

BLOOMSBURY ENGLISH DICTIONARY

BLOOMSBURY

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cedes the object) *o* *frittered away his inheritance* 9. *ADV* GRADUALLY gradually until something ceases or is no longer noticed *o* *The music gradually died away* 10. *ADV* SO AS TO SHOW CHANGE so that a perceptible change from one thing to another occurs *o* *a shift away from heavier taxation* 11. *ADV* WITHOUT STOPPING continuously and usually energetically over a period of time *o* *he rummaged away in the garage* 12. *ADV*, *ADJ* IN ANOTHER PLACE not in a specific place or the place where somebody usually is, especially at home or at work *o* *I'll be away until Thursday* *o* *She works away from the office* 13. *ADV*, *ADJ* FARTHEST OR TIME as measured in distance or time from here (follows a measure or indication of distance or time) *o* *He works about 10 minutes away* *o* *The mountains are not far away* 14. *ADV*, *ADJ* ON OPPOSITE TEAMS ground played on an opponent's ground *o* *Their next three games will be played away* *o* *Their away record has been very bad this season* 15. *ADJ* GOLF FARTHEST FROM HOLE in golf, placed farthest from the hole [Old English *aweg* = *aw* + *on* (your way)]

awe /*aw* *n* 1. MIXTURE OF WONDER AND DREAD a feeling of amazement and respect mixed with fear that is often coupled with a feeling of personal insignificance or powerlessness *o* *Filled with awe, they gazed at the ruins of the massive temple* *o* *I was completely in awe of her* 2. ABILITY TO INSPIRE DREAD the ability to inspire dread or reverence (archaic) ■ *vt* (awes, awing, awed) CAUSE AWE IN SOMEBODY to make somebody feel awe (usually passive) *o* *The young ambassadors were awed by this display of military might* [13C. < Old Norse *agl*]

awe /*aw* *v*, *awee*, *ahwe*, *ah we* *pron* Carib 1. same as *we* 2. same as *us* *pron* (sense 1) 3. same as *our* [Mid-20C. Contraction of ALL + *we*]

awear /*ə* *wē* *adj* feeling very tired (archaic or literary) *o* *By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is weary of this great world!* (Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*; 1596)

aweather /*ə* *wē* *adj* towards the windward side

aweful incorrect spelling of *awful*

aweigh /*ə* *wē* *adj* hanging clear of the bottom of a body of water *o* *Anchors aweigh!*

awe-inspiring *adj* so impressive as to make a person feel humble or slightly afraid

awesome /*ə* *wə* *adj* 1. so impressive or overwhelming as to inspire a strong feeling of admiration or fear *o* *the awesome destructive power of a tornado* 2. used as a general term of enthusiastic approval (slang) *o* *The second track on this CD is totally awesome* — *awesome* *adv* — *awesomeness* *n*

awestruck /*ə* *wə* *adj*, *awestricken* *1-trickən* *adj* filled with a feeling of awe

awful /*ə* *wə* *adj* 1. EXTREMELY bad very bad or unpleasant *o* *an awful smell* 2. CAUSING SHOCK OR SADNESS extremely shocking, saddening, or unpleasant *o* *an awful accident* 3. *IN* in poor health *o* *I feel awful this morning* 4. VERY GREAT enormous in size, amount, number, or extent (informal) *o* *We spent an awful lot of money on furniture* 5. AWE-INSPIRING so impressive as to inspire awe (literary) ■ *ADV* EXTREMELY to an extreme degree or extent (informal) *o* *It's awful hot this morning* [13C. < *awe*] — *awfulness* *n*

USAWE The most common use of *awful* in current English has nothing to do with inspiring awe, but has the generalized meaning 'very bad or unpleasant', as in the example *The weather has been awful*, and in certain common phrases, for example *an awful shame* and *an awful cheat*, in which *awful* intensifies the meaning of the word it accompanies (here, *shame* and *cheat*). This use of *awful* is deep-rooted in idiomatic English and is normally unexceptionable, but it is better to avoid it in more formal contexts.

awfully /*ə* *wə* *adv* 1. to an extremely great degree *o* *I'm awfully grateful to you for helping me out* 2. in a very bad or unpleasant way *o* *treated them awfully*

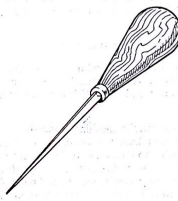
awhile /*ə* *wā* *adv* for a short time

USAWE *awhile* or *a while*? Both expressions are derived from the word *while*, but they have a different role in the sentence. *Awhile* is an adverb: *Let us wait awhile* (not for awhile). *A while* — written as two words — is a noun phrase and is normally preceded by *for*: *I'm going to be away for a while*. Sometimes, however, the word *for* is left out, making a *while* look more like an adverbial

phrase, although it is still strictly a noun phrase: *We had to wait quite a while*. This use is fairly easy to identify because *while* is qualified in some way, for example *quite a while* or *a long while*.

awhirl /*ə* *wā* *adj* 1. in a dizzy state of excitement or confusion *o* *Her mind was awirl with new ideas* 2. moving round and round (literary) *o* *red and golden leaves awirl in the autumn breeze*

awkward /*ə* *wā* *adj* 1. EMBARRASSING embarrassing and requiring great tact or skill to resolve *o* *I find myself in an awkward situation* 2. DIFFICULT OR UNCOMFORTABLE TO USE difficult to use because requiring the body to be moved into an uncomfortable position *o* *I find the gear lever very awkward to use when I move the seat forward* 3. PERFORMED GRACELESSLY performed in a way that lacks grace and looks uncomfortable *o* *walked with an awkward gait* 4. WITHOUT GRACEFUL COORDINATION lacking physical coordination and grace *o* *an awkward, gangling adolescent* 5. SHYLY UNCOMFORTABLE shy, uncomfortable, and embarrassed *o* *He was always awkward around kids* 6. UNCOOPERATIVE showing no willingness to cooperate or be reasonable *o* *I think she's being deliberately awkward* [Mid-16C. < obsolete *awk* 'turned the wrong way' (< Old Norse *afugr* 'turn backwards') + *-ward*] — *awkwardly* *adv* — *awkwardness* *n*



awl

awl /*awl* *n* a tool consisting of a handle and a slim metal shaft with a sharp point, used for boring small holes in leather or wood [Old English *ael*, origin ?]

SPELLCHECK See *all*.

awn /*awn* *n* a stiff bristle projecting from the tip of a plant organ such as the sheath surrounding a cereal or grass seed [12C. < Old Norse *agn* 'chaff'] — *awned* *adj*

awning /*ə* *wɪ* *n* a plastic, canvas, or metal roof supported by a frame and often foldable, placed over a shop front, doorway, window, or the side of a caravan [Early 17C. Origin ?]

awoke past tense of *awake*

awoken past participle of *awake*

AWOL /*ay* *wol* *adj* absent from a post, especially a military post, without official permission [*ab* *absent* /*with* *(out)* (*leave*)]

Awolowo /*ə* *wə* *lawa* *l*, *Obafemi* (1909–87) Nigerian Yoruba chief and political leader. He became leader of the opposition in the Nigerian federal parliament (1960–62) and was imprisoned until the coup of 1966.

