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—ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from French, from Italian *caricno* (see **CARTOON**).
cartoon [kɑr'tu:n] *n.* 1 a simple drawing showing the features of its subjects in a humorously exaggerated way, esp. a satirical one in a newspaper or magazine.
 ■ a comic strip. ■ figurative a simplified or exaggerated version or interpretation of something: *this movie is a cartoon of rural life in America* [as adj.] *Dolores became a cartoon housewife, reading glossy magazines in a bathrobe.*

2 a motion picture using animation techniques to photograph a sequence of drawings rather than real people or objects.
 3 a full-size drawing made by an artist as a preliminary design for a painting or other work of art.
v. [trans] (usu. be **cartooned**) make a drawing of (someone) in a simplified or exaggerated way: *he has a face with enough character to be cartooned.*
 —DERIVATIVES **cartoonish** *adj.*; **cartoonist** [*-ist*] *n.*; **cartoonry** *adj.*

—ORIGIN late 16th cent. (sense 3): from Italian *caricno*, from *carra*, from Latin *carra, charra* (see **CARD**). Sense 1 dates from the mid 19th cent.
cartooning [kɑr'tu:nɪŋ] *n.* the activity or occupation of drawing cartoons for newspapers or magazines.

cartop [kɑr'tɒp] *adj.* designed to be used or carried on the top of an automobile.

cartouche [kɑr'tu:ʃ] *n.* a carved tablet or drawing representing a scroll with rolled-up endings, used ornamentally or bearing an inscription.

■ Archaeology an oval or oblong ending, used group of Egyptian hieroglyphs, typically representing the name and title of a monarch.

—ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from French *cartouche* (masculine noun), earlier *cartouche*, from Italian *cartuccia*, from *carra*, from Latin *carra, charra* (see **CARD**).
cartridge [kɑr'trɪdʒ] *n.* a container holding a spool of photographic film, a quantity of ink, or other item or substance, designed for insertion into a mechanism.
 ■ a component containing a charge and a bullet or shot for small arms or an explosive charge for blasting. ■ a casing containing the stylus on the pickup head of a record player.

—ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from French *cartouche* (feminine noun), from Italian *cartoccio* (see **CARTOUCHE**).
cartridge belt *n.* a belt with pockets or loops for cartridges of ammunition, typically worn over the shoulder.

cartridge clip *n.* a metal frame or container that holds cartridges for loading into an automatic rifle or pistol.

cartwheel [kɑr,'hwi:l] *n.* 1 the wheel of a cart.
 2 a circular sideways handspring with the arms and legs extended.

■ [in *sb.*, with adverbial of direction] perform such a handspring or handsprings: *he cartwheeled across the room.*
Cartwright ['kɑrt,rɪt], Edmund (1743–1823), English engineer. He invented the power loom.

caruncle [kɑr'ʌnkl̩], [kɑr,'ʌnkl̩] *n.* a fleshy outgrowth, in particular:

■ a wattle of a bird such as a turkey. ■ the red prominence at the inner corner of the eye. ■ any outgrowth from a seed near the micropyle, attractive to ants that aid the seed's dispersal.

—DERIVATIVES **caruncular** [kɑr'ʌnkl̩jə'l̩] *adj.*

—ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin *caruncula*, from *caru, carni* 'flesh'.

Caruso [kɑr'u:so; -zɒ], Enrico (1873–1921), Italian opera singer. He was the first major tenor to be recorded on gramophone records.

carve [kɑrvi] *v.* [trans] 1 (often be **carved**) cut (a hard material) in order to produce an aesthetically pleasing object or design: *the wood was carved with runes* [as *sb.*] (*carved*) lookovers of *carved* cut.
 ■ produce (an object) by cutting and shaping a hard material: *the altar was carved from a block of solid jade.*
 ■ produce (an inscription or design) by cutting into hard material: *an inscription was carved over the doorway* | figurative *the river carved a series of gorges into the plain.*

2 cut (cooked meat) into slices for eating.
 ■ cut (a slice of meat) from a larger piece.

3 turn (make a turn) by tilting one's skis on to their edges and using one's weight to bend them so that they slide into an arc.
 ■ carve something out 1 take something from a larger whole, esp. with difficulty: *carving out a 5 percent share of the overall vote.* 2 establish or create something through painstaking effort: *he managed to carve out a successful photographic career for himself.*
 ■ carve someone up informal slash someone with a knife or other sharp object.
 ■ carve something up divide something ruthlessly into

separate areas or domains: *West Africa was carved up by the Europeans.*

—ORIGIN Old English *carfan* 'cut, carve,' of West Germanic origin; related to Dutch *keren*.

carvel *n.* variant spelling of **CARAVEL**.

carvel-built *adj.* (of a boat or ship) having hull planks that do not overlap. Compare with **LAPSTRAKE**.
carven ['kɑ:vən] archaic past participle of **CARVE**.
Carver ['kɑ:və], George Washington (c.1864–1943), US botanist. Born into slavery, he later became the director of agricultural research at the Luskage Institute in 1896 and developed many products from soybeans, sweet potatoes, and peanuts.



George Washington Carver

carver ['kɑ:və] *n.* 1 a person who carves wood, stone, ivory, coral, etc., esp. professionally: *we watched a decoy carver at work.*

2 a knife designed for slicing meat.

3 a person who cuts and serves the meat at a meal.

carving ['kɑ:vɪŋ] *n.* an object or design cut from a hard material as an artistic work.

carving knife *n.* a knife with a long blade used for carving cooked meat into slices.

car wash *n.* 1 a building containing equipment for washing motor vehicles automatically.
 2 an event, typically a fundraiser, in which motor vehicles are washed: *the Teen Center will hold its third annual car wash on Saturday.*

Carry ['kæri; 'keri] a town in east central North Carolina, a commercial and research center, pop. 94,533.

caryatid ['kæri'ætið; 'kæri'ætið] *n.* (pl. *caryatids* or *caryatides*) [*kæri'ætið; 'dætið*] Architecture a stone carving of a draped female figure, used as a pillar to support the entablature of a Greek or Greek-style building.

—ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: via French and Italian from Latin *caryatides*, from Greek *karyatides*, plural of *karyatis* 'priestess of Artemis at Caryae', from *Karyai* (Caryae) in Laconia.

caryophyllaceous [kæri'ɒfɪlə'siəs] *adj.* Bot any of, relating to, or denoting plants of the pink family (Caryophyllaceae).

—ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from modern Latin *Caryophyllaceae* (plural), based on Greek *karyophyllon* 'clove pine' + *-ous*.

caryopsis [kæri'ɒpsɪs] *n.* (pl. *caryopses* [-sɪz]) Botany a dry one-seeded fruit in which the ovary wall is united with the seed coat, typical of grasses and cereals.
 —ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from modern Latin, from Greek *karyon* 'nut' + *opsis* 'appearance'.
casaba [kə'sɑ:bə] (also *casababa*) *n.* a winter melon of a variety with a wrinkled yellow rind and sweet flesh.
 —ORIGIN early 20th cent.: named after *Kasaba* (now Turgutlu) in Turkey, from which the melons were first exported.

