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About the type

This dictionary is typeset in CollinsFedra, a special version of the Fedra family of types designed by Peter Bil'ak. CollinsFedra has been customized especially for Collins dictionaries; it includes both sans serif (for headwords) and serif (entries) versions, in several different weights. Its large x-height, its open 'eye', and its basis in the tradition of humanist letterforms make CollinsFedra both familiar and easy to read at small sizes. It has been designed to use the minimum space without sacrificing legibility, as well as including a number of characters and signs that are specific to dictionary typography. Its companion phonetic type is the first of its kind to be drawn according to the same principles as the regular typeface, rather than assembled from rotated and reflected characters from other types. Peter Bil'ak (born 1973, Slovakia) is a graphic and type designer living in the Netherlands. He is the author of two books, *Illegibility* and *Transparency*. As well as the Fedra family, he has designed several other typefaces including *Eureka*. His typotheque.com website has become a focal point for research and debate around contemporary type design.

enc. abbreviation 1 enclosed 2 enclosure

encaenia (en'si'mia) *n* rare a festival of dedication or commemoration

● **ETymology** c14: via Late Latin from Greek *enkaínia*, from *kainos* new

enclave (en'keɪvz) *vb* (tr) to confine in or as in a cage

encomp (en'kæmp) *vb* to lodge or cause to lodge in a camp

encompment (en'kæmpmənt) *n* 1 the act of setting up a camp 2 the place where a camp, esp a military camp, is set up

encapsulate or **incapsulate** (en'kæpsjʊleɪt) *vb* 1 to enclose or be enclosed in or as if in a capsule 2 (tr) to sum up in a short or concise form; condense; abridge > **encapsulation** or **incapsulation** *n*

encarnalize or **encarnalize** (en'kɑ:nə'laɪz) *vb* (tr) rare 1 to provide with a bodily form; incarnate 2 to make carnal, gross, or sensual

enchant or **incant** (en'keɪs) *vb* (tr) to place or enclose in or as if in a case > **enchantment** or **incantation** *n*

enchase (en'keɪʃ) *vb* (tr) **BE** formal to exchange (a cheque) for cash > **enchaseable** *adj* > **enchasement** *n*

enchré (en'kɔ:strei) *adj* civil engineering (of a beam) fixed at the ends; built into its supports

● **ETymology** from French, past participle of *enchanter*, from Latin *incantare* to cut in; see **CASTRATE**

encaustic (en'kɔ:stɪk) *ceramics* *adj* 1 decorated by any process involving burning in colours, esp by inlaying coloured clays and baking or by fusing wax colours to the surface 2 *n* 2 the process of burning in colours 3 a product of such a process > **encaustically** *adv*

● **ETymology** c17: from Latin *encausticus*, from Greek *enkauistikos*, from *enkaínein* to burn in, from *kainein* to burn

-ence or **-ency** suffix forming nouns indicating an action, state, condition, or quality: *benevolence*; *residence*; *patience*

● **ETymology** via Old French from Latin *-entia*, from *-ens*, present participle ending

enceinte (en'sænt; French *âsɛ̃t*) *adj* another word for pregnant

● **ETymology** c17: from French, from Latin *incēns* pregnant; related to Greek *enkūos*, from *kuein* to be pregnant

enceinte (en'sænt; French *âsɛ̃t*) *n* 1 a boundary wall enclosing a defended area 2 the area enclosed

● **ETymology** c18: from French: *enceinte*, from *enceindre* to encompass, from Latin *incingere*, from *cingere* to gird

Enceladus (en'selə'dəs) *n* Greek myth a giant who was punished for his rebellion against the gods by a fatal blow from a stone cast by Athena. He was believed to be buried under Mount Etna in Sicily

Encladus *n* a very bright satellite of Saturn

encephalgia (en'sefə'lædʒiə) *n* med pain in the head; headache

encephalic (en'sefə'lɪk, en'ki-) *adj* of or relating to the brain

encephalin (en'sefə'lɪn) *n* a variant of *enkephalin*

encephalitis (en'sefə'laitɪs, en'kef-) *n* inflammation of the brain > **encephalitic** (en'sefə'lɪtɪk) *adj*

encephalitis lethargica (lɪ'θɜ:rdʒɪkə) *n* **pathol** a technical name for sleeping sickness (sense 2)

encephalo- (or before a vowel) **encephal-** combining form indicating the brain: *encephalogram*; *encephalitis*

● **ETymology** from New Latin, from Greek *enkephalos*, from *en-* in + *kephalē* head

encephalogram (en'sefə'lə'grɑ:m) *n* 1 an X-ray photograph of the brain, esp one (a pneumoencephalogram) taken after replacing some of the cerebrospinal fluid with air or oxygen so that the brain cavities show clearly 2 short for *electroencephalogram*

encephalograph (en'sefə'lə'grɑ:f, -græf) *n* 1 short for *electroencephalograph* 2 any other apparatus used to produce an *encephalogram*

encephalography (en'sefə'lə'grɑ:fɪ) *n* 1 the branch of medical science concerned with taking and analysing X-ray photographs of the brain 2 another name for *electroencephalography*. See *electroencephalograph* > **encephalographic** (en'sefə'lə'græfɪk) *adj* > **encephalographically** *adv*

encephaloma (en'sefə'lə'ma) *n*, *pl*-mas or *-mata* (-mətə) *n* a brain tumour

encephalomyelitis (en'sefə'ləu,maɪə'laitɪs) *n* acute inflammation of the brain and spinal cord > **encephalomyelitic** (en'sefə'ləu,maɪə'lɪtɪk) *adj*

encephalon (en'sefə'lɒn) *n*, *pl*-la (-lə) a technical name for brain > **encephalous** *adj*

● **ETymology** c18: from New Latin, from Greek *enkephalos* brain (literally: that which is in the head), from *en-* + *kephalē* head

encephalopathy (en'sefə'lə'pəθi) *n* any degenerative disease of the brain, often associated with toxic conditions. See also **BSE**

enchain (en'tʃeɪn) *vb* (tr) 1 to bind with chains 2 to hold fast or captivate (the attention, etc) > **enchainment** *n*

enchant (en'tʃaɪnt) *vb* (tr) 1 to cast a spell on; bewitch 2 to delight or captivate utterly; fascinate; charm > **enchanter** *n* > **enchantress** *fem* *n*

