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count-er-pro-duc-tive (kount'ər prə duk'tiv) *adj.* bringing about effects or results regarded as contrary to those intended

count-er-pro-gram-ming (kount'ər prō'gram'ing) *n.* TV the practice of scheduling a program opposite another program, esp. a popular one, that appeals to a different kind of audience —**count'er-pro'gram' vt., vi.** -grammed', -gram'ming

count-er-pro-po-sal (kount'ər prə pō'zəl) *n.* a proposal made in opposition to another proposal

count-er-punch (-punch') *n.* Boxing a punch delivered while receiving or parrying an opponent's blow —**vi.** to strike with a counterpunch

count-er-ref-or-ma-tion (kount'ər ref'ər mā'shən) *n.* a reform movement to oppose a previous one

Counter-Reformation (kount'ər ref'ər mā'shən) *n.* the reform movement in the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th cent., following the Protestant Reformation and in response to it

count-er-revo-lu-tion (-rev'ə lōō'shən) *n.* 1 a political movement or revolution against a government or social system set up by a previous revolution 2 a movement to combat revolutionary tendencies —**count'er-rev'o-lu'tion-ar'y n., adj., pl.** -ar'ies —**count'er-rev'o-lu'tion-ist n.**

count-er-scarp (kount'ər skärp') *n.* [Fr *contrescarpe*; see COUNTER- & SCARP] the outer slope or wall of a ditch or moat in a fortification

count-er-shaft (-shaft') *n.* an intermediate shaft that transmits motion from the main shaft of a machine to a working part

count-er-sign (kount'ər sīn'; for *v.*, also kount'ər sīn') *n.* 1 a signature added to a document previously signed by another, for authentication or confirmation 2 a secret sign or signal in answer to another, as in a secret society 3 *Mil.* a secret word or signal which must be given to a guard or sentry by someone wishing to pass; password —**vt.** to authenticate (a previously signed document) by adding one's own signature —**count'er-sig' nature** (-sig'nə chər) *n.*

count-er-sink (kount'ər sīnk') *vt.* -sunk', -sink'ing 1 to enlarge the top part of (a hole in metal, wood, etc.) so that the head of a bolt, screw, etc. will fit flush with or below the surface 2 to sink the head of (a bolt, screw, etc.) into such a hole —*n.* 1 a bit for countersinking holes 2 a countersunk hole

count-er-spy (kount'ər spī') *n., pl.* -spies a spy used in counterespionage

count-er-sue (kount'ər sū) *vt., vt.* -sued', -su'ing 1 to bring a countersuit (against) 2 to counterclaim

count-er-suit (kount'ər sū) *n.* an opposing lawsuit asserting a counterclaim, brought by a defendant against a plaintiff in the original suit

count-er-ten-or (kount'ər ten'ər) *n.* [ME *countretenour* < OFr *countre-tenour*; see COUNTER- & TENOR] 1 an adult male voice, usually in falsetto, with a range similar to the contralto and sometimes reaching the soprano 2 a voice or singer with such a range; a male alto 3 a part for such a voice —*adj.* of, for, or having the range of a countertenor

count-er-top (kount'ər tōp') *n.* the upper surface of a COUNTER¹ (sense 5)

count-er-trans-fer-ence (kount'ər trans fur'əns, -trans'fər əns) *n.* in psychotherapy, transference in which the psychoanalyst or other psychotherapist substitutes the client for the original object of his or her own repressed impulses

count-er-type (kount'ər tīp') *n.* 1 an opposite type 2 a parallel, or corresponding, type

count-er-vail (kount'ər vāl', kount'ər vāl') *vt.* [ME *countrevailen* < OFr *contrevaloir* < *contre* (see COUNTER²) + *valoir*, to avail < L *valere*, to be strong; see VALUE] 1 to make up for; compensate 2 to counteract; be successful, useful, etc. against; avail against 3 [Archaic] to match or equal —**vi.** to avail (against)

count-er-weigh (kount'ər wā', kount'ər wā') *vt.* COUNTERBALANCE

count-er-weight (kount'ər wāt') *n.* a weight equal to another; counterbalance

counter word any word freely used as a general term of approval or disapproval without reference to its more exact meaning, as *nice, terrible, lousy, terrific*

count-er-work (kount'ər wɜrk') *n.* anything made in opposition, as a fortification to oppose an enemy fortification

count-ess (kount'is) *n.* [ME *countesse* < OFr *contesse* < ML *cometissa*; see COUNT⁴ & -ESS] 1 the wife or widow of a count or earl 2 a noblewoman whose rank is equal to that of a count or earl

