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

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pi-ka-ke (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]

pike (pik), *n.*, *pl.* (esp. collectively) **pike**, (esp. for kinds or species) **piques**. 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 PIKE²)]

pike (pik), *n.*, *v.*, **piked**, **pike-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 *pieque*, fem. var. of *pic* rick² < Gmc. See PIKE², PIQUE¹]

pike (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]

pike (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 *pīc* pointed tool. See rick²]

pike (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 PIKE¹]

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 pick¹ + -er -ER¹; cf. dial. (N England, Scots, Hiberno-E) *pike* to pick¹]

Pikes' Peak, *n.* a mountain in central Colorado: a peak of the Rocky Mountains. 14,108 ft. (4300 m).

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

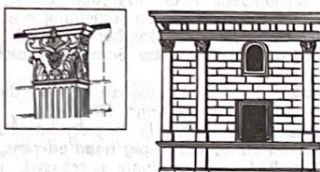
Pik Po-be-dy (pyēk' pu byē'di), *n.* Russian name of POBEDA PEAK.

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 *pīlāw*]

pi-lar (pī'lār), *adj.* of, pertaining to, or covered with hair. [1855-60; < NL *pīlāris* of hair. See PILE¹, -AR¹]

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; PILE¹ (in obs. sense "pillar") + -ASTER¹, modeled on It *pīlastro* or ML *pīlāstrum*] —**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-lā-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'chard), *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.

pile (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 *pīla* pillar, mole of stone]

pile (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]

pile (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 *pīles* hair, plumage < L *pīlus* hair] —**piled**, *adj.*

pile (pīl), *n.* **Usu.**, **piles**. HEMORRHOID. [1375-1425; late ME *pyles* (pl.) < L *pīlāe* lit., balls. See PILL¹]

pile-ate (pī'lē it, -āt', pī'lē-), *adj.* having a pileus. [1820-30; < L *pīleatus* capped. See PILEUS, -ATE¹]

pile-at-ed (pī'lē ā'tid, pī'lē-), *adj.* Ornith. crested. [1720-30] **pileated wood/pecker**, *n.* a large, black-and-white North American woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*, having a prominent red crest.

pile/ driv'er, *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]

pile-um (pī'lē əm, pī'lē-), *n.*, *pl.* **pile-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]

pile-us (pī'lē əs, pī'lē-), *n.*, *pl.* **pile-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.t.*, *v.i.* 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 PEEL¹, GARLIC] —**pil-gar'lick-y**, *adj.*

pil-grim (pil'grim, -grām), *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 *pīlgrim*, *pelegrim*, c. OHG *pīlgrīm*, ON *pīlagrīm*, all < ML *pēlgrīnus*, 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 *pīlgrimage*; r. earlier *pēlrimage*, alter. of OF *pēlrimage*] —**Syn.** See TRIP.

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

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

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

Pil-i-pi-no (pī'lə 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 *pīlula*, dim. of *pīla* 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 *pīlage* < MF *pīllage*, der. of *pīll* to pillage, orig., to abuse, tear] —**pil'lag-er**, *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 *pīlāre*; see PILE¹, -AR²] —**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.

pil'l-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 *pēll* < L *pēllis* skin]

pil-lo-ry (pī'lə rē), *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**, *v.*, **-ried**, **-rying**. —*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 PILE¹) + -ōrium -ōry¹]

pil-low (pil'lō), *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.