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ment. 2 short for **Member of Congress**. 3 a member of some other legislative body.

Member of Congress *n* a member of the U.S. Congress, esp. of the House of Representatives.

Member of Parliament *n* a member of the House of Commons or similar legislative body, as in many Commonwealth countries. Abbrev.: **MP**.

membership ('membəʃɪp) *n* 1 the members of an organization collectively. 2 the state of being a member.

membrane ('membren) *n* 1 any thin pliable sheet of material. 2 a pliable sheetlike usually fibrous tissue that covers, lines, or connects plant and animal organs or cells. 3 *Biology*. a double layer of lipid, containing some proteins, that surrounds biological cells and some of their internal structures. 4 *Physics*. a two-dimensional entity postulated as a fundamental constituent of matter in some theories of particle physics. 5 a skin of parchment forming part of a roll. [C16: from Latin *membrāna* skin covering a part of the body, from *membrum* MEMBER]

membrane bone *n* any bone that develops within membranous tissue, such as the clavicle and bones of the skull, without cartilage formation. Compare **cartilage bone**.

membrane transport *n* the process by which physiologically important substances, such as calcium ions, sugars, etc., are conveyed across a biological membrane.

membranous ('membənəs, mem'breɪnəs), **membraneous** (mem'breɪnəs), or **membranaceous** ('membərəneɪʃəs) *adj* of or relating to a membrane. ▶ **'membranously** *adv*

Memel ('meɪmə) *n* 1 the German name for **Klaipėda**. 2 the lower course of the Neman River.

memento (mɪ'mentəʊ) *n*, *pl* -tos or -toes. 1 something that reminds one of past events; souvenir. 2 *R.C. Church*. either of two prayers occurring during the Mass. [C15: from Latin, imperative of *meminisse* to remember]

memento mori ('mɔ:ri) *n* an object, such as a skull, intended to remind people of the inevitability of death. [C16: Latin: remember you must die]

Memling ('memlɪŋ) or **Memlinc** ('memlɪŋk) *n* Hans (hans). ?1430–94, Flemish painter of religious works and portraits.

Memnon ('memnən) *n* 1 *Greek myth*. a king of Ethiopia, son of Eos: slain by Achilles in the Trojan War. 2 a colossal statue of Amenhotep III at Thebes in ancient Egypt, which emitted a sound thought by the Greeks to be the voice of Memnon. ▶ **Memnonian** (mem'nəʊniən) *adj*

memo ('meməʊ, 'mɪməʊ) *n*, *pl* **memos**. short for **memorandum**.

memoir ('memwɑ:) *n* 1 a biography or historical account, esp. one based on personal knowledge. 2 an essay or monograph, as on a specialized topic. 3 *Obsolete*. a memorandum. [C16: from French, from Latin *memoria* MEMORY] ▶ **'memoirist** *n*

memoirs ('memwɔ:z) *pl n* 1 a collection of reminiscences about a period, series of events, etc., written from personal experience or special sources. 2 an autobiographical record. 3 a collection or record, as of transactions of a society, etc.

memorabilia (memə'reɪbiə) *pl n*, *sing* -rable (-ræbɪl). 1 memorable events or things. 2 objects connected with famous people or events. [C17: from Latin, from *memorabilis* MEMORABLE]

memorable ('memərəbəl, 'memərə-) *adj* worth remembering or easily remembered; noteworthy. [C15: from Latin *memorabilis*, from *memorare* to recall, from *memor* mindful] ▶ **'memorability** or **'memorableness** *n* ▶ **'memorably** *adv*

memorandum (memə'rendəm) *n*, *pl* -dums or -da (-də). 1 a written statement, record, or communication such as within an office. 2 a note of things to be remembered. 3 an informal diplomatic communication, often unsigned: often summarizing the point of view of a government. 4 *Law*. a short written summary of the terms of a transaction. ♦ Often (esp. for senses 1 and 2) shortened to **memo**. [C15: from Latin: (something) to be remembered]

memorial (mɪ'mɔ:riəl) *adj* 1 serving to preserve the memory of the dead or a past event. 2 of or involving memory. ♦ *n* 3 something serving as a remembrance. 4 a written statement of facts submitted to a government, authority, etc., in conjunction with a petition. 5 an informal diplomatic paper. [C14: from Late Latin *memoriāle* a reminder, neuter of *memoriālis* belonging to remembrance] ▶ **me'morially** *adv*

