

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

ELEVENTH EDITION



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hold-over \hōld-ō-*var*\ *n* (1893) : one that is held over
hold over *vi* (1647) : to continue (as in office) for a prolonged period
 ~ *vt* 1 *a* : POSTPONE, DEFER 2 : to retain in a condition or position from an earlier period 2 : to prolong the engagement of (the film was held over another week)
hold-up \hōld-*ap*\ *n* (1837) 1 : DELAY 2 : a robbery carried out at gunpoint
hold up *vt* (1851) 1 : to rob at gunpoint 2 : DELAY, IMPEDE 3 : to call attention to : single out (his work was held up to ridicule) *hold this up* as perfection —*Times Lit. Supp.* ~ *vi* : to continue in the same condition without failing or losing effectiveness or force (she's holding up under the strain) [music that holds up twenty years later]
hole \hōl\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *hol* (fr. neut. of *hol*, adj. hollow) & *holh*; akin to OHG *hol*, adj. hollow and perh. to OE *helan* to conceal — more at HELL] (bef. 12c) 1 *a* : an opening through something : PERFORATION (have a ~ in my coat) *b* : an area where something is missing : GAP : as (1) : a serious discrepancy : FLAW, WEAKNESS (some ~s in your logic) (2) : an opening in a defensive formation; esp. the area of a baseball field between the positions of shortstop and third baseman (3) : a defect in a crystal (as of a semiconductor) that is due to an electron's having left its normal position in one of the crystal bonds and that is equivalent in many respects to a positively charged particle 2 : a hollowed-out place; as *a* : a cave, pit, or well in the ground *b* : BURROW *c* : an unusually deep place in a body of water (as a river) 3 *a* : a wretched or dreary place *b* : a prison cell esp. for solitary confinement 4 *a* : a shallow cylindrical hole in the putting green of a golf course into which the ball is played *b* : a part of the golf course from tee to putting green [just beginning play on the third ~]; also : the play on such a hole as a unit of scoring (won the ~ by two strokes) 5 *a* : an awkward position or circumstance : FIX (got the rebels out of a ~ at the battle —Kenneth Roberts) *b* : a position of owing or losing money (\$10 million in the ~) (raising money to get out of the ~) ~ *in the hole* 1 : having a score below zero 2 : at a disadvantage
hole *vb* **holed**; **holing** *vi* (bef. 12c) 1 : to make a hole in 2 : to drive or hit into a hole (~ a putt) ~ *vi* : to make a hole in something
hole-and-corner *adj* (1833) 1 : being or carried on in a place away from public view : CLANDESTINE 2 : INSIGNIFICANT
hole card *n* (1908) 1 : a card in stud poker that is properly dealt face-down and that the holder need not expose before the showdown 2 : something (as a reliable advantage) that is held in reserve esp. for use at a strategic moment
hole in one (1925) : ACE 4
hole-in-the-wall *n*, *pl* **holes-in-the-wall** (1856) : a small and often unpretentious out-of-the-way place (as a restaurant)
hole out *vi* (1857) : to play one's ball into the hole in golf
hole up *vi* (1875) : to hide out in or as if in a hole or cave ~ *vt* : to place in or as if in a refuge or hiding place
hol-y \hōl-ē\ *adj* (13c) : having holes
hol-day \hōl-*ā*\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *hālgdæg*, fr. *hālig* holy + *dæg* day] (bef. 12c) 1 : HOLY DAY 2 : a day on which one is exempt from work; *specif* : a day marked by a general suspension of work in commemoration of an event 3 chiefly *Brit* : VACATION — often used in the phrase *on holiday*; often used in pl. 4 : a period of exemption or relief (corporations enjoying a tax ~)
holiday *vi* (1869) : to take or spend a holiday esp. in travel or at a resort
hol-i-day-er *n*
hol-i-day-maker \hōl-*ā*-*mā*-*kor*\, \hōl-*ā*-*dā*-\ *n* (1836) chiefly *Brit* : VACATIONER
hol-i-days \-*ā*-*dāz*\, *Brit* usu -*ā*-*dēz*\ *adv* (ca. 1961) : on holidays repeatedly : on any holiday
hol-i-er-than-thou \hōl-*ē*-*ar*-*thən*-*thā*\ *adj* (1859) : marked by an air of superior piety or morality
hol-i-ness \hōl-*ē*-*nəs*\ *n* (bef. 12c) 1 : the quality or state of being holy — used as a title for various high religious dignitaries (His Holiness the Pope) 2 : SANCTIFICATION 2
holiness *adj*, often *cap* (1889) : emphasizing the doctrine of the second blessing; *specif* : of or relating to a perfectionist movement arising in U.S. Protestantism in the late 19th century
hol-ism \hōl-*ē*-*zəm*\ *n* [hol- + -ism] (1926) 1 : a theory that the universe and esp. living nature is correctly seen in terms of interacting wholes (as of living organisms) that are more than the mere sum of elementary particles 2 : a holistic study or method of treatment — **hol-ist** \hōl-*ē*-*st*\ *n*
hol-is-tic \hōl-*ē*-*tik*\ *adj* (1926) 1 : of or relating to holism 2 : relating to or concerned with wholes or with complete systems rather than with the analysis of, treatment of, or dissection into parts (~ medicine attempts to treat both the mind and the body) (~ ecology views humans and the environment as a single system) — **hol-is-ti-cal-ly** \-*tik*-*lē*\ *adv*
hol-land \hōl-*lā*-*nd*\, often *cap* [ME *holand*, fr. *Holand*, county in the Netherlands, fr. MD *Holland*] (14c) : a cotton or linen fabric in plain weave usu. heavily sized or glazed and used for window shades, book-binding, and clothing
hol-land-daise \hōl-*lā*-*dāz*\ *n* [F *sauce hollandaise*, lit., Dutch sauce] (1907) : a rich sauce made basically of butter, egg yolks, and lemon juice or vinegar
Hol-lands \hōl-*lā*-*ndz*\ *n* [D *hollandsch*, fr. *hollandsch* *genever* Dutch gin] (1788) : gin made in the Netherlands — called also *Holland gin*
hol-ler \hōl-*lār*\ *vb* **hol-lered**; **hol-ler-ing** \hōl-*lī*-*ŋ*\, \hōl-*lā*-\ [alter. of *hollo*] *vi* (1592) 1 : to cry out (as to attract attention or in pain) : SHOUT 2 : GRIPE, COMPLAIN ~ *vt* : to call out (a word or phrase)
hol-ler *n* (1825) 1 : SHOUT, CRY 2 : COMPLAINT 3 : a freely improvised work song of black Americans (field ~)
hol-ler chiefly *dia* *var* of **HOLLOW**
hol-lo \hōl-*lō*\, \hōl-*lō*\, \hōl-*loo*\, \hōl-*lū*\, \hōl-*lō*\, \hōl-*lū*\, \hōl-*lō*\, \hōl-*lū*\ *vi* (14c) : to cry hullo : **HOLLER** ~ *vt* 1 : to call or cry hullo to 2 : to utter loudly : **HOLLER**
hol-lo or **halloo** also **hallo** *n*, *pl* **hollos** or **halloos** also **hallos** (15c) : an exclamation or call of hullo
hol-lo or **halloo** also **hallo interj** [origin unknown] (1588) 1 — used to attract attention (as when a fox is spied during a fox hunt) 2 — used as a call of encouragement or jubilation

