Shorter Oxford English Dictionary

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

Sixth edition

VOLUME 1 · A–M

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Samsung v. Regeneron
IPR2023-00442
U.S. Pat. 10,130,681
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Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
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Published in the United States
by Oxford University Press Inc., New York

© Oxford University Press 1973, 1993, 2002, 2007

Database right Oxford University Press (makers)

First edition 1933
Second edition 1936
Third edition 1944
Reprinted with revised etymologies and enlarged addenda 1973
Fourth edition published 1993 as the *New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*
Fifth edition 2002
Sixth edition 2007

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN 978-0-19-920687-2
ISBN 978-0-19-920688-9 (deluxe)
ISBN 978-0-19-923324-3 (US)
ISBN 978-0-19-923325-0 (deluxe leatherbound)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

Typeset in OUP Swift, OUP Argo, and Capitolium
by Interactive Sciences Ltd, Gloucester
Printed in China by CTPS

5 A contradictory act, fact, or condition; an inconsistency. E17.

S. JOHNSON An attempt to make contradictions consistent.

6 A statement contradicting another. E18.

OED An official contradiction of the recent rumours.

7 A person or thing made up of contradictory qualities. M18.

POPE Woman's at best a contradiction still.

contradictious /kɒntrə'dɪkʃəs/ *adjective*. E17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRADICT + -IOUS.]
†**1** Characterized by contradiction; contrary. E17–M18.
2 Self-contradictory; involving a contradiction in terms. *arch.* M17.
3 Inclined to contradict; disputatious. L17.
■ **contradictiously** *adverb* E17. **contradictiousness** *noun* M17.

contradictive /kɒntrə'dɪktɪv/ *adjective*. M17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRADICT + -IVE.]
1 Of contradictory quality or tendency. M17.
†**2** = CONTRADICTIOUS 3. M–L17.
■ **contradictively** *adverb* M19. **contradictiveness** *noun* E19.

contradictory /kɒntrə'dɪkt(ə)ri/ *noun & adjective*. LME.
[ORIGIN Late Latin *contradictorius*, formed as CONTRADICT + -ORY².]
▸**A** *noun*. **1** LOGIC. A proposition, assertion, or principle that contradicts another. LME.

A. J. AYER It is impossible that a proposition and its contradictory should neither of them be true.

2 The opposite, the contrary. M19.

T. ARNOLD A place the very contradictory . . of the hill Difficulty.

▸**B** *adjective* **1 a** Mutually opposed or inconsistent; inconsistent in itself; (of two propositions) so related that one and only one must be true. M16. ▸**b** Having the quality of contradicting; making denial. E17.

a STEELE If we sit down satisfy'd with such contradictory accounts. **b** A. TROLLOPE Two answers which were altogether distinct, and contradictory one of the other.

a contradictory terms LOGIC: of the form A and not-A, which admit of no intermediate. **b contradictory opposition** LOGIC: between contradictory propositions.

2 Of opposite character or tendency; diametrically opposed, contrary. M18.

J. BUTLER There is nothing in the human mind contradictory . . to virtue.

3 Inclined to contradict. L19.
■ **contradictorily** *adverb* (*a*) in a way that contradicts; (*b*) LOGIC with contradictory opposition: L16. **contradictoriness** *noun* M18.

contradistinct /kɒntrədɪ'stɪŋkt/ *adjective*. E17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + DISTINCT *adjective*. Cf. COUNTERDISTINCT.]
Contradistinguished; distinct and in contrast (*to*, *from*).

contradistinction /kɒntrədɪ'stɪŋkʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. M17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + DISTINCTION. Cf. earlier COUNTER-DISTINCTION.]
The action of contradistinguishing; distinction by contrast or opposition.

H. A. L. FISHER A country which . . must, in contradistinction to the prevailing misery of the continent, have presented a spectacle of rare . . prosperity.

contradistinctive /kɒntrədɪ'stɪŋktɪv/ *adjective*. M17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + DISTINCTIVE.]
Serving to contradistinguish. Also (*rare*), expressing contradistinction.
■ **contradistinctively** *adverb* E19.

contradistinguish /kɒntrədɪ'stɪŋgwɪʃ/ *verb trans*. E17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + DISTINGUISH *verb*. Cf. COUNTERDISTINGUISH.]
Distinguish (*from* or †*to* another) by contrast or opposition.

T. JEFFERSON When the common law and statute law began to be contra-distinguished. COLERIDGE Doctrines . . which contra-distinguish the religion as Christian. M. ARNOLD The development which contradistinguishes the Hellene from the barbarian.

contrafacta *noun* pl. of CONTRAFACTUM.

contrafactual /kɒntrə'faktʃʊəl/ *adjective*. M20.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + FACTUAL *adjective*.]
PHILOSOPHY. = COUNTERFACTUAL *adjective*.

contrafactum /kɒntrə'faktəm/ *noun*. Pl. **-ta** /-tə/. M20.
[ORIGIN mod. Latin, use as noun of neut. pa. pple of medieval Latin *contrafacere* to counterfeit: see COUNTERFEIT *adjective & noun*.]
EARLY MUSIC. A rearrangement of a vocal composition whereby the music is retained and the words altered.

contrafagotto /kɒntrəfə'gɒtəʊ/ *noun*. Pl. **-tti** /-ti/. L19.
[ORIGIN Italian (now *-trof-*).]
= ***double*** BASSOON.

contrafissure /kɒntrə'fɪʃə/ *noun*. Now *rare* or *obsolete*. L17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + FISSURE *noun*.]
MEDICINE. A fracture (of the skull) in a part opposite to the site of the blow.

contraflexure /kɒntrə'flɛkʃə/ *noun*. L19.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + FLEXURE.]
The condition of being bent or curved in opposite directions; the point or piece at which this occurs.

contraflow /'kɒntrəfləʊ/ *noun*. M20.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + FLOW *noun*¹.]
Flow in the opposite direction or in opposite directions; *esp.* (a system allowing) movement of road traffic alongside and in a direction contrary to the established or usual flow. Freq. *attrib.*

contragredient /kɒntrə'gri:dɪənt/ *adjective*. M19.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + Latin *-gredient-* pres. ppl stem (in comb.) of *gradi* proceed, step: see -ENT.]
MATH. Characterized by change in an opposite sense (*to*), or in opposite senses, under equivalent substitution.

contrahent /'kɒntrəhənt/ *postpositive adjective & noun*. Now *rare* or *obsolete*. E16.
[ORIGIN Latin *contrahent-* pres. ppl stem of *contrahere*: see CONTRACT *verb*, -ENT.]
(A person etc.) entering into a contract.

contrail /'kɒntreɪl/ *noun*. M20.
[ORIGIN Contr.]
A condensation trail.

contraindicant /kɒntrə'ɪndɪk(ə)nt/ *noun*. E17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + INDICANT.]
A contraindication.

contraindicate /kɒntrə'ɪndɪkeɪt/ *verb trans*. M17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + INDICATE. Cf. COUNTER-INDICATE.]
Chiefly *MEDICINE*. Give indications contrary to; *esp.* act as an indication against the use of (a particular treatment etc.). Usu. in *pass.*

I. HAMILTON In the course of drug treatment alcohol would have been 'contraindicated'.

contraindication /ˌkɒntrəɪndɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. E17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + INDICATION. Cf. COUNTER-INDICATION.]
A contrary indication; *esp.* a symptom, circumstance, etc., which tends to make a particular course of (remedial) action inadvisable.

contrair /'kɒntreː/ *adjective, noun, adverb, & preposition*. Chiefly & now only *Scot.* LME.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French *contraire*: see CONTRARY *adjective*.]
▸**A** *adjective & noun*. (The) contrary. LME.
▸**B** *adverb*. Contrariwise. LME.
▸**C** *preposition*. Against, in opposition to. LME.

contralateral /kɒntrə'lat(ə)r(ə)l/ *adjective*. L19.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + LATERAL *adjective*.]
MEDICINE. Belonging to or occurring on the opposite side of the body. Opp. ***ipsilateral***.

contralto /kən'traltəʊ/ *noun & adjective*. M18.
[ORIGIN Italian, formed as CONTRA- + ALTO: cf. COUNTER-TENOR.]
MUSIC. ▸**A** *noun*. Pl. **-os**. The lowest female voice or (formerly) highest adult male voice; a singer having such a voice; a part written for such a voice. M18.
▸**B** *adjective*. Possessing, belonging to, or written for a contralto voice. M18.

contra mundum /ˌkɒntrə 'mʌndəm/ *adverbial phr*. M18.
[ORIGIN Latin.]
Against the world; defying or opposing everyone.

contranatant /kɒntrə'neɪt(ə)nt/ *adjective*. E20.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + NATANT *adjective*.]
Of the migration of fish: against the current. Opp. DENATANT.
■ **contranatation** *noun* the act of migrating against the current E20.

contranatural /kɒntrə'natʃ(ə)r(ə)l/ *adjective*. M17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + NATURAL *adjective*.]
Opposed to what is natural; contrary to nature.

contrapose /kɒntrə'pəʊz/ *verb trans*. E17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + POSE *verb*¹ after Latin *contraponere*. Cf. earlier COUNTERPOSE.]
1 Set in opposition or against each other. E17. ▸**b** Foll. by *to*: contrast directly with. E20.
2 LOGIC. Convert (a proposition) by contraposition. M19.

contraposit /kɒntrə'pɒzɪt/ *verb trans*. L19.
[ORIGIN Back-form. from CONTRAPOSITION.]
= CONTRAPOSE 2.

