characteristic of; used in phrases consisting of adjective and noun</td>
<td>talented, diseased; ragged; bad-tempered, three-sided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-een</td>
<td>(Irish) forming diminutive nouns</td>
<td>colleen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-eer</td>
<td>(forming nouns) denoting a person concerned with or engaged in an activity; (forming verbs) denoting concern or involvement with an activity</td>
<td>auctioneer, puppeteer, electioneer, profiteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cf-</td>
<td>variant spelling of ex- assimilated before f</td>
<td>efface, effloresce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-el</td>
<td>variant spelling of -le</td>
<td>emblazon, emplacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>em-</td>
<td>variant spelling of en- assimilated before b, p</td>
<td>grapheme, phoneme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-eme</td>
<td>(Linguistics) forming nouns denoting linguistic units that are in systemic contrast with one other</td>
<td>septicemia, leukemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-emia, -hemia, -aemia</td>
<td>denoting presence of a substance</td>
<td>eugulf; embend; encrust, ennoble; embolden, enliven; ensmare; entangle; encyst, endemic, embolism, empyema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en-</td>
<td>forming verbs (added to nouns) expressing entry into the specified state or location; forming verbs (added to nouns and adjectives) expressing conversion into the specified state; often forming verbs having the suffix -en; (added to verbs) in; into; on; as an intensifier; within; inside</td>
<td>widen, deepen, loosen; strengthen; earthen, woolen; golden, silvern; spoken; mistaken, torn; children, oxen; chicken, maiden; vixen; burden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-en</td>
<td>forming verbs: (from adjectives) denoting the development, creation, or intensification of a state; from nouns; forming adjectives from nouns: made or consisting of, resembling; forming past participles of strong verbs: as a regular inflection; as an adjective; forming the plural of a few nouns; forming diminutives of nouns; forming feminine nouns; forming abstract nouns</td>
<td>impertinence; reference, reminiscence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ence</td>
<td>forming nouns: denoting a quality or an instance of it; denoting an action or its result</td>
<td>encephalopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>encephalo-, encephal-</td>
<td>of or relating to the brain</td>
<td>efficiency; presidency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ency</td>
<td>forming nouns: denoting a quality; denoting a state</td>
<td>endoderm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>endo-, end-</td>
<td>internal; within</td>
<td>Nazarene; benzene, ethylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ene</td>
<td>denoting an inhabitant; (Chemistry) forming names of unsaturated hydrocarbons containing a double bond</td>
<td>refluent; convenient; coefficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ent</td>
<td>(forming adjectives) denoting an occurrence of action; denoting a state; (forming nouns) denoting an agent</td>
<td>enterovirus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entero-, enter-</td>
<td>of or relating to the intestine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>-cous</td>
<td>(forming adjectives) resembling; displaying the nature of</td>
<td>aqueous, aerogenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>epi-, ep-</td>
<td>upon; above; in addition</td>
<td>epicycle; epicontinental; epiphrenomeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-er</td>
<td>denoting a person, animal, or thing that performs a specified action or activity; denoting a person or thing that has a specified attribute or form; denoting a person concerned with a specified thing or subject; denoting a person belonging to a specified place or group; forming the comparative of adjectives and adverbs; (forming nouns) denoting verbal action or a document effecting such action</td>
<td>farmer, sprinkler; foreigner, two-wheeler; milliner, philosopher; city-dweller, New Yorker; bigger, faster; disclaimer, misnomer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cry</td>
<td>forming nouns; denoting a class or kind; denoting an occupation, a state, a condition, or behavior; denoting a place set aside for an activity or a grouping of things, animals, etc.</td>
<td>confectionery, greenery; archery, brav-ery, slavery, knavery, tomfoolery; orangery, rookery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>erythro-, erythr-</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>erythrocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-es</td>
<td>forming plurals of nouns ending in sibilant sounds; forming plurals of certain nouns ending in -e; forming the third person singular of the present tense; in verbs ending in sibilant sounds; in verbs ending in -o (but not -oo);</td>
<td>boxes, kisses; potatoes, heroes; pushes; goes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-esce</td>
<td>forming verbs, often denoting the initiation of action</td>
<td>coalesce, effervesce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ese</td>
<td>forming adjectives and nouns; denoting an inhabitant or language of a country or city; often derogatory (esp. with reference to language) denoting character or style</td>
<td>Taiwanese, Viennese; journalesque, officialese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-esque</td>
<td>(forming adjectives) in the style of; resembling</td>
<td>carnivalesque, Reaganesque, Houdini-esque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ess</td>
<td>forming nouns denoting female gender; forming abstract nouns from adjectives</td>
<td>abess, adulteress, tigress; largess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-est</td>
<td>forming the superlative of adjectives and of adverbs; (archaic) forming the second person singular of verbs</td>
<td>shortest, widest; soonest; canst, goest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-et</td>
<td>forming nouns which were originally diminutives; forming nouns such as comet, and often denoting people</td>
<td>baronet, hatchet, tablet; comet, poet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ete</td>
<td>variant spelling of -et</td>
<td>athlete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-eth</td>
<td>variant spelling of -th; (archaic) forming the third person singular of the present tense of verbs</td>
<td>fiftieth; doeth, saith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ethno-</td>
<td>of or relating to a people or nation</td>
<td>ethnographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ette</td>
<td>forming nouns; denoting relatively small size; denoting an imitation or substitute; denoting female gender</td>
<td>kitchenette; flannelette; suffragette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eu-</td>
<td>good; well; easily</td>
<td>euphony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eury-</td>
<td>denoting a wide variety or range</td>
<td>erythropic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex-</td>
<td>out; outside of; up and away; upward; thoroughly; removal or release; forming verbs expressing induction of a state; forming nouns (from titles of office, status, etc.) expressing a former state; out</td>
<td>expand, express; excel, extol; exacerbate, excommunicate, exculpate, expel; exasperate, excite; ex-husband, ex-convict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exo-</td>
<td>external; from outside</td>
<td>exodermis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extra-</td>
<td>outside; beyond; beyond the scope of</td>
<td>extracellular, extraterritorial; extracurricular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ey</td>
<td>variant spelling of -y</td>
<td>Charley, Limey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-facient</td>
<td>producing a specified action or state</td>
<td>abortifacient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-faction</td>
<td>denoting a specified action or state</td>
<td>satisfaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ferous</td>
<td>having, bearing, or containing (a specified thing)</td>
<td>Carboniferous, pestiferous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ferous, -iferous</td>
<td>having, bearing, or containing</td>
<td>pestiferous, ferroconcrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ferro-, ferr-</td>
<td>containing iron</td>
<td>prolific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-fic, -fication</td>
<td>making</td>
<td>fluvioflacial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fluvio-</td>
<td>of or relating to a river or rivers</td>
<td>fluvioflacial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-fold</td>
<td>forming adjectives and adverbs from cardinal numbers; in an amount multiplied by; consisting of so many parts or facets</td>
<td>threefold; twofold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for-</td>
