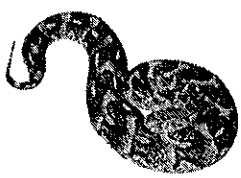


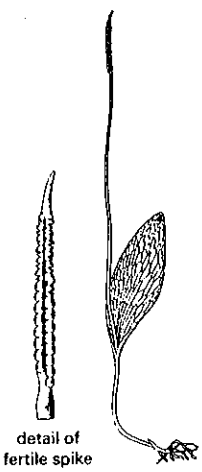
Second College Edition

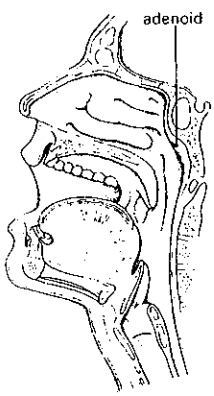
THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY

Ad·am's apple (ăd'əmz) *n.* The projection of the largest laryngeal cartilage at the front of the throat, esp. in men. [Trans. of Heb. *tappūah hāādām.*]
Adam's needle *n.* The Spanish bayonet (sense 2). [From the spines on its leaves.]
a·dapt (ə-dăpt') *v.* **a·dapt·ed, a·dapt·ing, a·dapts.** —*tr.* To adjust to a specified use or situation. —*intr.* To become adapted. [Lat. *adaptare* : *ad-,* to + *aptare,* to fit < *aptus,* fitting.]
a·dapt·a·ble (ə-dăp'tə-bəl) *adj.* Capable of adapting or of being adapted. —**a·dapt'a·bil'i·ty, a·dapt'a·ble·ness** *n.*
ad·ap·ta·tion (ăd'ăp-tā'shən) *n.* **1. a.** The state of being adapted. **b.** The act or process of adapting. **2.** Something that is changed or changes so as to become suitable to a new or special use or situation. **3.** An alteration or adjustment, often hereditary, by which a species or individual improves its condition in relationship to its environment. **4.** The responsive alteration of a sense organ to repeated stimuli. **5.** Change in behavior of an individual or group in adjustment to new or modified cultural surroundings. —**ad'ap·ta'tion·al** *adj.* —**ad'ap·ta'tion·al·ly** *adv.*
a·dapt·er also **a·dap·tor** (ə-dăp'tər) *n.* **1.** One that adapts. **2.** A device used to effect operative compatibility between different parts of one or more pieces of apparatus.
a·dap·tion (ə-dăp'shən) *n.* Adaptation.
a·dap·tive (ə-dăp'tĭv) *adj.* Tending toward, fit for, or having a capacity for adaptation. —**a·dap'tive·ly** *adv.* —**a·dap'tive·ness** *n.*
adaptive radiation *n.* The evolution of a relatively unspecialized species into several related species characterized by different specializations that fit them for life in various environments.
A·dar (ä-där') *n.* The sixth month of the year in the Hebrew calendar. See table at **calendar.** [ME < Heb. *Adhār* < Akkadian *addaru* < *adāru,* to be dark.]
Adar She·ni (shä-nē') *n.* Veadar. [Heb. *Adhār shēnī,* second Adar.]
ad·ax·i·al (ăd-ăk'sē-əl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or being on the side toward the stem or axis.
add (ăd) *v.* **add·ed, add·ing, adds.** —*tr.* **1.** To join or unite so as to increase in size, quantity, or scope. **2.** To combine (a column of figures, for example) to form a sum. **3.** To say or write further. —*intr.* **1.** To create or constitute an addition: *an exploit that will add to her reputation.* **2.** To find a sum in arithmetic. —***phrasal verbs.*** **add up.** *Informal.* To be reasonable, plausible, or consistent; make sense. **add up to.** *Informal.* To mean; indicate. [ME *adden* < Lat. *addere* : *ad-,* to + *dare,* to give.] —**add'a·ble, add'i·ble** *adj.*
ad·dax (ăd'ăks') *n.* An antelope, *Addax nasomaculatus,* of northern Africa having long, spirally twisted horns. [Lat., of African orig.]
add·ed-val·ue tax (ăd'ĭd-văl'yōō) *n.* Value-added tax.
ad·dend (ăd'ĕnd', ə-dĕnd') *n.* Any of a set of numbers to be added. [Short for ADDENDUM.]
ad·den·dum (ə-dĕn'dəm) *n., pl.* **-da** (-də). Something added or to be added, esp. a supplement to a book. [Lat. < *addere,* to add.]
add·er[1] (ăd'ər) *n.* One that adds, esp. a computer device that performs arithmetic addition.
ad·der[2] (ăd'ər) *n.* **1.** Any of various venomous Old World snakes of the family Viperidae, esp. the common viper, *Vipera berus,* of Eurasia. **2.** Any of several nonvenomous snakes popularly believed to be harmful. [ME < *an addre,* alteration of *a naddre* : *a,* a + *naddre,* snake < OE *nædre.*]
ad·der's-mouth (ăd'ərz-mouth') *n.* Any of various orchids of the genus *Malaxis,* having clusters of small, usually greenish flowers. [From the resemblance of its flowers to the open mouths of snakes.]
ad·der's-tongue (ăd'ərz-tŭng') *n.* **1.** Any of several ferns of the genus *Ophioglossum,* having a single sterile, leaflike frond, and a spore-bearing stalk. **2.** The dogtooth violet. [From the resemblance of the spike at the base of the frond to a snake's tongue.]
ad·dict (ə-dĭkt') *tr.v.* **-dict·ed, -dict·ing, -dicts.** To devote or give (oneself) habitually or compulsively: *addicted to alcohol.* —*n.* (ăd'ĭkt). **1.** One who is addicted, esp. to narcotics. **2.** A devoted fan: *a soap opera addict.* [< Lat. *addictus,* bondsman, p.part of *addicere,* to sentence : *ad-,* to + *dicere,* to adjudge.] —**ad·dic'tion** *n.* —**ad·dic'tive** *adj.*
Ad·di·son's disease (ăd'ĭ-sənz) *n.* A disease caused by failure of the adrenal cortex to function, marked by a bronzelike skin pigmentation, anemia, and prostration. [After Thomas *Addison* (1793–1860), its discoverer.]
ad·di·tion (ə-dĭsh'ən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of adding. **2.** Something added, esp. a room or section added to a building. **3.** The process of computing with sets of numbers so as to find their sum. —***idioms.*** **in addition.** Also; as well as. **in addition to.** Over and above; besides. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *additio* < *additus,* p.part. of *addere,* to add.] —**ad·di'tion·al** *adj.* —**ad·di'tion·al·ly** *adv.*
ad·di·tive (ăd'ĭ-tĭv) *adj.* Marked by, produced by, or involving addition. —*n.* A substance added in small amounts to something else to improve, strengthen, or otherwise alter it.
additive identity *n.* An identity element that in a given mathematical system leaves unchanged any element to which it is added.
additive identity element *n.* Zero.
additive inverse *n.* Inverse (sense 2.b.).
ad·dle (ăd'l) *v.* **-dled, -dling, -dles.** —*tr.* To muddle; confuse: *"My brain is a bit addled by whiskey"* (O'Neill). —*intr.* **1.** To become rotten; spoil. **2.** To become confused. —*adj.* **1.** Mixed up; confused: *addle-brained.* **2.** Spoiled or rotten. [< ME *adel,* muddled < OE, filth.]
ad·dress (ə-drĕs') *tr.v.* **-dressed, -dress·ing, -dress·es. 1.** To speak to. **2.** To make a formal speech to. **3.** To direct (a spoken or written message) to the attention of: *address a protest to the Council.* **4.** To mark with a destination: *address a letter.* **5. a.** To direct (oneself) in speech to. **b.** To direct the efforts or attention of (oneself): *address oneself to a task.* **6.** To dispatch or consign (a ship, for example) to an agent or factor. **7.** To adjust and aim the club at (a golf ball) in preparing for a stroke. —*n.* (ə-drĕs'). **1.** A formal spoken or written communication: *polite forms of address.* **2.** A formal speech. **3.** *(also* ăd'rĕs'*).* The written or printed indication on mail or other deliverable items indicating destination. **4.** *(also* ăd'rĕs'*).* The location at which a particular organization or person may be found or reached. **5.** Often **addresses.** Courteous attentions; wooing. **6.** The manner or bearing of a person, esp. in conversation. **7.** Skillfulness or tact in handling a situation. **8.** The act of dispatching or consigning a ship, as to an agent or factor. **9.** *Computer Sci.* A number used in information storage or retrieval that is assigned to a specific memory location. [ME *adressen* < OFr. *adresser* : *a-,* to (< Lat. *ad-*) + *dresser,* to arrange. — see DRESS.]
ad·dress·a·ble (ə-drĕs'ə-bəl) *adj.* Accessible through an address, as in computer memory.
ad·dress·ee (ăd'rĕ-sē', ə-drĕs'ē') *n.* One to whom something is addressed.
ad·dress·er also **ad·dres·sor** (ə-drĕs'ər) *n.* A person who or a machine that addresses.
ad·duce (ə-dōōs', ə-dyōōs') *tr.v.* **-duced, -duc·ing, -duc·es.** To cite as an example or means of proof in an argument; bring forward for consideration. [Lat. *adducere,* to bring to : *ad-,* to + *ducere,* to lead.] —**ad·duce'a·ble, ad·duc'i·ble** *adj.*
ad·duct (ə-dŭkt', ă-) *tr.v.* **-duct·ed, -duct·ing, -ducts.** *Physiol.* To pull or draw toward the main axis. Used of muscles. [Back-formation from ADDUCTOR.] —**ad·duc'tion** *n.* —**ad·duc'tive** *adj.*
ad·duc·tor (ə-dŭk'tər) *n.* A muscle that adducts. [NLat. < Lat. *adducere,* to bring to. —see ADDUCE.]
-ade *suff.* A sweetened beverage of: *limeade.* [Fr., ult. < Lat. *-ata,* fem. of *-atus,* -ate.]
A·dé·lie penguin (ə-dā'lē) *n.* A common Antarctic penguin, *Pygoscelis adeliae,* of medium size, that has white underparts and a black back and head, and that lives and breeds in large exposed rookeries. [After the *Adélie* Coast, Antarctica.]
-adelphous *suff.* Having one or more groups of stamens: *diadelphous.* [NLat. *-adelphus* < Gk. *adelphos,* brother.]
a·demp·tion (ə-dĕmp'shən) *n. Law.* The disposal by a testator of specific property bequeathed in his will so as to invalidate the bequest. [Lat. *ademptio,* a taking away < *adimere,* to take away : *ad-,* to + *emere,* to take.]
aden- *pref.* Variant of **adeno-.**
ad·e·nec·to·my (ăd'n-ĕk'tə-mē) *n.* Surgical excision of a gland.
ad·e·nine (ăd'n-ēn') *n.* A purine derivative, $C_5H_5N_5$, that is a constituent of nucleic acid in organs, as the pancreas and spleen.
ad·e·ni·tis (ăd'n-ī'tĭs) *n.* Inflammation of a lymph node or gland.
adeno- or **aden-** *pref.* Gland: *adenectomy.* [< Gk. *adēn.*]
ad·e·no·car·ci·no·ma (ăd'n-ō-kär'sə-nō'mə) *n.* A malignant tumor originating in glandular tissue. —**ad'e·no·car'ci·nom'a·tous** (-nŏm'ə-təs, -nō'mə-təs) *adj.*
ad·e·no·hy·poph·y·sis (ăd'n-ō-hī-pŏf'ĭ-sĭs) *n.* The anterior and intermediate glandular lobes of the pituitary gland. —**ad'e·no·hy·poph'y·se·al, ad'e·no·hy·poph'y·si·al** *adj.*
ad·e·noid (ăd'n-oid') *n.* Lymphoid tissue growth in the nose above the throat that when swollen may obstruct nasal breathing, induce postnasal discharge, and make speech difficult.
ad·e·noi·dal (ăd'n-oid'l) *adj.* **1.** Glandlike; glandular. **2.** Of or pertaining to the adenoids. **3 a.** Having a nasal or constricted tone: *an adenoidal singer.* **b.** Mouth-breathing or gaping.
ad·e·no·ma (ăd'n-ō'mə) *n.* An epithelial tumor of glandular origin and structure that is usually benign or of low-grade malignancy. —**ad'e·nom'a·tous** (-ŏm'ə-təs) *adj.*
a·den·o·sine (ə-dĕn'ə-sēn') *n.* An organic compound, $C_{10}H_{13}N_5O_4$, that is a structural component of nucleic acids. [Blend of ADENINE and RIBOSE.]
adenosine di·phos·phate (dī-fŏs'fāt') *n.* ADP.
adenosine mon·o·phos·phate (mŏn'ō-fŏs'fāt') *n.* **1.** Cyclic AMP. **2.** AMP.
adenosine triphosphate *n.* ATP.
ad·e·no·vi·rus (ăd'n-ō-vī'rəs) *n.* Any of various animal viruses that cause respiratory diseases, as catarrh, in humans. —**ad'e·no·vi'ral** *adj.*
a·den·yl·ate cy·clase (ə-dĕn'l-āt sī'klās, ăd'n-īl'āt) or **ad·e·nyl cyclase** (ăd'n-īl) *n.* The enzyme that catalyzes forma-


addax


adder[2]


detail of fertile spike
adder's-tongue



adenoid

goods; wealth; riches. **2.** A plentiful supply; abundance. **3.** A flowing toward.

af·flu·en·cy (ăf′lo͞o′ən-sē, ə-flo͞o′-) *n.* Affluence.

af·flu·ent (ăf′lo͞o-ənt) *adj.* **1.** Rich; wealthy: *an affluent society.* **2.** Copious; abundant. **3.** Flowing freely. —*n.* A stream or river that flows into another or other body of water; tributary. [ME, abundant < OFr. < Lat. *affluens,* pr.part. of *affluere,* to abound in : *ad-,* to + *fluere,* to flow.] —**af′flu·ent·ly** *adv.*

af·flux (ăf′lŭks′) *n.* A flowing to or toward a particular area: *an afflux of blood to the head.* [Lat. *affluxus,* p.part. of *affluere,* to flow to. —see AFFLUENT.]

af·ford (ə-fôrd′, ə-fōrd′) *tr.v.* **-ford·ed, -ford·ing, -fords. 1.** To have the financial means for; be able to meet the expense of. **2.** To be able to spare or give up: *could afford an hour for lunch.* **3.** To be able to do or perform (something) without incurring harm or criticism, or with benefit to oneself: *can afford to be tolerant.* **4.** To provide: *a sport affording good exercise.* [ME *aforthen* < OE *geforðian,* to carry out < *forð,* forward.] —**af·ford′a·ble** *adj.*

af·for·est (ə-fôr′ĭst, ə-fŏr′-) *tr.v.* **-est·ed, -est·ing, -ests.** To convert (open land) into forest. [Med. Lat. *afforestare* : *ad-,* to + *forestare* < *foresta,* forest.] —**af·for′es·ta′tion** (ə-fôr′ĭ-stā′shən, ə-fŏr′-) *n.*

af·fran·chise (ə-frăn′chīz′) *tr.v.* **-chised, -chis·ing, -chis·es.** To free from servitude; liberate from obligation or liabilities. [ME < OFr. *afranchir, afranchiss-* : *a-,* to (< Lat. *ad-*) + *franchir,* to free < *franc,* free. —see FRANK.]

af·fray (ə-frā′) *n.* A noisy quarrel or brawl. —*tr.v.* **-frayed, -fray·ing, -frays.** *Archaic.* To frighten. [ME < OFr. *esfrei* < *esfreer,* to disturb.]

af·fri·cate (ăf′rĭ-kĭt) *n.* A speech sound produced when the breath stream is completely stopped and then released at articulation, the *t* plus *sh* sound in *clutch* or the *j* sound in *judge.* [Lat. *affricare, affricat-,* to rub against : *ad-,* to + *fricare,* to rub.]

af·fric·a·tive (ə-frĭk′ə-tĭv) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or forming an affricate. —*n.* An affricate.

af·fright (ə-frīt′) *Archaic.* —*tr.v.* **-fright·ed, -fright·ing, -frights.** To arouse fear in; terrify. —*n.* **1.** Terror. **2.** A cause of terror. **3.** The act of frightening. [ME *afrighten* < OE *afyrhtan.*] —**af·fright′ment** *n.*

af·front (ə-frŭnt′) *tr.v.* **-front·ed, -front·ing, -fronts. 1.** To insult intentionally, esp. openly. **2.** To meet face to face defiantly; confront. —*n.* **1.** An open or intentional offense, slight, or insult. **2.** *Obs.* An encounter or meeting. [ME *afrounten* < OFr. *afronter* : Lat. *ad-,* to + Lat. *frons,* face.]

af·fu·sion (ə-fyo͞o′zhən) *n.* A pouring on of liquid, as in baptism. [LLat. *adfusio,* < *affundere,* to pour on : *ad-,* to + *fundere,* to pour.]

