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an·no Dom·i·ni (ăn′ō dŏm′ə-nī′, -nē′) *adv. Abbr.* **AD** or **AD** In a specified year of the Christian era. [Medieval Latin *annō Dominī* : Latin *annō*, ablative of *annus*, year + Latin *Dominī*, genitive of *Dominus*, Lord.]

anno He·bra·i·co (hī-brā′ī-kō) *adv. Abbr.* **AH** or **AH** In a specified year of the Jewish calendar. [New Latin *annō Hebraicō* : Latin *annō*, ablative of *annus*, year + Latin *Hebraicō*, ablative of *Hebraicus*, Hebrew.]

anno He·gi·rae (hī-jī′rē, hĕj′ər-ē) *adv. Abbr.* **AH** or **AH** In a specified year of the Islamic calendar. [New Latin *annō Hegirae*, in the year of the Hegira : Latin *annō*, ablative of *annus*, year + New Latin *Hegirae*, genitive of *Hegira*, Hegira.]

an·no·tate (ăn′ō-tāt′) *v.* **-tat·ed, -tat·ing, -tates** *—tr.* To furnish (a literary work) with critical commentary or explanatory notes; gloss. *—intr.* To gloss a text. [Latin *annotāre*, *annotāt-*, to note down : *ad-*, ad- + *notāre*, to write (< *nota*, note; see **gnō-** in App. I).] **—an′no·ta′tive** *adj.* **—an′no·ta′tor** *n.*

an·no·ta·tion (ăn′ō-tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of furnishing critical commentary or explanatory notes. **2.** A critical or explanatory note; a commentary.

an·nounce (ə-nouns′) *v.* **-nounced, -nounc·ing, -nounc·es** *—tr.* **1.** To make known publicly. **2.** To proclaim the presence or arrival of: *announce a caller.* **3.** To provide an indication of beforehand; foretell: *The invention of the microchip announced a new generation of computers.* **4.** To serve as an announcer for: *announce a football game on TV. —intr.* **1.** To declare one's candidacy: *was declared the front-runner even before she announced.* **2.** To serve as an announcer. [Middle English *announcen* < Old French *anoncier* < Latin *annūntiāre* : *ad-*, ad- + *nūntiāre*, to report (< *nūntius*, messenger; see **neu-** in App. I).]

✦ **SYNONYMS** *announce, advertise, broadcast, declare, proclaim, promulgate, publish* These verbs mean to bring to public notice: *announced a cease-fire to the media; advertised the upcoming concert on cable television; broadcast his opinions in a blog; declared her political intentions at a news conference; proclaiming his beliefs in a column; promulgated a policy of nonviolence; publishing the rules of the contest in the newspaper.*

an·nounce·ment (ə-nouns′mənt) *n.* **1a.** The act of making known publicly. **b.** Something announced. **c.** A broadcast message, especially a program note or commercial. **2.** An engraved or printed formal statement or notice, as of a wedding or a relocation.

an·nounc·er (ə-noun′sər) *n.* One that announces, especially a person who introduces programs, reads announcements, or provides commentary on television or radio.

an·noy (ə-noi′) *tr.v.* **-noyed, -noy·ing, -noys 1.** To cause irritation to (another); make somewhat angry. **2.** *Archaic* To harass or disturb by repeated attacks. [Middle English *anoien* < Old French *anoier, ennuyer* < Vulgar Latin **inodiāre*, to make odious < Latin *in odiō*, odious : *in*, in; see **in-**[2] + *odiō*, ablative of *odium*, hatred; see **od-** in App. I.]

✦ **SYNONYMS** *annoy, irritate, bother, irk, vex, provoke, aggravate, peeve, rile* These verbs mean to disturb or trouble a person, evoking moderate anger. *Annoy* refers to mild disturbance caused by an act that tries one's patience: *The sound of the printer annoyed me. Irritate* is somewhat stronger: *I was irritated by their constant interruptions. Bother* implies imposition: *In the end, his complaining just bothered the supervisor. Irk* connotes a wearisome quality: *The city council's inactivity irked the community. Vex* applies to situations arousing irritation, frustration, or perplexity: *They were vexed at having to wait so long for a response. This problem has vexed scientists for many years. Provoke* implies strong and often deliberate incitement to anger: *His behavior provoked me to reprimand the whole team. Aggravate* is a less formal equivalent: *"Threats only served to aggravate people in such cases"* (William Makepeace Thackeray). *Peeve*, also somewhat informal, suggests a querulous, resentful response to a mild disturbance: *Your flippant answers peeved me.* To *rile* is to upset and to stir up: *It riled me to have to listen to such lies.*

an·noy·ance (ə-noi′əns) *n.* **1.** The act of annoying or the state of being annoyed. **2.** A cause of irritation or vexation; a nuisance.

an·noy·ing (ə-noi′ĭng) *adj.* Causing vexation or irritation; troublesome: *an annoying cough.* **—an·noy′ing·ly** *adv.*

an·nu·al (ăn′yōō-əl) *adj.* **1.** Recurring, done, or performed every year; yearly: *an annual medical examination.* **2.** Of, relating to, or determined by a year: *an annual income.* **3.** *Botany* Living or growing for only one year or season. ❖ *n.* **1.** A periodical published yearly; a yearbook. **2.** *Botany* A plant that completes its entire life cycle in a single growing season. [Middle English *annuel* < Old French < Late Latin *annuālis*, ultimately < Latin *annus*, year; see **at-** in App. I.] **—an′nu·al·ly** *adv.*

an·nu·al·ize (ăn′yōō-ə-līz′) *tr.v.* **-ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es** To adjust or calculate so as to reflect a rate that is based on a full year: *offers a rate that is annualized at six percent.*

annual ring *n.* A growth ring formed during a single year.

an·nu·i·tant (ə-nōō′ĭ-tənt, ə-nyōō′-) *n.* **1.** One that receives or is qualified to receive an annuity. **2.** An officially retired US intelligence officer who is actually still on the government's payroll and is available for assignments.

an·nu·i·ty (ə-nōō′ĭ-tē, ə-nyōō′-) *n., pl.* **-ties 1a.** The annual payment of an allowance or income. **b.** The right to receive this payment or the obligation to make this payment. **2.** A contract or agreement by which one receives fixed payments on an investment for a lifetime or for a specified number of years. [Middle English *annuite* < Anglo-Norman < Medieval Latin *annuitās* < Latin *annuus*, yearly < *annus*, year; see **at-** in App. I.]

an·nul (ə-nŭl′) *tr.v.* **-nulled, -nul·ling, -nuls 1.** To make or declare void or invalid, as a marriage or a law; nullify. **2.** To bring to an end the effect or existence of; cancel out: *"That task would be easier to perform now that his personal stake in it was annulled"* (Edith Wharton). [Middle English *annullen* < Old French *annuller* < Late Latin *annullāre* : Latin *ad-*, ad- + Latin *nullus*, none; see **ne** in App. I.]

an·nu·lar (ăn′yə-lər) *adj.* Shaped like or forming a ring. [Latin *ānulāris* < *ānulus*, ring; see ANNULUS.] **—an′nu·lar′i·ty** (-lăr′ĭ-tē) *n.* **—an′nu·lar·ly** *adv.*

annular eclipse *n.* A solar eclipse in which the moon covers all but a bright ring around the circumference of the sun.

annular ligament *n.* The fibrous band of tissue that surrounds the ankle joint or the wrist joint.

an·nu·late (ăn′yə-lĭt, -lāt′) also **an·nu·lat·ed** (-lā′tĭd) *adj.* Having or consisting of rings or ringlike segments. [Latin *ānulātus* < *ānulus*, ring; see ANNULUS.]

an·nu·la·tion (ăn′yə-lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of forming rings. **2.** A ringlike structure, segment, or part.

an·nu·let (ăn′yə-lĭt) *n.* A ringlike molding around the capital of a pillar. [Latin *ānulus*, ring; see ANNULUS + **-ET**.]

an·nul·ment (ə-nŭl′mənt) *n.* **1.** An act of annulling. **2.** The invalidation of a marriage, as for nonconsummation, effected by means of a declaration stating that the marriage was never valid.

an·nu·lus (ăn′yə-ləs) *n., pl.* **-lus·es** or **-li** (-lī′) **1.** A ringlike figure, part, structure, or marking, such as a growth ring on the scale of a fish. **2a.** A ring or group of thick-walled cells around the sporangia of many ferns that functions in spore release. **b.** The ringlike remains of a broken partial veil, found around the stipes of certain mushrooms. **3.** *Mathematics* The figure bounded by and containing the area between two concentric circles. [Latin *ānulus*, ring, diminutive of *ānus*.]

an·nun·ci·ate (ə-nŭn′sē-āt′) *tr.v.* **-at·ed, -at·ing, -ates** To announce; proclaim: *"They do not so properly affirm, as annunciate it"* (Charles Lamb). [Latin *annūntiāre, annūntiāt-*; see ANNOUNCE.]