'In honest hands, literacy is the surest and the most effective means to true education. In dishonest hands, it may be a most dangerous, in fact a suicidal, acquisition.' [Obafemi Awolowo, *Voice of Reason: Selected Speeches of Chief Obafemi Awolowo* (1981), vol. 2]

awry /*ə* *rī* *adj* 1. not in the proper position, but turned or twisted to one side *o* *The cushions were awry and there was mud on the carpet* 2. not in keeping with plans or expectations *o* *Our plans have gone awry* [14C. < *on* *way* 'in a twist']

ax *n*, *vt* US spelling of *axe*

axe /*æks* *n* 1. TOOL FOR CUTTING a tool consisting of a flat to a heavy metal head with a sharpened edge attached to a long handle, used to chop wood or fell trees 2. *JOE* loss an abrupt dismissal from a job (informal) *o* *Her secretary got the axe yesterday* 3. TERMINATION the termination of something such as a service or series

of television programmes, usually without prior warning or discussion (informal) *o* *schemes facing the axe* 4. MUSICAL INSTRUMENT a rock guitar or a jazz saxophone (slang) ■ *vt* (axes, axing, axed) (informal) 1. TERMINATE SOMETHING to end something, usually without prior warning or discussion (usually passive) *o* *The show was axed after only five episodes* 2. FIRE SOMEBODY to dismiss somebody from a job, especially abruptly 3. REDUCE SOMETHING DRASTICALLY to cut something such as expenditure or services drastically *o* *Most of the budgets have been axed from the budget* [Old English *æcs* < Indo-European] *o* *have an axe to grind* to be motivated by some personal consideration, usually a negative one *o* *It was clear from their hostile questioning that certain reporters had an axe to grind on this issue*

axel /*æks* *n* a figure-skating jump in which the skater takes off from the forward outside edge of one skate, turns in midair, and lands on the rear outside edge of the other skate [Mid-20C. After Axel Rudolph Fauter (1885–1938), Norwegian skater]

axeman /*æks* *man*, *-men* /*pl* *ural* *-men* *1-man*, *-men* *n* 1. a man who carries or uses an axe either as a tool or a weapon 2. a rock guitarist or jazz saxophone player (slang)

axenic /*zē* *nē* *adj* describes a culture of an organism that is free from contamination by other living organisms [Mid-20C. < Greek *ax* 'not' + *axenikos* 'alien, strange']

axes *sci*, *pol* plural of *axis* 1

axis /*æks* *ai* *adj* 1. MATHS of *AXIS* relating to or forming an axis 2. CRYSTALS LOCATED ALONG PLANE of *AXIS* located on or in the plane of an axis of a crystal 3. *ANAT* of *AXIS* of ORGANISM relating to or located in the plane of an organism — *axially* *adv*

axial plane *n* a plane that intersects the crest or trough of a geological fold in such a way that the sides of the fold are symmetrical about the plane

axial skeleton *n* the bones that make up the vertebral column and skull

axil /*æks* *ai* *n* the space between a leaf or branch and the stem to which it is attached [Late 18C. < Latin *axilla* (see *AXILLA*)]

axilla /*æks* *ai* *plural* *-lae* *-llee* *n* 1. a person's armpit (technical) 2. the hollow underneath the wing of a bird [Early 17C. < Latin, 'little wing' < *ala* 'wing, upper arm']

axillar /*æks* *ai* *adj* a feather growing from the hollow (axilla) under a bird's wing

axillary /*æks* *ai* *adj* 1. *ANAT* relating to or near the armpit 2. BOT relating to or growing in the space (axil) between a leaf or branch and the stem ■ *n*

axinite /*æks* *ni* *n* a brilliant brown borosilicate mineral containing calcium and aluminum, occurring in wedge-shaped crystals [Early 19C. < Greek *axinē* 'axe']

axiology /*æks* *i* *lōj* *ai* *n* the study of the nature, types, and governing criteria of values and value judgments [Early 20C. < French *axiologie* < Greek *axi* 'value' — *axiological* /*æks* *i* *lōj* *ik* *adj* — *axiologically* *adv* — *axiologist* *n*

AXIOM /*æks* *i* *əm* *n* 1. a statement or idea that people accept as self-evidently true 2. MATHS, LOGIC a basic proposition of a system that, although unproven, is used to prove the other propositions in the system [15C. Directly or via French < Latin *axioma* < Greek *axiōma* 'something worthy' < *axios* 'worthy, worthy']

axiomatically /*æks* *i* *m* *ai* *ti* *ki* *adv* 1. self-evidently true or universally accepted as being true 2. MATHS, LOGIC consisting of or based on axioms [Late 16C. < Greek *axiōmatikos* < stem of *axiōma* (see *AXIOM*)] — *axiomatically* *adv*

axis 1 /*æks* *is* /*pl* *ural* *axes* /*æks* *iz* *n* 1. MATHS LINE AROUND WHICH OBJECT ROTATES an imaginary straight line around which an object such as Earth rotates 2. MATHS LINE AROUND WHICH SHAPE IS SYMMETRICAL a straight line around which a geometric figure or three-dimensional object is symmetrical 3. MATHS LINE FOR MEASURING COORDINATES one of two or more lines on which coordinates are measured. Often on a graph two axes form its left and lower margins. 4. ALLIANCE an alliance or association between two or more people, organizations, or countries that is thought

a *ai*; *ax* *ax*; *aw* *aw*; *ay* *ay*; *ai* *ai*; *ah* *ah*; *about*, *item*, *edible*, *common*, *circus*; *e* *egg*; *ee* *ee*; *wh* *when*; *i* *happy*; *i* *ice*; *i* *apple*; *n* *rhythm*; *n* *fashion*; *o* *odd*; *o* *open*; *oo* *good*; *oo* *pool*; *oo* *owl*; *oy* *oil*; *th* *thing*; *th* *thick*; *u* *up*; *u* *urge*

of as forming a centre of power or influence o the *Paris-Bonn axis* 5. **AXIS** LINE DEFINING DIRECTION OF AIRCRAFT one of the three mutually perpendicular lines in an aircraft that define its orientation 6. **AXIS** SECOND VERTEBRA IN NECK the second vertebra in the neck, which acts as the pivot on which the head and first vertebra turn 7. **AXIS** CENTRAL PART OF PLANT the main part of a plant, usually the stem and the root, from which all subsidiary parts develop 8. **OPTICS** LINE PERPENDICULAR TO LENS OR MIRROR the axis of symmetry of an optical system, especially a line perpendicular to the surface of a lens or mirror 9. **GEO.** LINE AT MAXIMUM CURVATURE an imaginary line along the crest of an anticline or the trough of a syncline at the point of maximum curvature 10. **CRYSTALS** LINE PASSING THROUGH CRYSTAL an imaginary line, one of three or four that pass through the centre of a crystal and are used to define its symmetry and the arrangement of its atoms [14C. < Latin, 'axis, pivot']

axis² /'ákssi/ *n* 2001. same as **axis deer** [Early 17C. < Latin, an unidentified wild animal in S Asia]

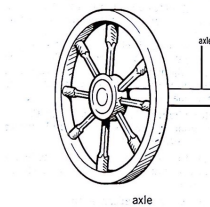
Axis /'ákssi/ *n* the military and political alliance of Germany, Italy, and, later, Japan that fought the Allies in World War II [Mid-20C. < Mussolini's idea of 'an axis round which nations could assemble']

axis deer *n* a deer with a reddish-brown, white-spotted coat. Native to: South Asia. Latin name: *Axis axis*.