Af·ghan (ăf′găn′, -gən) *n.* **1.** A native of Afghanistan. **2.** Pashto. **3. afghan.** A coverlet of wool, knitted or crocheted in colorful geometric designs. **4.** An Afghan hound. —*adj.* Of or pertaining to Afghanistan, its people, or their language. [Pashto *afghāni.*]

Afghan hound *n.* A large, slender dog of an ancient breed, having long, thick hair, a pointed muzzle, and drooping ears.

af·ghan·i (ăf-găn′ē, -gä′nē) *n.* See table at **currency.** [Pashto.]

a·fi·cio·na·do (ə-fĭsh′ē-ə-nä′dō, ə-fĭs′ē-, ə-fē′sē-) *n., pl.* **-dos.** An enthusiastic admirer or follower; devotee; fan. [Sp. < p.part. of *aficionar,* to induce a liking for < *aficion,* liking < Lat. *affectio,* affection.]

a·field (ə-fēld′) *adv.* **1.** Off the usual or desired track. **2.** Away from one's home or usual environment. **3.** To or on a field.

a·fire (ə-fīr′) *adj. & adv.* **1.** On fire; burning. **2.** Intensely interested and involved.

a·flame (ə-flām′) *adj. & adv.* **1.** On fire; flaming. **2.** Keenly excited and interested.

a·float (ə-flōt′) *adj. & adv.* **1.** Floating. **2.** On a boat or ship away from the shore; at sea. **3.** In circulation; prevailing. **4.** Awash; flooded. **5.** Drifting about; moving without guidance. **6.** Free or out of difficulty, esp. financial difficulty: *couldn't keep the business afloat.*

a·flut·ter (ə-flŭt′ər) *adj.* In a flutter; nervous and excited.

a·foot (ə-fo͝ot′) *adj. & adv.* **1.** Walking; on foot. **2.** In the process of being carried out; astir.

a·fore (ə-fôr′, ə-fōr′) *adv., prep., & conj. Archaic.* Before. [ME < OE *onforan* : *on,* at + *for,* fore.]

a·fore·men·tioned (ə-fôr′mĕn′shənd, ə-fōr′-) *adj.* Mentioned previously or before.

a·fore·said (ə-fôr′sĕd′, ə-fōr′-) *adj.* Spoken of earlier.

a·fore·thought (ə-fôr′thôt′, ə-fōr′-) *adj.* Planned or intended beforehand; premeditated: *malice aforethought.*

a·fore·time (ə-fôr′tīm′, ə-fōr′-) *Archaic.* —*adv.* At a former or past time; previously. —*adj.* Earlier; former.

a for·ti·o·ri (ā fôr′tē-ôr′ē, ā fōr′tē-ō′rī′) *adv.* For a stronger reason; all the more. Used of a conclusion arrived at with greater logical necessity than another. [Lat.]

a·foul of (ə-foul′) *prep.* In or into a condition of collision, entanglement, or conflict. —***idiom.* run (or fall) afoul of.** To become entangled or in conflict with.

a·fraid (ə-frād′) *adj.* **1.** Filled with fear. **2.** Reluctant; averse: *not afraid of work.* **3.** Filled with regret: *I'm afraid you're wrong.* [ME *affraied,* p.part. of *affraien,* to frighten < OFr. *esfreer,* to disturb.]

A-frame (ā′frām) *n.* A structure, as a house, with steeply angled sides and a roof that reaches to the ground. [From its being shaped like a capital *A.*]

af·reet also **af·rit** (ăf′rēt′, ə-frēt′) *n. Arabic Myth.* A powerful evil spirit or gigantic and monstrous demon. [Ar. *ʿifrīt.*]

a·fresh (ə-frĕsh′) *adv.* Once more; anew; again.

Af·ri·can (ăf′rĭ-kən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to Africa or any of its peoples or languages. —*n.* **1.** A person born or living in Africa. **2.** A member of one of the indigenous peoples of Africa.

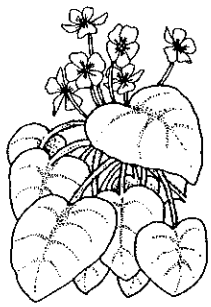
African lily *n.* A plant, *Agapanthus africanus,* native to southern Africa, having rounded clusters of blue, violet, or white flowers.

African mahogany *n.* **1. a.** Any of several African trees of the genus *Khaya,* esp. *K. ivorensis,* having wood similar to that of true mahogany. **b.** The wood of this tree, used for furniture, musical instruments, and boat interiors. **2.** Any of various other African woods resembling true mahogany.

African marigold *n.* A widely cultivated plant, *Tagetes erecta,* native to Mexico, having finely divided foliage and showy, rounded orange or yellow flowers.

African sleeping sickness *n.* Sleeping sickness.

African violet *n.* Any of several plants of the genus *Saintpaulia,* native to tropical Africa and widely cultivated as house plants, esp. *S. ionantha,* having violet, white, or pink flowers.


African violet

Af·ri·kaans (ăf′rĭ-käns′, -känz′) *n.* A language that developed from 17th-century Dutch and is an official language of the Republic of South Africa. [Afr. < Du. *Afrikaansch,* African.]

Af·ri·ka·ner (ăf′rĭ-kä′nər) *n.* An Afrikaans-speaking descendant of the Dutch settlers of South Africa. [Afr., African < Lat. *Africanus.*]

af·rit (ăf′rēt′, ə-frēt′) *n.* Variant of **afreet.**

Af·ro (ăf′rō) *n., pl.* **-ros.** A rounded, bushy hair style. —*adj.* **1.** Of or for an Afro: *an Afro comb.* **2.** Directly or indirectly African in style. [Perh. short for AFRO-AMERICAN.]

Afro- *pref.* African: *Afro-Asiatic.* [< Lat. *Afer,* an African.]

Af·ro-A·mer·i·can (ăf′rō-ə-mĕr′ĭ-kən) *adj.* Of or pertaining to American blacks of African ancestry, their history, or their culture. —*n.* An American black of African ancestry.

Af·ro-A·si·at·ic (ăf′rō-ā′zhē-ăt′ĭk, -zē-) *n.* A family of languages of southwestern Asia and northern Africa. —**Af′ro-A′si·at′ic** *adj.*

aft (ăft) *adv. & adj. Naut.* At, in, toward, or close to the stern of a vessel. [Prob. shortening of ABAFT.]

af·ter (ăf′tər) *prep.* **1.** Behind in place or order. **2.** In quest or pursuit of: *seek after fame.* **3.** Concerning: *asked after you.* **4.** Subsequent in time to; at a later time than: *come after dinner.* **5.** Subsequent to and because of or regardless of: *friends after all their differences.* **6.** Following continually: *year after year.* **7.** Next to or lower than in order or importance. **8.** In the style of; in imitation of: *satires after Horace.* **9.** With the same or close to the same name as; in honor or commemoration of: *named after her mother.* **10.** According to the nature or desires of; in conformity to: *a man after my own heart.* **11.** Past the hour of: *five minutes after three.* —*adv.* **1.** Behind; in the rear. **2.** At a later or subsequent time; afterward. —*adj.* **1.** Subsequent in time or place; later; following: *in after years.* **2.** *Naut.* Nearer the stern of a vessel; *farther aft.* —*conj.* Following or subsequent to the time that: *I saw her after I arrived.* —***idiom.* after all. 1.** When everything is considered. **2.** Eventually; ultimately. [ME < OE *æfter.*]

af·ter·birth (ăf′tər-bûrth′) *n.* The placenta and fetal membranes expelled from the uterus after childbirth.

af·ter·burn·er (ăf′tər-bûr′nər) *n.* **1.** A device for augmenting the thrust of a jet engine by burning additional fuel with the uncombined oxygen in the hot exhaust gases. **2.** A device for burning or chemically altering unburned or partially burned carbon compounds in exhaust gases.

af·ter·care (ăf′tər-kâr′) *n.* Treatment or special care given to convalescent patients, esp. after undergoing surgery.

af·ter·clap (ăf′tər-klăp′) *n.* An unexpected, often unpleasant sequel to a matter that had been considered closed.

af·ter·damp (ăf′tər-dămp′) *n.* An asphyxiating mixture of gases, primarily nitrogen and carbon dioxide, left in a mine after a fire or explosion.

af·ter·deck (ăf′tər-dĕk′) *n. Naut.* The part of a ship's deck past amidships toward the stern.

af·ter·ef·fect (ăf′tĭr-ĭ-fĕkt′) *n.* An effect following its cause after some delay, esp. a delayed or prolonged physiological or psychological response to a stimulus.

af·ter·glow (ăf′tər-glō′) *n.* **1.** The light emitted or remaining after removal of a source of illumination, esp.: **a.** The atmospheric glow after sunset. **b.** The glow of an incandescent metal as it cools. **c.** Emission from a phosphor after removal of excitation. **2.** The comfortable feeling following a pleasant experience. **3.** A lingering impression of past brilliance.

af·ter-hours (ăf′tər-ourz′) *adj.* **1.** Occurring after closing time: *after-hours drinking.* **2.** Open after a legal or established closing time: *an after-hours club.*

com·mon·place (kŏm′ən-plās′) *adj.* Not remarkable; ordinary. —*n.* **1. a.** A trite or obvious remark; platitude. **b.** Something that is ordinary or common. **2.** *Archaic.* A passage marked for reference or entered in a commonplace book. [Transl. of Lat. *locus communis,* generally applicable theme, transl. of Gk. *koinos topos.*]

commonplace book *n.* A personal journal in which quotable passages, literary excerpts, and comments are written.

common pleas *n.* A court of common pleas (sense 1).

common salt *n.* **1.** Salt. **2.** Sodium chloride. **3.** Table salt (sense 1).

common school *n.* A public elementary school.

common sense *n.* Native good judgment. [Transl. of Lat. *sensus communis,* common feelings of humanity.]

common stock *n.* Ordinary capital shares of a corporation that have exclusive residual claim on the net assets and net income of the corporation after all prior claims have been paid.

common time *n. Mus.* A meter with four quarter notes to the measure.

com·mon·weal (kŏm′ən-wēl′) *n.* **1.** The public good or welfare. **2.** *Archaic.* A commonwealth.

com·mon·wealth (kŏm′ən-wĕlth′) *n.* **1.** The people of a nation or state; body politic. **2.** A nation or state governed by the people; republic. **3. Commonwealth. a.** The official title of some U.S. states, including Kentucky, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. **b.** The official title of Puerto Rico, indicating its special status as a self-governing, autonomous political unit voluntarily associated with the United States. **4.** *Archaic.* Commonweal (sense 1). [ME *commune welthe* : *commune,* common + *welthe,* well-being. —see WEALTH.]

com·mo·tion (kə-mō′shən) *n.* **1.** A condition of turbulent motion. **2.** Civil disturbance or insurrection; disorder. **3.** An agitated disturbance; hubbub: *heard a commotion in the hall.* [ME *commocioun* < Lat. *commotio* < *commovēre,* to disturb : *com-* (intensive) + *movēre,* to move.] —**com·mo′tion·al** *adj.*

com·move (kə-mōōv′) *tr.v.* **-moved, -mov·ing, -moves.** To agitate; disturb. [ME *commeven* < OFr. *commovoir* < Lat. *commovere.* —see COMMOTION.]

com·mu·nal (kə-myōō′nəl, kŏm′yə-) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a commune. **2.** Of or pertaining to a community. **3. a.** Of or belonging to the people of a community; public. **b.** Marked by collective ownership and control of goods and property. [Fr. < LLat. *communalis* < Lat. *communis,* common.] —**com′mu·nal′i·ty** (kŏm′yə-năl′ĭ-tē) *n.* —**com·mu′nal·ly** *adv.*

com·mu·nal·ism (kə-myōō′nə-lĭz′əm, kŏm′yə-nə-) *n.* **1.** A theory or system of government in which virtually autonomous local communities are loosely bound in a federation. **2.** Belief in or practice of communal ownership, as of goods and property. **3.** Strong devotion to the interests of one's own ethnic group rather than those of society as a whole. —**com·mu′nal·ist** *n.* —**com′mu·nal·is′tic** *adj.*

com·mu·nal·ize (kə-myōō′nə-līz′, kŏm′yə-nə-) *tr.v.* **-ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es.** To convert into communal property.

Com·mu·nard (kŏm′yə-närd′) *n.* **1.** A member or advocate of the Commune of Paris of 1871. **2. communard.** One that lives in a commune. [Fr. < *commune,* division. —see COMMUNE².]

com·mune¹ (kə-myōōn′) *intr.v.* **-muned, -mun·ing, -munes. 1. a.** To converse intimately; exchange thoughts and feelings. **b.** To be in accord: *communing with nature.* **2.** To receive the Eucharist. [ME *communen* < OFr. *communier* < *commune,* common.]

com·mune² (kŏm′yōōn′, kə-myōōn′) *n.* **1.** The smallest local political division of various European countries, governed by a mayor and municipal council. **2. a.** A local community organized with a government for promoting local interests. **b.** A municipal corporation in the Middle Ages. **3. a.** A small, often rural community whose members have common interests and in which property is shared or owned jointly. **b.** The people of a commune. [Fr. < Med. Lat. *communia,* community < Lat. *communis,* common.]

com·mu·ni·ca·ble (kə-myōō′nĭ-kə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being communicated or transmitted: *communicable diseases.* **2.** Talkative. —**com·mu′ni·ca·bil′i·ty, com·mu′ni·ca·ble·ness** *n.* —**com·mu′ni·ca·bly** *adv.*

com·mu·ni·cant (kə-myōō′nĭ-kənt) *n.* **1.** A person who receives or is entitled to receive Communion. **2.** A person who communicates. —*adj.* Communicating.

com·mu·ni·cate (kə-myōō′nĭ-kāt′) *v.* **-cat·ed, -cat·ing, -cates.** —*tr.* **1. a.** To make known; impart: *communicate information.* **b.** To display; manifest. **2.** To spread to others; transmit (a disease, for example): *a carrier who communicated typhus.* —*intr.* **1.** To have an interchange, as of ideas. **2.** To express oneself in such a way that one is readily and clearly understood. **3.** To receive Communion. **4.** To be connected: *apartments that communicate.* [Lat. *communicare, communicat-* < *communis,* common.] —**com·mu′ni·ca′tor** *n.*

Usage: The newer intransitive sense denoting effective self-expression is now well established. Thus: *A fund of knowledge is secondary to a teacher's ability to communicate.* This example is acceptable to a majority of the Usage Panel.

com·mu·ni·ca·tion (kə-myōō′nĭ-kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of communicating; transmission. **2.** The exchange of thoughts, messages, or information, as by speech, signals, or writing. **3.** Something communicated; message. **4. communications.** A means of communicating, esp.: **a.** A system for sending and receiving messages, such as mail, telephone, or television. **b.** A network of routes for sending messages and transporting troops and supplies. **5. communications.** The art and technology of communicating. —**com·mu′ni·ca′tion·al** *adj.*

communications satellite *n.* An artificial satellite used to aid communications, as by reflecting or relaying a radio signal.

com·mu·ni·ca·tive (kə-myōō′nĭ-kā′tĭv, -kə-tĭv) *adj.* **1.** Inclined to communicate readily; talkative. **2.** Of or pertaining to communication. —**com·mu′ni·ca′tive·ly** *adv.* —**com·mu′ni·ca′tive·ness** *n.*

com·mun·ion (kə-myōōn′yən) *n.* **1.** An act or instance of sharing, as of thoughts or feelings. **2.** A religious or spiritual fellowship. **3.** A body of Christians with a common religious faith who practice the same rites; denomination. **4. Communion. a.** The Christian sacrament in which consecrated bread and wine are partaken of in celebration of Christ's Last Supper. **b.** The consecrated elements of this sacrament. **c.** The part of the Mass or a liturgy in which this sacrament is received. [ME *communioun,* Christian fellowship, Eucharist < LLat. *communio,* Eucharist < Lat., mutual participation < *communis,* common.]

com·mu·ni·qué (kə-myōō′nĭ-kā′, -myōō′nĭ-kā′) *n.* An official announcement. [Fr. < *commiquer,* to announce < Lat. *communicare,* to communicate.]

com·mu·nism (kŏm′yə-nĭz′əm) *n.* **1.** A social system characterized by the common ownership of the means of production and subsistence and by the organization of labor for the common advantage of all members. **2. a.** A system of government in which the state controls the means of production and a single, often authoritarian party holds power with the intention of establishing a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people. **b.** The Marxist-Leninist version of Communist doctrine that is the basis for the system of government in the Soviet Union. [Fr. *communisme* < *commun,* common < OFr. *commune.*]

Com·mu·nist (kŏm′yə-nĭst) *n.* **1. a.** A member of a Marxist-Leninist party. **b.** A supporter of such a party or movement. **2. communist.** A communalist. **3.** A Communard. **4.** Often **communist.** A radical viewed as a subversive or revolutionary. —*adj.* Also **communist.** Pertaining to, characteristic of, or resembling communism or Communists.

com·mu·nis·tic (kŏm′yə-nĭs′tĭk) *adj.* Of, characteristic of, or inclined to communism. —**com′mu·nis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

Communist Party *n.* A Marxist-Leninist party, usually one originally belonging to the Third International.

com·mu·ni·tar·i·an (kə-myōō′nĭ-târ′ē-ən) *n.* A member or supporter of a communistic community.

com·mu·ni·ty (kə-myōō′nĭ-tē) *n., pl.* **-ties. 1. a.** A group of people living in the same locality and under the same government. **b.** The district or locality in which such a group lives: *a small rural community.* **2.** A group or class having common interests: *the scientific community.* **3.** Similarity or identity: *a community of interests.* **4.** Society as a whole; the public. **5.** *Ecol.* **a.** A group of plants and animals living in a specific region under relatively similar conditions. **b.** The region in which they live. **6.** Common possession or participation. [ME *communite,* citizenry < OFr. *communite* < Lat. *communitas,* fellowship < *communis,* common.]

community antenna television *n.* Cable television.

community center *n.* A meeting place used by members of a community for social, cultural, or recreational purposes.

community chest *n.* A welfare fund financed by private contributions for aiding various charitable organizations.

community college *n.* A junior college without residential facilities that is often government-funded.

community property *n.* Property owned jointly by a husband and wife.

com·mu·nize (kŏm′yə-nīz′) *tr.v.* **-nized, -niz·ing, -niz·es. 1.** To subject to public ownership or control. **2.** To convert to Communist principles or control. [< Lat. *communis,* common.] —**com′mu·ni·za′tion** *n.*

com·mut·a·ble (kə-myōō′tə-bəl) *adj.* Capable of being commuted; interchangeable. —**com·mut′a·bil′i·ty** *n.*

com·mu·tate (kŏm′yə-tāt′) *tr.v.* **-tat·ed, -tat·ing, -tates.** To reverse the direction of (an alternating electric current) each half-cycle to produce a unidirectional current. [Back-formation < COMMUTATION.]

com·mu·ta·tion (kŏm′yə-tā′shən) *n.* **1.** A substitution, exchange, or interchange. **2. a.** The substitution of one kind of payment for another. **b.** The payment substituted. **3.** The travel of a commuter. **4.** *Elect.* **a.** The conversion of alternating to unidirectional current. **b.** The reversing of current direction. **5.** *Law.* A reduction of a penalty to a less severe one. [ME *communtacioun* < Lat. *commutatio* < *commutare,* to commute.]

commutation ticket *n.* A ticket issued at a reduced rate by a railroad, bus, or other transportation company for passage over a given route for a specified number of trips.

com·mu·ta·tive (kŏm′yə-tā′tĭv, kə-myōō′tə-tĭv) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to, involving, or characterized by substitution, interchange, or exchange. **2.** Independent of order. Used of a

orum edition of Keats. **b.** One closely similar to an original; version: *The boy was a smaller edition of his father.* **3.** All the copies of a single press run of a newspaper: *the morning edition.* [OFr. < Lat. *editio,* publication < *edere,* to publish : *ex-,* out + *dare,* to give.]

ed·i·tor (ĕd′ĭ-tər) *n.* **1.** A person who edits, esp. as an occupation. **2.** One who writes editorials. **3.** A device for editing film, consisting basically of a splicer and viewer. **4.** *Computer Sci.* A routine that performs editing functions. [LLat., publisher < Lat. *edere,* to publish. —see EDITION.]

ed·i·to·ri·al (ĕd′ĭ-tôr′ē-əl, -tōr′-) *n.* **1.** An article in a publication expressing the opinion of its editors or publishers. **2.** A commentary on radio or television expressing the opinion of the station or network. —*adj.* **1.** Of, concerning, or relating to an editor. **2.** Of the nature of an editorial. **—ed′i·to′ri·al·ly** *adv.*

ed·i·to·ri·al·ize (ĕd′ĭ-tôr′ē-ə-līz′, -tōr′-) *intr.v.* **-ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es. 1.** To express an opinion in or as if in an editorial. **2.** To present an opinion in the guise of an objective report. **—ed′i·to′ri·al·i·za′tion** *n.* **—ed′i·to′ri·al·i′zer** *n.*

editor in chief *n., pl.* **editors in chief.** The editor having final responsibility for the operations and policies of a publication.

ed·i·tor·ship (ĕd′ĭ-tər-shĭp′) *n.* The position, functions, or guidance of an editor.

