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bê•tise (bā-tēz′) *n., pl.* **-tises** (-tēz′) **1.** Stupidity; folly: *"The bêtise of our human community is everywhere"* (Thornton Wilder). **2.** A stupid or foolish act or remark. [French < *bête*, beast, fool, foolish < Old French *beste*, beast; see BEAST.]

Bet•je•man (bĕch′ə-mən), Sir **John** 1906–1984. British poet and poet laureate (1972–1984) whose often nostalgic works, in collections such as *A Few Late Chrysanthemums* (1954), praise the English countryside. He also wrote widely on Victorian architecture.

be•to•ken (bī-tō′kən) *tr.v.* **-kened, -ken•ing, -kens** To be or give a sign of: *"His accent seemed to betoken an aristocratic origin"* (David I. Kertzer). See Synonyms at **indicate.** [Middle English *bitoknen* : *bi-*, be- + *toknen*, to signify (< Old English *tācnian*; see **deik-** in App. I).]

bet•o•ny (bĕt′n-ē) *n., pl.* **-nies** Any of several plants of the widespread genus *Stachys* in the mint family, especially *S. officinalis,* native to Eurasia and northern Africa and having spikes of usually reddish-purple flowers. It was formerly used as an herbal medicine. Also called *wood betony, woundwort.* [Middle English < Old French *betoine* < Medieval Latin *betōnia*, both < Latin *vettōnica*, probably < *Vettōnēs*, an ancient Iberian tribe.]

be•took (bī-to͝ok′) *v.* Past tense of **betake.**

be•tray (bī-trā′) *tr.v.* **-trayed, -tray•ing, -trays 1a.** To give aid or information to an enemy of; commit treason against: *betray one's country.* **b.** To inform upon or deliver into the hands of an enemy in violation of a trust or allegiance: *"City investigators betrayed him to his bosses as a whistle-blower"* (Selwyn Raab). **2.** To be false or disloyal to: *betrayed a cause; betray one's spouse.* **3.** To divulge in a breach of confidence: *betray a secret.* **4.** To make known unintentionally: *Her hollow laugh betrayed her contempt for the idea.* **5.** To lead astray; deceive: *"She felt somewhat like a woman who in a moment of passion is betrayed into an act of infidelity"* (Kate Chopin). [Middle English *bitrayen* : *bi-*, be- + *trayen*, to betray (< Old French *trair* < Latin *trādere*, to hand over; see TRADITION).] **—be•tray′al** *n.* **—be•tray′er** *n.*

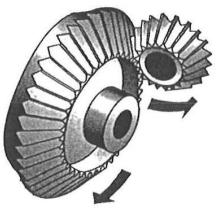
be•troth (bī-trōth′, -trôth′) *tr.v.* **-trothed, -troth•ing, -troths** To promise to give in marriage: *was betrothed to a member of the royal family.* [Middle English *bitrouthen* : *bi-*, be- + *trouth*, troth (< Old English *trēowth*; see **deru-** in App. I).]

be•troth•al (bī-trō′thəl, -trô′thəl) *n.* **1.** The act of betrothing or the fact of being betrothed. **2.** A mutual promise to marry; an engagement: *announced their betrothal the next day.*

be•trothed (bī-trōthd′, -trôtht′) *adj.* Engaged to be married. ❖ *n.* A person to whom one is engaged to be married.

bet•ta (bĕt′ə) *n.* Any of various species of small, brightly colored, long-finned freshwater fishes of the genus *Betta* of Southeast Asia, many of which, such as the Siamese fighting fish, are popular in home aquariums. [New Latin *Betta*, genus name < Javanese *wader bettah*, a species of betta *(Betta picta)* of Java and Sumatra (*wader*, freshwater fish).]

bet•ter[1] (bĕt′ər) *adj.* Comparative of **good. 1.** Greater in excellence or higher in quality. **2.** More useful, suitable, or desirable: *found a better way to go; a suit with a better fit than that one.* **3.** More highly skilled or adept: *I am better at math than English.* **4.** Greater or larger: *argued for the better part of an hour.* **5.** More advantageous or favorable; improved: *a better chance of success.* **6.** Healthier or more fit than before: *The patient is better today.* ❖ *adv.* Comparative of **well**[2]. **1.** In a more excellent way. **2a.** To a greater extent or degree: *better suited to the job; likes it better without sauce.* **b.** To greater advantage; preferably: *a deed better left undone.* See Usage Notes at **best, have, rather. 3.** More: *It took me better than a year to recover.* ❖ *n.* **1.** One that is greater in excellence or higher in quality. **2.** often **betters** A superior, as in standing, competence, or intelligence: *to learn from one's betters.* ❖ *v.* **-tered, -ter•ing, -ters** *—tr.* **1.** To make better; improve: *trying to better conditions in the prison; bettered myself by changing jobs.* **2.** To surpass or exceed: *practiced so he could better his rival. —intr.* To become better: *Conditions bettered with time.* ***—idioms:*** **better off** In a better or more prosperous condition: *would be better off taking the train instead of driving; felt better off after the rise in stock prices.* **for the better** Resulting in or aiming at an improvement: *Her condition took a turn for the better.* **get (or have) the better of** To outdo or outwit; defeat. **think better of** To change one's mind about (a course of action) after reconsideration: *I almost bought an expensive watch, but then I thought better of it.* [Middle English < Old English *betera*; see **bhad-** in App. I.]



bevel gear

bet•ter[2] (bĕt′ər) *n.* Variant of **bettor.**

better half *n. Informal* One's spouse. [Ultimately translation of such phrases in Latin poety as *animae dimidium meae*, half of my soul (referring to the poet's friend).]

bet•ter•ment (bĕt′ər-mənt) *n.* **1.** An improvement over what has been the case: *financial betterment.* **2.** *Law* An improvement beyond normal upkeep and repair that adds to the value of real property.

bet•ter-off (bĕt′ər-ôf′, -ŏf′) *adj.* Being in a better or more prosperous condition: *a visit to her better-off relatives.*

bet•tor also **bet•ter** (bĕt′ər) *n.* One that bets or places a bet.

be•tween (bī-twēn′) *prep.* **1a.** In or through the position or interval separating: *between the trees; between 11 o'clock and 12 o'clock.* **b.** Intermediate to, as in quantity, amount, or degree: *It costs between 15 and 20 dollars.* **2.** Connecting spatially: *a railroad between the two cities.* **3.** *Usage Problem* Associating or uniting in a reciprocal action or relationship: *an agreement between workers and management; a certain resemblance between the two stories.* **4.** In confidence restricted to: *Between you and me, he is not qualified.* **5a.** By the combined effort or effect of: *Between them they succeeded.* **b.** In the combined ownership of: *They had only a few dollars between them.* **6.** As measured against. Often used to express a reciprocal relationship: *choose between riding and walking.* ❖ *adv.* In an intermediate space, position, or time; in the interim. ***—idioms:*** **in between** In an intermediate situation: *My roommates disagreed and I was caught in between.* **in between times** During an intervening period; in the meantime: *has written several books and teaches in between times.* [Middle English *bitwene* < Old English *betwēonum*; see **dwo-** in App. I.] **—between′ness** *n.*

✦**USAGE NOTE** According to a widely repeated but unjustified tradition, "*between* is used for two, and *among* for more than two." It is true that *between* is the only choice when exactly two entities are specified: *the choice between* (not *among*) *good and evil, the rivalry between* (not *among*) *Great Britain and France.* When more than two entities are involved, however, or when the number of entities is unspecified, the choice of one or the other word depends on the intended sense. *Between* is used when the entities are considered as distinct individuals; *among,* when they are considered as a mass or collectivity. Thus in the sentence *The balloon landed between the houses,* the houses are seen as points that define the boundaries of the area where the balloon touched down (so that we presume that the balloon did not land on any of the individual houses). In *The balloon landed among the houses,* the area of landing is considered to be the general location of the houses, taken together (in which case it is left open whether the balloon landed on one of the houses). By the same token, we may speak of *a series of wars between the Greek cities,* which suggests that each city was an independent participant in the hostilities, or of *a series of wars among the Greek cities,* which allows for the possibility that the participants were shifting alliances of cities. For this reason, *among* is used to indicate inclusion in a group: *She is among the best of our young sculptors. There is a spy among you.* Use *between* when the entities are seen as determining the limits or endpoints of a range: *They searched the area between the river, the farmhouse, and the woods. The truck driver had obviously been drinking between stops.*

be•tween•brain (bī-twēn′brān′) *n.* See **diencephalon.**

be•tween•times (bī-twēn′tīmz′) *adv.* At or during pauses: *"She took such tiny bites and set her fork down . . . betweentimes"* (Anne Tyler).

be•twixt (bī-twĭkst′) *adv. & prep.* Between. ***—idiom:*** **betwixt and between** In an intermediate position; neither wholly one thing nor another. [Middle English *bitwixt* < Old English *betwix*; see **dwo-** in App. I.]