contraposition /kɒntrəpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. M16.
[ORIGIN Late Latin *contrapositio(n-)*, from *contraposit-* pa. ppl stem of *contraponere*, formed as CONTRA- + *ponere* to place: see -ITION. Cf. COUNTERPOSITION.]
1 LOGIC. The conversion of a proposition from *all A is B* to *all not-B is not-A*. M16.
2 *gen.* Opposition, antithesis, contrast. L16.

contrapositive /kɒntrə'pɒzɪtɪv/ *noun & adjective*. M19.
[ORIGIN from Latin *contrāposit-*: see CONTRAPOSITION, -IVE.]
▸**A** *noun*. A thing characterized by contraposition; LOGIC a contrapositive proposition. M19.
▸**B** *adjective*. Of, belonging to, or produced by contraposition. L19.
■ **contrapositively** *adverb* M19.

contrapposto /kɒntrap'pɒstəʊ/ *noun*. Pl. **-*ti*** /-ti/. E20.
[ORIGIN Italian, pa. pple of *contrapporre* from Latin *contraponere* CONTRAPOSE.]
In the visual arts, an arrangement of a figure in which the action of the arms and shoulders contrasts as strongly as possible with that of the hips and legs; a twisting of a figure on its own axis.

contra proferentem /ˌkɒntrə prɒfə'rɛntɛm/ *adverbial phr*. E20.
[ORIGIN Latin.]
LAW. Against the party which proposes or puts forward a contract or a condition in a contract.

contraption /kən'trapʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. *colloq*. E19.
[ORIGIN Perh. from CONTRIVE *verb*¹ (cf. *conceive*, *conception*), assoc. with TRAP *noun*¹.]
A strange machine; a device, a contrivance.

contrapuntal /kɒntrə'pʌnt(ə)l/ *adjective*. M19.
[ORIGIN from Italian *contrapunto* (now *-pp-*) from medieval Latin as COUNTERPOINT *noun*¹ + -AL¹.]
MUSIC. Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of counterpoint; according to the rules of counterpoint.
■ **contrapuntally** *adverb* L19. **contrapuntist** *noun* a person skilled in counterpoint L18.

contra-remonstrant /kɒntrərɪ'mɒnstr(ə)nt/ *noun*. E17.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + REMONSTRANT *noun*.]
A person who remonstrates in answer or opposition to a remonstrance.
■ **contra-remonstrance** *noun* a remonstrance drawn up in answer to a previous one L17. **contra-remonstrancer** *noun* (*rare*) = CONTRA-REMONSTRANT E17.

contrarian /kən'treːrɪən/ *noun & adjective*. M20.
[ORIGIN from CONTR(ARY *adjective* + -ARIAN.]
▸**A** *noun*. A person who takes an opposing view to the majority or who behaves in a contrary manner; *spec.* in *FINANCE*, an investor who goes against the general consensus when trading, e.g. by buying the stock of an unpopular company. M20.
▸**B** *adjective*. Relating to or characteristic of a contrarian. L20.
■ **contrarianism** *noun* L20.

contrariant /kən'treːrɪənt/ *preposition, adjective, & noun*. LME.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French, pres. pple of *contrarier*: see CONTRARY *verb*, -ANT¹.]
▸†**A** *preposition*. Acting contrary to, in opposition to. Only in LME.
▸**B** *adjective*. **1** Opposed, repugnant, contrary *to*. M16.
2 Mutually opposed or antagonistic. M16.
†**3** Unfavourable, prejudicial; adverse. M16–M17.
▸**C** *noun*. A person who or thing which is opposed to another in purpose or nature. M17.
■ **contrariantly** *adverb* L18.

contrariety /kɒntrə'raɪəti/ *noun*. LME.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French *contrariété* from late Latin *contrarietas*, from *contrarius*: see CONTRARY *adjective* etc., -ITY.]
1 Opposition in nature, quality, or action; contrariness; disagreement, inconsistency. LME. ▸**b** An antagonistic action or fact; a discrepancy. LME.

MILTON In the words of our Saviour there can be no contrariety. GEO. ELIOT With an odd contrariety to her former niceties she liked his rough attire. **b** W. DE LA MARE O riddle of life that is An endless war 'twixt contrarieties.

2 Opposition to one's purpose or advantage; an adversity, a mishap. LME.

SIR T. BROWNE The tempests and contrarieties of winds.

3 LOGIC. Contrary opposition. LME.

contrarious /kɒn'treːrɪəs/ *adjective*. *arch*. ME.
[ORIGIN Old French from medieval Latin *contrariosus*, from Latin *contrarius*: see CONTRARY *adjective* etc., -OUS.]
†**1** Of opposed character or tendency, repugnant (*to*). ME–M17.
2 Mutually opposed, antagonistic; inconsistent. Now *rare* or *obsolete*. ME.
†**3** Opposed in purpose, hostile. ME–M16.
4 Characterized by self-willed or refractory opposition; perverse; = CONTRARY *adjective* 3b. ME.
5 Of a thing: opposed to one's interests; adverse. ME.
■ **contrariously** *adverb* LME. **contrariousness** *noun* LME.

contrariwise /kən'treːrɪwaɪz, 'kɒntrərɪwaɪz/ *adverb*. LME.
[ORIGIN from CONTRARY *adjective* + -WISE.]
1 On the other hand, on the contrary. LME.
2 In the opposite way or order; vice versa; in opposite directions; in the opposite direction; on opposite sides. LME.
3 In opposition (*to*); *esp.* with self-willed opposition, perversely. L16.

contra-rotating /kɒntrərəʊ'teɪtɪŋ/ *adjective*. M20.
[ORIGIN from CONTRA- + *rotating* pres. ppl adjective of ROTATE *verb*. Cf. COUNTERROTATE.]
Rotating in the opposite direction or in opposite directions, esp. about the same shaft.

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3 *verb trans.* Twist, bend; wrinkle; ripple; crimp (the hair). E19.

G. GREENE An expression of glee crinkled the man's face. W. BOYD The fishponds . . were . . crinkled by a breeze.

4 *verb intrans.* Make sharp rustling or crackling sounds. M19.

crinkle-crankle /ˈkrɪŋk(ə)lkraŋk(ə)l/ *noun, adjective, & adverb.* Chiefly *dial.* L16.
[ORIGIN Redupl. of CRANKLE *noun*, partly after CRINKLE *noun*. Cf. CRINKUM-CRANKUM.]
▸**A** *noun.* A zigzag; something zigzag. L16.
▸**B** *adjective & adverb.* (Twisting) in and out; zigzag. M19.

†**crinkum** *noun. slang.* Also **grincome**. E17–L19.
[ORIGIN Unknown.]
sing. & (usu.) in *pl.* Venereal disease; syphilis.

crinkum-crankum /krɪŋkəmˈkraŋkəm/ *noun & adjective.* M17.
[ORIGIN Fanciful redupl. of CRANK *noun*[1], *noun*[2]: cf. CRANKUM, CRINKLE-CRANKLE.]
▸**A** *noun.* An intricate or convoluted thing; an elaborate device. Also, a crooked course (*lit. & fig.*), deviousness. M17.
▸**B** *adjective.* Intricate, convoluted, elaborate. L18.

crinoid /ˈkrʌɪnɔɪd/ *noun & adjective.* M19.
[ORIGIN Greek *krinoeidēs* adjective, lily-like, from *krinon* lily: see -OID.]
▸**A** *noun.* Any echinoderm of the class Crinoidea, members of which are characterized by cup-shaped bodies and usu. branched arms, and include sea-lilies, feather stars, and many fossil forms. M19.
▸**B** *adjective.* Of or pertaining to the Crinoidea. M19.
■ **cri'noidal** *adjective* of or pertaining to crinoids M19.

crinoline /ˈkrɪn(ə)lɪn/ *noun & adjective.* M19.
[ORIGIN French, irreg. from Latin *crinis* hair (French CRIN) + *līnum* thread (French *lin* flax).]
▸**A** *noun.* **1** A stiff fabric made of horsehair and cotton or linen thread, used for linings, hats, etc., and formerly for skirts and to expand a petticoat. M19.
2 *hist.* A stiff petticoat, orig. of this fabric, worn under a skirt to support or distend it; hence, a hooped petticoat. M19.
3 *hist.* A netting fitted round warships as a defence against torpedoes. L19.
▸**B** *attrib.* or as *adjective.* Made of crinoline. M19.
■ **crinolined** *adjective* wearing (a) crinoline M19.

crinosity /krʌɪˈnɒsɪti/ *noun. rare.* M17.
[ORIGIN from Latin *crinis* hair: see -OSITY.]
Hairiness.

crio- /ˈkrɪːəʊ/ *combining form* of Greek *krios* ram: see -O-.
■ **criosphinx** *noun* a sphinx having a ram's head M19.

criollo /krɪˈɒləʊ/ *noun & adjective.* Also **C-**. Pl. of noun **-os**. L19.
[ORIGIN Spanish = native to the locality: see CREOLE.]
1 (Designating or pertaining to) a native of Spanish South or Central America, esp. one of pure Spanish descent. L19.
2 (Designating) a cacao tree of a variety producing thin-shelled beans of high quality. E20.
3 (Designating) any of various South or Central American breeds of domestic animal, *esp.* a small horse bred from South American and Arab stock, or cattle of Spanish ancestry. M20.

crip /krɪp/ *noun. N. Amer. slang* (*offensive*). E20.
[ORIGIN Abbreviation of CRIPPLE *noun & adjective*.]
A disabled person.

cripes /krʌɪps/ *interjection. slang.* E20.
[ORIGIN Alt. of CHRIST.]
Expr. astonishment.

cripple /ˈkrɪp(ə)l/ *noun & adjective.*
[ORIGIN Old English (Northumbrian) *crypel* = Old Low German *krupil*, & Old English *crēopel* = Middle Low German, Middle Dutch *krēpel*, from Germanic: cogn. with CREEP *verb*.]
▸**A** *noun* **I 1** A person (permanently) impaired in movement by an injury or defect, *esp.* one unable to walk normally. Now regarded as *offensive*. OE.

