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- uncorrupted by European civilization; *also* : a person exemplifying this conception
- no-blese** \nō-'bles/ *n* [ME, fr. AF *noblesce*, fr. *noble*] (13c) 1 : noble birth or condition 2 : the members esp. of the French nobility
- no-blese oblige** \nō-'bles-ə-'blēzh/ *n* [F, lit., nobility obligates] (1837) : the obligation of honorable, generous, and responsible behavior associated with high rank or birth
- no-ble-wom-an** \nō-'bal-wū-mən/ *n* (13c) : a woman of noble rank
- no-body** \nō-'bā-dē, -'bā-dē/ *pron* (14c) : no person; not anybody
- nobody** *n, pl no-bod-ies* (1581) : a person of no influence or consequence
- no-brain-er** \nō-'brā-nər/ *n* (1973) : something that requires a minimum of thought
- no-ce-bo** \nō-'sē-(j)bō/ *n, pl -bos* [L, I will be harmful; after *placebo*] (1961) : a harmless substance that when taken by a patient is associated with harmful effects due to negative expectations or the psychological condition of the patient
- no-cent** \nō-'snt/ *adj* [ME, fr. L *nocent-*, *nocens*, fr. prp. of *nocēre* to harm, hurt — more at NOXIOUS] (15c) : HARMFUL
- no-ci-cep-tive** \nō-'sī-'sep-tiv/ *adj* [L *nocēre* + E *-i-* + *receptive*] (1904) 1 of a stimulus : PAINFUL, INJURIOUS 2 : of, induced by, or responding to a nociceptive stimulus (< pain> < a ~ nerve pathway>)
- no-ci-cep-tor** \nō-'sī-'sep-tər/ *n* (1967) : a receptor (as in the skin) for nociceptive stimuli : a pain sense organ
- no-ck** \nāk/ *n* [ME *nocke* notched tip on the end of a bow; akin to MD *nocke* summit] (14c) 1 : one of the notches cut in either of two tips of horn fastened on the ends of a bow or in the bow itself for holding the string 2 a : the part of an arrow having a notch for the bowstring b : the notch itself
- no-ck w** (14c) 1 : to make a nock in (a bow or arrow) 2 : to fit (an arrow) against the bowstring
- no contest** *n* (1952) : NOLO CONTENDERE
- noct-am-bu-list** \nāk-'tam-byə-'list/ *n* [L *noct-*, *nox* night + *-ambulist* (as in *somnambulist*) — more at NIGHT] (ca. 1731) : a person who walks while asleep : SLEEPWALKER
- noct-il-lu-cent cloud** \nāk-'tā-'lū-snt-/ *n* [noctilucid ult. fr. L *noct-* + *lucens*, *lucens* lucent] (1910) : a luminous thin usu. colored cloud seen esp. at twilight at a height of about 50 miles (80 kilometers)
- noct-u-id** \nāk-'chə-wad, -'nāk-tā-/ *n* [NL *Noctuidae*, fr. *Noctua*, genus of moths, fr. L, the little owl (*Athene noctua*); akin to L *nox* night] (1894) : any of a large family (Noctuidae) of medium-sized often dull-colored moths with larvae (as cutworms and armyworms) that are often destructive agricultural pests — **noctuid** *adj*
- noct-urn** \nāk-'tər-/ *n* [ME *nocturne*, fr. AF, fr. ML *nocturna*, fr. L, fem. of *nocturnus*] (14c) : a principal division of the office of matins
- noct-ur-nal** \nāk-'tər-nəl/ *adj* [ME, fr. AF or LL; AF *nocturnal*, fr. LL *nocturnalis*, fr. L *nocturnus* of night, nocturnal, fr. *noct-*, *nox* night] (15c) 1 : of, relating to, or occurring in the night (< a ~ journey> 2 : active at night (< a ~ predator> — **noct-ur-nal-ly** \nō-'tāl-ē/ *adv*
- noct-urne** \nāk-'tər-/ *n* [F, *adj.*, nocturnal, fr. L *nocturnus*] (1814) : a work of art dealing with evening or night; *esp* : a dreamy pensive composition for the piano — compare AUBADE 3
