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About the type

This dictionary is typeset in CollinsFedra, a special version of the Fedra family of types designed by Peter Bil'ak. CollinsFedra has been customized especially for Collins dictionaries; it includes both sans serif (for headwords) and serif (entries) versions, in several different weights. Its large x-height, its open 'eye', and its basis in the tradition of humanist letterforms make CollinsFedra both familiar and easy to read at small sizes. It has been designed to use the minimum space without sacrificing legibility, as well as including a number of characters and signs that are specific to dictionary typography. Its companion phonetic type is the first of its kind to be drawn according to the same principles as the regular typeface, rather than assembled from rotated and reflected characters from other types. Peter Bil'ak (born 1973, Slovakia) is a graphic and type designer living in the Netherlands. He is the author of two books, *Illegibility* and *Transparency*. As well as the Fedra family, he has designed several other typefaces including *Eureka*. His typotheque.com website has become a focal point for research and debate around contemporary type design.

La Trappe (French *la trappe*) *n* a monastery in NW France, in the village of Soligny-la-Trappe northeast of Alençon; founded in about 1140, site of the Trappist reform of Cistercian order in 1664
latría (la'tría) *n* RC Church, the adoration that may be offered to God alone

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: via Latin from Greek *latreia* worship
latrine (la'trim) *n* a lavatory, as in a barracks, camp, etc

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: from French, from Latin *lātrina*, shortened form of *lavatrina* bath, from *lavare* to wash
-latry *n* combining form indicating worship of or excessive veneration of: *Idolatry*; *Mariolatry* > **-latrous** *adj* combining form

● **ETYMOLOGY** from Greek *-latría*, from *latreia* worship
latrs (latrs) *n*, pl *latrs* (latrs) the standard monetary unit of Latvia, divided into 100 santimi

latte (lat'e, lat'en) *n* coffee made with hot milk

● **ETYMOLOGY** c20: from Italian (*caffè e*) latte (coffee and milk)

latten (lat'n) *n* metal or alloy, esp brass, made in thin sheets

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: from Old French *laton*, of unknown origin

latter (lat'a) *adj* (prenominal) 1 *a* denoting the second or second mentioned of two; distinguished from former *b* (as noun; functioning as sing or plural); the latter is not important 2 near or nearer the end: the latter part of a film 3 more advanced in time or sequence; later

● **USAGE** The latter should only be used to refer to the second of two items: many people choose to go by hovercraft rather than use the ferry, but I prefer the latter. The last of three or more items can be referred to as the last-named

latter-day *adj* present-day; modern
Latter-day Saint *n* a more formal name for a Mormon

latterly (lat'li) *adv* recently; lately
lattermost (lat'a,most) *adj* a less common word for last

lattice (lat'is) *n* 1 Also called: **latticework** an open framework of strips of wood, metal, etc., arranged to form an ornamental pattern 2 *a* a gate, screen, etc., formed of such a framework *b* (as modifier): a lattice window 3 something, such as a decorative or heraldic device, resembling such a framework 4 an array of objects or points in a periodic pattern in two or three dimensions, esp an array of atoms, ions, etc., in a crystal or an array of points indicating their positions in space. See also **Bravais lattice** > *vb* 5 to make, adorn, or supply with a lattice or lattices > **latticed** *adj*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: from Old French *lattis*, from *latte*

lattice energy *n* chem the energy required to separate the ions of a crystal to an infinite distance, usually expressed in joules per mole

latus rectum (lat'as 'rektam) *n*, pl *latera recta* (lat'ara 'rekta) geometry a chord that passes through the focus of a conic and is perpendicular to the major axis

● **ETYMOLOGY** c18: New Latin: straight side

Latvia (lat'via) *n* a republic in NE Europe, on the Gulf of Riga and the Baltic Sea; ruled by Poland, Sweden, and Russia since the 13th century, Latvia was independent from 1919 until 1940 and was a Soviet republic (1940–91), gaining its independence after conflict with Soviet forces; it joined the EU in 2004. Latvia is mostly forested. Official language: Latvian. Religion: nonreligious, Christian. Currency: lats. Capital: Riga. Pop: 2,286,000 (2004 est). Area: 63,700 sq km (25,590 sq miles)

