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THE BEST! The Most Common, Up-to-Date Meanings Given First

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pikake (pē'kā kā'), *n.*, *pl.* **-kes**. a climbing vine, *Jasminum sambac*, of the olive family, probably of Asian origin, having fragrant white flowers: used to flavor jasmine tea and in Hawaii to make leis. [1935-40; < Hawaiian *pikake* lit., PEACOCK]

pike¹ (pik), *n.*, *pl.* **-kes** (collectively) **pikes**, (*esp.* for kinds or species) **pikes**. 1. any of several large, slender, voracious freshwater fishes of the genus *Esox*, having a long, flat snout. 2. any of various superficially similar fishes, as the walleye or pikeperch. [1275-1325; ME; so called from its pointed snout (see **PIKE**)]

pike² (pik), *n.*, *v.*, **piked**, **pik-ing**. —*n.* 1. a shafted weapon having a pointed head, formerly used by infantry. —*v.t.* 2. to pierce, wound, or kill with a pike. [1505-15; < MF *pique*, fem. var. of *pic* *pick* < Gmc. See **PIKE**, **PIQUE**]

pike³ (pik), *n.* 1. a toll road or highway; turnpike. 2. a tollgate. 3. the toll paid at a tollgate. [1820-30, Amer.; short for **TURNPIKE**]

pike⁴ (pik), *n.* 1. a sharply pointed projection or spike. 2. the pointed end of anything, as of an arrow or a spear. [bef. 900; ME *pik* *pick*, spike, (pilgrim's) staff, OE *pic* pointed tool. See **PICK**]

pike⁵ (pik), *n.* a midair position assumed by divers and gymnasts in which the torso and head are bent forward and the legs held together with knees straight. [1955-60; perh. identical with **PIKE**]

Pike (pik), *n.* Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813, U.S. general and explorer.

pike-perch (pik'purch'), *n.*, *pl.* (*esp.* collectively) **-perch**, (*esp.* for kinds or species) **-perches**. any of several pikelike fishes, esp. the walleye.

pik-er (pik'ər), *n.* 1. a person who does anything in a contemptibly small or cheap way. 2. a person who gambles or speculates in a cautious way. [1275-1325; ME: petty thief = *pik(en)* to *pick* + *-er* *-ER*; cf. dial. (N England, Scots, Hiberno-E) *pike* to *pick*]

Pikes/ Peak, *n.* a mountain in central Colorado: a peak of the Rocky Mountains. 14,098 ft. (4300 m).

pik-staff (pik'staf', -staf'), *n.*, *pl.* **-staves** (-stāvz'). 1. the shaft of an infantry pike. 2. a staff with a metal spike at the lower end.

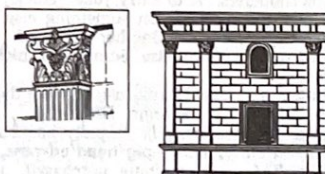
Pik Po-be-dy (pyək' pu byē'di), *n.* Russian name of POBEDA PEAK.

pi-laf or **pi-laff** (pē'lāf, pi lāf'), also **pilau**, *n.* a Middle Eastern dish of rice cooked in bouillon, sometimes with meat or shellfish. [1925-30; < Turkish *pilāv* < Pers *pilāw*]

pi-lar (pī'lār), *adj.* of, pertaining to, or covered with hair. [1855-60; < NL *pilāris* of hair. See **PILE**, *-AR*]

pi-las-ter (pi las'tər), *n.* a shallow rectangular feature projecting from a wall, usu. having a capital and base and imitating the form of a column. [1565-75; *PILE* (in obs. sense "pillar") + *-ASTER*, modeled on It *pilastro* or ML *pilastrum*] —**pi-las'tered**, *adj.*

pilasters



Pi-late (pī'lāt), *n.* **Pon-tius** (pon'shās, -tē əs), fl. early 1st century A.D., Roman procurator of Judea A.D. 26-36?

Pi-la-tus (pē lā'təs), *n.* a mountain in central Switzerland, near Lucerne: a peak of the Alps. 6998 ft. (2130 m).

pi-lau or **pi-law** (pē'lō, -lou, pi lō', -lou'), *n.* **PILAF**.

pil-chard (pil'chərd), *n.* 1. a small, S European marine fish, *Sardina pilchardus*, related to the herring but smaller and rounder. 2. any of several related fishes, as *Sardinops sagax*, common off the California coast. [1520-30; earlier *pilcher*; orig. uncert.]