● **ETymology** c14: from Old French *enchanter*, from Latin *incantare* to chant a spell, from *cantare* to chant, from *canere* to sing

enchanted (en'tʃaɪntɪd) *adj* 1 under a spell; bewitched; magical 2 utterly delighted or captivated; fascinated; charmed

enchanter's nightshade *n* any of several onageraceous plants of the genus *Circaea*, esp *C. lutetiana*, having small white flowers and bristly fruits

enchanting (en'tʃaɪntɪŋ) *adj* pleasant; delightful > **enchantingly** *adv*

enchantment (en'tʃaɪntmənt) *n* 1 the act of enchanting or state of being enchanted 2 a magic spell or act of witchcraft 3 great charm or fascination

enchase (en'tʃeɪʃ) *vb* (tr) a less common word for *enchase* (sense 3) > **enchaser** *n*

● **ETymology** c15: from Old French *enchanter* to enclose, set, from *en-* + *casare* case

enchilada (en'tʃɪ'lada) *n* a Mexican dish consisting of a tortilla fried in hot fat, filled with meat, and served with a chilli sauce

● **ETymology** c19: American Spanish, feminine of *enchilado* seasoned with chilli, from *enchilar* to spice with chilli, from *chile* CHILLI

enchorion (en'kɔ:riən) *n*, *pl*-ions or *-ia* (-iə) rare a handbook or manual

● **ETymology** c16: from Late Latin, from Greek *encheiridion*, from *en-* + *cheir* hand

enchondroma (en'kɔ:ndrə'mə) *n*, *pl*-mas or *-mata* (-mətə) *pathol* a benign cartilaginous tumour, most commonly in the bones of the hands or feet > **enchondromatous** *adj*

● **ETymology** c19: New Latin from Greek, from *en-* + *khondros* cartilage

enchorial (en'kɔ:riəl) or **enchoric** *adj* of or used in a particular country; used esp of the popular (demotic) writing of the ancient Egyptians

● **ETymology** c19: via Late Latin from Greek *encheirios*, from *en-* + *cheir* country

-enchyma *n* combining form denoting cellular tissue: *aerenchyma*

● **ETymology** c20: abstracted from **PARENCHYMA**

encoder (en'saɪfə) *vb* (tr) to convert (a message, document, etc) from plain text into code or cipher; encode > **encoder** *n* > **encipherment** *n*

encircle (en'sɪ:kəl) *vb* (tr) to form a circle around; enclose within a circle; surround > **encirclement** *n* > **encircling** *adj*

encl. abbreviation 1 enclosed 2 enclosure

en clair French (d'klɛr) *adv*, *adj* in ordinary language; not in cipher

● **ETymology** literally: in clear

enclasp (en'klɑ:sɪp) *vb* (tr) to clasp; embrace

enclave (en'kleɪv) *n* a part of a country entirely surrounded by foreign territory: viewed from the position of the surrounding territories. Compare **exclave**

● **ETymology** c19: from French, from Old French *enclavre* to enclose, from Vulgar Latin *inclavare* (unattested) to lock up, from Latin *in-* + *clavis* key

enclitic (en'klɪtɪk) *adj* 1 denoting or relating to a monosyllabic word or form that is treated as a suffix of the preceding word, as Latin *-que* in *populusque*

b (in classical Greek) denoting or relating to a word that throws an accent back onto the preceding word > *n* 2 an enclitic word or linguistic form > Compare **proclitic** > **enclitically** *adv*

● **ETymology** c17: from Late Latin *encliticus*, from Greek *enklitikos*, from *enkleinē* to cause to lean, from *en-* + *kleinē* to lean

enclose or **inclose** (en'klaʊz) *vb* (tr) 1 to close; hem in; surround 2 to surround (land) with or as if with a fence 3 to put in an envelope or wrapper, esp together with a letter 4 to contain or hold > **enclosable** or **inclosable** *adj* > **encloser** or **incloser** *n*

enclosed order *n* a Christian religious order that does not permit its members to go into the outside world

enclosure or **inclosure** (en'klaʊsə) *n* 1 the act of enclosing or state of being enclosed 2 a region or area enclosed by or as if by a fence 3 a the act of appropriating land, esp common land, by putting a hedge or other barrier around it b history such acts as were carried out at various periods in England, esp between the 12th and 14th centuries and finally in the 18th and 19th centuries 4 a fence, wall, etc, that serves to enclose 5 something, esp a supporting document, enclosed within an envelope or wrapper, esp together with a letter 6 Brit a section of a sports ground, racecourse, etc, allotted to certain spectators

encode (en'kaʊd) *vb* (tr) 1 to convert (a message) from plain text into code 2 computing to convert (characters and symbols) into a digital form as a series of impulses. Compare **decode** (sense 2) 3 to convert (an electrical signal) into a form suitable for transmission 4 to convert (a nerve signal) into a form that can be received by the brain 5 to use (a word, phrase, etc, esp of a foreign language) in the construction appropriate to it in that language > **encode** *n* > **encoder** *n*

encomiast (en'kɔ:miə'st) *n* a person who speaks or writes an encomium > **encomiastic** or **encomiastical** *adj* > **encomiastically** *adv*

● **ETymology** c17: from Greek *enkomíastēs*, from *enkomíazein* to utter an ENCOMIUM

encomium (en'kɔ:miəm) *n*, *pl*-miums or *-mia* (-mɪə) a formal expression of praise; eulogy; panegyric

● **ETymology** c16: from Latin, from Greek *enkomíōn*, from *en-* + *kōmōs* festivity

encompass (en'kæmpəs) *vb* (tr) 1 to enclose within a circle; surround 2 to bring about; cause to happen; contrive: he encompassed the enemy's ruin 3 to include entirely or comprehensively: this book encompasses the whole range of knowledge > **encompassment** *n*

encopresis (en'kɔ:pri:sɪs) *n* involuntary discharge of faeces, esp when associated with psychiatric disturbance > **encopretic** (en'kɔ:pri:tɪk) *adj*