Beu•lah (byo͞o′lə) *n.* **1.** The land of Israel in the Bible. **2.** The land of peace described in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress.*

beurre blanc (bûr′ blängk′, bœr blän′) *n.* A sauce made with butter, shallots, and vinegar, white wine, or lemon juice. [French : *beurre*, butter + *blanc*, white, not browned.]

beurre noir *n.* Butter cooked over low heat until it has turned dark brown. [French : *beurre*, butter + *noir*, black.]

BeV *abbr.* billion electron volts

bev•el (bĕv′əl) *n.* **1.** The angle or inclination of a line or surface that meets another at any angle but 90°. **2.** Two rules joined together as adjustable arms used to measure or draw angles of any size or to fix a surface at an angle. Also called *bevel square.* ❖ *v.* **-eled, -el•ing, -els** or **-elled, -el•ling, -els** *—tr.* To cut at an inclination that forms an angle other than a right angle: *beveled the edges of the table. —intr.* To be inclined; slant. [Possibly < Old French **bevel*, perhaps < *baif*, open-mouthed < *baer*, to gape < Vulgar Latin **badāre.*]

bevel gear *n.* Either of a pair of gears with teeth surfaces cut so that they can connect unparallel gear shafts.

bev•er•age (bĕv′ər-ĭj, bĕv′rĭj) *n.* Any one of various liquids for drinking, usually excluding water. [Middle English < Old French *bevrage* < *beivre*, to drink < Latin *bibere*; see **pō(i)-** in App. I.]

Bev•er•ly Hills (bĕv′ər-lē) A city of southern California surrounded by Los Angeles. It adjoins Hollywood and is famous as a fashionable residential area for show business personalities.

be•vor (bē′vər) *n.* Variant of **beaver**[2].

bev•y (bĕv′ē) *n., pl.* **-ies 1.** A group of animals or birds, especially larks or quail. **2.** A group or assemblage: *a bevy of beauties.* [Middle English < Anglo-Norman *bevee.*]

be•wail (bĭ-wāl′) *tr.v.* **-wailed, -wail•ing, -wails 1.** To cry over; lament: *bewail the dead.* **2.** To express sorrow or unhappiness over: *"bewailing the possible effects of double-digit unemployment"* (Washington Post). [Middle English *biwailen* : *bi-*, be- + *wailen*; see WAIL.] **—be•wail′er** *n.* **—be•wail′ment** *n.*

be•ware (bĭ-wâr′) *v.* **-wared, -war•ing, -wares** *—tr.* To be on guard against; be cautious of: *"Beware the ides of March"* (Shakespeare). *—intr.* To be cautious; exert caution: *We had to beware of the icy patches on the road. Beware of the dog.* [Middle English *ben war* : *ben*, to be; see BE + *war*, on one's guard; see WARE[2].]

be•whisk•ered (bĭ-wĭs′kərd, -hwĭs′-) *adj.* Having whiskers.

be•wigged (bĭ-wĭgd′) *adj.* Wearing a wig.

be•wil•der (bĭ-wĭl′dər) *tr.v.* **-dered, -der•ing, -ders 1.** To confuse or befuddle, especially by being complicated or varied. See Synonyms at **perplex. 2.** To cause to lose one's bearings; disorient: *"The whirling snow bewildered him"* (May Kellogg Sullivan). **—be•wil′dered•ly** *adv.* **—be•wil′der•ing•ly** *adv.*

be•wil•der•ment (bĭ-wĭl′dər-mənt) *n.* **1.** The condition of being confused or disoriented. **2.** A situation of perplexity or confusion; a tangle: *a bewilderment of lies and half-truths.*

be•witch (bĭ-wĭch′) *tr.v.* **-witched, -witch•ing, -witch•es 1.** To place under one's power by magic; cast a spell over. **2.** To captivate completely; fascinate. See Synonyms at **charm.** [Middle English *biwicchen* : probably *bi-*, be- + *wicchen* (< Old English *wiccian* < *wicce*, witch, or *wicca*, sorcerer); see **weg-** in App. I.] **—be•witch′er** *n.* **—be•witch′er•y** *n.* **—be•witch′ing•ly** *adv.*

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bo·throd·e·sy (bə-thrŏdʹī-sē) *n.* Measurement of the gravitational field, and therefore the geometry of space-time, in the vicinity of a black hole. [Greek *bothros*, pit + (GEO)DESY.]

Both·well (bŏthʹwĕlʹ, -wəl, bŏthʹ-), Fourth Earl of. Title of James Hepburn. 1536?–1578. Scottish Protestant nobleman and third husband of Mary Queen of Scots who was suspected of plotting the murder of her second husband, Lord Darnley (1567). Soon after wedding Mary he fled Scotland, was captured, and died in a Danish prison.

both·y (bōthʹē) *n., pl.* **-ies** *Scots* A hut or small cottage. [Ultimately < Old Irish *both*, hut; see **bheuə-** in App. I.]

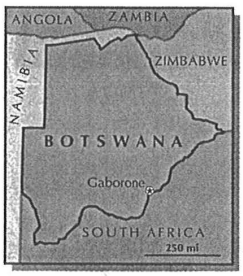
bot·net (bŏtʹnĕtʹ) *n.* A network of maliciously installed bots running on multiple computers.

Bo·tox (bōʹtŏksʹ) A trademark for a preparation of botulinum toxin, used to treat blepharospasms, strabismus, and muscle dystonias and to smooth facial wrinkles.

bo tree (bō) *n.* See **pipal.** [Partial translation of Sinhalese *bo-gaha*, tree of wisdom (because it was the tree under which the Buddha was enlightened) : *bo*, wisdom (< Pali *bodhi* < Sanskrit *bodhiḥ*, enlightenment; see **bheudh-** in App. I) + *gaha*, tree.]

bot·ry·oi·dal (bŏtʹrē-oidʹl) also **bot·ry·oid** (bŏtʹrē-oidʹ) *adj.* Shaped like a bunch of grapes. Used especially of mineral formations: *botryoidal hematite.* [< Greek *botruoeidēs* : *botrus*, bunch of grapes + *-oeidēs*, -oid.] —**bot′ry·oi′dal·ly** *adv.*

bo·try·tis (bō-trīʹtĭs) *n.* **1.** Any of various fungi of the genus *Botrytis* responsible for numerous diseases of fruits and vegetables. **2.** Noble rot. [New Latin, genus name < Greek *botrus*, bunch of grapes.]



Botswana

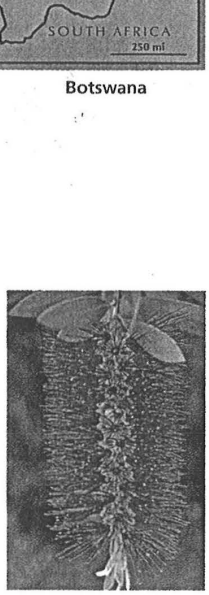
Bot·swa·na (bŏt-swäʹnə) A country of south-central Africa. Originally inhabited by the San and later (after the 18th century) by the Tswana, the region became a British protectorate as Bechuanaland (1885) and gained full independence in 1966. Gaborone is the capital and the largest city. —**Bot·swaʹnan** *adj. & n.*

bott (bŏt) *n.* Variant of **bot**[1].

bot·tar·ga (bō-tärʹgə) *n.* The roe of mullet or tuna that is salted, dried, pressed, and usually served sliced or grated as a garnish. Also called *botargo*. [Italian < Arabic *baṭārih*, pl. of *baṭraḥ*, ultimately < Greek *tarīkhos*, *tarikhon*, dried salted fish, pickled fish (perhaps via Late Greek *botarikhon* : *bo-*; perhaps akin to Modern Greek *avgo*, egg : < Greek *ōion*; see **awi-** in App. I + Greek *tarīkhon*, or alternatively via Coptic **pitarikhon*, bottarga : *pi-*, masculine sing. definite article + **tarikhon*, bottarga < Greek *tarikhon*).]