Casa-blanca [kə'sɑ:blɒŋkə; kə'sɑ:'blɒŋkə] *n.* the largest city in Morocco, a seaport on the Atlantic coast; pop. 2,943,000.
Casals [kə'sɑ:lz], Pablo (1876–1973), Spanish cellist, conductor, and composer.

Casavonova [kæzə'nɒvə; kə'sə:nɒvə], Giovanni Jacconi (1725–98), Italian adventurer; full name Giovanni

Jacopo Casanova de Seingalt. He is known for his memoirs that describe his sexual encounters and other exploits.

casbah ['kæsbə; bɪl] (also *kasbah*) *n.* the citadel of a North African city.

■ **(the casbah)** the area surrounding such a citadel, typically the old part of a city.

—ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: French, from Arabic *qasaba* 'citadel'.

casca-bell ['kæskə,bel] *n.* a small red chill pepper of a mild-flavored variety.

—ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Spanish, from Catalan *cascadell*, from medieval Latin *cascabellus* 'little bell'.

casca-de ['kæskə'de] *n.* 1 a small waterfall, typically one of several that fall in stages down a steep rocky slope.

■ a mass of something that falls or hangs in copious or luxuriant quantities: *a cascade of pink bougainvillea.*

■ a large number or amount of something occurring or arriving in rapid succession: *a cascade of anticancer literature.*

2 a process whereby something, typically information or knowledge, is successively passed on: [as *adj.*] *the greater the number of people who are told briefly, the wider the cascade effect.*

■ a succession of devices or stages in a process, each of which triggers or initiates the next.

■ *v.* [in *sb.*, with adverbial of direction] (of water) pour downward rapidly and in large quantities: *water was cascading down the stairs.*

■ fall or hang in copious or luxuriant quantities: *blonde hair cascaded down her back.*

2 [trans] arrange (a number of devices or objects) in a series or sequence.

—ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from French, from Italian *cascata*, from *casare* 'to fall', based on Latin *casus* (see **CASE**).

Cascade Range a range of volcanic mountains in western North America that extends from southern British Columbia through Washington and Oregon to northern California. Its highest peak is Mount Rainier. The range also includes an active volcano, Mount St. Helens.

CASCARA ['kæskərə] (also *cascara sagrada* ['sɑ:'grɪdɒ]) *n.* 1 a purgative made from the dried bark of an American buckthorn.

2 (also *Cascara buckthorn*) the tree from which this bark is obtained, native to the Pacific Northwest.

■ *Rhamnus purshiana*, family Rhamnaceae.

—ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Spanish *cascara* (*sagrada*), literally 'sacred' bark.

Casco Bay ['kæsko] an inlet of the Atlantic in southern Maine, known for hundreds of islands and protected anchorages. Portland lies on it.

case¹ [keɪs] *n.* 1 an instance of a particular situation; an example of something occurring: *a case of mistaken identity* | in many cases, valid statistics are not available.

■ [usu. in *sb.*] the situation affecting or relating to a particular person or thing: *one's circumstances or position: I'll make an exception to your case.* ■ an incident or set of circumstances under police investigation: *a murder case.*

2 an instance of a disease, or problem: *200,000 cases of hepatitis B.*

■ a person suffering from a disease or injury: *most breast cancer cases were older women.* ■ the circumstances or particular problem of a person who requires or receives professional attention: *the welfare officer discussed Gerald's case* | [with *adj.*] informal a person whose situation is regarded as pitiable or as having no chance of improvement: *Kicky was a very sad case.* ■ informal dated an amusing or eccentric person.

3 a legal action, esp. one to be decided in a court of law: *a libel case* | a former employee brought the case against the council.

■ a set of facts or arguments supporting one side in such a legal action: *the case for the defense.* ■ a legal action that has been decided and may be cited as a precedent. ■ a set of facts or arguments supporting one side of a debate or controversy: *the case against tobacco advertising.*

4 grammar any of the inflected forms of a noun, adjective, or pronoun that express the semantic relation of the word to other words in the sentence: *the accusative case.*

■ such a relation whether indicated by inflection or not: *English normally expresses case by the use of prepositions.*

—PHRASES as the case may be according to the circumstances (used when referring to two or more possible alternatives): *the authorities will decide if they are satisfied or not satisfied, as the case may be.* be the case

See page xxviii for the Key to Pronunciation

[trans] state again as a summary; recapitulate: a way of *recapitulating the story for* | [trans] to recap, at the end of the Persian Gulf War, he lost control of the northern third of his country.

■ **re·(re)·cap** a summary of what has been said; a recapitulation: a quick recap of the idea and its main advantages.

■ **-ORIGIN** 1950s: abbreviation.

■ **re·cap·i·tal·ize** [rɛˈkæpɪˌlaɪz] **v.** [trans] provide (a business) with more capital, esp. by replacing debt with stock.

■ **-DERIVATIVES** re·cap·i·tal·i·za·tion [rɛˈkæpɪˌleɪˈzætʃən] **n.**

■ **re·cap·i·tal·ize** [rɛˈkæpɪˌlaɪz] **v.** [trans] summarize and state again the main points of: he began to re·cap·i·tal·ize his argument with care.

■ **Biology** repeat (an evolutionary or other process) during development and growth.

■ **-DERIVATIVES** re·cap·i·tal·i·za·tion [rɛˈkæpɪˌleɪˈzætʃən] **n.**

■ **-ORIGIN** late 16th cent.: from late Latin *recapitulatio* 'gone through heading by heading', from re- 'again' + *capitulum* 'chapter' (diminutive of *caput* 'head').

■ **re·cap·i·tal·ize** [rɛˈkæpɪˌlaɪz] **v.** [trans] an act or instance of summarizing and restating the main points of something; his recapitulation of the argument.

■ **Biology** the repetition of the evolutionary or other process during development or growth. ■ **Music** a part of a movement (esp. one in sonata form) in which themes from the exposition are restated.

■ **re·cap·i·tal·i·za·tion** [rɛˈkæpɪˌleɪˈzætʃən] **n.** another term for BIOSGENIC LAW.

■ **re·cap·i·tal·ize** [rɛˈkæpɪˌlaɪz] **v.** [trans] the action of taking back, without legal process, property of one's own that has been wrongfully taken or withheld.

■ **-ORIGIN** mid 16th cent.: from Anglo-Latin *recapitulation* (n.), from re- 'back' + Latin *capitulum* 'chapter'.

■ **re·cap·i·tal·ize** [rɛˈkæpɪˌlaɪz] **v.** [trans] capture (a person or animal that has escaped): armed police have recaptured a prisoner who's been on the run for five days.

■ **re·cap·i·tal·ize** [rɛˈkæpɪˌlaɪz] **v.** [trans] (also *re·cap·i·tal·ize*) recover (something previously captured by an enemy): Edward I recaptured the castle.

■ **re·cap·i·tal·ize** [rɛˈkæpɪˌlaɪz] **v.** [trans] regain (something that has been lost): Democrats might recapture both the House and the Senate.