● **ETymology** c20: from New Latin, from Greek *en-* + *copr(o)*, + *-esis* as in **ENURESIS**

encore (en'kɔ:ʁ) *interj* 1 again; once more: used by an audience to demand an extra or repeated performance 2 an extra or repeated performance given in response to enthusiastic demand > *vb* 3 (tr) to demand an extra or repeated performance (of a work, piece of music, etc) by (a performer)

● **ETymology** c18: from French: still, again, perhaps from Latin *in hac hōra* until this hour

encounter (en'kaʊntə) *vb* 1 to come upon or meet casually or unexpectedly 2 to come into conflict with (an enemy, army, etc) in battle or contest 3 (tr) to be faced with; contend with: he encountered many obstacles in his work > *n* 4 a meeting with a person or thing, esp when casual or unexpected 5 a hostile meeting; contest or conflict > **encounterer** *n*

● **ETymology** c13: from Old French *encontrer*, from Vulgar Latin *incontrāre* (unattested), from Latin *in-* + *contrā* against, opposite

encounter group *n* a group of people who meet in order to develop self-awareness and mutual understanding by openly expressing their feelings, by confrontation, physical contact, etc

encourage (en'kʌrdʒ) *vb* (tr) 1 to inspire (someone) with the courage or confidence (to do something) 2 to stimulate (something or someone to do something) by approval or help; support

inhuman (ɪnˈhju:mən) *adj* 1 Also: inhumane (ɪnˈhju:meɪn) lacking humane feelings, such as sympathy, understanding, etc; cruel; brutal 2 not human > inhumanely *adv* > inhumanly *adv* > inhumanness *n*

inhumanity (ɪnˈhju:mənɪti) *n*, pl -ties 1 Lack of humane qualities 2 an inhumane act, decision, etc

inhume (ɪnˈhju:m) *vb* (tr) to inter; bury > inhumation *n* > inhumor *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: from Latin *inhumāre*, from *in-* + *humus* ground

inimical (ɪnɪˈmɪkəl) *adj* 1 adverse or unfavourable 2 not friendly; hostile > inimically *adv* > inimicalness *n* > inimicality *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: from Late Latin *inimicālis*, from *inimicus*, from *in-* + *amicus* friendly; see **ENEMY**

inimitable (ɪnɪˈmɪtəbəl) *adj* incapable of being duplicated or imitated; unique > inimitability *n* > inimitableness *n* > inimitably *adv*

inion (ɪˈniən) *n* anatomy the most prominent point at the back of the head, used as a point of measurement in craniometry

● **ETYMOLOGY** c19: from Greek: back of the head

iniquity (ɪnɪˈkwɪti) *n*, pl -ties 1 lack of justice or righteousness; wickedness; injustice 2 a wicked act; sin > iniquitous *adj* > iniquitously *adv* > iniquitousness *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: from Latin *iniquitās*, from *iniquus* unfair, from *in-* + *aequus* even, level; see **EQUAL**

initial (ɪˈniʃəl) *adj* 1 of, at, or concerning the beginning 2 *n* 2 the first letter of a word, esp a person's name 3 printing a large sometimes highly decorated letter set at the beginning of a chapter or work 4 botany a cell from which tissues and organs develop by division and differentiation; a meristematic cell > *vb* -tials, -tialling, -tialled or US -tials, -tialing, -tialled 5 (tr) to sign with one's initials, esp to indicate approval; endorse > initialer or initialler *n* > initially *adv*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: from Latin *initialis* of the beginning, from *initial* beginning, literally: an entering upon, from *inire* to go in, from *in-* + *ire* to go

initialize or **initialise** (ɪˈnɪʃəlaɪz) *vb* (tr) to assign an initial value to (a variable or storage location) in a computer program > initialization or initialisation *n*

initiate (ɪˈnɪʃi,et) (tr) 1 to begin or originate 2 to accept (new members) into an organization such as a club, through often secret ceremonies 3 to teach fundamentals to: she initiated him into the ballet > *adj* (ɪˈnɪʃi,et) -et 4 initiated; begun > *n* (ɪˈnɪʃi,et) -et 5 a person who has been initiated, esp recently 6 a beginner; novice

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: from Latin *initiare* (vb), from *initium*; see **INITIAL**

initiation (ɪˈnɪʃi,et) *n* 1 the act of initiating or the condition of being initiated 2 the often secret ceremony initiating new members into an organization

initiative (ɪˈnɪʃi,et) *n* 1 the first step or action of a matter; commencing move; he took the initiative; a peace initiative 2 the right or power to begin or initiate something: he has the initiative 3 the ability or attitude required to begin or initiate something 4 government a the right or power to introduce legislation, etc, in a legislative body b the procedure by which citizens originate legislation, as in many American states and Switzerland 5 on one's own initiative without being prompted > *adj* 6 of or concerning initiation or serving to initiate; initiatory > initiatively *adv*

initiator (ɪˈnɪʃi,et) *n* 1 a person or thing that initiates 2 chem a substance that starts a chain reaction 3 chem an explosive used in detonators > initiator or initiator *fm* *n*

initiatory (ɪˈnɪʃi,et) *adj* of or concerning initiation or serving to initiate; initiative

inject (ɪnˈdʒekt) *vb* (tr) 1 med to introduce (a fluid) into (the body of a person or animal) by means of a syringe or similar instrument 2 (foll by into) to introduce (a new aspect or element): to inject humor into a scene 3 to interject (a comment, idea, etc) > 4 to place (a rocket, satellite, etc) in orbit > injectable *adj*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c17: from Latin *injicere* to throw in, from *jacere* to throw

injection (ɪnˈdʒekʃən) *n* 1 fluid injected into the body, esp for medicinal purposes 2 something injected 3 the act of injecting 4 the act or process of introducing fluid under pressure, such as fuel into the combustion chamber of an engine b (as modifier) injection moulding 5 maths a function or mapping for which $f(x) = f(y)$ only if $x = y$. See also surjection, bijection > injective *adj*

injector (ɪnˈdʒektə) *n* 1 a person or thing that injects 2 a device for spraying fuel into the combustion chamber of an internal-combustion engine 3 also: inspirator a device for forcing water into a steam boiler

injera (ɪnˈdʒərə) *n* a white Ethiopian flatbread, similar to a crepe

● **ETYMOLOGY** Amharic

injudicious (ɪnˈdʒuːdɪʃəs) *adj* not discreet; imprudent > injudiciously *adv* > injudiciousness *n*