count-tian (kount'ē ən) *n.* a native or inhabitant of a certain county

count-ing-house (kount'ing hous') *n.* [Now Rare] a building or office in which a firm keeps records, handles correspondence, etc.: also called **counting room**

counting number NATURAL NUMBER

count-less (kount'lis) *adj.* too many to count; innumerable; myriad

count noun a noun denoting something that is countable: it can form a plural and be preceded by *a* or *an* or a numeral (Ex.: *dog, tree, idea*): cf. MASS NOUN

count palatine [Historical] 1 in Germany, a count granted certain powers from the emperor in his own territory 2 in England, an earl with supreme power in his county: also **earl palatine**

count-ri-fied (kunt'rā fid') *adj.* [< fol. + -FY + -ED] 1 rural; rustic 2 having the appearance, characteristics, or actions attributed to country people

country (kunt'rē) *n., pl.* -tries [ME *contre* < OFr *contrée* < VL **regio* *contrata*, region lying opposite < L *contra*; see CONTRA-] 1 an area of land; region [wooded country] 2 the whole land or territory of a nation or state 3 the people of a nation or state 4 the land of a person's birth or citi-

zenship 5 land with farms and small towns; rural region, as distinguished from a city or town 6 *short for* COUNTRY MUSIC —*adj.* 1 of, in, or from a rural district 2 characteristic of or like that of the country; rustic 3 [Now Dial.] of one's own country; native

country and western COUNTRY MUSIC

☆ **country club** a social club, usually in the outskirts of a city, with a clubhouse, golf course, and other facilities

country cousin a rural visitor to a large city who is bewildered or excited by it: a humorously patronizing term

country-dance (-dans') *n.* an English folk dance, esp. one in which partners form two facing lines

country-fied (kunt'rā fid') *adj.* *alt. sp. of* COUNTRYFIED

country gentleman a man of some wealth who lives on a country estate

country-man (kunt'rē mən) *n., pl.* -men (-mən) 1 a man who lives in the country 2 a person of one's own country; compatriot

☆ **country mile** [Informal] a very long way or extent

country music a form of popular music which derives from the rural folk music of the SE and SW U.S., traditionally characterized by string-band instrumentation

country rock 1 rock surrounding a mineral deposit or containing intrusive igneous rock 2 a form of popular music combining features of rock and country music

country-seat (kunt'rē sēt') *n.* a rural mansion or estate

country-side (-sid') *n.* a rural region or its inhabitants

country western COUNTRY MUSIC

country-wide (kunt'rē wīd', -wid') *adj., adv.* by or throughout the whole land or nation

country-woman (-wōm'ən) *n., pl.* -wom'en (-wim'in) 1 a woman who lives in the country 2 a woman of one's own country; compatriot

county (kount'ē) *n., pl.* -ties [ME *counte* < OFr *conté* < ML *comitatus*, jurisdiction of a count or earl < L *comes*; see COUNT²] 1 a small administrative district of a country; esp., *a*) the largest local administrative subdivision of most states of the U.S. *b*) any of the chief administrative districts into which England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Ireland are divided *c*) an administrative district in certain Canadian provinces *d*) an electoral district in rural New Zealand 2 the people living in a county 3 [Obs.] the region governed by a count or earl —*adj.* of, in, for, or characteristic of a county

☆ **county agent** a government-employed specialist assigned in rural, suburban, and urban areas to offer informal education and assistance in improved agricultural practices, natural resources management, home economics, etc.

county borough 1 a former unit of local government in England and Wales 2 any of four units of local government in Ireland

☆ **county commissioner** a member of an elected governing board in the counties of certain states of the U.S.

county palatine the land held by a count palatine

☆ **county seat** a town or city that is the seat or center of government of a county: also [Brit.] **county town**

coup (kō) *n., pl.* **coups** (kōz; Fr *kō*) [ME *coupe* & Fr *coup*, both < OFr *colp* < ML *colpus* < VL *colaphus*, a cuff, box on the ear < Gr *kolaphos*] 1 literally, a blow 2 a sudden, successful move or action; brilliant stroke 3 COUP D'ÉTAT

coup de fou-dre (kōōt fōō'dr') [Fr, lit., bolt of thunder] 1 a thunderbolt 2 a sudden, intense feeling of love

coup de grâce (kōō'də grās') [Fr, lit., stroke of mercy] 1 the blow, shot, etc. that brings death to a sufferer; death blow 2 any effort or maneuver that clinches victory or success, as by finishing an opponent