E·dom·ite (ē′də-mīt′) *n.* A member of a Semitic people inhabiting an area southeast of the Dead Sea in ancient times. [After *Edom,* a region of ancient Palestine.] **—E′dom·it′ish** *adj.*

EDTA (ē′dē-tē-ā′) *n.* A crystalline acid, $C_{10}H_{16}N_2O_8$, used as a chelating agent. [Abbr. of *ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid.*]

ed·u·ca·ble (ĕj′ə-kə-bəl) *adj.* Capable of being educated. [EDUC(ATE) + -ABLE.]

ed·u·cate (ĕj′ə-kāt′) *v.* **-cat·ed, -cat·ing, -cates.** —*tr.* **1.** To provide with knowledge or training, esp. through formal schooling; teach. **2.** To provide with training for some particular purpose: *educated him for the priesthood.* **3.** To provide with information; inform. **4.** To stimulate or develop the mental or moral growth of. —*intr.* To teach or instruct a person or group. [ME *educaten* < Lat. *educare.*]

ed·u·cat·ed (ĕj′ə-kā′tĭd) *adj.* **1.** Having an education, esp. one above the average. **2. a.** Showing evidence of schooling or instruction. **b.** Cultivated; cultured. **3.** Based on experience and some factual knowledge: *an educated guess.*

ed·u·ca·tion (ĕj′ə-kā′shən) *n.* **1. a.** The act or process of educating or being educated. **2.** The knowledge or skill obtained or developed by a learning process. **3.** The field of study that is concerned with teaching and learning pedagogy.

ed·u·ca·tion·al (ĕj′ə-kā′shən-əl) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to education. **2.** Serving to educate; instructive: *an educational film.* **—ed′u·ca′tion·al·ly** *adv.*

educational television *n.* **1.** Public television. **2.** A video system that provides instructional material.

ed·u·ca·tive (ĕj′ə-kā′tĭv) *adj.* Educational.

ed·u·ca·tor (ĕj′ə-kā′tər) *n.* **1.** One trained in teaching; teacher. **2.** A specialist in the theory and practice of education.

e·duce (ĭ-dōōs′, ĭ-dyōōs′) *tr.v.* **e·duced, e·duc·ing, e·duc·es. 1.** To draw or bring out; elicit. **2.** To assume or work out from given facts; deduce. [Lat. *educere* : *ex-,* out + *ducere,* to lead.] **—e·duc′i·ble** *adj.* **—e·duc′tion** (ĭ-dŭk′shən) *n.*

Ed·ward·i·an (ĕd-wôr′dē-ən, -wär′-) *adj.* Of, relating to, or characteristic of the reign of Edward VII of England, during whose reign the styles and views were opulent, elegant, ornate, and refined.

-ee[1] *suff.* **1. a.** One that receives or benefits from a specified action: *addressee.* **b.** One that possesses a specified thing: *mortgagee.* **2.** One that performs a specified action: *absentee.* [ME *-e* < OFr. < Lat. *-atus,* -ate.]

Usage: The suffix *-ee* has generally been used to indicate a person to whom something has been done or upon whom some right has been conferred: *appointee, grantee.* It has come to be used also with reference to a person in a specified condition (*absentee, refugee, amputee*) or even a person performing some action (*escapee, standee*). The Usage Panel accepts the use of *standee* and *escapee* in speech and is about evenly divided on their acceptability in writing. Less well established coinages, such as *returnee,* are best avoided.

-ee[2] *suff.* **1. a.** One resembling: *goatee.* **b.** A particular kind of: *bootee.* Used often as a diminutive. **2.** One connected with: *bargee.* [Alteration of -Y[1].]

eel (ēl) *n., pl.* **eel** or **eels. 1.** Any of various long, snakelike marine or freshwater fishes of the order Anguilliformes or Apodes, esp. *Anguilla rostrata,* of eastern North America, or *A. anguilla,* of Europe, characteristically migrating from fresh water to the Sargasso Sea to spawn. **2.** Any of several fishes similar or related to the eel. [ME *ele* < OE *æl.*]

eel·grass (ēl′grăs′) *n.* **1.** Any of several submerged aquatic plants of the genus *Zostera,* growing along the North Atlantic coast and having narrow, grasslike leaves. **2.** Any of several similar or related plants, such as tape grass.

eel·pout (ēl′pout′) *n., pl.* **eelpout** or **-pouts.** Any of various marine fishes of the family Zoarcidae, having an elongated body and a large head. [ME **elepout* < OE *æle-puta.*]

eel·worm (ēl′wûrm′) *n.* Any of various, often parasitic nematode worms, such as the vinegar eel.

e'en[1] (ēn) *n.* Evening.

e'en[2] (ēn) *adv.* Even.

-eer *suff.* One associated with, concerned with, or engaged in: *balladeer.* [OFr. *-ier* < Lat. *-arius,* -ary.]

e'er (âr) *adv.* Ever.

ee·rie or **ee·ry** (îr′ē) *adj.* **-ri·er, -ri·est. 1. a.** Inspiring fear or dread; weird. **b.** Supernatural in aspect or character; mysterious. **2.** *Scot.* Frightened or intimidated by superstition. [ME *eri,* fearful < OE *earg,* cowardly.] **—ee′ri·ness** *n.*

ef (ĕf) *n.* The letter *f.*

ef·face (ĭ-fās′) *tr.v.* **-faced, -fac·ing, -fac·es. 1.** To erase or make indistinct by or as if by rubbing; wipe out. **2.** To conduct (oneself) inconspicuously. [Fr. *effacer* < OFr. : Lat. *ex-,* out + Lat. *facies,* face.] **—ef·face′a·ble** *adj.* **—ef·face′ment** *n.* **—ef·fac′er** *n.*

ef·fect (ĭ-fĕkt′) *n.* **1.** Something brought about by a cause or agent; result. **2.** The way in which something acts upon or influences an object: *the effect of a drug on the nervous system.* **3.** The power or capacity to achieve the desired result; influence. **4.** The condition of being in full force or execution: *goes into effect tomorrow.* **5. a.** Something that produces a specific impression or supports a general design or intention: *sound effects.* **b.** A particular impression: *an effect of spaciousness.* **c.** The production of a particular impression: *She cries just for effect.* **6. a.** The basic meaning. **b.** Intention; purport. **7. effects.** Movable goods; property. —*tr.v.* **-fect·ed, -fect·ing, -fects. 1.** To produce as a result; bring into existence. **2.** To bring about. —*idioms.* **in effect. 1.** In fact; actually. **2.** In essence; virtually. **3.** In active force; in operation. **take effect.** To become operative. —See Usage note at **affect**[1]. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *effectus,* p.part. of *efficere,* to accomplish : *ex-,* out + *facere,* to make.] **—ef·fect′er** *n.* **—ef·fect′i·ble** *adj.*

Synonyms: *effect, consequence, result, outcome, upshot, sequel, consummation.* These nouns denote occurrences, situations, or conditions that are traceable to something antecedent. An *effect* is that which is produced by the action of an agent or cause and follows it in time, either immediately or shortly. A *consequence* also follows the action of an agent and is traceable to it, but the relationship between them is less sharply definable and less immediate than that between a cause and its effect. A *result* is an effect, or the last in a series of effects, that follows a cause and that is viewed as the end product of the operation of the cause. An *outcome* is a result that has clear definition; the term is even stronger than *result* in implying finality, and may suggest operation of a cause over a relatively long period. An *upshot* is a decisive result, often arrived at abruptly or in the nature of a climax. A *sequel* is a logical but relatively long-range consequence of an antecedent action. *Consummation* refers to the final, decisive stage of an action directed toward achievement of a specific end.

ef·fec·tive (ĭ-fĕk′tĭv) *adj.* **1.** Having an intended or expected effect. **2.** Producing or designed to produce the desired impression or response: *an effective speech.* **3.** Operative; in effect: *The law is effective immediately.* **4.** Existing in fact; actual: *a decline in the effective demand.* **5.** Prepared for use or action, esp. in warfare. —*n.* A soldier or a piece of military equipment that is ready for combat. **—ef·fec′tive·ly** *adv.* **—ef·fec′tive·ness, ef·fec·tĭ′vĭ·ty** *n.*

ef·fec·tor (ĭ-fĕk′tər) *n.* **1.** An organ at the end of a nerve that activates either gland secretion or muscular contraction. **2.** *Computer Sci.* A device used to produce a desired change in an object in response to input.

ef·fec·tu·al (ĭ-fĕk′chōō-əl) *adj.* Producing or sufficient to produce a desired effect; fully adequate. **—ef·fec′tu·al′i·ty, ef·fec′tu·al·ness** *n.* **—ef·fec′tu·al·ly** *adv.*

ef·fec·tu·ate (ĭ-fĕk′chōō-āt′) *tr.v.* **-at·ed, -at·ing, -ates.** To bring about; effect. [Med. Lat. *effectuare* < Lat. *efficere.* —see EFFECT.] **—ef·fec′tu·a′tion** *n.*

ef·fem·i·na·cy (ĭ-fĕm′ə-nə-sē) *n.* The quality or condition of being effeminate.

ef·fem·i·nate (ĭ-fĕm′ə-nĭt) *adj.* **1.** Having qualities or characteristics more often associated with women than men; unmanly. **2.** Characterized by weakness and excessive refinement. [ME *effeminat* < Lat. *effeminatus,* p.part. of *effeminare,* to make feminine : *ex,* from + *femina,* woman.] **—ef·fem′i·nate** *n.* **—ef·fem′i·nate·ly** *adv.* **—ef·fem′i·nate·ness** *n.*

ef·fen·di (ĭ-fĕn′dē) *n.* Sir. Used as a title of respect in Turkey. [Turk. *efendi* < Mod. Gk. *aphentēs,* master, alteration of Gk. *authentēs,* master.]

ef·fer·ent (ĕf′ər-ənt) *adj.* **1.** Directed away from a central organ or section. **2.** Carrying impulses from the central nervous system to an effector. [Fr. *efférent* < Lat. *efferens,* pr.part. of *efferre,* to carry off : *ex,* away + *ferre,* to carry.] **—ef′fer·ent** *n.* **—ef′fer·ent·ly** *adv.*

ef·fer·vesce (ĕf′ər-vĕs′) *intr.v.* **-vesced, -vesc·ing, -vesc·es. 1.** To emit small bubbles as gas comes out of a liquid. **2.** To show high spirits or vivacity. [Lat. *effervescere* : *ex-* (intensive) + *fervescere,* to start boiling < *fervēre,* to boil.] **—ef′-**

eel

associations is encouraged in order to elicit repressed thoughts and emotions.

free·bie also **free·bee** (frē′bē) *n. Slang.* Something given or received gratis: *"such freebies as subway and bus maps"* (New York Magazine). [< FREE.]

free·board (frē′bôrd′, -bōrd′) *n.* **1.** *Naut.* The distance between the water line and the uppermost full deck. **2.** The distance between the ground and the undercarriage of an automobile.

freeboard deck *n.* The uppermost deck that is officially considered completely watertight.

free·boot (frē′bo͞ot′) *intr.v.* **-boot·ed, -boot·ing, -boots.** To act as a freebooter; plunder. [Back-formation < FREEBOOTER.]

free·boot·er (frē′bo͞o′tər) *n.* A person who pillages and plunders, esp. a pirate. [Du. *vrijbuiter* < *vrijbuit,* plunder : *vrij,* free + *buit,* booty.]

free·born (frē′bôrn′) *adj.* **1.** Born as a free person. **2.** Pertaining to or befitting a person born free.

free city *n.* A city governed as an autonomous political unit under international auspices.

freed·man (frēd′mən) *n.* A man who has been freed from bondage.

free·dom (frē′dəm) *n.* **1.** The condition of being free of restraints. **2.** Liberty of the person from slavery, oppression, or incarceration. **3. a.** Political independence. **b.** Possession of civil rights; immunity from the arbitrary exercise of authority. **4.** Exemption from unpleasant or onerous conditions: *freedom from unfair labor practices.* **5.** The capacity to exercise choice; free will: *has the freedom to do as he wishes.* **6.** Ease or facility of movement. **7.** Frankness or boldness; lack of modesty or reserve: *the new freedom in movies and novels.* **8. a.** Unrestricted use or access: *was given the freedom of their research facilities.* **b.** The right of enjoying all of the privileges of membership or citizenship: *the freedom of the city.* [ME *fredom* < OE *frēodom.*]

Synonyms: *freedom, liberty, license.* These nouns refer to the power to act, speak, or think without the imposition of restraint. *Freedom* is the most general term and preferable when total absence of restraint or lack of restraint in general is meant. *Liberty* applies especially to individual rights defined by law and thus suggests absence of specific restrictions. However, *freedom* is sometimes also used in the narrower sense associated with individual rights. *License* in one sense denotes abuse of freedom; in another it refers to exemption from prevailing rules, granted in special cases.

freedom of the seas *n.* **1.** The doctrine that ships of any nation may travel through international waters unhampered. **2.** The right of neutral shipping in wartime to trade at will except where blockades are established.

freed·wom·an (frēd′wo͝om′ən) *n.* A woman who has been freed from bondage.

free electron *n.* An electron that is not bound to an atom, esp. an electron in a conductor that is available to move in a current.

free energy *n.* **1.** A thermodynamic quantity that is the difference between the internal energy and the product of the absolute temperature and entropy of a system. **2.** A thermodynamic quantity that is the difference between the enthalpy and the product of the absolute temperature and entropy of a system.

free enterprise *n.* The freedom of private businesses to operate competitively for profit with minimal government regulation.

free fall *n.* **1.** The fall of a body within the atmosphere without a drag-producing device such as a parachute. **2.** The unconstrained motion of a body in a gravitational field.

free flight *n.* Flight, as of an aircraft or spacecraft, after termination of powered flight.

free-float·ing (frē′flō′tĭng) *adj.* **1.** Not committed or decided. **2.** Experienced without an obvious basis or cause: *free-floating anxiety.*

free-for-all (frē′fər-ôl′) *n.* A brawl, argument, or competition in which one and all take part.

free·form (frē′fôrm′) *adj.* Designating a usually flowing asymmetric shape or outline free of formal conventions.

free form *n. Ling.* A morpheme capable of standing alone and retaining meaning.

free·hand (frē′hănd′) *adj.* Drawn by hand without the aid of tracing or drafting devices: *a freehand sketch.* —**free′hand′** *adv.*

free hand *n.* Freedom to do or decide as one sees fit.

free·hand·ed (frē′hăn′dĭd) *adj.* Openhanded; generous. —**free′hand′ed·ly** *adv.* —**free′hand′ed·ness** *n.*

free·heart·ed (frē′här′tĭd) *adj.* **1.** Unreserved; open. **2.** Generous; liberal. —**free′heart′ed·ly** *adv.* —**free′heart′ed·ness** *n.*

free·hold (frē′hōld′) *n.* **1.** *Law.* **a.** An estate held in fee or for life. **b.** The tenure by which such an estate is held. **2.** A tenure of an office or a dignity for life. [ME *frehold,* transl. of Norman Fr. *fraunc tenement.*] —**free′hold′er** *n.*

free lance *n.* **1.** A person, esp. a writer or an artist, who sells his services to employers without a long-term commitment to any one of them. **2.** One who remains uncommitted to a party and proceeds as an independent. **3.** A medieval mercenary.

free-lance (frē′lăns′) *intr. & tr.v.* **-lanced, -lanc·ing, -lanc·es.** To work as or produce and sell as a free lance. —*adj.* Of, pertaining to, or produced by a free lance. —**free′-lanc′er** *n.*

free-liv·ing (frē′lĭv′ĭng) *adj.* **1.** Given to self-indulgence. **2.** *Biol.* Living or moving independently; not part of a parasitic or symbiotic relationship.

free·load (frē′lōd′) *intr.v.* **-load·ed, -load·ing, -loads.** *Slang.* To take advantage of the charity, generosity, or hospitality of others. —**free′load′er** *n.*

free love *n.* The belief in or practice of sexual relations without marriage and without formal obligations.

free·man (frē′mən) *n.* **1.** A person not in slavery or serfdom. **2.** One who possesses the rights or privileges of a citizen.

free·mar·tin (frē′mär′tn) *n.* A sterile or otherwise sexually deficient female calf born as the twin of a bull calf. [Orig. unknown.]

free·ma·son (frē′mā′sən) *n.* **1.** A member of a guild of skilled, itinerant masons of the Middle Ages. **2. Freemason.** A member of the Free and Accepted Masons, an international secret fraternity.

free·ma·son·ry (frē′mā′sən-rē) *n.* **1.** Spontaneous fellowship and sympathy among a number of people. **2. Freemasonry.** The institutions, precepts, and rites of the Freemasons.

free on board *adj. & adv.* Without fee for delivery on board or into a carrier at a specified point or location.

free port *n.* A port or an area of a port in which imported goods can be held or processed free of customs duties before re-export.