Injun (ɪnˈdʒən) *n* 1 US an informal or dialect word for (American) Indian 2 honest Injun (interjection) slang genuinely; really

injunction (ɪnˈdʒʌŋkt) *vb* (tr) to issue a legal injunction against (a person)

● **ETYMOLOGY** c19: from Late Latin *injunctionis*; see **ENJOIN**

injunction (ɪnˈdʒʌŋkʃən) *n* 1 law an instruction or order issued by a court to a party to an action, esp to refrain from some act, such as causing a nuisance 2 a command, admonition, etc 3 the act of enjoining > injunctive *adj* > injunctively *adv*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: from Late Latin *injunctionis*, from Latin *injungere* to **ENJOIN**

injure (ɪnˈdʒə) *vb* (tr) 1 to cause physical or mental harm or suffering to; hurt or wound 2 to offend, esp by an injustice > injurable *adj* > injured *adj* > injurer *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: back formation from *INJURY*

injurious (ɪnˈdʒʊəriəs) *adj* 1 causing damage or harm; deleterious; hurtful 2 abusive, slanderous, or libellous > injuriously *adv* > injuriousness *n*

injury (ɪnˈdʒəri) *n*, pl -ries 1 physical damage or hurt 2 a specific instance of this: a leg injury 3 harm done to a reputation 4 law a violation or infringement of another person's rights that causes him harm and is actionable at law 5 an obsolete word for insult

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: from Latin *injurā* injustice, wrong, from *injuriosus* acting unfairly, wrongful, from *in-* + *jus* right

injury list *n* the people who are unable to participate in a sport as expected, due to illness or injury

injury time *n* sport extra playing time added on to compensate for time spent attending to injured players during the match. Also called: stoppage time

injustice (ɪnˈdʒʌstɪs) *n* 1 the condition or practice of being unjust or unfair 2 an unjust act

ink (ɪŋk) *n* 1 a fluid or paste used for printing, writing, and drawing 2 a dark brown fluid ejected into the water for self-concealment by an octopus or related mollusc from a gland (ink sac) near the anus > *vb* (tr) 2 to mark with ink 4 to coat (a printing surface) with ink > See also ink in, ink up >inker *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** c13: from Old French *enque*, from Latin *encaustum* a purplish-red ink, from Greek *enkauston* purple ink, from *enkaustos* burnt in, from *enkaiein* to burn in; see **EN-**, **CAUSTIC**

inkatha (ɪnˈkɑ:tə) *n* a South African Zulu organization founded by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi in 1975 as a paramilitary group seeking nonracial democracy; won four seats in South Africa's first nonracial elections in 1994

● **ETYMOLOGY** c20: Zulu name for the grass coil used by Zulu women carrying loads on their heads, the many strands of which provide its strength and cohesion

inkberry (ɪŋkˈberi) *n*, pl -ries 1 a North American holly tree, *Ilex glabra*, with black berry-like fruits 2 another name for the pokeweed 3 the fruit of either of these plants

inkblot (ɪnˈkblɒt) *n* psychol an abstract patch of ink, one of ten commonly used in the Rorschach test

ink-cap *n* any of several saprothrophic agaricaceous fungi of the genus *Coprinus*, whose caps disintegrate into a black ink fluid after the spores mature. It includes the shaggy ink cap (*Coprinus comatus*), also called lawyer's wig, a distinctive fungus having a white cylindrical cap covered with shaggy white or brownish scales

inkerman (ɪŋkˈmæn; Russian *inkir'man*) *n* a village in Ukraine, in the S Crimea east of Sevastopol; scene of a battle during the Crimean War in which British and French forces defeated the Russians (1854)

inkhorn (ɪŋkˈhɔ:m) *n* (formerly) a small portable container for ink, usually made from horn

inkhorn term *n* an affectedly learned and obscure borrowing from another language, esp Greek or Latin

ink in *vb* (adverb) 1 (tr) to use ink to go over pencil lines in (a drawing) 2 to apply ink to (a printing surface) in preparing to print from it 3 to arrange or confirm definitely

inkjet *n* a method of printing streams of electrically charged ink

inklet (ɪŋkˈlet) *n* 1 a kind of linen tape used for trimmings 2 the thread or yarn from which this tape is woven

● **ETYMOLOGY** c16: of unknown origin

inkling (ɪŋkˈlɪŋ) *n* a slight intimation or suggestion; suspicion

● **ETYMOLOGY** c14: probably from *inclet* to hint at; related to Old English *inca*

inkstand (ɪŋkˈstænd) *n* a stand or tray on which are kept writing implements and containers for ink

ink up *vb* (adverb) to apply ink to (a printing machine) in preparing it for operation

inkwell (ɪŋkˈwel) *n* a small container for pen ink, often let into the surface of a desk

inky (ɪŋki) *adj* inkier, inkier 1 resembling ink, esp in colour; dark or black 2 of, containing, or stained with ink (ink fingers) > inkiness *n*

inkysmudge *n* Austral slang a judge

inkwell *n* printing slang

INLA abbreviation Irish National Liberation Army; a Republican paramilitary organization in Ireland

inlance (ɪnˈleɪs) *vb* a variant spelling of *enlace*

inlaid (ɪnˈleɪd, ɪnˈleɪd) *adj* 1 set in the surface, as a design in wood 2 having such a design or inlay: an inlaid table

inland *adj* (ɪnˈlənd) 1 of, concerning, or located in the interior of a country or region away from a sea or border 2 chiefly Brit operating within a country or region; domestic; not foreign > *n* (ɪnˈlənd, -lənd) 3 the interior of a country or region > *adv* (ɪnˈlənd, -lənd) 4 towards or into the interior of a country or region > inlander *n*

inland bill *n* a bill of exchange that is both drawn and made payable in the same country. Compare foreign bill

Inland Revenue *n* (in Britain and New Zealand) a government board that administers and collects major direct taxes, such as income tax, corporation tax, and capital gains tax. Abbreviation: IR