an·nun·ci·a·tion (ə-nŭn′sē-ā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of announcing. **2.** An announcement; a proclamation. **3. Annunciation** *Christianity* The angel Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation, observed as a feast on March 25.

an·nun·ci·a·tor (ə-nŭn′sē-ā′tər) *n.* One that announces, especially an electrical signaling device used in hotels or offices to indicate the sources of calls on a switchboard. **—an·nun′ci·a·to′ry** (-ə-tôr′ē) *adj.*

an·nus hor·rib·i·lis (ăn′əs hô-rĭb′ə-lĭs, hŏ-) *n., pl.* **an·ni hor·rib·i·les** (ăn′ī hô-rĭb′ə-lēz, ăn′ē, hŏ-) A year notable for great adversity or misfortune; a disastrous year. [New Latin : *annus*, year + *horribilis*, horrible.]

annus mi·rab·i·lis (mĭ-răb′ə-lĭs) *n., pl.* **anni mi·ra·bi·les** (mĭ-răb′ə-lēz) A year notable for disasters or wonders; a fateful year: *"Hungary's blood bath was the saddest event in that annus mirabilis"* (C.L. Sulzberger). [New Latin *annus mīrābilis* : Latin *annus*, year + Latin *mīrābilis*, wondrous.]

a·no·a (ə-nō′ə) *n.* Either of two species of small buffalo *(Bubalus depressicornis* or *B. quarlesi)* of Sulawesi, having short pointed horns. [Native word in Sulawesi.]

an·ode (ăn′ōd′) *n.* **1.** A positively charged electrode, as of an electrolytic cell, storage battery, or electron tube. **2.** The negatively charged terminal of a primary cell or of a storage battery that is supplying current. [Greek *anodos*, a way up : *ana-*, ana- + *hodos*, way.] **—a·nod′ic** (ə-nŏd′ĭk), **a·nod′al** (ə-nōd′l) *adj.* **—a·nod′i·cal·ly, a·nod′al·ly** *adv.*

an·o·dize (ăn′ə-dīz′) *tr.v.* **-dized, -diz·ing, -diz·es** To coat (a metallic surface) electrolytically with a protective or decorative oxide. [ANOD(E) + **-IZE**.] **—an′o·di·za′tion** (-dī-zā′shən) *n.*

an·o·dyne (ăn′ə-dīn′) *adj.* **1.** Capable of soothing or eliminating pain. **2.** Relaxing: *anodyne novels about country life.* ❖ *n.* **1.** A medicine, such as aspirin, that relieves pain. **2.** A source of soothing comfort. [Latin *anōdynus* < Greek *anōdunos*, free from pain : *an-*, without; see **a-**[1] + *odunē*, pain; see **ed-** in App. I.]

a·no·gen·i·tal (ā′nō-jĕn′ĭ-tl) *adj.* Relating to the anus and the genitals.

a·noint (ə-noint′) *tr.v.* **a·noint·ed, a·noint·ing, a·noints 1.** To apply oil, ointment, or a similar substance to. **2.** To put oil on during a religious ceremony as a sign of sanctification or consecration. **3.** To choose by or as if by divine intervention. [Middle English *enointen* < Old French *enoint*, past participle of *enoindre* < Latin *inunguere, inūnct-* : *in-*, on; see **in-**[2] + *unguere*, to smear.] **—a·noint′er** *n.* **—a·noint′ment** *n.*

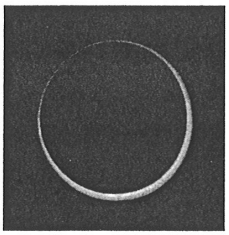
A·noint·ing of the Sick (ə-noin′tĭng) *n. Christianity* The sacrament of anointing a critically ill or weak person, with prayers for recovery and an act of penance or confession.

a·no·le (ə-nō′lē) *n.* Any of various small, chiefly tropical lizards of the genus *Anolis* and related genera, native to the Americas and characterized by a distensible dewlap and the ability to change color. [French *anolis*, of Cariban origin.]

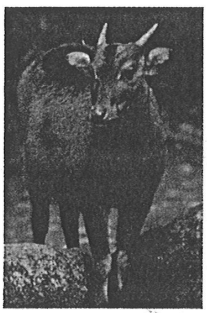
a·nom·a·lous (ə-nŏm′ə-ləs) *adj.* **1.** Deviating from the normal or common order, form, or rule. **2.** Equivocal, as in classification or nature. [< Late Latin *anōmalos* < Greek, uneven : probably < *an-*, not; see **a-**[1] + *homalos*, even (< *homos*, same; see **sem-**[1] in App. I).] **—a·nom′a·lous·ly** *adv.* **—a·nom′a·lous·ness** *n.*

a·nom·a·ly (ə-nŏm′ə-lē) *n., pl.* **-lies 1.** Deviation or departure from the normal or common order, form, or rule. **2.** One that is peculiar, irregular, abnormal, or difficult to classify: *"Both men are anomalies: they have . . . likable personalities but each has made his reputation as a heavy"* (David Pauly). **3.** *Astronomy* The angular deviation, as observed from the sun, of a planet from its perihelion. **—a·nom′a·lis′tic** *adj.* **—a·nom′a·lis′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

a·no·mi·a (ə-nō′mē-ə) *n.* Aphasia characterized by the impaired ability to recall the names of persons and things. [A-[1] + Latin *nōmen*, name;



annular eclipse
annular solar eclipse
May 10, 1994



anoa
lowland anoa
Bubalus depressicornis

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

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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 (bĭ-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 (bĭ-to͝ok′) *v.* Past tense of **betake.**

be•tray (bĭ-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.*

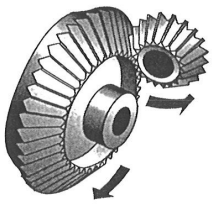
be•troth (bĭ-trōth′, -trôth′) *tr.v.* **-trothed, -troth•ing, -troths** To promise to give in marriage: *was betrothed to a member of the royal family.* [Middle English *bitrouthen* : *bi-*, be- + *trouth*, troth (< Old English *trēowth*; see **deru-** in App. I).]

be•troth•al (bĭ-trō′thəl, -trôth′əl) *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 (bĭ-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 (bĭ-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 (bĭ-twēn′brān′) *n.* See **diencephalon.**

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

be•twixt (bĭ-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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water temperature. Used of coral. ❖ *n.* **1.** A chemical agent used for bleaching. **2a.** The act of bleaching. **b.** The degree of bleaching obtained. [Middle English *blechen* < Old English *blǣcan*; see **bhel-**[1] in App. I.]

bleach•er (blēʹchər) *n.* **1.** One that bleaches or is used in bleaching. **2.** often **bleachers** An often unroofed outdoor grandstand for seating spectators. [Sense 2, from comparing a person's exposure to the sun when sitting on them with the exposure of linens bleaching on a clothesline.]

bleach•ing powder (blēʹchĭng) *n.* A powder containing calcium chloride and calcium hypochlorite, used in solution as a bleach. Also called *chloride of lime, chlorinated lime.*

bleak[1] (blēk) *adj.* **bleak•er, bleak•est 1a.** Gloomy and somber: *"Life in the Aran Islands has always been bleak and difficult"* (John Millington Synge). **b.** Providing no encouragement; depressing: *a bleak prospect.* **2.** Cold and cutting; raw: *bleak winds of the North Atlantic.* **3.** Exposed to the elements; unsheltered and barren: *the bleak, treeless regions of the high Andes.* [Middle English *bleik*, pale < Old Norse *bleikr*, white; see **bhel-**[1] in App. I.] —**bleakʹly** *adv.* —**bleakʹness** *n.*

bleak[2] (blēk) *n., pl.* **bleak** or **bleaks** Any of various small European freshwater fishes of the genus *Alburnus*, having silvery scales. [Middle English *bleke*, probably alteration (influenced by *bleke*, pale) of **blay* < Old English *blǣge*.]

blear (blîr) *tr.v.* **bleared, blear•ing, blears 1.** To blur or redden (the eyes). **2.** To blur; dim. ❖ *adj.* Bleary. [Middle English *bleren.*]

blear•y (blîrʹē) *adj.* **-i•er, -i•est 1.** Watery, filmy, or unable to see clearly: *bleary eyes.* **2.** Tired, disoriented, or bleary-eyed: *He shuffled around the kitchen, bleary with sleep.* **3.** Vaguely outlined; indistinct: *"The Palisades are wan and bleary with heat"* (Clement Greenberg). —**blearʹi•ly** *adv.* —**blearʹi•ness** *n.*

blear•y-eyed (blîrʹē-īdʹ) also **blear-eyed** (blîrʹīdʹ) *adj.* **1.** With eyes blurred or reddened, as from exhaustion or lack of sleep. **2.** Dull of mind or perception.