fre·er (frē′ər) *adj.* Comparative of **free.**

free radical *n.* An atom or group of atoms having at least one unpaired electron.

free rein *n.* Unlimited freedom to act or make decisions.

free ride *n.* Something acquired without the ordinary effort or cost. —**free rider** *n.*

free·sia (frē′zhə, -zhē-ə, -zē-ə) *n.* Any of several plants of the genus *Freesia,* native to southern Africa, having one-sided clusters of fragrant, variously colored flowers. [NLat., after Friedrich H. T. *Freese* (d. 1876).]



freesia

free silver *n.* The free coinage of silver, esp. at a fixed ratio to gold.

free soil *n.* U.S. territory in which slavery was prohibited before the Civil War.

free-soil (frē′soil′) *adj.* **1.** Prohibiting slavery: *free-soil states.* **2. a.** Opposing the extension of slavery prior to the U.S. Civil War. **b. Free-Soil.** Pertaining to or designating a U.S. political party founded in 1848 to oppose the extension of slavery into U.S. Territories and the admission of slave states into the Union.

free-spo·ken (frē′spō′kən) *adj.* Candid in expression; outspoken. —**free′-spo′ken·ness** *n.*

fre·est (frē′ĭst) *adj.* Superlative of **free.**

free-stand·ing (frē′stăn′dĭng) *adj.* Standing independently free of support or attachment.

free·stone (frē′stōn′) *n.* **1.** A stone, such as limestone, soft enough to be cut easily without shattering or splitting. **2.** A fruit, esp. a peach, having a stone that does not adhere to the pulp.

free·style (frē′stīl′) *n.* A competitive event, as swimming, in which the contestant may choose his own style.

free-swim·ming (frē′swĭm′ĭng) *adj.* Able to swim freely; not sessile or attached: *the free-swimming larva of the oyster.* —**free′-swim′mer** *n.*

free·think·er (frē′thĭng′kər) *n.* One who has rejected authority and dogma, esp. in his religious thinking, in favor of rational inquiry and speculation. —**free′think′ing** *adj. & n.*

free thought *n.* Freethinking; unorthodox thought.

free throw *n. Basketball.* A foul shot.

free-throw line (frē′thrō′) *n. Basketball.* The foul line (sense 2).

free trade *n.* Trade between nations or states without protective customs tariffs. —**free trader** *n.*

free university *n.* An independent unaccredited organization set up by students within a university for the study of nontraditional subjects.

free verse *n.* Verse that does not follow a conventional metrical or stanzaic pattern and has either an irregular rhyme or no rhyme. [Trans. of Fr. *vers libre.*]

free·way (frē′wā′) *n.* **1.** A highway with several lanes and no intersections or stoplights; expressway. **2.** A highway without tolls.

free·wheel (frē′hwēl′, -wēl′) *intr.v.* **-wheeled, -wheel·ing, -wheels.** To live or move freely, aimlessly, or irresponsibly.

free wheel *n.* **1.** An automotive transmission device that allows the drive shaft to continue turning when its speed is greater than that of the engine shaft. **2.** A device in the rear-wheel hub of a bicycle that permits the wheel to turn without pedal action, as in coasting.

free·wheel·ing (frē′hwē′lĭng, -wē′-) *adj.* **1.** Pertaining to or equipped with free wheel. **2.** *Informal.* **a.** Free of restraints or rules in organization, methods, or procedure. **b.** Heedless of consequences; carefree.

free-will (frē′wĭl′) *adj.* Done of one's own accord; voluntary.

free will *n.* **1.** The ability or discretion to choose; free choice. **2.** The power, attributed esp. to human beings, of making free choices that are unconstrained by external circumstances or by necessity. [Transl. of LLat. *liberum arbitrium.*]

free world *n.* The portion of the world marked by demo-

han·dle (hăn′dl) *v.* **-dled, -dling, -dles.** —*tr.* **1.** To touch, lift, or hold with the hands. **2.** To operate with the hands; manipulate. **3.** To deal with or have responsibility for; conduct: *handle corporation law.* **4. a.** To direct, execute, or dispose of: *handle an investment.* **b.** To manage, administer to, or represent: *handle a boxer.* **5.** To confront or cope with: *handle a crowd; handle a problem.* **6.** To deal or trade in the purchase or sale of: *the branch office that handles grain exports.* —*intr.* To act or function under operation: *a car that handles well in the snow.* —*n.* **1.** A part that is designed to be held or operated with the hand. **2.** An opportunity or means for achieving a purpose. **3.** *Slang.* A person's name. **4.** The total amount of money bet on an event or over a set period of time. [ME *handelen* < OE *handlian.*]

han·dle·bar (hăn′dl-bär′) *n.* Often **handlebars.** A curved metal steering bar, as on a bicycle.

handlebar mustache *n.* A long, curved mustache resembling a handlebar.



handlebar mustache

han·dler (hănd′lər) *n.* **1.** One that handles something. **2.** *Sports.* **a.** A person who trains or exhibits an animal, such as a dog. **b.** A person who acts as the trainer or second of a boxer.

han·dling (hănd′lĭng) *n.* **1.** The act or an instance of one that handles something. **2.** The way in which a matter, esp. a delicate one, is taken care of. **3.** The way in which a presentation, esp. an artistic or theatrical work, is treated.

hand-made (hănd′mād′) *adj.* Made or prepared by hand rather than by machine.

hand·maid (hănd′mād′) also **hand·maid·en** (-mād′n) *n.* **1.** A female servant or attendant. **2.** Something that serves as an aid.

hand-me-down (hănd′mē-doun′) *adj.* **1.** Handed down to one person after being used and discarded by another. **2.** Of inferior quality; shabby. —*n.* Something passed on from one person to another.

hand-off (hănd′ôf′, -ŏf′) *n. Football.* A play in which one player hands the ball to another.

hand organ *n.* A barrel organ operated by turning a crank.

hand·out (hănd′out′) *n.* **1.** Food, clothing, or money given to a beggar. **2.** A folder or leaflet circulated free of charge. **3.** A prepared news or publicity release.

hand-pick (hănd′pĭk′) *tr.v.* **-picked, -pick·ing, -picks. 1.** To gather or pick by hand. **2.** To select personally. —**hand′-picked′** *adj.*

hand·print (hănd′prĭnt′) *n.* An outline or an indentation left by a hand on a surface.

hand puppet *n.* A puppet (sense 2).

hand·rail (hănd′rāl′) *n.* A narrow rail to be grasped with the hand for support.

hand·saw (hănd′sô′) *n.* A small saw operated by hand.

hand's-breadth or **hand's breadth** (hăndz′brĕdth′) *n.* Variant of **handbreadth.**

hand·sel (hănd′səl) also **han·sel** (hăn′-) *Chiefly Brit.* —*n.* **1.** A gift to express good wishes at the beginning of a new year or enterprise. **2.** The first money or barter taken in, as by a new business or on the opening day of business, esp. when considered a token of good luck. **3. a.** A first payment; earnest money. **b.** A specimen or foretaste of what is to come. —*tr.v.* **-seled, -sel·ing, -sels** or **-selled, -sel·ling, -sels. 1.** To give a handsel to. **2.** To launch with a ceremonial gesture or gift. **3.** To do or use for the first time. [ME *hanselle* < OE *handselen* and ON *handsal,* transfer.]



hand organ

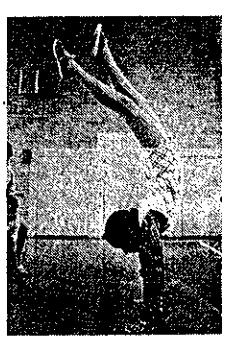
hand·set (hănd′sĕt′) *n.* A portable telephone transmitter and receiver module.

hand·shake (hănd′shāk′) *n.* The grasping of right hands by two people as in greeting or leave-taking.

hands-off (hăndz′ôf′, -ŏf′) *adj.* Characterized by nonintervention: *a hands-off foreign policy.*

hand·some (hăn′səm) *adj.* **-som·er, -som·est. 1.** Pleasing and dignified in form or appearance. **2.** Generous or copious: *a handsome reward.* **3.** Marked by or requiring skill or dexterity: *did some handsome maneuvers on the skating rink.* **4.** Appropriate or fitting. **5.** Moderately large. [ME *handsom,* handy.] —**hand′some·ly** *adv.* —**hand′some·ness** *n.*

hands-on (hăndz′ŏn′, -ôn′) *adj.* Involving active participation; applied, as opposed to theoretical: *"We're involved in hands-on operations, pulling levers, pushing buttons"* (Arthur R. Taylor).



handstand

hand·spike (hănd′spīk′) *n.* A bar used as a lever.

hand·spring (hănd′sprĭng′) *n.* A gymnastic feat in which the body is flipped completely forward or backward from an upright position, landing first on the hands, then on the feet.

hand·stand (hănd′stănd′) *n.* The act of balancing on the hands with one's feet in the air.

hand-to-hand (hănd′tə-hănd′) *adj.* Being at close quarters.

hand-to-mouth (hănd′tə-mouth′) *adj.* Having or providing only the bare essentials.

hand·work (hănd′wûrk′) *n.* Work done by hand rather than by machine.

hand·wo·ven (hănd′wō′vən) *adj.* **1.** Woven on a hand-operated loom: *handwoven rugs.* **2.** Woven by hand: *handwoven baskets.*

hand·writ·ing (hănd′rī′tĭng) *n.* **1.** Writing done with the hand. **2.** The writing characteristic of a particular person.

hand·y (hăn′dē) *adj.* **-i·er, -i·est. 1.** Skillful in using one's hands, esp. in a variety of ways. **2.** Readily accessible. **3.** Useful; convenient: *a handy gadget.* **4.** Easy to use or handle: *a handy reference book.* [< HAND.] —**hand′i·ness** *n.*

hand·y·man also **handy man** (hăn′dē-măn′) *n.* One who does odd jobs or various small tasks.

hang (hăng) *v.* **hung** (hŭng), **hang·ing, hangs.** —*tr.* **1.** To fasten from above with no support from below; suspend. **2.** To suspend or fasten so as to allow free movement at or about the point of suspension: *hang a door.* **3.** *past tense & past participle* **hanged** or **hung.** To execute by suspending by the neck. **4.** To fix or attach at an appropriate angle: *hang a scythe to its handle.* **5.** To alter the hem of (a garment) so as to fall evenly at a specified height. **6.** To furnish, decorate, or appoint by suspending objects around or about: *hang a room with curtains.* **7.** To hold or incline downward; let droop: *hang one's head in sorrow.* **8.** To attach to a wall: *hang wallpaper.* **9.** To deadlock (a jury) by failing to render a unanimous verdict. **10.** *Baseball.* To throw (a pitch) in such a manner so as to fail to break. —*intr.* **1.** To be attached from above with no support from below. **2.** To die as a result of hanging. **3.** To remain suspended or poised over a place or object; hover. **4.** To attach oneself as an impediment or dependent; cling. **5.** To incline downward; droop. **6.** To depend: *everything hangs on the committee's decision.* **7.** To pay strict attention: *hang on every word.* **8.** To remain unresolved or uncertain: *Her future hung in the balance.* **9.** To fit the body in loose lines: *a dress that hangs well.* **10.** To be on display, as in a gallery. **11.** *Baseball.* To fail to break or move in the intended way, as a curve ball. —***phrasal verbs.*** **hang around.** *Informal.* **1.** To spend time idly; loiter. **2.** To keep company; consort. **hang back.** To be averse; hold back. **hang off.** To hold back; be averse. **hang on. 1.** To cling tightly to something. **2.** To continue persistently; persevere. **3.** To keep a telephone connection open. **hang onto.** To hold or cling tightly to. **hang out.** *Slang.* To spend one's free time in a certain place. **hang together. 1.** To stand united; stick together. **2.** To constitute a coherent totality. **hang up. 1.** To suspend on a hook or hanger. **2.** To replace (a telephone receiver) on its cradle. **3.** To retard or impede; hinder: *hang up a project.* **4.** To halt the movement or action of. **5.** To end a telephone conversation. **6.** To become halted or snagged. —*n.* **1.** The way in which something hangs. **2.** A downward inclination or slope. **3.** Particular meaning or significance. **4.** *Informal.* The proper method for doing, using, or handling something: *get the hang of it.* **5.** A suspension of motion; slackening. —***idioms.*** **give (or care) a hang.** To be concerned or anxious. **hang fire. 1.** To be slow in firing, as a gun. **2.** To delay. **hang in there.** *Informal.* To persevere despite difficulties; persist. **hang loose.** *Slang.* To stay calm or relaxed. **hang tough.** *Informal.* To remain firmly resolved: *"We are going to hang tough on this"* (Donald T. Regan). **let it all hang out.** *Slang.* **1.** To be completely relaxed. **2.** To be completely candid. [ME *hongen,* partly < OE *hangian,* to hang, and partly < OE *hōn,* to hang.]

Usage: *Hanged,* as the past tense and past participle of *hang,* is used in the sense of "put to death by hanging." In the following example *hung* would be unacceptable to a majority of the Usage Panel: *Frontier courts hanged many a prisoner after a summary trial.* In all other senses of the word, *hung* is the preferred form as past tense and past participle.

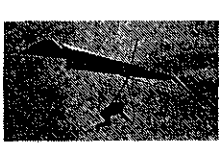
han·gar (hăng′ər, hăng′gər) *n.* A structure esp. for housing or repairing aircraft. [Fr. < OFr., prob. < Med. Lat. *angarium,* shed for shoeing horses.]

hang·dog (hăng′dôg′, -dŏg′) *adj.* **1.** Shamefaced or guilty. **2.** Downcast; intimidated. —*n.* A sneaky or despicable person.

hang·er (hăng′ər) *n.* **1.** One that hangs. **2.** A contrivance to which something hangs or by which something is hung. **3.** A device around which a garment is draped for hanging from a hook or rod. **4.** A loop or strap by which something is hung. **5.** A bracket on an automobile's spring shackle designed to hold it to the chassis. **6.** A decorative strip of cloth hung on a garment or wall.

hang·er-on (hăng′ər-ŏn′, -ôn′) *n., pl.* **hang·ers-on** (hăng′ərz-). A sycophant; parasite.

hang glider *n.* A device resembling a kite from which a harnessed rider hangs while gliding from a height.



hang glider

hang·ing (hăng′ĭng) *n.* **1.** An execution on a gallows. **2.** Something hung, as draperies or a tapestry. **3.** A descending slope or inclination. —*adj.* **1.** Situated on a sharp declivity. **2.** Projecting downward; overhanging. **3.** Suited for holding something that hangs. **4. a.** Deserving death by hanging: *a hanging crime.* **b.** Disposed to inflict the sentence of death by hanging: *a hanging judge.*

hanging indention *n.* The indention of every line in a paragraph except the first.

hang·man (hăng′mən) *n.* One employed to execute condemned prisoners by hanging.

hang·nail (hăng′nāl′) *n.* A small piece of dead skin at the side or the base of a fingernail that is partly detached from the rest of the skin. [Alteration of AGNAIL.]

hang·out (hăng′out′) *n.* A frequently visited place.

hang·o·ver (hăng′ō′vər) *n.* **1.** Unpleasant physical effects following the heavy use of alcohol. **2.** A letdown, as after a

teristic thick yellow crusts. [Lat. < *impetere,* to attack. —see IMPETUS.]

im·pe·trate (ĭm′pĭ-trāt′) *tr.v.* **-trat·ed, -trat·ing, -trates. 1.** To obtain by entreaty or petition. **2.** To beseech. [Lat. *impetrare, impetrat-,* to obtain : *in-* (intensive) + *patrare,* to bring about.] **—im′pe·tra′tion** *n.* **—im′pe·tra′tor** *n.*

im·pet·u·os·i·ty (ĭm-pĕch′ōō-ŏs′ĭ-tē) *n., pl.* **-ties. 1.** The quality or condition of being impetuous. **2.** An impetuous act.

im·pet·u·ous (ĭm-pĕch′ōō-əs) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by sudden energy, action, or emotion; impulsive: *an impetuous decision he'll come to regret.* **2.** Having or marked by violent force: *impetuous, heaving waves.* [ME < OFr. *impetueux* < Lat. *impetuosus* < *impetus,* impetus.] **—im·pet′u·ous·ly** *adv.* **—im·pet′u·ous·ness** *n.*

Synonyms: *impetuous, heedless, hasty, headlong, sudden.* These adjectives describe persons and their actions and decisions when marked by abruptness or lack of deliberation. *Impetuous* suggests impulsiveness, impatience, or lack of thoughtfulness. *Heedless* implies carelessness or lack of a sense of responsibility or proper regard for the consequences of action. *Hasty* and *headlong* both stress hurried action, and the latter especially implies recklessness. *Sudden* is applied to action or to personal attributes, such as moods, that make themselves apparent abruptly or unexpectedly.

im·pe·tus (ĭm′pĭ-təs) *n., pl.* **-tus·es. 1. a.** An impelling force; impulse. **b.** Something that incites; stimulus. **2.** The force or energy associated with a moving body. [Lat., attack < *impetere,* to attack : *in-,* against + *petere,* to go towards, seek.]

im·pi·e·ty (ĭm-pī′ĭ-tē) *n., pl.* **-ties. 1.** The quality or state of being impious. **2.** An impious act. **3.** Undutifulness.