<td>denoting prohibition; denoting abstention, neglect, or renunciation; denoting extremity of negative state expressed</td>
<td>forbid; forgive, forget, forge; forlorn, forsake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-fuge</td>
<td>expelling or dispelling</td>
<td>vermi fuge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ful</td>
<td>(forming adjectives from nouns) full of; having the qualities of; forming adjectives from adjectives or from Latin stems with little change of sense; (forming adjectives from verbs) apt to; able to; accustomed to (pl. -fuls) forming nouns denoting the amount needed to fill the specified container, holder, etc.</td>
<td>sorrowful; masterful; grateful; forgetful, watchful; bucketful, handful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-fully</td>
<td>forming adverbs corresponding to adjectives ending in -ful</td>
<td>sorrowfully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-fy</td>
<td>(added to nouns) forming verbs denoting making or producing; denoting transformation or the process of making into; forming verbs denoting the making of a state defined by an adjective; forming verbs expressing a causative sense</td>
<td>specify; deify, petrify; amplify, falsify; horrify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
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<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallo-</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>Gallo-German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gamous, -gamy</td>
<td>of or relating to marriage or reproduction</td>
<td>monogamous, polygamy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gastr-, gastro-</td>
<td>of or relating to the stomach</td>
<td>gastrectomy, gastroenteritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gate</td>
<td>denoting an actual or alleged scandal</td>
<td>Watergate, Irangate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gen</td>
<td>denoting a substance producing or produced</td>
<td>allergen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-genic</td>
<td>producing, produced, or suited to</td>
<td>carcinogetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-genous</td>
<td>producing; inducing; originating in</td>
<td>endogenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-geny</td>
<td>denoting a mode of production</td>
<td>orogeny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geo-, ge-</td>
<td>of or relating to the earth</td>
<td>geocentric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geront-, geronto-, gero-, ger-</td>
<td>of or relating to old age</td>
<td>gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glyco-, glyc-</td>
<td>of, relating to, or producing sugar</td>
<td>glycogenesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gon</td>
<td>having a certain number of angles</td>
<td>pentagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gram</td>
<td>denoting something written or recorded</td>
<td>telegram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-graph</td>
<td>denoting something written or drawn; denoting a recording instrument</td>
<td>autograph; phonograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-grapher</td>
<td>denoting a person concerned with a subject</td>
<td>biographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-graphic</td>
<td>of a subject or study</td>
<td>demographic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-graphy</td>
<td>denoting a science or technique, a style, or a kind of writing</td>
<td>geography, hagiography, calligraphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gymno-, gymn-</td>
<td>naked</td>
<td>gymnosophist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gyneco-</td>
<td>of or relating to women</td>
<td>gynecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gynous, -yne</td>
<td>having female organs</td>
<td>epignymous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gyro-</td>
<td>of or relating to rotation</td>
<td>gyromagnetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haemato-, haemo-</td>
<td>see hemo-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-haemia</td>
<td>see -emia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hagio-, hagi-</td>
<td>of or relating to saints or saintliness</td>
<td>hagiography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>halo-, hal-</td>
<td>of or relating to salinity or halogens</td>
<td>halophile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>helio-</td>
<td>of or relating to the sun</td>
<td>heliostat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hemato-, haemato-, hemo</td>
<td>of or relating to blood</td>
<td>hematology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hemi-</td>
<td>half</td>
<td>hemicylindrical, hemiplegia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-hemia</td>
<td>see -emia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hemo-</td>
<td>see hemato-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hepato-, hepat-</td>
<td>of or relating to the liver</td>
<td>hepatitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hepta-</td>
<td>seven</td>
<td>heptathlon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hetero-, heter-</td>
<td>different; diverse</td>
<td>heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hexa-, hex-</td>
<td>six</td>
<td>hexagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hiero-, hier-</td>
<td>sacred; holy</td>
<td>hierophant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>histo-, hist-</td>
<td>of or relating to organic tissue</td>
<td>histocompatibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>holo-, hol-</td>
<td>whole; complete</td>
<td>holocaust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homeo-</td>
<td>similar</td>
<td>homeopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homo-, hom-</td>
<td>same; relating to homosexual love</td>
<td>homogametic; homoerotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-hood</td>
<td>forming nouns: denoting a condition or quality; denoting a collection or group</td>
<td>falsehood, womanhood; brotherhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hyd-, hydro-</td>
<td>of or relating to water; of accumulation of fluid</td>
<td>hydraulic; hydrocephalous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hyper-</td>
<td>over or beyond; exceeding; excessively</td>
<td>hypernym; hypersonic; hyperthyroidism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hypno-, hypn-</td>
<td>relating to sleep or hypnosis</td>
<td>hypnotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hypo-, hyp-</td>
<td>below or lower</td>
<td>hypothermia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ia</td>
<td>forming nouns adopted unchanged from Latin or Greek and modern Latin or Greek terms; forming names of: (Medicine) states and disorders; (Botany &amp; Zoology) genera and higher groups; forming names of countries</td>
<td>mania, militia, utopia; anemia, diplatheria; dahlia, Latimeria; India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ial</td>
<td>forming adjectives</td>
<td>celestial, primordial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ian</td>
<td>forming adjectives and nouns</td>
<td>antediluvian, Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iatro-, iatry-, iatriac</td>
<td>of or relating to doctors or medical treatment</td>
<td>iatrogenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ic</td>
<td>forming adjectives; forming nouns; denoting a particular form or instance of a noun ending in -ics; (Chemistry) denoting an element in a higher valence</td>
<td>Islamic, terrific; lyric, mechanic, aesthetic, dietetic, tactic; ferric, sulfuric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ical</td>
<td>forming adjectives; corresponding to nouns or adjectives usually ending in -ic; corresponding to nouns ending in -y</td>
<td>comical; pathological</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ichthyo-, ichthy-</td>
<td>of or relating to fish</td>
<td>ichthyology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>icono-, icon-</td>
<td>of or relating to images or icons</td>
<td>iconography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-id</td>
<td>forming adjectives; forming nouns: (Biology) forming names of structural constituents; (Botany) forming names of plants belonging to a family with a name ending in -idaceae; (Zoology) denoting an animal belonging to a family with a name ending in -idae or to a class with a name ending in -idae; denoting a member of a specified dynasty or family; (Astronomy) denoting a meteor in a shower radiating from a specified constellation; denoting a star of a class like one in a specified constellation</td>
<td>putrid, torrid; chrysalid, pyramid; plastid; orchid; carabid, arachnid; Achaemenid, Sassanid; Geminids; cepheid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ide</td>
<td>(Chemistry) forming nouns: denoting binary compounds of a nonmetallic or more electronegative element or group; denoting various other compounds; denoting elements of a series in the periodic table</td>
<td>cyanide, sodium, chloride; peptide, saccharide; lanthanide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ideo-</td>