Latvian (lat'vian) *adj* 1 of or relating to Latvia, its people, or their language > *n* 2 Also called: Lettish the official language of Latvia: closely related to Lithuanian and belonging to the Baltic branch of the Indo-European family 3 a native or inhabitant of Latvia

laud (lod) *literary* > *vb* 1 (tr) to praise or glorify > *n* 2 praise or glorification > **lauder** *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: *vb* from Latin *laudare*; *n* from *laudes*, pl of Latin *laus* praise

Laud (lod) *n* William. 1573–1645, English prelate; archbishop of Canterbury (1633–45). His persecution of Puritans and his High Church policies in England and Scotland were a cause of the Civil War; he was impeached by the Long Parliament (1640) and executed

laudable (lod'əb'l) *adj* deserving or worthy of praise; admirable; commendable > **laudableness** or **laudability** *n* > **laudably** *adv*

laudanum (lod'ənam) *n* 1 a tincture of opium 2 (formerly) any medicine of which opium was the main ingredient

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: New Latin, name chosen by Paracelsus for a preparation probably containing opium, perhaps based on **LABDANUM**

laudation (lod'ejən) *n* a formal word for praise

laudatory (lod'etəri, -tri) or **laudative** *adj* expressing or containing praise; eulogistic

Laudian (lod'ian) *adj* Church of England of or relating to the High-Church standards set up for the Church of England by Archbishop Laud

lauds (lodz) *n* (functioning as singular or plural) chiefly RC Church the traditional morning prayer of the Western Church, constituting with matins the first of the seven canonical hours

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: see **LAUD**

laugh (lo:f) *vb* 1 (intr) to express or manifest emotion, esp mirth or amusement, typically by expelling air from the lungs in short bursts to produce an inarticulate voiced noise, with the mouth open 2 (intr) (esp of certain mammals or birds) to make a noise resembling a laugh 3 (tr) to utter or express with laughter: he laughed his derision at the play 4 (tr) to bring or force (someone, esp oneself) into a certain condition by laughter: he laughed himself sick 5 (intr; foll by at) to make fun (of); jeer (at) 6 (intr; foll by over) to read or discuss something with laughter 7 don't make me laugh informal I don't believe you for a moment 8 laugh all the way to the bank informal to be unashamedly pleased at making a lot of money 9 laugh in a person's face to show open contempt or defiance towards a person 10 laugh like a drain informal to laugh loudly and coarsely 11 laugh up one's sleeve to laugh or have grounds for amusement, self-satisfaction, etc., secretly 12 laugh on the other side of one's face to show sudden disappointment or shame after appearing cheerful or confident 13 be laughing informal to be in a favourable situation > *n* 14 the act or an instance of laughing 15 a manner of laughter 16 informal a person or thing that causes laughter: that holiday was a laugh 17 the last laugh the final success in an argument, situation, etc., after previous defeat > See also **laugh away**, **laugh down**, **laugh off** > **laugher** *n* > **laughing** *n*, *adj* > **laughingly** *adv*

● **ETYMOLOGY** Old English *læhan*, *hlæhhen*; related to Gothic *hlahan*, Dutch *lachen*

laughable (lo:fəb'l) *adj* 1 producing scorn; ludicrous: he offered me a laughable sum for the picture 2 arousing laughter > **laughableness** *n* > **laughably** *adv*

laugh away *vb* (tr, adverb) 1 to dismiss or dispel (something unpleasant) by laughter 2 to make (time) pass pleasantly by jesting

laugh down *vb* (tr, adverb) to silence by laughing contemptuously

laughing gas *n* another name for nitrous oxide

laughing hyena *n* the spotted hyena. See **hyena**

laughing jackass *n* another name for **kookaburra** (sense 1)

laughing stock *n* an object of humiliating ridicule: his mistakes have made him a laughing stock

laugh off *vb* (tr, adverb) to treat or dismiss lightly, esp with stoicism: he laughed off his injuries

laughter (lo:fta) *n* 1 the action of or noise produced by laughing 2 the experience or manifestation of mirth, amusement, scorn, or joy