hol-low \hōl-*lō*\ *n* [ME *holw*, *holh*, fr. OE *holh* hole, hollow — more at **HOLE**] (bef. 12c) 1 : an unfilled space : CAVITY, HOLE 2 : a depressed or low part of a surface; esp. : a small valley or basin
hollow *adj* **hol-low-er** \hōl-*lō*-*wər*\, **hol-low-est** \hōl-*lō*-*wəst*\ [ME *holw*, *holh*, fr. *holh* hole] (13c) 1 : having an indentation or inward curve : CONCAVE, SUNKEN 2 : having a cavity within (a ~ tree) 3 : lacking in real value, sincerity, or substance : FALSE, MEANINGLESS (~ promises) (a victory over a weakling is ~ and without triumph —Ernest Beaglehole) 4 : reverberating like a sound made in or by beating on a large empty enclosure : MUFFLED ~ *syn* see **VAIN** — **hol-low-ly** \hōl-*lō*-*lē*\, \hōl-*lē*-*lē*\ *adv* — **hol-low-ness** *n*
hollow *vt* (15c) 1 : to make hollow 2 : to form by a hollowing action ~ *usu.* used with *out* (rain barrels ~ed out from trees —Robert Shapiro) ~ *vi* : to become hollow
hollow *adv* (1601) 1 : so as to have a hollow sound 2 : COMPLETELY, THOROUGHLY (an ongoing story that has the old cowboy-and-Indians genre beat —Barbara Bannon) — often used with *all*
hol-low-ware or **hol-lo-ware** \hōl-*lō*-*wər*\ *n* (1682) : vessels (as bowls, cups, or vases) usu. of pottery, glass, or metal that have a significant depth and volume — compare **FLATWARE**
hol-ly \hōl-*lē*\ *n*, *pl* **hol-lies** [ME *holin*, *holly*, fr. OE *holen*; akin to OHG *huliz* holly, MLr *cullen*] (bef. 12c) 1 : any of a genus (*Ilex*) of the family Aquifoliaceae, the holly family) of trees and shrubs; esp. : either of two (*I. opaca* of the eastern U.S. and *I. aquifolium* of Eurasia) with spiny-margined evergreen leaves and usu. red berries often used for Christmas decorations 2 : the foliage or branches of the holly
hol-ly-hock \hōl-*lē*-*hāk*, -*hōk*\ *n* [ME *holihoc* marshmallow, fr. *holi* holy + *hoc* mallow, fr. OE] (1548) : a tall widely cultivated biennial or perennial herb (*Alicea*, *rosen* *syn.* *Aithaea rosea*) of the mallow family that has large coarse rounded leaves and tall spikes of showy flowers and that is prob. of Asian origin
Hol-ly-wood \hōl-*lē*-*wūd*\ *n* (*Hollywood*, district of Los Angeles, Calif.) (1923) : the American motion-picture industry — **hol-ly-wood-ish** \-*wū*-*dish*\ *adj*
Hollywood *adj* (1928) 1 : of or characteristic of people in the American motion-picture industry (the ~ lifestyle) 2 : of or characteristic of a Hollywood film (a story with a ~ happy ending)
Hollywood bed *n* (1947) : a mattress on a box spring supported by low legs and often having an upholstered headboard
holm \hōl-*lm*\ *n* [ME, fr. OE, fr. ON *hōlmr*; akin to OE *hýll* hill] (bef. 12c) *Brit* : a small inland or inshore island; also : **BOTTOMS**
Holmes-ian \hōm-*zē*-*ən* also *hōl-m-*ā**\ *adj* [Sherlock Holmes, detective in stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle] (1929) : of, characteristic of, or suggestive of the detective Sherlock Holmes
holm-um \hōl-*lm*-*əm*\ *n* [NL, fr. *Holmia* Stockholm, Sweden] (1879) : a metallic element of the rare-earth group that forms highly magnetic compounds and is obtained esp. from monazite — see **ELEMENT** table
holm oak *n* (1597) : a southern European evergreen oak (*Quercus ilex*)
holo- — see **HOL-**
