

Concise Oxford American Dictionary

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flash-y /'flæʃə/ ▶ *adj.* (flash-i-er, flash-i-est) ostentatiously attractive or impressive: *a flashy car*. — **flash-i-ly** /'flæʃəli/ *adv.* — **flash-i-ness** *n.*
flask /flæsk/ ▶ *n.* a container or bottle, in particular: ■ a narrow-necked glass container, typically conical or spherical, used in a laboratory to hold reagents or samples. ■ a metal container for storing a small amount of liquor, typically to be carried in one's pocket. ■ a narrow-necked bulbous glass container, typically with a covering of wicker-work, for storing wine or oil. ■ a small glass bottle for perfume. ■ a vacuum flask. ▶ Middle English (in the sense 'cask'): from medieval Latin *flasca*. From the mid 16th cent. the word denoted a case of horn, leather, or metal for carrying gunpowder. The sense 'glass container' (late 17th cent.) was influenced by Italian *flasco*, from medieval Latin *flasco*.

flat /flæt/ ▶ *adj.* (flat-ter, flat-test) 1 smooth and even; without marked lumps or indentations. ■ (of land) without hills. ■ (of an expanse of water) calm and without waves. ■ not sloping: *the flat roof of a garage*. ■ having a broad level surface but little height or depth; shallow: *a flat rectangular box*. ■ (of the foot) having an arch that is lower than usual. ■ (of shoes) without heels or with very low heels. 2 lacking interest or emotion; dull and lifeless: *her drawings were flat and unimaginative*. ■ (of a person) without energy; dispirited. ■ (of a market, prices, etc.) showing little activity; sluggish. ■ (of a sparkling drink) having lost its effervescence: *flat champagne*. ■ (of something kept inflated, esp. a tire) having lost some or all of its air, typically because of a puncture. ■ (of a color) uniform: *a deadly, flat shade of gray*. ■ (of paint) without gloss; matte. ■ (of a photographic print or negative) lacking contrast. 3 (of a fee, wage, or price) the same in all cases, not varying with changed conditions or in particular cases: *a \$30 flat fare*. ■ (of a denial, contradiction, or refusal) completely definite and firm; absolute: *a flat denial that he had misbehaved*. 4 (of musical sound) below true or normal pitch. ■ [in comb.] (of a note) a semitone lower than a specified note: *a low E-flat*. ■ (of a key) having a flat or flats in the signature.

▶ *adv.* 1 in or to a horizontal position: *lying flat on his back* | *knocked flat by the blast*. ■ lying in close juxtaposition, esp. against another surface. ■ so as to become smooth and even: *I hammered the metal flat*. 2 *inf.* completely; absolutely: *I'm turning you down flat* | *flat broke*. ■ after a phrase expressing a period of time to emphasize how quickly something can be done or has been done: *you can prepare a healthy meal in ten minutes flat*. 3 below the true or normal pitch of musical sound: *singing flat*.

▶ *n.* 1 the flat part of something: *the flat of her hand*. 2 a flat object, in particular: ■ (often flats) an upright section of painted stage scenery mounted on a frame. ■ *inf.* a flat tire. ■ a shallow container in which seedlings are grown and sold. ■ (often flats) a shoe with a very low heel or no heel. 3 (usu. flats) an area of low level ground, esp. near water: *the Utah salt flats*. 4 a musical note lowered a half step below natural pitch. ■ the sign (b) indicating this.

▶ *v.* (flat-ted, flat-ting) [*tr.*] 1 [usu. as *adj.*] (flatted) *Mus.* lower (a note) by a semitone. 2 *archaic* make flat; flatten. — **flat-ly** *adv.* — **flat-ness** *n.* — **flat-tish** /'flætɪʃ/ *adj.*

▶ *fall flat* fail completely to produce the intended or expected effect: *his jokes fell flat*. □ **flat out** 1 as fast or as hard as possible: *working flat out to satisfy demand* | [as *adj.*] (flat-out) *the album lacks the flat-out urgency of its predecessor*. 2 *inf.* without hesitation or reservation; unequivocally: [as *adj.*] (flat-out) *flat-out perjury*. 3 lying completely stretched out, esp. asleep or exhausted.

flat² ▶ *n.* British term for **APARTMENT**. — **flat-let** /-lət/ *n.*

flat-car /'flæt,kɑːr/ ▶ *n.* a railroad freight car without a roof or sides.