bleat (blēt) *n.* **1a.** The characteristic cry of a goat or sheep. **b.** A sound similar to this cry. **2.** A whining, feeble complaint. ❖ *v.* **bleat•ed, bleat•ing, bleats** —*intr.* **1.** To utter the characteristic cry of a goat or sheep. **2.** To utter a sound similar to this cry, especially a whine. —*tr.* To utter in a whining way. [Middle English *blet* < *bleten*, to bleat < Old English *blǣtan.*] —**bleatʹer** *n.*

bleb (blĕb) *n.* **1.** A small blister or pustule. **2.** An air bubble. [Probably alteration of BLOB.] —**blebʹby** *adj.*

bleed (blēd) *v.* **bled** (blĕd), **bleed•ing, bleeds** —*intr.* **1.** To emit or lose blood. **2.** To be wounded, especially in battle. **3.** To feel sympathetic grief or anguish: *My heart bleeds for the victims of the air crash.* **4.** To exude a fluid such as sap. **5.** To pay out money, especially an exorbitant amount. **6a.** To run together or be diffused, as dyes in wet cloth. **b.** To undergo or be subject to such a diffusion of color: *The madras skirt bled when it was first washed.* **7.** To show through a layer of paint, as a stain or resin in wood. **8.** To be printed so as to go off the edge or edges of a page after trimming. —*tr.* **1a.** To take or remove blood from. **b.** To extract sap or juice from. **2a.** To draw liquid or gaseous contents from; drain. **b.** To draw off (liquid or gaseous matter) from a container. **3a.** To obtain money from, especially by improper means. **b.** To drain of all valuable resources: *"Politicians . . . never stop inventing illicit enterprises of government that bleed the national economy"* (David A. Stockman). **4a.** To cause (an illustration, for example) to bleed. **b.** To trim (a page, for example) so closely as to mutilate the printed or illustrative matter. ❖ *n.* **1.** An instance of bleeding. **2.** Illustrative matter that bleeds. **3a.** A page trimmed so as to bleed. **b.** The part of the page that is trimmed off. —***phrasal verb:*** **bleed off** *Aerospace* To decrease: *"Mike reared the chopper almost vertical to bleed off airspeed"* (Robert Coram). [Middle English *bleden* < Old English *blēdan*; see **bhel-**[3] in App. I.]

bleed•er (blēʹdər) *n.* **1.** A person, such as a hemophiliac, who bleeds freely or is subject to frequent hemorrhages. **2a.** *Slang* A blood vessel from which there is uncontrolled bleeding. **b.** A blood vessel severed by trauma or surgery that requires cautery or ligature to arrest the flow of blood. **3.** A person who draws blood from another; a phlebotomist.

bleed•ing (blēʹdĭng) *adj. & adv. Chiefly British Slang* Used as an intensive.

bleeding heart *n.* **1.** Any of various perennial herbs of the genera *Dicentra* and *Lamprocapnos*, especially *L. spectabilis*, widely cultivated for its arching clusters of pink to red or white heart-shaped flowers. **2.** A person who is considered excessively sympathetic toward those who claim to be underprivileged or exploited. —**bleedʹing-heartʹ** *adj.*

bleep (blēp) *n.* A brief high-pitched sound, as from an electronic device. ❖ *v.* **bleeped, bleep•ing, bleeps** —*intr.* To emit a bleep or bleeps. —*tr.* To edit out (spoken material) from a broadcast or recording, especially by replacing with an electronic sound: *The station bleeped out the expletives from the taped interview.* [Imitative.] —**bleepʹer** *n.*

blem•ish (blĕmʹĭsh) *n.* **1.** A small mark that makes the appearance of something less attractive. **2.** An imperfection that mars or impairs; a flaw. ❖ *tr.v.* **-ished, -ish•ing, -ish•es 1.** To cause to have a small mark or marks that diminish attractiveness: *skin blemished by an allergy.* **2.** To mar or impair by a flaw: *accusations that blemished his reputation.* [Middle English *blemisshen*, to damage, mar < Old French *blesmir, blemir, blemiss-*, to make pale, of Germanic origin; see **bhel-**[1] in App. I.] —**blemʹish•er** *n.*

✦**SYNONYMS** *blemish, imperfection, fault, defect, flaw* These nouns denote loss or absence of perfection. A *blemish* is something thought to mar the appearance or character of a thing: *"Industry in art is a necessity—not a virtue—and any evidence of the same, in the production, is a blemish"* (James McNeill Whistler). *Imperfection* and *fault* apply more comprehensively to any deficiency or shortcoming: *"A true critic ought to dwell rather upon excellencies than imperfections"* (Joseph Addison). *"Each of us would point out to the other her most serious faults, and thereby help her to remedy them"* (Anna Howard Shaw). *Defect* denotes a serious functional or structural shortcoming: *"Ill breeding . . . is not a single defect, it is the result of many"* (Henry Fielding). A *flaw* is an imperfection that may be hidden or of apparent insignificance but that often has serious consequences: *Experiments revealed a very basic flaw in the theory.*

blench[1] (blĕnch) *intr.v.* **blenched, blench•ing, blench•es** To draw back or shy away, as from fear; flinch. [Middle English *blenchen* < Old English *blencan*, to deceive; see **bhel-**[1] in App. I.] —**blenchʹer** *n.*

blench[2] (blĕnch) *v.* Variant of **blanch.**

blend (blĕnd) *v.* **blend•ed** or **blent** (blĕnt), **blend•ing, blends** —*tr.* **1.** To combine or mix (different substances) so that the constituent parts are indistinguishable from one another: *blended the flour, milk, and eggs; blend gasoline with ethanol.* **2.** To combine (varieties or grades of the same substance) to obtain a mixture of a particular character, quality, or consistency: *blend coffees.* **3.** To combine (different elements) into a single entity: *a career that blends medicine and engineering.* See Synonyms at **mix.** —*intr.* **1.** To form a uniform mixture: *"The smoke blended easily into the odor of the other fumes"* (Norman Mailer). **2.** To be unobtrusive or harmonious by resembling the surroundings or behaving like others in a group. Often used with *in*: *a female pheasant is brown and blends in with its nesting ground.* **3.** To create a harmonious effect or result: *picked a tie that blended with the jacket.* ❖ *n.* **1a.** The act of blending: *the writer's unique blend of fantasy and physics.* **b.** Something, such as an effect or a product, that is created by blending: *"His face shows, as he stares at the fire, a blend of fastidiousness and intransigence"* (John Fowles). **2.** *Linguistics* A word produced by combining parts of other words, as *smog* from *smoke* and *fog.* [Middle English *blenden*, probably < Old Norse *blanda*, *blend-*; see **bhel-**[1] in App. I.]

blende (blĕnd) *n.* **1.** Any of various shiny minerals composed chiefly of metallic sulfides. **2.** See **sphalerite.** [German < *blenden*, to deceive (because it resembles lead ore) < Middle High German *blenden* < Old High German *blentan*, to blind, deceive; see **bhel-**[1] in App. I.]

blend•ed family (blĕnʹdĭd) *n.* A stepfamily.

blended whiskey *n.* Whiskey that is either a blend of two or more whiskeys, especially a malt whiskey and an unmalted grain whiskey, or a blend of whiskey and neutral spirits.

blended wing body *n.* An aircraft that combines features of a conventional winged fuselage and a flying wing, in which the wings merge continuously with a flattened, aerodynamic body that provides much of the lift.

blend•er (blĕnʹdər) *n.* One that blends, especially an electrical appliance with whirling blades for chopping, mixing, or liquefying foods.

blend•ing inheritance (blĕnʹdĭng) *n.* The discredited theory that inheritance of traits from two parents produces offspring with characteristics that are intermediate between those of the parents.

blen•ny (blĕnʹē) *n., pl.* **-nies** Any of numerous small chiefly marine bottom-feeding fishes of the suborder Blennioidei, having elongated bodies and often kept as aquarium fish. [Latin *blennius*, a kind of sea fish < Greek *blennos*, slime, blenny; see **mel-**[1] in App. I.]

blent (blĕnt) *v.* A past tense and a past participle of **blend.**

ble•o•my•cin sulfate (blēʹə-mīʹsĭn) *n.* An antibiotic that is obtained from cultures of the bacterium *Streptomyces verticillus*, used as an antineoplastic agent. [Alteration of *phleomycin*, a related antibiotic : *phleo-*, of unknown meaning + -MYCIN.]

bleph•a•ri•tis (blĕfʹə-rīʹtĭs) *n.* Inflammation of the eyelids.

blepharo- or **blephar-** *pref.* **1.** Eyelid; eyelids: *blepharospasm.* **2.** Cilium; flagellum: *blepharoplast.* [Greek < *blepharon*, eyelid.]

bleph•a•ro•plast (blĕfʹər-ə-plăstʹ) *n.* A basal body that is associated especially with a flagellated cell.

bleph•a•ro•plas•ty (blĕfʹər-ə-plăsʹtē) *n.* Plastic surgery of the eyelids.