<td>of or relating to an idea or form</td>
<td>ideology</td>
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<tr>
<td>idio-</td>
<td>distinct; private; personal</td>
<td>idiotype</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il-</td>
<td>variant spelling of in- assimilated before l</td>
<td>illustrate, illogical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-il</td>
<td>forming adjectives and nouns</td>
<td>civil, fossil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ile</td>
<td>forming adjectives and nouns; (Statistics) forming nouns denoting a value of a variate that divides a population into the indicated number of equal-sized groups, or one of the groups itself</td>
<td>agile, juvenile; decile, percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>im-</td>
<td>variant spelling of in- assimilated before b, m, p</td>
<td>imbibe, immure, impart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in-</td>
<td>(added to adjectives) not; (added to nouns) without; lacking; in; into; toward; within</td>
<td>inanimate, intolerant; inadvertence, inappreciation; induce, influx, inborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-in</td>
<td>(Chemistry) forming names of organic compounds, pharmaceutical products, proteins, etc.; denoting a gathering of people having a common purpose, typically as a form of protest</td>
<td>insulin, penicillin, dioxin; sit-in, sleep-in, love-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ine</td>
<td>(forming adjectives) belonging to; resembling in nature; forming adjectives from taxonomic names; forming adjectives from the names of minerals, plants, etc.; forming feminine common nouns and proper names; forming chiefly abstract nouns and diminutives; (Chemistry) forming names of alkaloids, halogens, amines, amino acids, and other substances</td>
<td>Alpine, canine; bovine; crystalline, hyacinthine; heroine, Josephine; doctrine, medicine, chlorine, thymine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infra-</td>
<td>below or under</td>
<td>infrared, infrasonic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ing</td>
<td>denoting a verbal action, an instance of this, or its result; denoting a verbal action relating to an occupation, skill, etc.; denoting material used for or associated with a process, etc.; denoting something involved in an action or process but with no corresponding verb; forming the gerund of verbs; forming the present participle of verbs; forming present participles used as adjectives; forming adjectives from nouns; (used esp. in names of coins and fractional parts) a thing belonging to or having the quality of</td>
<td>fighting, outing, building; banking, ice, skating, welding; cladding, piping; scaffolding, painting; doing, calling; charming; hulking; farthing, riding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inter-</td>
<td>between or among; mutually</td>
<td>interagency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intra-</td>
<td>on the inside or within</td>
<td>intramural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intro-</td>
<td>into or inwards</td>
<td>introvert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ion</td>
<td>forming nouns denoting verbal action; denoting an instance of this; denoting a resulting state or product</td>
<td>communion; a rebellion; oblivion, opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ique</td>
<td>archaic spelling of -ic</td>
<td>irrelevant, irradiate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ir-</td>
<td>variant spelling of in- assimilated before r</td>
<td>expertise, franchise, merchandise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ise</td>
<td>variant spelling of -ize; forming nouns of quality, state, or function</td>
<td>apish, girlish; Swedish, Amish, Flemish; yellowish; sixish; abolish, establish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ish</td>
<td>forming adjectives: (from nouns) having the qualities or characteristics of; of nationality or religious or ethnic group; (from adjectives) somewhat; informal denoting an approximate age or time of day; forming verbs</td>
<td>baptism; barbarism; feminism; Canadianism; alcoholism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ism</td>
<td>denoting an action, result, or quality; denoting a system or principle; denoting a peculiarity in language; denoting a condition</td>
<td>isoceles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iso-</td>
<td>equal</td>
<td>hedonist, Marxist; sexist; dentist, dramatist, florist; flutist, motorist; plagiarist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ist</td>
<td>forming personal nouns and some related adjectives: denoting an adherent of a system of beliefs, principles, etc., expressed by nouns ending in -ism; denoting a person who subscribes to a prejudice or practices discrimination; denoting a member of a profession or business activity; denoting a person who uses a thing; a person who does something expressed by a verb ending in -ize</td>
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<td>Combining Form</td>
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<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ite</td>
<td>forming names denoting natives of a country; often derogatory denoting followers of a movement, doctrine, etc.; used in scientific and technical terms: forming names of fossil organisms; forming names of minerals; forming names of constituent parts of a body or organ; forming names of explosives and other commercial products; (Chemistry) forming names of salts or esters of acids ending in -ous; forming adjectives; forming nouns; forming verbs</td>
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<td>Israelite, Samnite; Luddite, Trotskyite; ammonite; graphite; somite; dynamite, vulcanite; sulfite; composite; crude; appetite; unite</td>
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<tr>
<td>-itic</td>
<td>forming adjectives and nouns corresponding to nouns ending in -ite</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Semitic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-itis</td>
<td>forming names of inflammatory diseases; informal used with reference to a tendency or state of mind that is compared to a disease</td>
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<td></td>
<td>cystitis, hepatitis; creditcarditis</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ity</td>
<td>forming nouns denoting quality or condition; denoting an instance or degree of this</td>
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<td></td>
<td>humility, probity; a profanity</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ium, -um</td>
<td>forming nouns adopted unchanged from Latin or based on Latin or Greek words; forming names of metallic elements; denoting a region of the body; denoting a biological structure</td>
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<td>alluvium, euphonium; cadmium, magnesium; pericardium; mycelium</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>(forming adjectives, also nouns derived from them) tending to; having the nature of</td>
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<td>active, corrosive, palliative</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ize</td>
<td>forming verbs meaning: make or become; cause to resemble; treat in a specified way; treat or cause to combine with a specified substance; follow a specified practice; subject to a practice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>fossilize, privatize; Americanize; pasteurize; carbonize, oxidize; agonize, theorize; hospitalize</td>
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<tr>
<td>-izer</td>
<td>forming agent nouns corresponding to adjectives ending in -ize</td>
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<td></td>
<td>theorizer</td>
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<tr>
<td>kak-</td>
<td>see caco-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>kerato-, kerat-, cerato-, cerat-</td>
<td>of or relating to horny tissue or the cornea</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>kilo-</td>
<td>one thousand</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>kineto-, kinet-, -kinesis</td>
<td>of or relating to movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>labio-</td>
<td>of or relating to the lips</td>
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<td></td>
<td>keratotomy, kilogram, telegkinesis, labiodental</td>
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<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>lacto-, lact-</td>
<td>of or relating to milk, lactic acid, or lactose</td>
<td>lactobacillus</td>
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<tr>
<td>-later</td>
<td>denoting a worshiper</td>
<td>idolater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-latry</td>
<td>denoting a kind of worship</td>
<td>idolatry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-le</td>
<td>forming names of appliances or instruments; forming names of animals and plants; forming nouns having or originally having a diminutive sense; forming adjectives (from an original verb)</td>