coup de main (kōōd mān') [Fr, lit., stroke of hand] a surprise attack or movement, as in war

coup de maître (kōōd me'tr') [Fr, lit., stroke of a master] a masterstroke; stroke of genius

coup d'état (kōō'dā tā') [Fr, lit., stroke of state] the sudden, forcible overthrow of a ruler, government, etc., sometimes with violence, by a small group of people already having some political or military authority

coup de thé-âtre (kōōt tā ā'tr') [Fr, lit., stroke of theater] 1 a surprising or startling turn in a drama 2 an action for sensational effect; theatrical action

coup d'oeil (kōō dē'y') [Fr, lit., stroke of eye] a rapid glance

coupe (kōōp; *orig.*, now rarely, kōō pā') *n.* [< fol.] a closed, two-door automobile with a body smaller than that of a sedan

cou-pé (kōō pā') *n.* [Fr, *orig.* pp. of *couper*, to cut, strike < *coup*, COUP] 1 a closed carriage seating two passengers, with a seat outside for the driver 2 in British railway cars, a half-compartment at the end, with seats on only one side 3 COUPE

Cou-perin (kōō pran'), **Fran-çois** (frän swā') 1668-1733; Fr. composer & organist

cou-ple (kup'əl) *n.* [ME < OFr *cople* < L *copula*, a band, link; see COPULA] 1 anything joining two things together; bond; link 2 two things or persons of the same sort that are somehow associated 3 two people, esp. a man and woman, who are engaged, married, or joined as partners, as in a dance or game 4 [Informal] an indefinite small number; a few [a couple of ideas]: now often used with adjectival force, omitting the *of* [a couple cups of coffee] 5 *Elec.* two dissimilar metals or alloys placed in electrical contact with each other to create a galvanic or thermoelectric current; voltaic couple 6 *Mech.* two equal forces producing rotation by moving in parallel but opposite directions —**vt.** -pled, -pling [ME *couplen* < OFr *copler* < L *copulare*

< copula > 1 to join together by fastening or by association; link; connect 2 [Archaic] to join in marriage 3 *Elec.* to join (two or more circuits) by a common magnetic or electric field or by direct connection —*vi.* 1 to come together; unite 2 to unite in sexual intercourse; copulate —*SYN.* PAIR
coupler (kup'lər) *n.* a person or thing that couples; specif., a) a device for coupling two railroad cars b) a device on an organ connecting two keyboards or keys an octave apart so that they can be played together
couplet (kup'līt) *n.* [Fr. dim. of *couple*, COUPLE] 1 two successive lines of poetry, esp. two of the same length that rhyme 2 [Rare] a couple; pair
coupling (kup'lin) *n.* 1 the act of joining together, pairing, copulating, etc. 2 a flexible or rigid mechanical device or part for joining parts together, as two shafts 3 COUPLER (sense a) 4 the part of the body, as of a dog or horse, between the hipbones and the ribs; loin 5 a method or device for joining two electric circuits for the transference of energy from one to the other



railroad coupling

coupon (koo'pən, kyoo'-) *n.* [Fr. remnant, coupon < *couper*, to cut; see COUP] 1 a detachable printed statement on a bond, specifying the interest due at a given time; each coupon on a bond is presented for payment at the proper time 2 a certificate or ticket entitling the holder to a specified right, as redemption for cash or gifts, reduced purchase price, etc. 3 a part of a printed advertisement as for use in ordering goods, samples, or literature
courage (kur'ij) *n.* [ME & OFr *corage*, heart, spirit < L *cor*, HEART] 1 the attitude of facing and dealing with anything recognized as dangerous, difficult, or painful, instead of withdrawing from it; quality of being fearless or brave; valor 2 [Obs.] mind; purpose; spirit —the courage of one's convictions the courage to do what one thinks is right

cou-ra-geous (kə rā'jəs) *adj.* having or showing courage; brave —*SYN.* BRAVE —**cou-ra-geous-ly** *adv.* —**cou-ra-geous-ness** *n.*

courante (koo rānt') *n.* [Fr. < *courant*, prp. of *courir*, to run, glide < L *currere*, to run; see CURRENT] 1 an old, lively French dance with running steps, or the music for this 2 a stylized dance of this type used as a movement in a classical suite Also **courant** (-rānt')