D. MURPHY My mother returned . . as a complete cripple, unable to walk from the sitting-room to the downstairs lavatory, or to wash or dress herself, or to brush her hair.

2 *transf. & fig.* **a** A sixpence. Cf. BENDER 4. *arch. slang.* L18. ▸**b** A maimed or lamed animal or bird, esp. a game bird. M19. ▸**c** A person (permanently) impaired or deficient in some other way, specified or understood. E20. ▸**d** A vehicle, ship, etc., that is unfit to proceed or for service. E20.

C *Times* There would still be the emotional and psychological cripples among our children.

3 *sing.* & in *pl.* A crippling disease of cattle. *dial. & Austral.* L19.
▸**II 4** A low opening in a wall. Chiefly in proper name ***Cripplegate***. ME.
5 A swamp or low-lying tract of land overgrown with trees or shrubs. *US.* L17.
▸**B** *adjective.* Crippled. *obsolete* exc. *dial.* ME.

SHAKES. *Hen. V* And chide the cripple tardy-gaited night Who like a foul and ugly witch doth limp So tediously away.

■ **crippledom**, **cripplehood** *nouns* the condition of being a cripple M19.

cripple /ˈkrɪp(ə)l/ *verb.* ME.
[ORIGIN from the noun.]
1 *verb trans.* Cause (a person) to become unable to walk or move properly. ME. ▸**b** *transf. & fig.* Disable, impair; have a severe adverse effect on. L17.

G. GREENE A local farmer who had been crippled as a boy, losing his right arm in an accident. **b** L. OLIPHANT The trade . . is crippled by the difficulty of transport. A. TOFFLER Lack of an education will cripple a child's chance in the world of tomorrow.

2 *verb intrans.* Hobble; walk lamely. Now chiefly *Scot.* ME.
■ **crippled** *adjective* unable to walk, move, or (*transf.*) operate properly (now regarded as *offensive* when used of persons) ME. **crippler** *noun* (*a*) a person or thing which cripples; (*b*) *slang* something astonishingly good: M17. **crippling** *adjective* (*a*) that cripples; (*b*) *slang* astonishingly good: L16. **cripplingly** *adverb* so as to cripple or disable; to a crippling extent: L19.

†**Cris** *noun & adjective* see CREE.

cris de cœur *noun phr.* pl. of CRI DE CŒUR.

crise /kriːz/ *noun.* Pl. pronounced same. LME.
[ORIGIN French.]
= CRISIS.
crise de conscience /də kɔ̃sjɑ̃ːs/ a crisis of conscience. ***crise de nerfs*** /də nɛːr/ [= of nerves] a fit of hysterics.
— NOTE: Formerly fully naturalized.

crisis /ˈkrʌɪsɪs/ *noun.* Pl. **crises** /ˈkrʌɪsiːz/, (*rare*) **crisises**. LME.
[ORIGIN Medical Latin from Greek *krisis* decision, judgement, event, issue, turning point of a disease, from *krinein* decide.]
1 The turning point of a disease. LME.
†**2** *ASTROLOGY.* A conjunction of the planets determining the issue of a disease or a critical point in the course of events. L16–M17.
3 *gen.* A turning point, a vitally important or decisive stage; a time of trouble, danger, or suspense in politics, commerce, etc., or in personal life. E17.

J. GALSWORTHY When his son-in-law . . had that financial crisis, due to speculation in Oil Shares, James made himself ill worrying over it. E. ROOSEVELT The threat of war was just over the horizon and no one else had the prestige and the knowledge to carry on through a crisis. M. HOLROYD She coped with crises ranging from burst hot-water bottles to outbreaks of measles. J. CRITCHLEY What the alienists call 'a crisis of identity'.

mid-life crisis: see MID-LIFE *adjective*.
†**4** A judgement, a decision. E17–E18.
†**5** A criterion; a token. E–M17.
— COMB.: **crisis management** the action or practice of taking managerial action only when a crisis has developed.

crisp /krɪsp/ *noun.* ME.
[ORIGIN App. from the adjective: cf. CRAPE *noun & adjective*, CRÊPE *noun & adjective*.]
†**1** A light fabric like crêpe; a head covering or veil made of this. ME–E17.
†**2** A crisp kind of pastry. Only in LME.
†**3** A curl (of hair); *esp.* a short or close curl. M–L17.
4 The crackling of roast pork. Now *dial.* L17.
5 A thing overdone by roasting etc. Orig. *US.* M19.
burn to a crisp make inedible or useless by burning.
6 More fully ***potato crisp***. A thin fried slice of potato eaten as a snack. Usu. in *pl.* Cf. CHIP *noun* 3. E20.
7 A crisp piece of pastry or chocolate. L20.

crisp /krɪsp/ *adjective.* OE.
[ORIGIN Latin *crispus* curled. Branch II may result from symbolic interpretation of the sound of the word.]
▸**I 1** Of hair: curly; now *esp.* stiff and closely curling, frizzy. Also, having such hair. OE.
†**2** Of fabric: crinkly, like crêpe. Only in ME.
3 *gen.* Having a crinkled or rippled surface. *arch.* LME.
4 *BOTANY.* Having a crinkled or wavy edge, crispate. M18.
▸**II 5** Hard or firm but fragile; brittle. M16.

J. M. NEALE When the snow lay round about, Deep and crisp and even. F. KING As crisp as a dead leaf.

crispbread a thin crisp biscuit of crushed rye etc.
6 *transf. & fig.* Stiff, not limp; neat, clearly defined; decisive in manner, brisk. E19.

WILKIE COLLINS Such a crisp touch on the piano. T. DREISER A gift . . for making crisp and cynical remarks. S. J. PERELMAN Her crisp white nurse's uniform. P. V. PRICE The crisp, almost bitterly dry white wine. A. N. WILSON The crisp creases of his trouser knees.

7 Of the air, of a day as regards atmosphere, etc.: frosty; bracing. M19.
■ **crispen** *verb trans. & intrans.* make or become (more) crisp M20. **crispish** *adjective* somewhat crisp M20. **crisply** *adverb* E19. **crispness** *noun* LME.

crisp /krɪsp/ *verb.* ME.
[ORIGIN from the adjective. Cf. Latin *crispare*.]
1 *verb trans.* Crimp, crinkle. ME.
2 *verb intrans.* Curl in short stiff folds or waves. E16.
3 *verb trans.* Make crisp (CRISP *adjective* II). E17.
4 *verb intrans.* Become crisp (CRISP *adjective* II). E19.
■ **crisper** *noun* a person who or thing which crisps or curls; *esp.* a container or compartment in a refrigerator for keeping salads etc. crisp and fresh: M19.

crispate /ˈkrɪspeɪt/ *adjective.* M19.
[ORIGIN Latin *crispatus* pa. pple of *crispare* curl: see -ATE[2].]
Crisped; *spec.* in *BOTANY & ZOOLOGY*, having a crinkled or wavy edge.

crispation /krɪˈspeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun.* Now *rare.* E17.
[ORIGIN from Latin *crispat-* pa. ppl stem of *crispare* curl: see -ATION.]
1 (A) curled condition; curliness; (an) undulation. E17.
2 A slight contraction of a muscle etc. or of the skin, as in gooseflesh. E18.

crispature /ˈkrɪspətjʊə/ *noun. rare.* M18.
[ORIGIN formed as CRISPATION: see -URE.]
(A) crisp or curled condition.

Crispin /ˈkrɪspɪn/ *noun. arch.* Also **c-**. E18.
[ORIGIN Patron saint of shoemakers.]
(A name given to) a shoemaker.

crispy /ˈkrɪspi/ *adjective.* LME.
[ORIGIN from CRISP *adjective* + -Y[1].]
1 Curly, wavy, crinkly. LME.

W. MORRIS His crispy hair of gold.

2 Crisp, brittle; brisk. E17.

B. W. ALDISS They ate chow mein, sweet and sour pork and crispy noodles.

■ **crispiness** *noun* M17.

criss /krɪs/ *adjective. W. Indian.* L20.
[ORIGIN Alt. of CRISP *adjective*.]
Smart or fashionable.

criss-cross /ˈkrɪskrɒs/ *noun, adjective, & adverb.* Also **crisscross**. E17.
[ORIGIN Reduced form of CHRIST-CROSS, latterly treated as redupl. of CROSS *noun*.]
▸**A** *noun.* **1** = CHRIST-CROSS. Now *arch. & dial.* exc. *hist.* E17.
2 A crossing of lines, currents, etc.; a network of crossing lines. L19.
3 The state of being at cross purposes. E20.
▸**B** *adjective.* In crossing lines; marked by crossings or intersections. M19.
▸**C** *adverb.* Crosswise; at cross purposes. L19.

criss-cross /ˈkrɪskrɒs/ *verb trans. & intrans.* Also **crisscross**. E19.
[ORIGIN from CRISS-CROSS *noun, adjective, & adverb*.]
Mark or work with a criss-cross pattern; move crosswise; cross or intersect repeatedly.