ho-lo-blas-tic \hōl-*lō*-*blās*-*tik*\, \hōl-*lō*-*blās*\ *adj* [ISV] (1872) : characterized by complete cleavage that divides the whole egg into distinct and separate blastomeres — compare **MEROBLASTIC**
ho-lo-caust \hōl-*lō*-*kōst*\, \hōl-*lō*-*kōst*\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *holocaustum*, fr. Gk *holokauston*, fr. neut. of *holokaustos* burnt whole, fr. *hol-* + *kaustos* burnt, fr. *kalein* to burn — more at **CAUSTIC**] (13c) 1 : a sacrifice consumed by fire 2 : a thorough destruction involving extensive loss of life esp. through fire (a nuclear ~) 3 *a* often *cap* : the mass slaughter of European civilians and esp. Jews by the Nazis during World War II — usu. used with *the* *b* : a mass slaughter of people; esp. : GENOCIDE
Ho-lo-cene \hōl-*lō*-*sēn*\, \hōl-*lō*-*sēn*\ *adj* [ISV] (1897) : of, relating to, or being the present or post-Pleistocene geologic epoch — see **GEOLOGIC TIME** table — **Holocene** *n*
ho-lo-crine \hōl-*lō*-*krīn*\, \hōl-*lō*-*krīn*\ *adj* [ISV *hol-* + Gk *krinein* to separate more at **CERTAIN**] (ca. 1905) : producing or being a secretion resulting from the activity of sebaceous glands
ho-lo-en-zyme \hōl-*lō*-*en*-*zīm*\ *n* [ISV] (1943) : a catalytically active enzyme consisting of an apoenzyme combined with its cofactor
Ho-lo-fer-nes \hōl-*lō*-*fēr*-*nes*\, \hōl-*lō*-*fēr*-*nes*\ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *Holophērnēs*] (bef. 12c) : a general of Nebuchadnezzar's who led an Assyrian army against Israel and was beheaded in his sleep by Judith
ho-lo-gram \hōl-*lō*-*gram*\, \hōl-*lō*-*gram*\ *n* (1949) : a three-dimensional image reproduced from a pattern of interference produced by a split coherent beam of radiation (as a laser); also : the pattern of interference itself
ho-lo-graph \hōl-*lō*-*graf*\, \hōl-*lō*-*graf*\ *n* [LL *holographus*, fr. LGk *holographos*, fr. Gk *hol-* + *graphein* to write — more at **CARVE**] (ca. 1623) : a document wholly in the handwriting of its author; also : the handwriting itself — **holograph** or **ho-lo-graph-ic** \hōl-*lō*-*grā*-*fik*\, \hōl-*lō*-*grā*-*fik*\ *adj*
ho-log-ra-phy \hōl-*lō*-*grā*-*fē*\ *n* (1964) : the art or process of making or using a hologram — **ho-log-graph** \hōl-*lō*-*grā*-*fē*\, \hōl-*lō*-*grā*-*fē*\ *vt* — **ho-log-ra-pher** \hōl-*lō*-*grā*-*fər*\ *n* — **ho-lo-graph-ic** \hōl-*lō*-*grā*-*fik*\, \hōl-*lō*-*grā*-*fik*\ *adj* — **ho-lo-graph-i-cal-ly** \-*fē*-*kā*-*lē*\ *adv*
ho-lo-he-dral \hōl-*lō*-*hē*-*dral*\, \hōl-*lō*-*hē*-*dral*\ *adj* (1837) : having all the faces required by complete symmetry — compare **HEMIHEDRAL**, **TETARTOHEDRAL**
ho-lo-me-tab-o-lous \hōl-*lō*-*mā*-*tā*-*bō*-*lās*\, \hōl-*lō*-*mā*-*tā*-*bō*-*lās*\ *adj* [ultim. fr. Gk *hol-* + *metabolō* changeable, fr. *metabolē* change — more at **METABOLISM**] (1870) : characterized by complete metamorphosis (~ insects) — compare **HEMI-METABOLOUS** — **ho-lo-me-tab-o-lism** \-*lō*-*mā*-*tā*-*bō*-*līz*-*m*\ *n*
ho-lo-phras-tic \hōl-*lō*-*frās*-*tik*\, \hōl-*lō*-*frās*-*tik*\ *adj* [ISV *hol-* + *phrazē* (fr. Gk *phrazēin* to point out, declare)] (1860) : expressing a complex of ideas in a single word or in a fixed phrase
ho-lo-phy-tic \-*fē*-*tik*\ *adj* (1885) : obtaining food after the manner of a green plant by photosynthetic activity
ho-lo-thu-ri-an \-*thūr*-*ē*-*ən*\, -*thūr*-*ē*-*ən*\ *n* [ultim. fr. Gk *holothourion* water polyp] (ca. 1842) : SEA CUCUMBER — **holothurian** *adj*