im·pinge (ĭm-pĭnj′) *intr.v.* **-pinged, -ping·ing, -ping·es. 1.** To collide or strike: *Sound waves impinge on the eardrum.* **2.** To encroach; trespass: *impinging on my privacy.* [Lat. *impingere,* to push against : *in-,* against + *pangere,* to fasten.] **—im·pinge′ment** *n.* **—im·ping′er** *n.*

im·pi·ous (ĭm′pē-əs, ĭm-pī′-) *adj.* **1.** Not pious; lacking reverence. **2.** Lacking due respect or dutifulness. [Lat. *impius,* irreverent, undutiful : *in-,* not + *pius,* reverent, dutiful.] **—im′pi·ous·ly** *adv.* **—im′pi·ous·ness** *n.*

imp·ish (ĭm′pĭsh) *adj.* Of or befitting an imp; mischievous. **—imp′ish·ly** *adv.* **—imp′ish·ness** *n.*

im·pla·ca·ble (ĭm-plăk′ə-bəl, -plā′kə-) *adj.* Incapable of appeasement or mitigation; inexorable: *implacable foes.* [Lat. *implacabilis* : *in-,* not + *placabilis,* placable.] **—im·pla′ca·bil′i·ty, im·pla′ca·ble·ness** *n.* **—im·pla′ca·bly** *adv.*

im·plant (ĭm-plănt′) *tr.v.* **-plant·ed, -plant·ing, -plants. 1.** To entrench or set in firmly, as in the ground. **2.** To establish permanently, as in the mind or consciousness; instill. **3.** *Med.* To insert or embed surgically, as in grafting. —*n.* (ĭm′plănt′). Something implanted, esp. surgically implanted tissue. **—im′plan·ta′tion** *n.*

im·plau·si·ble (ĭm-plô′zə-bəl) *adj.* Not plausible; difficult to believe. **—im·plau′si·bil′i·ty, im·plau′si·ble·ness** *n.* **—im·plau′si·bly** *adv.*

im·plead (ĭm-plēd′) *tr.v.* **-plead·ed, -plead·ing, -pleads.** To sue in a court of law. [ME *empleden* < AN *empleder* : *en-* (intensive < Lat. *in-*) + *pleder,* to plead. —see PLEAD.]

im·ple·ment (ĭm′plə-mənt) *n.* **1.** A tool, utensil, or instrument. **2.** An article used to outfit or equip. **3.** A means employed to achieve a given end; agent. —*tr.v.* (ĭm′plə-mĕnt′) **-ment·ed, -ment·ing, -ments. 1.** To put into practical effect; carry out: *implement the new procedures.* **2.** To supply with implements. [ME < LLat. *implementum,* a filling up < Lat. *implēre,* to fill up : *in-* (intensive) + *plēre,* to fill.] **—im′ple·men·ta′tion** (ĭm′plə-mən-tā′shən, -mĕn-) *n.*

im·pli·cate (ĭm′plĭ-kāt′) *tr.v.* **-cat·ed, -cat·ing, -cates. 1.** To involve or connect intimately or incriminatingly. **2.** To imply. **3.** *Archaic.* To interweave or entangle; entwine. [Lat. *implicare, implicat-,* to entangle, unite : *in-,* in + *plicare,* to fold.]

im·pli·ca·tion (ĭm′plĭ-kā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of implicating or the condition of being implicated. **2.** The act of implying or the condition of being implied. **3.** Something that is implied, esp.: **a.** An indirect indication. **b.** An inference. **—im′pli·ca′tive** *adj.* **—im′pli·ca′tive·ly** *adv.*

im·plic·it (ĭm-plĭs′ĭt) *adj.* **1.** Implied or understood although not directly expressed: *thought we had an implicit understanding.* **2.** Contained in the nature of something although not readily apparent: *could see a great pianist implicit in the talented but unpolished young musician.* **3.** Having no doubts or reservations; unquestioning: *implicit trust.* [Lat. *implicitus,* var. of *implicatus,* p.part. of *implicare,* to entangle. —see IMPLICATE.] **—im·plic′it·ly** *adv.* **—im·plic′it·ness** *n.*

implicit differentiation *n.* The process of isolating the derivative of a dependent variable of an implicit function by differentiating each term of the function separately, expressing the desired derivative as a symbol, and solving the resulting expression for the symbol.

implicit function *n.* A mathematical expression in which the function of concern is not directly expressed but must be arrived at by manipulation of the expression.

im·plode (ĭm-plōd′) *v.* **-plod·ed, -plod·ing, -plodes.** —*intr.* To undergo implosion. —*tr.* **1.** To pronounce by implosion. **2.** To cause to undergo implosion. [IN-[2] + (EX)PLODE.]

im·plore (ĭm-plôr′, -plōr′) *tr.v.* **-plored, -plor·ing, -plores. 1.** To appeal to in supplication; beseech. **2.** To plead or beg for urgently; entreat. [Lat. *implorare* : *in-,* in + *plorare,* to weep.] **—im′plo·ra′tion** *n.* **—im·plor′er** *n.* **—im·plor′ing·ly** *adv.*

im·plo·sion (ĭm-plō′zhən) *n.* **1.** A violent collapse inward, as of a highly evacuated glass vessel. **2.** Violent compression. **3.** The stopping of the breath in the formation of a stop consonant. [IN-[2] + (EX)PLOSION.]

im·plo·sive (ĭm-plō′sĭv) *adj.* Pronounced by implosion. —*n.* A consonant pronounced by implosion.

im·ply (ĭm-plī′) *tr.v.* **-plied, -ply·ing, -plies. 1.** To involve or suggest by logical necessity; entail: *His goals imply a good deal of hard work.* **2.** To say or express indirectly: *His tone implied a malicious purpose.* **3.** *Obs.* To entangle. —See Usage note at **infer.** [ME *implien,* to enfold < OFr. *emplier* < Lat. *implicare.* —see IMPLICATE.]

im·po·lite (ĭm′pə-līt′) *adj.* Not polite; discourteous. [Lat. *impolitus,* unpolished, inelegant : *in-,* not + *politus,* polished, p.part. of *polire,* to polish.] **—im′po·lite′ly** *adv.* **—im′po·lite′ness** *n.*

im·pol·i·tic (ĭm-pŏl′ĭ-tĭk) *adj.* Not wise or expedient; not politic. **—im·pol′i·tic·ly** *adv.*

im·pon·der·a·ble (ĭm-pŏn′dər-ə-bəl) *adj.* Incapable of being evaluated or weighed with precision. **—im·pon′der·a·bil′i·ty, im·pon′der·a·ble·ness** *n.* **—im·pon′der·a·bly** *adv.*

im·pone (ĭm-pōn′) *tr.v.* **-poned, -pon·ing, -pones.** *Obs.* To wager or stake. [Lat. *imponere,* to place upon : *in-,* on + *ponere,* to place.]

im·port (ĭm-pôrt′, -pōrt′, ĭm′pôrt′, -pōrt′) *v.* **-port·ed, -port·ing, -ports.** —*tr.* **1.** To bring or carry in from an outside source, esp. to bring in (goods) from a foreign country for trade or sale. **2.** To carry or hold the meaning of; signify: *a high inflation rate importing hard times for the consumer.* **3.** To imply. **4.** *Archaic.* To have meaning for. —*intr.* To be significant. —*n.* (ĭm′pôrt′, -pōrt′). **1.** Something imported. **2.** The occupation of importing. **3.** Meaning; signification. **4.** Importance; significance: *a Supreme Court decision with a far-reaching import on the issue of criminal rights.* [ME *importen* < Lat. *importare* : *in-,* in + *portare,* to carry.] **—im·port′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* **—im·port′a·ble** *adj.* **—im·port′er** *n.*

im·por·tance (ĭm-pôr′tns) *n.* **1.** The condition or quality of being important; significance. **2.** Personal status; standing. **3.** *Obs.* An important matter. **4.** *Obs.* Meaning; import. **5.** *Obs.* Importunity.

Synonyms: *importance, consequence, moment, significance, import, weight.* These nouns refer to the quality of a thing that makes it influential or worthy of note, esteem, or the like. *Importance,* the most general term, usually can be substituted for any of the others, although it lacks their special implications. *Consequence* is especially applicable to persons or things of notable rank or position and to things that are important with respect to what follows them as an outcome or development. *Moment* implies importance or consequence that is readily apparent. *Significance* and *import* refer to the quality of a thing, often not readily apparent, that gives the thing special meaning or value. *Weight* is frequently used when a personal evaluation or judgment of importance is suggested.

im·por·tant (ĭm-pôr′tnt) *adj.* **1.** Marked by or having great value, significance, or consequence. **2.** Suggesting or having an air of great weight or moment; authoritative. **3.** *Obs.* Importunate. [OFr. < OItal. *importante* < Med. Lat. *importans,* pr.part. of *importare,* to mean < Lat., to import.] **—im·por′tant·ly** *adv.*

Usage: The following sentence may be written with the adjective *important: The truth is evident; more important, it will prevail.* It may also be written with an adverb: *The truth is evident; more importantly, it will prevail.* Most grammarians prescribe the adjective form, in which *important* stands for "what is important." But half the members of the Usage Panel accept the adverbial form.

im·por·ta·tion (ĭm′pôr-tā′shən, -pōr-) *n.* **1.** The act or business of importing. **2.** Something imported.

im·por·tu·nate (ĭm-pôr′chə-nĭt) *adj.* Stubbornly or unreasonably persistent in request or demand. **—im·por′tu·nate·ly** *adv.* **—im·por′tu·nate·ness** *n.*

im·por·tune (ĭm′pôr-tōōn′, -tyōōn′, ĭm-pôr′chən) *tr.v.* **-tuned, -tun·ing, -tunes. 1.** To beset with repeated and insistent requests. **2.** *Obs.* To ask for insistently and repeatedly. **3.** *Obs.* To annoy; vex. —*adj.* Importunate. [Med. Lat. *importunari,* to be troublesome < Lat. *importunus,* inconvenient: *in-,* not + *portus,* harbor.] **—im′por·tune′ly** *adv.* **—im′por·tun′er** *n.*

im·por·tu·ni·ty (ĭm′pôr-tōō′nĭ-tē, -tyōō′-) *n., pl.* **-ties. 1.** The act of importuning. **2.** The state or quality of being importunate.

im·pose (ĭm-pōz′) *v.* **-posed, -pos·ing, -pos·es.** —*tr.* **1.** To establish or apply as compulsory; levy: *impose a tax.* **2.** To apply or make prevail by or as if by authority: *impose a peace settlement.* **3.** To obtrude or force (oneself, for example) upon another or others. **4.** *Printing.* To arrange (type or plates) on an imposing stone. **5.** To pass off on others: *He imposed a fraud on his company.* —*intr.* To take unfair advantage of something or someone: *always imposing on her generosity.* [OFr. < Lat. *impositus,* p.part. of *imponere,* to place upon: *in-,* on + *ponere,* to place.] **—im·pos′er** *n.*

im·pos·ing (ĭm-pō′zĭng) *adj.* Impressive or awesome.

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3. Not clearly defined; indefinite. —**in'de·ci'sive·ly** *adv.* —**in'de·ci'sive·ness** *n.*

in·de·clin·a·ble (ĭn'dĭ-klī'nə-bəl) *adj.* Having no set of grammatical inflections.

in·de·com·pos·a·ble (ĭn-dē'kəm-pō'zə-bəl) *adj.* Not capable of being split into component parts.

in·dec·o·rous (ĭn-dĕk'ər-əs) *adj.* Lacking propriety or good taste. —**in·dec'o·rous·ly** *adv.* —**in·dec'o·rous·ness** *n.*

in·de·cor·um (ĭn'dĭ-kôr'əm, -kōr'-) *n.* **1.** Lack of decorum; impropriety. **2.** An instance of indecorous behavior or action.

in·deed (ĭn-dēd') *adv.* **1.** Without a doubt; certainly; truly. **2.** In fact; in reality. **3.** Admittedly; unquestionably. —*interj.* Used to express surprise, skepticism, or irony. [ME *indede,* in fact : *in,* in + *dede,* deed.]

in·de·fat·i·ga·ble (ĭn'dĭ-făt'ĭ-gə-bəl) *adj.* Incapable of being fatigued; tireless. [Lat. *indefatigabilis* : *in-,* not + *defatigare* to tire out (*de-,* thoroughly + *fatigare,* to weary).] —**in'de·fat'i·ga·bil'i·ty, in'de·fat'i·ga·ble·ness** *n.* —**in'de·fat'i·ga·bly** *adv.*

in·de·fea·si·ble (ĭn'dĭ-fē'zə-bəl) *adj.* Not capable of being annulled or made void. —**in'de·fea'si·bil'i·ty** *n.* —**in'de·fea'si·bly** *adv.*

in·de·fec·ti·ble (ĭn'dĭ-fĕk'tə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Having the ability to resist defect or failure; lasting. **2.** Without flaw or defect; perfect. —**in'de·fec'ti·bil'i·ty** *n.* —**in'de·fec'ti·bly** *adv.*

in·de·fen·si·ble (ĭn'dĭ-fĕn'sə-bəl) *adj.* Not capable of being defended, esp.: **a.** Inexcusable; unpardonable. **b.** Invalid; untenable. **c.** Vulnerable to physical attack. —**in'de·fen'si·bil'i·ty, in'de·fen'si·ble·ness** *n.* —**in'de·fen'si·bly** *adv.*

in·de·fin·a·ble (ĭn'dĭ-fī'nə-bəl) *adj.* Not capable of being defined, described, or analyzed. —*n.* One that is indefinable. —**in'de·fin'a·ble·ness** *n.* —**in'de·fin'a·bly** *adv.*

in·def·i·nite (ĭn-dĕf'ə-nĭt) *adj.* Not definite, esp.: **a.** Unclear; vague. **b.** Lacking precise limits. **c.** Uncertain; undecided. [Lat. *indefinitus* : *in-,* not + *definitus,* definite.] —**in·def'i·nite·ly** *adv.* —**in·def'i·nite·ness** *n.*

indefinite article *n. Gram.* An article, as English *a* or *an,* that does not fix the identity of the noun modified.

indefinite integral *n. Math.* The set of all functions of which a given function is the derivative, usually represented by $\int f(x)dx + C$, where $\int f(x)dx$ is any member of the set and C is an arbitrary constant.

indefinite pronoun *n. Gram.* A pronoun, as English *any* or *some,* that does not specify the identity of its object.

in·de·his·cent (ĭn'dĭ-hĭs'ənt) *adj.* Not splitting open at maturity: *indehiscent fruit.* —**in'de·his'cence** *n.*

in·del·i·ble (ĭn-dĕl'ə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Incapable of being removed, erased, or washed away; permanent. **2.** Making a mark not easily erased or washed away: *an indelible laundry pencil.* [Lat. *indelebilis* : *in-,* not + *delebilis,* capable of being destroyed < *delēre,* to destroy.] —**in·del'i·bil'i·ty, in·del'i·ble·ness** *n.* —**in·del'i·bly** *adv.*

in·del·i·ca·cy (ĭn-dĕl'ĭ-kə-sē) *n., pl.* **-cies. 1.** The quality or condition of being indelicate. **2.** Something that is indelicate.

in·del·i·cate (ĭn-dĕl'ĭ-kĭt) *adj.* **1. a.** Offensive to or lacking in propriety. **b.** Bordering on vulgarity; coarse. **2.** Prone to or marked by lack of sensitivity to the feelings of others; tactless. —**in·del'i·cate·ly** *adv.* —**in·del'i·cate·ness** *n.*

in·dem·ni·fi·ca·tion (ĭn-dĕm'nə-fĭ-kā'shən) *n.* **1. a.** The act of indemnifying. **b.** The condition of being indemnified. **2.** Something that indemnifies; indemnity.

in·dem·ni·fy (ĭn-dĕm'nə-fī') *tr.v.* **-fied, -fy·ing, -fies. 1.** To protect against damage, loss, or injury; insure. **2.** To make compensation to for damage, loss, or injury suffered. [< Lat. *indemnis,* uninjured : *in-,* not + *damnum,* harm.] —**in·dem'ni·fi'er** *n.*

in·dem·ni·ty (ĭn-dĕm'nĭ-tē) *n., pl.* **-ties. 1.** Security against damage, loss, or injury. **2.** A legal exemption from liability for damages. **3.** Compensation for damage, loss, or injury suffered. [ME *indempnite* < AN < LLat. *indemnitas* < Lat. *indemnis,* uninjured. —see INDEMNIFY.]

in·de·mon·stra·ble (ĭn'dĭ-mŏn'strə-bəl) *adj.* Incapable of being proved or demonstrated. —**in'de·mon'stra·ble·ness, in'de·mon'stra·bil'i·ty** *n.* —**in'de·mon'stra·bly** *adv.*

in·dene (ĭn'dēn') *n.* A colorless organic liquid, C_9H_8, obtained from coal tar and used in preparing synthetic resins. [IND(OLE) + -ENE.]

in·dent[1] (ĭn-dĕnt') *v.* **-dent·ed, -dent·ing, -dents.** —*tr.* **1. a.** To cut or tear (a document with two or more copies) along an irregular line so that the parts can later be matched for establishing authenticity. **b.** To draw up (a document) in duplicate or triplicate. **2. a.** To notch or serrate the edge of; make jagged. **b.** To make notches, grooves, or holes in (wood, for example) for the purpose of mortising. **c.** To fit or join together by or as if by mortising. **3.** To set (the first line of a paragraph, for example) in from the margin. **4.** *Chiefly Brit.* To order (goods) by purchase order or official requisition. —*intr.* **1.** To form an indentation. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* To draw up or order an indent. —*n.* (ĭn-dĕnt', ĭn'dĕnt'). **1.** An indenture. **2.** A U.S. certificate issued at the close of the Revolutionary War for interest due on the public debt. **3.** *Chiefly Brit.* An official requisition or purchase order for goods. **4.** An indention. [ME *endenten,* to notch < OFr. *endenter* < Med. Lat. *indentare* : Lat. *in-,* in + Lat. *dens,* tooth.] —**in·dent'er** *n.*

in·dent[2] (ĭn-dĕnt') *tr.v.* **-dent·ed, -dent·ing, -dents. 1.** To make a dent in. **2.** To impress (a design, for example); stamp. —*n.* (ĭn-dĕnt', ĭn'dĕnt'). An indentation.

in·den·ta·tion (ĭn'dĕn-tā'shən) *n.* **1. a.** The act of indenting. **b.** The condition of being indented. **2.** A notch or jagged cut in an edge. **3.** A recess in a border, coastline, or other boundary. **4.** The blank space between a margin and the beginning of an indented line.

in·den·tion (ĭn-dĕn'shən) *n.* **1. a.** The act of indenting. **b.** The condition of being indented. **2.** The blank space between a margin and the beginning of an indented line. **3.** *Archaic.* An indentation or dent.

in·den·ture (ĭn-dĕn'chər) *n.* **1. a.** A document in duplicate having indented edges. **b.** A legal deed or contract executed between two or more parties. **c.** Often **indentures.** A contract binding one party into the service of another for a specified term. **d.** An official or authenticated inventory, list, or voucher. **2.** Indentation. —*tr.v.* **-tured, -tur·ing, -tures. 1.** To bind into the service of another by indenture. **2.** *Archaic.* To form an indentation in. [ME *endenture,* a written agreement < AN < OFr. *endenter,* to indent.]

in·de·pend·ence (ĭn'dĭ-pĕn'dəns) *n.* **1.** The state or quality of being independent. **2.** *Archaic.* Sufficient income for self-support; competence.

