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end or use ⟨*specialized* their study⟩ ~ *vi* **1 :** to concentrate one's efforts in a special activity, field, or practice **2 :** to undergo specialization; *esp* **:** to change adaptively

specialized *adj* (1853) **1 :** characterized by or exhibiting biological specialization; *esp* **:** highly differentiated esp. in a particular direction or for a particular end **2 :** designed, trained, or fitted for one particular purpose or occupation ⟨~ personnel⟩

Special K *n* (1987) **:** the anesthetic ketamine used illicitly usu. by being inhaled in powdered form esp. for the dreamlike or hallucinogenic state it produces

spe·cial·ly \'spe-sh(ə-)lē\ *adv* (14c) **1 :** in a special manner ⟨treated her friends ~⟩ **2 a :** for a special purpose ⟨dresses made ~ for the occasion⟩ **b :** in particular **:** SPECIFICALLY ⟨made ~ for you⟩ **3 :** ESPECIALLY 2 ⟨makes a ~ fine curry⟩ ⟨was ~ pleased with the gift⟩

special master *n* (1953) **:** MASTER 4b

special needs *n pl* (1915) **:** the individual requirements (as for education) of a person with a disadvantaged background or a mental, emotional, or physical disability or a high risk of developing one — **special–needs** *adj*

special pleading *n* (1684) **1 :** the allegation of special or new matter to offset the effect of matter pleaded by the opposite side and admitted, as distinguished from a direct denial of the matter pleaded **2 :** misleading argument that presents one point or phase as if it covered the entire question at issue

special relativity *n* (1937) **:** RELATIVITY 3a

special theory of relativity (1920) **:** RELATIVITY 3a

spe·cial·ty \'spe-shəl-tē\ *n, pl* **-ties** *often attrib* [ME *specialte*, fr. AF *especialté*, fr. LL *specialitat-, specialitas*, fr. L *specialis* special] (15c) **1 :** a distinctive mark or quality **2 a :** a special object or class of objects: as **(1) :** a legal agreement embodied in a sealed instrument **(2) :** a product of a special kind or of special excellence ⟨fried chicken is my ~⟩ **b :** the state of being special, distinctive, or peculiar **3 :** something in which one specializes

spe·ci·a·tion \ˌspē-shē-'ā-shən, -sē-\ *n* (1906) **:** the process of biological species formation — **spe·ci·ate** \'spē-shē-ˌāt, -sē-\ *vi* — **spe·ci·a·tional** \ˌspē-shē-'ā-shnəl, -sē-, -shə-nᵊl\ *adj*

[1]**spe·cie** \'spē-shē, -sē\ *n* [fr. *in specie*, fr. L, in kind] (1617) **:** money in coin — **in specie :** in the same or like form or kind ⟨ready to return insult *in specie*⟩; *also* **:** in coin

[2]**specie** *n* [back-formation fr. *species* (taken as a pl.)] (1647) *nonstand* **:** SPECIES

[1]**spe·cies** \'spē-(ˌ)shēz, -(ˌ)sēz\ *n, pl* **species** [ME, fr. L, appearance, kind, species, fr. *specere* to look — more at SPY] (14c) **1 a :** KIND; SORT **b :** a class of individuals having common attributes and designated by a common name; *specif* **:** a logical division of a genus or more comprehensive class ⟨confessing sins in ~ and in number⟩ **c :** the human race **:** human beings — often used with *the* ⟨survival of the ~ in the nuclear age⟩ **d (1) :** a category of biological classification ranking immediately below the genus or subgenus, comprising related organisms or populations potentially capable of interbreeding, and being designated by a binomial that consists of the name of a genus followed by a Latin or latinized uncapitalized noun or adjective agreeing grammatically with the genus name **(2) :** an individual or kind belonging to a biological species **e :** a particular kind of atomic nucleus, atom, molecule, or ion **2 :** the consecrated eucharistic elements of the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox Eucharist **3 a :** a mental image; *also* **:** a sensible object **b :** an object of thought correlative with a natural object

[2]**species** *adj* (1899) **:** belonging to a biological species as distinguished from a horticultural variety ⟨a ~ rose⟩

spe·cies·ism \'spē-shēz-ˌi-zəm, -sēz-\ *n* (1973) **1 :** prejudice or discrimination based on species; *esp* **:** discrimination against animals **2 :** the assumption of human superiority on which speciesism is based