B. HINES Hundreds of knife cuts had criss-crossed the surface into tiny geometrical figures. E. CRISPIN Power-lines . . criss-crossing one another at all angles. S. SONTAG The metaphoric uses of TB and cancer crisscross and overlap.

crissum /ˈkrɪs(ə)m/ *noun.* L19.
[ORIGIN mod. Latin, from *crissare* move the haunches.]
ORNITHOLOGY. The region of the vent of a bird, including the under-tail coverts.
■ **crissal** *adjective* of or pertaining to the crissum; ***crissal thrasher***, a brown N. & Central American thrasher, *Toxostoma dorsale*, with rufous under-tail coverts: L19.

crista /ˈkrɪstə/ *noun.* Pl. **-stae** /-stiː/. M19.
[ORIGIN Latin: see CREST *noun*.]
Chiefly *ANATOMY & ZOOLOGY.* A ridge, a crest.

cristate /ˈkrɪsteɪt/ *adjective.* M17.
[ORIGIN Latin *cristatus*, formed as CRISTA: see -ATE[2].]
Chiefly *ANATOMY & ZOOLOGY.* Crested; having the form of a crest or ridge.
■ Also **cristated** *adjective* (now *rare*) E18.

cristobalite /krɪˈstəʊbəlʌɪt/ *noun.* L19.
[ORIGIN from Cerro San *Cristóbal*, a locality in Mexico: see -ITE[1].]
MINERALOGY. A variety of silica of which there is a stable high-temperature cubic form and a metastable low-temperature tetragonal form, and which occurs as massive deposits (e.g. in opal) and as small usu. octahedral crystals.

crit /krɪt/ *noun. colloq.* Also **crit.** (point). M18.
[ORIGIN Abbreviation.]
†**1** A critic. Only in M18.
2 (Literary, textual, etc.) criticism; a critique. E20.
lit. crit.: see LIT. *adjective*.
3 Critical mass. M20.

criteria *noun* pl. of CRITERION.

criteriology /krʌɪˌtɪərɪˈɒlədʒi/ *noun.* L19.
[ORIGIN from CRITERION: see -OLOGY.]
The study or analysis of criteria; the branch of logic that deals with criteria.
■ **criterio'logical** *adjective* pertaining to criteriology; dealing with criteria: M20. **criterio'logically** *adverb* M20.

criterion /krʌɪˈtɪərɪən/ *noun.* Occas. (Latinized) **-ium** /-ɪəm/. Pl. **-ia** /-ɪə/. E17.
[ORIGIN Greek *kritērion* means of judging, test, from *kritēs* judge.]
1 A principle, standard, or test by which a thing is judged, assessed, or identified. E17.

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A. BEVAN Medical treatment and care . . should be made available to rich and poor alike in accordance with medical need and by no other criterion. J. L. AUSTIN Hoping to find a criterion to distinguish statements from performatives.

Rayleigh criterion, Rayleigh's criterion: see RAYLEIGH. ***Richardson criterion, Richardson's criterion***: see RICHARDSON *noun*² 1.

†**2** A (supposed) organ or faculty of judging. M–L17.

■ **criterial** *adjective* M20.

— NOTE: Throughout 17 freq. in Greek characters, but also transliterated from M17. *Criteria* is often taken to be the sing. form.

criterium /krʌɪ'tɪərɪəm/ *noun*. Pl. **-s**. M17.
[ORIGIN Latinized form of Greek *kritērion* CRITERION.]
1 = CRITERION. *rare*. M17.
2 A one-day bicycle race involving repeated circuits of a course that usu. consists of closed-off roads. L20.

crithomancy /'krɪθəmansi/ *noun*. M17.
[ORIGIN from Greek *krithē* barleycorn + **-O-** + **-MANCY**.]
Divination by meal strewn over animals sacrificed.

critic /'krɪtɪk/ *noun*¹. L16.
[ORIGIN Latin *criticus* from Greek *kritikos*, use as noun of adjective from *kritēs* judge: see **-IC**.]
1 A person who pronounces judgement; *esp.* a censurer. L16.
2 A judge or writer on the qualities of literary or artistic works; a professional reviewer of books, musical or dramatic performances, etc.; a person skilled in textual criticism. E17.
drama critic, literary critic, music critic, television critic, etc. ***New Critic***: see NEW *adjective*.
■ **criticling** *noun* = CRITICASTER M18.

†**critic** *noun*² see CRITIQUE *noun*.

critic /'krɪtɪk/ *adjective*. Now *rare*. LME.
[ORIGIN French *critique*, from late Latin *criticus*, formed as CRITIC *noun*¹.]
†**1** = CRITICAL 1, 2. LME–E17.
†**2** = CRITICAL 4. L16–M17.
3 = CRITICAL 5. E17.

†**critic** *verb*. Infl. **-ck-**. E17.
[ORIGIN French *critiquer*, formed as CRITIQUE *noun*.]
1 *verb intrans.* Play the critic. Only in 17.
2 *verb trans.* Criticize; censure. L17–M18.

critical /'krɪtɪk(ə)l/ *adjective*. M16.
[ORIGIN from late Latin *criticus* (see CRITIC *adjective*) + **-AL**¹.]
▸**I 1** Of or pertaining to the crisis of a disease; determining the issue of a disease. M16.
2 Of, pertaining to, or constituting a crisis; of decisive importance, crucial; involving risk or suspense; *spec.* (of a person) extremely ill and at risk of death. E17.

H. MACMILLAN We made a serious error, at a critical moment when France was already nervous and uncertain. H. KISSINGER Their need for American grain was critical. A. HAILEY They were vulnerable, critical installations and could take weeks to repair or replace completely. J. D. PISTONE She was in intensive care, in critical condition, attached to machines and tubes.

3 *MATH. & PHYSICS.* Constituting or relating to a point of transition from one state etc. to another. M19. ▸**b** Of a nuclear reactor etc.: maintaining a self-sustaining chain reaction. M20.
▸**II 4** Given to judging, esp. unfavourably; fault-finding, censorious. L16.

SHAKES. *Oth.* I am nothing if not critical. W. GOLDING She was severe and very critical of my playing.

5 Skilful at or engaged in criticism, esp. of literature or art; providing textual criticism. L16. ▸**b** Belonging to criticism. M18.

J. M. MURRY These two finely critical minds—in their separate provinces the finest critical minds we have in England to-day. A. WILSON A critical edition of the text of *Lamia*.

†**6** Involving careful judgement or observation; nice, exact, punctual. M17–M19.

— SPECIAL COLLOCATIONS & PHRASES: **critical angle** the angle of incidence at which a ray of light must strike an interface with a less dense medium so as to be refracted parallel to the interface. ***critical apparatus***: see APPARATUS 2c. **critical damping** *PHYSICS* damping just sufficient to prevent oscillations. **critical legal studies** an approach to jurisprudence expressing a broadly Marxist critique of legal theory but also drawing on philosophy, politics, and semiotics. **critical mass** the mass of a body of fissile material of critical size (see below). **critical path** a sequence of stages determining the minimum time needed for the execution of an entire project. **critical point** a set of conditions of temperature, pressure, and density at which a liquid and its vapour become indistinguishable. **critical pressure** the pressure required to liquefy a gas at its critical temperature. **critical size** the minimum size of a body of a given fissile material which is capable of sustaining a nuclear chain reaction. **critical temperature**: above which a gas cannot be liquefied by pressure. **critical volume** the volume of unit mass of a gas or vapour at its critical temperature and pressure. **go critical** (of a nuclear reactor etc.) begin to sustain a nuclear chain reaction. ***New Critical***: see NEW *adjective*.
■ **criti'cality** *noun* the state or quality of being critical; *esp.* the condition of sustaining a nuclear chain reaction: M18. **critically** *adverb* M17. **criticalness** *noun* M17.

criticaster /krɪtɪ'kastə, 'krɪtɪkastə/ *noun*. L17.
[ORIGIN from CRITIC *noun*¹ + **-ASTER**.]
A petty or inferior critic.

criticise *verb* var. of CRITICIZE.

criticism /'krɪtɪsɪz(ə)m/ *noun*. E17.
[ORIGIN from (the same root as) CRITIC *noun*¹ + **-ISM**.]
1 The expression of disapproval on the basis of perceived faults or mistakes; fault-finding, censure; an act of criticizing. E17.

Daily Mail Being exposed to ridicule and unfair criticism. HOWARD GARDNER His criticisms of Milton as overly intellectual.

†**2** A nicety, a subtlety; a quibble. Only in 17.
3 The analysis and judgement of the merits and faults of a literary or artistic work; a critical analysis, article, etc. M17. ▸**b** The art or practice of estimating the qualities and character of literary or artistic works; the work of a critic. L17.
textual criticism: dealing with and seeking the correct reading of a text, esp. a manuscript text, of an author. **the higher criticism**: dealing with the origin, character, etc., of texts, esp. of biblical writings. **the lower criticism** the textual criticism of the Bible. **b *literary criticism***: see LITERARY *adjective*. ***New Criticism***: see NEW *adjective*. ***practical criticism***: see PRACTICAL *adjective*.
4 The critical philosophy of Kant (based on critical examination of the faculty of knowledge). Now *rare* or *obsolete*. M19.
■ **criticist** *noun* an adherent of the critical philosophy of Kant L19.

criticize /'krɪtɪsʌɪz/ *verb*. Also **-ise**. M17.
[ORIGIN formed as CRITICISM + **-IZE**.]
1 *verb intrans.* Pass judgement, esp. unfavourably; find fault, be censorious. (Foll. by †(*up*)*on*.) M17.

MILTON His Criticizing about the sound of Prayers.

2 *verb trans.* Discuss critically. M17.

BOLINGBROKE The verses I sent you are very bad . . you would do them too much honour, if you criticized them. J. KOSINSKI Each of them would criticize the others and himself, giving praise where due, pointing out shortcomings.

3 *verb trans.* Censure; find fault with. E18.

SWIFT To criticise his gait, and ridicule his dress. E. LONGFORD His wife was criticizing him for not giving enough to charity.