\ə\ about \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ch\ chin \el\ bet \el\ easy \el\ go \ə\ hit \ə\ ice \ə\ job \ə\ sing \ə\ go \ə\ law \ə\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ə\ loot \ə\ foot \ə\ yet \zh\ vision, beige \k, ɸ, æ, ʊ, ʌ\ see Guide to Pronunciation

for determining temperature; *esp.* one consisting of a glass bulb attached to a fine tube of glass with a numbered scale and containing a liquid (as mercury or colored alcohol) that is sealed in and rises and falls with changes of temperature — **ther-mo-met-ric** \thor-mo-'met-rik/ *adj.* — **ther-mo-met-ri-cal-ly** \tri-'ka(-)lē/ *adv.*

ther-mo-m-e-try \thor(-)'mä-mo-'trē/ *n* [ISV] (1848) : the measurement of temperature

ther-mo-nu-cle-ar \thor-mō-'nü-kle-ər, -nyū-, -n(y)ü-'kya-lər/ *adj* [ISV] (1938) : 1: of, relating to; or employing transformations in the nuclei of atoms of low atomic weight (as hydrogen) that require a very high temperature for their initiation (as in the hydrogen bomb or in the sun) (→ reaction) < weapon 2: of, utilizing, or relating to a thermonuclear bomb (→ war) (a ~ attack)

ther-mo-pe-ri-od-ism \thor-mo-'pī-rē-ə-,dī-zəm/ *n* (ca. 1937) : the sum of the responses esp. of a plant to approximately fluctuating temperatures

ther-mo-ph-il-ic \thor-mo-'fil-ik/ *also* **ther-moph-i-lous** \(\thor-'mī-fə-ləs/ or **ther-mo-phile** \thor-mo-'fil(-)ə/ *adj* (ca. 1894) : of, relating to, or being an organism living at a high temperature (→ fermentation) < bacteria

ther-mo-phile \thor-mo-'fil(-)ə/ *n* [*plile*] (1849) : an apparatus consisting of the thermocouples combined so as to multiply the effect and used for generating electric currents or determining intensities of radiation

ther-mo-plas-tic \thor-mo-'pläs-tik/ *adj* (1883) : capable of softening or fusing when heated and of hardening again when cooled (→ synthetic resins) — compare THERMOSETTING — **thermoplastic** *n* — **ther-mo-plas-tic-ity** \thor-mō-'pläs-ti-si-tē/ *n*

ther-mo-re-cep-tor \thor-mō-'rē-sēp-tər/ *n* (1937) : a sensory end organ that is stimulated by heat or cold

ther-mo-reg-u-la-tion \thor-mō-'reg-yə-'lā-shən/ *n* [ISV] (1927) : the maintenance or regulation of temperature; *specif.* : the maintenance of a particular temperature of the living body — **ther-mo-reg-u-late** \thor-mō-'reg-yə-'lāt/ *vb*

ther-mo-reg-u-la-tor \thor-mō-'reg-yə-'lā-tər/ *n* [ISV] (1875) : a device (as a thermostat) for the regulation of temperature

ther-mo-reg-u-la-to-ry \thor-mō-'reg-yə-'lə-tor-ē/ *adj* (1941) : tending to maintain a body at a particular temperature whatever its environmental temperature (→ mechanisms)

ther-mo-re-nant \thor-mō-'rē-nənt/ *adj* (1951) : being or relating to magnetic remanence (as in a rock cooled from a molten state or in a baked clay object containing magnetic minerals) that indicates the strength and direction of the earth's magnetic field at a former time — **ther-mo-re-ma-nence** \thor-mō-'rē-nəns/ *n*

ther-mos \thor-mos/ *n* [fr. *Thermos*, a trademark] (1907) : a container (as a bottle or jar) with a vacuum between an inner and outer wall used to keep material and esp. liquids either hot or cold for considerable periods

ther-mo-set \thor-mō-'set/ *n* (1947) : a thermosetting resin or plastic

ther-mo-set-ting \thor-mō-'set-ŋ/ *adj* (ca. 1931) : capable of becoming permanently rigid when heated or cured (a ~ resin) — compare THERMOPLASTIC

ther-mo-sphere \thor-mo-'sfīr/ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1950) : the part of the earth's atmosphere that begins at about 50 miles (80 kilometers) above the earth's surface, extends to outer space, and is characterized by increasing temperature with height — **ther-mo-spher-ic** \thor-mo-'sfīr-ik/ *adfer* *adj.*

ther-mo-sta-ble \thor-mō-'stä-bəl/ *adj* (1904) : stable when heated; *specif.* : retaining characteristic properties on being moderately heated (a ~ bacterial enzyme) — **ther-mo-sta-bil-ity** \thor-mō-'stä-bi-lē-tē/ *n*

ther-mo-stat \thor-mō-'stat/ *n* (1831) : an automatic device for regulating temperature (as by controlling the supply of gas or electricity to a heating apparatus); *also* : a similar device for actuating fire alarms or for controlling automatic sprinklers — **ther-mo-stat-ic** \thor-mo-'stä-tik/ *adj.* — **ther-mo-stat-ic-al-ly** \thor-mō-'stä-tik-ə-lē/ *adv.*

thermostat *n* **-stat-ed** \thor-mō-'stä-təd/ *also* **-stat-ŋd** : **-stat-ing** *also* **-stat-ŋg** (1924) : to provide with or control the temperature of by a thermostat

ther-mo-tax-is \thor-mō-'tak-sis/ *n* [NL] (ca. 1891) : 1 : the regulation of body temperature 2 : a taxis in which temperature is the directive factor

ther-mo-trop-ic \thor-mō-'trō-pik/ *adj* [ISV] (1885) : of, relating to, or exhibiting thermotropism

ther-mo-tropism \thor-mō-'trō-piz-m/ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1890) : a tropism in which a temperature gradient determines the orientation