[1]**spe·cif·ic** \spi-'si-fik\ *adj* [LL *specificus*, fr. L *species*] (ca. 1631) **1 a :** constituting or falling into a specifiable category **b :** sharing or being those properties of something that allow it to be referred to a particular category **2 a :** restricted to a particular individual, situation, relation, or effect ⟨a disease ~ to horses⟩ **b :** exerting a distinctive influence (as on a body part or a disease) ⟨~ antibodies⟩ **3 :** free from ambiguity **:** ACCURATE ⟨a ~ statement of faith⟩ **4 :** of, relating to, or constituting a species and esp. a biological species **5 a :** being any of various arbitrary physical constants and esp. one relating a quantitative attribute to unit mass, volume, or area **b :** imposed at a fixed rate per unit (as of weight or count) ⟨~ import duties⟩ — compare AD VALOREM *syn* see SPECIAL, EXPLICIT — **spe·cif·i·cal·ly** \-fi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

[2]**specific** *n* (1661) **1 a :** something peculiarly adapted to a purpose or use **b :** a drug or remedy having a specific mitigating effect on a disease ⟨used as a ~ against malaria⟩ **2 a :** a characteristic quality or trait **b :** DETAILS, PARTICULARS — usu. used in pl. ⟨haggling over the legal and financial ~s of independence —*Time*⟩ **c** *pl* **:** SPECIFICATION 2a

-specific *comb form* [*specific*] **:** relating or applying specifically to or intended specifically for ⟨gender-*specific*⟩

spec·i·fi·ca·tion \ˌspe-sə-fə-'kā-shən, ˌspes-fə-\ *n* (1633) **1 :** the act or process of specifying **2 a :** a detailed precise presentation of something or of a plan or proposal for something — usu. used in pl. **b :** a statement of legal particulars (as of charges or of contract terms); *also* **:** a single item of such statement **c :** a written description of an invention for which a patent is sought

specific epithet *n* (1906) **:** the Latin or latinized noun or adjective that follows the genus name in a taxonomic binomial

specific gravity *n* (1660) **:** the ratio of the density of a substance to the density of some substance (as pure water) taken as a standard when both densities are obtained by weighing in air

specific heat *n* (1799) **:** the heat in calories required to raise the temperature of one gram of a substance one degree Celsius

specific impulse *n* (1947) **:** the thrust produced per unit rate of consumption of the propellant that is usu. expressed in pounds of thrust per pound of propellant used per second and that is a measure of the efficiency of a rocket engine

spec·i·fic·i·ty \ˌspe-sə-'fi-sə-tē\ *n* (1875) **:** the quality or condition of being specific: as **a :** the condition of being peculiar to a particular individual or group of organisms ⟨host ~ of a parasite⟩ **b :** the condition of participating in or catalyzing only one or a few chemical reactions ⟨the ~ of an enzyme⟩

specific performance *n* (1750) **1 :** the performance of a legal contract strictly or substantially according to its terms **2 :** an equitable remedy enjoining specific performance

spec·i·fy \'spe-sə-ˌfī\ *vt* **-fied; -fy·ing** [ME *specifien*, fr. AF *specifier*, fr. LL *specificare*, fr. *specificus*] (14c) **1 :** to name or state explicitly or in detail **2 :** to include as an item in a specification — **spec·i·fi·er** \'spe-sə-ˌfī(-ə)r\ *n* — **spec·i·fi·able** \ˌspe-sə-'fī-ə-bəl\ *adj*

spec·i·men \'spes-mən, 'spe-sə-\ *n* [L, fr. *specere* to look at, look — more at SPY] (1610) **1 a :** an individual, item, or part considered typical of a group, class, or whole **b :** a portion or quantity of material for use in testing, examination, or study ⟨a urine ~⟩ **2 a :** something that obviously belongs to a particular category but is noticed by reason of an individual distinguishing characteristic **b :** PERSON, INDIVIDUAL ⟨he's a tough ~⟩ **3 :** a plant grown for exhibition or in the open to display its full development ⟨~ trees⟩ *syn* see INSTANCE

spe·cious \'spē-shəs\ *adj* [ME, visually pleasing, fr. L *speciosus* beautiful, plausible, fr. *species*] (1513) **1** *obs* **:** SHOWY **2 :** having deceptive attraction or allure **3 :** having a false look of truth or genuineness **:** SOPHISTIC ⟨~ reasoning⟩ — **spe·cious·ly** *adv* — **spe·cious·ness** *n*

[1]**speck** \'spek\ *n* [ME *specke*, fr. OE *specca*] (bef. 12c) **1 :** a small discoloration or spot esp. from stain or decay **2 :** a very small amount **:** BIT **3 :** something marked or marred with specks — **specked** \'spekt\ *adj*

[2]**speck** *vt* (14c) **:** to produce specks on or in

[1]**speck·le** \'spe-kəl\ *n* [ME; akin to OE *specca*] (15c) **:** a little speck (as of color)

