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linguistics⟩ or of things that have developed convergently from different origins or of both ⟨~ anatomy⟩ — compare DESCRIPTIVE **b :** viewed or examined for the purpose of ascertaining or revealing likeness or dissimilarity ⟨the ~ morality of the sexes —Haldane Macfall⟩ **5** *obs* **:** COMPARABLE — **com·par·a·tive·ly** \-tə̇vlē, -li\ *adv* — **com·par·a·tive·ness** \-tivnə̇s\ *n* -ES

^{2}**comparative** \"\ *n* -s [ME, fr. *comparative*, adj.] **1 :** one that compares with another esp. on equal footing **:** RIVAL; *specif* **:** one that makes witty or mocking comparisons **2 a :** the comparative degree in a language **b :** a comparative form of an adjective or adverb

comparative advantage *n* **:** the advantage enjoyed by a person or country in the cost ratio of one commodity to another in comparison with the ratio of costs of these same commodities elsewhere

comparative government *n* **:** the study and analysis of the general structure of governments throughout the world

comparative literature *n* **:** the study of the interrelationship of the literatures of two or more national cultures usu. of differing languages and esp. of the influences of one upon the other; *sometimes* **:** informal study of literary works in translation

comparative method *n* **:** a method of investigation (as of ethnologic phenomena and relations) based on comparison

comparative negligence *n* **:** the doctrine long the rule in admiralty and now adopted by statute for suits at law in a few states under which the negligence of the parties is weighed and the total damages divided up among them in proportion to the fault of each

comparative philosophy *n* **:** the study of philosophies from various cultures, nations, or epochs

comparative psychology *n* **1 :** the branch of psychology endeavoring to understand human behavior through the study of its similarities with and differences from infrahuman behavior **2 :** the study of the psychological similarities and differences between different races of humanity **:** FOLK PSYCHOLOGY

comparative religion *n* **:** comparative study of the origin, development, and interrelations of the religious systems of mankind — compare HISTORY OF RELIGIONS

comparative statement *n* **:** a business statement including two or more sets of figures arranged for comparison

com·par·a·tiv·ist \kəm'parəd·əvə̇st\ *n* -s [^{1}*comparative* + *-ist*] **:** COMPARATIST

com·par·a·tor \kəm'parəd·ə(r) *also* 'kämpə,rād·-\ *n* -s [F & L; F *comparateur*, fr. L *comparator* comparer, fr. *comparatus* (past part. of *comparare* to compare) + *-or*] **:** one that compares something to be measured with a standard measure: as **a** (1) **:** a device employing a micrometer screw or a vernier and a microscope in the precise measurement of short lengths (2) **:** any of various devices for the rapid inspection of mechanical parts to detect deviations from a standard piece **b :** an apparatus used for determining concentration of dissolved substances (as hydrogen ions) in solution by color comparison with known standards — compare COLORIMETER 2 **c :** an instrument, device, or set of charts (as for use in chemical analysis and medical diagnosis) for the determination and specification of colors by direct comparison with a standardized system of colors **d :** STEREOCOMPARATOR

^{1}**com·pare** \kəm'pa(a)(ə)r, -pe(ə)r, -pa(a)ə, peə\ *vb* -ED/-ING/-S [ME *comparen*, fr. MF *comparer*, fr. L *comparare* to couple together, compare, fr. *compar* like, similar, fr. *com-* + *par* equal — more at PAIR] *vt* **1 :** to represent as similar (as for the purpose of illustration) **:** LIKEN ⟨~ a person's teeth to pearls⟩ — often used negatively in the passive infinitive of something inferior ⟨a drama not to be *compared* with any of Shakespeare's⟩ **2 a :** to examine the character or qualities of (as two or more persons or things) esp. for the purpose of discovering resemblances or differences ⟨~ today's medical costs with the mortality rates of 20 years ago⟩ **b :** to view in relation to something or someone else for the purpose of showing or establishing contrast or similarity — used in the past participle usu. preceded by *as* and followed by *to* or *with* ⟨Calcutta is the home of more than two million people *compared* to less than a million in Madras —*Science & Culture*⟩ ⟨the greater strength of steel as *compared* to cast iron⟩ **3 :** to inflect or modify (an adjective or adverb) according to the degrees of comparison **:** state the positive, comparative, and superlative forms of ~ *vi* **1 :** to bear being equated or likened ⟨his artistry does not ~ to his brother's⟩ ⟨can Dante ~ with Shakespeare and Milton⟩ **2 :** to assume or presume likeness or equality ⟨fools vainly striving to ~ with wise men⟩ **3 :** to make or draw comparisons ⟨if we now go to Italy at all, we go not to learn, but to ~ —Norman Douglas⟩ **4 :** to differ or stand out in some particular respect ⟨steel production this year ~*s* very poorly with the production of manufactured articles⟩ **5 :** to be equal or alike ⟨his performance at bat in 1951 ~*s* with his 1956 performance⟩ — often used in the negative in connection with something so different (as in superiority or inferiority) that anything being likened to it is as if impossible ⟨cannot ~ this year's crop with last year's⟩