- noct-u-ous** \nā-'kyə-wəs/ *adj* [L *noctuus*, fr. *nocēre* to harm — more at NOXIOUS] (1635) : HARMFUL — **noct-u-ous-ly** *adv*
- nod** \nād/ *vb* **nod-ded**; **nod-ding** [ME *nodden*; perh. akin to OHG *hnotōn* to shake] *vi* (14c) 1 : to make a quick downward motion of the head whether deliberately (as in expressing assent or salutation) or involuntarily (as from drowsiness) 2 : to incline or sway from the vertical as though ready to fall 3 : to bend or sway the upper part gently downward or forward : bob gently 4 : to make a slip or error in a moment of abstraction ~ *vt* 1 : to incline (as the head) downward or forward 2 : to bring, invite, or send by a nod (<nodded us in> 3 : to signify by a nod (<nodded their approval> — **nod-der** *n*
- nod** *n* (ca. 1541) 1 : the act or an instance of nodding <gave a ~ of greeting> 2 : an indication esp. of approval or recognition
- nod-al** \nō-'dāl/ *adj* (1830) : being, relating to, or located at or near a node — **no-dal-i-ty** \nō-'dā-lə-tē/ *n* — **nod-al-ly** \nō-'dāl-ē/ *adv*
- nodding** \nō-'dɪŋ/ 1 : bending downward or forward : DROOPING (< flowers> 2 : SLIGHT, SUPERFICIAL (< a ~ acquaintance>)
- nod-dle** \nā-'dɪl/ *n* [ME *nodde* back of the head or neck] (1572) : HEAD, PATE
- nod-dy** \nā-'dē/ *n, pl noddies* [prob. short for obs. *noddypoll*, alter. of *hoddypoll* fumbling inept person] (ca. 1530) 1 : a stupid person 2 : any of several stout-bodied terns (esp. genus *Anous*) of warm seas
- node** \nōd/ *n* [ME, fr. L *nodus* knot, node; akin to Mlr *naidm* bond] (15c) 1 a : a pathological swelling or enlargement (as of a rheumatic joint) b : a discrete mass of one kind of tissue enclosed in tissue of a different kind 2 : an entangling complication (as in a drama) : PRE-DICAMENT 3 : either of the two points where the orbit of a planet or comet intersects the ecliptic; *also* : either of the points at which the orbit of an earth satellite crosses the plane of the equator 4 a : a point, line, or surface of a vibrating body or system that is free or relatively free from vibratory motion b : a point at which a wave has an amplitude of zero 5 a : a point at which subsidiary parts originate or center b : a point on a stem at which a leaf or leaves are inserted c : a point at which a curve intersects itself in such a manner that the branches have different tangents d : VERTEX 1b
- node of Ran-vier** \nā-'vā-'vēr-/ [Louis A. Ranvier †1922 Fr. histologist] (ca. 1885) : a small gap in the myelin sheath of a myelinated nerve fiber
- nod off** *vi* (1914) : to fall asleep
- no-dose** \nō-'dōs/ *adj* [L *nodosus*, fr. *nodus*] (1687) : having numerous or conspicuous protuberances — **no-dos-i-ty** \nō-'dā-sə-tē/ *n*
- nod-u-lar** \nā-'jə-lər/ *adj* (1794) : of, relating to, characterized by, or occurring in the form of nodules (< lesions>)
- nod-u-la-tion** \nā-'jə-'lā-shən/ *n* (1872) 1 : the process of forming nodules and esp. root nodules containing symbiotic bacteria 2 : NODULE
- nod-ule** \nā-(j)ül/ *n* [ME, fr. L *nodulus*, dim. of *nodus*] (15c) : a small mass of rounded or irregular shape; as a : a small rounded lump of a mineral or mineral aggregate b : a swelling on a leguminous root that contains symbiotic bacteria c : a small abnormal knobby bodily protuberance (as a tumorous growth or a calcification near an arthritic joint)