[2]**speckle** *vt* **speck·led; speck·ling** \-k(ə-)liŋ\ (15c) **1 :** to mark with speckles **2 :** to be distributed in or on like speckles

speckled perch *n* (1856) **:** BLACK CRAPPIE

speckled trout *n* (1765) **1 :** BROOK TROUT **2 :** SPOTTED SEA TROUT

speckle interferometry *n* (1970) **:** a technique for generating a clear composite image of a celestial object blurred by atmospheric turbulence in which a large number of short-exposure photographs are mathematically correlated by a computer

specs \'speks\ *n pl* [contr. of *spectacles*] (1807) **:** GLASSES

spec·ta·cle \'spek-ti-kəl *also* -ˌti-kəl\ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *spectaculum*, fr. *spectare* to watch, freq. of *specere* to look, look at — more at SPY] (14c) **1 a :** something exhibited to view as unusual, notable, or entertaining; *esp* **:** an eye-catching or dramatic public display **b :** an object of curiosity or contempt ⟨made a ~ of herself⟩ **2** *pl* **:** GLASSES **3 :** something (as natural markings on an animal) suggesting a pair of glasses

spec·ta·cled \-kəld\ *adj* (1607) **1 :** having or wearing spectacles **2 :** having markings suggesting a pair of spectacles ⟨a ~ alligator⟩

spectacled bear *n* (1835) **:** a black or dark brown bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) of the Andes mountains with white markings encircling the eyes

[1]**spec·tac·u·lar** \spek-'ta-kyə-lər, spək-\ *adj* [L *spectaculum*] (1682) **:** of, relating to, or being a spectacle **:** STRIKING, SENSATIONAL ⟨a ~ display of fireworks⟩ — **spec·tac·u·lar·ly** *adv*

[2]**spectacular** *n* (1873) **:** something that is spectacular; *esp* **:** an elaborate film, television, or theatrical production

spec·tate \'spek-ˌtāt\ *vi* **spec·tat·ed; spec·tat·ing** [back-formation fr. *spectator*] (1858) **:** to be present as a spectator (as at a sports event)

spec·ta·tor \'spek-ˌtā-tər, spek-'\ *n* [L, fr. *spectare* to watch] (ca. 1586) **1 :** one who looks on or watches **2 :** a woman's pump usu. having contrasting colors with a perforated design at the toe and sometimes heel — **spectator** *adj* — **spec·ta·tor·i·al** \ˌspek-tə-'tōr-ē-əl\ *adj* — **spec·ta·tor·ship** \'spek-ˌtā-tər-ˌship, spek-'\ *n*

spec·ter *or* **spec·tre** \'spek-tər\ *n* [F *spectre*, fr. L *spectrum* appearance, specter, fr. *specere* to look, look at — more at SPY] (1605) **1 :** a visible disembodied spirit **:** GHOST **2 :** something that haunts or perturbs the mind **:** PHANTASM ⟨the ~ of hunger⟩

spec·ti·no·my·cin \ˌspek-tə-nō-'mī-sᵊn\ *n* [*spect-* (fr. NL *spectabilis*, specific epithet of *Streptomyces spectabilis*) + *actinomycin*] (1964) **:** a white crystalline broad-spectrum antibiotic $C_{14}H_{24}N_2O_7$ produced by a bacterium (*Streptomyces spectabilis*) that is used clinically esp. in the form of its hydrochloride to treat gonorrhea

spec·tral \'spek-trəl\ *adj* (1769) **1 :** of, relating to, or suggesting a specter **:** GHOSTLY **2 :** of, relating to, or made by a spectrum — **spectral·ly** \'spek-trə-lē\ *adv*

spectral line *n* (1849) **:** one of a series of linear images formed by a spectrograph or similar instrument and corresponding to a narrow portion of the spectrum of the radiation emitted or absorbed by a particular source

spectro- *comb form* [NL *spectrum*] **:** spectrum ⟨*spectro*scope⟩

spec·tro·flu·o·rom·e·ter \'spek-(ˌ)trō-ˌflù-'rä-mə-tər, -flò-\ *also* **spec·tro·flu·o·rim·e·ter** \-'ri-\ *n* (1957) **:** a device for measuring and recording fluorescence spectra — **spec·tro·flu·o·ro·met·ric** \-ˌflùr-ə-'me-trik, -ˌflòr-\ *adj* — **spec·tro·flu·o·rom·e·try** \-flù-'rä-mə-trē, -ˌflò-\ *n*

spec·tro·gram \'spek-t(r)ə-ˌgram\ *n* [ISV] (1892) **:** a photograph, image, or diagram of a spectrum

spec·tro·graph \-ˌgraf\ *n* [ISV] (1884) **:** an instrument for dispersing radiation (as electromagnetic radiation or sound waves) into a spectrum and recording or mapping the spectrum — **spec·tro·graph·ic** \spek-t(r)ə-'gra-fik\ *adj* — **spec·tro·graph·i·cal·ly** \-fi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **spec·trog·ra·phy** \spek-'trä-grə-fē\ *n*