syn COLLATE, CONTRAST: COMPARE indicates the placing together and examining of two things to discover resemblances and differences. It may but does not always concentrate on similarities rather than dissimilarities ⟨the discomforts of the road were light when *compared* to the discomforts of the sea, and the fatigue of the road was pleasurable when *compared* to the suffering and weariness entailed by a sea voyage —Agnes Repplier⟩ ⟨the army will have four armored, or tank, divisions, as *compared* to the single brigade, or less than half a division, available a year ago —H.W.Baldwin⟩ ⟨a hitherto unpublished letter by Hearn offers additional evidence of his independence of mind, his hostility toward the West as *compared* to the Orient, and his curiosity about his mother and her people —*Amer. Literature*⟩ COLLATE indicates painstaking minute orderly comparison, all small variations and differentiations being noted ⟨his books are for the most part built up around tables of statistics, carefully collected and *collated* and subjected to an unwearying critical scrutiny —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ CONTRAST always centers attention on differences between juxtaposed items ⟨with their large output of verse we may *contrast* the small amount of literary criticism that has been attempted by the younger poets —C.D.Lewis⟩ ⟨wind-swept dunes *contrast* with the otherwise rugged coastal scenery —*Amer. Guide Series: Maine*⟩

— **compare notes :** to exchange observations and views ⟨the two rival coaches got together after the game to *compare notes*⟩

^{2}**compare** \"\ *n* -s **1 :** COMPARISON ⟨a ruffian in ~ to his comrades⟩ — used esp. in connection with something so superior it cannot be equaled by anything else ⟨her beauty was beyond ~⟩ ⟨a storm past ~ in violence⟩ **2** *obs* **:** illustration by comparison **:** SIMILE

^{3}**compare** *n* -s [alter. (influenced by ^{1}*compare*) of *compeer*] **:** COMPEER

^{4}**compare** *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [L *comparare* to prepare, acquire, buy, fr. *com-* + *parare* to prepare — more at PARE] *obs* **:** PROCURE, ACQUIRE

com·par·i·son \kəm'parəsən *also* -per-, *rap.* -rsən\ *n* -s [ME *comparisoun*, fr. MF *comparaison*, fr. L *comparation-*, *comparatio*, fr. *comparatus* (past part. of *comparare* to compare) + *-ion-*, *-io* -ion — more at COMPARE] **1 :** the act or action of comparing **:** LIKENING, EQUATING: as **a :** the representing of one thing or person as similar to or like another ⟨a ~ of man to a monkey⟩ — often used with *beyond*, *without*, or *out of all* in connection with something or someone so superior that likening to anything or anyone else is impossible ⟨wealth beyond ~⟩ ⟨out of all ~ the more beautiful of the two⟩ **b :** the placing together or juxtaposing of two or more items to ascertain, bring into relief, or establish their similarities and dissimilarities ⟨a ~ between American and British business procedures⟩ ⟨health record of rural areas . . . suffers by ~ with urban centers —*Commonweal*⟩ **2 :** identity (as of one feature or set of armies⟩ **3 :** the modification (as by inflection) of an adjective or adverb to denote different levels of the quality, quantity, or relation expressed by the adjective or adverb — see ^{1}COMPARATIVE 1, POSITIVE, SUPERLATIVE **4** *obs* **:** a scoffing or mocking similitude