<td>bridle, thimble; beetle; mantle, battle, castle; britle, nimble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lepto-, lept-</td>
<td>small; narrow</td>
<td>babble, dazzle, nestle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-less</td>
<td>forming verbs, chiefly those expressing repeated action or movement, or having diminutive sense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-let</td>
<td>(forming nouns) denoting a smaller or lesser kind; denoting articles of ornament or dress</td>
<td>booklet, starlet; anklet, bracelet</td>
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<tr>
<td>leuko-, leuk-, leuco-</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>leukoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ligni-, ligno-, lign-</td>
<td>of or relating to wood</td>
<td>lignify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ling</td>
<td>forming nouns from nouns, adjectives, and verbs</td>
<td>hireling, youngling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lipo-, lip-</td>
<td>relating to fat or lipids</td>
<td>liposuction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-lite</td>
<td>a kidney stone, or a mineral</td>
<td>zeolite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>litho-, lith-, -lith, -lithic, -log, -logue</td>
<td>denoting or relating to stone, denoting a discourse or compilation</td>
<td>lithotomy, dialog, catalogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-logist, -loger</td>
<td>denoting a person skilled or involved in a branch of study or art</td>
<td>biologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>logo-</td>
<td>of or relating to words</td>
<td>logorrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-logy, -ology, -logical, -logic</td>
<td>denoting or relating to a subject of study or type of speech or language</td>
<td>psychology, eulogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ly</td>
<td>forming adjectives meaning: having the qualities of; recurring at intervals of; forming adverbs from adjectives, chiefly denoting manner or degree</td>
<td>brotherly, rascally; hourly, quarterly; greatly, happily, pointedly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-lysis, lyso-, lys-</td>
<td>denoting disintegration or decomposition</td>
<td>autolysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-lytic, -lyte</td>
<td>corresponding to nouns ending in -ysis</td>
<td>autolytic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>macro-, macr-</td>
<td>long; large</td>
<td>macroscale; macronutrient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mal-</td>
<td>unpleasantly; badly; improperly; not</td>
<td>malodorous; malfunction; malpractice; maladroit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-mancy, -mantic</td>
<td>denoting or relating to divination by a specified means</td>
<td>geomancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-manship</td>
<td>(forming nouns) denoting skill in a subject or activity</td>
<td>marksmanship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mega-</td>
<td>very large; by a factor of one million</td>
<td>megalith; megahertz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>megalo-, megal-</td>
<td>abnormally large or great</td>
<td>megalopolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-meister</td>
<td>skilled or prominent in a specified activity</td>
<td>spinmeister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>melano-, melan-</td>
<td>black or dark</td>
<td>melanosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ment</td>
<td>forming nouns expressing the means or result of an action; forming nouns from adjectives</td>
<td>curtailment, excitement, treatment; merriment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mero-</td>
<td>partly; partial</td>
<td>meronym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-merous</td>
<td>having a specified number of (biological) parts</td>
<td>pentamerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meso-, mes-</td>
<td>middle; intermediate</td>
<td>mesothelia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meta-, met-</td>
<td>denoting a change; denoting position behind, after, or beyond; denoting something of a higher or second order</td>
<td>metamorphosis; metacarpus; metalanguage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-meter, -metric, -metrical</td>
<td>measuring; having a particular measure</td>
<td>thermometer, hexameter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-metry</td>
<td>denoting procedures and systems involving measurement</td>
<td>calorimetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>micro-, micr-</td>
<td>small; reduced; one millionth</td>
<td>microcar; microdot; microfarad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milli-</td>
<td>a thousand (chiefly denoting a factor of one thousandth)</td>
<td>milliliter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mis-</td>
<td>wrongly; badly; unsuitably</td>
<td>misapply; mismanage; misname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mis-</td>
<td>(added to verbs and their derivatives) wrongly; badly; unsuitably; occurring in a few words adopted from French expressing a sense with negative force</td>
<td>misapply; mismanage; misname; misadventure, mischief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-monger</td>
<td>dealer or trader; promoter of some activity or feeling</td>
<td>cheesemonger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-morph, -morphic, -morphism, morpho-</td>
<td>having, denoting, or relating to a specified form or character</td>
<td>polymorph</td>
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<tr>
<td>-most</td>
<td>forming superlative adjectives and adverbs from prepositions and other words indicating relative position</td>
<td>innermost, uppermost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-mycin</td>
<td>in names of antibiotics derived from fungi</td>
<td>streptomycin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>myco-</td>
<td>relating to fungi</td>
<td>mycoprotein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>myo-, my-</td>
<td>of or relating to muscles</td>
<td>myocardi um</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nano-</td>
<td>very small; denoting a factor of (10^{-9})</td>
<td>nanometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narco-</td>
<td>of a state of insensibility; of narcotic drugs or drug traffic</td>
<td>narcoleptic; narcoterrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>naso-</td>
<td>of or relating to the nose</td>
<td>nasolabial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>necro-</td>
<td>relating to a corpse or death</td>
<td>necropolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neo-</td>
<td>new; a new or revived form</td>
<td>neonate; neoconservative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-ness</td>
<td>forming nouns chiefly from adjectives: denoting a state or condition; an instance of this; something in a certain state</td>
<td>liveliness, sadness; a kindness; wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neuro-, neur-</td>
<td>relating to nerves or the nervous system</td>
<td>neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-nik</td>
<td>(forming nouns) denoting a person associated with a specified thing or quality</td>
<td>beatnik, refusenik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-nomy</td>
<td>an area of knowledge or the laws governing it</td>
<td>astronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-</td>
<td>not doing; not involved with; not of the kind or class described; also forming nouns used attributively; not of the importance implied; a lack of; (added to adverbs) not in the way described; (added to verbs to form adjectives) not causing or requiring; expressing a neutral negative sense when a corresponding form beginning with in- or un- has a special connotation</td>
<td>nonaggression, nonrecognition; nonbeliever, nonconformist; nonunion; nonissue; nonsense; nonuniformly; nonskid, noniron; nonhuman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nor-</td>
<td>(Chemistry) denoting an organic compound derived from another, in particular by the shortening of a chain or ring by the removal of one methylene group or by the replacement of one or more methyl side chains by hydrogen atoms</td>
<td>norepinephrine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ob-</td>
<td>denoting exposure or openness; expressing meeting or facing; denoting opposition, hostility, or resistance; denoting hindrance, blocking, or concealment; denoting extensiveness, finality, or completeness; (in modern technical words) inversely; in a direction or manner contrary to the usual</td>
<td>obverse; observe; obstacle; obliterate, obviate; obdurate, obsolete; obconical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odonto-, -odon, -odont</td>
<td>relating to a tooth or teeth; having teeth of a particular type</td>
<td>odontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of-</td>
<td>variant spelling of ob- assimilated before f</td>
<td>offend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-oid</td>