axis of rotation *n* MATHS same as **axis¹** (sense 1)

axis of symmetry *n* MATHS same as **axis¹** (sense 2)

axisymmetric /'ákssi si métrik/, **axisymmetrical** /-métrik/ *adj* symmetrical with respect to an axis —axisymmetrically *adv*

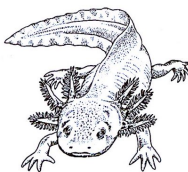


axle /'áks/ *n* 1. a shaft on which a wheel or set of wheels revolves, especially a shaft under the body of a vehicle that connects a pair of wheels 2. the spindle on which one or more wheels revolve [Late 16C. Shortening of AXLETREE]

axletree /'áks' tree/ *n* a shaft that runs underneath the body of a vehicle such as a cart or carriage and connects a pair of wheels [13C. < Old Norse *axlastr* < *axull* 'axis' + *tré* 'tree, beam']

Axminster /'áksmínstə/ *n* a high-quality carpet with a cut pile that is usually woven into a colourful pattern [Early 19C. After *Axminster*, SW England]

axolemma /'áksə lémma/ *n* the membranous sheath that encloses the long thin extension of a nerve cell (axon) [Late 19C. < Greek *axón* 'axis' + *lémma* 'skin, husk']



axolotl

axolotl /'áksə lott/ *n* (plural -lots or same) *n* a salamander that lives in water and often retains its external gills as an adult. Native to: Mexico, western

United States. Genus: *Ambystoma*. [Late 18C. < Nahuatl < *axl* 'water' + *xolotl* 'servant']

axon /'áks sɒn/, **axone** /'áksɒn/ *n* an extension of a nerve cell, similar in shape to a thread, that transmits impulses outwards from the cell body [Late 19C. < Greek *axón* 'axis']

axoneme /'áksə neem/ *n* a bundle of fibrils that form the central core of a cilium or flagellum. It consists of nine pairs of microtubules surrounding a central pair. [Early 20C. < Greek *axón* 'axis' + *néma* 'thread']

axonometric /'áksə nɒmɪtrik/ *adj* describes a method of drawing a three-dimensional object so that the vertical and horizontal axes are drawn to scale but the curves and diagonals appear distorted

axoplasm /'áksə plazm/ *n* the cytoplasm of a nerve cell extension (axon) —axoplasmic /'áksə plázmik/ *adj*

ay¹ *n*, *adv*, *interj* POL another spelling of **aye¹**

ay² *adv* another spelling of **aye²** (archaic or regional)

Ayacucho /i a kochə/ *n* city in southern Peru. It is an important centre for agriculture and manufacturing. Population: 118,960 (1998).

ayah /i 'ya/ *n* S Asia in South Asia, a maid whose duties include the care of children [Late 18C. Via Portuguese *aiá* 'woman tutor' < Latin *aya* 'nursemaid']

ayatollah /i a 'tɒlə/ *n* a Shiite religious leader, often one who takes an important political role as well as religious role [Mid-20C. Via Persian < Arabic *'ayātū-lāh* 'miraculous sign of God' < *'āya* 'sign, miracle' + *allāh* 'God']

Ayckbourn /'áyk bəwn/, **Alan** (b. 1939) British dramatist. His plays include *Relatively Speaking* (1967), *Absurd Person Singular* (1973), and *The Norman Conquests* (1974).

'Few women care to be laughed at and men not at all, except for large sums of money.' [Alan Ayckbourn, *The Norman Conquests*; 1974]

aye¹ /i/, *ay* /'ay/, *adv*, *interj* used to say yes (archaic or regional) ■ *n* a vote in favour of a motion, or someone who casts a vote in favour [Late 16C. Origin ?]

aye² /i/, *ay* *adv* always or forever (archaic or regional) [13C. < Old Norse *ei*, *ey*]



aye-aye

aye-aye /i 'i/ *n* a small nocturnal primate that lives in trees and has a long bushy tail, long bony fingers, and teeth resembling those of a mole. Native to: Madagascar. Latin name: *Daubentonia madagascariensis*. [Late 18C. Via French < Malagasy *aiay*; probably an imitation of its cry]

Ayer /'air/, A.J. (1910-89) British philosopher. He was a logical positivist whose works include *Language, Truth, and Logic* (1936). Full name **Ayer**, Sir Alfred Jules

'In nature one thing just happens after another. Cause and effect have their place only in our imaginative arrangements and extensions of these primary facts.' [A.J. Ayer, *The Central Questions of Philosophy*; 1973]

Ayers Rock /'áirz/ former name for Uluru

Ayesha another spelling of **Aisha**

ayin /'áa yin/ *n* the 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet, transliterated as a reversed apostrophe and pronounced approximately like an 'o'. See table at **alphabet** [Early 19C. < Hebrew *ayin* 'eye']

Aylesbury /'áylzbəri/ historic town in Buckinghamshire, southern England. Population: 58,058 (1991).

Aylesbury Vale local government district in Buckinghamshire, southern England. Population: 165,748 (2001).

Aymara /'áima raa/ (plural same or -ras) *n* 1. a member of a Native South American people who live around Lake Titicaca in Bolivia and Peru. The great ruins at Tiahuanaco are believed to have been built by the Aymara around AD 500. 2. a language of Bolivia and Peru, related to Quechua. Native speakers: 2 million. [Mid-19C. < bilingual Spanish] —**Aymara** *adj* —**Aymaran** *adj*

Aymé /'e mý/, Marcel (1902-67) French writer. His novels, stories, and plays satirize contemporary corruption.

'When Paris has a sniffle, the whole of France blows her nose.' [Marcel Aymé, *Silhouette du scandale* (The Silhouette of Scandal); 1938]

ayo /'áyo/ Carib *adj* describes a kite when the string is cut and it flies away quickly ■ *vt* (lazes, aying, ayeed) to leave or finish something, especially quickly [Late 20C. Via French *esle*, 'goodbye' < French *adieu*]

Ayr /'áir/ historic town in South Ayrshire, Scotland. Population: 47,962 (1991).

Ayrshire /'áirshə/ former county of southwestern Scotland, now divided into North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, and South Ayrshire

Ayrshire² /'áirshə/ *n* a cow belonging to a largely white breed of dairy cattle

aysh *interj* S Africa another spelling of **eish** (informal)

Ayub Khan /'yúúb káán/, Muhammad (1907-74) Pakistani soldier and head of state. He became president of Pakistan (1958-69), but resigned after an unsuccessful war with India and charges of corruption.