flat-fish /'flæt,fɪʃ/ ▶ *n.* (pl. same or -fishes) a flattened marine fish (order Pleuronectiformes) that swims on its side with both eyes on the upper side.

flat-foot /'flæt,fu:t/ ▶ *n.* (also flat foot) a condition in which the foot has an arch that is lower than usual. ■ (pl. -foots or -feet /-fēt/) *inf.*, dated a police officer.

flat-footed ▶ *adj.* 1 having flat feet. 2 having one's feet flat on the ground: *he landed with a flat-footed thud*. ■ *inf.* unable to move quickly and smoothly; clumsy. ■ *inf.* not clever or imaginative; uninspired. — **flat-foot-ed-ly** *adv.* — **flat-foot-ed-ness** *n.*

▶ **catch someone flat-footed** *inf.* take someone by surprise.

flat-iron /'flæt,ɪən/ ▶ *n.* *hist.* an iron that was heated externally and used for pressing clothes.

flat-ten /'flætən/ ▶ *v.* 1 make or become flat or flatter: [*tr.*] *flatten into cakes, and fry until brown* | [*intr.*] *the ground flattened out and became marshy*. ■ [*tr.*] press (oneself or one's body) against a surface, typically to get away from something or to let someone pass: *they flattened themselves on the pavement as a bomb came whistling down*. ■ [*tr.*] *Mus.* lower (a note) in pitch

by a half step. 2 [*tr.*] raze (a building or settlement) to the ground. ■ *inf.* knock someone down with power and vigor. ■ *inf.* defeat (someone) completely, esp. in a sports contest.

▶ **phrasal v.** □ **flatten out** 1 (of an increasing quantity or rate) show a less marked rise; slow down. 2 make an aircraft fly horizontally after a dive or climb. — **flat-ten-er** *n.*

flat-ter /'flætər/ ▶ *v.* [*tr.*] lavish insincere praise and compliments upon (someone), esp. to further one's own interests. ■ give an unrealistically favorable impression of. ■ (usu. be flattered) make (someone) feel honored and pleased: [*tr.*] *I was very flattered to be given the commission*. ■ (flatter oneself) make oneself feel pleased by believing something favorable about oneself, typically something that is unfounded: *I flatter myself I'm the best dressed man here*. ■ (of a color or a style of clothing) make (someone) appear more attractive or to the best advantage. ■ *archaic* please (the ear or eye). — **flat-ter-er** *n.* — **flat-ter-ing** *adj.*

flat-ter-y /'flætəri/ ▶ *n.* (pl. -ter-ies) excessive and insincere praise, esp. that given to further one's own interests.

flat-top /'flæt,tɒp/ ▶ *n.* 1 *inf.* an aircraft carrier. 2 a man's hairstyle in which the hair is cropped short so that it bristles up into a flat surface.

flat-u-lent /'flætʃələnt/ ▶ *adj.* suffering from or marked by an accumulation of gas in the alimentary canal. ■ *fig.* inflated or pretentious in speech or writing. — **flat-u-lence** *n.* — **flat-u-len-cy** *n.* — **flat-u-lent-ly** *adv.*

flat-us /'flæts/ ▶ *n.* formal gas in or from the stomach or intestines, produced by swallowing air or by bacterial fermentation.

flat-ware /'flæt,wɛr/ ▶ *n.* eating utensils such as knives, forks, and spoons. ■ relatively flat dishes such as plates and saucers.

flat-worm /'flæt,wɜːm/ ▶ *n.* a worm of a phylum (Platyhelminthes) that includes the planarians together with the parasitic flukes and tapeworms. They are distinguished by having a simple flattened body.

flaunt /flaʊnt/ ▶ *v.* [*tr.*] display (something) ostentatiously, esp. in order to provoke envy or admiration or to show defiance. ■ (flaunt oneself) dress or behave in a sexually provocative way. — **flaunter** *n.* — **flaunt-y** *adj.*

flau-tist /'flaʊtɪst/ ▶ *n.* a flutist.

fla-vi-vi-rus /'flævə,vɪrəs/ ▶ *n.* a virus whose genome consists of positive RNA, that is capable of reproducing in its arthropod vector, and that causes a number of serious human diseases including yellow fever, dengue, Japanese encephalitis, and West Nile virus.