Memorial Day *n* a holiday in the United States, May 30th in most states, commemorating the servicemen killed in all American wars.

memorialist (mɪ'mɔ:riəlɪst) *n* 1 a person who writes or presents a memorial. 2 a writer of a memoir or memoirs.

memorialize or **memorialise** (mɪ'mɔ:riəlaɪz) *vb* (tr) 1 to honour or commemorate. 2 to present or address a memorial to. ▶ **me'moriall'ization** or **me'moriall'ation** *n* ▶ **me'morial,izer** or **me'morial,iser** *n*

memoria technica (mɪ'mɔ:riə'teknɪkə) *n* a method or device for assisting the memory. [C18: New Latin: artificial memory]

memorize or **memorise** ('meməraɪz) *vb* (tr) to commit to memory; learn so as to remember. ▶ **'memo,rizable** or **'memo,risable** *adj* ▶ **'memori'zation** or **'memori'sation** *n* ▶ **'memo,rizer** or **'memo,riser** *n*

memory ('meməri) *n*, *pl* -ries. 1a the ability of the mind to store and recall past sensations, thoughts, knowledge, etc.: *he can do it from memory*. 1b the part of the brain that appears to have this function. 2 the sum of everything retained by the mind. 3 a particular recollection of an event, person, etc. 4 the time over which recollection extends: *within his memory*. 5 commemoration or remembrance: *in memory of our leader*. 6 the state of being remembered, as after death. 7 Also called: **RAM**, **main store**, **store**. a part of a computer in which information is stored for immediate use by the central processing unit. See also **backing store**, **virtual storage**. 8 the tendency for a material, system, etc., to show effects that depend on its past treatment or history. 9 the ability of

a material, etc., to return to a former state after a constraint has been removed.

[C14: from Old French *memorie*, from Latin *memoria*, from *memor* min

memory mapping *n* a technique whereby computer peripherals may be addressed as though they formed part of the main memory of the computer.

memory span *n* *Psychol.* the capacity of short-term memory, usually between 5 and 10 items.

memory trace *n* *Psychol.* the hypothetical structural alteration in brain cells following learning. See also **engram**.

Memphian ('memfɪən) *adj* 1 of or relating to ancient Memphis or its inhabitants. ♦ *n* 2 an inhabitant or native of ancient Memphis.

Memphis ('memfɪs) *n* 1 a port in SW Tennessee, on the Mississippi River: the largest city in the state; a major cotton and timber market; Memphis State University (1909). Pop.: 614 289 (1994 est.). 2 a ruined city in N Egypt, the ancient centre of Lower Egypt, on the Nile: administrative and artistic centre, sacred to the worship of Ptah.

Memphremagog (memfri:'mergog) *n* **Lake**. a lake on the border between the U.S. and Canada, in N Vermont and S Quebec. Length: about 43 km (27 miles). Width: up to 6 km (4 miles).

memsahib ('mem.sə:ɪb, -hɪb) *n* (formerly in India) a term of respect used of a European married woman. [C19: from MA'AM + SAHIB]

men (men) *n* the plural of **man**.

menace ('menɪs) *vb* 1 to threaten with violence, danger, etc. ♦ *n* 2 *Literary*. a threat or the act of threatening. 3 something menacing; a source of danger. 4 *Informal*. a nuisance. [C13: ultimately related to Latin *minax* threatening, from *mināri* to threaten] ▶ **'menacer** *n* ▶ **'menacing** *adj* ▶ **'menacingly** *adv*

menad ('mɪnæd) *n* a variant spelling of **maenad**.

menadione (menə'daɪən) *n* a yellow crystalline compound used in fungicides and as an additive to animal feeds. Also called: **vitamin K₃**. Formula: C₁₁H₈O₂. [C20: from ME(THYL) + NA(PHTHA) + DI-¹ + -ONE]

Menado (me'nɑ:dəʊ) or **Manado** *n* a port in NE Indonesia, on NE Sulawesi: founded by the Dutch in 1657. Pop.: 275 374 (1990).