- no-dus** \nō-'dās/ *n, pl no-di* \nō-'dī, -'dē/ [L, knot, node] (ca. 1738) : COMPLICATION, DIFFICULTY
- no-el** \nō-'el/ *n* [F *noël* Christmas, carol, fr. OF *Nael* (*Deu*), *Noel* Christmas, fr. L *natalis* birthday, fr. *natalis* natal] (1811) 1 : a Christmas carol 2 *cap* : CHRISTMAS
- noes** *pl* of NO
- no-et-ic** \nō-'e-tik/ *adj* [Gk *noētikos* intellectual, fr. *noein* to think, fr. *nous* mind] (1653) : of, relating to, or based on the intellect
- no-fault** *adj* (1967) 1 : of, relating to, or being a motor vehicle insurance plan under which someone involved in an accident is compensated usu. up to a stipulated limit for actual losses (as for property damage, medical bills, and lost wages) by that person's own insurance company regardless of who is responsible for the accident 2 : of, relating to, or being a divorce law under which neither party is held responsible for the breakup of the marriage 3 : characterized by the absence of a prevailing sense of individual responsibility (as for behavior)
- no-frills** \nō-'frilz/ *adj* (1960) : offering or providing only the essentials : not fancy, elaborate, or luxurious (< a ~ airline>)
- nog** \næg/ *n* [origin unknown] (1693) 1 : a strong ale formerly brewed in Norfolk, England 2 [by shortening] : EGGNOG
- nog-gin** \nā-'gən/ *n* [origin unknown] (1630) 1 : a small mug or cup 2 : a small quantity (as a gill) of drink 3 : a person's head
- nog-ging** \nā-'gən, -'gin/ *n* [nog wooden block the size of a brick] (1825) : rough brick masonry used to fill in the open spaces of a wooden frame
- no-go** *adj* (1971) : being an area into which entry is forbidden or dangerous (< ~ tourist areas>)
- no-good** \nō-'gud/ *adj* (1908) : having no worth, virtue, use, or chance of success (< a ~ scoundrel>)
- no-good** \nō-'gud/ *n* (1924) : a no-good person or thing
- no-good-nik** \nō-'gud-'nik/ *n* (1936) : NO-GOOD, LOWLIFE
- Noh** *also* No \nō/ *n, pl Noh* *also* No [Jp *nō*, lit., talent] (1871) : classic Japanese dance-drama having a heroic theme, a chorus, and highly stylized action, costuming, and scenery
- no-hit** *adj* (1900) : of, relating to, or being a baseball game or a part of a game in which a pitcher allows the opposition no base hits
- no-hit** *vt* (1967) : to give up no base hits to (< ~ them for five innings>)
- no-hit-ter** \nō-'hi-tər/ *n* (1947) : a no-hit game in baseball
- no-holds-barred** \nō-'hōl(d)z-'bārd/ *adj* (1961) : free of restrictions or hampering conventions (< a ~ contest>)
- no-hop-er** \nō-'hō-pər/ *n* (ca. 1943) chiefly Brit : one that has no chance of success
- no-how** \nō-'hau/ *adv* (1775) 1 : in no manner or way : not at all (<was ~ equal to the task> 2 *dial* : ANYHOW
- noil** \nōi-(ə)/ *n* [origin unknown] (ca. 1624) : short fiber removed during the combing of a textile fiber and often separately spun into yarn
- noir** \nwär/ *n* [short for *film noir*] (1980) 1 : crime fiction featuring hard-boiled cynical characters and bleak sleazy settings 2 : FILM NOIR — **noir** *adj* — **noir-ish** \-'ish/ *adj*