Ayurveda /'áa yurvə, -veeda/ *n* ALTERN MED same as **Ayurvedic medicine** [Early 20C. < Sanskrit *ayur-veda* 'medicine' < *ayur* 'life, vital power' + *veda* 'knowledge'] —**Ayurvedic** *adj*

Ayurvedic medicine /'áa yurvə'dík-, -ve'dík-/ *n* a traditional Hindu system of healing that assesses somebody's constitution and lifestyle, and recommends treatment based on herbal preparations, diet, yoga, and purification

azb *abbr* Azerbaijan (used in internet addresses) See table at **domain name**

azb 1.1. ASTRON azimuth 2. HERALDRY azur

Azad Kashmir /'ázað/ section of western Kashmir that is under the control of Pakistan. Area: 1,680 sq. km/650 sq. mi.



azalea

azalea /'a záli/ *n* (plural -eas or same) *n* a flowering bush related to the rhododendron. Some azaleas are deciduous and some are evergreen, and they range in size from very low-growing plants to small trees. Flowers: pink, purple, white, yellow, or orange, sometimes fragrant. Genus: *Rhododendron*. [Mid-18C. Via modern Latin < Greek < *azaleos* 'dry']

azan /'a záán/ *n* the Islamic call to prayer that a muezzin repeats five times a day from the minaret of a mosque [Mid-19C. < Arabic *adán* 'announcement']

Azania /'a záni/ *n* S Africa a name for South Africa used by resistance movements in the apartheid era

Azania /'a záni/ *n* a Socialist political movement in South Africa [Late 20C. Acronym < *Azania People's Organization*]

2b vision. In foreign words: kh German Bach; n French vin; sañ French blanc; 5 German schön, French feu; on French bon; ON French un; 0 as in French rue. Stress marks: ' as in secret /sékə'trɪ/, academic /'ákə'demik/

the Christmas tree home myself. ◊ Do you have to cart all those books around? 2. TRANSPORT SOMETHING OR SOMEbody to carry or transport something or somebody, especially in a cart ◊ carting the produce to market [12C. < Old Norse *karta*] —cartable adj ◊ put the cart before the horse to do or say things in the wrong order

cartage /kɑːrtɪdʒ/ *n* the cost of transporting or delivering goods by cart

Cartagena /kɑːrtəˈjɛnə/ 1. capital of Bolívar Department in northwestern Colombia, a port on the Caribbean Sea's Bay of Cartagena. Population: 877,000 (1999). 2. city, port, and naval base in the province and autonomous region of Murcia, south-eastern Spain. Population: 188,003 (2002).

carte /kɑːrt/ *n* FENCING same as *quarte*

carte blanche /kɑːrt blɑːnʃ/ *n* permission or authority given to somebody to act with freedom or discretion ◊ She's been given carte blanche to make whatever changes she thinks necessary. [< French, 'white card']

carte du jour /kɑːrt də ʒʊr/ (plural *cartes du jour* /kɑːrt-/) *n* a restaurant menu showing what is available on a particular day [< French, 'card of the day']

cartel /kɑːrt tɛl/ *n* 1. an alliance of business companies formed to control production, competition, and prices 2. a political alliance among parties or groups having common aims [Mid-16C. Via German *Kartell* < Italian *cartello* 'placard' < Latin *chartula* (see *card*)]

cartelize /kɑːrtɪˈlaɪz/ (-izes, -izing, -ized), **cartelise** (-ises, -ising, -ised) *vt* to form a cartel of business companies or political groups ◊ The market leaders had every incentive to cartelize.

carter /kɑːrtər/ *n* somebody who uses a cart for transporting goods or for farm work

Carter /kɑːrtər/, **Angela** (1940–1992) British writer. Her novels include *The Magic Toyshop* (1967), *Nights at the Circus* (1984), and *Wise Children* (1991).

'Myth deals in false universals, to dull the pain of particular circumstances.'
[Angela Carter, 'Polematic Preface', *The Sadeian Woman*; 1979]

Carter, Howard (1874–1939) British archaeologist and draughtsman. An Egyptologist, he was largely responsible for discovering the tomb of Tutankhamen in 1922.



Jimmy Carter

Carter, Jimmy (b. 1924) 39th president of the United States. As Democratic president (1977–81) he negotiated the Panama Canal Treaty (1978) and the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt (1978–79). He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. Full name Carter, Jr, James Earl. See table at president

'A simple and proper function of government is just to make it easy for us to do good and difficult for us to do wrong.'
[Jimmy Carter, *Acceptance speech, Democratic National Convention, New York City*, 15 July 1976]

Cartesian /kɑːrtiˈziən/ adj relating to René Descartes or his writings or theories [Mid-17C. < modern Latin *Cartesianus* < *Cartesius*, Latinized form of *DES-CARTES*] —Cartesian *n*

Cartesian coordinate *n* 1. one of a pair of co-

ordinates giving the location of a point on a plane, relative to an origin and two perpendicular axes 2. one of three coordinates giving the location of a point in space, relative to an origin and three mutually perpendicular planes

Cartesianism /kɑːrtiˈziənɪzəm/ *n* the philosophy of René Descartes, especially his belief in a distinction between the observing mind and the observed world

Cartesian plane *n* a plane having all points defined by Cartesian coordinates

Cartesian product *n* a set of all the pairs of elements from two sets that have their first element from the first set and the second from the second set

Cartilage /kɑːrtɪlɪdʒ/ site of an ancient city, founded by the Phoenicians on the northern coast of Africa in 814 BC. The site is now in a suburb of Tunis, capital of Tunisia. —Cartaginian /kɑːrtɪˈɡɪniən/ *n*, *adj*

carthorse /kɑːrt ˈhɔːrs/ *n* a large strong horse bred to pull a cart or for other heavy work

Cartusian /kɑːrt ˈtʃʊziən/ *n* a member of a contemplative Roman Catholic order of monks and nuns founded in France in the 11th century [Mid-16C. < medieval Latin *Cartusianus* < *Carthusia* 'Charthuis', France, where the order's first monastery was built] —Cartusian *adj*

Cartier /kɑːrtiˈeɪ/, **Jacques** (1491–1557) French navigator. He was the first European to explore and chart the St Lawrence River in eastern North America (1534).

Cartier-Bresson /kɑːrtiˈeɪ brɛsɔːn/, **Henri** (b. 1908) French photographer. He is known for his black-and-white photographs of French life.

'In a portrait, I'm looking for the silence in somebody.'
[Henri Cartier-Bresson, *Observer*, 15 May 1994]

Cartier Island /kɑːrtiˈeɪ-/ small uninhabited island off the northern coast of Western Australia

cartilage /kɑːrtɪlɪdʒ/ *n* the tough elastic tissue that is found in the nose, throat, and ear and in other parts of the body and forms most of the skeleton in infancy, changing to bone during growth [15C. Via French *cartilage*]

cartilaginous /kɑːrtɪˈlɪdʒɪnəs/ *adj* 1. resembling, made of, or relating to cartilage 2. having a skeleton composed mostly of cartilage

cartilaginous fish *n* a fish with a skeleton made entirely of cartilage. Shark, rays, and rayfish are cartilaginous fish. Class: Chondrichthyes.

Cartland /kɑːrtlænd/, **Dame Barbara** (1901–2000) British novelist. She wrote more than 400 books, mostly popular romances. Born Hamilton, Mary Barbara