■ **re·cap·i·tal·ize** [rɛˈkæpɪˌlaɪz] **v.** [trans] recreate or experience again (a past time, event, or feeling): the program gives viewers a chance to recapture their own childhood.

■ **re·cap·i·tal·ize** [rɛˈkæpɪˌlaɪz] **v.** [trans] an act of recapturing.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 1 give (a metal object) a different form by melting it down and reshaping it.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 2 present or organize in a different form or style: his doctoral thesis has been recast for the general reader.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 3 allocate the parts in (a play or film) to different actors: they were moved to recast the play.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 4 recast (something) from a previous position: the flood water had recast | his footsteps recast down the corridor.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 5 (of a quality, feeling, or possibility) gradually diminish: the prospects of an early end to the war receded.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 6 (of a man's hair) cease to grow at the temples and above the forehead: his dark hair was now receding a little | [as adj.] (receding) a receding hairline.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 7 a bit to go bald in such a way: Fred was receding a bit. ■ [usu. as adj.] (receding) (of a facial feature) slope backward: a slightly receding chin.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 8 (of a promise, agreement, or agreement) withdraw (from an undertaking, promise, or agreement).

■ **-ORIGIN** late 15th cent. (in the sense 'depart from (a usual state or standard)'): from Latin *recedere*, from re- 'back' + *cedere* 'go'.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 9 the action of receiving something or the fact of its being received: I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter | this office is already in receipt of your mid-term grades.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 10 a written or printed statement acknowledging that something has been paid for or that goods have been received. ■ (receipts) an amount of money received during a particular period by an organization or business: box-office receipts.

■ **re·cast** [rɛˈkæst] **v.** (past and past part. *recast*) [trans] 11 a receipt for (goods or money): all fish shall be receipted at time of purchase.

■ **-ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Anglo-Norman French *receite*, from medieval Latin *recepta* 'received', feminine past participle of Latin *receptus*. The -p- was inserted in imitation of the Latin spelling.

■ **re·ceiv·able** [rɪˈsiəvəbəl] **adj.** able to be received.

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■ **take delivery of** (something sent or communicated): he received fifty inquiries after advertising the job. ■ **buy or accept goods in the knowledge that they have been stolen: a man convicted of receiving stolen property.** ■ **detect or pick up (broadcast signals): Turkish television began to be received in Istanbul.** ■ **form (an idea or impression) as a result of perception or experience: the impression she received was one of unhurried leisure.** ■ **(in tennis and similar games) be the player to whom the server serves (the ball).** ■ **(in Christian services) eat or drink (the Eucharistic bread or wine): he received Communion and left.** ■ **consent to formally hear (an oath or confession): he failed to find a magistrate to receive his oath.** ■ **serve as a receptacle for: the basin that receives your blood.**

2 suffer, experience, or be subject to (specified treatment): the event received wide press coverage | he received an eight-year prison sentence | the received only cuts and bruises.

3 greet or welcome (a visitor) formally: representatives of the club will be received by the Mayor.

4 be visited by: she was not allowed to receive visitors.

5 admit as a member: hundreds of converts were received into the Church. ■ provide space or accommodations for: three lines are reserved for special vehicles, and the remaining lines receive the general rolling stock.

6 PHRASES **be at (or on) the receiving end** be the person to whom a telephone call is made; be ritual be subjected to something unpleasant: the found herself on the receiving end of a good deal of teasing.

7 -ORIGIN Middle English: from Anglo-Norman French *receivre*, based on Latin *recipere*, from re- 'back' + *capere* 'take'.

8 **received pronunciation** (also *received standard*) **n.** the standard form of British English pronunciation, based on educated speech in southern England, widely accepted as a standard elsewhere.

9 **re·ceiv·er** [rɪˈsiəvər] **n.** 1 the part of a telephone apparatus contained in the earpiece, in which electrical signals are converted into sounds.

2 a complete telephone handset: he picked up the receiver, a piece of radio or television apparatus that detects broadcast signals and converts them into visible or audible form: a satellite receiver.

3 a person who gets or accepts something that has been sent or given to them: the receiver of a gift.

4 (in tennis and similar games) the player to whom the ball is served to begin play. ■ Fossil a player who is eligible to catch a pass. ■ a person who buys or accepts stolen goods in the knowledge that they have been stolen.

5 a person or company appointed by a court to manage the financial affairs of a business or person that has gone bankrupt: the company is in the hands of the receiver.

6 Chemistry a container for collecting the products of distillation, chromatography, or other process.

7 the part of a firearm that houses the action and to which the barrel and other parts are attached.

8 **re·ceiv·er·ship** [rɪˈsiəvərˌʃɪp] **n.** the state of being dealt with by an official receiver: the company went into receivership last week.

9 **re·ceiv·ing** [rɪˈsiəvɪŋ] **n.** a collection of people who gather in a row to greet guests as they arrive at a formal social event.

10 **re·ceiv·er** [rɪˈsiəvər] **n.** a revised edition of a text: an act of making a revised edition of a text.

11 -ORIGIN mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'survey, review'): from Latin *reversio* (n.), from *reversus* 'reverse', from re- 'again' + *versus* 'to turn'.

12 **re·cent** [rɪˈsɛnt] **adj.** 1 having happened, begun, or been true not long ago or not long before, belonging to a past period of time comparatively close to the present: his recent visit to Britain | a recent edition of the newspaper.

2 (Recent) Geology another term for HOLOCENE.

3 **re·cent** [rɪˈsɛnt] **adj.** 1 (the Recent) Geology the Holocene epoch.

2 **-DERIVATIVES** re·cent·ry **n.** recently **adv.** recent·ness **n.**

3 -ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'fresh'): from Latin *recentis*, from *recens* 'recent'.

4 **re·cep·tacle** [rɪˈsɛptəkl̩] **n.** 1 an object or space used to contain something: trash receptacles.

2 chiefly Zoology an organ or structure that receives a secretion, eggs, sperm, etc. ■ an electrical outlet into which the plug of an electrical device may be inserted.

3 Botany an enlarged area at the apex of a stem that bears the organs of a flower or the florets of a flower-head.

4 a structure supporting the sexual organs in some algae, mosses, and liverworts.

5 -ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *receptaculum*, from *receptare* 'receive back', frequentative of *recipere* (see RECEIVE).

6 **re·cep·tion** [rɪˈsɛpʃən] **n.** 1 the action or process of receiving something sent, given, or inflicted: the reception of impulses from other neurons | the reception of the sacrament.

2 the way in which a person or group of people reacts to someone or something: the proposal continued to get a lukewarm reception on Wall Street.

3 the receiving of broadcast signals: a microphone that will allow parents to block reception of violent programs. ■ the quality of this: I had to put up with poor radio reception.

4 the action of admitting someone to a place, group, or institution or the process of being admitted: their reception into the Church. ■ the formal or ceremonious welcoming of a guest: his reception by the Prime Minister. ■ Fossil an act of receiving.

5 a formal social occasion held to welcome someone or to celebrate a particular event: a wedding reception. ■ the area and in a hotel, office, or other establishment where guests and visitors are greeted and dealt with: [as adj.] the reception desk.