<td>denoting resemblance</td>
<td>spheroid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ol</td>
<td>(Chemistry) forming names of organic compounds: denoting alcohols and phenols; denoting oils and oil-derived compounds</td>
<td>glycerol, retinol; benzol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>olco-, ole-</td>
<td>relating to or containing oil</td>
<td>oleomargarine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oligo-, olig-</td>
<td>having or involving few</td>
<td>oligopoly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ology</td>
<td>see -logy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-oma</td>
<td>denoting tumors or growths</td>
<td>carcinoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ome</td>
<td>(chiefly Biology) forming nouns denoting objects or parts having a specified nature</td>
<td>rhizome, trichome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-on</td>
<td>(Physics, Biochemistry, &amp; Chemistry) forming nouns: denoting subatomic particles or quanta; denoting molecular units; denoting substances</td>
<td>neutron, photon; codon; interferon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>onco-</td>
<td>of or relating to tumors or cancer</td>
<td>oncology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-one</td>
<td>(Chemistry) forming nouns denoting various compounds, esp. ketones</td>
<td>quinone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ont, ont-</td>
<td>denoting or relating to an individual or cell of a specified type</td>
<td>schizont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>onto-, ont-</td>
<td>of or relating to existence</td>
<td>ontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-onym, -onymous, -onymic</td>
<td>denoting or relating to names</td>
<td>patronymic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo-</td>
<td>of or denoting an egg or ovum</td>
<td>oocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-oon</td>
<td>forming nouns, originally from French words having the final stressed syllable -on</td>
<td>balloon, buffoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>op-</td>
<td>variant spelling of ob-; assimilated before p</td>
<td>oppress, oppugn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-opia</td>
<td>denoting a visual disorder</td>
<td>myopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-opsy</td>
<td>denoting an examination</td>
<td>biopsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-or</td>
<td>(forming nouns) denoting a person or thing performing the action of a verb, or denoting another agent; forming nouns denoting a state or condition; forming adjectives expressing a comparative sense</td>
<td>escalator, governor, resistor; error, pallor, terror; minor, major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ornitho-, ornith-</td>
<td>relating to or like a bird or birds</td>
<td>ornithologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oro-</td>
<td>of or relating to mountains</td>
<td>orogeny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ortho-, orth-</td>
<td>straight; correct</td>
<td>orthodontist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ory</td>
<td>(forming nouns) denoting a place for a particular function; forming adjectives (and occasionally nouns) relating to or involving a verbal action</td>
<td>dormitory, repository; compulsory, directory, mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ose</td>
<td>(forming adjectives) having a specified quality; (Chemistry) forming names of sugars and other carbohydrates</td>
<td>bellicose, comatose, verbose; cellulose, glucose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-osis</td>
<td>denoting a process or condition; denoting a pathological state</td>
<td>metamorphosis; neurosis, thrombosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-osity</td>
<td>forming nouns from adjectives ending in -ose and from adjectives ending in -ous</td>
<td>verbosity, pomposity,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>osteo-, oste-</td>
<td>of or relating to the bones</td>
<td>osteopath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ot</td>
<td>forming nouns that were originally diminutives; forming nouns) denoting a person of a particular type; denoting a native of a place</td>
<td>ballot, parrot; harlot, idiot; Cypriot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-otic</td>
<td>forming adjectives and nouns corresponding to nouns ending in -osis</td>
<td>neurotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oto-, ot-</td>
<td>of or relating to the ears</td>
<td>otoscope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-our</td>
<td>(chiefly Brit.) variant spelling of -or</td>
<td>saviour, ardour, colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ous</td>
<td>forming adjectives: characterized by; of the nature of; (Chemistry) denoting an element in a lower valence</td>
<td>dangerous, mountainous; ferrous, sulfurous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out-</td>
<td>to the point of surpassing or exceeding; external; separate; from outside; away from; outward</td>
<td>outfight, outperform; outbuildings, outpatient; outbound, outpost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over-</td>
<td>excessively; to an unwanted degree; completely; utterly; upper; outer; extra; overhead; above</td>
<td>overambitious, overcareful; overawe, overjoyed; overcoat, overtime; overcast, overhang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ovi-, ovo-</td>
<td>of or relating to eggs or ova</td>
<td>oviparous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oxy-, ox-</td>
<td>denoting sharpness; having oxygen</td>
<td>oxylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paedo-</td>
<td>see pedo-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paleo-, palaeo-</td>
<td>older or ancient</td>
<td>paleography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pan-</td>
<td>all-inclusive</td>
<td>pansexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>panto-</td>
<td>all; universal</td>
<td>pantomime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>para-</td>
<td>protecting or warding off</td>
<td>parachute, parasol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>para-, par-</td>
<td>beside or adjacent to; analogous to</td>
<td>parameter; paramilitary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-parous</td>
<td>bearing offspring or reproducing in a specified manner</td>
<td>viviparous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-path</td>
<td>practitioner of curative treatment; sufferer from a disease</td>
<td>homeopath; psychopath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patho-</td>
<td>relating to disease</td>
<td>pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-pathy</td>
<td>denoting feelings; denoting disorder; relating to curative treatment</td>
<td>homeopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-pede, -pedal</td>
<td>denoting or relating to feet</td>
<td>centipede, bipedal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pedo-, peda-, paedo-</td>
<td>of or relating to a child or children</td>
<td>pedophile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>penta-</td>
<td>five; having five</td>
<td>pentagram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per-</td>
<td>through or all over; completely; to destruction or ill effect</td>
<td>perforation; perturb; pervert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peri-</td>
<td>round or about; nearest</td>
<td>pericardium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-petal</td>
<td>seeking or moving toward</td>
<td>centripetal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>petro-, petr-</td>
<td>of or relating to rock; relating to petroleum</td>
<td>petrochemical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-phagous, -phage</td>
<td>feeding on a particular food</td>
<td>coprophagous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-phagy</td>
<td>denoting eating of a particular food</td>
<td>anthropophagy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pheno-, phen-, phane</td>
<td>derived from benzene; showing</td>
<td>phenobarbital; phenotype</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-phil</td>
<td>having a chemical affinity</td>
<td>neutrophil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-philia, -phily</td>
<td>denoting (esp. abnormal) fondness or inclination</td>
<td>pedophilia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philo-, phil-, phil-</td>
<td>denoting a liking for a specific thing</td>
<td>cinophile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-phobe</td>
<td>having a fear or dislike of something</td>
<td>xenophobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-phobia</td>
<td>extreme or irrational fear or dislike</td>
<td>arachnophobia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-phone</td>
<td>denoting a sound instrument; denoting a speaker of a specific language</td>
<td><strong>Francophone</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phono-, phon-, -phony</td>
<td>relating to sound</td>
<td><strong>phonograph</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-phore</td>