- noise** \noiz/ *n* [ME, fr. AF, disturbance, noise, fr. L *nausea* nauseal] (13c) 1 : loud, confused, or senseless shouting or outcry 2 a : SOUND; *esp* : one that lacks agreeable musical quality or is noticeably unpleasant b : any sound that is undesired or interferes with one's hearing of something c : an unwanted signal or a disturbance (as static or a variation of voltage) in an electronic device or instrument (as radio or television); *broadly* : a disturbance interfering with the operation of a usu. mechanical device or system d : electromagnetic radiation (as light or radio waves) that is composed of several frequencies and that involves random changes in frequency or amplitude e : irrelevant or meaningless data or output occurring along with desired information 3 : common talk : RUMOR; *esp* : SLANDER 4 : something that attracts attention (<the play... will make little ~ in the world — Brendan Gill> 5 : something spoken or uttered 6 : a style of rock music that is loud, often discordant, and usu. uses electronic noise (as feedback) — **noise-less** \-'ləs/ *adj* — **noise-less-ly** *adv*
- noise** *vb* **noised**; **nois-ing** *vi* (14c) 1 : to talk much or loudly 2 : to make a noise ~ *vt* : to spread by rumor or report — *usu.* used with *about* or *abroad* (<the scandal was quickly noised about>)
- noise-mak-er** \noiz-'mā-kər/ *n* (1574) : one that makes noise; *esp* : a device (as a horn or rattle) used to make noise at parties — **noise-mak-ing** \-'kin/ *n* or *adj*
- noise pollution** *n* (1966) : annoying or harmful noise (as of automobiles or jet airplanes) in an environment
- noi-sette** \nwə-'zet, nwā-/ *n* [F, dim. of *nois* choice cut of meat, lit., nut, fr. OF, fr. L *nux* — more at NUT] (1891) : a small piece of lean meat
- noi-some** \nōi-'səm/ *adj* [ME *noysome*, fr. *noy* annoyance, alter. of *anoi*, fr. AF *anui*, fr. *anui* to harass, annoy — more at ANNOY] (14c) 1 : NOXIOUS, HARMFUL 2 a : offensive to the senses and esp. to the sense of smell (< ~ garbage> b : highly obnoxious or objectionable (< ~ habits> *syn* see MALODOROUS — **noi-some-ly** *adv* — **noi-some-ness** *n*
- noisy** \nōi-'zē/ *adj* **nois-i-er**; **-est** (1693) 1 : making noise 2 : full of or characterized by noise or clamor (< a ~ office> 3 : noticeably showy, gaudy, or bright : CONSPICUOUS — **nois-i-ly** \nōi-'zē-lē/ *adv* — **nois-i-ness** \-'zē-nəs/ *n*
- no-li me tan-ge-re** \nō-'lē-(j)mē-'tan-jə-rē, -'lī-, -(j)mā-, -'tāŋ-gə-'rā/ *n* [L, do not touch me; fr. Jesus' words to Mary Magdalene (Jn 20:17)] (1591) : a warning against touching or interference
- no-li-pro-se-qui** \nā-'lē-'prā-sə-'kwī/ *n* [L, to be unwilling to pursue] (1681) : an entry on the record of a legal action denoting that the prosecutor or plaintiff will proceed no further in an action or suit either as a whole or as to some count or as to one or more of several defendants
- no-lo** \nō-(j)lō/ *n* (1914) : NOLO CONTENDERE
- no-load** \nō-'lōd/ *adj* (1963) : charging no sales commission (< a ~ mutual fund> — **no-load** \nō-'lōd/ *n*
- no-lo con-ten-de-re** \nō-(j)lō-kən-'ten-də-rē/ *n* [L, I do not wish to contend] (1872) : a plea in a criminal prosecution that without admitting guilt subjects the defendant to conviction but does not preclude denying the truth of the charges in a collateral proceeding
- noI-pros** \nāl-'prās/ *vi* **noI-prossed**; **noI-pros-sing** [noIle *prosequi*] (ca. 1878) : to discontinue by entering a nolle prosequi
- no-ma** \nō-mə/ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *nomē*, fr. *neminē* to spread (of an ulcer), lit., to graze, pasture — more at NIMBLE] (1834) : a spreading invasive gangrene chiefly of the lining of the cheek and lips that is usu. fatal and