Inland Sea *n* a sea in SW Japan, between the islands of Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. Japanese name: Seto Naikai

in-law *n* 1 a relative by marriage > *adj* 2 (postpositive; in combination) related by marriage: a father-in-law

● **ETYMOLOGY** c19: back formation from *father-in-law*, etc

inlay *vb* (ɪnˈleɪ) -lays, -laying, -laid (tr) 1 to decorate (an article, esp of furniture, or a surface) by inserting pieces of wood, ivory, etc, into prepared slots in the surface > *n* (ɪnˈleɪ) 2 dentistry a filling, made of gold, porcelain, etc, inserted into a cavity and held in position by cement 3 decoration made by inlaying 4 an inlaid article, surface, etc > inlaid *adj* > inlayer *n*

inlet (ɪnˈlet) *n* 1 a narrow inland opening of the coastline 2 an entrance or opening 3 the act of letting someone or something in 4 something let in or inserted 5 a passage, valve, or part through which a substance, esp a fluid, enters a device or machine b (as modifier) an inlet valve > *vb* (ɪnˈlet) -lets, -letting, -let 6 (tr) to insert or inlay

probative (ˈprɒbətɪv) or **probatory** (ˈprɒbətɔːri, -tri) *adj* 1 serving to test or designed for testing 2 providing proof or evidence > **probatively** *adv*

● **ETymology** *cis*: from Late Latin *probativus*

concerning proof

probe (prəʊb) *vb* 1 (tr) to search into or question closely 2 to examine (something) with or as if with a probe *n* 3 something that probes, examines, or tests 4 *urgery* a slender and usually flexible instrument for exploring a wound, sinus, etc 5 a thorough inquiry, such as one by a newspaper into corrupt practices 6 *electronics* a lead connecting to or containing a measuring or monitoring circuit used for testing 7 *electronics* a conductor inserted into a waveguide or cavity resonator to provide coupling to an external circuit 8 any of various devices that provide a coupling link, esp a flexible tube extended from an aircraft to link it with another so that it can refuel 9 *see* **space probe** > **probeable** *adj* > **prober** *n*

● **ETymology** *cis*: from Medieval Latin *proba*

investigation, from Latin *proba* to test

probiotic (ˈprɒbiəʊtɪk) *n* 1 a harmless bacterium that helps to protect the body from harmful bacteria 2 a substance that encourages the growth of natural healthy bacteria in the gut > *3* *adj* or relating to probiotics: *probiotic yogurt*

● **ETymology** *czo*: from *pro-* + (ANTH)BIOTIC

probity (ˈprɒbɪtɪ) *n* confirmed integrity; uprightness

● **ETymology** *cis*: from Latin *probitas* honesty, from *probus* virtuous

problem (ˈprɒbləm) *n* 1 a thing, matter, person, etc, that is difficult to deal with, solve, or overcome *b* (as modifier): *a problem child* 2 a puzzle, question, etc, set for solution 3 *maths* a statement requiring a solution usually by means of one or more operations or geometric constructions 4 (modifier) designating a literary work that deals with difficult moral questions: *a problem play*

● **ETymology** *cis*: from Late Latin *problēma*, from Greek: something put forward; related to *proballō* to throw forwards, from *pro-* + *ballō* to throw

problematic (ˈprɒbləˈmætɪk) or **problematical** *adj* 1 having the nature or appearance of a problem; questionable 2 *logic* obsolete (of a proposition) asserting that a property may or may not hold. Compare *apodeictic* (sense 2), *assertoric* > **problematically** *adv*

problem page *n* a feature in a newspaper, magazine, etc in which readers' problems are published and answers supplied

pro bono publico Latin (ˈprəʊˈbɒnəʊˈpʊblɪkəʊ) for the public good

proboscidean or **proboscidian** (ˈprɒbəʊˈsɪdiən) *adj* 1 of, relating to, or belonging to the *Proboscidea*, an order of massive herbivorous placental mammals having tusks and a long trunk: contains the elephants > *n* 2 any proboscidean animal **proboscis** (ˈprɒbəʊˈsɪs) *n* *pl* -cises or -cides (-sɪdɪz) 1 a long flexible prehensile trunk or snout, as of an elephant 2 the elongated mouthparts of certain insects, adapted for piercing or sucking food 3 any similar part or organ 4 *informal*, facetious a person's nose, esp if large

● **ETymology** *cis*: via Latin from Greek *proboskīs* trunk of an elephant, from *boskein* to feed

proboscis monkey *n* an Old World monkey, *Nasalis larvatus*, of Borneo, with an elongated bulbous nose

pro-British *adj* in favour of or supporting Britain, its people, culture, etc

probusiness (ˈprɒbɪzɪnɪs) *adj* in favour of or supporting the practices of business

proc. abbreviation 1 procedure 2 proceedings

procaine (ˈprɒkeɪn, ˈprəʊkeɪn) *n* a colourless or white crystalline water-soluble substance used, as the hydrochloride, as a local anaesthetic; 2-diethylaminoethyl-4-amino benzoate. Formula: $\text{NH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{COOC}_2\text{H}_5\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$. See also *Novocaine*

● **ETymology** *czo*: from *pro-* + (CO)CAINE

procambiom (ˈprɒkæmbiəm) *n* undifferentiated plant tissue, just behind the growing tip in stems and roots, that develops into conducting tissues > *pro* cambial *adj*

● **ETymology** *cis*: from *pro-* + CAMBIUM

procapitalist (ˈprɒkæpɪtəlɪst) *adj* in favour of or supporting capitalist policies and ideologies

procarp (ˈprɒkɑːp) *n* a female reproductive organ in red algae

● **ETymology** *cis*: from New Latin *procarpum*, from *pro-* + *carpum*, from Greek *karpos* fruit

procaryste (ˈprɒkærɪst) *n* a variant spelling of prokaryote

procathebral (ˈprɒkæθɪdrəl) *n* a church serving as a cathedral

procedural agreement *n* regulations agreed between the parties to collective bargaining, defining the bargaining units, bargaining scope, procedures for collective bargaining, and the facilities to be provided to trade union representatives

procedure (ˈprəːsɪdʒə) *n* 1 a way of acting or progressing in a course of action, esp an established method 2 the established mode or form of conducting the business of a legislature, the enforcement of a legal right, etc 3 *computing* another name for *subroutine* > **procedural** *adj* > **procedurally** *adv*

proceed (ˈprəːsɪd) *vb* (intr) 1 (often foll by *to*) to advance or carry on, esp after stopping 2 (often foll by *with*) to undertake and continue (something or to do something): *he proceeded with his reading* 3 (often foll by *against*) to institute or carry on a legal action 4 to emerge or originate; arise: *evil proceeds from the heart* > See also **proceeds** > **proceeder** *n*