fla-vone /'flævən/ ▶ *n.* *Chem.* a colorless crystalline compound, C₁₅H₁₀O₂, that is the basis of a number of white or yellow plant pigments. ■ any of these pigments.

fla-vor /'flævər/ (Brit. flau-vour) ▶ *n.* 1 the distinctive quality of a particular food or drink as perceived by the taste buds and the sense of smell. ■ the general quality of taste in a food. ■ a substance used to alter or enhance the taste of food or drink; a flavoring. ■ *fig.* an indefinable distinctive quality of something: *this year's seminars have a European flavor*. ■ *fig.* an indication of the essential character of something: *the extracts give a flavor of the conversation*. 2 *Physics* a quantized property of quarks that differentiates them into at least six varieties (up, down, charmed, strange, top, bottom). Compare with **COLOR**.

▶ *v.* [*tr.*] alter or enhance the taste of (food or drink) by adding a particular ingredient. ■ *fig.* give a distinctive quality to. — **fla-vor-ful** /-fəl/ *adj.* — **fla-vor-less** *adj.* — **fla-vor-some** /-səm/ *adj.*

▶ **flavor of the month** a person or thing that enjoys a short period of great popularity.

fla-vor-ing /'flævərɪŋ/ (Brit. flavouring) ▶ *n.* a substance used to give a different, stronger, or more agreeable taste to food or drink.

flaw /flɔː/ ▶ *n.* a mark, fault, or other imperfection that mars a substance or object. ■ a fault or weakness in a person's character. ■ a mistake or shortcoming in a plan, theory, or legal document that causes it to fail or reduces its effectiveness: *there were fundamental flaws in the case for reforming local government*.

▶ *v.* [*tr.*] (usu. be flawed) (of an imperfection) mar, weaken, or invalidate (something): *the computer game was flawed by poor programming*. — **flaw-less** *adj.*

flaw² ▶ *n.* poetic/lit. a squall of wind; a short storm.

flax /flæks/ ▶ *n.* a blue-flowered herbaceous plant (*Linum usitatissimum*, family Linaceae) cultivated for its seed and for textile fiber made from its stalks. ■ textile fiber obtained from this plant. ■ used in names of other plants of the flax family or plants that yield similar fiber. ▶ Old English *flæx*, related to German *Flachs*, from an Indo-European root shared by Latin *plectere* and Greek *plekein* 'to plait, twist'.

flax-en /'flæksən/ ▶ *adj.* of flax. ■ (esp. of hair) of a pale yellow color.

flax-seed /'flæks(s),sēd/ ▶ *n.* another term for **LINSEED**.

flay /flæ/ ▶ *v.* [*tr.*] peel the skin off (a corpse or carcass). ■ peel (the skin) off a corpse or carcass. ■ whip or beat (someone) harshly. ■ *fig.* criticize severely and brutally. — **flay-er** *n.*

F-layer ▶ *n.* the highest and most strongly ionized region of the ionosphere.

flea /fliː/ ▶ *n.* a small wingless jumping insect (order Siphonaptera) that feeds on the blood of mammals and birds, including the human flea (*Pulex irritans*) and the cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*). ■ a water flea (see **DAPHNIA**).

flea-bag /'fliːbæg/ ▶ *n.* *inf.* a seedy, run-down hotel or lodging house. ■ a shabby and unpleasant person or thing.

flea-bit-ten ▶ *adj.* bitten by or infested with fleas. ■ sordid or shabby.

flea-col-lar ▶ *n.* a collar for a cat or dog that is impregnated with insecticide in order to keep the pet free of fleas.

flea-mar-ket ▶ *n.* a usu. outdoor market selling secondhand goods.

fleck /flek/ ▶ *n.* a very small patch of color or light: *his blue eyes had gray flecks in them*. ■ a small particle or speck of something: *flecks of dandruff*.

▶ *v.* [*tr.*] (often be flecked) mark or dot with small patches of color or particles of something: *the minarets are flecked with gold leaf*.

fled /fled/ ▶ *past* and *past participle* of **FLEE**.

fledge /fledʒ/ ▶ *v.* [*intr.*] 1 (of a young bird) develop wing feathers that are large enough for flight. ■ [*tr.*] bring up (a young bird) until its wing feathers are developed enough for flight. 2 [*tr.*] provide (an arrow) with feathers.

fledg-ling /'fledʒɪŋ/ (also fledgeling) ▶ *n.* a young bird that has just fledged. ■ [usu. as *adj.*] a person or organization that is immature, inexperienced, or underdeveloped.

flee /fliː/ ▶ *v.* (flees, fleeing; *past* and *past part.* fled /fled/) [*intr.*] run away from a place or situation of danger. ■ [*tr.*] run away from (someone or something).

fleece /fles/ ▶ *n.* 1 the woolly covering of a sheep or goat. ■ the amount of wool shorn from a sheep in a single piece at one time. 2 a thing resembling a sheep's woolly covering, in particular: ■ a soft warm fabric with a texture similar to sheep's wool, often used as a lining material. ■ a jacket or other garment made from such a fabric.