-thermy *n* *comb* form [NL *-thermia*, fr. Gk *thermē* heat — more at THERM] : 1 : state of heat (endothermy) 2 : generation of heat (diathermy)

the-ro-pod \thir-ə-'pād/ *n* [NL *Theropoda*, fr. Gk *ther* wild animal + *pod*, pous foot — more at FIERCE, FOOT] (ca. 1891) : any of a suborder (Theropoda) of carnivorous bipedal saurischian dinosaurs (as a tyrannosaurus or velociraptor) usu. having small forelimbs

Ther-sites \thor-'sīt(-)ēz/ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Thersites*] (ca. 1530) : a Greek warrior at Troy known as a carping critic and slain by Achilles for mocking him

the-sau-rus \thir-'sōr-əs/ *n* **-pl** **-saur-i** \thor-'sōr-ē-, -ē/ or **-sau-rus-es** \thor-'sōr-səz/ [NL, fr. L, treasure, collection, fr. Gk *thesaurus*] (ca. 1823) : 1 : TREASURY, STOREHOUSE 2 : a book of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts; *esp.* : a book of words and their synonyms 3 : a list of subject headings or descriptors usu. with a cross-reference system for use in the organization of a collection of documents for reference and retrieval — **the-sau-ral** \thor-'sōr-əl/ *adj.*

these *pl* **of** *these*

These-us \thir-'sūs, -sē-s/ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Théseus*] (14c) : a king of Athens in Greek mythology who kills Procrustes and the Minotaur before defeating the Amazons and marrying their queen

the-sis \thir-'səs, Brit *esp* for *t* 'the-sīs/ *n* **pl** **the-ses** \thir-'sēz/ [in sense 1, ME, lowering of the voice, fr. LL *thesis*; & Gk *thesis*, 'to set down, more important part of a foot, lit., act of laying down; in other senses, L, fr.

[illegible][illegible]

ʌʌ about ʔʔ kitten, F table ʋʋ further ʌʌ ash ʌʌ ace ʌʌ mop, mar
 ʌʌ out ʌʌ chin, ʌʌ bet ʌʌ easy ʌʌ go ʌʌ hit ʌʌ ice ʌʌ job
 ʌʌ sing ʌʌ go ʌʌ law ʌʌ boy ʌʌ thin ʌʌ the ʌʌ loot ʌʌ foot
 ʌʌ yet ʌʌ vision, beige ʌʌ, ʌʌ, ʌʌ, ʌʌ see Guide to Pronunciation

(the ~s of a spiderweb) **b**: a slender stream (as of water) **c**: a projecting helical rib (as in a fitting or on a pipe) by which parts can be screwed together: **SCREW THREAD** **3**: something continuous or drawn out: as **a**: a line of reasoning or train of thought that connects the parts in a sequence (as of ideas or events) (lost the ~ of the story) **b**: a continuing element (a ~ of melancholy marked all his writing) **c**: a series of newsgroup messages following a single topic **4**: a tenuous or feeble support (hung on by a ~) **5** *pl*: **CLOTHING** — **thread-less** *adj* **thread-like** *adj* **thread** *v* (14c) **1** *a*: to pass a thread through the eye of (a needle) **b**: to arrange a thread, yarn, or lead-in piece in working position for use in (a machine) **2** *a* (1): to pass something through in the manner of a thread (~ a pipe with wire) **(2)**: to pass (as a tape, line, or film) into or through something (~ed a fresh roll of film into the camera) **b**: to make one's way through or between (~ing narrow alleys); *also*: to make one's way usu. cautiously through a hazardous situation **3**: to put together on or as if on a thread: **STRING** (~ beads) **4**: to interweave with or as if with threads: **INTERPERSE** (dark hair ~ed with silver) **5**: to form a screw thread on or in ~ *vi* **1**: **WEAVE** **2** (the car ~ed through traffic) **2**: to form a thread — **thread-er** *n* **thread-bare** *adj* (14c) **1** *a*: having the nap worn off so that the thread shows: **SHABBY** (~ clothes) **b**: wearing threadbare clothing: very poor (took in ~ relatives — Russell Baker) **c**: barely adequate because of cheapness or shabbiness (a ~ production) **2**: exhausted of interest or freshness *syn* see **TRITE** — **thread-ba-ness** *n* **thread-fin** *n* (ca. 1890): any of various bony fishes (family Polynemidae, esp. genus *Polydactylus*) having elongated filamentous rays on the pectoral fin; *also*: a fish (as *Dorosoma pretense* of the herring family) having usu. one similar ray extending from a fin **thread-worm** *n* (1802): along slender nematode worm (as a pinworm or strongyle) **thready** *adj* (1597) **1**: consisting of or bearing fibers or filaments (a ~ bark) **2**: resembling a thread: **FILAMENTOUS** **b**: tending to form or draw out into strands: **ROPY** **3**: lacking in fullness, body, or vigor: **THIN** (a ~ voice) — **thread-in-ness** *n* **threap** *v* (threap) *vi* [ME *threpen*, fr. OE *threapian*] (bef. 12c) **1** chiefly *Scot*: **SCOLD**, **CHIDE** **2** chiefly *Scot*: to maintain persistently **threat** *v* (thret) *vi* [ME *thret* coercion, threat, fr. OE *threat* coercion; akin to MHG *dröz* annoyance, *L* *rudere* to push, thrust] (bef. 12c) **1**: an expression of intention to inflict evil, injury, or damage **2**: one that threatens **3**: an indication of something impending (the sky held a ~ of rain) **2** **threat** *vb* (bef. 12c) *archaic*: **THREATEN** **threat-en** *v* (thre-t'n) *vb* **threat-ened**: **threat-en-ing** *v* (thret-nig, 'thre-t'n-ig) *v* (13c) **1**: to utter threats against **2** *a*: to give signs or warning of: **PORTEND** (the clouds ~ed rain) **b**: to hang over dangerously: **MENACE** (famine ~ed the city) **3**: to announce as intended or possible (the workers ~ed a strike) **4**: to cause to feel insecure or anxious (felt ~ed by his brother's success) ~ *vi* **1**: to utter threats **2**: to portend evil — **threat-en-er** *n* **threat-nar**, 'thre-t'n-ər *n* — **threat-en-ing-ly** *adv* **threat-nig-ly**, 'thre-t'n-ig-ly *adv* **threatened** *adj* (1960): having an uncertain chance of continued survival (a ~ species); *specif*: likely to become an endangered species: **three** *adj* [ME, fr. *three*, *adj.*, fr. OE *thrie* (masc.), *threo* (fem. & neut.); akin to OHG *dri* three, *L* *tres*, Gk. *treis*] (bef. 12c) **1**: see **NUMBER** table **2**: the third in a set or series (the ~ of hearts) **3** *a*: something having three units or members **b**: **THREE-POINTER** — **three** *adj* — **three** *pron*, *pl* *in constr* **three-bag-ger** *n* [ME, fr. *three*, *adj.*, fr. OE *thrie* (masc.), *threo* (fem. & neut.); akin to OHG *dri* three, *L* *tres*, Gk. *treis*] (bef. 12c) **1**: see **NUMBER** table **2**: the third in a set or series (the ~ of hearts) **3** *a*: something having three units or members **b**: **THREE-POINTER** — **three** *adj* — **three** *pron*, *pl* *in constr* **three-bag-ger** *n* [ME, fr. *three*, *adj.*, fr. 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vincing argument for welfare reform). TELLING stresses an immediate and crucial effect striking at the heart of a matter (a telling example of bureaucratic waste).

