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the official oath today . . . with no purpose to construe the Constitution or laws by any hypercritical rules" (Abraham Lincoln).

ex·pla·na·tion (ĕk'splā-nā'shən) *n.* 1. The act or process of explaining: *launched into a detailed explanation.* 2. Something that explains: *That was supposedly the explanation for their misdeeds.* 3. A mutual clarification of misunderstandings; a reconciliation.

ex·plan·a·tive (ik-splān'ā-tiv) *adj.* Explanatory. —**ex·plan'ative·ly** *adv.*

ex·plan·a·to·ry (ik-splān'ā-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.* Serving or intended to explain: *an explanatory paragraph.* —**ex·plan'ative·ly** *adv.*

ex·plant (ĕk-splānt') *tr.v.* -**plant·ed**, -**plant·ing**, -**plants** To remove (living tissue) from the natural site of growth and place in a medium for culture. ♦ *n.* (ĕks'plānt') Explanted tissue. [EX- + (IM)PLANT.] —**ex·plan'ta·tion** *n.*

ex·ple·tive (ĕk'spli-tiv) *n.* 1. An exclamation or oath, especially one that is profane, vulgar, or obscene. 2a. A word or phrase that does not contribute any meaning but is added only to fill out a sentence or a metrical line. b. *Linguistics* A word or other grammatical element that has no meaning but is needed to fill a syntactic position, such as the words *it* and *there* in the sentences *It's raining* and *There are many books on the table*. ♦ *adj.* Added or inserted in order to fill out something, such as a sentence or a metrical line. [From Late Latin *expletivus*, serving to fill out, from Latin *expletus*, past participle of *explere*, to fill out: *ex-*, *ex-* + *plere*, to fill; see *plē-* in Appendix I.]

ex·ple·to·ry (ĕk'spli-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.* Expletive.

ex·plic·a·ble (ik-splik'ā-bəl, ĕk'spli-kā-) *adj.* Possible to explain: *explicable phenomena; explicable behavior.* —**ex·plic'ative·ly** *adv.*

ex·pli·cate (ĕk'spli-kāt') *tr.v.* -**cat·ed**, -**cat·ing**, -**cat·es** To make clear the meaning of; explain. See synonyms at **explain**. [Latin *explicāre*, *explicāt-*, to unfold, explain: *ex-*, *ex-* + *placāre*, to fold; see *plek-* in Appendix I.] —**ex·pli'ca·tion** *n.* —**ex·pli'ca·tor** *n.*

ex·pli·ca·tion de texte (ĕk-splē-kā-syōn də tĕkst') *n., pl. ex·pli·ca·tions de texte* (ĕk-splē-kā-syōn də tĕkst') A method of literary criticism in which the interrelated details of a written work are examined and analyzed in an effort to understand its structure and discover meanings. [French: *explication*, explanation + *de*, of + *texte*, text.]

ex·pli·ca·tive (ĕk'spli-kā'tiv, ik-splik'ā-tiv) *adj.* Serving to explain; explanatory. —**ex·pli'ca·tive** *n.* —**ex·pli'ca·tive·ly** *adv.*

ex·plic·it (ik-splis'it) *adj.* 1a. Fully and clearly expressed; leaving nothing implied. b. Fully and clearly defined or formulated: *"generalizations that are powerful, precise, and explicit"* (Frederick Turner). 2. Forthright and unreserved in expression: *They were explicit in their criticism.* 3a. Readily observable: *an explicit sign of trouble.* b. Describing or portraying nudity or sexual activity in graphic detail. [Latin *explicitus*, past participle of *explicāre*, to unfold. See **EXPLICATE**.] —**ex·plic'itely** *adv.* —**ex·plic'it·ness** *n.*

Synonyms *explicit*, *categorical*, *definite*, *express*, *specific* These adjectives mean entirely clear and unambiguous: *explicit statements; a categorical refusal; a definite answer; my express wishes; a specific purpose.*

Antonym *ambiguous*

explicit function *n.* A function, such as $y = 4x + 3$, whose value may be computed from the independent variable.