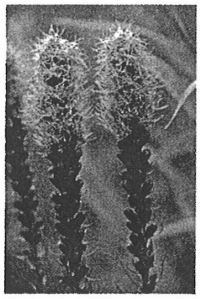
bleph•a•ro•spasm (blĕfʹə-rō-spăzʹəm) *n.* Spasmodic winking caused by the involuntary contraction of an eyelid muscle.

Blé•riot (blāʹrē-ō, blā-ryōʹ), **Louis** 1872–1936. French aviator who was the first to cross the English Channel by airplane (1909).

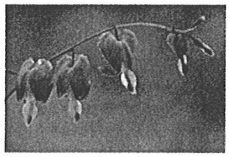
bles•bok (blĕsʹbŏkʹ) *n., pl.* **blesbok** or **-boks** A South African antelope *(Damaliscus pygargus* subsp. *phillipsi* syn. *D. dorcas* subsp. *phillipsi)* having a reddish-brown coat, curved horns, and a white mark on the face. [Afrikaans : *bles*, white mark on an animal's face (< Middle Dutch; see **bhel-**[1] in App. I) + *bok*, buck (< Middle Dutch *boc*).]

bless (blĕs) *tr.v.* **blessed** or **blest** (blĕst), **bless•ing, bless•es 1.** To make holy by religious rite; sanctify: *The clergy blessed the site for the new monastery.* **2.** To invoke divine favor upon: *The bishop blessed the fishing fleet.* **3.** To make the sign of the cross over: *She knelt and blessed herself.* **4.** To honor as holy; glorify: *Bless the Lord.* **5.** To confer well-being or prosperity on: *They were blessed with a baby girl.* **6.** To endow, as with talent: *He was blessed with a photographic memory.* —***idiom:*** **bless you** Used to wish good health to a person who has just sneezed. [Middle English *blessen* < Old English *blētsian*, to consecrate; see **bhel-**[3] in App. I.] —**blessʹer** *n.*

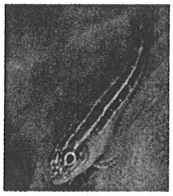
✦**WORD HISTORY** The verb *bless* comes from Old English *blēdsian, blēdsian, blētsian*, "to bless, wish happiness, consecrate." Although the Old English verb has no cognates in any other Germanic language, it can be shown to derive from the Germanic noun **blōdan*, "blood." *Blēdsian* therefore originally meant "to consecrate with blood, sprinkle with blood." In many cultures, the blood of a sacrificed animal is thought to hallow and bring blessings upon the people and places that it touches. In the Biblical book of Exodus, for example, God punishes the Egyptians by killing the first-born son in every family, but the Israelites are able to



blazing star
dotted blazing star
Liatris punctata



bleeding heart
Lamprocapnos spectabilis



blenny
neon triplefin blenny
Helcogramma striata



blesbok
Damaliscus pygargus subsp. *phillipsi*

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	û(r)	urge
ī	bite	th	thin
îr	pier	*th*	this
ŏ	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about, item
ô	paw		
ôr	core		

Stress marks: ˈ (primary); ˌ (secondary), as in **dictionary** (dĭkʹshə-nĕrʹē)

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

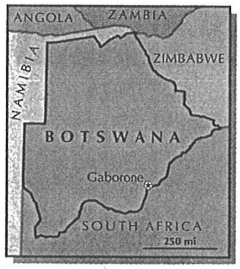
bot·net (bŏtʹnĕtʹ) *n.* A network of maliciously installed bots running on multiple computers.

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.] —**botʹry·oiʹdal·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

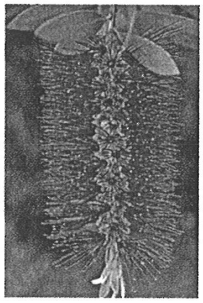
Bot·swa·na (bŏt-swäʹnə) A country of south-central Africa. Originally inhabited by the San and later (after the 18th century) by the Tswana, the region became a British protectorate as Bechuanaland (1885) and gained full independence in 1966. Gaborone is the capital and the largest city. —**Bot·swaʹnan**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

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), **-feed·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.*] —**botʹtom·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-line′** *v.*

bot·tom·most (bŏtʹəm-mōst′) *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, -dĂNʹ) *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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encephalization are generally correlated with higher degrees of intelligence. —**en·ceph′a·lize** *v.*

encephalo– or **encephal–** *pref.* Brain: *encephalitis.* [New Latin < Greek *(muelos) enkephalos,* (marrow) in the head : *en-,* in; see EN–[2] + *kephalē,* head; see **ghebh-el-** in App. I.]

en·ceph·a·lo·gram (ĕn-sĕf′ə-lə-grăm′, -ə-lō-) *n.* **1.** An x-ray picture of the brain taken by encephalography. Also called *encephalograph.* **2.** An electroencephalogram. **3.** A magnetoencephalogram.

en·ceph·a·lo·graph (ĕn-sĕf′ə-lə-grăf′, -ə-lō-) *n.* **1.** See **encephalogram** (sense 1). **2.** See **electroencephalograph.**

en·ceph·a·log·ra·phy (ĕn-sĕf′ə-lŏg′rə-fē) *n., pl.* **-phies** Radiographic examination of the brain in which some of the cerebrospinal fluid is replaced with air or another gas that acts as a contrast medium. —**en·ceph′a·lo·graph′ic** (-ə-lə-grăf′ĭk, -ə-lō-) *adj.*

en·ceph·a·lo·ma (ĕn-sĕf′ə-lō′mə) *n., pl.* **-mas** or **-ma·ta** (-mə-tə) A tumor of the brain.

en·ceph·a·lo·my·e·li·tis (ĕn-sĕf′ə-lō-mī′ə-lī′tĭs) *n.* Inflammation of the brain and spinal cord.

en·ceph·a·lon (ĕn-sĕf′ə-lŏn′) *n., pl.* **-la** (-lə) The brain of a vertebrate. [Greek *enkephalon* < neuter of *enkephalos,* in the head; see EN-CEPHALO–.] —**en·ceph′a·lous** *adj.*

en·ceph·a·lop·a·thy (ĕn-sĕf′ə-lŏp′ə-thē) *n., pl.* **-thies** Any of various diseases of the brain. —**en·ceph′a·lo·path′ic** (-lə-păth′ĭk) *adj.*

en·chain (ĕn-chān′) *tr.v.* **-chained, -chain·ing, -chains** To bind with or as if with chains. —**en·chain′ment** *n.*

en·chant (ĕn-chănt′) *tr.v.* **-chant·ed, -chant·ing, -chants 1.** To cast a spell over; bewitch. **2.** To attract and delight; entrance. See Synonyms at **charm.** [Middle English *enchanten* < Old French *enchanter* < Latin *incantāre,* to utter an incantation, cast a spell : *in-,* against; see EN–[1] + *cantāre,* to sing, frequentative of *canere;* see **kan-** in App. I.]

en·chant·er (ĕn-chăn′tər) *n.* **1.** One that delights or fascinates. **2.** A sorcerer or magician.

en·chant·ing (ĕn-chăn′tĭng) *adj.* Having the power to enchant; charming: *enchanting music.* —**en·chant′ing·ly** *adv.*

en·chant·ment (ĕn-chănt′mənt) *n.* **1a.** The act of enchanting. **b.** The state of being enchanted. **2.** Something that enchants.

en·chant·ress (ĕn-chăn′trĭs) *n.* **1.** A woman of great charm or fascination. **2.** A woman who practices magic; a sorceress.

en·chase (ĕn-chās′) *tr.v.* **-chased, -chas·ing, -chas·es 1.** To set (a gem, for example). **2.** To set with or as if with gems: *enchase a brooch.* **3.** To decorate or ornament by inlaying or engraving. [Middle English, to engrave < Old French *enchasser,* to set gems : *en-,* in; see EN–[1] + *chasse,* case (< Latin *capsa,* box).]

en·chi·la·da (ĕn′chə-lä′də) *n.* A tortilla rolled and stuffed usually with a mixture containing meat or cheese and served with a sauce spiced with chili. ***—idiom:* whole enchilada** The entirety of something; everything. [American Spanish : *en-,* in (< Latin *in-*; see EN–[1]) + *chile,* chili pepper; see CHILI + *-ada,* feminine adj. suff.]

en·chi·rid·i·on (ĕn′kī-rĭd′ē-ən) *n., pl.* **-i·ons** or **-i·a** (-ē-ə) A handbook; a manual. [Late Latin *enchīridion* < Greek *enkheiridion* : *en-,* in; see EN–[2] + *kheir,* hand; see **ghes-** in App. I + *-idion,* diminutive suff.]