Bot·ti·cel·li (bŏtʹī-chĕlʹē), **Sandro** Originally Alessandro di Mariano dei Filipepi. 1444?–1510. Italian painter of the Florentine school whose flowing draftsmanship is evident in his masterpieces, *Primavera* (c. 1477) and *Birth of Venus* (c. 1485).

bot·tle (bŏtʹl) *n.* **1.** A receptacle having a narrow neck, usually no handles, and a mouth that can be plugged, corked, or capped. **2.** The quantity that a bottle holds. **3.** A receptacle filled with milk or formula that is fed, as to babies, in place of breast milk. **4.** *Informal* **a.** Intoxicating liquor: *Don't take to the bottle.* **b.** The practice of drinking large quantities of intoxicating liquor: *Her problem is the bottle.* ❖ *tr.v.* **-tled, -tling, -tles** **1.** To place in a bottle. **2.** To hold in; restrain: *bottled up my emotions.* [Middle English *botel* < Old French *botele* < Medieval Latin *butticula*, diminutive of Late Latin *buttis*, cask.] —**botʹtler** *n.*


bottlebrush

bot·tle·brush (bŏtʹl-brŭshʹ) *n.* Any of various Australian shrubs or trees of the genus *Callistemon*, having dense cylindrical spikes of flowers with long stamens that resemble a brush used to clean bottles.

bot·tled gas (bŏtʹld) *n.* Gas, such as butane or propane, stored under pressure in portable tanks.

bot·tle-feed (bŏtʹl-fēdʹ) *tr.v.* **-fed** (-fĕdʹ), **-fed·ing, -feeds** To feed (a baby, for example) with a bottle.

bottle gourd *n.* **1.** An annual cucurbit vine *(Lagenaria siceraria)* with white flowers, widely cultivated for its smooth hard-shelled fruits. **2.** The dried and hollowed-out shell of one of these fruits, often used as a container, a drinking utensil, a musical instrument, or a decorative object. In both senses also called *calabash*.

bottle green *n.* A dark to moderate or grayish green. —**botʹtle-greenʹ** *adj.*

bot·tle·neck (bŏtʹl-nĕkʹ) *n.* **1a.** A narrow or obstructed section, as of a highway or a pipeline. **b.** A point or an area of traffic congestion. **2.** A hindrance to progress or production. **3.** The narrow part of a bottle near the top. **4.** *Music* A style of guitar playing in which an object, such as a piece of glass or metal, is passed across the strings to achieve a gliding sound. **5.** *Biology* An abrupt and severe reduction in the number of individuals during the history of a species of a population, often resulting in the loss of diversity from the gene pool. ❖ *tr.v.* **-necked, -neck·ing, -necks** To slow down or impede by creating an obstruction.

bot·tle·nose dolphin (bŏtʹl-nōzʹ) also **bot·tle-nosed dolphin** (-nōzdʹ) *n.* A marine mammal *(Tursiops truncatus)* of temperate and tropical waters worldwide, having a short protruding beak, a gray or brown stocky body, and a prominent curved dorsal fin.

bottle tree *n.* Any of various Australian trees of the genus *Brachychiton*, especially *B. rupestris*, having a swollen, sometimes bottle-shaped trunk and cultivated in warm regions as an ornamental.

bot·tom (bŏtʹəm) *n.* **1.** The deepest or lowest part: *the bottom of a well; the bottom of the page.* **2.** The part closest to a reference point: *was positioned at the bottom of the key for a rebound.* **3.** The underside: *scraped the bottom of the car on a rock.* **4.** The supporting part; the base. **5.** The far end or part: *at the bottom of the bed.* **6a.** The last place, as on a list. **b.** The lowest or least favorable position: *started at the bottom of the corporate hierarchy.* **7.** The basic underlying quality; the source: *Let's get to the bottom of the problem.* **8.** The solid surface under a body of water. **9.** often **bottoms** Low-lying alluvial land adjacent to a river. Also called *bottomland*. **10a.** *Nautical* The part of a ship's hull below the water line. **b.** A ship; a boat: *"English merchants did much of their overseas trade in foreign bottoms"* (G.M. Trevelyan). **11.** often **bottoms** The trousers or short pants of pajamas. **12.** *Informal* The buttocks. **13.** The seat of a chair. **14.** *Baseball* The second or last half of an inning. **15.** Staying power; stamina. Used of a horse. **16.** *Slang* One who is penetrated by another person or is the submissive partner in a sexual encounter or relationship. ❖ *adj.* **1.** Situated at the bottom: *the bottom rung of the ladder.* **2.** Of the lowest degree, quality, rank, or amount: *the bottom three teams in the league.* ❖ *v.* **-tomed, -tom·ing, -toms** —*tr.* **1.** To provide with an underside. **2.** To provide with a foundation; base: *jurisprudence that is bottomed on democratic principles.* —*intr.* To have or strike the underside against something: *The car bottomed on the gravel.* ***—phrasal verb:*** **bottom out** To reach the lowest point possible, after which only a rise may occur: *Sales of personal computers have bottomed out.* ***—idiom:*** **at bottom** Basically. [Middle English *botme* < Old English *botm.*] —**botʹ-tom·er** *n.*

bottom feeder *n.* **1.** A fish or other animal that feeds on the bottom of a body of water. **2.** One that feeds low on the food chain; a scavenger. **3.** *Slang* **a.** An opportunist who profits from the misfortunes of others: *"The frazzled, adrenaline-pumped tabloid newshounds* [in the movie] *are the bottom feeders of contemporary journalism"* (Entertainment Weekly). **b.** A low or despicable person. —**bottom feeding** *n.* —**botʹtom-feedʹing** (bŏtʹəm-fēʹdĭng) *adj.*

bottom fish *n.* A fish, such as a catfish, carp, or flounder, that lives on or near the bottom of a body of water.

bottom fishing *n.* **1.** The activity of fishing for bottom feeders. **2.** Researching or investing in securities at what is believed to be the low point of a market after a decline.

bottom lambda baryon *n.* See **lambda-b baryon.**

bot·tom·land (bŏtʹəm-lănd′) *n.* See **bottom** (sense 9).

bot·tom·less (bŏtʹəm-lĭs) *adj.* **1.** Having no bottom. **2.** Too deep to be measured: *a bottomless glacial lake.* **3.** Difficult or impossible to understand; unfathomable: *one of the bottomless mysteries of life.* **4.** Having no limitations or bounds; limitless: *a bottomless supply of money.* **5a.** Nude, especially unclothed below the waist: *bottomless dancers.* **b.** Featuring such dancers as entertainment: *bottomless bars.* —**botʹtom-less·ly** *adv.*

bottom line *n.* **1.** The line in a financial statement that shows net income or loss. **2.** Financial matters, especially profit or loss. **3.** The final result or statement; upshot: *"The bottom line, however, is that he has escaped"* (David Wise). **4.** The main or essential point: *"A lot can happen between now and December, but the bottom line—for now—is that the city is still heading toward default"* (New York).

bot·tom-line (bŏtʹəm-līn′) *adj.* **1.** Concerned exclusively with costs and profits: *bottom-line issues.* **2.** Ruthlessly realistic; pragmatic: *a bottom-line political strategy.* —**botʹtom-linеʹ** *v.*

bot·tom·most (bŏtʹəm-mōstʹ) *adj.* **1.** Sited at the very bottom: *the bottommost rung of a ladder.* **2.** Being or coming after all others; last: *Fleeing was the bottommost thought in my mind.* **3.** Forming the very basis: *Freedom of speech is one of the bottommost principles of democracy.*

bottom quark *n. Abbr.* **b** The flavor of quark that has a charge of –⅓, has a mass about 8,220 times that of an electron, and belongs to the third generation of elementary fermions. Also called *beauty quark*.

bottom round *n.* A cut of meat, such as steak, taken from the outer section of a round of beef.

bot·tom-up (bŏtʹəm-ŭpʹ) *adj.* Progressing from small or subordinate units to larger or more important units, as in an organization or process.

