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ditation of mind or feeling: *an excited state*. 6. an abnormally tense, nervous, or perturbed condition: *in a state over losing one's job*. 7. a politically unified people occupying a definite territory; nation. 8. the territory or authority of a state. 9. (sometimes cap.) any of the bodies politic or political units that together make up a federal union, as in the United States of America. 10. the body politic as organized for civil rule and government: *separation of church and state*. 11. the sphere of the highest civil authority and administration: *affairs of state*. 12. the States, the United States (usu. used outside its borders). —*adj.* 13. of or pertaining to the central civil government or authority. 14. of, maintained by, or under the authority of a unit of a federal union: *a state highway*. 15. characterized by, attended with, or involving ceremony: *a state dinner*. 16. used on or reserved for occasions of ceremony. —*v.t.* 17. to declare definitely or specifically. 18. to set forth formally in speech or writing. 19. to set forth in proper or definite form: *to state a problem*. 20. to say. 21. to fix or settle, as by authority. —*Idiom.* 22. *lie in state*, (of a corpse) to be exhibited publicly with honors before burial. [1175–1225; ME *stat* (n.), partly aph. var. of *estat* ESTATE, partly < L *status* condition (see STATUS); in defs. 7–11 < L *status* (*rērum*) state (of things) or *status* (*rēi publicae*) state (of the republic)] —*stat/a-ble*, *state/a-ble*, *adj.*

state/ bank/, *n.* a bank chartered by a state. [1805–15, Amer.]

state/ bird/, *n.* a bird chosen as an official symbol of a U.S. state.

state-craft (stāt/kraft/, -kräft/), *n.* the art of government and diplomacy. [1635–45]

state/ flower/, *n.* a flower chosen as an official symbol of a U.S. state.

state-hood (stāt/hōod), *n.* the status or condition of being a state, esp. a state of the U.S. [1865–70, Amer.]

state-house (stāt/hous/), *n.*, *pl.* -houses (-hou/ziz). the building in which the legislature of a state sits; the capitol of a state. [1585–95]

state-less (stāt/lis), *adj.* lacking nationality. [1600–10] —*state/less-ness*, *n.*

state-ly (stāt/lē), *adj.*, -li-er, -li-est. 1. majestic; imposing in magnificence, elegance, etc. 2. dignified. [1350–1400] —*state/li-ness*, *n.*

state-ment (stāt/mənt), *n.* 1. something stated. 2. a communication or declaration in speech or writing, setting forth facts, particulars, etc. 3. a single sentence or assertion: *I disagree with your last statement*. 4. an abstract of a commercial account, as one rendered to show the balance due. 5. an appearance of a theme, subject, or motif within a musical composition. 6. the act or manner of stating something. 7. the communication of an idea, position, mood, or the like through something other than words. [1765–75]

Stat/en Is/land (stat/n), *n.* 1. an island facing New York Bay. 2. Formerly, *Richmond*, a borough of New York City including this island. 352,121; 64½ sq. mi. (167 sq. km).

state/ of the art/, *n.* the latest and most sophisticated or advanced stage of a technology, art, or science: *a camera considered the state of the art in design*. [1960–65] —*state-of-the-art/*, *adj.*

state/ of war/, *n.* a condition or period of armed conflict between states, with or without a formal declaration of war. [1945–50]

stat-er (stāt/ər), *n.* any of various gold or silver or electrum coins of the ancient Greek states or cities. [1350–1400; ME < LL *statēr* < Gk *statēr*, akin to *histānai* to place in the balance, weigh]

state/ rights/, *n.pl.* STATES' RIGHTS.

state-room (stāt/rōom/, -rōom/), *n.* a private room or compartment on a ship, train, etc. [1695–1705]

state's/ (or state/) attor/ney, *n.* (in judicial proceedings) the legal representative of the state. [1770–80, Amer.]

state's/ ev/idence, *n.* 1. evidence for the prosecution given by an accomplice in a crime. —*Idiom.* 2. *turn state's evidence*, to give evidence against one's accomplice or accomplices in a crime, usu. in exchange for a reduced sentence. [1790–1800]