syn CONTRAST, ANTITHESIS, COLLATION, PARALLEL: COMPARISON is the most general term; in its broadest use it may imply no more than an impartial search for resemblances as well as differences ⟨there can be no *comparison* between the intelligence of native-born and foreign-born until differences due to language difficulties have been eliminated⟩ ⟨a *comparison* of many children from diverse backgrounds would yield an understanding of the common characteristics of childhood⟩ In a narrower use COMPARISON means likening ⟨a *comparison* to Sarah Bernhardt is flattering to any actress⟩ and in yet another use it implies a judgment ⟨parents should avoid *comparisons* between their children⟩ CONTRAST emphasizes difference intensified by physical nearness or by the association of the contrasting objects in an organic whole, a logical category, or an actual relationship ⟨the *contrast* the neat bright doctor . . . made with the coltish countryfolk —R.L.Stevenson⟩ ⟨Rembrandt achieves his greatest effect by the *contrast* of light and dark⟩ ⟨the *contrast* between democracy and fascism⟩ ⟨Electra's character given in a moment by the sharp *contrast* to her sister —Edith Hamilton⟩ ANTITHESIS implies comparison for the sake of revealing startling differences. But the objects of an antithesis always appear in pairs or sets of pairs; and antithesis suggests that the members of each pair are at opposite extremes or directly negate each other ⟨the century-old *antithesis* of heavenly justice and earthly fallibility, sin and innocence, Heaven and Hell, God and the Devil dominate Melville's mind —Charles Weir⟩ COLLATION denotes a close and far-going comparison, esp. a scrutiny of manuscripts, records, differing accounts or editions of a text, with the purpose of arriving at the most nearly complete, authentic, or true version of something said, written, or done ⟨this *collation* is relevant . . . to the question of Seneca's influence upon language —T.S.Eliot⟩ PARALLEL implies a similarity in growth, development, or action between people or events separated in time or place, background, or origin ⟨the controversy which raged as an earlier *parallel* to that which Darwin was to start later —W.E. Swinton⟩ ⟨the contribution of the Third Programme . . . is without *parallel* in the history of the art —Dyneley Hussey⟩

comparison lamp *n* **:** an incandescent lamp of constant and not necessarily known luminous intensity against which a working standard lamp and lamps to be tested are successively compared in a photometer

comparison microscope *n* **:** an apparatus consisting essentially of a pair of microscope objective lenses and tubes connected by prisms in such a way that images from both may be viewed side by side through a single ocular lens

comparison shopper *n* **:** a store employee who gathers information through actual visits and purchases about the quality, style, and price of merchandise in competitors' stores and about stock assortments, sales service, and customer response to special promotions

comparison slip *n* **:** EXCHANGE TICKET

comparison spectrum *n* **:** a line spectrum of accurately known wavelengths that is matched wavelength for wavelength with another spectrum for calibration of the latter

comparison star *n* **:** a star used as a reference in the measurement of another star's position, brightness, or other observable characteristic

com·par·i·um \kəm'pa(a)rēəm\ *n, pl* **compar·ia** \-ēə\ [NL, fr. L *comparare* to couple together, compare + NL *-ium* — more at COMPARE] **:** a group of organisms capable of direct or indirect interbreeding whether or not fertile hybrids result and being usu. equivalent in scope to a taxonomic genus

com·par·o·scope *also* **com·par·a·scope** \-parə,skōp\ *n* -s [^{1}*compare* + connective *-o-*, *-a-* + *-scope*] **:** an apparatus used for simultaneous microscopic study of two objects **:** COMPARISON MICROSCOPE

com·par·sa \kəm'pärsə\ *n* -s [AmerSp, fr. Sp, group of revelers costumed alike, entire group of supernumeraries in a play, supernumerary in a play, fr. It, supernumerary in a play, appearance, fr. fem. of *comparso*, past part. of *comparire* to appear, fr. L *comparēre*, fr. L *com-* + *parēre* to be visible — more at APPEAR] **1 :** a folk dance and song of Cuban Negro origin **2 :** a masked company of street dancers in Cuban carnival processions