■ **criticizable** *adjective* M19. **criticizer** *noun* L17.

critico- /'krɪtɪkəʊ/ *combining form*. E19.
[ORIGIN After Greek *kritiko-*, from *kritikos*: see CRITIC *noun*¹, **-O-**.]
Critically, critical and —, as ***critico-historical***, ***critico-theological***, etc.

critique /krɪ'ti:k/ *noun*. Orig. †**critic**. M17.
[ORIGIN French, ult. from Greek *kritikē* (sc. *tekhnē*) the critical art, criticism.]
1 Criticism; *esp.* the art of criticism. M17.

R. BENTLEY I do not expect from our Editors much sagacity in way of Critic.

2 A criticism; *esp.* a critical analysis, article, or essay. M17.

G. STEINER The student and the person interested in the current of literature reads reviews and critiques of books rather than the books themselves. E. FROMM Marx's whole critique of capitalism and his vision of socialism.

critique /krɪ'ti:k/ *verb trans.* M18.
[ORIGIN from the noun.]
Discuss critically; write a critique of; make a critical assessment of.

critter /'krɪtə/ *noun*. *dial.* & *joc.* Also **-ur**. E19.
[ORIGIN Var. of CREATURE.]
A creature, *esp.* an ox, cow, or horse; *derog.* a person.

crivvens /'krɪv(ə)nz/ *interjection*. *slang*. E20.
[ORIGIN Alt. of CHRIST, perh. after *heavens!*]
Expr. astonishment or horror.

crizzle /'krɪz(ə)l/ *verb trans.* & *intrans.* Now *dial.* E17.
[ORIGIN Perh. dim. of CRAZE *verb*: see **-LE**³.]
(Cause to) become rough on the surface, as glass etc. by scaling, or water beginning to freeze.

cro /krəʊ/ *noun*¹. Pl. **-oes**. LME.
[ORIGIN Old Irish *crō* wound, violent death, Gaelic *crò* blood.]
CELTIC HISTORY. Compensation payable for the killing of a man, according to his rank.

†**cro** *noun*² var. of CRUE.

croak /krəʊk/ *verb* & *noun*. ME.
[ORIGIN Imit. Cf. Old English *crakettan*.]
▸**A** *verb*. **1** *verb intrans.* Of a frog or raven: make its characteristic deep harsh sound. ME.
2 *verb intrans.* Of a person: speak in a hoarse manner; *fig.* talk dismally or despondently. Formerly also, groan, cry. LME.
†**3** *verb intrans.* Of the stomach or bowels: rumble. M16–L18.
4 *verb trans.* Say or proclaim with a croak or dismally. E17.
5 *verb intrans.* Die. *slang*. E19.
6 *verb trans.* Kill; murder. *slang*. E19.
▸**B** *noun*. A deep harsh sound made by a frog or raven; a sound likened to this. M16.

A. ALVAREZ His throat was raw and tender and the words came out in a formless croak.

■ **croaky** *adjective* like a croak; hoarse: M19.

croaker /'krəʊkə/ *noun*. E17.
[ORIGIN from CROAK + **-ER**¹.]
1 A person or animal that croaks; *spec.* any fish of the family Sciaenidae (= DRUM *noun*¹ 3b). E17.
2 A person who talks dismally or despondently; a prophet of evil. E17.
3 A doctor, *esp.* a prison doctor. *slang* (chiefly *US*). M19.

Croat /'krəʊat/ *noun* & *adjective*. M17.
[ORIGIN mod. Latin *Croatae* pl. from Croatian *Hrvat*.]
▸**A** *noun*. = CROATIAN *noun*; *hist.* a soldier of a French cavalry regiment composed mainly of Croatians. M17.
▸**B** *adjective*. = CROATIAN *adjective*. E19.

Croatian /krəʊ'eɪʃɪən, -ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* & *adjective*. M16.
[ORIGIN from mod. Latin *Croatia*, from *Croatae*: see CROAT, **-IAN**.]
▸**A** *noun*. A native or inhabitant of Croatia, one of the Balkan states; the Slavonic language of Croatia, almost identical to Serbian but written in the Roman alphabet. M16.
▸**B** *adjective*. Of or pertaining to Croatia, its people, or its language. E17.

croc /krɒk/ *noun*. L19.
[ORIGIN Abbreviation.]
= CROCODILE *noun* 1, 4.
mock croc imitation crocodile skin.

crocard *noun* var. of CROCKARD.

crocean /'krəʊsɪən/ *adjective*¹. *rare*. E17.
[ORIGIN from Latin *croceus*, formed as CROCUS *noun*¹: see **-AN**.]
Of the colour of saffron.
■ Also **croceate** *adjective* M19.

Crocean /'krəʊtʃɪən, 'krəʊsɪən/ *adjective*². Also **-ian**. E20.
[ORIGIN from *Croce* (see below) + **-AN**, **-IAN**.]
Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the Italian philosopher and statesman Benedetto Croce (1866–1952) or his idealistic 'philosophy of the spirit'.

croche /krəʊtʃ/ *noun*. L16.
[ORIGIN French, cogn. with Old French & mod. French *croc* hook from Old Norse *krókr*: cf. CROOK *noun*.]
One of the knobs at the top of a stag's horn.

crochet /'krəʊʃeɪ, -ʃi/ *noun* & *verb*. M19.
[ORIGIN French, dim. of *croc* with *-ch-* from *crochié*, *crochu* hooked: see CROCHE, **-ET**¹.]
▸**A** *noun*. A kind of knitting done using a single hooked needle to form intertwined loops; knitted material made in this way. M19.
— COMB.: **crochet hook** the needle used in crochet work.
▸**B** *verb*. **1** *verb trans.* Make in crochet. L19.
2 *verb intrans.* Do crochet work. L19.

croci *noun pl.* see CROCUS *noun*¹.

Crocian *adjective* var. of CROCEAN *adjective*².

crocidolite /krə(ʊ)'sɪdəlʌɪt/ *noun*. M19.
[ORIGIN from Greek *krokis*, *-id-* nap of woollen cloth + **-O-** + **-LITE**.]
A blue or green fibrous variety of riebeckite mined as a source of asbestos which is strong but has low heat resistance.

crocin /'krəʊsɪn/ *noun*. M19.
[ORIGIN from Latin *crocus* (see CROCUS *noun*¹) + **-IN**¹.]
A yellowish carotenoid glycosidic pigment, $C_{44}H_{64}O_{24}$, which is the colouring matter in saffron and some other kinds of crocus.

crock /krɒk/ *noun*¹.
[ORIGIN Old English *croc*, *crocca* rel. to synon. Old Norse *krukka* and prob. to Old English *crōg* small vessel (= Old High German *kruog*, German *Krug*), *crūce* pitcher (= Old Saxon *krūka*, Dutch *kruik*, Middle High German *kruche*).]
1 An earthenware vessel. OE.
2 A metal pot. *dial.* L15.
3 A broken piece of earthenware, *esp.* one used for covering the hole in a flowerpot. M19.

crock /krɒk/ *noun*². LME.
[ORIGIN Perh. of Flemish origin, but appropriate words have a different vowel, as Middle Dutch *kraecke* (Dutch *krak*), Flemish *krake*; presumably rel. to CRACK *verb*.]
1 An old ewe. *Scot.* LME.
2 An old broken-down horse. L19.
3 A weak or debilitated person; a hypochondriac. *colloq.* L19.
4 An old worn-out vehicle, ship, etc. *slang*. E20.

crock /krɒk/ *noun*³. *obsolete* exc. *dial.* M17.
[ORIGIN Unknown.]
Dirt; a smut.

crock *noun*⁴ see CRUCK.

crock /krɒk/ *verb*¹ *trans.* Now *dial.* L16.
[ORIGIN from CROCK *noun*¹.]
Put away (as) in a crock.

crock /krɒk/ *verb*². M17.
[ORIGIN from CROCK *noun*³.]
1 *verb trans.* Make dirty or grimy. M17.
2 *verb intrans.* Of a coloured article: impart its colour to something else. Of a colour or dye: transfer to something else. M19.

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excision /ɪk'sɪʒ(ə)n, ɛk-/ *noun*. L15.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French from Latin *excisio(n-)*, formed as EXCISE *verb*[1]: see -ION.]
1 The action of cutting off from existence; the condition of being so cut off; destruction. L15.
2 The action of excising a growth or organ from the body, a passage from a book, etc.; something so removed. M16.
A. POWELL Considerable excisions had been made... but it had returned . . with orders for further expurgation.
3 The action of expelling a person from a religious society; excommunication. M17.
■ **excisional** *adjective* M20.

excitability /ɪkˌsʌɪtə'bɪlɪti, ɛk-/ *noun*. L18.
[ORIGIN from EXCITABLE + -ITY.]
1 The property in plant and animal tissue of responding to a certain kind of stimulus. L18.
2 The quality in a person of being prone or susceptible to excitement. E19.

excitable /ɪk'sʌɪtəb(ə)l, ɛk-/ *adjective*. E17.
[ORIGIN from EXCITE + -ABLE.]
Able to be excited; responsive to stimuli; prone or susceptible to excitement, easily excited. (Foll. by *to*.)
N. HAWTHORNE He is . . wonderfully excitable to mirth. E. BOWEN Keyed up by the sudden electric light, her manner was swaggering and excitable. *Scientific American* In excitable cells calcium channels open in response to the action potential.
■ **excitableness** *noun* M19.

excitant /'ɛksɪt(ə)nt, ɪk'sʌɪt(ə)nt, ɛk-/ *adjective & noun*. E17.
[ORIGIN from EXCITE + -ANT[1], perh. after French *excitant*.]
(An agent) that excites or stimulates.
A. JOHN The sea air is known to be an excitant. *Nature* The central excitant action of *d*-amphetamine.
■ '**excitancy** *noun* the property of being (an) excitant M19.