▶ *v.* [*tr.*] 1 *inf.* obtain a great deal of money from (someone), typically by overcharging or swindling them. 2 *fig.* cover as if with a fleece: *the sky was half-fleeced with white clouds*. — **fleece-d** *adj.*

fleece-y /'flesə/ ▶ *adj.* (fleece-ier, fleece-iest) 1 (esp. of a towel or garment) made of or lined with a soft, warm fabric: *a fleecy sweatshirt*. 2 (esp. of a cloud) white and fluffy. — **fleece-i-ly** /-səli/ *adv.* — **fleece-i-ness** *n.*

fleet /fliːt/ ▶ *n.* the largest group of naval vessels under one commander, organized for specific tactical or other purposes. ■ (the fleet) a country's navy. ■ a group of ships sailing together, engaged in the same activity, or under the same ownership: *a fishing fleet*. ■ a number of ships, vehicles or aircraft operating together or under the same ownership: *a fleet of ambulances*.

fleet² ▶ *adj.* fast and nimble in movement: *fleet of foot*. — **fleet-ly** *adv.* — **fleet-ness** *n.*

fleet³ ▶ *v.* [*intr.*] poetic/lit. move or pass quickly: *a variety of expressions fleet-ed across his face* | *time may fleet and youth may fade*. ■ [*tr.*] pass (time) rapidly. ■ fade away; be transitory: *the cares of boyhood fleet away*.

Fleet Ad-miral ▶ *n.* an admiral of the highest rank in the U.S. Navy.

fleet-ing /'fliːtɪŋ/ ▶ *adj.* lasting for a very short time: *hoping to get a fleet-ing glimpse of a whale*. — **fleet-ing-ly** *adv.*

Flem-ing ▶ *n.* 1 a native of Flanders. 2 a member of the Flemish-speaking people inhabiting northern and western Belgium. Compare with **WALLOON**.

Flem-ish /'flemɪʃ/ ▶ *adj.* of or relating to Flanders, its people, or their language.

▶ *n.* 1 the Dutch language as spoken in Flanders, one of the two official languages of Belgium. 2 (the Flemish) [as *pl. n.*] the people of Flanders.

flesh /fles/ ▶ *n.* the soft substance consisting of muscle and fat that is found between the skin and bones of an animal or a human. ■ this substance in an animal or fish, regarded as food: [in comb.] *a flesh-eater*. ■ the pulpy substance of a fruit or vegetable, esp. the part that is eaten. ■ fat. ■ the skin or surface of the human body with reference to its color, appearance, or sensual properties: *she gasped as the cold water hit her flesh*. ■ (the flesh) the human body and its physical needs and desires, esp. as contrasted with the mind or the soul: *the pleasures of the flesh*. ■ flesh color.

▶ *v.* 1 [*intr.*] (flesh out) put weight on. ■ [*tr.*] (flesh something out) add more details to something that exists only in a draft or outline form: *fleshed out a variety of scenarios*. 2 [*tr.*] [often as *n.*] (fleshing) remove the

flesh adhering to (a skin or hide). — **fleshed** /flesht/ *adj.* [usu. in comb.] a white-fleshed fish.

▶ **□ in the flesh** in person rather than via a telephone, a movie, the written word, or other means: *they decided that they should meet Alexander in the flesh*. □ **sins of the flesh** *archaic* or *humorous* sins related to physical indulgence, esp. sexual gratification.

flesh and blood ▶ *n.* used to emphasize that a person is a physical, living being with human emotions or frailties, often in contrast to something abstract, spiritual, or mechanical: [as *adj.*] *he seemed more like a creature from a dream than a flesh-and-blood father*.