● **ETymology** *cis*: from Latin *procedere* to advance, from *pro-* + *cedere* to go

proceeding (ˈprəːsɪdɪŋ) *n* 1 an act or course of action 2 the institution of a legal action *b* any step taken in a legal action 3 (plural) the minutes of the meetings of a club, society, etc 4 (plural) legal action; litigation 5 (plural) the events of an occasion, meeting, etc

proceeds (ˈprəʊsɪdɪz) *pl* *n* 1 the profit or return derived from a commercial transaction, investment, etc 2 the result, esp the revenue or total sum, accruing from some undertaking or course of action, as in commerce

proceleusmatic (ˈprɒsɪləsˈmætɪk) *prosody* > *adj* 1 denoting or consisting of a metrical foot of four short syllables > *n* 2 a proceleusmatic metrical foot

● **ETymology** *cis*: from Late Latin *proceleusmaticus*, from Greek *prokeleusmaticos*, from *prokeleuein* to drive on, from *pro-* + *keleuein* to give orders

procephalic (ˈprəʊsɪˈfælk) *adj* anatomy of or relating to the anterior part of the head

process (ˈprəʊses) *n* 1 a series of actions that produce a change or development: *the process of digestion* 2 a method of doing or producing something 3 a forward movement 4 the course of time 5 a summons, writ, etc, commanding a person to appear in court *b* the whole proceedings in an action at law 6 a natural outgrowth or projection of a part, organ, or organism 7 a distinct subtask of a computer system which can be regarded as proceeding in parallel with other subtasks of the system 8 (modifier) relating to the general preparation of a printing form or plate by the use, at some stage, of photography 9 (modifier) denoting a film, film scene, shot, etc, made by techniques that produce unusual optical effects > *vb* (tr) (to) to subject to a routine procedure; handle 11 to treat or prepare by a special method, esp to treat (food) in order to preserve it: *to process cheese* 12 *a* to institute legal proceedings against *b* to serve a process on 13 *photog* *a* to develop, rinse, fix, wash, and dry (exposed film, etc) *b* to produce final prints or slides from (undeveloped film) 14 *computing* to perform mathematical and logical operations on (data) according to programmed instructions in order to obtain the required information 15 to prepare (food) using a food processor

● **ETymology** *cis*: from Old French *proceās*, from Latin *processus* an advancing, from *procedere* to proceed

processes (ˈprəːses) *vb* (intr) to proceed in or as if in a procession

● **ETymology** *cis*: back formation from *PROCESSION*

process camera *n* printing a large camera used in the photographic processes involved in the printing industry

process colour *n* printing any of the four colours (cyan, magenta, yellow, and black) used in process printing

process engineering *n* the branch of engineering concerned with industrial processes, esp continuous ones, such as the production of petrochemicals > *process engineer* *n*

procession (ˈprɒˌseʃən) *n* 1 the act of proceeding in a regular formation 2 a group of people or things moving forwards in an orderly, regular, or ceremonial manner 3 a hymn, litany, etc, sung in a procession 4 *Christianity* the emanation of the Holy Spirit > *vb* (intr) *rare* to go in procession

● **ETymology** *cis*: via Old French from Latin *processio* a marching forwards

processional (ˈprɒˌseʃənəl) *adj* 1 of, relating to, or suitable for a procession > *n* 2 *Christianity* a book containing the prayers, hymns, litanies, and liturgy prescribed for processions *b* a hymn, litany, etc, used in a procession > **processionally** *adv*

processionary (ˈprɒˌseʃənəri) *adj* 1 of, relating to, or moving in a procession > *n* 2 a processionary moth

processionary moth *n* a moth of the family *Thaumetopoeidae*, esp the oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*), the larvae of which leave the communal shelter nightly for food in a V-shaped procession

processor (ˈprəʊsesə) *n* 1 *computing* another name for *central processing unit* 2 a person or thing that carries out a process

process printing *n* a method of making reproductions of a coloured picture, usually by using four halftone plates for different coloured inks

process-server *n* a sheriff's officer who serves legal documents such as writs for appearance in court

procès-verbal French (ˈprɒˌseːvəˈbəl) *n*, *pl* -baux (-bə) a written record of an official proceeding; minutes

● **ETymology** *cis*: from French: see **PROCESS**, **VERBAL**

pro-Chinese *adj* in favour of or supporting China, its people, culture, etc

pro-choice *adj* (of an organization, pressure group, etc) supporting the right of a woman to have an abortion. Compare *pro-life*

prochronism (ˈprəʊkrəˌnɪzəm) *n* an error in dating that places an event earlier than it actually occurred. Compare *parachronism*

● **ETymology** *cis*: from *pro-* + Greek *khronos* time + -ISM, by analogy with *ANACHRONISM*

proclaim (ˈprɒˌkleɪm) *vb* (tr) 1 (may take a clause as object) to announce publicly 2 (may take a clause as object) to show or indicate plainly 3 to praise or extol > *proclamator* *n* > **proclamation** (ˈprɒˌkleɪməʃən) *n* > **proclamatory** (ˈprɒˌkleɪmətri, -tri) *adj*

● **ETymology** *cis*: from Latin *proclāmare* to shout aloud

proclitic (ˈprɒˌklɪtɪk) *adj* 1 a relating to or denoting a monosyllabic word or form having no stress or accent and pronounced as a prefix of the following word, as in English 't for it in 'twas *b* (in classical Greek) relating to or denoting a word that throws its accent onto the following word > *n* 2 a proclitic word or form > Compare *enclitic*