ménage (me'nɑ:ʒ; French *menaz*) *n* the persons of a household. [C17: from French, from Vulgar Latin *mansionaticum* (unattested) household; see **MAN-SION**]

ménage à trois French. (menaz a trwɔ) *n*, *pl* **ménages à trois** (menaz a trwɔ). a sexual arrangement involving a married couple and the lover of one of them. [literally: household of three]

menagerie (mɪ'nædʒəri) *n* 1 a collection of wild animals kept for exhibition. 2 the place where such animals are housed. [C18: from French: household management, which formerly included care of domestic animals. See **MÉNAGE**]

Menai Strait ('menəɪ) *n* a channel of the Irish Sea between the island of Anglesey and the mainland of NW Wales: famous suspension bridge (1819–26) designed by Thomas Telford and tubular bridge (1846–50) by Robert Stephenson. Length: 24 km (15 miles). Width: up to 3 km (2 miles).

Menam (mi'næm) *n* another name for the **Chao Phraya**.

Menander (mɛ'nændə) *n* 1 ?160 B.C.–?120 B.C., Greek king of the Punjab. A Buddhist convert, he reigned over much of NW India. 2 ?342–?292 B.C., Greek comic dramatist. The *Dyskolos* is his only complete extant comedy but others survive in adaptations by Terence and Plautus.

menaquinone (menəkwɪ'nɔ:n) *n* a form of vitamin K synthesized by bacteria in the intestine or in putrefying organic matter. Also called: **vitamin K₂**. [C20: from *me(thyl)-na(phtho)quinone*]

menarche (me'nɑ:kɪ) *n* the first occurrence of menstruation in a woman's life. [C20: New Latin, from Greek *mēn* month + *arkhē* beginning] ▶ **men'archeal** or **men'archial** *adj*

Mencius ('menʃɪəs, -ʃəs) *n* Chinese name *Mengzi* or *Meng-tze*. ?372–?289 B.C., Chinese philosopher, who propounded the ethical system of Confucius.

Mencken ('menkən) *n* **H(enry) L(ouis)**. 1880–1956, U.S. journalist and literary critic, noted for *The American Language* (1919): editor of the *Smart Set* and the *American Mercury*, which he founded (1924).

mend (mend) *vb* 1 (tr) to repair (something broken or unserviceable). 2 to improve or undergo improvement; reform (often in the phrase **mend one's ways**). 3 (intr) to heal or recover. 4 (of conditions) to improve; become better. ♦ *n* 5 the act of repairing. 6 a mended area, esp. on a garment. 7 **on the mend**. becoming better, esp. in health. [C12: shortened from **AMEND**] ▶ **'mendable** *adj* ▶ **'mender** *n*

mendacity (men'dæsɪti) *n*, *pl* -ties. 1 the tendency to be untruthful. 2 a falsehood. [C17: from Late Latin *mendācītās*, from Latin *mendāx* untruthful] ▶ **mendacious** (men'deɪʃəs) *adj* ▶ **men'daciously** *adv* ▶ **men'daciousness** *n*

Mendel ('mendəl) *n* **Gregor Johann** ('gregər jo'hən). 1822–84, Austrian monk and botanist; founder of the science of genetics. He developed his theory of organic inheritance from his experiments on the hybridization of green peas. His findings were published (1865) but remained unrecognized until 1900. See **Mendel's laws**.

mendelevium (mendə'li:vɪəm) *n* a transuranic element artificially produced by bombardment of einsteinium. Symbol: **Md**; atomic no.: 101; half-life of most stable isotope, ²⁵⁸Md: 60 days (approx.); valency: 2 or 3. [C20: named after D. I. MENDELEEV]

Mendeleev or **Mendeleev** (Russian mɪndr'ljeɪf) *n* **Dmitri Ivanovich** ('dmɪtrɪj i'vanavɪtʃ). 1834–1907, Russian chemist. He devised the original periodic table of the elements (1869).

Mendelian (men'dɪliən) *adj* of or relating to Mendel's laws.

Mendelism ('mendə,lɪzəm) or **Mendelianism** (men'dɪliə,nɪzəm) *n* the science of heredity based on Mendel's laws with some modifications in the light of more recent knowledge.

Mendel's laws *pl n* the principles of heredity proposed by Gregor Mendel. The