<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: **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** \-ləs\ *adj* — **thread-like** \-līk\ *adj*

thread *vt* (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 up, 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 — **threader** *n*

thread-bare \-θred-,ber\ *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-bare-ness** *n*

thread-fin \-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 one, one similar ray extending from a fin

thread-worm \-wɔrm\ *n* (1802): a long slender nematode worm (as a pinworm or strongyle)

thready \-θre-dē\ *adj* (1797) **1**: consisting of or bearing fibers or filaments <a ~ bark> **2 a**: 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-i-ness** *n*

threap \-θrēp\ *vi* [ME *threpen*, fr. OE *θrēapian*] (bef. 12c) **1 chiefly Scot**: SCOLD, CHIDE **2 chiefly Scot**: to maintain persistently

threat \-θret\ *n* [ME *thret* coercion, threat, fr. OE *θrēat* coercion; akin to MHG *drōz* annoyance, L *trudere* 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>

threaten *vb* (bef. 12c) *archaic*: **THREATEN**

threat-en \-θret-ən\ *vb* **threat-ened**; **threat-en-ing** \-θret-nɪŋ, -θret-nɪŋ\ *vt* (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 ~s 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** \-θret-nər, -θret-n-ər\ *n* — **threat-en-ing-ly** \-θret-nɪŋ-lē, -θret-n-ɪŋ-lē\ *adv*

threatened *adj* (1960): having an uncertain chance of continued survival <a ~ species>; *specif*: likely to become an endangered species

three \-θri\ *n* [ME, fr. *three*, *adj.*, fr. OE *thrie* (masc.), *thrēo* (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 *const*

three-bag-ger \-ba-gər\ *n* (1881): **TRIPLE**

three-ball \-bɔl\ *adj* (1839): relating to or being a golf match in which three players compete against one another with each playing a single ball

three-card monte \-θrē-'kɑrd-\ *n* (1854): a gambling game in which the dealer shows three cards, shuffles them, places them face down, and invites spectators to bet they can identify the location of a particular card

three-col-or \-θrē-'kɔ-lər\ *adj* (1893): being or relating to a printing or photographic process wherein three primary colors are used to reproduce all the colors of the subject

3-D \-θrē-'dē\ *n* [D, abbr. of *dimensional*] (1951): a three-dimensional form; *also*: an image or a picture produced in it — **3-D** *adj*

three-deck-er \-θrē-'de-kər\ *n* (1795) **1**: a wooden warship carrying guns on three decks **2**: **TRIPLE-DECKER**

three-di-men-sion-al \-θrē-'dā-'menʃ-nəl, -'men(t)-ʃn-əl\ *also* -di-\ *adj* (1872) **1**: of, relating to, or having three dimensions **2**: giving the illusion of depth or varying distances — used esp. of an image or a pictorial representation on a two-dimensional medium when this illusion is enhanced by stereoscopic means **3**: describing or being described in well-rounded completeness <a ~ analysis of multiple historical processes> — L. L. Snyder **4**: true to life: **LIFELIKE** — **three-di-men-sion-al-i-ty** \-men(t)-ʃn-'nə-lə-tē\ *n*

three-fold \-θrē-'fɔld, -'fɔld\ *adj* (bef. 12c) **1**: having three parts or members: **TRIPLE** <a ~ purpose> **2**: being three times as great or as many <a ~ increase> — **three-fold** \-fɔld\ *adv*

three-gait-ed \-gā-təd\ *adj* (1948) of a horse: trained to use the walk, trot, and canter

three-hand-ed \-han-dəd\ *adj* (1680): played by three players <~ bridge>

Three Hours *n* (ca. 1891): a service of devotion between noon and three o'clock on Good Friday

three-legged \-θrē-'legd, -'lægd, -'le-gəd, -'lā-\ *adj* (1596): having three legs <a ~ stool>

three-legged race *n* (1872): a race between pairs of competitors with each pair having their adjacent legs bound together

three-mile limit *n* (1876): the limit of the marginal sea of three miles included in the territorial waters of a state