–enchyma *suff.* Cellular tissue: *chlorenchyma.* [< PARENCHYMA.]

en·ci·pher (ĕn-sī′fər) *tr.v.* **-phered, -pher·ing, -phers** To put (a message, for example) into cipher. —**en·ci′pher·ment** *n.*

en·cir·cle (ĕn-sûr′kəl) *tr.v.* **-cled, -cling, -cles 1.** To form a circle around; surround: *A belt encircled his waist.* **2.** To move or go around completely; make a circuit of: *The moon encircles the earth.* —**en·cir′cle·ment** *n.*

encl. *abbr.* **1.** enclosed **2.** enclosure

en·clasp (ĕn-klăsp′) *tr.v.* **-clasped, -clasp·ing, -clasps** To hold in a clasp; embrace.

en·clave (ĕn′klāv′, ŏn′-) *n.* **1.** A country or part of a country lying wholly within the boundaries of another. **2.** A distinctly bounded area enclosed within a larger unit: *ethnic enclaves in a large city.* [French < Old French *enclaver,* to enclose < Vulgar Latin **inclāvāre* : Latin *in-,* in; see EN–[1] + Latin *clāvis,* key.]

en·clit·ic (ĕn-klĭt′ĭk) *n.* **1.** A clitic that is attached to the end of another word. In *Give 'em the works,* the pronoun *'em* is an enclitic. **2.** A clitic. ❖ *adj.* Of or relating to an enclitic or enclisis; forming an accentual unit with the preceding word. [Late Latin *encliticus* < Greek *enklitikos* < *enklīnein,* to lean on : *en-,* on, in; see EN–[2] + *klīnein,* to lean; see **klei-** in App. I.] —**en·clit′i·cize′** (-ə-sīz′) *v.* —**en·clit′i·ci·za′tion** (-ə-sī-zā′shən), **en′clis·is** (-klīs-īs) *n.*

en·close (ĕn-klōz′) also **in·close** (ĭn-) *tr.v.* **-closed, -clos·ing, -clos·es 1a.** To surround on all sides; close in: *a valley that is enclosed by rugged peaks.* **b.** To fence in so as to prevent common use: *enclosed the pasture.* **c.** To build or equip with a roof and walls: *enclosed the deck for winter use.* **2.** To contain, especially so as to envelop or shelter: *"Every one of those darkly clustered houses encloses its own secret"* (Charles Dickens). **3.** To insert into the same envelope or package: *enclose a check with the order.* [Middle English *enclosen* < Old French *enclos,* past participle of *enclore* < Latin *inclūdere;* see INCLUDE.]

✦**SYNONYMS** *enclose, cage, fence, hem, pen, wall* These verbs mean to surround and confine within a limited area: *cattle enclosed in feedlots; was caged in the office all afternoon; a garden fenced in by shrubbery; a battalion hemmed in by enemy troops; ships penned up in the harbor; prisoners who were walled in.*

en·clo·sure (ĕn-klō′zhər) *n.* **1a.** The act of enclosing. **b.** The state of being enclosed. **2.** Something enclosed: *a business letter with a supplemental enclosure.* **3.** Something that encloses.

en·code (ĕn-kōd′) *v.* **-cod·ed, -cod·ing, -codes** —*tr.* **1.** To convert (a message or other information) into code. **2.** To format (electronic data) according to a standard format. **3.** *Genetics* To specify the genetic code for (a protein, for example). —*intr.* **1.** To convert information into code. **2.** To format electronic data according to a standard format. **3.** *Genetics* To specify the genetic code for a protein. —**en·cod′er** *n.*

en·co·mi·ast (ĕn-kō′mē-ăst′, -əst) *n.* A person who delivers or writes an encomium; a eulogist. [Greek *enkōmiastēs* < *enkōmiazein,* to praise < *enkōmion,* encomium; see ENCOMIUM.] —**en·co′mi·as′tic** (-ăs′tĭk), **en·co′mi·as′ti·cal** (-tĭ-kəl) *adj.*

en·co·mi·um (ĕn-kō′mē-əm) *n., pl.* **-mi·ums** or **-mi·a** (-mē-ə) **1.** Warm, glowing praise. **2.** A formal expression of praise. [Latin *encōmium* < Greek *enkōmion (epos),* (speech) praising a victor, neuter of *enkōmios,* of the victory procession : *en-,* in; see EN–[2] + *kōmos,* celebration.]

en·com·pass (ĕn-kŭm′pəs) *tr.v.* **-passed, -pass·ing, -pass·es 1.** To form a circle or ring around; encircle. **2.** To enclose; envelop: *"The blackness of the eternal night encompassed me"* (Edgar Allan Poe). **3.** To have as part of something larger; include: *a galaxy encompassing billions of stars.* See Synonyms at **include.** —**en·com′pass·ment** *n.*

en·core (ŏn′kôr′) *n.* **1.** A demand by an audience for an additional performance, usually expressed by applause. **2.** An additional performance in response to an audience's demand. ❖ *tr.v.* **-cored, -cor·ing, -cores** To demand an encore of. ❖ *interj.* Used to demand an additional performance. [French, still, yet, again, probably < Vulgar Latin **hinc ad hōram,* from that to this hour : Latin *hinc,* from here (< *hic,* this) + Latin *ad,* to; see AD– + Latin *hōram,* accusative of *hōra,* hour; see HOUR.]

en·coun·ter (ĕn-koun′tər) *n.* **1.** A meeting, especially one that is unplanned, unexpected, or brief: *a chance encounter in the park.* **2.** A hostile or adversarial confrontation: *a tense naval encounter.* ❖ *v.* **-tered, -ter·ing, -ters** —*tr.* **1.** To meet, especially unexpectedly; come upon: *encountered an old friend on the street.* **2.** To confront in battle or competition: *encountered last year's champion.* **3.** To experience or undergo: *We have encountered numerous obstacles.* —*intr.* To meet, especially unexpectedly. [Middle English *encountre* < Old French < *encontrer,* to meet < Late Latin *incontrāre* : Latin *in-,* in; see EN–[1] + Latin *contrā,* against; see **kom** in App. I.]

encounter group *n.* A typically unstructured psychotherapy group in which the participants seek to increase their sensitivity, responsiveness, and emotional expressiveness, as by freely verbalizing and responding to emotions.

en·cour·age (ĕn-kûr′ĭj, -kŭr′-) *tr.v.* **-aged, -ag·ing, -ag·es 1.** To inspire with hope, courage, or confidence. **2.** To give support to; foster: *policies designed to encourage private investment.* **3.** To stimulate; spur: *burning the field to encourage new plant growth.* [Middle English *encouragen* < Old French *encoragier* : *en-,* causative pref.; see EN–[1] + *corage,* courage; see COURAGE.] —**en·cour′ag·er** *n.*

✦**SYNONYMS** *encourage, cheer, embolden, hearten, inspire* These verbs mean to impart courage, inspiration, and resolution to: *encouraged the patient not to give up hope; cheered the contestants on; was emboldened to sing for the guests; was heartened by the test results; were inspired by their initial success to take the next step.*

en·cour·age·ment (ĕn-kûr′ĭj-mənt, -kŭr′-) *n.* **1.** The act of encouraging. **2.** The state of being encouraged. **3.** One that encourages.

en·cour·ag·ing (ĕn-kûr′ə-jĭng, -kŭr′-) *adj.* Giving courage, confidence, or hope: *encouraging news.* —**en·cour′ag·ing·ly** *adv.*

en·croach (ĕn-krōch′) *intr.v.* **-croached, -croach·ing, -croach·es 1.** To take another's possessions or rights gradually or stealthily: *encroach on a neighbor's land.* **2.** To advance beyond proper or former limits: *desert encroaching upon grassland.* **3.** *Football* To commit encroachment. [Middle English *encrochen,* to seize illegally < Old French *encrochier,* to seize : *en-,* in; see EN–[1] + *croc,* hook (of Germanic origin).] —**en·croach′er** *n.*

en·croach·ment (ĕn-krōch′mənt) *n.* **1.** The act or an instance of encroaching. **2.** *Football* A violation of the rules in which a player enters the neutral zone and makes contact with an opponent prior to the snap of the ball.

en·crust (ĕn-krŭst′) also **in·crust** (ĭn-) *tr.v.* **-crust·ed, -crust·ing, -crusts 1.** To cover or coat with or as if with a crust: *tires encrusted with dried mud; legalities that were encrusted with tradition.* **2.** To decorate by inlaying or overlaying with a contrasting material: *encrust wood paneling with ivory.* [Possibly < French *incruster* < Latin *incrustāre* : *in-,* on; see EN–[1] + *crusta,* crust; see **kreus-** in App. I.]

en·crust·a·tion (ĕn′krŭs-tā′shən) *n.* Variant of **incrustation.**

en·crypt (ĕn-krĭpt′) *tr.v.* **-crypt·ed, -crypt·ing, -crypts 1.** To put into code or cipher. **2.** *Computers* To alter (data) using a mathematical algorithm so as to make the data unintelligible to unauthorized users while allowing a user with a key or password to convert the altered data back to its original state. [EN–[1] + (DE)CRYPT.]