<td>denoting an agent or bearer</td>
<td><strong>semafor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>photo-, phot-</td>
<td>relating to light; relating to photography</td>
<td><strong>photochemical; photocomposition</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phren-, phrenia, -phrenic</td>
<td>of or relating to the mind</td>
<td><strong>phrenology; schizophrenia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phyllo-, phyll-, -phyllous</td>
<td>of or relating to a leaf or leaves</td>
<td><strong>phyllotaxis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phylo-</td>
<td>of or relating to a race, tribe, or species</td>
<td><strong>phylogenesis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>physio-, phys-</td>
<td>relating to nature; relating to physiology</td>
<td><strong>physiography</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-phyte</td>
<td>denoting a plant or plantlike organism</td>
<td><strong>epiphyte</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phyto-</td>
<td>of or relating to plants</td>
<td><strong>phytogeography</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pisci-, pisc-</td>
<td>of or relating to fish</td>
<td><strong>pisivorous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plast, -plast, -plastic</td>
<td>molding, grafting, or formation</td>
<td><strong>rhinoplasty</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pleo-, pleio-, plio-</td>
<td>more</td>
<td><strong>pleonasm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pneumato-</td>
<td>of or containing air; relating to the spirit</td>
<td><strong>pneumatephore; pneumatology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pneumo-, pneum-</td>
<td>of or relating to the lungs or to the presence of air or gas</td>
<td><strong>pneumogastic; pneumotherax</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-pod, -pode, -podous, pod-</td>
<td>of or like a foot</td>
<td><strong>tripod, cephalopod</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poly-</td>
<td>many, much</td>
<td><strong>polyandry; polychrome</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-</td>
<td>after in time or order</td>
<td><strong>postdate, postoperative</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pre-, prac-</td>
<td>before</td>
<td><strong>preadolescent</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pro-</td>
<td>favoring; supporting; acting as a substitute or deputy for; on behalf of; for; denoting motion forward, out, or away; before in time, place, order, etc.</td>
<td><strong>pro-choice, pro-life; proconsul, procur; proceed, propel, prostrate; proactive, prognosis, program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proto-, prot-</td>
<td>original; primitive; first or anterior</td>
<td><strong>prototype; protozoan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pseudo-, pseud-</td>
<td>purported or false; resembling or imitating</td>
<td><strong>pseudonym; pseudohallucination</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>psycho-</td>
<td>relating to the mind or psychology</td>
<td><strong>psychopath</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ptero-, -pter</td>
<td>relating to or having wings</td>
<td><strong>pterodactyl</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pyro-, pyr-</td>
<td>of or relating to fire; denoting a mineral or compound formed or affected by heat or having a fiery color</td>
<td><strong>pyromaniac; pyrope</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quasi-</td>
<td>apparently but not really; partly or almost</td>
<td><strong>quasi-scientific; quasicrystalline</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>radio-, radi-</td>
<td>denoting radio waves or broadcasting; connected with radioactivity; belonging to the radius</td>
<td><strong>radiogram; radiograph; radio-carpal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>re-</td>
<td>once more; afresh; anew; with return to a previous state; in return; mutually; in opposition; behind or after; in a withdrawn state; back and away; down; with frequentative or intensive force; with negative force</td>
<td>reaccustom, reactivate; restore, revert; react, resemble; repel, resistance; relic, remain; recluse, reticent; recede, relegation; redouble, reticent; rebuf, recant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>retro-</td>
<td>denoting backward or reciprocal action; denoting location behind</td>
<td>retroject; retrosternal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rhino-</td>
<td>of or relating to the nose</td>
<td>rhinoplasty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rhodo-, rhod-</td>
<td>roselike, rosy</td>
<td>rhodochrosite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-rrhea, -rhaea, rheo-</td>
<td>discharge, flow</td>
<td>diarrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ry</td>
<td>a shortened form of -ery</td>
<td>devilry, rivalry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sapro-, sapr-</td>
<td>relating to putrefaction or decay</td>
<td>saprogenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sarco-, sarc-</td>
<td>of or relating to flesh</td>
<td>sarcophagus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schizo-, schiz-</td>
<td>divided or split; relating to schizophrenia</td>
<td>schizocarp; schizotype</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sclero-, -scler-</td>
<td>hard, hardened, or hardening</td>
<td>sclerotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-sect, -section</td>
<td>of cutting or dividing</td>
<td>dissect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semi-</td>
<td>half; twice; partly</td>
<td>semicircular; semiannual; semi-sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sero-</td>
<td>relating to serum; involving a serous membrane</td>
<td>serotype; serositis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sesqui-</td>
<td>denoting one and a half</td>
<td>sesquicentennial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ship</td>
<td>forming nouns: denoting a quality or condition; denoting status, office, or honor; denoting a tenure of office; denoting a skill in a certain capacity; denoting the collective individuals of a group</td>
<td>companionship, friendship; ambassadorship, citizenship; chairmanship; entrepreneurship; membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sino-</td>
<td>Chinese, Chinese and Sino-American</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-sion</td>
<td>forming nouns</td>
<td>mansion, persuasion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>socio-</td>
<td>relating to society; relating to sociology</td>
<td>socioeconomic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>somato-</td>
<td>of or relating to the human body</td>
<td>somatotype</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-some</td>
<td>denoting a part of the body or of a cell</td>
<td>chromosome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>somn-</td>
<td>of or relating to sleep</td>
<td>somnolent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sono-</td>
<td>of or relating to sound</td>
<td>sonometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spiro-</td>
<td>spiral or in a spiral</td>
<td>spirochete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spiro-</td>
<td>relating to breathing</td>
<td>spirometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-stasis, -static</td>
<td>slowing down or stopping</td>
<td>hemostasis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-stat</td>
<td>denoting instruments, etc., maintaining a controlled state</td>
<td>thermostat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steno-</td>
<td>narrow</td>
<td>stenography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ster</td>
<td>denoting a person engaged in or associated with a particular activity or thing; denoting a person having a particular quality</td>
<td>gangster, songster; youngster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>stereo-</td>
<td>of solid forms with three dimensions; of three-dimensional effect</td>
<td>stereophonic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strati-, strat-</td>
<td>of or relating to layers or strata</td>
<td>stratiform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-style</td>
<td>(forming adjectives and adverbs) in a manner characteristic of</td>
<td>family-style, church-style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub-, suc-, suf-, sur-</td>
<td>lower; somewhat; secondary; supporting</td>
<td>subalpine; subdivision; subvention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>super-, sur-</td>
<td>above or beyond; to a great degree; extra large; of a higher kind</td>
<td>superstructure; superabundant; supercontinent; superfamly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supra-</td>
<td>above; beyond</td>
<td>supranational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sur-</td>
<td>variant spelling of sub- assimilated before r</td>
<td>surrogate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-sy</td>
<td>forming diminutive nouns and adjectives, also nicknames or hypocoristics</td>
