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spiritualism

-ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *spirituel*, from Latin *spiritualis*, from *spiritus* (see SPIRIT).

spiritualism |ˈspɪrɪtʃəwəˌlɪzəm| **n.** 1 a system of belief or religious practice based on supposed communication with the spirits of the dead, esp. through mediums.

2 Philosophy the doctrine that the spirit exists as distinct from matter, or that spirit is the only reality.

-DERIVATIVES **spiritualist** **n.**; **spiritualistic** |ˈspɪrɪtʃəwəˌlɪstɪk| **adj.**

spiritualize |ˈspɪrɪtʃəwəˌlaɪz| **v.** [trans.] elevate to a spiritual level.

-DERIVATIVES **spiritualization** |ˈspɪrɪtʃəwəˌlaɪzən| **n.**

spirituous |ˈspɪrɪtʃəwəs; ˈspɪrɪtəs| **adj.** formal archaic containing much alcohol; distilled: *spirituous beverages*.

-ORIGIN late 16th cent. (in the sense 'spirited, lively'): from Latin *spiritus* 'spirit' + -OUS, or from French *spiritueux*.

spiritus |ˈspɪrɪtəs| **n.** Latin term for BREATH, often used figuratively to mean spirit.

spiritus rector |ˈspɪrɪtəs ˈrektər| **n.** a ruling or directing spirit.

-ORIGIN Latin.

spiro-1 **comb. form** 1 **spiral**; in a spiral: *spirochaete*.

2 Chemistry denoting a molecule with two rings with one atom common to both: *spiroolactone*.

-ORIGIN from Latin *spira*, Greek *speira* 'a coil.'

spiro-2 **comb. form** relating to breathing: *spirometer*.

-ORIGIN formed irregularly from Latin *spirare* 'breathe.'

spirochete |ˈspɪrəˌkɛt| (Brit. *spirochaete*) **n.** a flexible spirally twisted bacterium, esp. one that causes syphilis.

**Treponema* and other genera, order Spirochaetales; Gram-negative.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from **SPIRO**-1 'in a spiral' + Greek *khaite* 'long hair.'

spirograph |ˈspɪrəˌɡræf| **n.** 1 an instrument for recording breathing movements.

-DERIVATIVES **spirographic** |ˈspɪrəˌɡræfɪk| **adj.** (in sense 1).

spirogyra |ˈspɪrəˌɡɪrə| **n.** Botany a filamentous freshwater green alga containing spiral bands of chloroplasts.

*Genus *Spirogyra*, division Chlorophyta.

-ORIGIN modern Latin, from **SPIRO**-1 'spiral' + Greek *gyros, gura* 'round.'

spirometer |ˈspɪrəˌmɪtər| **n.** an instrument for measuring the air capacity of the lungs.

-DERIVATIVES **spirometry** |ˈspɪrəˌmɪtri| **n.**

spiro-nolactone |ˈspɪrənəˌlæktən| **n.** Medicine a steroid drug that promotes sodium excretion and is used in the treatment of certain types of edema and hypertension.

-ORIGIN 1960s: from **SPIRO**-1 (sense 2 + LACTONE, with the insertion of -ONE).

spirt |spɜrt| **v.** & **n.** old-fashioned spelling of **SPURT**.

spirulina |ˈspɪrəˌlɪnə| **n.** filamentous cyanobacteria that form tangled masses in warm alkaline lakes in Africa and Central and South America.

*Genus *Spirulina*, division Cyanobacteria.

■ (usu. **Spirulina**) the substance of such growths dried and prepared as a food or food additive, which is a rich source of many vitamins and minerals.

-ORIGIN modern Latin, from *spirula* 'small spiral (shell).'

spit1 |spɪt| **v.** (**spitting**; past and past part. **spit** or **spat** |spæt|) [intrans.] 1 eject saliva forcibly from one's mouth, sometimes as a gesture of contempt or anger: *Todd spit in Hugh's face*.

■ [trans.] forcibly eject (food or liquid) from one's mouth: *he spits out his piece of coconut* | figurative *teller machines that spit out \$20 bills*. ■ (**spit up**) (esp. of a baby) vomit or regurgitate food. ■ [trans.] utter in a hostile or aggressive way: *she spat abuse at the jury* | [with direct speech] "*Go to hell!*" *she spat*. ■ be extremely angry or frustrated: *he was spitting with sudden fury*. ■ (of a fire or something being cooked) emit small bursts of sparks or hot fat with a series of short, explosive noises. ■ (of a cat) make a hissing noise as a sign of anger or hostility.

2 (it spits, it is spitting, etc.) Brit. light rain falls: *it began to spit*.

n. 1 saliva, typically that which has been ejected from a person's mouth.

■ short for **CUCKOO SPIT**.

2 an act of spitting.