● **ETymology** *cis*: from New Latin *procliticus*, from Greek *proklētin* to lean forwards; formed on the model of *ENCLITIC*

proclivity (ˈprɒˌklɪvɪtɪ) *n*, *pl* -ties a tendency or inclination

● **ETymology** *cis*: from Latin *proclivitas*, from *proclivis* steep, from *pro-* + *clivus* a slope

Procne (ˈprɒkni) *n* a Greek myth a princess of Athens, who punished her husband for raping her sister Philomela by feeding him the flesh of their son. She was changed at her death into a swallow. See *Philomela*

pro-Communist *adj* 1 in favour of or supporting Communist policies and ideologies etc > *n* 2 a person who is pro-Communist

prolusion (prə'lu:ʒən) *n* 1 a preliminary written exercise 2 an introductory essay, sometimes of a slight or tentative nature > **prolusionary** (prə'lu:ʒən) *adj*

● **ETymology** C17: from Latin *prolūsiō* preliminary exercise, from *prolūdere* to practise beforehand, from *pro-* + *lūdere* to play

prom (prəm) *n* 1 Brit short for **promenade** (sense 1), **promenade** concert 2 US and Canadian informal short for **promenade** (sense 3)

PROM (prəm) *n* acronym computing programmable read only memory

promenade (prə'mə:nə:d) *n* 1 chiefly Brit a public walk, esp at a seaside resort 2 a leisurely walk, esp in a public place for pleasure or display 3 US and Canadian a ball or formal dance at a high school or college 4 a marchlike step in dancing 5 a marching sequence in a square or country dance > *v* **vb** 6 to take a promenade in or through (a place) 7 (*intr*) dancing to perform a promenade 8 (*tr*) to display or exhibit (someone or oneself) on or as if on a promenade > **promenader** *n*

● **ETymology** C16: from French, from *promener* to lead out for a walk, from Late Latin *promināre* to drive (cattle) along, from *pro-* + *mināre* to drive, probably from *mināre* to threaten

promenade concert *n* a concert at which some of the audience stand rather than sit. Often shortened to: **prom**

promenade deck *n* an upper covered deck of a passenger ship for the use of the passengers

promethazine (prə'meθə:zɪn) *n* an antihistamine drug used to treat allergies and to prevent vomiting, esp in motion sickness

● **ETymology** C20: from *PRO* (Pyl) + (*di*)meth(ylamine) + (PHENOTH)AZINE

Prometheus (prə'mi:θi:ən) *adj* 1 of or relating to Prometheus 2 creative, original, or life-enhancing > *n* 3 a person who resembles Prometheus

Prometheus (prə'mi:θi:əs) *n* Greek myth a Titan, who stole fire from Olympus to give to mankind and in punishment was chained to a rock, where an eagle tore at his liver until Hercules freed him

promethium (prə'mi:θi:əm) *n* a radioactive element of the lanthanide series artificially produced by the fission of uranium. Symbol: Pm; atomic no 61; half-life of most stable isotope, ¹⁴⁷Pm: 17.7 years; valency: 3; melting pt: 1042°C; boiling pt: 2460°C (approx.)

● **ETymology** C20: New Latin from **PROMETHEUS**

promilitary (prə'militəri) *adj* in favour of or supporting military organizations, operations, or action

prominence (prə'minəns) *n* 1 the state or quality of being prominent 2 something that is prominent, such as a protuberance 3 relative importance or consequence 4 astronomy an eruption of incandescent gas from the sun's surface that can reach an altitude of several hundred thousand kilometres. Prominences are visible during a total eclipse. When viewed in front of the brighter solar disc, they are called filaments

prominent (prə'minənt) *adj* 1 jutting or projecting outwards 2 standing out from its surroundings; noticeable 3 widely known; eminent > **prominently** *adv* > **prominentness** *n*

● **ETymology** C16: from Latin *prominēre* to jut out, from *pro-* + *eminēre* to project

prominent moth *n* any moth of the family *Notodontidae* characterized by tufts of scales on the back edge of the forewing that stand up prominently at rest and give the group its name. It includes the puss moth and buff-tip as well as those with prominent in the name

promiscuity (prə'mɪskju:ɪti) *n* 1 promiscuous sexual behaviour 2 indiscriminate mingling, mixture, or confusion, as of parts or elements

promiscuous (prə'mɪskju:əs) *adj* 1 indulging in casual and indiscriminate sexual relationships 2 consisting of a number of dissimilar parts or elements mingled in a confused or indiscriminate manner 3 indiscriminate in selection 4 casual or heedless > **promiscuously** *adv* > **promiscuousness** *n*

● **ETymology** C17: from Latin *promiscuus* indiscriminate, from *pro-* + *miscere* to mix

promise ('prɒmɪs) *vb* 1 (often foll by *to*; when *tr*, *may* take a clause as object or an infinitive) to give an assurance of (something to someone); undertake (to do something) in the future: I promise that I will come 2 (*tr*) to undertake to give (something to someone): he promised me a car for my birthday 3 (when *tr*, takes an infinitive) to cause one to expect that in the future one is likely to be or do something: she promises to be a fine soprano 4 (usually passive) to engage to be married; betroth: I'm promised to Bill 5 (*tr*) to assure (someone) of the authenticity or inevitability of something (often in the parenthetical phrase I promise you), use to emphasize a statement: 'there'll be trouble, I promise you' > *n* 6 an undertaking or assurance given by one person to another agreeing or guaranteeing to do or give something, or not to do or give something, in the future 7 indication of forthcoming excellence or goodness: a writer showing considerable promise 8 the thing of which an assurance is given > **promiser** *n*

● **ETymology** C14: from Latin *promissum* a promise, from *promittere* to send forth

Promised Land *n* 1 Old Testament the land of Canaan, promised by God to Abraham and his descendants as their heritage (Genesis 12:7) 2 heaven, esp when considered as the goal towards which Christians journey in their earthly lives 3 any longed-for place where one expects to find greater happiness or fulfillment

promise (prə'mɪs) *n* 1 a contract law a person to whom a promise is made. See showing promise

promising ('prɒmɪsɪŋ) *adj* showing promise of favourable development or future success > **promisingly** *adv*

promisor ('prɒmɪsɪə) *n* 1 a contract law a person who makes a promise. Compare promisee

promissory ('prɒmɪsɪəri) *adj* 1 containing, relating to, or having the nature of a promise 2 insurance stipulating how the provisions of an insurance contract will be fulfilled after it has been signed

promissory note *n* chiefly US commerce a document, usually negotiable, containing a signed promise to pay a stated sum of money to a specified person at a designated date or on demand. Also called: note, note of hand

promo ('prɒməʊ) *n*, *pl* -mos *n* informal something that is used to promote a product, esp a videotape film used to promote a pop record *b* (as modifier): a promo video