†**excitate** *verb trans*. M16–M17.
[ORIGIN Latin *excitat-* pa. ppl stem of *excitare*: see EXCITE, -ATE[3].]
= EXCITE in senses current before M17.

excitation /ɛksɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. LME.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French from late Latin *excitatio(n-)*, formed as EXCITATE: see -ATION.]
1 The state of being excited; an instance of this. Now chiefly with ref. to inanimate things: cf. EXCITEMENT 3b. LME.
J. MCPHEE He told the story without modulation, without a hint of narrative excitation. H. M. ROSENBERG The excitations associated with spin waves are also quantised.
2 The action or an act of exciting, esp. (in mod. use) tissue, electrical devices, atoms, etc. (see EXCITE 4, 5). LME.
T. H. HUXLEY The excitation of the retina proper. *Scientific American* The excitation of the electron from the valence band to the conduction band. *attrib.*: *Radio & Electronics World* The device reverts to its 'blank' state when the ac excitation voltage is removed.
3 Something that excites; a stimulus; an encouragement. *arch.* E17.

excitative /ɪk'sʌɪtətɪv, ɛk-/ *adjective*. L15.
[ORIGIN French *excitatif, -ive*, from medieval Latin *excitativus*, formed as EXCITATE: see -ATIVE.]
Able or tending to excite. (Foll. by *of*.)

†**excitator** *noun*. *rare*. L17–M19.
[ORIGIN from EXCITATE + -OR.]
A person who or thing which excites; *spec.* in *ELECTRICITY*, an instrument for discharging a Leyden jar without giving the operator a shock.

excitatory /ɪk'sʌɪtət(ə)ri, ɛk-/ *adjective*. E19.
[ORIGIN formed as EXCITATE: see -ORY[2].]
Producing or tending to produce excitation; produced by excitation.

excite /ɪk'sʌɪt, ɛk-/ *verb*. ME.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French *exciter* or Latin *excitare* frequentative of *exciere* call out or forth, formed as EX-[1] + *ciere* move, call.]
1 a *verb trans. & intrans.* Instigate, incite, move, stir up, (a person, God, the soul, etc.). (Foll. by *to*, *to do*, *into doing*.) ME. ▸†**b** *verb trans.* Provoke, challenge. ME–L15.
a P. KAVANAGH He looked like a spirited fellow who could be excited into doing two men's work.
2 *verb trans.* Call into being (a faculty, feeling, etc.); rouse (what is dormant or latent). LME. ▸†**b** Rouse from sleep, or unconsciousness; bring back to life. LME–L15. ▸†**c** Call up (a spirit). LME–M17.
T. HARDY The footman whose curiosity had been excited. W. S. MAUGHAM Her prettiness was not the sort that excites carnal desires.
3 *verb trans.* Induce or provoke (an action, a manifestation); bring about (an active condition). LME.
J. L. MOTLEY Fire-ships, intended only to excite a conflagration of the bridge. S. LEACOCK The very name 'Spy' excites a shudder of apprehension. P. ACKROYD Her behaviour was exciting more comment. J. HELLER He was distressed . . by how little attention his presence excited.
4 *verb trans.* Stimulate (living matter) so as to produce or increase its activity. LME.
5 *verb trans.* Magnetize or electrify (a substance or body); produce electrical activity in; produce (an electric current). Also, sensitize (a photographic film etc.). M17. ▸**b** *PHYSICS.* Cause to emit radiation; cause emission of (a spectrum); raise (an atom, electron, etc.) to a higher energy state. E20.
W. GARNETT The idea . . was to use . . the current produced by the armature to excite its own electro-magnet. **b** H. M. ROSENBERG The higher the temperature, the more electrons will be excited to the conduction band.
6 *verb trans. & intrans.* Arouse strong emotion (in); *esp.* make very interested or eager. M19.
E. WAUGH They let me up . . and said I wasn't to excite you. *Listener* Last week's legitimate television drama failed to excite.

excited /ɪk'sʌɪtɪd, ɛk-/ *ppl adjective*. M17.
[ORIGIN from EXCITE + -ED[1].]
1 Of a substance, body, or device: that has been excited; magnetized; electrified; stimulated. M17. ▸**b** *PHYSICS.* Of an atom, electron, etc.: able to lose energy by emitting radiation. M17.
b excited state a state of a quantized system with more energy than the ground state.
2 Stirred by strong emotion, agitated; characterized by excitement. M19.
E. BOWEN Cecilia, strung-up, excited, not knowing where to begin. M. FRAYN The excited screaming of the children playing.
■ **excitedly** *adverb* M19. **excitedness** *noun* E20.

excitement /ɪk'sʌɪtm(ə)nt, ɛk-/ *noun*. LME.
[ORIGIN from EXCITE + -MENT.]
1 The action of exciting; the fact of being excited. *rare*. LME.
2 †**a** A motive, an incentive, (*to* action); an exhortation (*to do*); something that tends to produce a specified feeling. E17–M19. ▸**b** An occasion of emotional excitement. L19.
b *Economist* No great excitements are expected from the last witnesses before the congressional committees.
3 a *MEDICINE.* A state of overactivity in an organ. Now *rare* or *obsolete*. L18. ▸**b** The state of being emotionally excited. Cf. EXCITATION 1. M19.
b S. MIDDLETON Fisher stood hot with excitement. M. TIPPETT I can remember the excitement when *Back to Methuselah* was first published.

exciter /ɪk'sʌɪtə, ɛk-/ *noun*. LME.
[ORIGIN from EXCITE + -ER[1].]
1 A person who or thing which excites a person, feeling, event, etc. Formerly, an instigator. LME.
2 A device for producing excitation in another device; *spec.* (*a*) a small generator or battery that provides the energizing current for the field magnets of a main generator or motor; (*b*) *ELECTRONICS* part of a transmitter, radar, etc., that generates an internal constant-frequency signal. L19.

exciting /ɪk'sʌɪtɪŋ, ɛk-/ *ppl adjective*. E17.
[ORIGIN from EXCITE + -ING[2].]
1 That excites a person; *esp.* arousing great interest or eagerness. E17.
J. T. STORY Beautiful girl; exciting too, rowing the river in her nightie. DAY LEWIS Sunday was the most exciting day of my week.
2 Of a cause, esp. that of a disease: immediately preceding the result. E19.
3 That excites something inanimate, as an electric current, radiation (see EXCITE 5). L19.
Nature The gel was stained . . and photographed using exciting light at 254 nm.
■ **excitingly** *adverb* M19. **excitingness** *noun* E20.

excitive /ɪk'sʌɪtɪv, ɛk-/ *adjective*. L18.
[ORIGIN from EXCITE + -IVE.]
Tending to excite; productive *of*.

excitomotor /ɪkˌsʌɪtəʊ'məʊtə, ɛk-/ *adjective*. L19.
[ORIGIN from EXCITOR + MOTOR *noun & adjective*.]
PHYSIOLOGY. Producing or increasing motor activity.
■ Also **excito'motory** *adjective* M19.

exciton /'ɛksɪtɒn, ɪk'sʌɪ-, ɛk-/ *noun*. M20.
[ORIGIN from EXCIT(ATION + -ON.]
PHYSICS. A mobile concentration of energy in a crystalline material consisting of an excited electron and an associated hole.
■ **exci'tonic** *adjective* M20.

excitor /ɪk'sʌɪtə, ɛk-/ *noun*. E19.
[ORIGIN from EXCITE + -OR, after *motor*.]
1 = EXCITER 1. E19.
2 *ANATOMY.* An efferent nerve whose stimulation increases the action of the part it supplies. M19.

excitory /ɪk'sʌɪt(ə)ri/ *adjective*. E19.
[ORIGIN from EXCITE + -ORY[2].]
Producing or tending to produce excitation.

excitron /'ɛksɪtrɒn/ *noun*. M20.
[ORIGIN from EXCIT(ATION + -TRON.]
ELECTRONICS. A kind of mercury-arc rectifier with a pool of mercury as the cathode and a grid to control the conduction from a hot spot maintained throughout the conduction cycle.

exclaim /ɪk'skleɪm, ɛk-/ *noun*. *rare*. L15.
[ORIGIN from (the same root as) EXCLAIM *verb*.]
An exclamation, an outcry.

exclaim /ɪk'skleɪm, ɛk-/ *verb intrans. & trans*. L16.
[ORIGIN French *exclamer* or Latin *exclamare*, formed as EX-[1] + *clamare*: see CLAIM *verb*.]
Speak or say suddenly, excitedly, or forcefully, esp. in expression of anger, pain, delight, surprise, etc.; cry out. (Foll. by *that*.)
J. A. FROUDE The people exclaimed that they were betrayed by the gentlemen. D. H. LAWRENCE Men in the crowd exclaimed and groaned. L. M. MONTGOMERY 'Oh, do you really think so?' exclaimed Anne.
– WITH PREPOSITIONS IN SPECIALIZED SENSES: **exclaim against** *arch.* protest loudly against. **exclaim at** (*a*) *arch.* = ***exclaim against*** above; (*b*) cry out in admiration at. **exclaim on, exclaim upon** *arch.* (*a*) = ***exclaim against*** above; (*b*) apostrophize.
■ **exclaimer** *noun* L17.

exclamation /ɛkskləˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. LME.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French, or Latin *exclamatio(n-)*, from *exclamat-* pa. ppl stem of *exclamare*: see EXCLAIM *verb*, -ATION.]
1 The action of exclaiming; a sudden impassioned or emphatic utterance, a cry. LME.
E. F. BENSON Lucia suddenly gave a little exclamation of annoyance.
2 A loud protest or complaint (*against*). *arch.* LME.
J. PRIESTLEY What exclamation and abuse must he not expect?
3 *GRAMMAR.* An interjection. M19.
– COMB. & PHRASES: **exclamation mark**, (*US*) **exclamation point** a punctuation mark (!) used to show the exclamatory nature of the preceding phrase etc., and in *MATH.* to indicate a factorial; **note of exclamation** = ***exclamation mark*** above.