States-/Gen/eral, *n.* 1. the parliament of the Netherlands. 2. the legislative body in France before the French Revolution. [1575–85]

state-side or **State-side** (stāt/sīd/), *adj.* 1. being in or toward the continental U.S. —*adv.* 2. in or toward the continental U.S. [1940–45]

states-man (stāts/mən), *n.*, *pl.* -men. 1. an experienced politician who holds a high office in government, esp. at the national level. 2. a highly respected and influential political leader who exhibits great ability and devotion to public service. [1585–95; on the model of *steersman*; cf. the phrase *ship of state*] —*states/man-like/*, *states/man-ly*, *adj.* —*states/man-ship/*, *n.* —*Syn.* See POLITICIAN.

States/ of the Church/, *n.pl.* PAPAL STATES.

states/ rights/, *n.pl.* the rights belonging to the states, esp. with reference to the strict construction of the Constitution by which all rights not delegated to the federal government belong to the states.

states-wom-an (stāts/wōm/ən), *n.*, *pl.* -wom-en. a woman who is an experienced and influential political leader, esp. one holding a high office in government. [1600–10] —*Usage.* See WOMAN.

state/ tree/, *n.* a tree chosen as an official symbol of a U.S. state.

state/ troop/er, *n.* a member of a state police force. [1940–45]

state/ univer/sity, *n.* a public university maintained by the government of a state. [1825–35, Amer.]

state-wide (stāt/wīd/), *adj.* 1. extending throughout a state: *state-wide elections*. —*adv.* 2. throughout a state. [1910–15, Amer.]

Sta-tia (stā/shā), *n.* ST. EUSTATIUS.

stat-ic (stat/ik), *adj.* Also, *stat/i-cal*. 1. of or pertaining to bodies or forces at rest or in equilibrium. 2. pertaining to or characterized by a fixed or stationary condition. 3. showing little or no change: *a static relationship*. 4. lacking movement, development, or vitality: *a novel marred by static characterizations*. 5. pertaining to or noting static

electricity. —*n.* 6. a. static or atmospheric electricity. b. interference with radio broadcasts, telecommunications, etc., due to such electricity. 7. resistance or hostility, as to one's actions or plans; opposition. [1560–70; < NL *staticus* < Gk *statikós* = *sta-* (s. of *histānai* to make STAND) + *-tikós* -*tic*] —*stat/i-cally*, *adv.*

stat-ice (stat/īs, -ə sē/), *n.* SEA LAVENDER. [1725–35; < NL (orig. a genus name), L < Gk *statikē* an astringent herb, n. use of fem. of *statikós* astringent, lit., causing to stand; see STATIC]

stat/ic electric/ity, *n.* an electrical charge, often created by friction, consisting of stationary ions that do not move in a current. [1875–80]

stat/ic line/, *n.* a line attached to a parachute pack and to an aircraft that opens the parachute automatically once it is outside the aircraft.

stat-ics (stat/iks), *n.* (used with a sing. v.) the branch of mechanics that deals with bodies at rest or forces in equilibrium. [1650–60]

stat/ic tube/, *n.* a tube for measuring the static pressure of a fluid in motion, so placed in the fluid as not to be affected by the pressure changes caused by the motion of the fluid. [1930–35]

sta-tion (stā/shən), *n.* 1. a place or position in which a person or thing is normally located. 2. a stopping place for trains or other land conveyances, for the transfer of freight or passengers. 3. the building or buildings at such a stopping place. 4. the district or municipal headquarters of certain public services: *a police station*. 5. a place equipped for some particular kind of work, service, research, or activity: *a geophysical station*. 6. the position, as of persons or things, in a scale of estimation, rank, or dignity; standing. 7. a position, office, rank, calling, or the like. 8. a. a studio or building from which radio or television broadcasts originate. b. a person or organization originating such broadcasts. c. a specific frequency or band of frequencies assigned to a regular or special broadcaster: *the Civil Defense station*. d. the complete equipment used in transmitting and receiving broadcasts. 9. a. a military place of duty. b. a semipermanent army post. 10. a place or region to which a ship or fleet is assigned for duty. 11. a particular area or type of region where a given animal or plant is found. 12. (in Australia) a ranch with its buildings, land, etc., esp. for raising sheep. 13. *Survey*. a. a point where an observation is taken. b. a precisely located reference point. 14. a section or area assigned for work or duty; post. 15. one of the 14 stations of the cross. —*v.t.* 16. to assign a station to; place or post in a station or position. [1350–1400; ME *stacioun* < AF < L *statiō* a standing still, halting place = *sta-*, var. s. of *stāre* to STAND + *-tiō* -*tion*] —*sta/tion-al*, *adj.*