ex·plode (ik-splōd') *v.* -**plod·ed**, -**plod·ing**, -**plodes** —*intr.* 1. To release mechanical, chemical, or nuclear energy by the sudden production of gases in a confined space: *The bomb exploded.* 2. To burst violently as a result of internal pressure. 3. To shatter with a loud noise: *The vase exploded into tiny pieces when it hit the floor.* 4. To make an emotional outburst: *My neighbor exploded in rage at the trespassers.* 5. To increase suddenly, sharply, and without control: *The population level in this area has exploded during the past 12 years.* 6. To change state or appearance suddenly: *Over the weekend the trees exploded with color.* 7. *Sports* To hit a golf ball out of a sand trap with a shot that scatters the sand. —*tr.* 1. To cause to release energy or burst violently and noisily: *The children exploded three firecrackers.* 2. To show to be false or unreliable: *explode a hypothesis.* 3. *Sports* To hit (a golf ball) out of a sand trap with an explosive shot. [Latin *explōdere*, to drive out by clapping: *ex-*, *ex-* + *plaudere*, to clap.] —**ex·plod'er** *n.*

ex·plod·ed view (ĕk-splō'did) *n.* An illustration or diagram of a construction that shows its parts separately but in positions that indicate their proper relationships to the whole.

ex·ploit (ĕk'sploit', ik-sploit') *n.* An act or deed, especially a brilliant or heroic one. See synonyms at **feat**. ♦ *tr.v.* (ik-sploit', ĕk'sploit') -**plait·ed**, -**plait·ing**, -**plait·es** 1. To employ to the greatest possible advantage: *exploit one's talents.* 2. To make use of selfishly or unethically: *a country that exploited peasant labor.* See synonyms at **manipulate**. 3. To advertise; promote. [Middle English, from Old French *exploit*, from Latin *exploitum*, neuter past participle of *explicāre*, to unfold. See **EXPLICATE**.] —**ex·ploit'a·bil·ity** *n.* —**ex·ploit'a·ble** *adj.* —**ex·ploit'a·tive**, **ex·ploit'ive** *adj.* —**ex·ploit'a·tive·ly**, **ex·ploit'ive·ly** *adv.* —**ex·ploit'er** *n.*

ex·plo·ita·tion (ĕk'splōi-tā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of employing to the greatest possible advantage: *exploitation of copper deposits.* 2. Utilization of another person or group for selfish purposes: *exploitation of unwary consumers.* 3. An advertising or a publicity program.

ex·plo·ra·tion (ĕk'splē-rā'shən) *n.* The act or an instance of exploring: *Arctic exploration; exploration of new theories.* —**ex·plor'a·**

search into or travel in for the purpose of discovery: *exploring outer space.* 3. *Medicine* To examine for diagnostic purposes. —*intr.* To make a careful examination or search: *scientists who have been known to explore in this region of the earth.* [Latin *explōrāre*: *ex-*, *ex-* + perhaps *plōrāre*, to cry out, as to rouse game.]

ex·plor·er (ik-splōr'ər, -splōr'ər) *n.* 1. One that explores, especially one that explores a geographic area. 2. An implement or a tool used for exploring: a probe. 3. *Explorer* A person aged 14–20 who is a participant in the exploring program of the Boy Scouts of America.

ex·plo·sion (ik-splō'zhən) *n.* 1a. A release of mechanical, chemical, or nuclear energy in a sudden and often violent manner with the generation of high temperature and usually with the release of gases. b. A violent bursting as a result of internal pressure. c. The loud, sharp sound made as a result of either of these actions. 2. A sudden, often vehement outburst: *an explosion of rage.* 3. A sudden, great increase: *a population explosion; the explosion of illegal drug use.* 4. *Linguistics* See **pllosion**. [Latin *explōsiō*, *explōsiōn-*, a driving off, from *explōsus*, past participle of *explōdere*, to drive out by clapping. See **EXPLODE**.]

ex·plo·sive (ik-splō'siv) *adj.* 1. Relating to or having the nature of an explosion. 2. Tending to explode. ♦ *n.* 1. A substance, especially a prepared chemical, that explodes or causes explosion. 2. *Linguistics* A plosive. —**ex·plo'sive·ly** *adv.* —**ex·plo'sive·ness** *n.*

ex·po (ĕk'spō) *n., pl. -pos* *Informal* An exposition.

ex·po·nent (ik-spō'nənt, ĕk'spō'nənt) *n.* 1. One that expounds or interprets. 2. One that speaks for, represents, or advocates: *Our senator is an exponent of free trade.* 3. *Abbr. exp* *Mathematics* A number or symbol, as 3 in $(x + y)^3$, placed to the right of and above another number, symbol, or expression, denoting the power to which that number, symbol, or expression is to be raised. Also called *power*. ♦ *adj.* Expository; explanatory. [Latin *expōnēns*, *expōnēt-*, present participle of *expōnere*, to expound. See **EXPOUND**.]