val-i-date \val-lə-'dāt/ *v* -dat-ed; -dat-ing (1648) **1 a**: to make legally valid: RATIFY **b**: to grant official sanction to by marking (validated her passport) **c**: to confirm the validity of (an election); also: to declare (a person) elected **2 a**: to support or corroborate on a sound or authoritative basis (experiments designed to ~ the hypothesis) **b**: to recognize, establish, or illustrate the worthiness or legitimacy of (~ his concerns) *syn* see CONFIRM

val-i-da-tion \val-lə-'dā-shən/ *n* (ca. 1656): an act, process, or instance of validating; *esp*: the determination of the degree of validity of a measuring device

va-line \və-'lēn, -və-'lən/ [*ISV*, fr. *valeric* (acid)] (1907): a crystalline essential amino acid $C_6H_{11}NO_2$ that is one of the building blocks of plant and animal proteins

va-lise \və-'lēs/ *n* [*F*, fr. *It* *valigia*] (1615): SUITCASE

val-ium \val-i-əm, -val-yəm/ *trademark* — used for a preparation of diazepam

Val-ky-rie \val-'kī-rē also val-'kī-rē, -val-kə-rē/ *n* [*G* & *ON*; *G* *Walküre*, fr. *ON* *valkyrja*, lit., chooser of the slain; akin to OE *wælcyrige* witch, *ON* *vahr* the slain, OHG *kiosan* to choose — more at CHOOSE] (1770): any of the maidens of Odín who choose the heroes to be slain in battle and conduct them to Valhalla

val-late \val-'lāt/ *adj* [*L* *vallatus*, pp. of *vallare* to surround with a wall, fr. *vallum* wall, rampart — more at WALL] (1878): having a raised edge surrounding a depression (~ papillae of the tongue)

val-lec-u-lar \val-'le-kya-lə, -və-'lən, pl. -u-lar -kya-lē, -lā/ [*NL*, fr. *LL*, little valley, dim. of *L* *vallis* valley — more at VALE] (1859): an anatomical groove, channel, or depression; *esp*: one between the base of the tongue and the epiglottis — **val-lec-u-lar** \-lār/ *adj*

val-ley \val-'lē/ *n*, pl. **val-leys** [*ME* *valey*, fr. *AF* *vallee*, fr. *val* valley — more at VALE] (14c): **1 a**: an elongate depression of the earth's surface usu. between ranges of hills or mountains **b**: an area drained by a river and its tributaries **2**: a low point or condition **3 a**: HOLLOW, DEPRESSION **b**: the place of meeting of two slopes of a roof that form on the plan a reentrant angle

valley fever *n* [*fr*. its prevalence in the San Joaquin valley of California] (1938): COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS

Valley girl *n*, often *cap G* (1982): an adolescent girl from the San Fernando Valley; also: one whose values, mannerisms, and *esp*. speech patterns resemble those of such a girl

Valois \val-'wə, -val-'və/ *adj* [*Philippe de Valois* (Philip VI of France)] (1883): of or relating to the French royal house that ruled from 1328 to 1589

va-lo-nia \və-'lō-nē-ə, -nyə/ *n* [*It* *vallonia*, fr. *MGK* *balanidia*, pl. of *balanidium*, dim. of *Gk* *balanos* acorn — more at GLAND] (1722): dried acorn cups *esp*. from a Eurasian evergreen oak (*Quercus macrolepis* syn. *Q. aegilops*) used in tanning or dressing leather

val-or \val-'lār/ *n* [*ME* *valour* worth, worthiness, bravery, fr. *AF*, fr. *ML* *valor*, fr. *L* *valēre* to be of worth, be strong — more at WIELD] (14c): strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness; personal bravery

val-or-ize \val-lə-'rīz/ *v* -rīz-ed; -rīz-ing [*Pg* *valorizar*, fr. *valor* value, price, fr. *ML*] (ca. 1906) **1**: to enhance or try to enhance the price, value, or status of by organized and usu. governmental action (using subsidies to ~ coffee) **2**: to assign value or merit to: VALIDATE — **val-or-i-za-tion** \val-lə-'rī-zā-shən/ *n*

val-or-ous \val-lə-'rəs/ *adj* (15c): VALIANT — **val-or-ous-ly** *adv*

val-out \val-'lār/ *chiefly Brit* *var* of VALOR

val-po-li-cel-la \val-'pō-lē-'che-lə, -vāl-'və/ *n*, often *cap Valpolicella*, district in northern Italy] (1903): a dry red Italian table wine