bot·u·lin (bŏchʹə-lĭn) *n.* Any of several enzymes that are produced by botulinum bacteria and induce the paralysis of botulism by interfering with the ability of neurons to release acetylcholine at nerve-muscle junctures. Botulin is used as an antispasmodic and a treatment for wrinkles by paralyzing facial muscles. Also called *botulinum toxin*. [Latin *botulus*, sausage (a common source of contamination) + -IN.]

bot·u·li·num (bŏchʹə-līʹnəm) also **bot·u·li·nus** (-nəs) *n.* An anaerobic, rod-shaped bacterium *(Clostridium botulinum)* that secretes botulin and inhabits soils. [New Latin *botulīnum*, specific epithet < Latin *botulus*, sausage.] —**botʹu·liʹnal** *adj.*

bot·u·lism (bŏchʹə-lĭzʹəm) *n.* A severe, sometimes fatal food poisoning caused by ingestion of food containing botulin and characterized by nausea, vomiting, disturbed vision, muscular weakness, and fatigue. [German *Botulismus* < Latin *botulus*, sausage.]

bou·bou (bōōʹbōōʹ) *n.* A long, loose-fitting African garment. [French < Malinke *bubu.*]

bou·clé or **bou·cle** (bōō-klāʹ) *n.* **1.** A type of yarn usually consisting of three strands, one of which is less taut, creating a looped or curly texture. **2.** Fabric woven or knitted from this yarn. [French < past participle of *boucler*, to curl < Old French < *boucle*, buckle, curl of hair; see BUCKLE.]

Bou·dic·ca (bōō-dĭkʹə) also **Bo·ad·i·ce·a** (bōʹăd-ī-sēʹə) First century AD. Queen of ancient Britain who led a temporarily successful revolt against the Roman army that had claimed her deceased husband's kingdom.

bou·din also **Bou·dain** (bōō-dănʹ, -dănʏ) *n., pl.* **-dins** also **-dains** (-dănʹ, -dănzʹ) A highly seasoned link sausage of pork, pork liver, and rice that is a typical element of Louisiana Creole cuisine. [French < Old French *bodine*, intestines.]

boudin noir *n., pl.* **boudins noirs** (nwär) See **blood sausage.** [French : *boudin*, boudin + *noir*, black.]

bou·doir (bōōʹdwärʹ, -dwôrʹ) *n.* A private sitting room, dressing room, or bedroom, especially one belonging to a woman. [French < Old French *bouder*, to sulk.]

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clog dance *n.* A dance performed while wearing clogs and characterized by heavy stamping steps. —**clog dancer** *n.*

cloi·son·né (kloi′zə-nā′, klə-wä′zə-) *n.* **1.** Decorative enamelwork in which metal filaments are fused to the surface of an object to outline a design that is filled in with enamel paste. **2.** The art or process of producing such enamelwork. [French, past participle of *cloisonner*, to partition < Old French *cloison*, partition < Vulgar Latin **clausiō, clausiōn-* < Latin *clausus*, past participle of *claudere*, to close, lock.] —**cloi·son·né′** *adj.*

clois·ter (kloi′stər) *n.* **1.** A covered walk with an open colonnade on one side, running along the walls of buildings that face a quadrangle. **2a.** A place, especially a monastery or convent, devoted to religious seclusion. **b.** Life in a monastery or convent. **3.** A secluded, quiet place. ❖ *tr.v.* **-tered, -ter·ing, -ters 1.** To shut away from the world in or as if in a cloister; seclude. **2.** To furnish (a building) with a cloister. [Middle English *cloistre* < Old French, alteration (influenced by *cloison*, partition) of *clostre* < Latin *claustrum*, enclosed place < *claudere*, to close.]

cloister vault *n.* A domelike vault having a square or polygonal base from which curved segments rise to a central point. Also called *domical vault.*

clois·tral (kloi′strəl) also **claus·tral** (klô′strəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or suggesting a cloister; secluded. **2.** Living in a cloister.

clomb (klōm) *v. Archaic* A past tense and a past participle of **climb.**

clo·mi·phene (klō′mə-fēn, klōm′ə-fēn) *n.* A synthetic drug, $C_{26}H_{28}ClNO$, that is used in its citrate form to stimulate ovulation. [C(H)LO(RO)- + (A)MI(NE) + PHEN(YL).]

clo·mip·ra·mine (klō-mĭp′rə-mēn′) *n.* A tricyclic antidepressant drug, $C_{19}H_{23}ClN_2$, used in the form of its hydrochloride to treat anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder. [C(H)LO(RO)- + (I)MIPRAMINE.]

clomp (klŏmp) *intr.v.* **clomped, clomp·ing, clomps** To walk heavily and noisily. [Imitative.]

clo·naz·e·pam (klō-năz′ə-păm′) *n.* A benzodiazepine that is used as an anticonvulsant for epilepsy and as a sedative for sleep disorders. [C(H)LO(RO)- + (PHE)N(YL) + (DI)AZEPAM.]

clone (klōn) *n.* **1.** A group of cells or organisms that are descended from and genetically identical to a single progenitor, such as a bacterial colony whose members arose from a single original cell. **2.** An organism developed asexually from another and genetically identical to it, such as an animal produced from an egg cell into which the nucleus of an adult individual has been transferred. **3.** A DNA sequence, such as a gene, that is transferred from one organism to another and replicated by genetic engineering techniques. **4.** One that copies or closely resembles another, as in appearance or function: *"filled with business-school clones in gray and blue suits"* (Michael M. Thomas). ❖ *v.* **cloned, clon·ing, clones** —*tr.* **1.** To make multiple identical copies of (a DNA sequence). **2.** To create or propagate (an organism) from a clone cell: *clone a sheep.* **3.** To reproduce or propagate asexually: *clone a plant variety.* **4.** To produce a copy of; imitate closely: *"The look has been cloned into cliché"* (Cathleen McGuigan). —*intr.* To grow as a clone. [Greek *klōn*, twig.] —**clon′al** (klō′nəl) *adj.* —**clon′al·ly** *adv.* —**clon′er** *n.*

clon·i·dine (klōn′ĭ-dēn′, klō′nĭ-) *n.* A synthetic drug, $C_9H_9Cl_2N_3$ that is used primarily in the treatment of hypertension, the prevention of migraine headaches, and the management of opiate withdrawal. [C(H)LO(RO)- + (A)NI(LINE) + (IMI)D(E) + -INE[2].]

clo·nus (klō′nəs) *n., pl.* **-nus·es** An abnormality in neuromuscular activity characterized by rapidly alternating muscular contraction and relaxation. [New Latin < Greek *klonos*, turmoil.] —**clon′ic** (klŏn′ĭk, klō′nĭk) *adj.* —**clo·nic′i·ty** (klō-nĭs′ĭ-tē, klō-), **clo′nism** (klō′nĭz′əm, klŏn′ĭz′əm) *n.*

clop (klŏp) *n.* A sharp hollow sound, as of a horse's hoof striking pavement. ❖ *intr.v.* **clopped, clop·ping, clops** To make or move with this sound. [Imitative.]

clo·que also **clo·qué** (klō-kā′) *n.* A cotton, silk, or rayon fabric with a raised woven pattern and a puckered or quilted look. [French *cloqué*, past participle of *cloquer*, to become blistered < *cloque*, blister < Medieval Latin *clocca*, bell; see CLOCK[1].]