three of a kind (ca. 1897): three cards of the same rank in one hand — see **POKER** illustration

three-peat \-θrē-'pēt\ *n* [blend of *three* and *repeat*] (1988): a third consecutive championship — **three-peat** *vi*

three-pence \-θrē-pən(t)s, -'θri-, -'θrə-, US *also* \-θrē-pen(t)s\ *n* (1589) **1 pl** **threepence** or **three-pence**: a coin worth threepence **2**: the sum of three British pennies

three-pen-ny \-θrē-p(ə)-nē, -'θri-, -'θrə-, US *also* \-θrē-'pe-nē\ *adj* (15c) **1**: costing or worth threepence **2**: **POOR**

three-phase *adj* (1892): of, relating to, or operating by means of a combination of three circuits energized by alternating electromotive forces that differ in phase by one third of a cycle

three-piece *adj* (1904): consisting of or made in three pieces <a ~ suit>

three-pointer *n* (1977): a basketball shot or field goal from beyond the three-point line

three-point landing *n* (1918): an airplane landing in which the two main wheels of the landing gear and the tail wheel or skid or nose wheel touch the ground simultaneously

three-point line *n* (1977): a line on a basketball court forming an arc at a set distance (as 22 feet) from the basket beyond which a field goal counts for three points

three-quarter *adj* (1606): extending to three-quarters of the normal full length <a ~ sleeve>

three-quarter-bound *adj* (ca. 1951) of a book: bound like a half-bound book but having the material on the spine extended to cover about one third of the boards — **three-quarter binding** *n*

three-ring circus *n* (1902) **1**: a circus with simultaneous performances in three rings **2**: something wild, confusing, engrossing, or entertaining

three R's *n pl* [fr. the facetiously used phrase *reading, riting, and rith-metic*] (1828) **1**: the fundamentals taught in elementary school; *esp*: reading, writing, and arithmetic **2**: the fundamental skills in a field of endeavor

three-score \-θrē-'skɔr\ *adj* (14c): being three times twenty: **SIXTY**

three-some \-θrē-'səm\ *n* (14c) **1**: a group of three persons or things: **TRIO** **2**: a golf match in which one person plays his or her ball against the ball of two others playing each stroke alternately

three-spined stickleback \-θrē-'spɪn(d)-\ *n* (1769): a stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) chiefly of fresh and brackish waters that typically has three dorsal spines — called *also* **three-spine stickleback**

three-toed sloth \-θrē-'tōd-\ *n* (1847): any of a genus (*Bradypus*) of sloths having three clawed digits on each foot and eight or nine vertebrae in the neck — compare **TWO-TOED SLOTH**

three-wheel-er \-hwē-lər, -wē-\ *n* (1886): any of various vehicles having three wheels

three-node \-θrē-'nɔd, -θrē-\ *n* (1614): **THRENODY** — **three-nod-ic** \-θri-'nɔ-dɪk\ *adj* — **three-nod-ist** \-θrē-nɔ-dɪst\ *n*

thren-o-dy \-θrē-nɔ-dē\ *n*, *pl* -dies [Gk *thrēnōidia*, fr. *thrēnos* dirge + *aeidein* to sing — more at **DRONE**, **ODE**] (1634): a song of lamentation for the dead: **ELEGY**

three-o-nine \-θrē-'ə-nēn\ *n* [prob. fr. *threonic acid* (C₄H₈O₅)] (1936): a colorless crystalline essential amino acid C₄H₈O₅

thresh \-θresh, -θrash\ *vb* [ME *threschen*, fr. OE *threscan*; akin to OHG *dreskan* to thresh] *vt* (bef. 12c) **1**: to separate seed from (a harvested plant) mechanically; *also*: to separate (seed) in this way **2**: **THRASH** **4** **3**: to strike repeatedly ~ *vi* **1**: to thresh grain **2 a**: **THRASH** **2 b**: **THRASH** **3**

thresher \-θresh-ər, -θra-\ *n* (13c) **1**: one that threshes; *esp*: **THRESHING MACHINE** **2**: **THRESHER SHARK**