<td>folksy, mopsy, Patsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>syl-</td>
<td>variant spelling of syn- assimilated before l</td>
<td>syllogism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sym-</td>
<td>variant spelling of syn- assimilated before b, m, p</td>
<td>symbiosis, symmetry, symphysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>syn-</td>
<td>united; acting or considered together</td>
<td>synchrony, syncarpous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tacho-, tachy-</td>
<td>relating to speed; rapid</td>
<td>tachometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tauto-</td>
<td>same</td>
<td>tautology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taxi-, tax-</td>
<td>of or relating to grouping or arranging</td>
<td>taxonomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-teen</td>
<td>forming the names of numerals from 13 to 19</td>
<td>fourteen, eighteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tele-, tel-</td>
<td>of or at a distance; operating over a distance; relating to television; done over the telephone</td>
<td>telekinesis, telemedicine; telemarketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-teria</td>
<td>denoting self-service establishments</td>
<td>washeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tetra-</td>
<td>four, having four</td>
<td>tetragram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>theo-, the-</td>
<td>relating to God or to deities</td>
<td>theocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thermo-, -therm, -thermy</td>
<td>relating to heat</td>
<td>thermoplastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tion</td>
<td>forming nouns of action, condition, etc.</td>
<td>completion, relation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tome</td>
<td>denoting an instrument for cutting; denoting a section or fragment</td>
<td>microtome; myotome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tomy, -otomy</td>
<td>cutting</td>
<td>episiotomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>topo-, top-</td>
<td>of or relating to places or forms</td>
<td>topography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toxo-, toxic, toxico-, toxo-, -toxic</td>
<td>of or relating to poisons</td>
<td>toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trans-</td>
<td>across or beyond; on or to the other side; through; going beyond</td>
<td>transcontinental; transalpine; transonic; transhuman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-trix</td>
<td>denoting a woman (where a man would be denoted -tor)</td>
<td>executrix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tron</td>
<td>denoting a subatomic particle; denoting a particle accelerator; denoting a vacuum tube</td>
<td>positron; cyclotron; ignitron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Combining Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combining Form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-trophic</td>
<td>relating to nutrition; relating to maintenance or regulation</td>
<td>phototrophic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tropic, trop-</td>
<td>turning toward; affecting; maintaining or regulating</td>
<td>heliotropic; psychotropic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tude</td>
<td>forming abstract nouns</td>
<td>beatitude, solitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ty</td>
<td>forming nouns denoting quality or condition; denoting specified groups of ten</td>
<td>beauty, royalty; forty, ninety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-type</td>
<td>(forming adjectives) resembling or having the characteristics of a specified thing</td>
<td>dish-type, champagne-type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uber-</td>
<td>denoting an outstanding or supreme example of a particular kind of person or thing</td>
<td>uberbabe, uberregulator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ule</td>
<td>forming diminutive nouns</td>
<td>capsule, pustule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ultra-</td>
<td>beyond; extreme</td>
<td>ultramontane; ultraradical</td>
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<td>-um</td>
<td>variant spelling of -ium</td>
<td>unabashed, unacademic, unrepeatable; unselfish, unprepossessing, unworldly; unrest, untruth; untie, unsettle; unmask, unman; unburden, unhand</td>
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<td>un-</td>
<td>(added to adjectives, participles, and their derivatives) denoting the absence of a quality or state; not; the reverse of (usually with an implication of approval or disapproval, or with another special connotation); (added to nouns) a lack of; added to verbs: denoting the reversal or cancellation of an action or state; denoting deprivation, separation, or reduction to a lesser state; denoting release</td>
<td>underclothes, undercover; undersecretary; undernourished</td>
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<td>under-</td>
<td>below; beneath; lower in status; subordinate; insufficiently; incompletely</td>
<td>upturned, upthrow; upbeat, update; upgrade, upscale; upriver, uphill, upwind; upland, upstroke; up-tempo</td>
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<td>up-</td>
<td>(added to verbs and their derivatives) upward; to a more recent time; to a newer or better state; (added to nouns) denoting (direction of) motion up; added to nouns) higher; increased</td>
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<td>ur-</td>
<td>primitive, original, or earliest</td>
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<td>urano-, uran-</td>
<td>relating to the heavens; relating to uranium</td>
<td>censure, closure, scripture; judicature; legislature</td>
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<td>-ure</td>
<td>forming nouns: denoting an action, process, or result; denoting an office or function; denoting a collective</td>
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<td>-urgy, -urge</td>
<td>of work; one who works</td>
<td>dramaturge</td>
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<td>-uria</td>
<td>designating that a substance is present in the urine, esp. in excess</td>
<td>glycosuria</td>
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<td>of or relating to urine or the urinary organs</td>
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<td>of or relating to vessels, esp. blood vessels</td>
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<td>relating to or like a worm</td>
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<td>-vorous, -vore</td>
<td>feeding on</td>
<td>carnivorous</td>
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<td>Combining Form</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Example(s)</td>
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<td>-ward, -wards</td>
<td>added to nouns of place or destination and to adverbs of direction; (forming adverbs) toward the specified place or direction; (forming adjectives) turned or tending toward</td>
<td>eastward, homewards; onward, upward</td>
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<td>-ways, -way</td>
<td>forming adjectives and adverbs of direction or manner</td>
<td>edgeways, lengthways</td>
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<td>-wise</td>
<td>forming adjectives and adverbs of manner or respect; informal with respect to; concerning</td>
<td>clockwise, otherwise; security-wise</td>
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<td>xeno-, xen-</td>
<td>relating to foreigners; other or different</td>
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<td>xero-, xer-</td>
<td>dry</td>
<td>xeroscape</td>
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<td>-xion</td>
<td>forming nouns</td>
<td>fluxion</td>
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<td>xylo-, xyl-</td>
<td>of or relating to wood</td>
<td>xylophone</td>
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<td>-y</td>
<td>forming adjectives: (from nouns and adjectives) full of; having the quality; with depreciatory reference; (from verbs) inclined to; apt to; forming diminutive nouns and adjectives, nicknames, etc.; forming verbs; forming nouns: denoting a state, condition, or quality; denoting an action or its result</td>
<td>messy, milky, mousy; boozy, tinny; sticky; aunty, Tommy, nightie; shiny; glory, jealousy, orthodoxy; blasphemy, victory</td>
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<td>-yl</td>
<td>(Chemistry) forming names of radicals</td>
<td>hydroxyl, phenyl</td>
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<td>(Chemistry) forming names of unsaturated organic compounds containing a triple bond</td>
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<td>forming adjectives relating to a particular manner of animal existence; of or relating to a particular geologic era</td>
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<td>zoo-</td>
<td>of animals; relating to animal life</td>
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<td>relating to joining or pairing</td>
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### Presidents of the United States of America