ex·po·nen·tial (ĕk'spō-nēn'shəl) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to an exponent. 2. *Mathematics* a. Containing, involving, or expressed as an exponent. b. Expressed in terms of a designated power of *e*, the base of natural logarithms. —**ex·po·nen'tial·ly** *adv.*

ex·po·nen·ti·a·tion (ĕk'spō-nēn'shē-ā'shən) *n.* *Mathematics* The act of raising a quantity to a power.

ex·port (ik-spōrt', -spōrt', ĕk'spōrt', -spōrt') *v.* -**port·ed**, -**port·ing**, -**ports** —*tr.* 1. To send or transport (a commodity, for example) abroad, especially for trade or sale. 2. To cause the spread of (an idea, for example) in another part of the world; transmit. 3. *Computer Science* a. To send (data) from one program to another: *"You'll need to export your spreadsheet file into a desktop publishing program"* (Jon Pepper). b. To use an application to store (data) on disk, usually for use by another program. —*intr.* To send or transport abroad merchandise, especially for sale or trade. ♦ *n.* (ĕk'spōrt', -spōrt') Exportation. [Middle English *exsport*, from Latin *exportāre*: *ex-*, *ex-* + *portāre*, to carry; see *per-* in Appendix I.] —**ex·port'a·bil·ity** *n.* —**ex·port'a·ble** *adj.* —**ex·port'er** *n.*

ex·por·ta·tion (ĕk'spōr-tā'shən, -spōr-) *n.* 1. The act of exporting. 2. Something exported; an export.

ex·pose (ik-spōz') *tr.v.* -**posed**, -**pos·ing**, -**pos·es** 1a. To subject or allow to be subjected to an action, influence, or condition: *exposed themselves to disease; exposed their children to classical music.* b. To subject (a photographic film, for example) to the action of light. c. To deprive of shelter or protection; lay open to danger or harm: *troops that were exposed to gunfire.* 2. To make visible: *Cleaning exposed the grain of the wood.* See synonyms at **show**. 3a. To make known (something discreditable). b. To reveal the guilt or wrongdoing of: *expose a criminal.* 4. To engage in indecent exposure of (oneself). [Middle English *exposen*, from Old French *exposer*, alteration (influenced by *poser*, to put, place) of Latin *expōnere*, to set forth. See **EXPOUND**.] —**ex·pos'er** *n.*

ex·po·sé (ĕk'spō-zā') *n.* 1. An exposure or a revelation of something discreditable. 2. A formal exposition of facts. [French, past participle of *exposer*, to expose, from Old French. See **EXPOSE**.]

ex·po·si·tion (ĕk'spō-zish'ən) *n.* 1. A setting forth of meaning or intent. 2a. A statement or rhetorical discourse intended to give information about or an explanation of difficult material. b. The art or technique of composing such discourses. 3. *Music* a. The first part of a composition in sonata form that introduces the themes. b. The opening section of a fugue. 4. The part of a play that provides the background information needed to understand the characters and the action. 5. An act or example of exposing. 6. A public exhibition or show, as of artistic or industrial developments. [Middle English *exposicioun*, from Old French *exposition*, from Latin *expositiō*, *expositiōn-*, from *expositus*, past participle of *expōnere*, to expound. See **EXPOUND**.] —**ex·pos'i·tive** (ik-spōz'ī-tiv), **ex·pos'i·to·ry** (-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.* —**ex·pos'i·tor** *n.*

ex post facto (ĕks' pōst fāk'tō) *adj.* Formulated, enacted, or operating retroactively. Used especially of a law. [Latin *ex postfacto*: *ex*, from + *postfacto*, ablative of *postfactum*, that which is done afterward.]

ex·pos·tu·late (ik-spōs'chā-lāt') *intr.v.* -**lat·ed**, -**lat·ing**, -**lates** To reason earnestly with someone in an effort to dissuade or correct; remonstrate. See synonyms at **object**. [Latin *expostulāre*, *expostulat-*: *ex-*, intensive pref.; see *EX-* + *postulāre*, to demand; see *prek-* in Appendix I.] —**ex·pos'tu·la·tion** *n.* —**ex·pos'tu·la·tor** *n.* —**ex·pos'tu·la·to·ry** (-lā-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē), **ex·pos'tu·la'tive** *adj.*

ex·po·sure (ik-spō'zhər) *n.* 1. The act or an instance of exposing; as: a. An act of subjecting or an instance of being subjected to an action or an influence: *their first exposure to big city life.* b. Appearance in public or in the mass media: *an actor with much recent exposure in television.* c. Revelation, especially of crime or guilt: *exposure of graft in county government.* d. The act of presenting a body part, especially the genitals, to