'I'm the only author with 200 virgins in print.'
[Dame Barbara Cartland, *Town & Country*, December 1977]

cartload /kɑːrt lɔːd/ *n* 1. a very large amount (informal) 2. the amount that a cart can carry

cartogram /kɑːrtəˈɡrɑːm/ *n* a diagrammatic map showing the population and other statistics of a region [Late 19C. < French *cartogramme* < *carte* 'map']

cartographic /kɑːrtəˈɡrɑːfɪk/ *adj* 1. relating to maps ◊ cartographic design 2. in the form of a map ◊ cartographic representation —cartographically *adv*

cartography /kɑːrtəˈɡrɑːfi/ *n* the science, skill, or work of making maps [19C. < French *cartographie* < *carte* 'map'] —cartographer *n*

cartomancy /kɑːrtəˈmænsi/ *n* fortune-telling by using playing cards [Late 19C. < French *cartomancie* < *carte* (see *card*)]

carton /kɑːrtən/ *n* 1. CARDBOARD BOX a cardboard box in which something such as goods, movable property, or mail is packaged 2. PLASTIC OR CARBON CONTAINER a container made of plastic or waxed card, for food or drink is sold 3. CONTENTS or CONTAINER the contents of a carton ◊ drank a whole carton of orange juice 4. RIFLE SHOOTING TARGET CENTRE the white disc at the centre of a target in competitive shooting ◊ vt (-tons, -toning, -toned) PUT SOMETHING IN CARTON to put something in a carton ◊ Most of our milk is sold

cartoned. [Early 19C. Via French < Italian *cartone* (see *cartoon*)]

cartoon /kɑːrt tʊn/ *n* 1. ANIMATED FILM a film made using animation instead of live actors, especially a humorous film intended primarily for children 2. SEQUENCE OF DRAWINGS a sequence of drawings that tell a short story, published in a newspaper or magazine 3. SATIRICAL DRAWING a humorous drawing published in a newspaper or magazine and commenting on a topical event or theme 4. PREPARATORY DRAWING a drawing, often in great detail, as a preliminary version of a painting or other work of art [Late 16C. Via Italian *cartone* 'pasteboard' (on which artists' preparatory drawings were made) < Latin *chartula* (see *card*)] —cartoonist *n* —cartoon /kɑːrt tʊniəl/ *adj*

cartoonish /kɑːrt tʊnɪʃ/, **cartoon /kɑːrt tʊniəl/ adj** resembling a humorous or animated cartoon —cartoonishly *adv*

cartophily /kɑːrt ˈtʃɒfɪli/ *n* the collecting of cigarette cards as a hobby [Mid-20C. < French *carte* 'card' or Italian *carta*] —cartophilist *n*



cartouche: gold signet ring with cartouche of Tutankhamen (1346–37 bc)

cartouche /kɑːrt tʊʃ/ *n* 1. CASING FOR GUNPOWDER the paper casing of a firework or cartridge 2. DECORATIVE PANEL a decorative panel in the form of a frame or unframed scrollwork containing writing, forming an artistic or architectural feature 3. FRAME FOR NAME an oval or oblong shape containing writing, especially one containing a king's name in Egyptian hieroglyphs 4. COOK PAPER KEEPING SALT INGREDIENTS BELOW SURFACE a circle of paper placed on top of food that is being cooked in liquid, e.g. in a casserole, to keep the solid ingredients submerged [Early 17C. Via French < Italian *cartoccio* 'paper cornet' < *carta* 'paper']

cartouche /kɑːrtɪʃ/ *n* 1. CASING OF BULLET a cylindrical case holding an explosive charge and a bullet or shot, which is put into a gun 2. CONTAINER FOR LIQUID OR POWDER a container for liquid or powder that is loaded into a device, e.g. a removable ink container for a pen or printer ◊ toner cartridges 3. CASE FOR LOADING SOMETHING INTO MACHINE a sealed plastic case containing something such as photographic film, a cassette, or a set of computer disks that can be loaded into an appropriate device 4. PART OF HI-FI TONE ARM the part of the arm of a record-player that holds the needle [Late 16C. Anglicization of French *cartouche* (see *CARTOUCHE*)]

cartridge belt *n* a belt that holds gun cartridges or cartridge clips

cartridge case *n* the casing of a gun cartridge

cartridge clip *n* a container for bullets, loaded directly into an automatic weapon

cartridge paper *n* thick drawing paper of a good quality with a grained or textured surface

cartridge pen *n* a pen that holds a replaceable ink cartridge

cart track *n* a rough track or narrow unsurfaced road used by farm vehicles

cartulary /kɑːrtjʊləri/ (plural *-les*) *n* 1. a collection of official records, especially those relating to a large estate or a religious community 2. a room or building where official records are kept [Mid-16C. < medieval Latin *chartularium* < Latin *chartula* 'document' < *charta* (see *card*)]

cartwheel /kɑːrt wiːl/ *n* 1. ACROBATIC MOVEMENT an acrobatic movement in which the body is turned sideways onto the hands, then over onto the feet again

^{2b} vision. In foreign words: kh German Bachy an French vin; an French blanc; G German schön, French feu; n French bot; n French un; G in French use; as in secret /səˈkrət/, academic /ˌækəˈdemɪk/

STOLEN GOODS to accept or deal in stolen goods **16. vi** **CATCH BALL** to catch, hit, or kick a ball played by an opponent **17. vi CHR TAKE COMMUNION** in the Christian church, to take Communion **[14C. Via Old French receive < Latin recipere 'take back' < capere 'take']**

received /ri sélvəd/ *adj* generally accepted as true **o** The received wisdom in these matters is seldom wrong.

Received Pronunciation *n* the accent of British English that educated people from the southern part of England traditionally use, widely regarded as the least regionally modified of all British accents

receiver /ri sélvər/ *n* **1. PART OF PHONE** the part of a telephone that contains the earpiece and mouthpiece and receives and converts electronic signals into sound **2. DEVICE FOR PICKING UP SIGNALS** an electrical device that receives and converts electronic signals into sound or pictures **3. LAW, FIN. SOMBODY APPOINTED TO RUN BUSINESS** somebody appointed by a court to manage a business or property that is involved in a legal process such as bankruptcy **4. LAW SOMBODY DEALING IN STOLEN GOODS** a dealer in stolen goods **5. SOMBODY WHO RECEIVES SOMETHING** somebody who receives or takes delivery of something **6. AMERICAN FOOTBALL PLAYER CATCHING FORWARD PASS** an American football player on the attacking side who is eligible to catch a forward pass **7. BASEBALL** same as catcher (sense 2) **8. CHEM CONTAINER USED IN DISTILLING** a container used during distillation to collect the distillate

receivership /ri sélvərshíp/ *n* **1. MANAGEMENT BY A RECEIVER** of a business or property that is involved in a legal process such as bankruptcy **o** The company is now in receivership. **2. THE OFFICE OR DUTIES** of somebody appointed by a court to manage a business or property that is involved in a legal process such as bankruptcy

receiving end /ri sélvɪŋ/ *n* the position of having to endure something **o** We were on the receiving end of some harsh criticism.

receiving line *n* a group of people who stand in a line to greet individually the guests at a formal occasion such as a wedding reception

receiving order *n* a court order that appoints a receiver to take charge of a business involved in a legal proceeding such as bankruptcy

recession /ri sésn/ *n* **1. A CRITICAL REVISION** carried out on a literary text **2. A LITERARY TEXT** that has been given a critical revision **[Mid-17C. < Latin recessus 'review' < recessare 'reassess' < cessare 'appraise, assess']**

recent /résnt/ *adj* **1. HAVING HAPPENED** or appeared not long ago **o** The recent birth of her child **2. FROM CURRENT TIMES** or the very near past **o** recent political trends **[16C. Directly or via French < Latin recent- 'recent' < recency -n** directly adverb **— recentness** *n*