exclamative /ɪk'sklamətɪv, ɛk-/ *adjective & noun*. *rare*. M18.
[ORIGIN formed as EXCLAMATORY + -IVE.]
▸**A** *adjective.* = EXCLAMATORY 2. M18.
▸**B** *noun.* An exclamatory expression. M20.

exclamatory /ɪk'sklamət(ə)ri, ɛk-/ *adjective*. L16.
[ORIGIN from Latin *exclamat-*: see EXCLAMATION, -ORY[2].]
1 That exclaims; that gives rise to exclamation. L16.
DONNE An intemperate . . and exclamatory Sorrow.
2 Constituting or marking an exclamation. E18.
K. TYNAN Exclamatory titles like *Cheep!* and *Oh! Joy!*
■ **exclamatorily** *adverb* M19. **exclamatoriness** *noun* (*rare*) L20.

exclaustration /ɛkskloːˈstreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. M20.
[ORIGIN mod. Latin *exclaustratio(n-)*, formed as EX-[1] + Latin *claustrum* (see CLOISTER *noun*).]
Permission for a religious to live outside a religious community, dispensed from community obligations and the jurisdiction of the superior.
■ **ex'claustrate** *verb trans.* grant exclaustration to M20.

exclave /'ɛkskleɪv/ *noun*. L19.
[ORIGIN from EX-[1] + EN)CLAVE *noun*.]
A region belonging to a country but surrounded by another country, as viewed by the former (cf. ENCLAVE *noun*).

exclosure /ɪk'skləʊʒə, ɛk-/ *noun*. E20.
[ORIGIN from EX-[1] + CLOSURE, after *enclosure*.]
An area from which unwanted animals are excluded.

exclude /ɪk'skluːd, ɛk-/ *verb trans*. LME.
[ORIGIN Latin *excludere*, formed as EX-[1] + *claudere* to shut.]
▸**I** Keep out (what is outside).
1 Deny entry or access to; shut out from a place. (Foll. by *from*, †*out of*, †2nd obj.) LME.
EVELYN When Branches are so thick . . that they . . exclude the sun. G. MAXWELL A wire gate [was] fitted to the gallery stairs, so that he could . . be excluded from the studio.
2 Deny membership or participation to; debar from a right or privilege, prohibit from an activity, etc. (Foll. by *from*, †2nd obj.) LME.
W. S. CHURCHILL He excluded him from all share in the wars. J. R. ACKERLEY My father's decision to exclude me from his confidence.
3 Give no place to; prevent the occurrence or use of; make impossible, preclude. LME. ▸**b** Be incompatible with. LME.
A. RADCLIFFE The thick foliage excluded all view of the country. J. BARZUN It was decreed that politics and religion should be excluded from general conversation. **b** H. SPENCER Absolute indifference excludes the conception of will.
4 Omit from a category, series, etc., or from the scope of a statement, enactment, etc. Cf. EXCLUDING. LME. ▸**b** Of a term, statement, etc.: fail to include in its scope or meaning. M16.

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J. B. PRIESTLEY These Lancashire towns—and this excludes industrial villages . .—have not the derelict look of some places elsewhere. **b** E. F. SCHUMACHER They [judgements] are based on a definition of cost which excludes all 'free goods'.

5 Reject from consideration, dismiss, rule out. L16.

G. B. SHAW In spite of the virginity she had vowed . . she never excluded the possibility of marriage for herself.

law of excluded middle, law of excluded third, principle of excluded middle, principle of excluded third *logic*: that either a proposition or its negative must be true.

▸**II** Thrust out (what is inside).

6 Banish, expel. LME.

7 Eject forcibly from a receptacle; *esp.* hatch from an egg. LME.

■ **excludable, excludible** *adjectives* M20.

excluder /ɪk'sklu:də, ɛk-/ *noun.* M17.
[ORIGIN from EXCLUDE + -ER¹.]
1 A person who excludes someone; *spec.* one who attempts to exclude a candidate from an office by voting against him or her; *hist.* a supporter of the Exclusion Bill. M17.
2 A device for keeping something out; *spec.* = ***queen excluder*** S.V. QUEEN *noun.* M19.
draught excluder: see DRAUGHT *noun.*

excluding /ɪk'sklu:dɪŋ, ɛk-/ *preposition.* M17.
[ORIGIN Use of pres. pple of EXCLUDE *verb* 4: see -ING².]
If one does not take into account; apart from, except. Also, to the exclusion of.

C. DARWIN In all other respects, excluding fertility, there is a close general resemblance between hybrids and mongrels.

exclusion /ɪk'sklu:ʒ(ə)n, ɛk-/ *noun.* LME.
[ORIGIN Latin *exclusio(n-)*, from *exclus-* pa. ppl stem of *excludere*: see EXCLUDE, -ION.]
1 The action or an act of excluding; (an instance of) shutting out from a place, debarring from an office or society, rejecting from consideration, etc. LME.
2 Something that excludes or is excluded, esp. from the terms of a contract. M17.
– PHRASES: **Bill of Exclusion** = *Exclusion Bill* below. **method of exclusion(s)**, **process of exclusion(s)** the process of discovering the cause of a phenomenon or the solution of a problem by eliminating alternative hypotheses in turn. **to the exclusion of** so as to exclude.
– COMB.: **Exclusion Bill** *hist.* a bill of 1680 seeking to bar James Duke of York (the future James II) from the succession, on the grounds of his being a Roman Catholic; **exclusion clause** a clause disclaiming liability for something under a contract; **exclusion order** *LAW* (*a*) a statutory instrument preventing a suspected terrorist from entering Great Britain, or Northern Ireland, or the UK, (*b*) a court order barring a member of a household from the family home, usu. to protect others against domestic violence; **exclusion principle** *PHYSICS* the principle that no two fermions of the same kind can be in the same quantum state; also called ***Pauli exclusion principle***, ***Pauli's exclusion principle***; **exclusion zone** a zone into which entry is forbidden; *spec.* a delimited area which ships, aircraft, etc., of a given country (or foreign ships etc. in general) are warned not to enter.
■ **exclusionary** *adjective* of or pertaining to exclusion; having the effect of excluding; ***exclusionary rule***, a rule forbidding the use of certain types of evidence in court, esp. (*US*) that obtained in violation of a defendant's constitutional rights: E19. **exclusioner** *noun* (*obsolete* exc. *hist.*) a supporter of the Exclusion Bill L17.

exclusionist /ɪk'sklu:ʒ(ə)nɪst, ɛk-/ *noun & adjective.* M18.
[ORIGIN from EXCLUSION + -IST.]
▸**A** *noun.* A person who favours excluding someone from a privilege, right, situation, etc.; *spec.* in *hist.*, (*a*) = EXCLUSIONER; (*b*) *Austral.* a free settler who opposed the granting of full civic rights to ex-convicts. M18.
▸**B** *adjective.* Of, pertaining to, or designating an exclusionist or exclusionists; characterized by exclusionism. E19.
■ **exclusionism** *noun* the principles of an exclusionist M19.

exclusive /ɪk'sklu:sɪv, ɛk-/ *noun & adjective.* L15.
[ORIGIN medieval Latin *exclusivus*, from Latin *exclus-*: see EXCLUSION, -IVE.]
▸**A** *noun.* †**1** An excluding agent. Only in L15.
2 An exclusive proposition or word: see sense B.1 below. M16.
3 An exclusive person: see sense B.7 below. E19.
4 *hist.* An Australian exclusionist. M19.
5 An exclusive news item, article, etc.: see sense B.5b below. E20.
▸**B** *adjective.* **1** Of a proposition: in which the predicate is asserted to apply to the subject specified and no other. Of a word: effecting such a restriction. L16.
2 Of a statement, enumeration, etc.: excluding something, *spec.* one or both of the specified terminal points. M17.
3 = EXCLUSORY. *rare.* M17.
exclusive voice the right of veto.
4 Not admitting of the simultaneous existence *of* something; incompatible. E18.

G. B. SHAW A confusion of the mutually exclusive functions of judge and legislator.

exclusive OR: see OR *noun*².
5 Of a right, privilege, quality, etc.: possessed or enjoyed by the individual(s) specified and no others; confined or restricted *to*. M18. ▸**b** Of a news item, article, etc.: published solely in one specified newspaper or periodical. Of a design, product, etc.: (stated to be) available from only one establishment or firm. (Foll. by *to*.) M19.

E. WAUGH There would be a sitting room for your exclusive use. **b** *Daily Telegraph* Furs from Grosvenor Canada . . are exclusive to Harrods.

6 Pursued, employed, etc., to the exclusion of all else; sole, only. L18.

C. DARWIN Natural Selection has been the main but not exclusive means of modification. H. SPENCER Exclusive devotion to work has the result that amusements cease to please.

7 Of a group, esp. a social circle, or a member of one: (excessively) reluctant to admit outsiders to membership. E19.

T. BENN An exclusive priestly caste claiming a monopoly right to speak on behalf of the Almighty.

Exclusive Brethren: see BROTHER *noun.*
8 Of an establishment etc.: used or patronized by a restricted (esp. aristocratic) social group; high-class, fashionable. M20.

J. CONRAD Her movements are commented on in the most exclusive drawing-rooms. *London Calling* Claridges, probably the most exclusive hotel in the world.