6 -ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French, or from Latin *receptio* (n.), from the verb *recipere* (see RECEIVE).

7 **re·cep·tion·ist** [rɪˈsɛpʃənɪst] **n.** a person employed in an office or other establishment to greet and deal with clients and visitors.

8 **re·cep·tion** [rɪˈsɛpʃən] **n.** a room in a hotel or other building used for functions such as parties and meetings.

9 **re·cep·tive** [rɪˈsɛptɪv] **adj.** willing or ready to receive something, esp. signals or stimuli.

10 willing to consider or accept new suggestions and ideas: a receptive audience | the institution was receptive to new ideas. ■ (of a female animal) ready to mate.

11 -DERIVATIVES re·cep·tively **adv.** re·cep·tiveness **n.** re·cep·tivity [rɪˈsɛptɪvɪti] **n.**

12 **re·cep·tor** [rɪˈsɛptər] **n.** 1 Physiology an organ or cell able to respond to light, heat, or other external stimulus and transmit a signal to a sensory nerve.

2 a region of tissue, or a molecule in a cell membrane, that responds specifically to a particular neurotransmitter, hormone, antigen, or other substance.

3 -ORIGIN early 20th cent.: coined in German from Latin *receptor*, from *receptus* 'taken back', from the verb *recipere* (see RECEIVE).

4 **re·cess** [rɪˈsɛs; rɪˈsɛs] **n.** 1 a small space created by building part of a wall further back from the rest: a table set into a recess.

2 a hollow space inside something: the concrete block has a recess in its base. ■ (usu. *recesses*) a remote, secluded, or secret place: the recesses of the silent pine forest | figurative the dark recesses of his soul.

3 a period of time when the proceedings of a parliament, committee, court of law, or other official body are temporarily suspended: talks resumed after a month's recess | the Senate was in recess.

4 a break between school classes: the mid-morning recess.

5 1 [trans] [often as adj.] (recessed) attach (a fitting) by setting it back into the wall or surface to which it is fixed: recessed ceiling lights.

2 [trans] (of formal proceedings) be temporarily suspended: the talks recessed at 2.15.

3 [trans] suspend (such proceedings) temporarily. ■ (of an official body) suspend its proceedings for a period of time.

4 -ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (in the sense 'withdrawal, departure'): from Latin *recessus*, from *recedere* 'go back' (see RECEDE). The verb dates from the early 15th cent.

5 **re·ces·sion** [rɪˈsɛʃən] **n.** 1 a period of temporary economic decline during which trade and industrial activity are reduced, generally identified by a fall in GDP in two successive quarters.

2 chiefly Astronomy the action of receding: motion away from an observer.

3 -DERIVATIVES re·ces·sion·ary [rɪˈsɛʃənəri] **adj.**

4 -ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *recessio* (n.), from *recessus* 'gone back', from the verb *recedere* (see RECEDE).

5 **re·ces·sion·al** [rɪˈsɛʃənəl] **adj.** of or relating to an economic recession: recessionary times.

6 chiefly Astronomy relating to or denoting motion away from the observer. ■ Geology (of a moraine or other

feature) receding: a receding moraine.

7 -ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin *recessus*, from *recedere* 'go back' (see RECEDE).

8 **re·ceiv·er** [rɪˈsiəvər] **n.** 1 the part of a telephone apparatus contained in the earpiece, in which electrical signals are converted into sounds.

2 a complete telephone handset: he picked up the receiver, a piece of radio or television apparatus that detects broadcast signals and converts them into visible or audible form: a satellite receiver.

3 a person who gets or accepts something that has been sent or given to them: the receiver of a gift.

4 (in tennis and similar games) the player to whom the ball is served to begin play. ■ Fossil a player who is eligible to catch a pass. ■ a person who buys or accepts stolen goods in the knowledge that they have been stolen.

5 a person or company appointed by a court to manage the financial affairs of a business or person that has gone bankrupt: the company is in the hands of the receiver.

6 Chemistry a container for collecting the products of distillation, chromatography, or other process.

7 the part of a firearm that houses the action and to which the barrel and other parts are attached.

8 **re·ceiv·er·ship** [rɪˈsiəvərˌʃɪp] **n.** the state of being dealt with by an official receiver: the company went into receivership last week.

9 **re·ceiv·ing** [rɪˈsiəvɪŋ] **n.** a collection of people who gather in a row to greet guests as they arrive at a formal social event.

10 **re·ceiv·er** [rɪˈsiəvər] **n.** a revised edition of a text: an act of making a revised edition of a text.

11 -ORIGIN mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'survey, review'): from Latin *reversio* (n.), from *reversus* 'reverse', from re- 'again' + *versus* 'to turn'.

12 **re·cent** [rɪˈsɛnt] **adj.** 1 having happened, begun, or been true not long ago or not long before, belonging to a past period of time comparatively close to the present: his recent visit to Britain | a recent edition of the newspaper.

2 (Recent) Geology another term for HOLOCENE.

3 **re·cent** [rɪˈsɛnt] **adj.** 1 (the Recent) Geology the Holocene epoch.

2 **-DERIVATIVES** re·cent·ry **n.** recently **adv.** recent·ness **n.**

3 -ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'fresh'): from Latin *recentis*, from *recens* 'recent'.

4 **re·cep·tacle** [rɪˈsɛptəkl̩] **n.** 1 an object or space used to contain something: trash receptacles.

2 chiefly Zoology an organ or structure that receives a secretion, eggs, sperm, etc. ■ an electrical outlet into which the plug of an electrical device may be inserted.

3 Botany an enlarged area at the apex of a stem that bears the organs of a flower or the florets of a flower-head.

4 a structure supporting the sexual organs in some algae, mosses, and liverworts.

5 -ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *receptaculum*, from *receptare* 'receive back', frequentative of *recipere* (see RECEIVE).

6 **re·cep·tion** [rɪˈsɛpʃən] **n.** 1 the action or process of receiving something sent, given, or inflicted: the reception of impulses from other neurons | the reception of the sacrament.

2 the way in which a person or group of people reacts to someone or something: the proposal continued to get a lukewarm reception on Wall Street.

3 the receiving of broadcast signals: a microphone that will allow parents to block reception of violent programs. ■ the quality of this: I had to put up with poor radio reception.

4 the action of admitting someone to a place, group, or institution or the process of being admitted: their reception into the Church. ■ the formal or ceremonious welcoming of a guest: his reception by the Prime Minister. ■ Fossil an act of receiving.

5 a formal social occasion held to welcome someone or to celebrate a particular event: a wedding reception. ■ the area and in a hotel, office, or other establishment where guests and visitors are greeted and dealt with: [as adj.] the reception desk.

6 -ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French, or from Latin *receptio* (n.), from the verb *recipere* (see RECEIVE).

7 **re·cep·tion·ist** [rɪˈsɛpʃənɪst] **n.** a person employed in an office or other establishment to greet and deal with clients and visitors.

8 **re·cep·tion** [rɪˈsɛpʃən] **n.** a room in a hotel or other building used for functions such as parties and meetings.