Recent *n* **GEOL** same as Holocene —Recent *adj*

receptacle /ri sèpták/ *n* **1. CONTAINER** a container that holds, contains, or receives a liquid or solid **2. FLOWER-BEARING PART** the end of a flower stalk, bearing the parts of a flower or the florets of a composite flower **3. PLANT PART FOR REPRODUCTION** in a plant that reproduces through spores, e.g. an alga or lycoperion, the part that bears the reproductive organs **[14C. Directly or via French < Latin receptaculum 'place in which to store something received' < recipere (see RECEIVED)]**

reception /ri sèps/ *n* **1. PLACE WHERE VISITORS ARE RECEIVED** a place in a hotel, office, or public building where visitors are first received **o** I'll be waiting for you in reception. **2. FORMAL PARTY** a formal party to welcome somebody or celebrate an event such as a wedding **3. WAY SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING IS RECEIVED** the way in which somebody or something is received or greeted **o** The audience gave her a warm reception. **4. ACT OF RECEIVING** the act of receiving something given or sent **5. QUALITY OF SIGNAL** the quality of the signal received by a radio or television set **o** We don't get very good reception on this channel. **6. ELECTRONICS CONVERSION OF ELECTRONIC SIGNALS** the process of receiving and converting electronic signals **7. BUILDINGS** same as reception room **8. AMERICAN FOOTBALL CATCHING OF FORWARD PASS** in American football, the catching of a pass made towards the opponent's goal **9. EDUC FIRST CLASS AT INFANT SCHOOL** the class of children beginning their first year of full-time education **[14C. Directly or via French < Latin reception- < recipere (see RECEIVED)]**

reception centre *n* **1. A PLACE** that accommodates people in need of shelter, e.g. homeless people, refugees, or survivors of natural disasters, until more permanent accommodation can be found **2. A CHILDREN'S HOME** run by a local authority to house children whose families cannot look after them, either temporarily or for a longer period

receptionist /ri sèps/ *n* **1. AN EMPLOYEE** who greets visitors, customers, or patients, answers the telephone, and makes appointments

reception room *n* **1. A ROOM** used for entertaining guests in a house **o** The house has four bedrooms and two reception rooms. **2. A ROOM** used for a party or reception in a hotel

receptive /ri sèptɪv/ *adj* **1. WILLING TO ACCEPT** ready and willing to accept something such as new ideas **o** The city's art collectors were highly receptive to the new wave in painting. **2. QUICK TO LEARN** quick to take in new information **3. PHYSIOLOGICAL RECEIVING AND TRANSMITTING STIMULI** describes a sensory organ that is capable of transmitting and receiving stimuli **[15C. Directly or via French < medieval Latin receptivus < Latin recipere (see RECEIVED)]** —receptively *adv* —receptiveness *n* —receptivity /rèp sèp tɪvəti/ *n*

receptor /ri sèptər/ *n* **1. PHYSIOLOGICAL SENSITIVE NERVE ENDING** a nerve ending that is sensitive to stimuli and can convert them into nerve impulses **2. ELECTRONICS RECEIVING DEVICE** a device designed to receive electronic signals **3. CHEM SPECIFIC CELL** a molecule or molecule, group, or site that is in a cell or on a cell surface and binds with a specific molecule, antigen, hormone, or antibody **4. ENVIRONMENTAL RECEIVER** of a pollutant or something adversely affected by a pollutant **[15C. Directly or via Old French receptor 'person who harbours criminals or stolen goods' < Latin receptor < recipere (see RECEIVED)]**

recess /ri sès, rès/ *n* **1. BREAK FROM BUSINESS** a time during which no work or business is done, specifically a long period in which a legislative body is not sitting or a short break during court proceedings **2. N Am EDUC** same as break **1** (sense 4) **3. INDENTED OR HOLLOWED-OUT SPACE** an area set into a wall or other flat surface, e.g. an alcove or niche **o** a recess large enough to take a bed **4. REMOTE PLACE** a remote or secluded place (often used in the plural) **o** A distant memory haunted the recesses of her mind. **5. ANAT BODY CAVITY** a concave area or cavity in a part of the body **vi** **1. (CESS-ES, -CESSING, -CESSED)** **1. PUT SOMETHING IN ALONG** to put something in a recess, especially in a wall **o** a chapel recessed in a transept of the cathedral **2. MAKE INDENTATION** in something to make a recess in something, especially a wall **o** The north wall of the chamber has been recessed to form an alcove. **[Mid-16C. Directly or via French < Latin recessus 'going back' < recedere 'go back']**

recession /ri sès/ *n* **1. DEPRESSION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY** a period, shorter than a depression, during which there is a decline in economic trade and prosperity **2. WITHDRAWAL OF SOMEBODY IN CEREMONY** the withdrawal of the participants in a ceremony, e.g. the clergy and choir after a church service **3. RECEIVING** the process of going back or becoming more distant

recessional /ri sès/ *n* **1. INVOLVING** or typical of a recession **ii** **in Christianity**, a hymn sung as the clergy and choir withdraw from a church after a service

recessive /ri sèsɪv/ *adj* **1. PRODUCING EFFECT IN SPECIFIC CONDITIONS** used to describe a gene that produces an effect in an organism only when its matching allele is identical. The effect is masked when the matching allele is nonidentical. **2. CONTROLLED BY RECESSIVE GENE** describes a characteristic or trait determined by a recessive gene **3. RECEIVING TENDING TO GO BACKWARDS** or to recede **o** recessive flood waters **4. PHON AT BEGINNING OF WORD** describes stress that is placed at or near the beginning of a word **ii** **in GENETICS** **1. RECESSIVE CHARACTERISTIC** a recessive gene or trait **2. ORGANISM WITH RECESSIVE CHARACTERISTIC** an organism that has a recessive gene or trait —recessively *adv* —recessiveness *n*

Rechabite /rèkə bɪt/ *n* somebody who abstains from alcoholic beverages, especially a member of the Independent Order of Rechabites, a benefit society founded in 1835 **[14C. < ecclesiastical Latin Rechabita 'descendants of Rechab', translation of Hebrew Rēkabhīm**

< rēkabh 'Rechab', in the Bible, ancestor of an Israelite family who refused to drink wine (Jeremiah 35:6)]

recharge /rèe çhàrj/ **1. (CHARGES, -CHARGING, -CHARGED)** **vi** to replenish the amount of electric power in something, especially a battery **2. vi** to renew something such as somebody's energy **o** We felt recharged after the weekend. —rechargeable *adj* —recharger *n*

réchauffé /rə ʃhəʊ fə/ *n* **1. A DISH** of reheated leftovers **2. A PIECE OF WORK, ETC.** a piece of writing, the last part of a speech, or a musical **[Early 19C. < French past participle of réchauffer 'reheat' < Latin calere 'make or be warm']**

recherché /rə ʃhàrj ʃhə/ *adj* **1. RARE AND EXQUISITE** marked by such rare and exquisite quality that it is known only to connoisseurs **2. APPRECIATING FINE THINGS** having a deep appreciation of unusual or choice things **o** a recherché taste in sculpture **3. AFFECTED** marked by excessive refinement or exaggerated importance **o** Some of his ideas are a little recherché for my taste. **[Late 17C. < French, past participle of rechercher 'seek thoroughly' < chercher 'seek']**

recidivism /ri sɪdɪvɪzəm/ *n* the tendency to relapse into a previous undesirable type of behaviour, especially crime **[Late 19C. < recidivist, < French récidiver < Latin recidere 'falling back' < recidere 'fall back' < cadere 'fall']** —recidivist *n*, *adj* —recidivistic /ri sɪdɪvɪstɪk/ *adj*

recip incorrect spelling of receipt

recieve incorrect spelling of receive

Recife /rè sèfəl/ *n* capital city of Pernambuco State, northeastern Brazil, and the major city of the region. It is a port on the Atlantic Ocean. Population 1,346,045 (1999).