close (klōs) *adj.* **clos·er, clos·est 1.** Being near in space or time. See Usage Note at **redundancy. 2.** Being near in relationship: *close relatives.* **3.** Bound by mutual interests, loyalties, or affections; intimate: *close friends.* **4.** Having little or no space between elements or parts; tight and compact: *a close weave.* **5.** Being near the surface; short: *a close haircut.* **6.** Being on the brink of: *close to tears.* **7.** Decided by a narrow margin; almost even: *a close election.* **8.** Faithful to the original: *a close copy.* **9.** Very attentive; rigorous; thorough: *a close reading; close supervision.* **10.** Shut; closed. **11.** Shut in; enclosed. **12.** Confining or narrow; crowded: *close quarters.* **13.** Fitting tightly: *close garments.* **14.** Warm and humid or stuffy: *close weather; a close room.* **15.** Confined to specific persons or groups: *a close secret.* **16.** Strictly confined or guarded: *kept under close custody.* **17.** Secretive; reticent: *was close about her personal life.* **18.** Giving or spending with reluctance; stingy: *He is known to be close with his money.* **19.** Not easily acquired; scarce: *Money was close.* **20.** *Linguistics* Pronounced with the tongue near the palate, as the *ee* in *meet.* Used of vowels. **21.** Marked by more rather than less punctuation, especially commas. ❖ *v.* (klōz) **closed, clos·ing, clos·es** —*tr.* **1.** To move (a door, for example) so that an opening or passage is covered or obstructed; shut. **2.** To bar access to: *closed the road for repairs.* **3.** To fill or stop up: *closed the cracks with plaster.* **4.** To stop the operations of permanently or temporarily: *closed down the factory.* **5.** To make unavailable for use: *closed the area to development; closed the database to further changes.* **6.** To bring to an end; terminate: *close a letter; close a bank account.* **7.** To bring together all the elements or parts of: *Management closed ranks and ostracized the troublemaker.* **8.** To join or unite; bring into contact: *close a circuit.* **9.** To draw or bind together the edges of: *close a wound.* **10.** *Sports* To modify (one's stance), as in baseball or golf, by turning the body so that the forward shoulder and foot are closer to the intended point of impact with the ball. **11.** To complete the final details or negotiations on: *close a deal.* **12.** *Archaic* To enclose on all sides. —*intr.* **1.** To become shut: *The door closed quietly.* **2.** To come to an end; finish: *The book closes on a hopeful note.* **3.** To reach an agreement; come to terms: *We close on the house next week.* **4.** To cease operation: *The shop closes at six.* **5.** To be priced or listed at a specified amount when trading ends: *Stocks closed higher on Monday.* **6a.** To engage at close quarters: *closed with the enemy.* **b.** To draw near: *The orbiter closed with the space station in preparation for docking.* **7.** To come together: *My arms closed around the little child.* **8.** *Baseball* To finish a game by protecting a lead. Used of relief pitchers. ❖ *n.* (klōz) **1.** The act of closing. **2.** A conclusion; a finish: *The meeting came to a close.* **3.** *Music* The concluding part of a phrase or theme; a cadence. **4.** (klōs) An enclosed place, especially land surrounding or beside a cathedral or other building. **5.** (klōs) *Chiefly British* A narrow way or alley. **6.** *Archaic* A fight at close quarters. ❖ *adv.* (klōs) **closer, closest** In a close position or manner; closely: *stayed close together.* —***phrasal verbs:*** **close in 1.** To seem to be gathering in on all sides: *The problems closed in.* **2.** To advance on a target so as to block escape: *The police closed in on the sniper.* **3.** To surround so as to make unusable: *The airport was closed in by fog.* **close out 1.** To dispose of (a line of merchandise) at reduced prices. **2.** To terminate, as by selling: *close out a business.* —***idioms:*** **close the book on** To make a final effort regarding (something); bring to a conclusion: *closed the book on her career with a fine performance.* **close to home** (or **the bone**) So as to affect one's feelings or interests: *Her comment hit close to home.* **close to the wind** *Nautical* At a close angle into the direction from which the wind is blowing: *sailing close to the wind.* [Middle English *clos*, closed < Old French < Latin *clausus*, past participle of *claudere*, to close. V. < Middle English *closen* < Old French *clore, clos-* < Latin *claudere.*] —**clos′a·ble, close′a·ble** (klō′zə-bəl) *adj.* —**close′ly** *adv.* —**close′ness** *n.* —**clos′ing** (klō′zĭng) *n.*

+SYNONYMS *close, immediate, near, proximate* These adjectives mean not far from another in space, time, or relationship: *an airport close to town; her immediate family; his nearest relative; the proximate neighborhood.* See also synonyms at **complete.**
ANTONYM *far*

Close (klōs), **Charles Thomas** Known as "Chuck." Born 1940. American artist best known for his enlarged portraits that combine photorealist style with pointillist or pixel-based approaches to the formation of their images.

close call (klōs) *n. Informal* An outcome in which a bad result is narrowly averted.

close corporation (klōs) *n.* See **closed corporation.**

closed (klōzd) *adj.* **1.** Having boundaries; enclosed: *a closed corridor between the two buildings.* **2.** Blocked or barred to passage or entry: *a closed port.* **3.** Explicitly limited; restricted: *closed membership.* **4.** Self-contained or self-sufficient: *a closed relationship.* **5.** Barred to the public; conducted in secrecy: *a closed session of the judiciary committee.* **6.** *Mathematics* **a.** Of or relating to a curve, such as a circle, having no endpoints. **b.** Of or relating to a surface having no boundary curves. **c.** Of or relating to an interval containing both its endpoints. **d.** Characterized by or possessing the property by which an operation acting on an element in a set produces an element within the set. **7.** *Computers* Of or relating to a file that cannot be accessed. **8.** *Electricity* Allowing electricity to flow or pass: *a closed switch.* **9.** *Linguistics* Ending in a consonant: *a closed syllable.* **10.** *Sports* **a.** Having the forward foot closer to the intended point of impact with the ball than the rear foot: *a closed batting stance.* **b.** Held or swung with the top or outer edge of the striking face pointing slightly closer to the objective than the lower or inner edge: *The club face was closed when it hit the ball, causing a hook.* **11.** *Physics* **a.** Of or relating to a closed system. **b.** Of or relating to a closed universe.

closed book *n.* One that cannot be known or understood.

closed-cap·tioned (klōzd′kăp′shənd) *adj.* Broadcast with captions that are only visible if the viewer opts to enable them: *closed-captioned television for the hearing-impaired.*

closed chain *n. Chemistry* See **ring[1]** (sense 15).

closed circuit *n.* **1.** An electric circuit providing an uninterrupted, endless path for the flow of current. **2.** A television transmission circuit with a limited number of reception stations and no broadcast facilities. —**closed′-cir′cuit** *adj.*

closed corporation *n.* A corporation in which the shares of stock are held by relatively few persons and are not publicly traded. Also called *close corporation.*

closed couplet *n.* A rhymed couplet forming a complete thought or syntactic unit, for example, *"True wit is nature to advantage dressed, / What oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed"* (Alexander Pope).

closed-door (klōzd′dôr′) *adj.* Not open or accessible to the public; held in privacy: *a series of closed-door meetings.*

closed-end (klōzd′ĕnd′) *adj.* Issuing a fixed number of shares that can be traded publicly but are not redeemable by the issuer: *a closed-end investment company.*

closed fracture *n.* See **simple fracture.**

closed interval *n.* A set of numbers consisting of all the numbers between a pair of given numbers and including the endpoints.

closed loop *n. Engineering* A control system with an active feedback loop.

closed-mind·ed (klōzd′mīn′dĭd) or **close-mind·ed** (klōs′-, klōz′-) *adj.* Intolerant of the beliefs and opinions of others; stubbornly unreceptive to new ideas. —**closed′-mind′ed·ness** *n.*

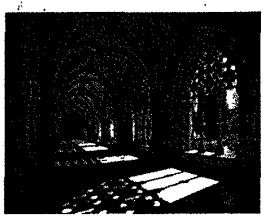
close-down (klōz′doun′) *n.* See **shutdown.**



clog



cloisonné



cloister
Royal Cloister at the Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitória, also known as the Batalha Monastery Batalha, Portugal



Chuck Close
photographed in 2006

ā	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
âr	care	oo	took
ä	father	o͝or	lure
ĕ	pet	o͞o	boot
ē	be	ŭ	cut
ĭ	pit	ûr	urge
ī	bite	th	thin
îr	pier	*th*	this
ŏ	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about, item
ô	paw		
ôr	core		

Stress marks: ′ (primary); ˌ (secondary), as in dictionary (dĭk′shə-nĕr′ē)

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at Chancellorsville. **part and parcel** A basic or essential part: *Working overtime is part and parcel of my job.* **part company (or ways) 1.** To leave one another's presence; go away or separate. **2.** To disagree or stop associating because of a disagreement. **take part** To join in; participate: *She took part in the celebration.* **take (someone's) part** To side with in a disagreement; support. [Middle English < Old French < Latin *pars, part-*; see **perə-**[2] in App. I.]

part. *abbr.* **1.** participle **2.** particle **3.** partitive

Pärt (pärt), **Arvo** Born 1935. Estonian-born composer whose works draw on modern styles such as serialism and minimalism but also reflect his interest in Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic liturgy.