en·cryp·tion (ĕn-krĭp′shən) *n. Computers* **1.** The process or result of encrypting data. **2.** Cryptography.

en·cum·ber (ĕn-kŭm′bər) *tr.v.* **-bered, -ber·ing, -bers 1.** To cause to have difficulty in moving or in accomplishing something; burden: *a hiker encumbered with a heavy pack; a student encumbered with responsibilities.* **2.** To hinder or impede the action or performance of: *restrictions that encumber police work.* See Synonyms at **hinder[1].** **3.** To burden with legal or financial obligations: *an estate that is encumbered with debts.* [Middle English *encombren* < Old French *encombrer,* to block up : *en-,* in; see EN–[1] + *combre,* hindrance (< Gaulish **comboros*).]

en·cum·brance (ĕn-kŭm′brəns) *n.* **1.** One that encumbers; a burden or impediment. **2.** A lien or claim on property that diminishes its value or affects transfer of ownership but does not prevent such transfer.



enchilada

ă	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
âr	care	o͝o	took
ä	father	o͞or	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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Gertrude Ederle
photographed in 1923



Thomas Edison
photographed c. 1904

E·der·le (ā′dər-lē), **Gertrude Caroline** 1906?–2003. American swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel, doing so in 14 hours and 31 minutes.

E·des·sa (ĭ-dĕs′ə) An ancient city of Mesopotamia on the site of present-day Urfa in southeast Turkey. A major Christian center after the third century AD, it was ruled at various times by the Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, and Crusaders before falling to the Seljuk Turks in the 12th century.

edge (ĕj) *n.* **1a.** A thin, sharpened side, as of the blade of a cutting instrument. **b.** The degree of sharpness of a cutting blade. **c.** A penetrating, incisive quality: *"His simplicity sets off the satire, and gives it a finer edge"* (William Hazlitt). **d.** A slight but noticeable sharpness, harshness, or discomforting quality: *His voice had an edge to it.* **e.** Keenness, as of desire or enjoyment; zest: *The brisk walk gave an edge to my appetite.* **2a.** The line or area farthest away from the middle: *lifted the carpet's edge.* See Synonyms at **border.** **b.** The line of intersection of two surfaces: *the edge of a brick.* **c.** A rim or brink: *the edge of a cliff.* **d.** The point at which something is likely to begin: *on the edge of war.* **3.** A margin of superiority; an advantage: *a slight edge over the opposition.* ❖ *v.* **edged, edg·ing, edg·es** *—tr.* **1a.** To give an edge to (a blade); sharpen. **b.** To tilt (a ski or both skis) in such a way that an edge or both edges bite into the snow. **2a.** To put a border or edge on: *edged the quilt with embroidery.* **b.** To act as or be an edge of: *bushes that edged the garden path.* **3.** To advance or push slightly or gradually: *The dog edged the ball with its nose.* **4.** To trim or shape the edge of: *edge a lawn.* **5.** To surpass or beat by a small margin. Often used with *out: The runner edged her opponent out at the last moment. —intr.* To move gradually or hesitantly: *The child edged toward the door.* ***—idioms:*** **on edge** Highly tense or nervous; irritable. **on the edge 1.** In a precarious position. **2.** In a state of keen excitement, as from danger or risk: *"the excitement of combat, of living on the edge"* (Nelson DeMille). [Middle English *egge* < Old English *ecg*; see **ak-** in App. I.] **—edge′less** *adj.*

edge city *n.* A sizeable commercial center offering a mixture of employment, shopping, and entertainment and serving a primarily suburban area. [After *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier*, title of a 1991 book by American writer Joel Garreau.]

edge effect *n.* **1.** The occurrence of greater species diversity and biological density in an ecotone than in either of the adjacent ecological communities. **2.** A phenomenon, such as a sandhi rule or citicization, that happens at the edges of words, phrases, or other linguistic units.

edg·er (ĕj′ər) *n.* One that edges, such as a tool for trimming the edge of a lawn.

edge tool *n.* A tool, such as a chisel, that has a cutting edge.

edge·wise (ĕj′wīz′) also **edge·ways** (-wāz′) *adv.* **1.** With the edge foremost. **2.** On, by, with, or toward the edge.

Edge·worth (ĕj′wûrth′), **Maria** 1767–1849. British writer noted for her realistic novels, such as *Castle Rackrent* (1800), which broke away from the prevalent Gothic style.

edg·ing (ĕj′ĭng) *n.* Something that forms or serves as an edge or border.

edg·y (ĕj′ē) *adj.* **-i·er, -i·est 1.** Nervous or irritable: *The performers were edgy as they waited for the show to begin.* **2.** Having a sharp or biting edge: *an edgy wit.* **3.** Daring, provocative, or trend-setting: *an exhibition of edgy photographs; an edgy menu.* **—edg′i·ly** *adv.* **—edg′i·ness** *n.*

edh also **eth** (ĕth) *n.* **1.** The letter ð, used in Old English and Old Saxon manuscripts to represent both the voiceless sound (th) of Modern English *thin* and the voiced sound (*th*) of Modern English *this*, and in modern Icelandic orthography to represent the voiced sound (*th*). **2.** The symbol (ð) in the International Phonetic Alphabet representing the voiced interdental fricative, as in *the* or *either.* [Icelandic.]

E·di·a·ca·ran (ē′dē-ā′kə-rən) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to the final geologic period of the late Precambrian Era, lasting from 620 to 542 million years ago. **2.** Of or relating to a group of fossilized soft-bodied marine organisms that are the earliest known remains of multicellular life and date from between 560 and 542 million years ago. [After the *Ediacaran* Hills in southern Australia, where the first such fossils were found.]

ed·i·ble (ĕd′ə-bəl) *adj.* Fit to be eaten, especially by humans: *edible roots; an edible mushroom.* ❖ *n.* Something fit to be eaten; food: *edibles such as vegetables and meat.* [Late Latin *edibilis* < Latin *edere*, to eat; see **ed-** in App. I.] **—ed′i·bil′i·ty, ed′i·ble·ness** *n.*

e·dict (ē′dĭkt′) *n.* **1.** A decree or proclamation issued by an authority and having the force of law. **2.** A formal pronouncement or command. [Latin *ēdictum* < neuter past participle of *ēdīcere*, to declare : *ē-*, *ex-*, ex- + *dīcere*, to speak; see **deik-** in App. I.]

ed·i·fi·ca·tion (ĕd′ə-fĭ-kā′shən) *n.* Intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement; enlightenment.

ed·i·fice (ĕd′ə-fĭs) *n.* **1.** A building, especially one of imposing appearance or size. **2.** An elaborate conceptual structure: *observations that provided the foundation for the edifice of evolutionary theory.* [Middle English < Old French < Latin *aedificium* < *aedificāre*, to build : *aedis*, a building + *-ficāre*, -fy.]

ed·i·fy (ĕd′ə-fī′) *tr.v.* **-fied, -fy·ing, -fies** To instruct especially so as to encourage intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement. [Middle English *edifien* < Old French *edifier* < Late Latin *aedificāre*, to instruct spiritually < Latin, to build; see EDIFICE.] **—ed′i·fi′er** *n.*

Ed·in·burgh (ĕd′n-bûr′ə, -bŭr′ə, -brə) A city of eastern Scotland on the Firth of Forth. Originally a small settlement under the protection of a medieval castle, Edinburgh has been Scotland's capital since 1437. It has long been noted as a center of intellectual and cultural activity.

E·dir·ne (ĕ-dĭr′nĕ) Formerly **A·dri·a·no·ple** (ā′drē-ə-nō′pəl). A city of northwest Turkey northwest of Istanbul. It was founded c. AD 125 by the Roman emperor Hadrian on the site of an earlier Thracian town and was conquered at various times by Visigoths, Bulgarians, Crusaders, Turks, and Russians. Held by Greece after 1920, it was restored to Turkey in 1923.

Ed·i·son (ĕd′ĭ-sən) A township of central New Jersey southwest of New York City. It was the site of Thomas Edison's Menlo Park laboratory.

Edison, Thomas Alva 1847–1931. American inventor who patented more than a thousand inventions, among them the microphone (1877), the phonograph (1878), and an incandescent lamp (1879). In New York City he installed the world's first central electric power plant (1882).