recip, **abbr** **1.1.** MATHS reciprocal **2.2.** reciprocity

recipe /rèssəp/ *n* **1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING FOOD** a list of ingredients and instructions for making something, especially a food dish **2. METHOD** a method of doing something or a combination of circumstances likely to bring something about **o** Hard work is the recipe for success. **3. MED PRESCRIPTION** a prescription for a therapeutic preparation (archaic) **[14C. Directly or via French < Latin 'recipe', 'take', form of recipe (see RECEIVED)]**

recipient /ri sɪpɪ nt/ *n* **1. SOMEBODY** or something that receives something **adj** tending or able to receive **[Mid-16C. Directly or via French < Latin recipient, present participle of recipere (see RECEIVED)]** —recipient *n*

reciprocal /ri sɪprəp/ *adj* **1. GIVEN BY EACH SIDE** given or shown by each of two sides or people to the other **o** reciprocal compliments **2. IN RETURN** given or done in return for something else **o** a reciprocal attack on the aggressor **3. MATHS MULTIPLIED TO GIVE ONE** describes a number or quality that is related to another by the fact that when multiplied together the product is one **4. MATHS COMPLEMENTING** serving to complement one another **o** reciprocal angles **ii** **1.1.** **MUTUAL** something that is mutual or done in return **2. MATHS NUMBER MULTIPLIED TO GIVE ONE** a number or quantity that is related to another by the fact that when multiplied together the product is one **o** 4 and 1/4 are reciprocals. **[Late 16C. < Latin reciprocus 'going backwards and forwards' < re- 'backwards' + pro- 'forwards']** —reciprocity /ri sɪprə kəlɪti/ *n* —reciprocally *adv*

reciprocal link *n* a link in both directions from one website to another as a form of bartering for advertising space

reciprocal pronoun *n* a word or phrase representing two or more things that mutually correspond to one another, e.g. 'each other'

reciprocate /ri sɪprə kəɪt/ **1. (CATES, -EATING, -CATED)** **vi** **1. GIVE MUTUALLY** to give or feel something mutually or in return **o** I couldn't accept such a generous gift without reciprocating. **2. vi** **ENG MOVE BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS** to move backwards and forwards in this alternating motion, or move something in the same or opposite direction **o** The complementary (Late 16C. < Latin reciprocus, past participle of reciprocare 'move backwards and forwards' < recipere < recipere (see RECIPIENT)) —reciprocation /ri sɪprə kəɪʃən/ *n* —reciprocative *adj* —reciprocator *n*

reciprocating engine /ri sɪprə kəɪtɪŋ/ *n* an engine

o at; as father; sw all; ay day; ai hair; a about, them, edible, common, circus; e egg; ee eat; hw when; i I; happy; i ice; t Apple; 'm rhythm; n fashion; o odd; o open; oo good; oo pool; oo owe; oy oil; th thin; th this; u up; u us; u us; u us

profit represented by the difference between the value of bullion and the face value of the coins minted from it. 2. HIST MONARCHS PERCENTAGE OF BULLION in former times, a monarch's share to a percentage of the bullion brought to a mint for the minting of coins. 3. HIST ARISTOCRATS PRIVILEGE in former times, a right or privilege claimed by a sovereign or other person of high rank

seignior /sɪˈnɪər/ (plural -ies), **signior** /sɪn-/ **signory** *n* 1. SEIGNIOR'S LAND the estate of a seignior 2. SEIGNIORS RANK the rank or authority of a seignior 3. LORDS COLLECTIVELY lords considered as a group, especially English lords under the feudal system

seine /səˈniː/ *n* a large commercial fishing net that is weighted so that it hangs vertically in the water ■ **vt** (seines, seining, seined) to catch fish with a seine [Old English *seġne*, via W Germanic < Latin *seġna* 'net' < Greek *seġnē*] — **seiner** *n*

Seine /səˈniː/ *n* river rising in eastern France and flowing northwards through Paris into the English Channel. Length: 776 km/482 mi.

seize /seɪz/ (seises, seizing, seized) **vt** LAW same as **seize** (sense 11) [Early 17C. Variant of SEIZE]

seisin /seɪzɪn/, **seizin** *n* 1. LAND OWNERSHIP the legal freehold possession of land 2. ACT OF TAKING POSSESSION OF LAND the act of taking legal freehold possession of land 3. OWNED LAND land that is wholly and legally owned, especially land taken possession of legally [13C. < Anglo-Norman *seisin* < Old French *saisir* (see SEIZE)]

seism /saɪzəm/ *n* same as **earthquake** (sense 1) (technical) [Late 19C. < Greek *seismos* (see SEISMO-)]

seism- prefix same as **seismo-** (used before vowels)

seismic /saɪzɪk/ **adj** 1. relating to or caused by an earthquake or earth tremor 2. extremely large or great (informal) **had a seismic impact** — **seismically** *adv*

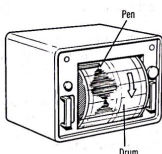
seismic array *n* a network of seismometers positioned so as to maximize the sensitivity of each of them and best monitor seismic activity in a specific region of the world

seismicity /saɪzɪsɪti/ *n* the distribution and frequency of seismic events

seismic wave *n* a shock wave travelling through the Earth from the epicentre of an earthquake

seismo- prefix earthquake *>* **seismograph** [Late 19C. < Greek *seismos* 'earthquake' < *seiein* 'to shake']

seismogram /saɪzəˈɡrɑːm/ *n* a record of an earthquake made by a seismograph



seismograph

seismograph /saɪzəˈɡrɑːf, -ɡraːf/ *n* an instrument that detects the presence of an earthquake and measures and records its magnitude — **seismographic** /saɪzəˈmɒɡrəˈfɪk/ *n* — **seismographic** /saɪzəˈɡrəˈfɪk/ *adj* — **seismography** /saɪzəˈmɒɡrəˈfɪ/ *n*

seismology /saɪzəˈmɒlədʒi/ *n* the scientific study of earthquakes — **seismological** /saɪzəˈmɒlədʒɪkəl/ *adj* — **seismologically** *adv* — **seismologist** *n*

seismometer /saɪzəˈmɒmɪtər/ *n* an instrument used to measure vibrations caused by an earthquake — **seismometric** /saɪzəˈmɒmɪtrɪk/ *adj* — **seismometry** *n*

seive incorrect spelling of **sieve**

sei whale /saɪ-/ *n* a dark bluish-grey whale similar to the blue whale but smaller and more streamlined. It lives in all but the polar oceans and belongs to the rorqual family of whales. Latin name: *Balaenoptera*

borrealis [Early 20C. < Norwegian *seihval* < *sei* 'coalfish' + *hval* 'whale']

seize /seɪz/ (seises, seizing, seized) **v** 1. **VT TAKE HOLD OF SOMETHING** to take hold of an object quickly and firmly **seized the letter from his hand** 2. **VT EXPLOIT SOMETHING IMMEDIATELY** to take advantage of something such as a chance eagerly and immediately **seized an opportunity** 3. **VT AFFECT SOMEBODY SUDDENLY** to overwhelm the mind or emotions suddenly **seized him with a sudden** **seized up after the most recent incident** 11. **VT LAW GIVE LEGAL POSSESSION TO SOMEBODY** to make somebody the legal owner of property or goods **The families were seized of all the relevant documentation** 12. **VT LAUNCH SOMETHING TO THE** or secure something by hauling it using several turns of thin rope or wire [13C. Via Old French *saisir* < medieval Latin *sacere* 'to claim' < Germanic] **seizable** *adj* — **seizer** *n* **O** seized of 1. LAW in control of 2. engaged with and interested in (formal)