thresher shark *n* (1888): a large nearly cosmopolitan shark (*Alopias vulpinus*) that has a greatly elongated curved upper lobe of the tail which is often used to thresh the water to round up the schooling fish on which it feeds — see **SHARK** illustration

threshing machine \-θresh-shin-, -θra-\ *n* (1775): a machine for separating grain crops into grain or seeds and straw

thresh-old \-θresh-'hɔld, -θre-'shɔld\ *n* [ME *threshold*, fr. OE *threscwald*; akin to ON *threskjöldr* threshold, OE *threscan* to thresh] (bef. 12c) **1**: the plank, stone, or piece of timber that lies under a door: **SILL** **2 a**: **GATE**, **DOOR** **b** (1): **END**, **BOUNDARY**; *specif*: the end of a runway (2): the place or point of entering or beginning: **OUTSET** <on the ~ of a new age> **3 a**: the point at which a physiological or psychological effect begins to be produced <has a high ~ for pain> **b**: a level, point, or value above which something is true or will take place and below which it is not or will not

throw *past* of **THROW**

thrice \-θris\ *adv* [ME *thrie*, *thries*, fr. OE *thriga*; akin to OFris *thria* three times, OE *thrie* three] (13c) **1**: three times — often used in combination <thrice-married> **2 a**: in a threefold manner or degree **b**: to a high degree

thrifty \-θrɪft\ *n* [ME, fr. ON, prosperity, fr. *thrifask* to thrive] (13c) **1**: healthy and vigorous growth **2**: careful management esp. of money **3 chiefly Scot**: gainful occupation **4**: any of a genus (*Armeria*) of low-growing perennial evergreen herbs of the plumbago family; *esp*: a tufted herb (*A. maritima*) with pink or white flower heads **5**: a savings bank or savings and loan association — called *also* **thrift institution**

thrift-less \-θrɪft-ləs\ *adj* (15c) **1**: lacking usefulness or worth **2**: careless, wasteful, or incompetent in handling money or resources: **IMPROVIDENT** — **thrift-less-ly** *adv* — **thrift-less-ness** *n*

thrift shop *n* (1944): a shop that sells secondhand articles and esp. clothes and is often run for charitable purposes

thrifty \-θrɪft-ē\ *adj* **thrift-i-er**; -est (14c) **1**: thriving by industry and frugality: **PROSPEROUS** **2**: growing vigorously **3**: given to or marked by economy and good management *syn* see **SPARING** — **thrift-i-ly** \-tə-lē\ *adv* — **thrift-i-ness** \-tē-nəs\ *n*

thrill \-θrɪl\ *vb* [ME *thirlen*, *thirlen* to pierce, fr. OE *thyrlian*, fr. *thyril* hole, fr. *thurh* through — more at **THROUGH**] *vi* (1592) **1 a**: to cause to experience a sudden sharp feeling of excitement <the news ~ed him> **b**: to cause to have a shivering or tingling sensation **2**: to cause to vibrate or tremble perceptibly ~ *vi* **1**: to move or pass so as to cause a sudden wave of emotion **2**: to become thrilled: **a**: to experience a sudden sharp excitement **b**: **TINGLE**, **THROB** **3**: **TREM-BLE**, **VIBRATE** — **thrill** *n* — **thrill-ing-ly** \-θrɪl-ɪŋ-lē\ *adv*

thriller \-θrɪ-lər\ *n* (1889): one that thrills; *esp*: a work of fiction or drama designed to hold the interest by the use of a high degree of intrigue, adventure, or suspense

thrips \-θrɪps\ *n*, *pl* **thrips** [L, woodworm, fr. Gk] (1795): any of an order (Thysanoptera) of small to minute sucking insects many of which feed often destructively on plant juices

thrive \-θrɪv\ *vi* **thrived** or **throve** \-θrɔv\; **thrived** *also* **thriven** \-θrɪ-vən\; **thriving** \-θrɪ-vɪŋ\ [ME, fr. ON *thrifask*, prob. refl. of