par·take (pär-tāk′) *v.* **-took** (-to͝ok′), **-tak·en** (-tā′kən), **-tak·ing, -takes** —*intr.* **1.** To take or have a part or share; participate: *partake in the celebration.* **2.** To take or be given part or portion: *The guests partook of a delicious dinner.* **3.** To share some of the properties of something else: *"Each tale partakes of its creator's poetic imagination"* (Charles Scribner III). —*tr. Archaic* To take or have a part in; share in. [Back-formation < *partaker*, one who partakes < Middle English *part-taker* (translation of Latin *particeps*, participant).] —**par·tak′er** *n.*

part·ed (pär′tĭd) *adj.* **1.** Separated or divided into parts. **2.** Being or kept apart; separated. **3.** *Botany* Cleft almost to the base, so as to have distinct divisions or lobes. **4.** Deceased: *our recently parted friend.*

par·terre (pär-târ′) *n.* **1.** An ornamental flower garden having the beds and paths arranged to form a pattern. **2.** See **parquet circle.** [French < Old French, ornamental garden < *par terre*, on the ground : *par*, over, on; see PARAMOUNT + *terre*, ground (< Old French < Latin *terra*, earth; see **ters-** in App. I).]

par·the·no·car·py (pär′thə-nō-kär′pē) *n.* The production of fruit without fertilization. [Greek *parthenos*, virgin + Greek *karpos*, fruit; see -CARP + -Y[2].] —**par′the·no·car′pic** *adj.*

par·the·no·gen·e·sis (pär′thə-nō-jĕn′ĭ-sĭs) *n.* **1.** A form of reproduction in which an unfertilized egg develops into a new individual, occurring commonly among insects and certain other arthropods. **2.** The artificial activation of an unfertilized usually mammalian egg, resulting in an embryolike cell cluster from which stem cells can be harvested. [New Latin : Greek *parthenos*, virgin + GENESIS.] —**par′the·no·ge·net′ic** (-jə-nĕt′ĭk), **par′the·no·gen′ic** (-jĕn′ĭk) *adj.* —**par′the·no·ge·net′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Par·the·non (pär′thə-nŏn′, -nən) *n.* The chief temple of the goddess Athena built on the acropolis at Athens between 447 and 432 BC and considered a supreme example of Doric architecture. [Latin *Parthenōn* < Greek < *parthenos*, virgin.]

par·the·note (pär′thə-nōt′) *n.* **1.** An embryo generated through parthenogenesis, occurring in certain plants and invertebrate animals. **2.** An unfertilized, usually mammalian egg cell that has been artificially activated with chemicals so that it divides. ❖ *adj.* Being, derived, or resulting from a parthenote: *parthenote stem cells.* [Greek *parthenos*, virgin + (ZYG)OTE.]

Par·thi·a (pär′thē-ə) An ancient country of southwest Asia corresponding to modern northeast Iran. It was included in the Assyrian and Persian empires and the Macedonian empire of Alexander the Great. A Parthian kingdom lasted from c. 250 BC to AD 226, reaching the height of its influence and landholdings at the beginning of the first century BC. Parthian soldiers were renowned as horsemen and archers.

Par·thi·an (pär′thē-ən) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to Parthia or its people, language, or culture. **2.** Delivered in or as if in retreat: *"a Parthian volley of expletives from Uncle Billy"* (Bret Harte). ❖ *n.* **1.** A native or inhabitant of Parthia. **2.** The Iranian language of the Parthians.

par·tial (pär′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, being, or affecting only a part; not total; incomplete: *The plan calls for partial deployment of missiles. The police have only a partial description of the suspect.* **2.** Favoring one person or side over another or others; biased or prejudiced: *a decision that was partial to the plaintiff.* **3.** Having a particular liking or fondness for something or someone: *partial to spicy food.* **4.** *Mathematics* Of or being operations or sequences of operations, such as differentiation and integration, when applied to only one of several variables at a time. ❖ *n.* **1.** *Music* See **harmonic** (sense 1). **2.** *Mathematics* A partial derivative. [Middle English *parcial* < Old French < Late Latin *partiālis* < Latin *pars, part-*, part; see PART.] —**par′tial·ness** *n.*

par·tial-birth abortion (pär′shəl-bûrth′) *n.* See **intact dilation and extraction.**

partial derivative *n.* The derivative with respect to a single variable of a function of two or more variables, regarding other variables as constants.

partial differential equation *n.* A differential equation containing at least one partial derivative.

partial differentiation *n.* Differentiation with respect to a single variable in a function of several variables, regarding other variables as constants.

partial dominance *n.* See **incomplete dominance.**

partial eclipse *n.* An eclipse in which only part of the surface of a celestial object is obscured.

partial fraction *n.* One of a set of fractions having a sum equal to a specified fraction.

par·ti·al·i·ty (pär′shē-ăl′ĭ-tē, pär-shăl′-) *n., pl.* **-ties 1.** Prejudice or bias in favor of something. **2.** A special fondness; a predilection: *had a partiality for cats.* See Synonyms at **predilection.**

par·tial·ly (pär′shə-lē) *adv.* To a degree; not totally.

partial pressure *n.* The pressure that one component of a mixture of gases would exert if it were alone in a container.

partial seizure *n.* See **focal seizure.**

partial tone *n.* See **harmonic** (sense 1).

par·ti·ble (pär′tə-bəl) *adj.* Capable of being parted, divided, or separated; divisible: *a partible estate.*

par·tic·i·pant (pär-tĭs′ə-pənt) *n.* One that participates, shares, or takes part in something. ❖ *adj.* Sharing in or taking part; participating. —**par·tic′i·pance** *n.*

par·tic·i·pate (pär-tĭs′ə-pāt′) *intr.v.* **-pat·ed, -pat·ing, -pates 1.** To be active or involved in something; take part: *participated in the festivities.* **2.** To share in something: *If only I could participate in your good fortune.* [Latin *participāre, participāt-* < *particeps, particip-*, partaker : *pars, part-*, part; see PART + *capere*, to take; see **kap-** in App. I.] —**par·tic′i·pa′tive** *adj.* —**par·tic′i·pa′tor** *n.*

par·tic·i·pa·tion (pär-tĭs′ə-pā′shən) *n.* The act of taking part or sharing in something: *Teachers often encourage class participation.* —**par·tic′i·pa′tion·al** *adj.*

par·tic·i·pa·to·ry (pär-tĭs′ə-pə-tôr′ē) *adj.* Marked by, requiring, or involving participation, especially affording the opportunity for individual participation: *a participatory democracy.*

par·ti·cip·i·al (pär′tĭ-sĭp′ē-əl) *adj.* Of, relating to, consisting of, or formed with a participle. ❖ *n.* A participle. [Latin *participiālis* < *participium*, participle; see PARTICIPLE.] —**par′ti·cip′i·al·ly** *adv.*

par·ti·ci·ple (pär′tĭ-sĭp′əl) *n.* A form of a verb that in some languages, such as English, can function independently as an adjective, as the past participle *baked* in *We had some baked beans,* and is used with an auxiliary verb to indicate tense, aspect, or voice, as the past participle *baked* in the passive sentence *The beans were baked too long.* [Middle English < Old French, variant of *participe* < Latin *participium* (translation of Greek *metokhē*, sharing, partaking, participle) < *particeps, particip-*, partaker; see PARTICIPATE.]