9 **re·cep·tive** [rɪˈsɛptɪv] **adj.** willing or ready to receive something, esp. signals or stimuli.

10 willing to consider or accept new suggestions and ideas: a receptive audience | the institution was receptive to new ideas. ■ (of a female animal) ready to mate.

11 -DERIVATIVES re·cep·tively **adv.** re·cep·tiveness **n.** re·cep·tivity [rɪˈsɛptɪvɪti] **n.**

12 **re·cep·tor** [rɪˈsɛptər] **n.** 1 Physiology an organ or cell able to respond to light, heat, or other external stimulus and transmit a signal to a sensory nerve.

2 a region of tissue, or a molecule in a cell membrane, that responds specifically to a particular neurotransmitter, hormone, antigen, or other substance.

3 -ORIGIN early 20th cent.: coined in German from Latin *receptor*, from *receptus* 'taken back', from the verb *recipere* (see RECEIVE).

4 **re·cess** [rɪˈsɛs; rɪˈsɛs] **n.** 1 a small space created by building part of a wall further back from the rest: a table set into a recess.

2 a hollow space inside something: the concrete block has a recess in its base. ■ (usu. *recesses*) a remote, secluded, or secret place: the recesses of the silent pine forest | figurative the dark recesses of his soul.

3 a period of time when the proceedings of a parliament, committee, court of law, or other official body are temporarily suspended: talks resumed after a month's recess | the Senate was in recess.

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remittance [ri'mɪnts] *n.* a sum of money sent, esp. by mail, in payment for goods or services or as a gift.
 ▶ *a* the action of sending money in such a way.

remittance man *n.* chiefly historical an emigrant supported or assisted by payments of money from home.
remittent [ri'mɪnt] *adj.* (of a fever) characterized by fluctuating body temperatures.

—**ORIGIN** late 17th cent.: from Latin *remittens* 'sending back' from the verb *remittere* (see REMIT).

remix *vi.* [re'miks; re-] [*trns.*] mix (something) again.
 ▶ *a* produce a different version of (a musical recording) by altering the balance of the separate tracks.

—**ORIGIN** [re'miks] a different version of a musical recording produced in such a way.

—**DERIVATIVES** **remixer** *n.*
remnant ['remnant] *n.* a small remaining quantity of something.

▶ *a* piece of cloth or carpeting left when the greater part has been used or sold. ▶ *a* surviving trace: *a remnant of the past.* ▶ Christian Theology a small minority of people who will remain faithful to God and so saved (in allusion to biblical prophecies concerning Israel).

—**ORIGIN** [rem] remaining: *remnant* traces of hair.
 —**ORIGIN** Middle English: contraction of obsolete *remnans*, from Old French, from *remenoir*, *remenoir* 'remains'.

remodel [re'mɒdl] *vi.* (remodeled, remodeling; *re-* modeled, remodeling) [*trns.*] change the structure or form of (something, esp. a building, policy, or procedure): *the station was remodeled and enlarged in 1927.*

—**ORIGIN** *re-* fashion or shape (a figure or object) again or differently: *she remodeled the head with careful fingers.*

remodeler [re'mɒdl-ər] *n.* a person who carries out structural alterations to an existing building, such as adding a new room.

remold [re'mɒld] (Brit. **remould**) *vi.* [*trns.*] change or refashion the appearance, structure, or character of (the welfare state) *remold capitalism to give it a new human face.*

—**DERIVATIVES** **remold** *re'mɒld, ɪz* [*trns.*] *n.* restore (a metal) to its former position as legal tender.

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remorseless [ri'mɔːsləs] *adj.* without regret or guilt: *a remorseless killer.*

—**ORIGIN** (of something unpleasant) never ending or improving; relentless: *remorseless poverty.*

—**DERIVATIVES** **remorselessly** *adv.*; **remorsefulness** *n.*

remortgage [re'mɔːɡɪdʒ] *vi.* [*trns.*] take out another or a different kind of mortgage on (a property).

—**ORIGIN** [re'mɔːɡɪdʒ] *adj.* (remort, remolest) 1 (of a place) far away; distant: *I'd chosen a spot that looked as remote from everyday life as possible.*

2 (of a place) situated far from the main centers of population in a country: *a remote Oregon valley.* (Of an electronic device) starting or operated by means of radio or infrared signals. ▶ *a* distant time: *a golden age in the remote past.* ▶ *a* distantly related: *a remote cousin.* ▶ *a* having very little connection with or relationship to: *the theory seems rather intellectual and remote from everyday experience.* (Of a person) aloof and unfriendly in manner: *this morning Maria again seemed remote and patronizing.* ▶ *a* compelling device that can only be accessed by means of a network. Compare LOCAL.

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—**DERIVATIVES** **removability** [ri'məʊvə'bɪləti] *n.*; **removable** *adj.*; **remover** *n.*

—**ORIGIN** Middle English (as a verb): from the Old French stem *remov-*, from Latin *removere*, from *re-* 'back' + *movere* 'to move'.

REM sleep [rem] *n.* a kind of sleep that occurs at intervals during the night and is characterized by rapid eye movements, more dreaming and bodily movement, and faster pulse and breathing.

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one or something using force; the seizure of the Assembly building | the Nazi seizure of power.
 ▶ the action of confiscating or impounding property by warrant of legal right.

2 a sudden attack of illness, esp. a stroke or an epileptic fit: *the patient had a seizure*.
seizant ['seɪjənt] *n* [usu. postpositive] Heraldry (of an animal) sitting upright.

—ORIGIN late 15th cent.; alteration of an Old French variant of *seint* 'saint', from the verb *seoir*, from Latin *sedere* 'sit'.

sejm [sɛjm] (also **Seym**) *n* the lower house of parliament in Poland.

—ORIGIN German.
Sehmet ['sekmɛt] Egyptian mythology a ferocious lioness-goddess, counterpart of the female cat-goddess Bastet and wife of Ptah at Memphis.

sekt [zɛkt] *n* a German sparkling white wine.

—ORIGIN German.
Seikulovich, **Mladen**, see **MALDEN**.

sel, **خابان** *n* select. *n* selected. *n* selection; selections.
selachian ['sɛləʃiən] Zoology *n* an elasmobranch fish of a group that comprises the sharks and dogfishes.

—The former group Selachii, subclass Elasmobranchii: now treated as one, two, or three superorders.

n 1. of or relating to the selachians.
 —ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from modern Latin *Selachii* (from Greek *selachios* 'shark') + *-an*.

seladang [sɛlə'daŋ] *n* another term for GAUR.

—ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from Malay.

selaginella [sɛlə'ʒiːnɪlə] *n* a creeping mosslike plant of a genus that includes the lesser club mosses.
 —Genus *Selaginella*, family Selaginellaceae.

—ORIGIN modern Latin, diminutive of Latin *selago* 'club moss'.

selah ['sɛlə] *excl* *n* *selam*. (in the Bible) occurring frequently at the end of a verse in Psalms and Habakkuk, probably as a musical direction.

—ORIGIN from Hebrew *selah*.