com·part \kəm'pärt, -pȧt, *usu* -d·+V\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [It *compartire* to mark out into parts, share out, fr. LL *compartiri* to share out, fr. L *com-* + *partiri*, *partire* to share, fr. *part-*, *pars* part — more at PART] **:** to mark out into parts or subdivisions; *specif* **:** to lay out in parts according to a plan

com·par·ti·men·to \kəm,pärd·ə'men(,)tō\ *n, pl* **comparti·men·ti** \-n(,)tē\ [It] **:** an administrative district or region in Italy

com·par·ti·tion \,käm,pär'tishən, -mpȧ-\ *n* -s [ML *compartition-*, *compartitio* apportionment, fr. LL *compartitus* (past part. of *compartiri*) + L *-ion-* *-io* -ion] **:** distribution esp. of the parts of a design

^{1}**com·part·ment** \kəm'pärtmənt, -pȧt-\ *n* -s [MF *compartiment*, fr. It *compartimento*, fr. *compartire* + *-mento* -ment] **1 :** a subdivision of a plane surface; as **a :** a separate division of a structure or design (as a panel or coffer in a ceiling or a sculptured subdivision of a portal) **b** *obs* **:** COMPARTITION **2 :** a subdivision esp. of a series of abstractions, an integrated organization, or a body of knowledge **:** SECTION, PART ⟨the ~*s* of your mind⟩ **3 :** a subdivision of three-dimensional space: as **a :** a small chamber, receptacle, or container ⟨the seeds may be found in numerous ~*s* within the pod⟩ ⟨the ~*s* of a roulette wheel⟩ **b** (1) **:** a private room on a sleeping car that has toilet facilities and berths and is larger than a bedroom and smaller than a drawing room (2) *in Europe and elsewhere outside of the U.S.* **:** a private room on a railroad passenger car with or without berths and toilet facilities (3) *in Great Britain* **:** one of the subdivisions of a railroad passenger car having seats that face each other and opening into a side corridor or extending entirely across the car **c :** one of the sections into which the interior of a ship is divided by bulkheads **d** *mil* **:** an area bounded by such topographic features (as woods or ridges) that observation and direct fire into the area are limited — compare CORRIDOR

^{2}**com·part·ment** \-t,ment, -tmənt\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S **1 :** to break down (as into sections or segments) **:** divide up ⟨a ~*ed* box⟩ ⟨biology is ~*ed* into a host of special sciences —*Scientific American Reader*⟩ **2 :** to separate into mutually isolated units ⟨in the protected and ~*ed* society of Beacon Hill —John Mason Brown⟩ ⟨international treaties must be discussed as a whole; they may not be ~*ed* —H.M.Dorr & H.L.Bretton⟩

com·part·men·tal \kəm¦pärt¦ment³l, ¦käm,pärt-, -pȧt-\ *adj* **:** divided or tending to divide into separate or independent compartments ⟨a ~ organization⟩ ⟨~ seed pods⟩ — **com·part·men·tal·ly** \-³lē, -³li\ *adv*

com·part·men·tal·i·za·tion \kəm¦pärt,ment³lə'zāshən, ¦käm,p-, -pȧt-, -³l,ī'z-\ *n* -s **:** division esp. into units lacking normal interaction or cooperation ⟨the rigid ~ that has done so much to sterilize scientific knowledge by depriving scientific specialists of a broad social vision —T.S.Harding⟩

com·part·men·tal·ize \kəm,pärt'ment³l,īz, ,käm-, -pȧt-\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S **:** to separate into compartments or categories in a manner tending to preclude interrelationships

com·part·men·ta·tion \kəm,pärtmən'tāshən, -pȧt-, -,men-\ *n* -s **:** division into separate sections or units ⟨elaborate ~ in submarines makes them difficult to sink⟩ ⟨~ and specialization go hand in hand with . . . the increasing complexities of civilization —V.D.Tate⟩

com·part·ment·ize \kəm'pärtmən,tīz, -pȧt-\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S **:** COMPARTMENTALIZE