● **ETymology** C20: shortened from **promotion**

promonarchist ('prɒmənɑ:kɪst) *adj* in favour of or supporting the monarchy

promontory ('prɒməntəri) *n*, *pl* -ries 1 a high point of land, esp of rocky coast, that juts out into the sea 2 anatomy any of various projecting structures

● **ETymology** C16: from Latin *promonturiū* headland; related to *prominere*; see **prominent**

promote ('prɒməʊt) *vb* (tr) 1 to further or encourage the progress or existence of 2 to raise to a higher rank, status, degree, etc 3 to advance (a pupil or student) to a higher course, class, etc 4 to urge the adoption of; work for: to promote reform 5 to encourage the sale of (a product) by advertising or securing financial support 6 chess to exchange (a pawn) for any piece other than a king when the pawn reaches the 8th rank > **promotable** *adj* > **promotion** *n* > **promotional** *adj*

● **ETymology** C14: from Latin *promovere* to push onwards, from *pro-* + *movere* to move

promoter ('prɒməʊtə) *n* 1 a person or thing that promotes 2 a person who helps to organize, develop, or finance an undertaking 3 a person who organizes and finances a sporting event, esp a boxing match 4 chem a substance added in small amounts to a catalyst to increase its activity 5 genetics a sequence of nucleotides, associated with a structural gene, that must bind with messenger RNA polymerase before transcription can proceed

promotive (prə'məʊtɪv) *adj* tending to promote > **promotiveness** *n*

prompt ('prɒmpt) *adj* 1 performed or executed without delay 2 quick or ready to act or respond > *adv* 3 informal punctually > *vb* 4 (*tr*) to urge

(someone to do something) 5 to remind (an actor, singer, etc) of lines forgotten during a performance 6 (*tr*) to refresh the memory of 7 (*tr*) to give rise to by suggestion: his affairs will prompt discussion > *n* 8 commerce a the time limit allowed for payment of the debt incurred by purchasing goods or services on credit b the contract specifying this time limit c also called: **prompt note** a memorandum sent to a purchaser to remind him of the time limit and the sum due 9 the act of prompting 10 anything that serves to remind 11 an aid to the operator of a computer in the form of a question or statement that appears on the screen showing that the equipment is ready to proceed and indicating the options available > **promptly** *adv* > **promptness** *n*

● **ETymology** C15: from Latin *promptus* evident, from *promere* to produce, from *pro-* + *emere* to buy

promptbook ('prɒmptbʊk) *n* the production script of a play containing notes, cues, etc

prompter ('prɒmptə) *n* 1 a person offstage who reminds the actors of forgotten lines or cues 2 a person, thing, etc, that prompts

promptitude ('prɒmptɪtju:d) *n* the quality of being prompt; punctuality

prompt side *n* theatre the side of the stage where the prompter is, usually to the actor's left in Britain and to his right in the United States

promulgate ('prɒmʌlɡeɪt) *vb* (tr) 1 to put into effect (a law, decree, etc), esp by formal proclamation 2 to announce or declare officially 3 to make widespread > *Also* (archaic): **promulge** (prə'mʌldʒ) > **promulgation** *n* > **promulgator** *n*

● **ETymology** C16: from Latin *promulgāre* to bring to public knowledge; probably related to *promulgare* to publicize, from *pro-* + *vulgāre* to make common, from *vulgus* the common people

promycelium ('prɒmaɪsɪliəm) *n*, *pl* -lia (-lia) *botany* a short tubular outgrowth from certain germinating fungal spores that produces spores itself and then dies > **promycelial** *adj*

● **ETymology** C19: New Latin from *pro-* + *MYCELIUM*

pron *abbreviation* 1 pronominal 2 pronoun 3 pronounced 4 pronunciation

prone ('prəʊneɪt) *vb* (tr) to turn (a limb, hand, or foot) so that the palm or sole is directed downwards > **proneation** *n*

● **ETymology** C19: from Late Latin *prōnāre* to bend forwards, bow

pronator ('prəʊneɪtə) *n* any muscle whose contractions produce or affect pronation

prone ('prɒn) *adj* 1 lying flat or face downwards; prostrate 2 sloping or tending downwards 3 having an inclination to do something > **proneily** *adv* > **proneness** *n*

● **ETymology** C14: from Latin *prōnus* bent forward, from *pro-*

-prone *adj* combining form liable or disposed to suffer: accident-prone

pronephros ('prəʊnefrɒs) *n*, *pl* -roi (-rɔɪ) or -ra (-rə) the first-formed anterior part of the embryonic kidney in vertebrates, which remains functional in the larvae of the lower vertebrates. See also **mesonephros**, **metanephros** > **pronephric** *adj*

● **ETymology** C19: New Latin, from *pro-* + Greek *nephros* kidney

prong ('prɒŋ) *n* 1 a sharply pointed end of an instrument, such as on a fork 2 any pointed projecting part > *vb* 3 (*tr*) to prick or spear with or as if with a prong > **pronged** *adj*

● **ETymology** C15: related to Middle Low German *prange* a stake, Gothic *anprangan* to afflict

pronghorn ('prɒŋhɔ:n) *n* a ruminant mammal, *Antilocapra americana*, inhabiting rocky deserts of North America and having small branched horns; family *Antilocapridae*. Also called: American antelope

prong key *n* a key or spanner with two prongs or projections which engage corresponding holes in the face of a nut or component to be turned for tightening, adjustment, etc

pronominal ('prɒnəminəl) *adj* relating to or playing the part of a pronoun > **pronominally** *adv*

● **ETymology** C17: from Late Latin *prōnominālis*, from *prōnomen* + *prōnomen*