Ed·is·to River (ĕd′ĭ-stō′) A river, about 350 km (215 mi) long, of southern South Carolina flowing southeast to the Atlantic Ocean.

ed·it (ĕd′ĭt) *tr.v.* **-it·ed, -it·ing, -its 1a.** To prepare (written material) for publication or presentation, as by correcting, revising, or adapting. **b.** To prepare an edition of for publication: *edit a collection of short stories.* **c.** To modify or adapt so as to make suitable or acceptable: *edited her remarks for presentation to a younger audience.* **2.** To supervise the publication of (a newspaper or magazine, for example). **3.** To assemble the components of (a film or soundtrack, for example), as by cutting and splicing. **4.** To eliminate; delete: *edited the best scene out.* ❖ *n.* An act or instance of editing: *made several last-minute edits for reasons of space.* ***—phrasal verbs:*** **edit in** To insert during the course of editing: *An additional scene was edited in before the show was aired.* **edit out** To delete during the course of editing: *A controversial scene was edited out of the film.* [Partly back-formation < EDITOR and partly < French *éditer*, to publish (< Latin *ēditus*, past participle of *ēdere* : *ē-*, *ex-*, ex- + *dare*, to give; see **dō-** in App. I).]

e·di·tion (ĭ-dĭsh′ən) *n.* **1a.** The entire number of copies of a publication issued at one time or from a single set of type. **b.** A single copy from this group. **c.** The form in which a publication is issued: *a paperback edition of a novel; an annotated edition of Shakespeare.* **d.** A version of an earlier publication having substantial changes or additions: *a newly revised edition of a standard reference work.* **2.** All the copies of a specified issue of a newspaper: *the morning edition; the Sunday edition.* **3.** A broadcast of a radio or television news program: *Thursday's edition of the six o'clock news.* **4a.** The entire number of like or identical items issued or produced as a set: *a limited edition of early jazz recordings; a signed edition of a group of lithographs.* **b.** Any of the various or successive forms in which something is offered or presented: *this year's edition of fall fashions from Paris.* **5.** One that closely resembles an original; a version: *The boy was a smaller edition of his father.* [Middle English *edicion*, version, translation < Latin *ēditiō*, *ēditiōn-*, publication, production < *ēditus*, past participle of *ēdere*, to publish, produce; see EDIT.]

ed·i·tor (ĕd′ĭ-tər) *n.* **1.** One who edits, especially as an occupation. **2.** One who writes editorials. **3.** A device for editing film, consisting basically of a splicer and viewer. **4.** *Computers* A program used to edit text or data files. [Late Latin *ēditor*, publisher < Latin *ēditus*, past participle of *ēdere*, to publish; see EDIT.]

ed·i·tor-at-large (ĕd′ĭ-tər-ăt-lärj′) *n., pl.* **ed·i·tors-at-large** (-tərz-) An editor or writer who contributes to a publication but is not part of the full-time staff.

ed·i·to·ri·al (ĕd′ĭ-tôr′ē-əl) *n.* **1.** An article in a publication expressing the opinion of its editors or publishers. **2.** A commentary on television or radio expressing the opinion of the station or network. ❖ *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to an editor or editing: *an editorial position with a publishing company; an editorial policy prohibiting the use of unnamed sources.* **2.** Of or resembling an editorial, especially in expressing an opinion: *an editorial comment.* **—ed′i·to′ri·al·ly** *adv.*

ed·i·to·ri·al·ist (ĕd′ĭ-tôr′ē-ə-lĭst) *n.* One who writes editorials.

ed·i·to·ri·al·ize (ĕd′ĭ-tôr′ē-ə-līz′) *intr.v.* **-ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es 1.** To express an opinion in or as if in an editorial. **2.** To present an opinion in the guise of an objective report. **—ed′i·to′ri·al·i·za′tion** (-ə-lĭ-zā′shən) *n.* **—ed′i·to′ri·al·i′zer** *n.*

editorial we *n.* The first-person plural pronoun used by an editorialist in expressing the opinion or point of view of a publication's management.

editor in chief *n., pl.* **editors in chief** The editor having final responsibility for the operations and policies of a publication.

ed·i·tor·ship (ĕd′ĭ-tər-shĭp′) *n.* The position, functions, or guidance of an editor.

Ed·mon·ton (ĕd′mən-tən) The capital of Alberta, Canada, in the central part of the province north of Calgary. It was founded in 1795 as a fort and trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company and grew with the development of the petroleum industry in the mid-1900s.

Ed·mund I (ĕd′mənd) 921–946. King of the English (939–946) who drove the Danes from Northumbria and secured peace with Scotland.

Edmund II Known as "Edmund Ironside." 993?–1016. King of the English (1016) who partitioned the kingdom in a settlement with Canute and died only weeks later.

E·do (ĕd′ō) See **Tokyo.**

E·dom (ē′dəm) An ancient country of Palestine between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba. According to the Bible, the original inhabitants were descendants of Esau.

E·dom·ite (ē′də-mīt′) *n.* **1.** A member of a Semitic people inhabiting ancient Edom. **2.** The Semitic language of the Edomites. **—E′dom·it′ish** *adj.*

EDT *abbr.* Eastern Daylight Time

EDTA (ē′dē-tē-ā′) *n.* A crystalline acid, $C_{10}H_{16}N_2O_8$, that acts as a strong chelating agent. The sodium salt of EDTA is used as an antidote for metal poisoning, an anticoagulant, and an ingredient in a variety of industrial reagents. [*e(thylene)d(iamine)t(etraacetic) a(cid).*]

ed·u·ca·ble (ĕj′ə-kə-bəl) *adj.* Capable of being educated or taught: *educable youngsters.* **—ed′u·ca·bil′i·ty** *n.*

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before dinner is out. **7.** No longer fashionable. **8.** No longer possessing or supplied with something: *I can't offer you coffee because we're out.* **9.** *Informal* Openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual: *an out performer.* **10.** *Baseball* Not allowed to continue to bat or run; retired. ❖ *prep.* **1.** Forth from; through: *He fell out the window.* **2.** Beyond or outside of: *Out this door is the garage.* **3.** Within the area of: *The house has a garden out back.* ❖ *n.* **1.** One that is out, especially one who is out of power. **2.** *Informal* A means of escape: *The window was my only out.* **3.** *Baseball* **a.** A play in which a batter or base runner is retired. **b.** The player retired in such a play. **4.** *Sports* A serve or return that falls out of bounds in a court game. **5.** *Printing* A word or other part of a manuscript omitted from the printed copy. ❖ *v.* **out•ed, out•ing, outs** —*intr.* To be disclosed or revealed; come out: *Truth will out.* —*tr.* **1.** *Sports* To send (a tennis ball, for example) outside the court or playing area. **2a.** To expose (someone considered to be heterosexual) as being gay, lesbian, or bisexual. **b.** To expose (someone) as doing something secret or immoral: *outed the shopkeeper as a spy; outed his classmate as a cheater.* **3.** *Chiefly British* To knock unconscious. ❖ *interj.* Used in two-way radio to indicate that a transmission is complete and no reply is expected. ***—idiom:*** **on the outs** *Informal* Not on friendly terms; disagreeing. [Middle English < Old English *ūt*; see **ud-** in App. I.]

out– *pref.* In a way that surpasses, exceeds, or goes beyond: *outdistance.* [< OUT.]

out•age (ou′tĭj) *n.* **1.** A quantity or portion of something lacking after delivery or storage. **2.** A temporary suspension of operation, especially of electric power.

out and away *adv.* By far: *She's out and away the team's best swimmer.*

out-and-out (out′n-out′) *adj.* Complete; thoroughgoing: *An out-and-out capitalist.*

out-and-out•er (out′ən-ou′tər) *n.* One who goes to extremes.

out•back (out′băk′) *adv.* Out to or in remote rural country, especially in Australia or New Zealand. ❖ *n.* (out′băk′) The remote rural part of a country, especially of Australia or New Zealand. **—out′back′er** *n.*

out•bal•ance (out-băl′əns) *tr.v.* **-anced, -anc•ing, -anc•es** To exceed in influence or significance; outweigh.

out•bid (out-bĭd′) *tr.v.* **-bid, -bid•den** (-bĭd′n) or **-bid, -bid•ding, -bids** To bid higher than: *We outbid our rivals at the auction.*

out•board (out′bôrd′) *adj.* **1.** *Nautical* **a.** Situated or positioned outside the hull of a vessel. **b.** Being in a position that is away from the center line of the hull of a ship. **2.** Situated or positioned toward or nearer the end of a wing of an aircraft. ❖ *n.* **1.** An outboard motor. **2.** A boat with an outboard motor. **—out′board′** *adv.*

outboard motor *n.* A detachable engine mounted on outboard brackets or on the stern of a boat.

out•bound (out′bound′) *adj.* Outward bound; headed away: *outbound trains.*

out•box (out′bŏks′) *n.* **1.** An electronic folder for outgoing e-mails or text messages. **2.** A container for outgoing documents, located in or near one's office or work area.

out•break (out′brāk′) *n.* **1.** A sudden increase: *an outbreak of influenza.* **2.** A sudden eruption; an outburst: *"an outbreak of strikes, violent agitation, and arrests"* (Samuel Chew).

out•breed (out′brēd′) *v.* **-bred** (-brĕd′), **-breed•ing, -breeds** —*tr.* To subject to outbreeding. —*intr.* To engage in outbreeding.