Pil-co-ma-yo (pēl'kə mā'yō), *n.* a river in S central South America, flowing SE from Bolivia along the border between Paraguay and Argentina to the Paraguay River at Asunción. 1000 mi. (1610 km) long.

pile¹ (pīl), *n.*, *v.*, **piled**, **pile-ing**. —*n.* 1. an assemblage of things laid or lying one upon the other: a pile of papers. 2. a large number, quantity, or amount of anything: a pile of work. 3. a heap of wood on which a dead body, a living person, or a sacrifice is burned; pyre. 4. a lofty or large building or group of buildings: the noble pile of Windsor Castle. 5. *Informal*. a large accumulation of money. 6. **REACTOR** (def. 3). 7. **VOLTAIC PILE**. —*v.t.* 8. to lay or dispose in a pile: to pile up leaves. 9. to accumulate or store (often fol. by *up*): to pile up money. 10. to cover or load with a pile. —*v.i.* 11. to accumulate, as money, debts, evidence, etc. (usu. fol. by *up*). 12. to move as a group in a more or less disorderly cluster. 13. to gather or rise in a pile (often fol. by *up*). [1350-1400; < MF < L *pila* pillar, mole of stone]

pile² (pīl), *n.*, *v.*, **piled**, **pile-ing**. —*n.* 1. a cylindrical or flat member of wood, steel, concrete, etc., hammered vertically into soil to form part of a foundation or retaining wall. 2. a triangular heraldic charge. 3. the sharp head or striking end of an arrow. —*v.t.* 4. to drive piles into. [bef. 1000; ME; OE *pīl* shaft < L *pīlum* javelin]

pile³ (pīl), *n.* 1. a surface or thickness of soft hair, down, wool, or other pelage. 2. a soft or brushy surface on cloth, rugs, etc., formed by upright yarns that have been cut straight across or left standing in loops. [1300-50; ME *piles* hair, plumage < L *pilus* hair] —**piled**, *adj.*

pile⁴ (pīl), *n.* **USU.**, **piles**. **HEMORRHOID**. [1375-1425; late ME *pyles* (pl.) < L *pilae* lit., balls. See **PILL**]

pi-le-ate (pī'lē it, -āt', pī'lē-), *adj.* having a pileus. [1820-30; < L *pīleatus* capped. See **PILEUS**, *-ATE*]

pi-le-at-ed (pī'lē ā'tid, pī'lē-), *adj.* **Ornith.** crested. [1720-30]

pi-leated wood/pecker, *n.* a large, black-and-white North American woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*, having a prominent red crest.

pile/ driver, *n.* a machine for driving piles, usu. composed of a tall framework in which either a weight is raised and dropped on a pile head or in which a steam hammer drives the pile. [1765-75]

pi-le-um (pī'lē əm, pī'lē-), *n.*, *pl.* **pi-le-a** (pī'lē ə, pī'lē ə). the top of the head of a bird, from the base of the bill to the nape. [1870-75; < NL; L *pīleum*, neut. var. of *pīleus* felt cap]

pile-up (pīl'up'), *n.* 1. a collision of several or many moving vehicles. 2. an accumulation, as of chores or bills. 3. a rough or disorderly falling of people upon one another, as in a football game. [1825-35]

pi-le-us (pī'lē əs, pī'lē-), *n.*, *pl.* **pi-le-i** (pī'lē ī', pī'lē ī'). 1. the horizontal portion of a mushroom, bearing gills, tubes, etc., on its underside; a cap. 2. the umbrella or bell of a jellyfish. 3. **PILEUM**. 4. a felt skullcap worn by the ancient Romans and Greeks. [1750-60; < NL; L *pīleus* felt cap; akin to Gk *pīlos* felt, felt cap]

pil-fer (pīl'fər), *v.i.*, *v.t.* to steal, esp. in small quantities. [1540-50; v. use of late ME *pilfre* booty < MF *pelfre*. See **PELF**] —**pil-fer-age** (-ij), *n.* —**pil-fer-er**, *n.*

pil-gar-lic (pil gār'lik), *n.* 1. a person regarded with mild or pretended contempt or pity. 2. *Obs.* a baldheaded man. [1520-30; earlier *pyllyd garleke* lit., peeled garlic, (metaphorically, a bald man); see **PEEL**, **GARLIC**] —**pil-gar/lick-y**, *adj.*

pil-grim (pil'grim, -gram), *n.* 1. a person who journeys, esp. a long distance, to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion. 2. a traveler or wanderer, esp. in a foreign place. 3. (*cap.*) one of the band of Puritans who founded the colony of Plymouth, Mass., in 1620. [1150-1200; ME *pilgrim*, *pelegrim*, c. OHG *pilgrim*, ON *pilagrīm*, all < ML *pēgrīnus*, dissimilated var. of L *peregrīnus* PEREGRINE]

pil-grim-age (pil'grā mij), *n.* 1. a journey, esp. a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion. 2. any long journey, esp. one undertaken as a quest or act of devotion. [1200-50; ME *pilgrimage*; r. earlier *pelrimage*, alter. of OF *pelerinage*] —**Syn.** See **TRIP**.