Val-sal-val \val-'sal-'vəl/ *n* [Antonio Maria Valsalva (1723-1793) Ital. anatomist] (1886): a forceful attempt at expiration when the airway is closed at some point; *esp*: a conscious attempt made while holding the nostrils closed and keeping the mouth shut (as for the purpose of adjusting middle ear pressure) — called also *Valsalva*

val-se \vāl-'sē/ *n* [*F*, fr. *G* *Waltzer* — more at WALTZ] (1796): WALTZ; *specif*: a concert waltz

val-u-able \val-yə-'bəl, -yə-wə-'bəl, -yū-'ə/ *adj* (ca. 1576) **1 a**: having monetary value **b**: worth a good price **2 a**: having desirable or esteemed characteristics or qualities (~ friendships) **b**: of great use, or service (~ advice) — **valu-able-ness** *n* — **valu-ably** *adv*

valuable *n* (ca. 1775): a usu. personal possession (as jewelry) of relatively great monetary value — usu. used in pl.

valuable consideration *n* (1602): an equivalent or compensation having value that is given for something acquired or promised (as money or marriage) and that may consist either in a benefit accruing to one party or a loss falling upon the other

val-u-ate \val-yə-'wāt/ *v* -at-ed; -at-ing (1873): to place a value on: APPRAISE

val-u-a-tion \val-yə-'wā-shən/ *n* [*ME*, fr. *valuer* to value, fr. *value*] (1529) **1**: the act or process of valuing; *specif*: appraisal of property **2**: the estimated or determined market value of a thing **3**: judgment or appreciation of worth or character — **val-u-a-tion-al** \-shən-'l, -shən-'l/ *adj* — **val-u-a-tion-al-ly** *adv*

val-u-a-tor \val-yə-'wā-tər/ *n* (1731): one that values; *specif*: one that appraises

val-ue \val-'(y)ū/ *n* [*ME*, worth, high quality, fr. *AF*, fr. *VL* *valuta*, fr. fem. of **valutus*, pp. of *L* *valēre* to be of worth, be strong — more at WIELD] (14c) **1**: a fair return or equivalent in goods, services, or money for something exchanged **2**: the monetary worth of something: MARKET PRICE **3**: relative worth, utility, or importance (a good ~ at the price) (the ~ of base stealing in baseball) (had nothing of ~ to say) **4**: a numerical quantity that is assigned or is determined by calculation or measurement (let *x* take on positive ~s) (a ~ for the age of the earth) **5**: the relative duration of a musical note **6 a**: relative lightness or darkness of a color: LUMINOSITY **b**: the relation of one part in a picture to another with respect to lightness and darkness **7**: something (as a principle or quality) intrinsically valuable or desirable (sought material ~ instead of human ~) — *W. H. Jones* **8**: DENOMINATION **2** — **val-ue-less** \-'(y)ū-ləs, -yā-'l/ *adj* — **val-ue-less-ness** *n*

value *v* **val-ued; val-u-ing** (15c) **1 a**: to estimate or assign the monetary worth of: APPRAISE (~ a necklace) **b**: to rate or scale in usefulness, importance, or general worth: EVALUATE **2**: to consider or rate highly: PRIZE, ESTEEM (~ your opinion) *syn* see ESTIMATE

val-ue \val-'(y)ū/ *n* [*L* *valere*, akin to *L* *valēre* to roll — more at VOLUBLE] (1935): of, relating to, or being a product whose value has been increased *esp*. by special manufacturing, marketing, or processing (~ goods)

value-added tax *n* (1935): an incremental excise that is levied on the value added at each stage of the processing of a raw material or the production and distribution of a commodity and that typically has the impact of a sales tax on the ultimate consumer

val-ued \val-'(y)ūd, -yād/ *adj* (1595): having a value or values *esp*. of a specified kind or number — often used in combination (real-valued); **val-ue-free** \val-'(y)ū-'frē/ *adj* (1948): making or having no value judgments (~ distinctions) (~ instruction)

value judgment *n* (1892): a judgment assigning a value (as good or bad) to something

va-lu-ta \val-'li-tə, -(j)lā/ *n* [*It*, value, fr. *VL* **valuta*] (1920) **1**: the agreed upon or exchange value of a currency **2**: FOREIGN EXCHANGE **2**

val-vate \val-'vāt/ *adj* (1829): having valves or parts resembling a valve; *esp*: meeting at the edges without overlapping (~ sepals)