spec·tro·he·lio·gram \spek-trō-'hē-lē-ə-ˌgram\ *n* (1905) **:** a photograph of the sun that is made by monochromatic light and shows the sun's faculae and prominences

spec·tro·he·lio·graph \-ˌgraf\ *n* [ISV] (1892) **:** an apparatus for making spectroheliograms — **spec·tro·he·li·og·ra·phy** \-ˌhē-lē-'ä-grə-fē\ *n*

spec·tro·he·lio·scope \-'hē-lē-ə-ˌskōp\ *n* [ISV] (1906) **1 :** SPECTROHELIOGRAPH **2 :** an instrument similar to a spectroheliograph used for visual as distinguished from photographic observations

spec·trom·e·ter \spek-'trä-mə-tər\ *n* [ISV] (1874) **1 :** an instrument used for measuring wavelengths of light spectra **2 :** any of various analytical instruments in which an emission (as of particles or radiation) is dispersed according to some property (as mass or energy) of the emission and the amount of dispersion is measured ⟨nuclear magnetic

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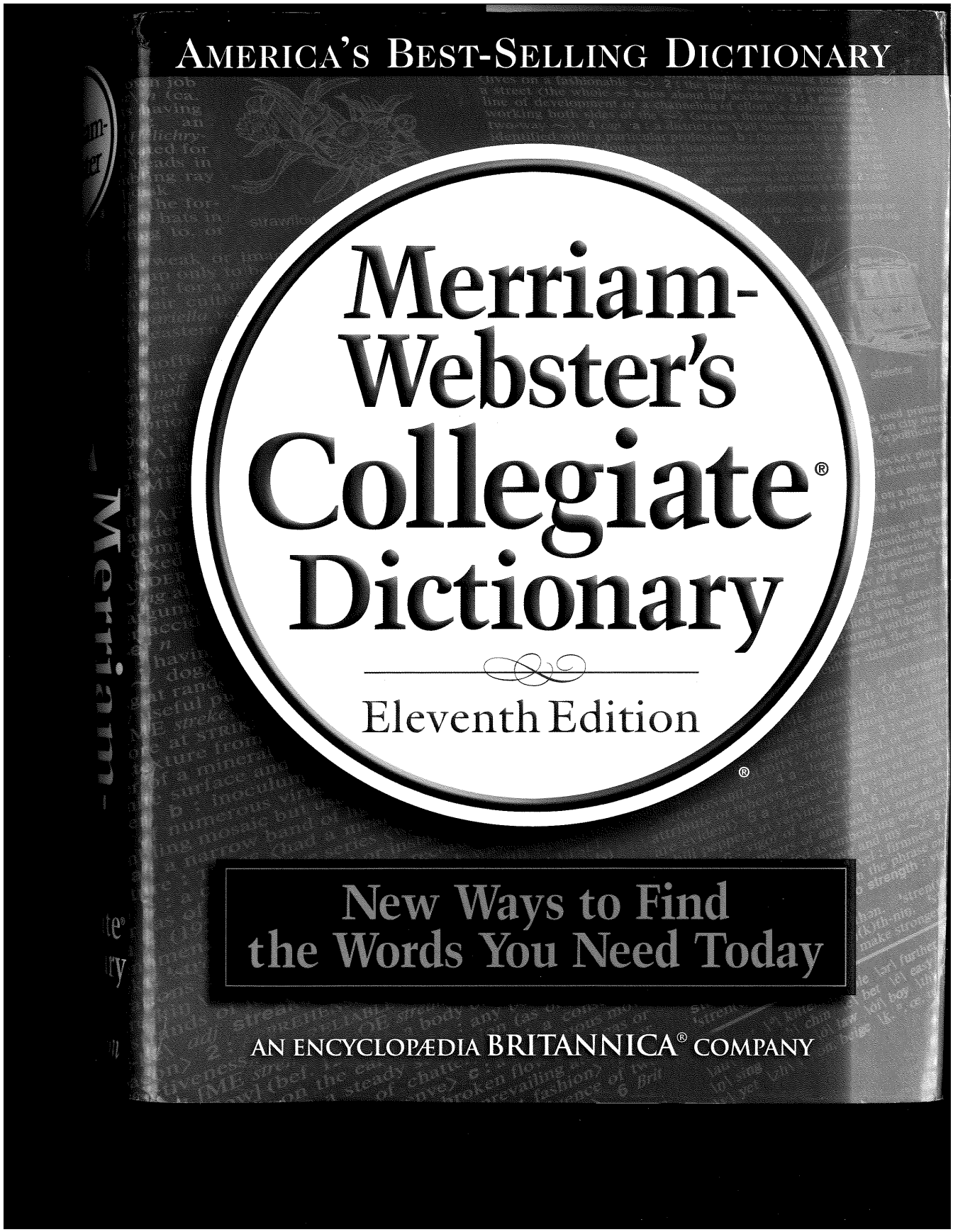
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