sta-tion-ar-y (stā/shə ner/ē), *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* ar-ies —*adj.* 1. standing still; not moving. 2. having a fixed position; not movable. 3. established in one place; not itinerant or migratory. 4. remaining in the same condition or state; not changing. —*n.* 5. a person or thing that is stationary. [1400–50; < L *stationārius*. See STATION, -ARY]

sta/tionary bi/cycle, *n.* any of various stationary exercise apparatuses that resemble a bicycle.

stationary wave/, *n.* STANDING WAVE. [1895–1900]

sta/tion break/, *n.* an interval during or after a radio or TV program for identifying the station, airing commercials, etc. [1935–40]

station-er (stā/shə nər), *n.* 1. a seller of paper, pens, pencils, and other writing materials. 2. *Archaic*. a. a bookseller. b. a publisher. [1350–1400; < ML *stationārius*, n. use of the adj.: STATIONARY]

station-ery (stā/shə ner/ē), *n.* 1. writing paper. 2. writing materials, as pens, pencils, paper, and envelopes. [1670–80]

sta/tion house/, *n.* a police station or fire station. [1825–35]

sta-tion-mas-ter (stā/shən mas/tər, -mā/stər), *n.* a person in charge of a railroad station. [1855–60, Amer.]

sta/tions of the cross/ or **Sta/tions of the Cross/**, *n.pl.* a series of 14 representations of successive incidents from the Passion of Christ, set up in a church or outdoors and visited in sequence for prayer or meditation. [1885–90]

sta/tion wag/on, *n.* an automobile with one or more rows of folding or removable seats and an area behind these seats into which suitcases, parcels, etc., can be loaded through a tailgate.

stat-ism (stāt/īz əm), *n.* the principle or policy of concentrating extensive economic and political controls in the state. [1915–20; trans. of F *étatisme*] —*stat/ist*, *n.*, *adj.*

sta-tis-tic (stā tis/tik), *n.* a numerical fact or datum, esp. one computed from a sample. [1875–80]

sta-tis-ti-cal (stā tis/ti kəl), *adj.* of, pertaining to, consisting of, or based on statistics. [1780–90] —*sta-tis-ti-cally*, *adv.*

stat-is-ti-cian (stat/i stish/ən), *n.* an expert in or compiler of statistics. [1815–25]

sta-tis-tics (stā tis/tiks), *n.* 1. (used with a sing. v.) the science that deals with the collection, analysis, and interpretation of numerical data, often using probability theory. 2. (used with a pl. v.) the data themselves. [1780–90; orig., a branch of political science dealing with the collection of data relevant to a state < G *Statistik*]

Sta-ti-us (stā/shē əs), *n.* Publius Papinius, A.D. c45–c96, Roman poet.

sta-tive (stā/tiv), *adj.* (of a verb) expressing a state or condition, as *know*, *like*, or *belong*, and not usu. used in progressive tenses. Compare NONSTATIVE. [1870–75]

stato-, a combining form meaning “stasis,” “equilibrium”: *statocyst*. [comb. form of Gk *statós* standing, v. *adj.* of *histānai* to make STAND]

stat-o-blast (stat/ə blast/), *n.* an asexually produced group of encased cells in certain bryozoans, which can survive unfavorable conditions and germinate to produce a new colony. [1850–55]

stat-o-cyst (stat/ə sist/), *n.* an organ of equilibrium in certain invertebrates, consisting of a fluid-filled sac enclosing sensory hairs and particles of lime or sand. [1900–05]