-PHRASES **spit in the eye** (or **face**) of show contempt or scorn for. **spit it out** informal used to urge someone to say or confess something quickly: *spit it out, man, I haven't got all day*.

-ORIGIN Old English *spittan*, of imitative origin.

spit2 **n.** 1 a long, thin metal rod pushed through meat in order to hold and turn it while it is roasted over an open fire: *chicken cooked on a spit*.

2 a narrow point of land projecting into the sea: *a narrow spit of land shelters the bay*.

v. (**spitted, spitting**) [trans.] put a spit through (meat) in order to roast it over an open fire: *I spitted the squirrel meat and turned it over the flames*.

-ORIGIN Old English *spitu*, of West Germanic origin; related to Dutch *spit* and German *Spieß*.

spit3 **n.** (pl. same or **spits**) a layer of earth whose depth is equal to the length of the blade of a spade: *break up the top spit with a fork*.

-ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from Middle Dutch and Middle Low German; probably related to **SPIT**2.

spit and polish **n.** thorough or exaggerated cleaning and polishing, esp. by a soldier: *they gave the dining room some extra spit and polish*.

spitball |ˈspɪtˌbɔːl| **n.** 1 a piece of paper that has been chewed and shaped into a ball for use as a missile.

2 Baseball an illegal pitch made with a ball moistened with saliva or another substance to make it move erratically.

v. [trans.] informal throw out (a suggestion) for discussion: *I'm just spitballing a few ideas*.

-DERIVATIVES **spitballer** **n.**

spitchcock |ˈspɪtʃˌkɔːk| **n.** an eel that has been split and grilled or fried.

v. [trans.] prepare (an eel or other fish) in this way.

-ORIGIN late 15th cent.: of unknown origin; compare with **SPLATCHCOCK**.

spit curl **n.** a small curl of hair trained to lie flat on the forehead, at the nape of the neck, or in front of the ear.

spite |spɪt| **n.** a desire to hurt, annoy, or offend someone: *he'd think I was saying it out of spite*.

■ archaic an instance of such a desire; a grudge: *it seemed as if the wind had a spite at her*.

v. [trans.] deliberately hurt, annoy, or offend (someone): *he put the house up for sale to spite his family*.

-PHRASES **in spite of** without being affected by the particular factor mentioned: *he was suddenly cold in spite of the sun*. **in spite of oneself** although one did not want or expect to do so: *Oliver smiled in spite of himself*.

-ORIGIN Middle English: shortening of Old French *despit* 'contempt', *despitier* 'show contempt for'.

spiteful |ˈspɪtˌfʊl| **adj.** showing or caused by malice: *the teachers made spiteful little jokes about me*.

-DERIVATIVES **spitefully** **adv.**; **spitefulness** **n.**

spitfire |ˈspɪtˌfɪr| **n.** a person with a fierce temper.

Spithead |ˈspɪtˌhed| a channel between the north-eastern coast of the Isle of Wight and the mainland of southern England. It offers sheltered access to Southampton Water and deep anchorage.

spit-roast **v.** [trans.] [usu. as **adj.**] (**spit-roasted**) cook (a piece of meat) on a spit: *spit-roasted lamb*.

Spitsbergen |ˈspɪtsˌbɜːɡən| a Norwegian island in the Svalbard archipelago, in the Arctic Ocean north of Norway; principal settlement, Longyearbyen.

spitter |ˈspɪtər| **n.** 1 a person who spits.

2 another term for **SPITBALL** (sense 2).

spitting cobra **n.** an African cobra that defends itself by spitting venom from the fangs, typically at the aggressor's eyes.

*Genera *Naja* and *Hemachatus*, family Elapidae: three species, in particular the black-necked spitting cobra (*N. nigricollis*).

spitting image **n.** (the spitting image of) informal the exact double of (another person or thing): *she's the spitting image of her mum*.

spittle |ˈspɪtl| **n.** saliva, esp. as ejected from the mouth.

-DERIVATIVES **spittily** **adj.**

-ORIGIN late 15th cent.: alteration of dialect *spattle*, by association with **SPIT**.

spittlebug |ˈspɪtlˌbɜːɡ| **n.** another term for **FROGHOPPER**.

spittoon |ˈspɪtˌtuːn| **n.** a metal or earthenware pot typically having a funnel-shaped top, used for spitting into.

Spitz |spɪts|, Mark (Andrew) (1950-), US swimmer. He won 7 gold medals in the 1972 Olympic Games at Munich and set 27 world records for free style and butterfly between 1967 and 1972.

spitz |spɪts| **n.** a dog of a small breed with a pointed muzzle, esp. a Pomeranian.

-ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from German *Spitz(hund)*, from *spitz* 'pointed' + *Hund* 'dog.'

spiv |spɪv| **n.** Brit. informal a man, typically characterized by flashy dress, who makes a living by disreputable dealings.