^{1}**com·pass** \'kəmpəs *also* 'käm-\ *vb* -ED/-ING/-ES [ME *compassen*, fr. OF *compasser* to measure, arrange, ponder, contrive, fr. (assumed) VL *compassare* to measure off by paces, fr. L *com-* + (assumed) VL *passare* to go, move, fr. L *passus*

hem in or enclose in or as if in a ring **:** SURROUND ⟨suddenly enemies ~*ed* him on all sides⟩ **4 a :** to bring about **:** ACHIEVE, ACCOMPLISH ⟨a writer . . . attempting a higher strain of elevation . . . than his powers can ~ —C.E.Montague⟩ **b :** to get at or within one's power **:** OBTAIN ⟨~ his freedom⟩ **5** *obs* **:** to bend into a circular form **:** CURVE **6** *obs* **:** to get around (someone) esp. for one's own advantage **7 :** GRASP ⟨~*ing* an idea⟩ **:** COMPREHEND ⟨could not ~ the smallest problems⟩ ~ *vi* **:** to assume a circular or curved form **:** CURVE, BEND ⟨a plank ~*ing* under pressure⟩ **syn** see REACH, SURROUND

^{2}**compass** \"\ *n* -ES [ME *compas*, fr. MF, fr. *compasser* to go round, measure, divide] **1 a :** an often rounded or curved boundary limit **:** CIRCUMFERENCE ⟨within the ~ of the outer wall⟩ **b :** an enclosed or delimited space or area often circumscribed ⟨three passengers shut up in the narrow ~ of one lumbering old mail coach —Charles Dickens⟩ ⟨the narrow ~ of 21 pages —V.L.Parrington⟩ **c :** range or limit of perception, cognizance, knowledge, interest, concern, or treatment ⟨impossible within the ~ of this report to do justice to all the projects —J.B.Conant⟩ ⟨disposing of his property . . . within the ~ of the law —John Locke⟩ ⟨works . . . of such ~ and excellence as to supersede those of his predecessors —H.O.Taylor⟩ **d :** the range of pitch covered by a melody or lying within the capacity of a voice or instrument **e** *obs* **:** due bounds **:** limits imposed by moderation and good sense **2** *obs* **:** cunning ingenuity **3 a** *obs* **:** CIRCLE **b** *obs* **:** a ring, globe, or other object with circular outline **c :** a circular motion or course **:** a roundabout way ⟨finishing the ~ of his life⟩ ⟨hawks rising in ~*es* through the air⟩ ⟨a ~ of seven days' journey —2 Kings 3:9 (AV)⟩ **d** (1) **:** the curve of an arrow's flight (2) **:** the angle of elevation determining this curve **4 a :** a device for determining directions on the earth's surface by means of a magnetic needle or group of needles turning freely on a pivot and pointing to the magnetic north **b :** any of certain nonmagnetic devices that serve the same purpose as the magnetic compass (as the gyrocompass and the sky compass) — see GYROCOMPASS, MAGNETIC NEEDLE, MARINER'S COMPASS, SKY COMPASS, SURVEYOR'S COMPASS **c** *usu* **compasses** *pl* **:** an instrument for describing circles, transferring measurements, and similar operations consisting in its simple form of two pointed branches joined at the top by a pivot, one of the branches generally having a pen or pencil point — called also *pair of compasses* **syn** see RANGE

compass 4a

^{3}**compass** \"\ *adj* **:** forming a curve **:** CURVED, CIRCULAR ⟨a ~ timber⟩

^{4}**compass** *adv* [^{3}*compass*] *obs* **:** in an arc **:** so as to form an arc or circle