valve \val-'və/ *n* [*L* *valva*, akin to *L* *valvere* to roll — more at VOLUBLE] (14c) **1 archaic**: a leaf of a folding or double door **2** [*NL* *valva*, fr. *L*]: a bodily structure (as the mitral valve) that closes temporarily a passage or orifice or permits movement of fluid in one direction only **3 a**: any of numerous mechanical devices by which the flow of liquid, gas, or loose material in bulk may be started, stopped, or regulated by a movable part that opens, shuts, or partially obstructs one or more ports or passageways; also: the movable part of such a device **b**: a device in a brass instrument for quickly channeling air flow through an added length of tube in order to change the fundamental tone by some definite interval *chiefly Brit*: ELECTRON TUBE **4** [*NL* *valva*, fr. *L*]: one of the distinct usu. hinged and movable pieces of which the shell of some shell-bearing animals (as lamellibranch mollusks, brachiopods, and barnacles) consists **5** [*NL* *valva*, fr. *L*]: a one of the segments or pieces into which a dehiscing capsule or legume separates **b**: the portion of various anthers (as of the barberry) resembling a lid **c**: one of the two enclosing membranes of a diatom — **valved** \valvd/ *adj* — **valve-less** \valv-'ləs/ *adj*

val-vu-lar \val-'vya-'lār/ *n*, pl. -lar -lā, -lā/ [*NL*, dim. of *L* *valva*] (1615): a small valve or fold

val-vu-lar \val-'vya-'lār/ *adj* (1797) **1**: resembling or functioning as a valve; also: opening by valves **2**: of, relating to, or affecting a valve *esp*. of the heart (~ heart disease)

val-vu-li-tis \val-'vya-'li-'təs/ *n* [*NL*] (ca. 1891): inflammation of a valve *esp*. of the heart

va-moose \və-'mūs, -və-'vi/ *va-moosed; va-moos-ing* [*Sp* *vamos* let us go, suppletive 1st pl. imper. (fr. *L* *vadere* to go) of *ir* to go, fr. *L* *ire* — more at WADIE, ISSUE] (1859): to depart quickly

vamp *n* [*ME* *vampe* part of a hose leg or shoe covering the forefoot; *vamp*, fr. *AF*, alter. of *avampi*, fr. *avante* fore- + *pie* foot, fr. *L* *ped*, *per* — more at VANGUARD, FOOT] (14c) **1**: the part of a shoe upper or boot upper covering esp. the forepart of the foot and sometimes also extending forward over the toe or backward to the back seam of the upper: **2** [*vamp*]: a short introductory musical passage often repeated several times (as in vaudeville) before a solo or between verses

vamp *v* (1599) **1 a**: to provide (a shoe) with a new vamp: to piece (something old) with a new part: PATCH (~ up old sermons) **2**: INVENT, FABRICATE (~ up an excuse) ~ *vi*: **1**: to play a musical vamp: **2**: IMPROVISE, EXTEMPORIZE — **vamp-er** *n* — **vamp-er-ly** *adv*

vamp *n* [short for *vampire*] (ca. 1911): a woman who uses her charm or wiles to seduce and exploit men — **vamp-ish** \vəm-'pish/ *adj*

vamp *v* (ca. 1915): to practice seductive wiles on ~ *vi*: to act like a vamp (~ing for the camera)

vamp-ire \vəm-'pī-(ə)r/ *n* [*F*, fr. *G* *Vampir*, fr. Serbian *vampir*] (1732) **1**: the reanimated body of a dead person believed to come from the grave at night and suck the blood of persons asleep **2 a**: one who lives by preying on others **b**: a woman who exploits and ruins her lover: **3**: VAMPIRE BAT — **vamp-ir-ic** \vəm-'pī-rīk/ *adj* — **vamp-ir-ish** \vəm-'pī-(ə)r-'ish/ *adj*

vampire bat *n* (1790): any of several Central and So. American bats (*Desmodus rotundus*, *Diæmus youngi*, and *Diphylla ecaudata* of the subfamily Desmodontinae of the family Phyllostomidae) that feed on the blood of birds and mammals and *esp*. domestic animals and that are sometimes vectors of disease and *esp*. of rabies; also: any of several other bats (as of the families Megadermatidae and Phyllostomidae) that do not feed on blood but are sometimes reputed to do so

vamp-ir-ism \vəm-'pī-(ə)r-'iz-əm/ *n* (ca. 1796) **1**: belief in vampires **2**: the actions of a vampire

vampy \vəm-'pē/ *adj* **vamp-i-er; -est** (1949): of or relating to a vamp: VAMPISH; also: RISQUE (~ a mindress)

van \van/ *n* [*ME*, fr. *AF*, fr. *L* *vannus* — more at WINNOW] (14c) **1**: dial Eng.: a winnowing device (as a fan) **2**: WING **1a**

van *n* [by shortening] (1607): VANGUARD

van *n* [short for *caravan*] (1829) **1 a**: a usu. enclosed wagon or motor-truck used for transportation of goods or animals; also: CARAVAN **2 a**: a multipurpose enclosed motor vehicle having a boxlike shape, rear or side doors, and side panels often with windows **c**: a detachable passenger cabin transportable by aircraft or truck **2 chiefly Brit**: an enclosed railroad freight or baggage car

van *v* **vanned; van-ning** (1840): to transport by van

van-a-date \və-'nā-'dāt/ *n* [*NL* *vanadium* + *E* *-ate*] (1835): a salt derived from vanadium pentoxide and containing pentavalent vanadium

va-na-di-um \və-'nā-'de-əm/ *n* [*NL*, fr. *ON* *Vanadis* Freya] (1833): a silvery-grayish malleable ductile metallic element obtained from minerals and used *esp*. to form alloys and in catalysts — see ELEMENT table

vanadium pentoxide *n* (1869): a yellowish-red crystalline compound V_2O_5 used *esp*. in glass manufacture and as a catalyst

Van Allen belt \van-'ə-lən-'lən/ *n* [James A. Van Allen] (1958): a belt of intense radiation in the magnetosphere composed of energetic charged