✦**USAGE NOTE** Participial phrases such as *walking down the street* or *having finished her homework* are commonly used in English to modify nouns or pronouns, but care must be taken in incorporating such phrases into sentences. Readers will ordinarily associate a participle with the noun, noun phrase, or pronoun adjacent to it, and misplacement may produce comic effects as in *He watched his horse take a turn around the track carrying a racing sheet under his arm.* A correctly placed participial phrase leaves no doubt about what is being modified: *Sitting at her desk, Jane read the letter carefully.* • Another pitfall in using participial phrases is illustrated in the following sentence: *Turning the corner, the view was quite different.* Grammarians would say that such a sentence contains a "dangling participle" because there is no noun or pronoun in the sentence that the participial phrase can logically modify. Moving the phrase will not solve the problem (as it would in the sentence about the horse with a racing sheet). To avoid distracting the reader, it would be better to recast the sentence as *When we turned the corner, the view was quite different* or *Turning the corner, we had a different view.* • A number of expressions originally derived from participles have become prepositions, and these may be used to introduce phrases that are not associated with the immediately adjacent noun phrase. Such expressions include *concerning, considering, failing, granting, judging by,* and *speaking of.* Thus one may write without fear of criticism *Speaking of politics, the elections have been postponed* or *Considering the hour, it is surprising that he arrived at all.* See Note at **very.**

par·ti·cle (pär′tĭ-kəl) *n.* **1.** A very small piece or part; a tiny portion or speck. **2.** A very small or the smallest possible amount, trace, or degree: *not a particle of doubt.* **3.** *Physics* **a.** A body whose spatial extent and internal motion and structure, if any, are irrelevant in a specific problem. **b.** An elementary particle. **c.** A subatomic particle. **4.** *Linguistics* **a.** An uninflected item that has grammatical function but does not clearly belong to one of the major parts of speech, such as *up* in *He looked up the word* or *to* in English infinitives. **b.** In some systems of grammatical analysis, any of various short function words, including articles, prepositions, and conjunctions. **5.** *Ecclesiastical* A portion or fragment of the Eucharistic host. **6.** *Archaic* A small part of something written, such as a clause of a document. [Middle English < Latin *particula*, diminutive of *pars, part-*, part; see PART.]

particle accelerator *n.* A device, such as a cyclotron or linear accelerator, that accelerates charged subatomic particles or nuclei to high energies for the purpose of colliding them with other particles or targets. Also called *atom smasher.*

particle beam *n.* A beam of atoms or subatomic particles accelerated by a particle accelerator, steered by magnets, and focused using an electromagnetic lens or plasma.

par·ti·cle·board or **particle board** (pär′tĭ-kəl-bôrd′) *n.* A structural material made of wood fragments, such as chips or shavings, that are mechanically pressed into sheet form and bonded together with resin.

particle decay *n.* **1.** Spontaneous disintegration of a subatomic particle with the emission of energetic particles or radiation, such as electrons and neutrinos or gamma ray photons. **2.** An instance of such disintegration.

particle physics *n. (used with a sing. verb)* The branch of physics that deals with subatomic particles and their interactions.

par·ti-col·ored (pär′tē-kŭl′ərd) *adj.* Having parts, sections, or areas colored differently from each other; pied. [< Obsolete *party*, variegated < Middle English *parti* < Old French, divided, striped, past participle of *partir*, to divide; see PARTY.]

par·tic·u·lar (pər-tĭk′yə-lər, pə-tĭk′-) *adj.* **1.** Of, belonging to, or associated with a specific person, group, thing, or category; not general or universal: *She did not have a particular café in mind for their get-together.* **2.** Distinctive among others of the same group, category, or nature; noteworthy or exceptional: *an area known for its particular style of architecture.* **3a.** Of, relating to, or providing details; precise: *gave a particular*



parterre
at the Château de Villandry
Villandry, France



Parthenon
Athens, Greece

ă	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
âr	care	o͝o	took
ä	father	o͞o	lure
ĕ	pet	o͞o	boot
ē	be	ŭ	cut
ĭ	pit	ûr	urge
ī	bite	th	thin
îr	pier	*th*	this
ŏ	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about, item
ô	paw		
ôr	core		

Stress marks: ′ (primary); ″ (secondary), as in **dictionary** (dĭk′shə-nĕr′ē)

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pla·guy also **pla·guey** (plā′gē) *adj.* Vexatious; bothersome. —**pla′·guy, pla′gui·ly** *adv.*

plaice (plās) *n., pl.* **plaice** or **plaic·es** **1.** A large edible marine flatfish *(Pleuronectes platessa)* of European coastal waters. **2.** Any of various other flatfishes, such as *Hippoglossoides platessoides* of northern Atlantic coastal waters. [Middle English < Old French *plais* < Vulgar Latin **platīx*, alteration of Late Latin *platessa*, probably ultimately < Greek *platus*, broad; see **plat-** in App. I.]

plaid (plăd) *n.* **1a.** Cloth, often made of wool, with a tartan or checked pattern. **1b.** A pattern of this kind. **2.** A rectangular woolen scarf of a tartan pattern worn over the left shoulder by Scottish Highlanders. [Scottish Gaelic *plaide*.] —**plaid, plaid′ed** *adj.*

plain (plān) *adj.* **plain·er, plain·est** **1.** Free from obstructions; open; clear: *in plain view.* **2.** Obvious to the perception or mind; evident: *make one's intention plain.* See Synonyms at **apparent.** **3a.** Not elaborate or complicated; simple: *plain food.* **b.** Marked by little or no ornamentation or decoration: *plain garb.* **c.** Straightforward; frank or candid: *plain talk.* **d.** Not pretentious; unaffected. **e.** Lacking beauty or distinction: *a plain face.* **4.** Not mixed with other substances; pure: *plain water.* **5.** Common in rank or station; average; ordinary: *a plain man.* **6.** Not dyed, twilled, or patterned: *a plain fabric.* **7.** Sheer; utter; unqualified: *plain stupidity.* **8.** *Archaic* Having no visible elevation or depression; flat; level. ❖ *n.* **1a.** often **plains** An extensive, level, usually treeless area of land. **b.** A broad level expanse, as a part of the sea floor or a lunar mare. **2.** Something free of ornamentation or extraneous matter. ❖ *adv. Informal* Clearly; simply: *plain stubborn.* [Middle English < Old French < Latin *plānus*; see **pelə-²** in App. I.] —**plain′ly** *adv.* —**plain′ness** *n.*

✦ **SYNONYMS** *plain, modest, simple, unpretentious* These adjectives mean not ornate, ostentatious, or showy: *a plain hairstyle; a modest cottage; a simple dark suit; an unpretentious country church.*
ANTONYM *ornate*

plain·chant (plān′chănt′) *n.* See **plainsong.** [French *plain-chant* (translation of Medieval Latin *cantus plānus*) : *plain*, plain; see PLAIN + *chant*, song; see CHANT.]

plain·clothes or **plain-clothes** (plān′klōz′, -klōthz′) *adj.* Wearing civilian clothes while on duty to avoid being identified as police or security: *a plainclothes detective.*

plain·clothes·man or **plain·clothes man** (plān′klōz′mən, -klōthz′-) *n.* A member of a police force, especially a detective, who wears civilian clothes on duty.

plain-Jane (plān′jān′) *adj.* Lacking adornment or pretension; basic or simple.

plain-laid (plān′lād′) *adj.* Made of three strands laid together with a right-hand twist. Used of a rope.

Plain of (plān) or **Plains of** (plānz) For names of actual plains, see the specific element of the name; for example, **Esdraelon, Plain of; Abraham, Plains of.**

Plain People *pl.n.* Members of the Mennonites, Amish, or Dunkers, noted for their plain dress and simple style of life.

Plains Indian *n.* A member of any of the Native American peoples inhabiting the Great Plains of the United States and Canada. The Plains Indians spoke a variety of unrelated languages but shared certain cultural features such as nomadic buffalo hunting, the use of conical tepees, and a reliance on the horse in hunting and warfare.

plains·man (plānz′mən) *n.* An inhabitant or a settler of the plains, especially of the prairie regions of the United States.

plain·song (plān′sông′, -söng′) *n. Ecclesiastical* **1.** Gregorian chant. **2.** Monophonic medieval liturgical music without strict meter and traditionally sung without accompaniment. In both senses also called *plainchant.* [Translation of Medieval Latin *cantus plānus.*]

plain·spo·ken (plān′spō′kən) *adj.* Frank; straightforward; blunt. —**plain′spo′ken·ness** *n.*

plaint (plānt) *n.* **1.** A complaint. **2.** An utterance of grief or sorrow; a lamentation. [Middle English < Old French *plainte* < Latin *plānctus*, lament < past participle of *plangere*, to strike one's breast, lament; see **plāk-²** in App. I.]

plain·text also **plain text** (plān′tĕkst′) *n.* The unencrypted form of an encrypted message. Also called *cleartext.*

plain·tiff (plān′tĭf) *n. Law* The party that institutes a suit in a court. [Middle English *plaintif* < Anglo-Norman *pleintif* < Old French *plaintif*, aggrieved; see PLAINTIVE.]