Independence Day *n.* July 4, a U.S. legal holiday celebrating the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

in·de·pend·en·cy (ĭn'dĭ-pĕn'dən-sē) *n., pl.* **-cies. 1.** Independence. **2.** An independent territory or state. **3. Independency.** The Independent movement in 17th-century England.

in·de·pend·ent (ĭn'dĭ-pĕn'dənt) *adj.* **1.** Politically autonomous; self-governing. **2.** Free from the influence, guidance, or control of another or others; self-reliant: *an independent mind.* **3.** Not determined or influenced by someone or something else; not contingent: *an independent study of air pollution.* **4.** Affiliated with or loyal to no one political party or organization: *an independent voter.* **5.** Not dependent on or affiliated with a larger or controlling group or system: *an independent food store.* **6. a.** Financially self-sufficient; self-supporting. **b.** Providing or being sufficient income to enable one to live without working: *a person of independent means.* **7.** *Math.* **a.** Not dependent on other variables: *an independent variable.* **b.** Of or pertaining to a system of equations no one of which is necessarily satisfied by a set of values of the independent variables that satisfy all the others. **c.** Of, pertaining to, describing, or being an outcome of a trial of a chance experiment the probability of which does not depend on the outcome of any other trial of the chance experiment. —*n.* **1.** One that is independent, esp. a voter who does not pledge allegiance to any one political party. **2. Independent.** A member of a movement in England in the 17th century advocating the political and religious independence of individual congregations. **3. Independent.** *Chiefly Brit.* A Congregationalist.

independent clause *n. Gram.* A clause that contains a subject, a verb, and sometimes an object and modifiers, and that is capable of standing alone as a complete sentence.

in·depth (ĭn'dĕpth') *adj.* Detailed; thorough: *an in-depth study.*

in·de·scrib·a·ble (ĭn'dĭ-skrī'bə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Incapable of being described. **2.** Exceeding description: *indescribable delight.* —**in'de·scrib'a·bil'i·ty, in'de·scrib'a·ble·ness** *n.* —**in'de·scrib'a·bly** *adv.*

in·de·struc·ti·ble (ĭn'dĭ-strŭk'tə-bəl) *adj.* Incapable of being destroyed; unbreakable. —**in'de·struc'ti·bil'i·ty, in'de·struc'ti·ble·ness** *n.* —**in'de·struc'ti·bly** *adv.*

in·de·ter·min·a·ble (ĭn'dĭ-tûr'mə-nə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Incapable of being fixed or measured; not ascertainable. **2.** Incapable of being finally settled or decided. —**in'de·ter'min·a·bly** *adv.*

in·de·ter·mi·na·cy (ĭn'dĭ-tûr'mə-nə-sē) *n.* The state or quality of being indeterminate.

in·de·ter·mi·nate (ĭn'dĭ-tûr'mə-nĭt) *adj.* **1. a.** Not precisely determined: *a person of indeterminate age.* **b.** Incapable of being determined. **c.** Lacking clarity or precision; vague. **d.** Not known in advance. **2.** *Bot.* Not terminating in a flower and continuing to grow at the apex: *an indeterminate inflorescence.* [ME *determinat* < LLat. *indeterminatus* : Lat. *in-,* not + *determinatus,* determinate.] —**in'de·ter'mi·nate·ly** *adv.* —**in'de·ter'mi·nate·ness, in'de·ter'mi·na'tion** *n.*

in·de·ter·min·ism (ĭn'dĭ-tûr'mə-nĭz'əm) *n.* **1.** Indeterminacy; unpredictability. **2.** The philosophical doctrine that in some circumstances volition occurs independent of physiological and psychological antecedents. —**in'de·ter'min·ist** *n.* —**in'de·ter'min·is'tic** *adj.*

in·dex (ĭn'dĕks') *n., pl.* **-dex·es** or **-di·ces** (-dĭ-sēz'). **1.** Something that serves to guide, point out, or otherwise facilitate reference, esp.: **a.** An alphabetized listing of names, places, and subjects included in a printed work that gives for each item the page on which it is mentioned. **b.** A series of notches cut into the edge of a book for easy access to chapters or other divisions. **c.** A table, file, or catalogue. **2.** Something that reveals or indicates; sign: *"Her face . . . was a fair index to her disposition"* (Samuel Butler).

b. The condition of being so stimulated. **2.** An agency, as a person or a work of art, that moves the intellect or emotions or that prompts action or invention. **3.** Something that is inspired; a sudden creative act or idea. **4.** The quality of inspiring or exalting: *a painting full of inspiration.* **5.** *Theol.* Divine guidance or influence exerted directly upon the mind and soul of man. **6.** The act of breathing in; inhalation.

in·spi·ra·tion·al (ĭn'spə-rā'shə-nəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to inspiration. **2.** Providing or intended to convey inspiration. **3.** Resulting from inspiration. —**in'spi·ra'tion·al·ly** *adv.*

in·spi·ra·tor (ĭn'spə-rā'tər) *n.* **1.** An inhaler. **2.** A respirator.

in·spir·a·to·ry (ĭn-spīr'ə-tôr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or used for the drawing in of air.

in·spire (ĭn-spīr') *v.* **-spired, -spir·ing, -spires.** —*tr.* **1.** To affect, guide, or arouse by divine influence. **2.** To fill with noble or reverent emotion; exalt: *hymns that inspire the congregation.* **3.** To stimulate to creativity or action. **4.** To elicit; arouse: *a woman capable of inspiring a man's devotion.* **5.** To be the cause or source of; bring about: *an invention that inspired many imitations.* **6.** To inhale (air). **7.** *Archaic.* **a.** To breathe upon. **b.** To breathe life into. —*intr.* **1.** To stimulate energies, ideals, or reverence. **2.** To inhale. [ME *enspiren* < OFr. *enspirer* < Lat. *inspirare* : *in-*, into + *spirare*, to breathe.] —**in·spir'er** *n.* —**in·spir'ing·ly** *adv.*

in·spir·it (ĭn-spĭr'ĭt) *tr.v.* **-it·ed, -it·ing, -its.** To instill courage or life into; animate.

in·spis·sate (ĭn'spĭs'āt', ĭn'spĭ-sāt') *intr. & tr.v.* **-sat·ed, -sat·ing, -sates.** To thicken or cause to thicken, as by boiling or evaporation; condense. [< LLat. *inspissatus*, thickened : Lat. *in-* (intensive) + *spissus*, thick.] —**in'spis·sa'tion** *n.* —**in·spis'sa'tor** *n.*

in·sta·bil·i·ty (ĭn'stə-bĭl'ĭ-tē) *n., pl.* **-ties.** Lack of stability.

in·stall also **in·stal** (ĭn-stôl') *tr.v.* **-stalled, -stall·ing, -stalls** also **-stals. 1.** To set in position and connect or adjust for use. **2.** To induct into an office, rank, or position: *a ceremony to install the new prime minister.* **3.** To settle in an indicated place or condition; establish: *installed herself in the spare room.* [ME *installen* < OFr. *installer* < Med. Lat. *installare* : *in-*, in + *stallum*, place.] —**in·stall'er** *n.*

in·stal·la·tion (ĭn'stə-lā'shən) *n.* **1. a.** The act of installing. **b.** The state of being installed. **2.** A system of machinery or other apparatus set up for use. **3.** A military base or camp.

in·stall·ment[1] also **in·stal·ment** (ĭn-stôl'mənt) *n.* **1.** One of several successive payments in settlement of a debt. **2.** A portion of something issued at intervals. **3.** A chapter or part of a literary work presented serially. —***modifier:*** *the installment plan.* [Alteration of obs. *estallment* < OFr. *estaler*, to place, fix < *estal*, place, of Germanic orig.]

in·stall·ment[2] also **in·stal·ment** (ĭn-stôl'mənt) *n.* Installation.

in·stance (ĭn'stəns) *n.* **1.** Something that is representative of a group or class; example. **2.** A legal proceeding or process; suit. **3.** A step in a process. **4. a.** Prompting; request: *called at the instance of his wife.* **b.** *Archaic.* Urgent solicitation. **5.** *Obs.* An impelling motive. —*tr.v.* **-stanced, -stanc·ing, -stanc·es. 1.** To offer as an example; cite. **2.** To demonstrate or show by being an example; exemplify. [ME *instaunce* < OFr. *instance* < Lat. *instantia*, presence < *instans*, present. —see INSTANT.]

in·stan·cy (ĭn'stən-sē) *n.* **1.** Urgency. **2.** Immediateness; instantaneousness.

in·stant (ĭn'stənt) *n.* **1.** A very brief time; moment. **2.** A particular point in time: *the instant he arrives.* **3.** The current month: *your letter of the 15th instant.* —*adj.* **1.** Immediate: *instant attention.* **2.** Imperative; urgent: *an instant need.* **3.** Now under consideration; present. **4. a.** Designed for quick preparation with minimal effort: *instant mashed potatoes.* **b.** Appearing, done, or taking place with or as if with maximum quickness and ease. —*adv.* Instantly. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *instans*, present, pr.part. of *instare*, to approach : *in-*, on + *stare*, to stand.]

in·stan·ta·ne·ous (ĭn'stən-tā'nē-əs) *adj.* **1.** Occurring or completed without perceptible delay. **2.** Present or occurring at a specific instant: *instantaneous velocity.* [Med. Lat. *instantaneus* < Lat. *instans*, present. —see INSTANT.] —**in'stan·ta'ne·ous·ly** *adv.* —**in'stan·ta'ne·ous·ness** *n.*

in·stan·ter (ĭn-stăn'tər) *adv.* Without delay; instantly. [Med. Lat. < Lat., urgently < *instans*, present. —see INSTANT.]

in·stant·ly (ĭn'stənt-lē) *adv.* **1.** At once; immediately. **2.** *Archaic.* Urgently. —*conj.* As soon as.

instant replay *n.* A recording of an event on videotape for playback immediately upon completion of the event.

in·star[1] (ĭn-stär') *tr.v.* **-starred, -star·ring, -stars.** To stud with or as if with stars.

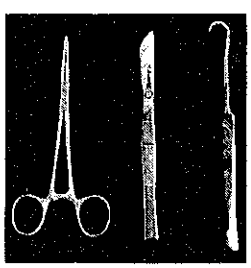
in·star[2] (ĭn'stär') *n.* An insect or other arthropod between molts, as during metamorphosis. [NLat. < Lat., image, form.]

in·state (ĭn-stāt') *tr.v.* **-stat·ed, -stat·ing, -states.** To establish in office; install.

in·stau·ra·tion (ĭn'stô-rā'shən) *n. Archaic.* **1.** Renovation; restoration. **2.** Institution; establishment. [Lat. *instauratio* < *instaurare*, to renew.]

in·stead (ĭn-stĕd') *adv.* In the place of something previously mentioned; as an alternative or substitute: *Planning to drive, he walked instead.* [ME *in sted of*, in place of.]

instead of *prep.* In place of; rather than.



instrument

in·step (ĭn'stĕp') *n.* **1.** The arched middle part of the human foot. **2.** The part of a shoe or stocking covering the instep.

in·sti·gate (ĭn'stĭ-gāt') *tr.v.* **-gat·ed, -gat·ing, -gates. 1.** To urge on; goad. **2.** To foment; stir up. [Lat. *instigare, instigat-*.] —**in'sti·ga'tion** *n.* —**in'sti·ga'tive** *adj.* —**in'sti·ga'tor** *n.*

in·still also **in·stil** (ĭn-stĭl') *tr.v.* **-stilled, -still·ing, -stills** also **-stils. 1.** To introduce by gradual, persistent efforts; implant: *"morality . . . may be instilled into their minds"* (Jefferson). **2.** To pour in drop by drop. [Lat. *instillare*, to drip in : *in-*, in + *stillare*, to drip < *stilla*, drop.] —**in'stil·la'tion** (ĭn'stə-lā'shən) *n.* —**in·still'er** *n.*

in·stinct (ĭn'stĭngkt') *n.* **1. a.** The innate aspect of behavior that is unlearned, complex, and normally adaptive. **b.** A powerful motivation or impulse. **2.** An innate capability or aptitude. —*adj.* (ĭn-stĭngkt'). **1.** *Obs.* Impelled from within. **2.** Imbued; filled: *words instinct with love.* [ME < Lat. *instinctus*, impulse < p.part. of *instinguere*, to incite : *in-*, on + *stinguere*, to prick.]

in·stinc·tive (ĭn-stĭngk'tĭv) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or arising from instinct. **2.** Arising from a natural impulse; spontaneous and unthinking: *an instinctive dislike of spiders.* —**in·stinc'tive·ly** *adv.*

in·sti·tute (ĭn'stĭ-tōōt', -tyōōt') *tr.v.* **-tut·ed, -tut·ing, -tutes. 1. a.** To establish, organize, and set in operation. **b.** To initiate; begin. **2.** To establish or invest in an office or position. —*n.* **1.** *Obs.* The act of instituting. **2.** Something instituted, esp. an authoritative rule or precedent. **3.** An organization founded to promote some cause: *an institute for the deaf.* **4. a.** An educational institution. **b.** The building or buildings housing such an institution. **5.** A short, intensive workshop or seminar on one specific subject. **6. institutes.** A digest of the principles or rudiments of some subject, esp. a legal abstract. [ME *instituten* < Lat. *institutus*, p.part. of *instituere*, to establish : *in-*, in + *statuere*, to set up < *stare*, to stand.] —**in'sti·tut'er, in'sti·tu'tor** *n.*

in·sti·tu·tion (ĭn'stĭ-tōō'shən, -tyōō'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of instituting. **2. a.** A custom, practice, relationship, or behavioral pattern of importance in the life of a community or society. **b.** *Informal.* An ever-present feature; fixture. **3. a.** An established organization or foundation, esp. one dedicated to public service or to culture. **b.** The building or buildings housing such an organization. **4.** A place of confinement, as a mental asylum. —**in'sti·tu'tion·al** *adj.* —**in'sti·tu'tion·al·ly** *adv.*

in·sti·tu·tion·al·ism (ĭn'stĭ-tōō'shə-nə-lĭz'əm, -tyōō'-) *n.* **1.** Adherence to or belief in established forms, esp. belief in organized religion. **2.** Use of institutions for those incapable of self-maintenance. —**in'sti·tu'tion·al·ist** *n.*

in·sti·tu·tion·al·ize (ĭn'stĭ-tōō'shə-nə-līz', -tyōō'-) *tr.v.* **-ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es. 1.** To make into, treat as, or give the character of an institution to. **2.** To commit (a person) to an institution. —**in'sti·tu'tion·al·i·za'tion** *n.*

in·stroke (ĭn'strōk') *n.* An inward stroke, esp. a piston stroke moving away from the crankshaft.

in·struct (ĭn-strŭkt') *v.* **-struct·ed, -struct·ing, -structs.** —*tr.* **1.** To furnish with knowledge; teach. **2.** To give orders to; direct. —*intr.* To serve as an instructor. [ME *instructen* < Lat. *instructus*, p.part. of *instruere*, to prepare : *in-*, in + *struere*, to build.]

in·struc·tion (ĭn-strŭk'shən) *n.* **1.** The act, practice, or profession of instructing. **2. a.** Imparted knowledge. **b.** An imparted or acquired item of knowledge; lesson. **3.** *Computer Sci.* A machine code telling a computer to perform a particular operation. **4.** Often **instructions.** A direction; order. —**in·struc'tion·al** *adj.*

in·struc·tive (ĭn-strŭk'tĭv) *adj.* Conveying knowledge or information; enlightening. —**in·struc'tive·ly** *adv.* —**in·struc'tive·ness** *n.*

in·struc·tor (ĭn-strŭk'tər) *n.* **1.** One who instructs; teacher. **2. a.** An academic rank below assistant professor. **b.** One who holds such a rank. —**in·struc'tor·ship'** *n.*

in·stru·ment (ĭn'strə-mənt) *n.* **1. a.** A means by which something is done; agency. **2. a.** One used to accomplish some purpose. **b.** A person used and controlled by another; dupe. **3.** A mechanical implement. **4.** A device for recording or measuring, esp. such a device functioning as part of a control system. **5.** A device for producing music. **6.** A legal document. —*tr.v.* (-mĕnt') **-ment·ed, -ment·ing, -ments. 1.** To provide or equip with instruments. **2.** To address a legal document to. [ME < Lat. *instrumentum*, tool < *instruere*, to prepare. —see INSTRUCT.]

in·stru·men·tal (ĭn'strə-mĕn'tl) *adj.* **1.** Serving as a means or agency; implemental. **2.** Of, pertaining to, or accomplished with an instrument or tool. **3.** Performed on or written for a musical instrument. **4.** *Gram.* Of or designating a case used typically to express means, agency, or accompaniment. —*n. Gram.* **1.** The instrumental case. **2.** A word in the instrumental case. —**in'stru·men'tal·ly** *adv.*

in·stru·men·tal·ism (ĭn'strə-mĕn'tl-ĭz'əm) *n.* A pragmatic theory that ideas are instruments that function as guides of action, their validity being determined by the success of the action.

in·stru·men·tal·ist (ĭn-strə-mĕn'tl-ĭst) *n.* **1.** One who plays a musical instrument. **2.** An advocate or student of instrumentalism.

in·stru·men·tal·i·ty (ĭn'strə-mĕn-tăl'ĭ-tē) *n., pl.* **-ties. 1.** The

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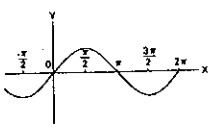
"Simple Simon went a poaching/For to shoot some game,/A mantrap caught him by the leg/Which gave poor Simon pain."



"He went for water with a sieve/But soon it all ran through . . ."