Selcraig ['sɛlkrɛɪd] see **SELKIRK**.

selddom ['sɛldɒm] *adv*, *n* not often; rarely: *Islay is selddom visited by tourists* | *he was selddom absent* | [in combination] *an old selddom-used church*.

n 1. [attrib.] dated not common; infrequent: *a great but selddom pleasure*.

—ORIGIN Old English *selðan*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *zelden* and German *selten*, from a base meaning 'strange, wonderful'.

select ['sɛlɛkt] *v* [trns.] carefully choose as being the best or most suitable: *students must select their own program* | [with obj.] and [trns.] *he has been selected to take part* | [trns.] *you can select from a range of quality products*.

n [trns.] *select (for/against)* Biology (in terms of evolution) determine whether (a characteristic or organism) will survive: *a phenotype can be selected against*. *U* use a mouse or keystrokes to mark (something) on a computer screen for a particular operation.

n 1. (of a group of people or things) carefully chosen from a larger number as being the best or most valuable: *he joined his select team of young Intelligence operators*.

n 2. (of a place or group of people) only used by or consisting of a wealthy or sophisticated elite; exclusive: *the opera was seen by a small and highly select audience*.

—DERIVATIVES **selectable** *adj*; **selectness *n*.**

—ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from Latin *selectus* 'chosen', from the verb *selegere*, from *se-* 'part' + *legere* 'choose'.

select committee *n* a small legislative committee appointed for a special purpose: [in titles] *the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*.

selectee [sɛl'ektɪt] *n* a person who is selected.

selects *n* a concept.

selection ['sɛləkʃən] *n* 1. the action or fact of carefully choosing someone or something as being the best or most suitable: *such men decided the selection of candidates* | *they objected to his selection*.

n 2. a number of carefully chosen things: *the publication of a selection of his poems*. *n* 3. a range of things from which a choice may be made: *the restaurant offers a wide selection of hot and cold dishes*. *n* 4. a horse or horse-tipped as worth bets in a race or meeting.

n 5. a process in which environmental or genetic influences determine which types of organism thrive better than others, regarded as a factor in evolution.

See also **NATURAL SELECTION**.

—ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *selectio* '(*n*), from *selegere* 'select by separating off' (see **SELECT**).

selective [sɛlə'lektɪv] *adj* Linguistics denoting or relating to the process by which only certain words or structures can occur naturally, normally, or correctly in the context of other words.

—DERIVATIVES **selectively** *adv*.

selection pressure *n* Biology an agent of differential mortality or fertility that tends to make a population change genetically.

selection rule *n* Physics a rule that describes whether particular quantum transitions in an atom or molecule are allowed or forbidden.

selective [sɛlə'lektɪv] *adj*, relating to or involving the selection of the most suitable or best qualified: *the mission was the result of generations of selective breeding*.

n 1. (of a person) tending to choose carefully: *he is very selective in his reading*. *n* 2. (of a process or agent) affecting some things and not others: *modern pesticides are more selective in effect*. *n* 3. chiefly Electronics operating at or responding to a particular frequency.

—DERIVATIVES **selectively** *adv*.

selective attention *n* Psychology the capacity for or process of reacting to certain stimuli selectively when several occur simultaneously.

selectiveness [sɛlə'lektɪvɪz] *n* another term for **SELECTIVITY**.

selective service *n* service in the armed forces under conscription.

selectivity [sɛlə'lektɪvɪti] *n* the quality of carefully choosing someone or something as the best or most suitable: *provision is organized on the principle of selectivity*.

n 2. the property of affecting some things and not others. *n* 3. Electronics the ability of a device to respond to a particular frequency without interference from others.

selectman [sɛlək'tmən] *n* (pl. *-men*) a member of the local government board of a New England town.

selector [sɛlə'lektər] *n* a person or thing that selects something, in particular:

n 1. a device for selecting a particular gear or other setting of a machine or device.

n 2. **Selene** [sɛlə'neɪ] Greek mythology the goddess of the moon who fell in love with Endymion.

selenic acid [sɛlə'neɪk] *n* a chemical compound.

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self-absorbed [sɛlf'əbsɔːd] *adj*, *n* a person or thing that selects something, in particular:

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unique: *by the end of the road he was back to his old self* | *Paula went to the bar with a self*.

n 1. one's own interests or pleasure: *to love in an unselfish way implies the total surrender of self*.

n 2. (pl. *selves*) oneself, in particular:

n 1. [with obj.] (one's self) used ironically to refer in specified glowing terms to oneself or someone else: *the only side worth supporting is your own sweet self*.

n 2. [attrib.] (of a trimming or cover) of the same material and color as the rest of the item: *a dress of self*.

n 3. [trns.] chiefly Botany self-pollinate; self-fertilize: *as [a] (selfing) the flowers never open and pollination is normally by selfing*.

n 4. [trns.] chiefly Genetics cause (an animal or plant) to breed with or fertilize one of the same hybrid origin or strain: *progeny were derived from selfed crosses*.

—ORIGIN Old English, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *self* and German *selbst*. Early use was emphatic, expressing the sense '(I) myself', '(he) himself', etc. The verb dates from the early 20th cent.

self- *comb. form* of or directed toward oneself or itself: *self-hatred*.

n 1. by one's own efforts; by its own action: *self-acting*.

n 2. on, in, for, or relating to oneself or itself: *self-adhesive*.

self-abandonment (also **self-abandon**) *n* the action of completely surrendering oneself to a desire or impulse.

—DERIVATIVES **self-abandoned** *adj*.

self-abasement *n* the belittling or humiliation of oneself.

self-abnegation *n* the denial or abasement of oneself: *she turned the letter into a glowing form of self-abnegation*.

self-absorption *n* 1. preoccupation with one's own emotions, interests, or situation.

n 2. Physics the absorption by a body of radiation which it has itself emitted.

—DERIVATIVES **self-absorbed** *adj*.

self-abuse [sɛlf'əbjuːs] *n* the behavior that causes damage or harm to oneself.

n 2. used euphemistically to refer to masturbation.

self-accusatory *adj* the action of accusing oneself, stemming from feelings of guilt.

—DERIVATIVES **self-accusatory** *adj*.

self-acting *adj* *adj* *adj* (of a machine or operation) acting without external influence or control; automatic.

self-actualization *n* the realization or fulfillment of one's talents and potentialities, esp. considering a need or need present in everyone.

self-addressed *adj* (esp. of an envelope) bearing one's own address: *enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope*.

self-adhesive *adj*, *n* coated with a sticky substance; adhering without requiring moistening.

self-adjusting *adj* (chiefly of machinery) adjusting itself to meet varying requirements.

—DERIVATIVES **self-adjustment** *n*.

self-admiration *n* the admiration of oneself; pride.

—DERIVATIVES **self-admiring** *adj*.

self-advancement *n* the advancement or promotion of oneself or one's interests: *a positive step in women's self-advancement*.

self-advertisement *n* the active publicization of oneself: *he turned the group into a vehicle for self-advertisement*.