#### Name and life dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Life Dates</th>
<th>Party (term in office)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>George Washington</td>
<td>1732-1799</td>
<td>Federalist (1789-97)</td>
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<td>John Adams</td>
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<td>Thomas Jefferson</td>
<td>1743-1826</td>
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<td>Andrew Jackson</td>
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## Chemical Elements

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<td>109</td>
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*Names formed systematically based on atomic numbers are preferred by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) for numbers from 104 onward. These names are formed on the numerical roots nil (=0), un (=1), bi (=2), etc. (e.g., unnilquadium = 104, unnilpentium = 105, unnilhexium = 106, unnilseptium = 107, unniloctium = 108, unnilnovium = 109, etc.).
Standard Weights and Measures with Metric Equivalents and Conversions

**Equivalents**

| Standard                      | Multiply By | To Get Metric
<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inches</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>centimeters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feet</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>centimeters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yards</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>miles</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>kilometers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>square inches</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>square centimeters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>square feet</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>square meters</td>
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<tr>
<td>square yards</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>square miles</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>square kilometers</td>
</tr>
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<td>acres</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>hectares</td>
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<td><strong>Weight</strong></td>
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<td>ounces</td>
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<td>grams</td>
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<td>pounds</td>
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<td><strong>Volume</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>milliliters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tablespoons</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>milliliters</td>
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<tr>
<td>cubic inches</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>milliliters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fluid ounces</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cups</td>
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<td>pints</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>liters</td>
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<tr>
<td>quarts</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gallons</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>liters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cubic feet</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>cubic meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cubic yards</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>cubic meters</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>subtract 32, then</td>
<td>degrees Celsius</td>
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<td>multiply by 5/9</td>
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**Square Measure**

| Standard                      | Multiply By | To Get Metric
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inch</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td>centimeters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foot</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yard</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(statute) mile</td>
<td>1,760</td>
<td>miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= 5,280 feet</td>
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</table>

**Cubic Measure**

| Standard                      | Multiply By | To Get Metric
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cu. inch</td>
<td>6.45</td>
<td>sq. centimeters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cu. foot</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>sq. inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cu. yard</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>sq. feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>acre</td>
<td>4,840</td>
<td>sq. yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sq. mile</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>acres</td>
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</table>

**Capacity Measure**

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<td>33.60</td>
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<td>peck</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>quarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bushel</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>pecks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fluid ounce</td>
<td>29.573</td>
<td>milliliters</td>
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<tr>
<td>gill</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>fluid ounces</td>
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<tr>
<td>pint</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>fluid ounces</td>
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<tr>
<td>= 28.88 cu. inches</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quart</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>pints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gallon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>quarts</td>
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</table>

**Avoirdupois Weight**

| Standard                      | Multiply By | To Get Metric
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<td>0.065</td>
<td>gram</td>
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<tr>
<td>dram</td>
<td>1.772</td>
<td>grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ounce</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>ounces</td>
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<tr>
<td>pound</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= 7,000 grains</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>stone (British)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ton</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>100</td>
<td>pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 hundredweight (US)</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>pounds</td>
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</table>
## Metric Weights and Measures with Standard Equivalents and Conversions

### Equivalents

#### Linear Measure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Equivalent in Standard Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 millimeter (mm) = 0.039 inch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 centimeter (cm) = 0.394 inch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 decimeter (dm) = 3.94 inches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 meter (m) = 1.094 yards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 decameter = 10 meters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hectometer = 100 meters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kilometer (km) = 1,000 meters</td>
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#### Square Measure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Equivalent in Standard Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sq. centimeter = 0.155 sq. inch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sq. meter = 1.196 sq. yards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 are = 100 sq. meters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hectare = 100 ares</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sq. kilometer = 100 hectares</td>
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#### Cubic Measure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Equivalent in Standard Measure</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cu. centimeter = 0.061 cu. inch</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cu. meter = 1.308 cu. yards</td>
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#### Capacity Measure

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Equivalent in Standard Measure</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1 milliliter (ml) = 0.034 fluid ounce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 centiliter (cl) = 0.34 fluid ounce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 deciliter (dl) = 3.38 fluid ounces</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 liter (l) = 1.06 quarts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 decaliter = 10 liters</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 hectoliter = 100 liters</td>
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#### Weight

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 centigram = 10 milligrams</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 decigram (dg) = 10 centigrams</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 gram (g) = 10 decigrams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 decagram = 10 grams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hectogram = 100 grams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kilogram (kg) = 1,000 grams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ton (metric ton) = 1,000 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ton (long ton) = 0.984</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conversions

#### Length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Multiply By</th>
<th>To Get Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>millimeters</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centimeters</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meters</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kilometers</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Multiply By</th>
<th>To Get Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>square centimeters</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>square inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>square meters</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>square yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>square kilometers</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>square miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hectares</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Weight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Multiply By</th>
<th>To Get Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>grams</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>ounces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kilograms</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>metric tons</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>short tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Volume

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Multiply By</th>
<th>To Get Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>milliliters</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>fluid ounces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milliliters</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>cubic inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liters</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>pints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liters</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>quarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cubic meters</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cubic meters</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>cubic feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Temperatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Multiply By</th>
<th>To Get Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>degrees Celsius</td>
<td>9/5, then add 32</td>
<td>degrees Fahrenheit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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