▶ **□ one's (own) flesh and blood** a near relative or one's close family: *he felt as much for that girl as if she had been his own flesh and blood*.

flesh-ly /'fleshli/ ▶ *adj.* (-li-er, -li-est) 1 of or relating to human desire or bodily appetites; sensual: *fleshly pleasures*. 2 having an actual physical presence.

flesh-pots /'flesh,pɒts/ ▶ *pl. n.* places providing luxurious or hedonistic living: *he had lived the life of a roué in the fleshpots of London and Paris*.

flesh-y /'fleshə/ ▶ *adj.* (flesh-i-er, flesh-i-est) 1 (of a person or part of the body) having a substantial amount of flesh; plump. ■ (of plant or fruit tissue) soft and thick: *fleshy, green-gray leaves*. ■ (of a wine) full-bodied. 2 resembling flesh in appearance or texture. — **flesh-i-ness** *n.*

fleur-de-lis /'flɔːdlɪs/ (also fleur-de-lis) ▶ *n.* (pl. fleurs-de-lis /'flɔːdlɪs/) 1 *Art* a stylized lily composed of three petals bound together near their bases. 2 a European iris.

flew /fliː/ ▶ *past* of **FLY**.

flex /fleks/ ▶ *v.* [*tr.*] bend (a limb or joint). ■ [*intr.*] (of a limb or joint) become bent: *prevent the damaged wrist from flexing*. ■ cause (a muscle) to stand out by contracting or tensing it: *bodybuilders flexing their muscles*. ■ [*intr.*] (of a muscle) contract or be tensed. ■ [*intr.*] (of a material) be capable of warping or bending and then reverting to shape.

▶ *n.* the action or state of flexing: *add rigidity and eliminate brake flex*.

flex-fu-el ▶ *adj.* denoting a motor vehicle that will run on gasoline, ethanol, or these two in any combination: *flex-fuel subcompacts have captured 20% of Brazil's new car market*.

flex-i-ble /'fleksəbəl/ ▶ *adj.* capable of bending easily without breaking. ■ able to be easily modified to respond to altered circumstances or conditions. ■ (of a person) ready and able to change so as to adapt to different circumstances. — **flex-i-bil-i-ty** /'fleksə'bɪləti/ *n.* — **flex-i-bly** /-bli/ *adv.*

flex-i-le /'fleksəl; -sɪl/ ▶ *adj.* *archaic* pliant and flexible: *the serpent's flexile body*. — **flex-i-li-ty** /'fleks'ɪləti/ *n.*

flex-or /'fleks,ɔːr; -sɔːr/ (also flexor muscle) ▶ *n.* *Anat.* a muscle whose contraction bends a limb or other part of the body. ■ any of a number of specific muscles in the arm, hand, leg, or foot.

flex-time /'fleks,tɪm/ (Brit. flex-i-time /'fleks-i-/) ▶ *n.* a system of working a set number of hours with the starting and finishing times chosen within agreed limits by the employee.

flick /flik/ ▶ *n.* 1 a sudden sharp movement. ■ the sudden release of a bent finger or thumb, esp. to propel a small object: *he sent his cigarette spinning away with a flick of his fingers*. ■ a light, sharp, quickly retracted blow, esp. with a whip. 2 *inf.* a motion picture. ■ (the flicks) *chiefly Brit.* the movies.

▶ *v.* [*tr.*] propel (something) with a sudden sharp movement, esp. of the fingers: *Emily flicked some ash off her sleeve*. ■ (flick something on/off) turn something electrical on or off by means of a switch. ■ [*intr.*] make a sudden sharp movement. ■ [*tr.*] move (a whip) so as to strike.

flick-er /'flikər/ ▶ *v.* [*intr.*] 1 (of light or a source of light) shine unsteadily; vary rapidly in brightness. ■ (of a flame) burn fitfully, alternately flaring up and dying down: [as *adj.*] (flickering) *the flickering flames of the fire*. ■ *fig.* (of a feeling or emotion) be experienced or show itself briefly and faintly, esp. in someone's eyes. 2 make small, quick movements; flutter rapidly: *her eyelids flickered*. ■ (of someone's eyes) move quickly in a particular direction in order to look at something. ■ (of a facial expression) appear briefly: *a look of horror flickered across his face*.

▶ *phrasal v.* □ flicker out (of a flame or light) die away and go out after a series of flickers. ■ *fig.* (of a feeling) die away and finally disappear.

▶ *n.* 1 an unsteady movement of a flame or light that causes rapid



fleur-de-lis

F