—DERIVATIVES **self-advertiser** *n*; **self-advertising** *adj*.

self-advocacy *n* the action of representing one's self or one's views or interests.

self-affirmation *n* the recognition and assertion of the existence and value of one's individual self.

self-aggrandizement *n* the action or process of promoting oneself as being powerful or important.

—DERIVATIVES **self-aggrandizing** *adj*.

self-alienation *n* the process of distancing oneself from one's own feelings or activities, such as may occur in mental illness or as a symptom of emotional distress.

self-aligning *adj* (of a bearing or machine part) capable of aligning itself automatically.

self-analysis *n* the analysis of oneself, in particular one's motives and character.

—DERIVATIVES **self-analyzing** *adj*.

self-annihilation *n* the annihilation or obliteration of self, esp. as a process of mystical contemplation.

self-appointed *adj*, [attrib.] having assumed a position or role without the endorsement of others: *self-appointed experts*.

See page xxxviii for the Key to Pronunciation

share his interests. ■ [trans.] (separate something off) make something form, or view something as, a unit apart or by itself: *the organ left separating off the choir.*

■ *separate* (things) forming units by themselves, in particular:

■ individual items of clothing, such as skirts, jackets, or pants, suitable for wearing in different combinations.
■ the self-contained, freestanding components of a sound-reproduction system.
■ portions into which a soil, sediment, etc., can be sorted according to particle size, mineral composition, or other criteria.

■ PHRASES *go one's separate ways* leave in a different direction from someone with whom one has just traveled or spent time. ■ *end a marriage, professional, or other relationship, separate but equal* historical racially segregated but ostensibly ensuring equal opportunities to all races. *separate the men from the boys* see **MAN**. *separate the sheep from the goats* divide people or things into superior and inferior groups. [ORIGIN: with biblical allusion to Matt. 25:33.] *separate the wheat from the chaff* see **CHAFF**.

■ DERIVATIVES *separatively* *adv.*; *separateness* *n.*
■ ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *separare* 'disjoined, divided', from the verb *separare*, from *dis-* 'apart' + *parare* 'prepare'.

separate school *se'pə'reit skul* *n.* a Canadian school receiving students from a particular religious group.

separation *se'pə'reiʃən* *n.* 1 the action or state of moving or being moved apart: *the damage that might arise from the separation of parents and children.*
■ the state in which a husband and wife remain married but live apart: *legal grounds for divorce or separation* | *she and her husband have agreed to a trial separation.* See also **LEGAL SEPARATION** (sense 1).

2 the division of something into constituent or distinct elements: *prose structured into short sentences; with meaningful separation into paragraphs.*

■ the process of distinguishing between two or more things: *religion involved the separation of the sacred and the profane* | *the constitution imposed a clear separation between church and state.* ■ the process of sorting and then extracting or removing a specified substance for use or rejection.
■ short for **COLON SEPARATION**. ■ (also *stereo separation*) distinction or difference between the signals carried by the two channels of a stereophonic system. ■ *Physics & Aeronautics* the generation of a turbulent boundary layer between the surface of a body and a moving fluid, or between two fluids moving at different speeds.

■ PHRASES *separation of powers* an act of vesting the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of government in separate bodies.
■ ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from Latin *separatio* (*n.*), from *separare* 'disjoin, divide' (see **SEPARATE**).

separation anxiety *se'pə'reiʃən ˈæŋkəti* *n.* *Psychiatry* anxiety provoked in a young child by separation or the threat of separation from its mother: *an older baby may go through periods of separation anxiety and call out for extra reassurance that you are nearby.*

separatism *se'pə'reiʃən* *n.* the advocacy or practice of separation of a certain group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or gender: *Kurdish separatism.*

separatist *se'pə'reiʃən* *n.* a person who supports the separation of a particular group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or gender: *religious separatists.*

■ *adv.* of or relating to such separation or those supporting it: *separatist rebellion.*

separative *se'pə'reiʃən* *adj.* technical tending to cause division into constituent or individual elements.

separator *se'pə'reiʃən* *n.* a machine or device that causes something into its constituent or distinct elements: *a magnetic separator.*

■ something that keeps two or more things apart: *most semidramal demons use commas as separators between addresses.*

sepd. *abbr.* separated.

Sepra-dex *se'fə,deks* *n.* Biochemistry trademark a preparation of dextran used as a gel in chromatography, electrophoresis, and other separation techniques.

■ ORIGIN 1950s: of unknown origin.

Sephardi *se'fɑ:rdi* *n.* (pl. *Sephardim* *se'fɑ:rdim*; *ˈfɑ:rdem*) *n.* a Jew of Spanish or Portuguese descent. They retain their own distinctive dialect of Spanish (Ladino), customs, and rituals, preserving Babylonian Jewish traditions rather than the Palestinian ones of the Ashkenazim. Compare with **ASHKENAZI**.

■ any Jew of the Middle East or North Africa.

SEPHARDI *se'fɑ:rdi* *adj.*

■ ORIGIN modern Hebrew, from *sefardim*, a country mentioned in Obad. 20 and taken to be Spain.

Sepharaose *se'fə,rə:z* *n.* Biochemistry trademark a

preparation of agarose used as a gel in chromatography, electrophoresis, and other separation techniques.

■ ORIGIN 1960s: of unknown origin.

Sephira *se'fɪrə* *n.* (pl. *sephiroth* *se'fɪrəʊ*; *ˈfɪrəʊ*, *ˈfɪrəʊ*) *n.* (in cabalism) each of the ten attributes or emanations surrounding the Infinite and by means of which it relates to the finite. They are represented as spheres on the Tree of Life.

■ ORIGIN from Hebrew *sephirah*.

sepioid *se'pi:ɔɪd* *n.* a reddish-brown color associated particularly with monochrome photographs of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

■ a brown pigment prepared from a black fluid secreted by cuttlefish, used in monochrome drawing and in watercolors. ■ a drawing done with this pigment.

■ a blackish fluid secreted by a cuttlefish as a defensive screen.

■ *adj.* of reddish-brown color: *old sepioid photographs.*

■ *Latin* Middle English (denoting a cuttlefish): via Latin from Greek *sepia* 'cuttlefish'. The current senses date from the early 19th cent.

sepiol *se'pi:ɔɪl* *n.* historical an Indian soldier serving under British or other European orders.

■ (in the Indian subcontinent) a police constable.

■ ORIGIN from Urdu and Persian *sepi* 'soldier', from *sepih* 'army'.

Seputi *se'pʊti* another term for **INDIAN MUTINY**.

seppuku *se'pʊkʊ*; *se'pʊkʊkʊ* *n.* another term for **HARA-KIRI**.

■ ORIGIN Japanese, from *sezu* 'to cut' + *fuku* 'abdomen'.

seps *seps* *n.* an African lizard with a snake-like body and very short or nonexistent legs.

■ *Genus* *Tiradactylus*, family *Gerrhosauridae*: a snake-like species, formerly regarded as skinks.

■ ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (denoting a venomous serpent described by classical authors): via Latin from Greek *seps*, from the base of *seipn* 'make rotten'.

sepsis *se'psɪs* *n.* Medicine the presence in tissues of harmful bacteria and their toxins, typically through infection of a wound.