Simple Simon
Woodcut illustrations



sine curve

simple harmonic motion *n. Physics.* A periodic motion that may be described as a sinusoidal function of time; specifically, the motion of a particle that obeys the equation $x = A\cos(kt + \phi)$, where x is the displacement of the particle from the origin at any time t, A is the maximum displacement, ϕ is the initial phase or angular displacement at $t = 0$, and k is a constant equal to 2π times the frequency of the oscillation.

simple honors *pl.n.* Three honors in trump or three aces at no-trump held by the same side in bridge.

simple interest *n.* Interest paid only on the original principal, not on the interest accrued.

simple machine *n.* A machine (sense 1.b.).

simple microscope *n.* A microscope having one lens or lens system, as a magnifying glass or hand lens.

sim·ple-mind·ed (sĭm′pəl-mīn′dĭd) *adj.* **1.** Not sophisticated; artless. **2.** Stupid or silly. **3.** Mentally defective. **—sim′ple-mind′ed·ly** *adv.* **—sim′ple-mind′ed·ness** *n.*

simple pendulum *n.* A pendulum (sense 1).

simple sentence *n.* A sentence having no coordinate or subordinate clauses, as *The cat purred.*

Simple Simon *n.* A foolish fellow; simpleton. [After *Simple Simon,* a character in a nursery rhyme.]

simple sugar *n.* A monosaccharide.

sim·ple·ton (sĭm′pəl-tən) *n.* A silly or stupid person; fool. [< SIMPLE.]

sim·plex (sĭm′plĕks′) *adj.* Denoting a system of telegraphy in which only one message may be sent in either direction at one time. [Lat. *simplex,* simple.]

sim·plic·i·ty (sĭm-plĭs′ĭ-tē) *n., pl.* **-ties. 1.** The property, condition, or quality of being simple. **2.** Absence of luxury or showiness; plainness. **3.** Absence of affectation or pretense. **4.** Lack of good sense or intelligence; foolishness. [ME *symplicite* < OFr. < Lat. *simplicitas* < *simplex,* simple.]

sim·pli·fy (sĭm′plə-fī′) *tr.v.* **-fied, -fy·ing, -fies.** To make simple or simpler; render less complex or intricate. [Fr. *simplifier* < Med. Lat. *simplificare* : Lat. *simplus,* simple + *facere,* to make.] **—sim′pli·fi·ca′tion** *n.* **—sim′pli·fi′er** *n.*

sim·plism (sĭm′plĭz′əm) *n.* The tendency to oversimplify an issue or problem by ignoring complexities or complications. [Fr. *simplisme* < OFr. *simple,* simple.] **—sim·plis′tic** (sĭm-plĭs′tĭk) *adj.* **—sim·plis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

sim·ply (sĭm′plē) *adv.* **1.** In a simple manner; plainly. **2.** Foolishly. **3.** Merely; only: *We knew him simply as Bill.* **4.** Absolutely; altogether: *simply delicious.* **5.** Frankly; candidly: *You are, quite simply, inadequate for this job.*

simply connected *adj.* Of, being, or characterized by a mathematical surface that is divided into two separate parts by every simple closed curve within it.

simply ordered *adj.* Having any three mathematical elements transitively related and any two elements equal or connected by an asymmetric relationship.

sim·u·la·cra (sĭm′yə-lā′krə, -lăk′rə) *n.* Plural of **simulacrum.**

sim·u·la·cre (sĭm′yə-lā′kər, -lăk′ər) *n. Archaic.* A simulacrum.

sim·u·la·crum (sĭm′yə-lā′krəm, -lăk′rəm) *n., pl.* **-la·cra** (-lā′krə, -lăk′rə). **1.** An image or representation of something. **2.** An unreal or vague semblance of something. [Lat. < *simulare,* to simulate < *similis,* like.]

sim·u·lar (sĭm′yə-lər, -lär′) *Archaic.* —*n.* One that simulates; simulator. —*adj.* Simulated; sham.

sim·u·late (sĭm′yə-lāt′) *tr.v.* **-lat·ed, -lat·ing, -lates. 1.** To have or take on the appearance, form, or sound of; imitate. **2.** To make a pretense of; feign: *simulate an interest.* —*adj.* (-lĭt, -lāt′). Simulated; assumed. [Lat. *simulare, simulat-* < *similis,* like.] **—sim′u·la′tive** *adj.*

sim·u·la·tion (sĭm′yə-lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of simulating. **2.** An imitation. **3.** The assumption of a false appearance.

sim·u·la·tor (sĭm′yə-lā′tər) *n.* One that simulates, esp. an apparatus that generates test conditions approximating actual or operational conditions.

si·mul·cast (sī′məl-kăst′, sĭm′əl-) *tr.v.* **-cast·ed, -cast·ing, -casts.** To broadcast simultaneously by FM and AM radio or by radio and television. —*n.* A simulcasted broadcast. [SIMUL(TANEOUS) + (BROAD)CAST.]

si·mul·ta·ne·ous (sī′məl-tā′nē-əs, sĭm′əl-) *adj.* **1.** Happening, existing, or done at the same time. **2.** *Math.* Collectively restricting the values of a set of variables: *simultaneous equations.* [Lat. *simul,* at the same time + E. *-aneous,* as in *instantaneous.*] **—si′mul·ta′ne·ous·ly** *adv.* **—si′mul·ta′ne·ous·ness, si′mul·ta·ne′i·ty** (-tə-nē′ĭ-tē, -nā′-) *n.*

sin[1] (sĭn) *n.* **1.** A transgression of a religious or moral law, esp. when deliberate. **2.** *Theol.* A condition of estrangement from God as a result of breaking God's law. **3.** An offense, violation, fault, or error. —*intr.v.* **sinned, sin·ning, sins. 1.** To violate a religious or moral law. **2.** To commit an offense or violation. [ME *sinne* < OE *synn.*]

sin[2] (sēn, shĭn) *n.* The 21st letter of the Hebrew alphabet. See table at **alphabet.** [Heb., var. of *shīn,* the letter shin.]

sin·an·thro·pus (sī-năn′thrə-pəs, sī-, sī′năn-thrō′pəs, sĭn′ăn-) *n.* An extinct manlike primate of the genus *Sinanthropus,* which includes Peking man. [NLat. *Sinanthropus,* genus name : SINO- + *anthropus,* human being.]

sin·a·pism (sĭn′ə-pĭz′əm) *n.* A mustard plaster. [Fr. *sinapisme* < LLat. *sinapismus* < Gk. *sinapismos,* use of a mustard plaster < *sinapizein,* to apply a mustard plaster < *sinapi,* mustard.]

since (sĭns) *adv.* **1.** From then until now or between then and now: *He left town and hasn't been here since.* **2.** Before now; ago: *long since forgotten.* —*prep.* From a specified time in the past: *He has not been home since Easter.* —*conj.* **1.** During the time after which: *He hasn't been home since he graduated.* **2.** Continuously from the time when: *He hasn't spoken since he sat down.* **3.** As a result of the fact that; inasmuch as: *Since you're not interested, I won't tell you about it.* —See Usage notes at **ago** and **because.** [ME *sinnes,* contraction of *sithenes* < OE *siððan.*]

sin·cere (sĭn-sîr′) *adj.* **-cer·er, -cer·est. 1.** Not feigned or affected; true: *a sincere apology.* **2.** Presenting no false appearance; honest: *a sincere believer.* **3.** *Archaic.* Pure; unadulterated. [Lat. *sincerus.*] **—sin·cere′ly** *adv.* **—sin·cere′ness** *n.*

Synonyms: *sincere, natural, unaffected, unfeigned, wholehearted, hearty, heartfelt.* These adjectives describe what is genuine and free from dissimulation or artifice. *Sincere* emphasizes honesty of expression or behavior. It implies freedom from hypocrisy and usually a disposition to be constructive. *Natural* and *unaffected* stress absence of artificiality. *Natural* usually applies to appearance or behavior thought to express one's true nature, whereas *unaffected* may imply genuineness where the opposite could be expected. *Unfeigned* especially suggests freedom from falseness or deceit. *Wholehearted* and *hearty* imply not only genuineness of feeling but also its expression in convincing terms. *Wholehearted* suggests total commitment and unstinting devotion to a cause or the like. *Hearty* especially stresses convincing expression of feeling openly displayed. *Heartfelt,* in contrast, emphasizes depth of feeling rather than its display.

sin·cer·i·ty (sĭn-sĕr′ĭ-tē) *n.* The quality or condition of being sincere.

sin·ci·put (sĭn′sə-pət) *n., pl.* **sin·ci·puts** or **sin·cip·i·ta** (sĭn-sĭp′ĭ-tə). **1.** The upper half of the cranium, esp. the anterior portion above and including the forehead. **2.** The forehead. [Lat. : *semi-,* half + *caput,* head.] **—sin·cip′i·tal** (-sĭp′ĭ-tl) *adj.*

Sin·dhi (sĭn′dē) *n., pl.* **Sindhi** or **-dhis. 1. a.** The predominantly Moslem people of Sind. **b.** A member of this people. **2.** The Indic language of Sind. [Ar. *Sindi.*] **—Sin′dhi** *adj.*

sine (sīn) *n.* **1.** The ordinate of the endpoint of an arc of a unit circle centered at the origin of a Cartesian coordinate system, the arc being of length x and measured counterclockwise from the point (1, 0) if x is positive or clockwise if x is negative. **2.** In a right triangle, the function of an acute angle that is the ratio of the opposite side to the hypotenuse. [Med. Lat. *sinus* < Lat., curve.]

si·ne·cure (sī′nĭ-kyŏor′, sĭn′ĭ-) *n.* **1.** An ecclesiastical benefice not attached to the spiritual duties of a parish. **2.** A position or office that requires little or no work but provides a salary. [< Med. Lat. *sine cura,* without cure of souls.] **—si′ne·cur·ism** *n.* **—si′ne·cur·ist** *n.*

sine curve *n.* The graph of the equation $y = \sin x$.

si·ne di·e (sī′nĭ dī′ē, sĭn′ā dē′ā′) *adv.* Without a day specified for a future meeting; indefinitely: *Parliament was dismissed sine die.* [Lat., without a day.]

si·ne qua non (sĭn′ī kwā nŏn′, nōn′, sī′nĭ kwā nŏn′) *n.* An essential element or condition. [Lat., without which not.]

sin·ew (sĭn′yōō) *n.* **1.** A tendon. **2.** Vigorous strength; muscular power. **3.** Often **sinews.** The source or mainstay of vitality and strength: *"Good company and good discourse are the very sinews of virtue"* (Walton). [ME *sinewe* < OE *sinu.*]

sine wave *n. Physics.* A waveform with deviation that can be expressed as the sine or cosine of a linear function of time or space or both.

sin·ew·y (sĭn′yōō-ē) *adj.* **1.** Like or consisting of sinew. **2.** Lean and muscular. **3.** Strong; vigorous.

sin·ful (sĭn′fəl) *adj.* Marked by or full of sin; wicked. **—sin′ful·ly** *adv.* **—sin′ful·ness** *n.*

sing (sĭng) *v.* **sang** (săng), **sung** (sŭng), **sing·ing, sings.** —*intr.* **1.** To utter a series of words or sounds in musical tones. **2.** To vocalize songs or musical selections. **3.** To give or have the effect of melody; lilt. **4.** To produce musical sounds when played. **5.** To make a high whine or hum: *The machine sang.* **6.** To be filled with a buzzing sound. **7.** To proclaim or extol something in verse. **8.** *Slang.* To give information or evidence against someone. —*tr.* **1.** To render in tones with musical inflections of the voice: *She sang the message.* **2.** To produce the musical sound of. **3.** To intone; chant. **4.** To proclaim or extol, esp. in verse: *sang his praises.* **5.** To bring to a specified state by singing: *sang the baby to sleep.* —***phrasal verb.*** **sing out.** To call out loudly. —*n.* A gathering of people for group singing. [ME *singen* < OE *singan.*] **—sing′a·ble** *adj.*

sing-a-long (sĭng′ə-lông′, -lŏng′) *n.* A songfest.

singe (sĭnj) *tr.v.* **singed, singe·ing, singe·es. 1.** To burn superficially; scorch. **2.** To burn the ends of. **3.** To burn off the feathers or bristles of by subjecting briefly to flame. —*n.* A scorch. [ME *sengen* < OE *sengan.*] **—sing′er** (sĭn′jər) *n.*

sing·er (sĭng′ər) *n.* **1.** A person who sings, esp. a trained or professional vocalist. **2.** A poet. **3.** A songbird.

Sin·gha·lese (sĭng′gə-lēz′, -lēs′) also **Sin·ha·lese** (sĭn′-

poem is based. **b.** A rhythmic system constituting a section of a poem, typically consisting of a series of asymmetric lines. **2.** The first division of the triad (strophe, antistrophe, and epode) constituting a section of a Pindaric ode. **3. a.** The movement of the chorus in classical Greek drama while turning from one side of the orchestra to the other. **b.** The part of a choral ode sung while this movement is executed. [Gk. *strophē,* movement of the chorus < *strephein,* to turn.] —**stro'phic** (strō'fĭk, strŏf'ĭk) *adj.*

stro•phoid (strō'foid') *n.* A plane curve generated by a point that maintains a distance from the y-axis along a straight line equal to the y-intercept. [Gk. *strophos,* twisted (< *strephein,* to twist) + -OID.]

stroph•u•lus (strŏf'yə-ləs) *n.* A disease, esp. common among children, sometimes associated with intestinal disturbances and characterized by a papular eruption of the skin. [NLat. < Gk. *strophos,* twisted cord < *strephein,* to turn.]

stroud (stroud) *n.* A coarse woolen cloth or blanket. [After *Stroud,* England.]

strove (strōv) *v.* A past tense of **strive.**

struck (strŭk) *v.* Past tense and a past participle of **strike.** —*adj.* Affected or shut down by a labor strike.

struck jury *n. Law.* A jury, esp. a special jury, selected from an original panel of 48 members from which each party strikes off names until the list is reduced to 12.

struck measure *n.* A dry measure having the contents leveled off and not heaped.

struc•tur•al (strŭk'chər-əl) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, having, or characterized by structure. **2.** Used in or necessary to construction. **3.** *Geol.* Of or pertaining to the structure of rocks and other aspects of the earth's crust. **4.** *Biol.* Of or relating to organic structure; morphological. —**struc'tur•al•ly** *adv.*

structural formula *n.* A chemical formula that represents the configuration of atoms and bonds in a molecule.

structural gene *n.* A gene that determines the amino acid sequence of a protein.

struc•tur•al•ize (strŭk'chər-ə-līz') *tr.v.* **-ized, -iz•ing, -iz•es.** To incorporate into a structure. —**struc'tur•al•i•za'tion** *n.*

structural steel *n.* Steel shaped for use in construction.

struc•ture (strŭk'chər) *n.* **1.** Something made up of a number of parts that are held or put together in a particular way. **2.** The way in which parts are arranged or put together to form a whole. **3.** The interrelation of parts or the principle of organization in a complex entity. **4.** Relatively intricate or extensive organization: *an elaborate electric structure.* **5.** Something constructed, esp. a building or part. —*tr.v.* **-tured, -tur•ing, -tures.** To give form or arrangement to. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *structura* < *struere,* to construct.]

struc•tured (strŭk'chərd) *adj.* **1.** Highly organized: *a structured environment.* **2.** *Psychol.* Having a limited number of correct or nearly correct answers. Used of a test.

stru•del (strōōd'l, shtrōōd'l) *n.* A kind of pastry made with fruit or cheese rolled up in a thin sheet of dough and then baked. [G. < MHG, whirlpool.]

strug•gle (strŭg'əl) *v.* **-gled, -gling, -gles.** —*intr.* **1.** To exert muscular energy, as against a material force or mass; grapple. **2.** To be strenuously engaged with a problem, task, or undertaking. **3.** To make a strenuous effort; strive: *struggling to be polite.* **4. a.** To contend against: *"the human being struggles with his environment"* (Karl A. Menninger). **b.** To compete with. **5.** To progress or penetrate with difficulty. —*tr.* To move or place (something) with an effort: *struggle a trunk into a car.* —*n.* **1.** An act of struggling. **2.** Strenuous effort. **3.** Combat; strife. [ME *struglen.*] —**strug'gler** *n.* —**strug'gling•ly** *adv.*



strut
The Hermes of Praxiteles

strum (strŭm) *v.* **strummed, strum•ming, strums.** —*tr.* To play idly on or as if on (a stringed musical instrument) by plucking the strings with the fingers. —*intr.* To play an instrument by strumming. —*n.* The act or sound of strumming. [Perh. blend of STRING and THRUM¹.] —**strum'mer** *n.*

stru•ma (strōō'mə) *n., pl.* **-mae** (-mē') or **-mas. 1.** *Pathol.* **a.** Scrofula. **b.** Goiter. **2.** *Bot.* A cushionlike swelling at the base of a moss capsule. [Lat.] —**stru'mat'ic** (-măt'ĭk), **stru'mose'** (-mōs'), **stru'mous** (-məs) *adj.*

strum•pet (strŭm'pĭt) *n.* A whore. [ME.]

strung (strŭng) *v.* Past tense and past participle of **string.**

strung-out (strŭng'out') *adj. Slang.* **1. a.** Addicted to a drug. **b.** Stupefied from ingestion of a drug. **2.** Physically or emotionally debilitated from or as if from long-term drug use.

strut (strŭt) *v.* **strut•ted, strut•ting, struts.** —*intr.* To walk with pompous bearing; swagger. —*tr.* To brace with a supporting bar or rod. —*n.* **1.** A stiff, self-important gait. **2.** A bar or rod used to brace a structure against forces applied from the side. [ME *strouten,* to stand out < OE *strūtian,* to stand out stiffly.] —**strut'ter** *n.* —**strut'ting•ly** *adv.*

stru•thi•ous (strōō'*thē*-əs, -thē-ŏs) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or resembling the ostrich or a related bird. [< LLat. *struthio,* ostrich < Gk. *strouthion* < *strouthos.*]

strych•nine (strĭk'nīn', -nĭn, -nēn') *n.* An extremely poisonous white crystalline alkaloid, $C_{21}H_{22}N_2O_2$, derived from nux vomica and related plants, used as a poison for rodents and other pests and medicinally as a stimulant for the central nervous system. [Fr. < NLat., *Strychnos,* genus of tropical trees and vines < Lat. *strychnos,* a kind of nightshade < Gk. *strukhnos.*]

strych•nin•ism (strĭk'nĭ-nĭz'əm, -nī-, -nē-) *n.* Chronic strychnine poisoning.