plain·tive (plān′tĭv) *adj.* Expressing sorrow; mournful or melancholy. [Middle English *plaintif* < Old French, aggrieved, lamenting < *plaint*, complaint; see PLAINT.] —**plain′tive·ly** *adv.* —**plain′tive·ness** *n.*

plain vanilla *adj. Informal* Lacking adornments or special features; basic or ordinary: *plain vanilla stock options; a plain vanilla wardrobe.*

plain weave *n.* A weave in which the filling threads and the warp threads interlace alternately, forming a checkerboard pattern. Also called *tabby weave, taffeta weave.* —**plain′-wo′ven** *adj.*

plait (plāt, plăt) *n.* **1.** A braid, especially of hair. **2.** A pleat. ❖ *tr.v.* **plait·ed, plait·ing, plaits** **1.** To braid. **2.** To pleat. **3.** To make by braiding. [Middle English *pleit*, fold, braid, possibly < *pleiten*, to fold, braid, alteration (influenced by Old French *pleit*, fold) of Old French *plier, pleiir* < Latin *plicāre*, to fold; see **plek-** in App. I.] —**plait′er** *n.*

plan (plăn) *n.* **1.** An orderly or step-by-step conception or proposal for accomplishing an objective: *a plan for improving math instruction.* **2.** A proposed or intended course of action: *had no plans for the evening.* **3.** A systematic arrangement of elements or important parts; a configuration or outline: *a seating plan; the plan of a story.* **4.** A drawing or diagram made to scale showing the structure or arrangement of something. **5.** In perspective rendering, one of several imaginary planes perpendicular to the line of vision between the viewer and the object being depicted. **6.** A program or policy stipulating a service or benefit: *a pension plan.* ❖ *v.* **planned, plan·ning, plans** —*tr.* **1.** To formulate a scheme or program for the accomplishment, enactment, or attainment of: *plan a campaign.* **2.** To have as a specific aim or purpose; intend: *They plan to buy a house.* **3.** To draw or make a graphic representation of. —*intr.* To make plans. [French, alteration (influenced by *plan*, flat surface) of *plant*, ground plan, map < *planter*, to plant < Latin *plantāre* < *planta*, sole of the foot; see **plat-** in App. I.] —**plan′ner** *n.*

✦ **SYNONYMS** *plan, blueprint, design, project, scheme, strategy* These nouns denote a method or program in accordance with which something is to be done or accomplished: *an ambitious plan for achieving energy independence; a blueprint for reorganizing the company; a design for ending the conflict; a project for urban renewal; a grand scheme aimed at ending illiteracy; a strategy for economic recovery.*

plan– *pref.* Variant of **plano–.**

pla·nar (plā′nər, -när′) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or situated in a plane. **2.** Flat: *a planar surface.* **3.** Having a two-dimensional characteristic. [Late Latin *plānāris*, flat < Latin *plānus*; see PLAIN.] —**pla·nar′i·ty** (plā-năr′ĭ-tē) *n.*

pla·nar·i·an (plə-nâr′ē-ən) *n.* Any of various small, chiefly freshwater flatworms of the order Tricladida, having a soft, broad, ciliated body, a three-branched digestive cavity, and the ability to regenerate body parts. [< New Latin *Plānāria*, genus name < feminine of Late Latin *plānārius*, on level ground < *plānus*, flat; see **pelə-²** in App. I.]

pla·na·tion (plā-nā′shən) *n.* The process of erosion and deposition in which a nearly level surface is produced, as by streams, wind, or ocean currents. [Latin *plānum*, flat surface; see PLANE[1] + -ATION.]

planch·et (plăn′chĭt) *n.* **1.** A flat disk of metal ready for stamping as a coin; a coin blank. **2.** A small shallow metal container in which a radioactive substance is deposited for measurement of its activity. [Diminutive of *planch*, flat plate, slab < Middle English *plaunche*, plank < Old French *planche* < Late Latin *planca* < feminine of Latin *plancus*, flat; see **plāk-¹** in App. I.]

plan·chette (plăn-shĕt′) *n.* A small triangular board supported by two casters and a vertical pencil that, when lightly touched by the fingertips, is said to spell out subconscious or supernatural messages. [French < Old French, diminutive of *planche*, board; see PLANCHET.]

Planck (plängk), **Max Karl Ernst Ludwig** 1858–1947. German physicist. He won a 1918 Nobel Prize for discoveries in connection with quantum theory.

Planck's constant (plängks) *n. Symbol* **h** The constant of proportionality relating the energy of a photon to the frequency of that photon. Its value is approximately 6.626×10^{-34} joule-seconds. [After Max Karl Ernst Ludwig PLANCK.]

plane[1] (plān) *n.* **1.** *Mathematics* A surface containing all the straight lines that connect any two points on it. **2.** A flat or level surface. **3.** A level of development, existence, or achievement: *scholarship on a high plane.* **4.** An airplane or hydroplane. **5.** A supporting surface of an airplane; an airfoil or wing. ❖ *adj.* **1.** *Mathematics* Of or being a figure lying in a plane: *a plane curve.* **2.** Flat; level. See Synonyms at **level.** [Latin *plānum*, flat surface < neuter of *plānus*, flat; see **pelə-²** in App. I. N., sense 4, short for AEROPLANE.] —**plane′ness** *n.*

plane[2] (plān) *n.* **1.** A carpenter's tool with an adjustable blade for smoothing and leveling wood. **2.** A trowel-shaped tool for smoothing the surface of clay, sand, or plaster in a mold. ❖ *v.* **planed, plan·ing, planes** —*tr.* **1.** To smooth or finish with a plane: *planed the door.* **2.** To remove with a plane: *plane off the rough edges on a board.* —*intr.* To work with a plane. [Middle English < Old French < Late Latin *plāna* < *plānāre*, to plane < *plānus*, flat; see **pelə-²** in App. I.]

plane[3] (plān) *intr.v.* **planed, plan·ing, planes** **1.** To rise partly out of the water, as a hydroplane does at high speeds. **2.** To soar or glide. **3.** To travel by airplane. [Middle English *planen*, to glide, soar < Old French *planer* < *plain*, flat, level; see PLAIN.]

plane[4] (plān) *n.* The plane tree. [Middle English < Old French < Latin *platanus* < Greek *platanos*, perhaps < *platus*, broad; see **plat-** in App. I.]

plane angle *n.* An angle formed by two straight lines in the same plane.

plane geometry *n.* The geometry of planar figures.

plane·load (plān′lōd′) *n.* The load that an airplane is capable of carrying.

plan·er (plā′nər) *n.* **1.** One that planes, especially a machine tool that is used to smooth or finish the surfaces of wood or metal. **2.** *Printing* A smooth block of wood used to level a form of type.

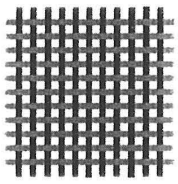
pla·ner tree (plā′nər) *n.* See **water elm.** [After Johann Jacob *Planer* (1743–1789), German botanist.]

plane·side (plān′sīd′) *n.* The area adjacent to an airplane.

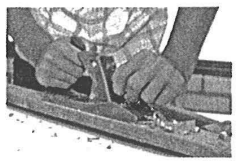
plan·et (plăn′ĭt) *n.* **1a.** In the traditional model of solar systems, a celestial body larger than an asteroid or comet, illuminated by light from a star, such as the sun, around which it revolves. **b.** A celestial body that orbits the sun, has sufficient mass to assume nearly a round shape, clears out dust and debris from the neighborhood around its orbit, and is not a satellite of another planet. See chart on page 1667. **2.** One of the seven celestial bodies, Mercury, Venus, the moon, the sun, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, visible to the naked eye and thought by ancient astronomers to revolve in the heavens about a fixed Earth and among fixed stars. **3a.** The collection of life forms supported on Earth: *an asteroid that threatened the whole planet.* **b.** People as a whole; humankind or the general public: *The entire planet was affected by the global recession.* **4.** One of the seven



plaid
clockwise from top left: Malcolm, Gordon Dress, and Stewart Dress plaid patterns



plain weave



plane[2]
carpentry plane

ă	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
âr	care	o͝o	took
ä	father	o͝or	lure
ĕ	pet	o͞o	boot
ē	be	ŭ	cut
ĭ	pit	ûr	urge
ī	bite	th	thin
îr	pier	*th*	this
ŏ	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about, item
ô	paw		
ôr	core		

Stress marks: ′ (primary); ˈ (secondary), as in **dictionary** (dikˈshə-nĕrˈē)

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