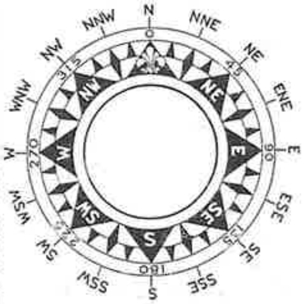
com·pass·able \'kəmpəsəbəl *also* 'käm-\ *adj* **:** that may be compassed or attained ⟨a ~ distance⟩ ⟨materials easily ~⟩

compass bearing *n* **:** a bearing relative to north as indicated by a magnetic compass

compass brick *n* **:** curved or tapering brick for use in curved work (as in arches, shafts, and wells) — compare ARCH BRICK 1

compass calipers *n pl* **:** HERMAPHRODITE CALIPERS

compass card *n* **:** the circular card attached to the needles of a mariner's compass on which are marked the 32 points of the compass and the 360° of the circle



compass card

compass corrector *n* **:** a magnet or magnets or soft iron spheres or bars placed near a compass to neutralize the effect of the ship's magnetism

compass course *n* **:** the course with respect to true north in which a ship or an aircraft is intended to travel

compass dial *n* **:** a small pocket sundial fitted with a compass needle by which the gnomon may be adjusted to tell the hour of the day

compassed *past of* COMPASS

compass error *n* **:** the difference between compass heading and true heading expressed as the algebraic sum of variation and deviation

compasses *pres 3d sing of* COMPASS, *pl of* COMPASS

compass-headed \'••¦••\ *adj* **:** having a semicircular head ⟨a *compass-headed* arch⟩

compass heading *n* **:** heading measured clockwise from north as indicated by the compass

compassing *adj* [ME, fr. pres. part. of *compassen* to compass] **1 :** ENCOMPASSING, INCLUSIVE ⟨~ knowledge⟩ **2 :** CURVED, BENT ⟨~ timbers⟩

^{1}**com·pas·sion** \kəm'pashən, -aash-, -aish-\ *n* -s [ME *compassioun*, fr. MF or LL; MF *compassion*, fr. LL *compassion-*, *compassio*, fr. *compassus* (past part. of *compati* to have compassion, fr. L *com-* + *pati* to bear, suffer) + *-ion-*, *-io* -ion — more at PATIENT] **:** deep feeling for and understanding of misery or suffering and the concomitant desire to promote its alleviation **:** spiritual consciousness of the personal tragedy of another or others and selfless tenderness directed toward it ⟨to have ~ on a person⟩ ⟨with ~ (so different from pity) she shows the sordid impact of this convict settlement on the lives of the natives —Sarah Campion⟩ **syn** see SYMPATHY

^{2}**compassion** \"\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S *archaic* **:** COMPASSIONATE

com·pas·sion·able \-sh(ə)nəbəl\ *adj* **1** *obs* **:** COMPASSIONATE **2** *archaic* **:** PITIABLE

^{1}**com·pas·sion·ate** \-sh(ə)nət, *usu* -əd·+V\ *adj* **1 :** marked by compassion, by a ready inclination to pity, sympathy, or tenderness **:** SYMPATHETIC ⟨not cold and blaming . . . but an older and wiser brother, very ~ —Sinclair Lewis⟩ ⟨there was a murmur of commiseration . . . the soft and ~ voices of women were conspicuous —Charles Dickens⟩ **2** *obs* **:** calling forth pity **:** PITIABLE **3 :** granted because of unusual distressing circumstances affecting an individual — used of leaves and other military privileges ⟨considered for a ~ discharge because of his domestic difficulties⟩ **syn** see TENDER

^{2}**com·pas·sion·ate** \-shə,nāt, *usu* -ād·+V\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S **:** to have compassion for **:** sympathize with **:** PITY ⟨even *compassionating* those who hold in bondage their fellowmen —John Quincy Adams⟩

com·pas·sion·ate·ly \-sh(ə)nətlē, -li\ *adv* **:** in a compassionate manner

com·pas·sion·ate·ness *n* -ES **:** COMPASSION

com·pas·sion·less \-shənlə̇s\ *adj* **:** lacking compassion

com·pas·sive \kəm'pasiv\ *adj* [*compassion* + *-ive*] *archaic* **:** COMPASSIONATE

compass key *n* **:** a small screwdriver or pin wrench for tightening or loosening the joints of compasses

com·pass·less \'kəmpəslə̇s *also* 'käm-\ *adj* **:** lacking a compass

compass man *n* **:** one who accompanies a timber estimator in order to establish for him by use of a compass and other means the correct boundaries of the tract

compass plane *n* **:** CIRCULAR PLANE

compass plant *also* **compass flower** *n* **:** any of several plants whose leaves or branches are arranged on the axis so as to in-