Cour-bet (kūr be') *n.* 1819-77; Fr. painter
cour-reur de bois (kūr rēr də bwā') *pl.* **cou-reurs de bois** (kūr rēr) [Fr. lit., runner of the woods] an unlicensed French or French-Indian fur trader or trapper roving the early frontiers of Canada

cour-gette (kūr zhet') *n.* [Fr. dim. of *courge*, gourd] [Chiefly Brit.] a zucchini

cou-rier (kūr'ēr, kur'-) *n.* [ME *corour* (< OFr *coreor* < LL *curritor*) & *courier* (< OFr *courrier* < It *corriere*), both ult. < L *currere*, to run; see CURRENT] 1 a messenger sent in haste or on a regular schedule with messages, parcels, etc.; specif., a) a member of the diplomatic corps charged with carrying messages b) a spy carrying secret information 2 a person hired to take care of hotel accommodations and luggage and to act as guide for a traveler

cour-lan (kūr'lən) *n.* [Fr. < Galibi *kurliri*, echoic of the cry] LIMPKIN

Cour-land (kūr'lənd) *alt. sp.* of KURLAND

course (kōrs) *n.* [ME *cours* & Fr *course*, both < OFr *cours* < L *cursus*, pp. of *currere*, to run; see CURRENT] 1 an onward movement; going on from one point to the next; progress 2 the progress or duration of time [in the course of a week] 3 a way, path, or channel of movement; specif., a) the path to be followed by participants in a race b) GOLF COURSE 4 the direction taken, esp. that taken or to be taken by a ship or plane, expressed in degrees measured clockwise from north or by points of the compass 5 a) a regular manner of procedure [the law must take its course] b) a way of behaving; mode of conduct [our wisest course] 6 a) a series of like things in some regular order b) a particular succession of events or actions 7 regular or natural order or development [the course of true love] 8 a part of a meal served at one time [the main course was roast beef] 9 an encounter of knights contesting in a tournament 10 a horizontal row or layer, as of bricks in a wall or shingles on a roof 11 *Educ.* a) a complete series of studies leading to graduation or a degree b) any of the separate units of instruction in a subject, made up of recitations, lectures, etc. 12 *Naut.* a sail on any of the lowest yards of a square-rigged ship —*vt.* **coursed**, **cours-ing** 1 to run or chase after; pursue 2 to cause (esp. hunting hounds) to chase 3 to run through or over; traverse —*vi.* to move swiftly; run or race —in due course in the usual or proper sequence (of events) —in the course of in the progress or process of; during —of course 1 as is or was to be expected; naturally 2 certainly; without doubt —on (or off) course moving (or not moving) in the intended direction

cours-er (kōr'sər) *n.* [ME < OFr *corsier* < *cours*, COURSE] 1 a graceful, spirited, or swift horse 2 a war horse; charger

cours-er (kōr'sər) *n.* [*<* ModL *Cursorius*, name of the genus < LL, lit., pertaining to running; see CURSORY] any of various Asian and African swift-running shorebirds (family Glareolidae) that live in sandy, semidesert areas

cours-er (kōr'sər) *n.* 1 a person or thing that courses 2 a dog for coursing
course-ware (kōrs'wer') *n.* [COURSE + -WARE] computer software designed to provide instruction or training

course-work (kōrs'wark') *n.* the various assignments, exercises, examinations, etc. completed by a student to fulfill the requirements for passing a particular class or course of study

cours-ing (kōr'sin) *n.* 1 the action of a person or thing that courses 2 hunting with hounds trained to follow game by sight rather than scent

court (kōrt) *n.* [OFr < VL *curtis* < L *cohors* (gen. *cohorts*), enclosed place; see COHORT] 1 a) an uncovered space wholly or partly surrounded by buildings or walls; courtyard b) a special section or area of a building, as a museum, somewhat like such a space but roofed, as with a skylight 2 a short street, often closed at one end 3 a) a specially prepared space, usually quadrangular and often enclosed and roofed, for playing any of several games, as basketball, handball, tennis, or squash b) any of the divisions of such a space 4 a mansion or manor with a large, uncovered entrance area: now used only in proper names [Hampton Court] *5 a motel: in full **motor court** 6 a) the palace of a sovereign b) the family, advisors, and attendants of a sovereign, considered as a group c) a sovereign together with councilors, ministers, etc. as a governing body d) any formal gathering, reception, etc. held by a sovereign 7 respectful or flattering attention paid to someone in order to get something 8 courtship; wooing 9 [Brit.] the board of directors of a corporation 10 a) a person or persons appointed to try law cases, make investigations, etc.; judge or judges; law court b) a building or hall where trials are held, official investigations made, etc. c) a judicial assembly, whether civil, ecclesiastical, or military; also, a regular session of such an assembly —*vt.* 1 to pay respectful or flattering attention to (a person) in order to get something 2 to try to get the love of in order to marry; woo 3 to try to get; seek [to court success] 4 to make oneself open or liable to [to court insults] 5 *Zool.* to engage in the instinctive behavior necessary to attracting (another) as a mate —*vi.* to carry on a courtship —*adj.* of or fit for a court [a court jester] —(the ball is) in someone's court [*<* use in tennis] (a problem is) awaiting action or a decision by someone —out of court 1 without a trial in a law court 2 not important enough for consideration or examination —pay court to to court, as for favor or love —court'er *n.*