stub (stŭb) *n.* **1.** The usually short end remaining after something has been used up: *a pencil stub.* **2. a.** The part of a check or receipt retained as a record. **b.** The part of a ticket returned as a voucher of payment. —*tr.v.* **stubbed, stub•bing, stubs. 1.** To pull up (weeds) by the roots. **2.** To clear (a field) of weeds. **3.** To strike (one's toe or foot) against something. **4.** To snuff out (a cigarette butt) by crushing. [ME *stubbe* < OE *stybb.*]

stub•ble (stŭb'əl) *n.* **1.** The short, stiff stalks of a grain or hay crop remaining on a field after the crop has been harvested. **2.** Something resembling stubble, esp. a short stiff growth of beard. [ME *stuble* < OFr. *estuble* < Lat. *stupla,* var. of *stipula,* straw.] —**stub'bly** *adj.*

stub•born (stŭb'ərn) *adj.* **1. a.** Unduly determined to exert one's will; refractory. **b.** Not easily persuaded; obstinate. **2.** Characterized by perseverance; persistent. **3.** Difficult to handle or work; resistant: *stubborn soil.* [ME *stuborn.*] —**stub'born•ly** *adv.* —**stub'born•ness** *n.*

stub•by (stŭb'ē) *adj.* **-bi•er, -bi•est. 1.** Having the nature of a stub; short and stocky. **2.** Covered with or made of stubs. **3.** Short and bristly. —**stub'bi•ly** *adv.* —**stub'bi•ness** *n.*

stub nail *n.* A short, thick nail.

stuc•co (stŭk'ō) *n., pl.* **-coes** or **-cos. 1.** A durable finish for exterior walls, applied wet and usually composed of cement, sand, and lime. **2.** A fine plaster for interior wall ornamentation, such as moldings. **3.** A plaster or cement finish for interior walls. —*tr.v.* **-coed, -co•ing, -coes** or **-cos.** To finish or decorate with stucco. [Ital., of Germanic orig.]

stuck (stŭk) *v.* Past tense and past participle of **stick.**

stuck-up (stŭk'ŭp') *adj. Informal.* Snobbish; conceited.

stud¹ (stŭd) *n.* **1.** An upright post in the framework of a wall for supporting sheets of lath, wallboard, or similar material. **2.** A small knob, nail head, or rivet fixed in and slightly projecting from a surface. **3. a.** A small ornamental button mounted on a short post for insertion through an eyelet, as on a dress shirt. **b.** A buttonlike earring. **4.** Any of various protruding pins or pegs in machinery. **5.** A metal crosspiece used as a brace in a link, as in a chain cable. —*tr.v.* **stud•ded, stud•ding, studs. 1.** To provide with or construct with a stud or studs. **2.** To set with a stud or studs: *stud a bracelet with rubies.* **3.** To be dotted about on, esp. ornamentally; strew: *Daisies studded the meadow.* [ME *stode* < OE *studu.*]

stud² (stŭd) *n.* **1. a.** A group of animals, esp. horses, kept for breeding. **b.** A stable or farm where they are kept. **2.** A stallion or other male animal kept for breeding. **3.** Stud poker. **4.** *Slang.* A virile man. —*idiom.* **at stud.** Available or offered for breeding. [ME *stod* < OE *stōd.*]

stud•book (stŭd'bo͝ok') *n.* A book registering the pedigrees of thoroughbred animals, esp. of horses.

stud•ding (stŭd'ĭng) *n.* **1. a.** The wood framework of a wall or partition. **b.** Lumber cut for studs. **2.** Something with which a surface is studded.

stud•ding•sail (stŭn'səl, stŭd'ĭng-sāl') *n. Naut.* A narrow rectangular sail set from extensions of the yards of square-rigged ships. [Orig. unknown.]

stu•dent (stōōd'nt, styōōd'-) *n.* **1.** One who attends a school, college, or university. **2. a.** One who makes a study of something. **b.** An attentive observer: *a student of world affairs.* [ME < Lat. *studens,* pr.part. *studēre,* to study.]

student teacher *n.* A college student who practices teaching under supervision.

student union *n.* A building on a college campus with facilities for social and organizational activities.

stud•fish (stŭd'fĭsh') *n., pl.* **studfish** or **-fish•es.** Either of two small, brightly colored freshwater fishes, *Fundulus catenatus* or *F. stellifer,* of the southeastern United States.

stud•horse also **stud horse** (stŭd'hôrs') *n.* A stallion.

stud•ied (stŭd'ēd) *adj.* **1. a.** Carefully prepared or considered: *a studied effect.* **b.** Lacking spontaneity; contrived: *a studied smile.* **2.** Learned; knowledgeable. —**stud'ied•ly** *adv.* —**stud'ied•ness** *n.*

stu•di•o (stōō'dē-ō, styōō'-) *n., pl.* **-os. 1.** An artist's workroom. **2.** A photographer's establishment. **3.** An establishment where an art is taught or studied: *a dance studio.* **4. a.** A room or building for motion-picture, television, or radio productions. **b.** A room or building where tapes and records are recorded. [Ital. < Lat. *studium,* eagerness.]

studio apartment *n.* A small apartment consisting of one main living space, a small kitchen, and a bathroom.

studio couch *n.* A couch that can be made to serve as a double bed by sliding the frame of a cot from beneath it.

stu•di•ous (stōō'dē-əs, styōō'-) *adj.* **1.** Devoted to study. **2.** Earnest; diligent: *made a studious effort.* **3.** Giving or evincing careful attention; heedful: *"the major . . . was very studious of his appearance"* (H. E. Bates). **4.** Deliberate. **5.** Conducive to study. [ME < Lat. *studiosus* < *studium,* eagerness.] —**stu'di•ous•ly** *adv.* —**stu'di•ous•ness** *n.*

stud poker *n.* Poker in which the first round of cards (and often the last) is dealt face down and the others face up.

stud•work (stŭd'wûrk') *n.* **1.** Work ornamented or covered with studs. **2.** The supportive framework of a wall or partition.

stud•y (stŭd'ē) *n., pl.* **-ies. 1.** The act or process of studying; the pursuit of knowledge, as by reading, observation, or

place. —*v.* **stied, sty·ing, sties.** —*tr.* To shut up in a sty. —*intr.* To live in a sty. [ME < OE *stig.*]

sty² (stī) *n., pl.* **sties.** Inflammation of one or more sebaceous glands of an eyelid. [Short for dial. *styan* < ME **styan* < OE *stīgend* < *stīgan,* to rise.]

styg·i·an also **Styg·i·an** (stĭj′ē-ən) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the river Styx. **2. a.** Gloomy and dark. **b.** Infernal; hellish. [Lat. *Stygius* < Gk. *Stugios* < *Stux,* Styx.]

styl– *pref.* Variant of **stylo-.**

sty·lar (stī′lər, -lär′) *adj.* **1.** Of, pertaining to, or resembling a stylus. **2.** *Biol.* Of or pertaining to a style.

sty·late (stī′lāt′) *adj.* Having a style or styles.

style (stīl) *n.* **1.** The way in which something is said, done, expressed, or performed: *a style of speech and writing.* **2.** The combination of distinctive features of literary or artistic expression, execution, or performance characterizing a particular person, group, school, or era. **3.** Sort; type: *a style of furniture.* **4.** A quality of imagination and individuality expressed in one's actions and tastes. **5. a.** A comfortable and elegant mode of existence: *living in style.* **b.** A particular mode of living: *the style of a gentleman.* **6. a.** The fashion of the moment, esp. of dress; vogue: *out of style.* **b.** A particular fashion: *the style of the 1920s.* **7.** A customary manner of presenting printed material, including usage, punctuation, spelling, typography, and arrangement. **8.** Form of address; title. **9.** A slender, pointed writing instrument used by the ancients on wax tablets. **10.** An implement used for etching or engraving. **11.** The needle of a phonograph. **12.** The gnomon of a sundial. **13.** *Bot.* The usually slender part of a pistil, rising from the ovary and tipped by the stigma. **14.** *Zool.* A slender, tubular, or bristlelike process. **15.** *Obs.* A pen. **16.** A surgical probing instrument; stylet. —*tr.v.* **styled, styl·ing, styles. 1.** To call or name; designate: *George VI styled his brother the Duke of Windsor.* **2.** To make consistent with rules of style: *style a manuscript.* **3.** To give style to: *style hair.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *stilus.*] —**styl′er** *n.*


style

style book *n.* A book giving rules and examples of usage, punctuation, and typography, used in the preparation of copy for publication.

sty·let (stī-lĕt′, stī′lĭt) *n.* **1.** A slender, pointed instrument or weapon, such as a stiletto. **2.** A surgical probe. **3.** *Zool.* A small, stiff, needlelike process in some invertebrates. [Fr. < Ital. *stiletto,* stiletto. —see STILETTO.]

sty·li (stī′lī′) *n.* A plural of **stylus.**

styli– *pref.* Variant of **stylo-.**

sty·li·form (stī′lə-fôrm′) *adj.* Having the shape of a style.

styl·ish (stī′lĭsh) *adj.* Conforming to the current fashion; modish. —**styl′ish·ly** *adv.* —**styl′ish·ness** *n.*

styl·ist (stī′lĭst) *n.* **1.** A writer or speaker who cultivates an artful literary style. **2.** A designer of or consultant on styles in decorating, dress, or beauty.

sty·lis·tic (stī-lĭs′tĭk) *adj.* Of or relating to style, esp. literary style. —**sty·lis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

sty·lite (stī′līt′) *n.* One of a number of early Christian ascetics who lived unsheltered on the tops of high pillars. [LGk. *stulitēs* < Gk. *stulos,* pillar.] —**sty·lit′ic** (-lĭt′ĭk) *adj.* —**sty′lit·ism** (stī′lĭt′ĭz-əm) *n.*

styl·ize (stī′līz′) *tr.v.* **-ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es. 1.** To conform or restrict to a particular style. **2.** To represent conventionally; conventionalize: *"An air of fastidious, stylized melancholy"* (Elizabeth Bowen). —**styl′i·za′tion** *n.* —**styl′iz′er** *n.*

stylo– or **styli–** or **styl–** *pref.* Style: *stylograph.* [< Lat. *stilus,* stake, stem, style.]

sty·lo·bate (stī′lə-bāt′) *n. Archit.* The immediate foundation of a row of classical columns. [Lat. *stylobata* < Gk. *stulobatēs* : *stulos,* pillar + *bainein,* to walk.]

sty·lo·graph (stī′lə-grăf′) *n.* A fountain pen having a tubular writing point instead of a nib.

sty·log·ra·phy (stī-lŏg′rə-fē) *n.* The art or a method of etching, engraving, or writing with a style. —**sty′lo·graph′ic** (-lə-grăf′ĭk), **sty′lo·graph′i·cal** *adj.*

sty·loid (stī′loid′) *adj.* Slender and pointed.

sty·lo·lite (stī′lə-līt′) *n.* A small columnar rock development in limestone and other calcareous rocks that is at right angles to the bed, of irregular cross section, and has striated sides. [Gk. *stulos,* pillar + -LITE.]

sty·lo·po·di·um (stī′lə-pō′dē-əm) *n., pl.* **-di·a** (-dē-ə). An enlargement at the base of the style of certain flowers.

sty·lus (stī′ləs) *n., pl.* **-lus·es** or **-li** (-lī′). **1.** A sharp, pointed instrument used for writing, marking, or engraving. **2.** A phonograph needle. **3.** A sharp, pointed tool used for cutting record grooves. [Lat. *stilus.*]

sty·mie also **sty·my** (stī′mē) —*tr.v.* **-mied, -mie·ing, -mies** also **-mied, -my·ing, -mies.** To block; thwart. —*n.* **1.** An obstacle or obstruction. **2.** A situation in golf in which an opponent's ball obstructs the line of play of one's own ball on the putting green. [Orig. unknown.]

styp·sis (stĭp′sĭs) *n.* The action or application of a styptic. [LLat. < Gk. *stupsis* < *stuphein,* to contract.]

styp·tic (stĭp′tĭk) also **styp·ti·cal** (-tĭ-kəl) *adj.* **1.** Contracting the tissues or blood vessels; astringent. **2.** Tending to check bleeding; hemostatic. —*n.* A styptic drug or substance. [ME *stiptik* < LLat. *stypticus* < Gk. *stuptikos* < *stuphein,* to contract.] —**styp·tic′i·ty** (-tĭs′ĭ-tē) *n.*

styptic pencil *n.* A short medicated stick, often of alum, applied to a cut to check bleeding.

sty·rax (stī′răks) *n.* A storax (senses 2, 3).

sty·rene (stī′rēn′) *n.* A colorless oily liquid, C_8H_8, the monomer for polystyrene. [< Lat. *styrax,* storax. —see STORAX.]

Sty·ro·foam (stī′rə-fōm′). A trademark for a light, resilient polystyrene plastic.

Styx (stĭks) *n. Gk. Myth.* One of the rivers of Hades, across which the souls of the dead are ferried. [Lat. < Gk. *Stux.*]

su·a·ble (sōō′ə-bəl) *adj.* Legally subject to a court suit. —**su′a·bil′i·ty** *n.*

sua·sion (swā′zhən) *n.* Persuasion: *moral suasion.* [ME < Lat. *suasio* < *suadēre,* to persuade.] —**sua′sive** (-sĭv, -zĭv) *adj.* —**sua′sive·ly** *adv.* —**sua′sive·ness** *n.*

suave (swäv) *adj.* Smoothly gracious in social manner; urbane. [OFr., agreeable < Lat. *suavis.*] —**suave′ly** *adv.* —**suave′ness, suav′i·ty** (swä′vĭ-tē) *n.*

Synonyms: *suave, smooth, urbane, diplomatic, politic.* These adjectives refer to a controlled or refined manner. *Suave* suggests a polished exterior and outward sophistication. *Smooth* stresses conscious, sometimes excessive effort to avoid conflict with others. *Urbane* implies a high degree of refinement together with the assurance that comes from wide social experience. *Diplomatic* especially suggests tact in handling difficult situations, and *politic* adds to this the implication of artful management, sagacity, or shrewdness in gaining an end.

sub (sŭb) *n. Informal.* **1.** A submarine. **2.** A substitute. **3.** *Regional.* A hero (sense 5). —*intr.v.* **subbed, sub·bing, subs.** To act as a substitute.

sub– *pref.* **1.** Below; under; beneath: *subsoil.* **2. a.** Subordinate; secondary: *subplot.* **b.** Subdivision: *subregion.* **3.** Less than completely or normally; nearly; almost: *subhuman.* [Lat. < *sub,* under, below.]

sub·ab·dom·i·nal (sŭb′ăb-dŏm′ə-nəl) *adj.* Located or occurring below the abdomen.

sub·a·cute (sŭb′ə-kyōōt′) *adj.* Somewhat acute. Used of a disease. —**sub′a·cute′ly** *adv.*

sub·ad·dress (sŭb′ə-drĕs′) *n.* A section of a computer input/output device accessible through an order code.

sub·aer·i·al (sŭb′ăr′ē-əl) *adj.* Located or occurring on or near the surface of the earth.

sub·al·pine (sŭb′ăl′pīn′) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to regions at or near the foot of the Alps. **2.** Of, designating, or growing or living in mountainous regions just below the timberline.

sub·al·tern (sŭb′ôl′tərn, sŭb′əl-tûrn′) *adj.* **1.** Lower in position or rank; secondary. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* Holding a military rank just below that of captain. **3.** *Logic.* In the relation of a particular proposition to a universal with the same subject, predicate, and quality. —*n.* **1.** A subordinate. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* A subaltern officer. **3.** *Logic.* A subaltern proposition. [LLat. *subalternus* : Lat. *sub-,* below + Lat. *alternus,* alternate < *alter,* other.]

sub·al·ter·nate (sŭb′ôl′tər-nĭt) *adj.* **1.** Subordinate. **2.** Arranged in an alternating pattern but tending to become opposite. Used of leaves. —**sub·al′ter·na′tion** *n.*

sub·ant·arc·tic (sŭb′ănt-ärk′tĭk, -är′tĭk) *adj.* Of or resembling regions just north of the Antarctic Circle.

sub·a·pi·cal (sŭb′ā′pĭ-kəl) *adj.* Located below or near an apex. —**sub′a′pi·cal·ly** *adv.*

sub·a·que·ous (sŭb′ā′kwē-əs, -äk′wē-) *adj.* **1.** Formed or adapted for underwater use or operation; submarine. **2.** Found or occurring under water.

sub·arc·tic (sŭb′ärk′tĭk, -är′tĭk) *adj.* Of or resembling regions just south of the Arctic Circle.

sub·ar·id (sŭb′ăr′ĭd) *adj.* Somewhat arid; moderately dry.

sub·a·tom·ic (sŭb′ə-tŏm′ĭk) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to the constituents of the atom. **2.** Having dimensions or participating in reactions characteristic of the constituents of the atom.

sub·au·di·tion (sŭb′ô-dĭsh′ən) *n.* **1.** The act of understanding and mentally supplying a word or thought that has been implied but not expressed. **2.** A word or thought supplied by subaudition. [LLat. *subauditio,* supplying a missing word < *subaudire,* to supply an omitted word : Lat. *sub-,* below + Lat. *audire,* to hear.]

sub·base (sŭb′bās′) *n.* The lowermost front strip or molding of a baseboard.

sub·base·ment (sŭb′bās′mənt) *n.* A story or floor beneath a main basement of a building.

sub·bass (sŭb′bās′) *n. Mus.* A pedal stop on an organ that produces the lowest tones, having 16 or 32 feet.

sub·cal·i·ber (sŭb′kăl′ə-bər) *adj.* **1.** Smaller in caliber than the barrel of the gun from which it was fired. Used of projectiles. **2.** Of or pertaining to subcaliber projectiles.

sub·car·ri·er (sŭb′kăr′ē-ər) *n.* A section of a transmitted wave used to modify the information-carrying section of the wave.

sub·car·ti·lag·i·nous (sŭb′kär-tə-lăj′ə-nəs) *adj.* **1.** Located beneath a cartilage. **2.** Partly cartilaginous.

sub·ce·les·tial (sŭb′sĭ-lĕs′chəl) *adj.* **1.** Lower than celestial; terrestrial. **2.** Mundane.

sub·chas·er (sŭb′chā′sər) *n.* A submarine chaser.

sub·class (sŭb′klăs′) *n.* **1.** A subdivision of a class. **2.** A taxonomic category ranking between a class and an order.

sub·cla·vi·an (sŭb′klā′vē-ən) *adj. Anat.* **1.** Situated beneath the clavicle. **2.** Of or relating to a subclavian part. **3.** Of or