-DERIVATIVES **spivish** **adj.**; **spivvy** **adj.**

-ORIGIN 1930s: perhaps related to **SPIFFY**.

splake |splæk| **n.** a hybrid trout of North American lakes.

*Produced by crossing the speckled trout (*S. fontinalis*) with the lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*).

-ORIGIN 1950s: blend of *speckled* and *LAKE*1.

splanchnic |ˈsplæŋɡnɪk| **adj.** of or relating to the viscera or internal organs, esp. those of the abdomen.

-ORIGIN late 17th cent.: from modern Latin *splanchnicus*, from Greek *splanchnikos*, from *splanchna* 'entrails.'

splanchnopleure |ˈsplæŋɡknəˌplɔː(r)| **n.** Embryology a layer of tissue in a vertebrate embryo comprising the endoderm and the inner layer of mesoderm, and giving rise to the gut, lungs, and yolk sac. Often contrasted with **SOMATOPLEURE**.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Greek *splanchna* 'entrails' + *pleura* 'side.'

splash |splæʃ| **n.** a sound made by something striking or falling into liquid: *we hit the water with a mighty splash*.

■ a spell of moving about in water energetically: *the girls joined them for a final splash in the pool*. ■ a small quantity of liquid that has fallen or been dashed against a surface: *a splash of gravy*. ■ a small quantity of liquid added to a drink: *a splash of lemonade*. ■ a bright patch of color: *add a red scarf to give a splash of color*. ■ informal a prominent or sensational news feature or story: *a front-page splash*. ■ informal a striking, ostentatious, or exciting effect or event: *there's going to be a big splash when Mike returns to the ring*.

v. [with obj. and adverbial of direction] cause (liquid) to strike or fall on something in irregular drops: *she splashed cold water onto her face*.

■ [trans.] make wet by doing this: *they splashed each other with water*. ■ [no obj., with adverbial of direction] (of a liquid) fall or be scattered in irregular drops: *a tear fell and splashed onto the pillow*. ■ [no obj., with adverbial] strike or move around in a body of water, causing it to fly about noisily: *some stones splashed into the water* | *wheels splashed through a puddle*. ■ (**be splashed with**) be decorated with scattered patches of: *a field splashed with purple clover*. ■ [trans.] print (a story or photograph, esp. a sensational one) in a prominent place in a newspaper or magazine: *the story was splashed across the front pages*.

-PHRASES **make a splash** informal attract a great deal of attention.

■ **splash down** (of a spacecraft) land on water.

splash out (or **splash money out**) Brit. informal spend money freely: *she splashed out on a Mercedes*.

-ORIGIN early 18th cent. (as a verb): alteration of **PLASH**1.

splashboard |ˈsplæʃˌbɔːrd| **n.** a screen designed to protect the passengers of a vehicle or boat from splashes.

splashdown |ˈsplæʃˌdaʊn| **n.** the alighting of a returning spacecraft on the sea, with the assistance of parachutes.

splashy |ˈsplæʃi| **adj.** (**splashier, splashiest**) 1 characterized by water flying about noisily in irregular drops: *a splashy waterfall*.

■ characterized by irregular patches of bright color: *splashy floral silks*.

2 informal attracting a great deal of attention; elaborately or ostentatiously impressive: *I don't care for splashy Hollywood parties*.

splat1 |splæt| **n.** a piece of thin wood in the center of a chair back.

-ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from obsolete *splat* 'split up'; related to **SPLIT**.

splat2 informal **n.** a sound of something soft and wet or heavy striking a surface: *the goblin makes a huge splat as he hits the ground*.

adv. with a sound of this type: *he lands splat on his right elbow*.

v. (**splatted, splatting**) [trans.] crush or squash (something) with a sound of this type: *he was splatting a bug*.

■ [intrans.] land or be squashed with a sound of this type.

-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: abbreviation of **SPLATTER**.

splat-ter |ˈsplætər| **v.** [trans.] splash with a sticky or viscous liquid: *a passing cart rolled by, splat-tering him with mud*.

■ splash (such a liquid) over a surface or object. ■ [no obj., with adverbial] (of such a liquid) splash: *heavy droplets of rain splat-tered onto the windshield*. ■ informal prominently or sensationally publish (a story) in a newspaper: *the story is splat-tered over pages two and three*.

n. 1 a spot or trail of a sticky or viscous liquid splashed over a surface or object: *each puddle we crossed threw a splat-ter of mud on the windshield*.

2 [as **adj.**] informal denoting or referring to films featuring many violent and gruesome deaths: *a splat-ter movie*.

-ORIGIN late 18th cent.: imitative.

splat-terpunk |ˈsplætərˌpʌŋk| **n.** informal a literary genre characterized by the explicit description of horrific, violent, or pornographic scenes.

See page xxxviii for the Key to Pronunciation