■ **exclusively** *adverb* (*a*) to the exclusion of all else; formerly (foll. by *of*, *to*), to the exclusion of specified persons or things; †(*b*) = EXCLUSIVE *adverb* 1: LME. **exclusiveness** *noun* M18. **exclusivism** *noun* a doctrine or policy of systematic exclusion, esp. of foreigners; the practice of excluding: M19. **exclusivist** *noun & adjective* (*a*) *noun* an advocate of exclusivism; also, a person who maintains the exclusive validity of a theory; (*b*) *adjective* advocating or practising exclusivism: L19. **exclusi'vistic** *adjective* exclusivist; exclusive: M20. **exclu'sivity** *noun* the quality of being exclusive; the right to exclusive use: E20.

exclusive /ɪk'sklu:sɪv/ *adverb.* LME.
[ORIGIN medieval Latin, from *exclusivus* (see EXCLUSIVE *noun & adjective*) + adverbial ending -e.]
1 So as not to include the limits or extremes in a series. Opp. ***inclusive***. LME.

E. CHAMBERS He sent him all the Gazettes, from No. 195 to No. 300 exclusive.

2 Foll. by *of*: †(*a*) to the exclusion of; †(*b*) apart from, not to mention; (*c*) excluding, not counting. L17.

J. LOCKE To Inherit all . . exclusive . . of his brethren. F. SHERIDAN I . . should (exclusive of any other reasons) have thought myself bound. J. TYNDALL The châlet . . contained four men exclusive of myself and my guide.

exclusory /ɪk'sklu:s(ə)ri, ɛk-/ *adjective.* L16.
[ORIGIN Late Latin *exclusorius*, from Latin *exclus-*: see EXCLUSION, -ORY².]
Having the power or function of excluding. (Foll. by *of*.)

†excoct *verb trans.* LME.
[ORIGIN *excoct-* pa. ppl stem of *excoquere*, formed as EX-¹ 1 + *coquere* cook, melt.]
1 Purge away by heat. LME–M17.
2 Remove the moisture from; ripen, mature. L16–E18.
3 Extract (esp. a metal) by heat. Only in 17.
■ **†excoction** *noun* (*rare*) the action of extracting by heat E17–E18.

excogitate /ɪks'kɒdʒɪteɪt, ɛks-/ *verb trans.* E16.
[ORIGIN Latin *excogitat-* pa. ppl stem of *excogitare* find out by thinking, formed as EX-¹ 1, COGITATE.]
Think out, devise, (something; *how*).
■ **excogitative** *adjective* concerned with or having the power of excogitating M19. **excogitator** *noun* M19.

excogitation /ɛkskɒdʒɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun.* M16.
[ORIGIN Latin *excogitatio(n-)*, formed as EXCOGITATE: see -ATION.]
1 The action of devising in the mind. M16.
2 Something devised, a contrivance, a plan. M17.

excommunicable /ɛkskə'mju:nɪkəb(ə)l/ *adjective.* L16.
[ORIGIN from EXCOMMUNICATE *verb* + -ABLE.]
Liable to be excommunicated; (of an offence) punishable by excommunication.

excommunicant /ɛkskə'mju:nɪk(ə)nt/ *noun.* L16.
[ORIGIN ecclesiastical Latin *excommunicant-* pres. ppl stem of *excommunicare*: see EXCOMMUNICATE *verb*, -ANT¹.]
1 An excommunicated person. L16.
2 = EXCOMMUNICATOR. *rare.* M17.

excommunicate /ɛkskə'mju:nɪkeɪt/ *adjective & noun.* E16.
[ORIGIN ecclesiastical Latin *excommunicatus* pa. pple of *excommunicare*: see EXCOMMUNICATE *verb*, -ATE².]
(A person who is) excommunicated.

excommunicate /ɛkskə'mju:nɪkeɪt/ *verb trans.* LME.
[ORIGIN ecclesiastical Latin *excommunicat-* pa. ppl stem of *excommunicare*, from EX-¹ 1 + Latin *communis* COMMON *adjective*, after *communicare* COMMUNICATE *verb*: see -ATE³.]
Sentence to exclusion from the Christian sacraments or from communication with the faithful; expel from a religious society or community.
■ **excommunicative** *adjective* = EXCOMMUNICATORY E19. **excommunicator** *noun* a person who excommunicates M17. **excommunicatory** *adjective* expressing excommunication; (of a person) disposed to excommunicate: E17.

excommunication /ˌɛkskəmju:nɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun.* LME.
[ORIGIN ecclesiastical Latin *excommunicatio(n-)*, formed as EXCOMMUNICATE *verb*: see -ATION.]
1 The action of excommunicating. LME.
2 The sentence by which a person is excommunicated. M17.

excommunion /ɛkskə'mju:njən/ *noun.* M17.
[ORIGIN from COMMUNION after *excommunication*.]
= EXCOMMUNICATION.

ex-con /ɛks'kɒn/ *noun. slang.* E20.
[ORIGIN Abbreviation.]
= EX-CONVICT.

exconjugant /ɛks'kɒndʒʊg(ə)nt/ *noun.* E20.
[ORIGIN from EX-¹ 3 + Latin *conjugant-* pres. ppl stem of *conjugare* CONJUGATE *verb*.]
Each of a pair of micro-organisms that have recently been in conjugation.

ex-convict /ɛks'kɒnvɪkt/ *noun.* M19.
[ORIGIN from EX-¹ 3 + CONVICT *noun*.]
A person who has served a term in prison, esp. recently.

excoriate /ɪk'skɔ:rɪeɪt, ɛks-/ *verb trans.* Pa. pple **-ated**, (*arch.*) **-ate** /-ət/. LME.
[ORIGIN Latin *excoriat-* pa. ppl stem of *excoriare*, formed as EX-¹ 1 + *corium* skin, hide: see -ATE³.]
1 Remove portions of the skin (or analogous membrane) from, esp. by corrosive action or abrasion. LME.

M. BEERBOHM My wrists, my ankles, are excoriated.

2 Peel off (skin); remove (a lining membrane) by corrosion, abrasion, etc. M16.
†**3** Flay, skin, (a person or animal). M16–E19.
4 *fig.* Make a scathing attack on. M20.
■ **excori'ation** *noun* (*a*) the action or an act of excoriating; an excoriated place on the body, a sore; (*b*) scathing criticism, invective: LME.

excorticate /ɪk'skɔ:tɪkeɪt, ɛks-/ *verb trans.* Pa. pple **-ated**, †**-ate**. LME.
[ORIGIN Late Latin *excorticat-* pa. ppl stem of *excorticare*, formed as EX-¹ 1, CORTEX: see -ATE³.]
Remove the bark from (a tree) or the shell from (a nut).
■ **excorti'cation** *noun* E18.

excrement /'ɛkskrɪm(ə)nt/ *noun*¹ & *verb.* M16.
[ORIGIN French *excrément* or Latin *excrementum*, from *excre-* pa. ppl base of *excernere* EXCRETE: see -MENT.]
▸**A** *noun.* **1** *sing.* & in *pl.* Faeces. Formerly, any matter excreted or given out by the body or a plant. M16.
†**2** In *pl.* Something which remains after a process of sifting or refining; dregs, lees, refuse. M16–L17.
▸**B** *verb intrans.* Defecate. *rare.* M17.
■ **excre'mental** *adjective* pertaining to or consisting of excrement; of the nature of excrement: L16. **excremen'titial** *adjective* (*rare*) = EXCREMENTAL E17. **excremen'titious** *adjective*¹ = EXCREMENTAL L16. †**excrementitiously** *adverb* M17–L18. †**excrementitiousness** *noun*: only in M17.

†excrement *noun*². M16.
[ORIGIN Latin *excrementum*, from *excrescere*: see EXCRESCENCE, -MENT.]
1 Something which grows out or forth, *esp.* hair, nails, or feathers; an outgrowth (*lit. & fig.*). M16–E18.
2 Growth, increase. Only in E17.
■ **†excrementitious** *adjective*² of the nature of or consisting of an outgrowth M17–M18.

†excresce *verb & noun.* LME.
[ORIGIN Latin *excrescere*: see EXCRESCENCE.]
▸**A** *verb intrans.* & (*rare*) *trans.* Increase, esp. inordinately; exceed what is usual; grow out. LME–L17.
▸**B** *noun.* An excess amount; an increase. Chiefly *Scot.* M16–E19.

excrescence /ɪk'skrɛs(ə)ns, ɛks-/ *noun.* LME.
[ORIGIN Latin *excrescentia*, from *excrescent-* pres. ppl stem of *excrescere* grow out, formed as EX-¹ 1 + *crescere* grow: see -ENCE.]
1 a An abnormal or diseased outgrowth on a person, animal, or plant; a disfiguring or unsightly addition (*lit. & fig.*). LME. ▸**b** Something that grows out naturally; an appendage. Now *rare.* M17.

a J. A. MICHENER The awful modern excrescences that monopolized the town—the hot-dog stands . . , the Moorish motels. **b** H. MOORE Sculpture had become overgrown with moss, weeds—all sorts of surface excrescences.

†**2** The action of growing out; immoderate growth, abnormal increase. M16–M18.
3 Exuberance; an exuberant outburst. Formerly, overblown pride, swagger. Now *rare.* E17.
■ **excrescency** *noun* (now *rare*) (*a*) the state or condition of being excrescent; (an) abnormal development; †(*b*) = EXCRESCENCE 3: M16.

excrescent /ɪk'skrɛs(ə)nt, ɛks-/ *adjective.* L15.
[ORIGIN Latin *excrescent-*: see EXCRESCENCE, -ENT.]
1 Increased by addition, greater; constituting more than the normal quantity. Now *rare.* L15.
2 That grows out naturally. Now *rare* or *obsolete.* M17.
3 Growing abnormally; forming or constituting an excrescence; redundant, superfluous. M17.
4 PHILOLOGY. Of a sound or letter in a word: due merely to euphony, not to derivation. L19.

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