pi-li (pī'li), *n.* **Biol.** *pl.* of **PILUS**.

pil-i-form (pil'ə fōrm'), *adj.* having the form of a hair; resembling hair. [1820-30; < NL *piliformis*. See **PILUS**, *-I-*, *-FORM*]

pil-ing (pī'ling), *n.* 1. a mass of building piles considered collectively. 2. a structure composed of piles. [1400-50]

Pil-i-pi-no (pil'ə pē'nō), *n.* a lingua franca and official language in the Philippines, based on the spoken Tagalog of Manila.

pill (pil), *n.* 1. a small tablet or capsule of medicine, usu. designed to be swallowed whole or dissolved in the mouth. 2. something unpleasant that has to be accepted or endured. 3. *Slang*. a tiresomely disagreeable person. 4. *Slang*. a ball, esp. a baseball or golf ball. 5. *the pill*, (*sometimes cap.*) **BIRTH-CONTROL PILL**. —*v.t.* 6. to form or make into pills. 7. *Slang*. to blackmail. —*v.i.* 8. to develop small, pill-like balls of fuzz on the surface, as a wool sweater. [1375-1425; late ME *pille* < MLG, MD *pille* < L *pilula*, dim. of *pila* ball; see *-ULE*]

pil-lage (pil'ij), *v.*, **-laged**, **-lag-ing**, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to strip ruthlessly of money or goods by open violence, as in war; plunder. 2. to take as booty. —*v.i.* 3. to rob with open violence; take booty. —*n.* 4. the act of plundering, esp. in war. 5. booty. [1350-1400; ME *pilage* < MF *pillage*, der. of *piller* to pillage, orig., to abuse, tear] —**pil-lager**, *n.*

pil-lar (pil'ər), *n.* 1. an upright shaft or structure, of stone, brick, or other material, relatively slender in proportion to its height, and of any shape in section, used as a building support, or standing alone, as for a monument. 2. a natural formation resembling such a construction: a pillar of smoke. 3. any upright, supporting part; post. 4. a person who is a chief supporter of a state, institution, etc. 5. (in a mine) an isolated mass of rock or ore, usu. serving as a roof support. —*v.t.* 6. to provide or support with pillars. —*Idiom*. 7. from pillar to post, a. from place to place, esp. aimlessly. b. from one bad situation or predicament to another. [1175-1225; ME *pīler* (< OF), *pīllare* < ML *pīlare*; see **PILE**, *-AR*] —**pil'lared**, *adj.*

Pil-lars of Her-cules, *n.pl.* the two promontories on either side of the eastern end of the Strait of Gibraltar, the Rock of Gibraltar in Europe and the Jebel Musa in Africa.

pill-box (pil'boks'), *n.* 1. a small box for holding pills. 2. a small, boxlike fortification for machine guns or antitank weapons. 3. a small, round, brimless hat with straight sides and a flat top. [1720-30]

pill/ bug, *n.* any of various small terrestrial isopods, esp. of the genera *Armadillidium* and *Oniscus*, that can roll themselves up into a spherical shape. [1835-45, Amer.]

pil-lion (pil'yən), *n.* 1. a pad or cushion attached behind the saddle of a horse, esp. as a seat for a woman. 2. a pad, cushion, or saddle used as a passenger seat on a bicycle, motorcycle, etc. —*adv.* 3. seated on a pillion: to ride pillion. [1495-1505; < ScotGael *pīllinn* or Ir *pīllín*, dim. of *peall* skin, rug blanket, Mir *pell* < L *pellis* skin]

pil-lo-ry (pil'ə rē), *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**, *v.*, **-ried**, **-ry-ing**. —*n.* 1. a wooden framework erected on a post, with holes for securing the head and hands, formerly used to expose an offender to public derision. —*v.t.* 2. to set in the pillory. 3. to expose to public derision or abuse. [1225-75; ME *pyllory* < OF *pīlōri*, perh. < ML *pīlōrium* = L *pīl(a)* pillar (see **PILE**) + *-ōrium* *-ORY*]

pil-low (pil'ō), *n.* 1. a cloth bag or case filled with feathers, foam rubber, or other soft material, used to cushion the head during sleep or rest. 2. a similar cushion, esp. a small one used for decoration, as on a sofa. 3. anything used to cushion the head: a pillow of moss. 4.