court bouillon (kūr'bōō yān', -bōōl; Fr *kūr bōō yōn'*) [Fr. lit., short BOUILLON] an aromatic liquid used esp. for poaching fish and made by cooking together white wine, water, onions, celery, carrots, and herbs

court card [altered < *coat card* by assoc. with COURT] [Brit.] FACE CARD
court-te-ous (kurt'ē əs) *adj.* [ME *courteis* < OFr *cortais* < *court*; see COURT & -EUS] polite and gracious; considerate toward others; well-mannered —*SYN.* CIVIL —**court-te-ous-ly** *adv.* —**court-te-ous-ness** *n.*

court-te-san (kōrt'ə zən, kōrt'ə zən'; also, esp. formerly, kurt'-) *n.* [Fr *courtisane* < It *cortigiana*, a prostitute, orig., court lady < *corte*, court < VL *curtis*; see COURT] 1 [Archaic] a prostitute, esp. one catering to men of wealth or nobility 2 [Historical] a MISTRESS (sense 4a) of a king or of a man of wealth or nobility Sometimes sp. **court-te-zan**

court-te-sy (kurt'ē sē; for 4, kurt'sē) *n.*, *pl.* -sies [ME *courtesie* < OFr *curtesie*; see COURTEOUS] 1 courteous behavior; gracious politeness 2 a polite, helpful, or considerate act or remark 3 an act or usage intended to honor or compliment [a former legislator addressed as "Senator" by courtesy] 4 [Obs.] a curtsy —*adj.* 1 of or having to do with courtesy or a courtesy 2 provided free as a courtesy; complimentary —**courtesy** of without charge, as a gesture of goodwill

***courtesy card** a card entitling the bearer to special privileges, as at a hotel, bank, or store

court hand a kind of handwriting formerly used in English legal documents; Gothic handwriting

court-house (kōrt'hous') *n.* 1 a building in which law courts are held *2 a building that houses the offices of a county government *3 a county seat: used in names of towns or cities

court-ier (kōrt'ēr, -yər) *n.* [ME *curteour* < OFr *cortioier*, to frequent the court < *court*, *cort*, COURT] 1 an attendant at a royal court 2 a person who uses flattery to get something or to win favor

court-ly (kōrt'lē) *adj.* -li-er, -li-est [ME] 1 suitable for a king's court; dignified, polite, elegant, etc. [courtly manners] 2 flattering, esp. in an obsequious way —*adv.* -li-er, -li-est in a courtly manner —**court/li-ness** *n.*

court-mar-tial (kōrt'mār'shəl) *n.*, *pl.* courts'-mar'tial; for 2, also court'-mar'tials 1 a court of personnel in the armed forces for the trial of persons accused of breaking military law: see SUMMARY COURT-MARTIAL, SPECIAL COURT-MARTIAL, GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL 2 a trial by a court-martial 3 a conviction by a court-martial —*vt.* -tialed or -tialed, -tia-ling or -tia-ling 1 to try by a court-martial 2 to convict by a court-martial

Court-ney (kōrt'ne) *n.* [*<* Brit surname Courtney, after Courtenay, town in France] a feminine and masculine name

***court of appeals** [often C- of A-] 1 a state court to which appeals are taken from the trial courts: usually it is an intermediate appellate court, but in several states it is the final appellate court 2 any of the federal appellate courts, one in each of eleven judicial circuits, intermediate between the U.S. district courts and the Supreme Court

court of record a court which has a permanent record of its proceedings maintained

Court of St. James [after ST. JAMES'S PALACE] the British royal court
court plaster [so called from former use as beauty spots by court ladies] cloth covered with isinglass or some other adhesive material, formerly used for protecting minor cuts and scratches in the skin

court reporter a person whose job is to produce a verbatim record of the oral remarks and statements, esp. testimony, presented at a court trial, deposition, etc.