■ ORIGIN late 19th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *sepsis*, from *seipn* 'make rotten'.

Sept. *abbr.* ■ September. ■ Septuagint.

sept *sept* *n.* a clan, originally one in Ireland.

■ ORIGIN early 16th cent.: probably an alteration of **SEPT**.

sept *sept* *comb. form* variant spelling of **SEPT-** (as in *septentrional*).

septa *septa* *pl* plural form of **SEPTUM**.

septage *se'pʌtʃ* *n.* excrement and other waste material contained in or removed from a septic tank.

■ ORIGIN 1970s: from **SEPTIC**, on the pattern of *sewage*.

septal *se'pʌl* *adj.* relating to or acting as a partition, in particular:

■ *Anatomy & Biology* relating to a septum or septa.

septarian *se'pʌrɪən* *n.* (pl. *septaria* *se'pʌrɪə*) *n.* *Geology* a concretionary nodule, typically of ironstone, having radial cracks filled with calcite or another mineral.

■ DERIVATIVES **septarian** *se'pʌrɪən* *adj.*

septum *se'pʌtəm* *n.* 18th cent.: modern Latin, from Latin *septum* 'enclosure'.

septate *se'pʌt* *adj.* *Anatomy & Biology* having or partitioned by a septum or septa.

■ DERIVATIVES **septation** *se'pʌtʃən* *n.*

septcentenary *se'pʌntʃənəri* *n.* the 700th anniversary of a significant event.

■ *adj.* of or relating to a seven-hundredth anniversary.

September *se'pʌtɪmber* *n.* the ninth month of the year, in the northern hemisphere usually considered the first month of autumn: *saw the plants in early September* | [as *adj.*] *a warm September evening.*

■ ORIGIN late Old English, from Latin, from *septem* 'seven' (being originally the seventh month of the Roman year).

septenarius *se'pʌtənəri* *n.* (pl. *septenarii* *se'pʌtənəri*) *n.* (here, *i*) Prosody a Latin verse line of seven feet, esp. a trochaic or iambic tetrameter catalectic, used only in comedy.

■ ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from Latin, from *septem* 'in' (here, *i*) + *novus* 'Latin verse line of seven feet, esp. a trochaic or iambic tetrameter catalectic, used only in comedy'.

septenary *se'pʌtənəri* *adj.* of, relating to, or divided into seven.

■ *n.* (pl. *septenies*) a group or set of seven, in particular: *the septenary of seven years.* ■ Music the seven notes of the diatonic scale.

■ ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *septenarius* (see **SEPTENARIUS**).

septennial *se'pʌtənɪəl* *adj.* recurring every seven years.

■ lasting for or relating to a period of seven years.

■ ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from late Latin *septennis* (from Latin *septem* 'seven' + *annus* 'year') + *AL*.

septenniūm *se'pʌtənɪəm* *n.* (pl. *septennia* *se'pʌtənɪə*) *n.* (ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from late Latin, from Latin *septem* 'seven' + *annus* 'year'.

septet *se'pʌt* (also *septette*) *n.* a group of seven people playing music or singing together.

■ a composition for such a group.

■ ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from German *Septett*, from Latin *septem* 'seven'.

septi- (also *sept-*) *comb. form* seven; having seven: *septilateral*.

■ ORIGIN from Latin *septem* 'seven'.

septic *se'pɪk* *adj.* 1 (chiefly of a wound or a part of the body) infected with bacteria.

2 [attrib.] denoting a drainage system incorporating a septic tank.

■ *n.* a drainage system incorporating a septic tank.

■ DERIVATIVES **septically** *i*-(*k*)-[*ə*] *adv.*; **septicity** *se'pɪsɪtɪ* *n.*

■ ORIGIN early 17th cent.: via Latin from Greek *septikos*, 'rotten'.

septicemia *se'pɪsɪmiə* (Brit. *septicaemia*) *n.* blood poisoning, esp. that caused by bacteria or their toxins.

■ DERIVATIVES **septicemic** *i*-(*k*)-[*ə*] *adj.*

■ ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *septikos* + *haima* 'blood'.

septic tank *n.* a tank, typically underground, in which sewage is collected and allowed to decompose through bacterial action before draining by means of a soakaway.

septillion *se'pɪljən* *cardinal number* (pl. *septillions* or (with numerical) *same*) a thousand raised to the eighth power (10²⁴).

■ dated, chiefly Brit. a million raised to the seventh power (10⁴²).

■ ORIGIN late 17th cent.: from French, from *million*, by substitution of the prefix *sept-* 'seven' (from Latin *septimus* 'seventh') for the initial letters.

septimal *se'pɪməl* *adj.* of or relating to the number seven.

■ ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Latin *septimus* 'seventh' (from *septem* 'seven' + *AL*).

septime *se'pɪtɪm* *n.* Fencing the seventh of eight standard parrying positions.

■ ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Latin *septimus* 'seventh'.

septivalent *se'pɪtəvələnt* *adj.* Chemistry another term for **HEPTAVALENT**.

septoria *se'pɪtɔ:riə* *n.* a fungus of a genus that includes many kinds that cause diseases in plants.

■ *Genus* *Septoria*, subdivision *Dothidea*.

■ leaf spot disease caused by such a fungus.

■ ORIGIN modern Latin, from Latin *septium* (see **SEPTUM**).

septuagennarius *se'pʌtʃwɑ:ʒənəri* *n.* a person who is from 70 to 79 years old.

■ ORIGIN late 18th cent.: from Latin *septuagenarius* based on *septuaginta* 'seventy' + *-AN*.

Septuagesima *se'pʌtʃwɑ:ʒɪmə* *n.* (also *Septuagesima Sunday*) *n.* the Sunday before Sexagesima.

■ ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin, 'seventieth (day)', probably named by analogy with **QUINGAGESIMA**.

septa *se'pʌtə* *n.*

■ *septa* *se'pʌtə* *n.* a Greek version of the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament), including the Apocrypha, made for Greek-speaking Jews in Egypt in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC and adopted by the early Christian Churches.

■ ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (originally denoting the transitive themselves): from Latin *septuaginta* 'seventy', because of the tradition that it was produced, under divine inspiration, by seventy-two translators working independently.

septa *se'pʌtə* *n.* a partition separating two chambers, such as that between the nostrils or the chambers of the heart.

■ ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *septum*, from *sepiare* 'enclose', from *sepi* 'hedge'.

septuple *se'pʌtʃl* *adj.* consisting of seven parts or elements.

■ *adv.* (of time in music) having seven beats in a bar.

■ *intrans.* multiply (something) by seven; increase sevenfold.

■ ORIGIN early 17th cent. (as a verb): from late Latin *septuplus*, from *septem* 'seven' + *plus* 'more'.

septuplet *se'pʌtʃlɪt* *n.* 1 (usu. *septs*) *n.* a group of seven children born at one birth.

2 Music a group of seven notes to be performed in the time of four or six.

■ ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Latin *septuplus* (see **SEPTUPLE**), on the pattern of words such as *triplet*.