seizin *n* LAW another spelling of **seisin**

seizing /seɪzɪŋ/ *n* a knot or lashing made using thin rope or wire, e.g. to join two ropes or to secure an item of ship's gear

seizure /seɪʒər/ *n* 1. ACT OF SEIZING SOMETHING the seizing of something, especially the taking of something by force or the official or legal appropriation of something 2. FACT OF BEING SEIZED capture or appropriation 3. DISEASE ATTACK a sudden attack of an illness or condition, especially of the kind experienced by people with epilepsy 4. EMOTIONAL FIT a sudden and intense rush of emotion **o a seizure of panic**

sejant /seɪjənt/, **sejant** *adj* in heraldry, used to describe a figure on a coat of arms that is in a sitting position [16C. < French *sejant* < Latin *sedere* 'sit']

Sejm /saɪm/ *n* the national parliament of Poland. It has a single legislative chamber. [Late 19C. < Polish, 'assembly']

Sekondi-Takoradi /seˈkɒndi ˈtɑːkɒrədi/ capital of Western Region, southwestern Ghana, situated 193 km/120 mi. southwest of Accra. Population: 116,500 (1990).

selachian /saɪˈlækiən/ *n* a fish of the order that includes all sharks, rays, and skates. Order: Selachii. [Mid-19C. < modern Latin *selachii* < Greek *selakhē* 'shark'] — **selachian** *adj*

selaginella /saɪˈlædʒɪnəˈlæ, -lədʒɪnə/ *n* a mossy plant with branching stems and small leaves bearing spores. Genus: *Selaginella*. [Mid-19C. < modern Latin < Latin *selago*, herb similar to savi]]

selah /seˈlə, -lə/ *interj* used to perform a punctuation function between verses of the Bible. It is an ancient Hebrew word of unknown meaning and uncertain grammatical status that appears in some books of the Bible and is therefore, when included in English translations, left untranslated. [Mid-16C. < Hebrew *selah*]

Selby /seɪbi/ market town and port on the River Ouse in North Yorkshire, northern England. Population: 76,468 (2001).

seldom /seɪdəm/ *adv* not often [Old English *seldum*, *seldan* < Germanic] — **seldomness** *n*

select /seɪkt/ *vt* (-lects, -lecting, -lected) **CHOOSE FROM OTHERS** to choose somebody or something from among several **o selected a chocolate from the box** ■ **adj** 1. OF GOOD QUALITY **chosen on grounds of particularly high quality** 2. **HAVING LIMITED MEMBERSHIP** **admitting only a few carefully chosen members** **o one of the more select gentlemen's clubs** 3. **SPECIALLY**

CHOSEN chosen from several others and given special treatment or a special privilege **o advance copies sent to a select few** 4. **DISCRIMINATING** showing care and discernment when choosing **o foreign films which generally attract a select audience** (James Berardinelli, *Review: Deception*; 1993) ■ **N** **SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING** chosen somebody or something chosen from among others, often on the basis of high quality (often used in the plural) [Mid-16C. < Latin *selectus*, past participle of *selegere* 'pick'] — **selectable** *adj* — **selectee** /saɪˈlekt/ *n* — **selectness** *n*

select committee *n* a small group of members of parliament instructed by either the House of Commons or the House of Lords to investigate and report on a specific matter

selection /saɪˈleɪʃən/ *n* 1. **SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING CHOSEN** somebody or something chosen from among others **o among the judges' final selection** 2. **AVAILABLE CHOICE** the range from which somebody or something can be selected **o a fantastic selection of carpets** 3. **ACT OF CHOOSING** an act of choosing somebody or something from a wide variety of others 4. **CHOSEN STATE** the state of somebody or something chosen from among others 5. **GENETICS SURVIVAL OF FITTEST** the process by which organisms that adapt well to their environment produce offspring, while those that do not adapt die off, resulting in gradual changes in a species. Selection may take place naturally (natural selection) or as the result of breeding for specific characteristics (artificial selection). 6. **GAMBLING GAMBLERS' CHOICE** a competitor on whom a bet is placed, especially in horse-racing **o always a popular selection here at Goodwood** 7. **AUS PITEZ & LAND FROM GOVERNMENT** in colonial Australia, a plot of land acquired through the system of free selection [Early 17C. < Latin *selectio* < *select* = *SELECT*]

selection box *n* a selection of chocolate bars and other sweets made by the same manufacturer, packaged in a seasonally decorated box to be used as a gift to a child at Christmas

selectionist /saɪˈleɪʃənɪst/ *n* a believer or promoter of the theory that natural selection is the chief or only force governing biological development

selection rule *n* a rule derived from quantum mechanics that governs whether changes may or may not occur in quantized systems such as molecules, atoms, or nuclei

selective /saɪˈlektɪv/ *adj* 1. **NOT UNIVERSAL** applying to some but not others 2. **DISCERNING** tending to make careful choices 3. **ELECTRONICS RECEIVING ON SOME FREQUENCIES** only describes an electronic receiver capable of selecting some frequencies or frequency bands and blocking out all others, and therefore eliminating interference in reception — **selectively** *adv* — **selectiveness** *n*

Selective attention *n* the ability to pay attention to those things that are considered important and to ignore those that are not

Selective high school *n* in Australia, a secondary school open to students who have achieved a specific academic standard in specially set exams

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor *n* a drug that increases serotonine levels in synapses, resulting in elevation of mood. Use: antidepressant

Selective service *n* a system for calling up men for US military service, which requires almost all men between the ages of 18 and 25 to register with the relevant agency. In the event of a draft, men will be called in a sequence determined by a random lottery number and year of birth.

selectivity /saɪˈlektɪvɪti/ *n* 1. **CHOOSING ONLY SOME** the choosing of only some, not all, and the exercising of judgment in making the choice 2. **ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH FREQUENCIES** the degree to which an electronic device or circuit can distinguish a desired frequency from other adjacent frequencies, as in the tuning circuits in radio or television receivers 3. **PUBLIC ADMIN WELFARE PRINCIPLE** the principle that government aid should be given only to those shown to be in greatest need

selector /saɪˈlektər/ *n* 1. a person that selects something, especially somebody responsible for selecting the members of a team **o in ratings between the team captain and selector** 2. a device for selecting a particular function or setting of a machine

■ **as**: as father; **aw**: all; **ay**: day; **ai**: hair; **a**: about, item, edible, common, circus; **e**: egg; **ee**: he; **wh**: when; **i**: happy; **i**: ice; **i**: apple; **in**: rhythm; **n**: fashion; **o**: odd; **o**: open; **oo**: good; **oo**: pool; **ow**: owl; **oy**: oil; **th**: thin; **ti**: thin; **u**: up; **ur**: urge

group of seven people or things 3. 7 YEARS a period of seven years 4. LITERAT LINE OF VERSE CONTAINING 7 FEET

TOGETHER one of seven people or animals born to the same mother at one time 2. GROUP OF 7 a group of seven people or things 3. MUSIC GROUP OF 7 NOTES a

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