● **ETYMOLOGY** Old English *hlæhtor*; related to Old Norse *hlítr*

laughter club *n* a group of people who meet regularly to take part in communal laughing for therapeutic effect

launce (launs) *n* another name for the **sand eel**

Launceston (lɔnsəstən) *n* a city in Australia, the chief port of the island state of Tasmania on the Tamar River, 64 km (40 miles) from Bass Strait. Pop: 68,443 (2001)

launch¹ (lɔ:ntʃ) *vb* 1 to move (a vessel) into the water 2 to move (a newly built vessel) into the water for the first time 3 (tr) *a* to start off or set in motion: to launch a scheme *b* to put (a new product) on the market 4 (tr) to propel with force 5 to involve (oneself) totally and enthusiastically: to launch oneself into work 6 (tr) to set (a missile, spacecraft, etc) into motion 7 (tr) to catapult (an aircraft), as from the deck of an aircraft carrier 8 (intr; foll by into) to start talking or writing (about): he launched into a story 9 (intr; usually foll by out) to start (out) on a fresh course 10 (intr; usually foll by out) informal to spend a lot of money > *n* 11 an act or instance of launching

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: from Anglo-French *lancher*, from Late Latin *lanciare* to use a lance, hence, to set in motion. See **LANCE**

launch² (lɔ:ntʃ) *n* 1 a motor driven boat used chiefly as a transport boat 2 the largest of the boats of a man-of-war

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: via Spanish *lancha* and Portuguese from Malay *lancharan* boat, from *lanchar* speed

launcher (lɔ:ntʃə) *n* any installation, vehicle, or other device for launching rockets, missiles, or other projectiles

launch pad or **launching pad** *n* 1 a platform from which a spacecraft, rocket, etc., is launched 2 an effective starting point for a career, enterprise, or campaign

launch shoe or **launching shoe** *n* an attachment to an aircraft from which a missile is launched

launch vehicle or **launching vehicle** *n* 1 a rocket, without its payload, used to launch a spacecraft 2 another name for **booster** (sense 2)

launch window *n* the limited period during which a spacecraft can be launched on a particular mission

launder (lɔ:ndə) *vb* 1 to wash, sometimes starch, and often also iron (clothes, linen, etc) 2 (intr) to be capable of being laundered without shrinking, fading, etc 3 (tr) to process (something acquired illegally) to make it appear respectable, esp to process illegally acquired funds through a legitimate business or to send them to a foreign bank for subsequent transfer to a home bank > *n* 4 a water trough, esp one used for washing ore in mining > **launderer** *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14 (n, meaning: a person who washes linen): changed from *lavender* washerwoman, from Old French *lavandière*, ultimately from Latin *lavare* to wash

Launderette (lɔ:ndə'ret, lɔ:nd'ret) *n* trademark Brit and NZ a commercial establishment where clothes can be washed and dried, using coin-operated machines. Also called (US, Canadian, and NZ): **Laudromat**

laundress (lɔ:ndris) *n* a woman who launders clothes, sheets, etc., for a living

laundrette (lɔ:nd'ret) *n* a variant of **Launderette**

Laudromat (lɔ:ndrə'mæt) *n* trademark US, Canadian, and NZ a commercial establishment where clothes can be washed and dried, using coin-operated machines. Also called (in Britain and certain other countries): **Launderette**, **laundrette**

laundry (lɔ:ndri) *n*, pl *-dries* 1 a place where clothes and linen are washed and ironed 2 the clothes or linen washed and ironed 3 the act of laundering

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: changed from c14 *laundry*; see **LAUNDER**

laundry list *n* US and Canadian a list of items perceived as being long: a laundry list of complaints

laundryman (lɔ:ndrɪmən) *n*, pl *-men* 1 a man who collects or delivers laundry 2 a man who works in a laundry

laundrywoman (lɔ:ndrɪwʊmən) *n*, pl *-women* 1 a woman who collects or delivers laundry 2 a woman who works in a laundry

lauraceous (lo:'reɪʃəs) *adj* of, relating to, or belonging to the *Lauraceae*, a family of aromatic trees and shrubs having leathery leaves: includes the laurels and avocado