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full-motion video *noun* COMPUT a sequence of images that gives the impression of continuous movement

full-wave rectifier *noun* ELECTRONICS a device for converting an alternating current into a direct current operating on both the positive and negative cycles of the alternating current (NOTE: Such rectifiers are used in the design of electronic equipment such as radios, computers and televisions.)

fully *adverb* completely

fully populated *adjective* COMPUT with all the possible options or memory fitted, or with components in all free sockets

fumarole *noun* EARTH SCI a small hole in the Earth's crust near a volcano from which gases, smoke or steam are released

fumes *plural noun* 1. PHYS gas or vapour 2. CHEM the solid particles produced by a chemical reaction which pass into the air as smoke

fumigant *noun* MED, AGRIC a chemical compound that becomes a gas or smoke when heated and is used to kill insects

fumigate *verb* MED, AGRIC to kill microorganisms or insects by using a fumigant

fumigation *noun* 1. MED, AGRIC the use of a fumigant to kill microorganisms or insects 2. ENVIRON a high amount of air pollution near the ground, caused when the morning sun heats the air and forces polluted air down from higher levels

function *noun* 1. the use or purpose of something or how it works *o* *The function of a wing is to provide lift.* 2. MATHS a mathematical formula where a result is dependent upon several other numbers 3. COMPUT a sequence of computer program instructions in a main program that perform a specific task 4. COMPUT a special feature available on a computer or word-processor *o* *a spelling-checker function* ■ *verb* COMPUT to operate or perform correctly *o* *The new system has not functioned properly since it was installed.*

functional *adjective* 1. useful or serving a practical purpose 2. MED having no apparent organic cause

functional food *noun* HEALTH a food designed to be medically beneficial, helping to protect against serious conditions such as diabetes, cancer or heart disease. Also called **nutraceutical**, **neutraceutical**

functional genomics *noun* GENETICS the study of the relationships between the

structure of genes and their biological function in organisms

functional group *noun* CHEM a group of atoms that reacts as a single unit and determines the properties and structure of a class of chemicals (NOTE: For example, the hydroxyl group is the functional group in alcohols.)

function call *noun* COMPUT a program instruction that moves execution to a pre-defined function or named sequence of instructions

function key *noun* COMPUT one of several special keys placed along the top of a PC keyboard that have different uses according to different applications *o* *Tags can be allocated to function keys.*

COMMENT: Function keys often form a separate group of keys on the keyboard, and have specific functions attached to them. They may be labelled F1, F2 etc. Most applications use the F1 key to display help information and Alt-F4 to quit an application.

function library *noun* COMPUT a collection of functions that can be used by a program

function overloading *noun* COMPUT a programming system in which several different functions can have the same name, but are differentiated because they operate on different data types

fundamental *adjective* 1. referring to or forming the foundation or base *o* *the fundamental laws of aerodynamics* 2. forming or serving as an essential component of a system or structure *o* *Electricity is one of the fundamental types of energy that exist in nature.*

fundamental niche *noun* ECOL the full range of physical, chemical and biological factors each species could use if there were no competition from other species

fundamental particle *noun* PHYS same as **elementary particle**

fundamental unit *noun* MEASURE a basic unit of length, mass or time

fundie *noun* ENVIRON a member of the radical wing of the Green movement

fungal *adjective* BIOL referring to fungi *o* *She had a fungal skin infection.*

fungi BIOL plural of **fungus**

fungicidal *adjective* AGRIC referring to a substance which kills fungi *o* *fungicidal properties*

fungicide *noun* AGRIC a substance used to kill fungi