out•breed•ing (out′brē′dĭng) *n.* **1.** The breeding or mating of distantly related or unrelated individuals. **2.** The intentional breeding of distantly related or unrelated individuals for the purpose of producing offspring of superior quality.

out•build•ing (out′bĭl′dĭng) *n.* A building separate from but associated with a main building.

out•burst (out′bûrst′) *n.* A sudden, violent display, as of activity or emotion: *an outburst of indignation.*

out•call (out′kôl′) *n.* A visit by a professional person to a client or patient's home; a house call.

out•cast (out′kăst′) *n.* One that has been excluded from a society or system. **—out′cast′** *adj.*

out•caste (out′kăst′) *n.* A Dalit.

out•class (out-klăs′) *tr.v.* **-classed, -class•ing, -class•es** To surpass decisively, so as to appear of a higher class.

out•come (out′kŭm′) *n.* An end result; a consequence. See Synonyms at **effect.**

out•com•pete (out′kəm-pēt′) *tr.v.* **-pet•ed, -pet•ing, -petes** To prevail over or surpass (another) under competitive circumstances.

out•crop (out′krŏp′) *n.* or **out•crop•ping** (out′krŏp′ĭng) A portion of bedrock or other stratum protruding through the soil level. ❖ *intr.v.* (out-krŏp′) **-cropped, -crop•ping, -crops** To protrude above the soil, as rock formations. [OUT + CROP, to appear on the surface.]

out•cross (out′krôs′, -krŏs′) *v.* **-crossed, -cross•ing, -cross•es** —*tr.* **1.** To mate (an animal) to an unrelated individual of the same species or breed. **2.** To pollinate (a plant) with pollen from a different plant of the same species, often one that is unrelated or is of a different variety. —*intr.* To outcross a plant or animal. ❖ *n.* **1.** The process of outcrossing. **2.** Offspring produced by outcrossing.

out•cry (out′krī′) *n., pl.* **-cries 1.** A loud cry or clamor. **2.** A strong protest or objection: *public outcry over the rise in prices.*

out•curve (out′kûrv′) *n. Baseball* A pitched ball that curves away from the batter.

out•date (out-dāt′) *tr.v.* **-dat•ed, -dat•ing, -dates** To replace or make obsolete or old-fashioned.

out•dat•ed (out-dā′tĭd) *adj.* Out-of-date; old-fashioned.

out•dis•tance (out-dĭs′təns) *tr.v.* **-tanced, -tanc•ing, -tanc•es 1.** To outrun, especially in a long-distance race. **2.** To surpass by a wide margin, especially through superior skill or endurance: *a sales force that outdistanced its competitors in volume sold.*

out•do (out-dōo′) *tr.v.* **-did** (-dĭd′), **-done** (-dŭn′), **-do•ing, -does** (-dŭz′) To do more or better than (another) in performance or action. See Synonyms at **excel.** ***—idiom:*** **outdo oneself** To do something exceptional or superb, especially in relation to past efforts: *outdid himself in preparing dinner.*

out•door (out′dôr′) also **out-of-door** (out′əv-dôr′) *adj.* Located in, done in, or suited to the open air: *badminton and other outdoor games.*

out•doors (out-dôrz′) also **out-of-doors** (out′əv-dôrz′) *adv.* In or into the open; outside: *walking outdoors for fresh air.* ❖ *n.* **1.** The open air. **2.** An area away from human settlements.

out•doors•man (out-dôrz′mən) *n.* A man who spends considerable time in outdoor pursuits, such as hunting and fishing.

out•doors•wo•man (out-dôrz′wo͝om′ən) *n.* A woman who spends considerable time in outdoor pursuits, such as hunting and fishing.

out•door•sy (out-dôr′zē) *adj. Informal* **1.** Associated with the outdoors: *outdoorsy hobbies such as fishing.* **2.** Showing a liking for the outdoors: *"backpackers, mountain climbers, cross-country skiers, and other no-nonsense outdoorsy types"* (New Yorker).

out•er (ou′tər) *adj.* **1.** Located on the outside; external. **2.** Farther than another from the center or middle. **3.** Relating to the body or its appearance rather than the mind or spirit.

Out•er Banks (ou′tər) A string of barrier islands off the North Carolina coast east of Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds.

out•er•course (ou′tər-kôrs′) *n.* Sexual stimulation or activity between partners without anal or vaginal penetration. [OUTER + (INTER)-COURSE.]

outer ear *n.* See **external ear.**

Outer Hebrides See **Hebrides.**

Outer Mongolia See **Mongolia** (sense 2).

out•er•most (ou′tər-mōst′) *adj.* Most distant from the center or inside; outmost.

outer planet *n.* See **Jovian planet.**

outer space *n.* Any region of space beyond limits determined with reference to the boundaries of a celestial body or system, especially: **a.** The region of space immediately beyond Earth's atmosphere. **b.** Interplanetary or interstellar space.

out•er•wear (ou′tər-wâr′) *n.* Clothing, such as hats, coats, and gloves, for use outdoors.

out•face (out-fās′) *tr.v.* **-faced, -fac•ing, -fac•es 1.** To overcome with a bold or self-assured look; stare down: *"Oppose thy steadfast-gazing eyes to mine, / See if thou canst outface me with thy looks"* (Shakespeare). **2.** To confront boldly; defy or resist: *The king outfaced the rebels.*

out•fall (out′fôl′) *n.* The place where a sewer, drain, or stream discharges.

out•field (out′fēld′) *n. Baseball* **1.** The playing area extending outward from the diamond, divided into left, center, and right field. **2.** *Abbr.* **OF** The position played by an outfielder. **3.** The members of a team playing in the outfield.

out•field•er (out′fēl′dər) *n. Abbr.* **OF** *Baseball* A player who defends left, center, or right field.

out•fit (out′fĭt′) *n.* **1.** A set of tools or equipment for a specialized purpose: *a welder's outfit.* See Synonyms at **equipment. 2.** A set of clothing, often with accessories: *What outfit are you wearing to the party?* **3.** *Informal* An association of persons, especially a military unit or a business organization. **4.** The act of equipping: *the leader's outfit of the expedition.* ❖ *tr.v.* **-fit•ted, -fit•ting, -fits** To provide with necessary equipment: *This store outfits skiers.* See Synonyms at **furnish. —out′fit′ter** *n.*

out•flank (out-flăngk′) *tr.v.* **-flanked, -flank•ing, -flanks 1.** To maneuver around and behind the flank of (an opposing force). **2.** To gain a tactical advantage over (a competitor, for example).

out•flow (out′flō′) *n.* **1.** The act or process of flowing out: *watched the outflow of the tide.* **2a.** Something that flows out: *an outflow of water from a power plant.* **b.** The amount flowing out: *a heavy outflow of cash from the country.* ❖ *intr.v.* **-flowed, -flow•ing, -flows** To issue or stream out, in or as if in a flow: *Too much money is outflowing from our household.*

out•fox (out-fŏks′) *tr.v.* **-foxed, -fox•ing, -fox•es** To surpass (another) in cleverness or cunning; outsmart.

out•front (out′frŭnt′) *adj. Informal* Straightforward, frank, and candid: *out-front news reporting.*

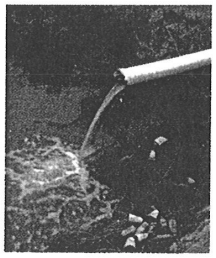
out•gas (out′găs′) *v.* **-gassed, -gas•sing, -gas•ses** —*tr.* To remove embedded gas from (a solid), as by heating or reducing the pressure. —*intr.* To lose gas, as from a solid.

out•gen•er•al (out-jĕn′ər-əl) *tr.v.* **-aled, -al•ing, -als** To surpass (another, especially an opponent) in leadership.

out•go (out-gō′) *tr.v.* **-went** (-wĕnt′), **-gone** (-gôn′, -gŏn′), **-go•ing, -goes** (-gōz′) To go beyond; exceed or surpass. ❖ *n.* (out′gō′) *pl.* **-goes 1.** Something that goes out, especially an expenditure or a cost. **2.** The act or process of going out.

out•go•ing (out′gō′ĭng) *adj.* **1a.** Going out or away; departing: *an outgoing passenger train.* **b.** Retiring from or relinquishing a place, position, or office: *the outgoing chairperson.* **c.** Addressed for sending: *outgoing mail.* **2.** Sociable and responsive to others; friendly: *a warm, outgoing personality.* **3.** Intended to be taken out, as from a restaurant: *outgoing orders of Chinese food.* **—out•go′ing•ness** *n.*

out•group or **out-group** (out′groōp′) *n.* **1.** A group of people excluded from or not belonging to one's own group, especially when viewed as subordinate or contemptibly different. **2.** A group of organisms not



outfall

ă	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
âr	care	o͝o	took
ä	father	o͝or	lure
ĕ	pet	o͞o	boot
ē	be	û	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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countries, where labor is dramatically cheaper" (James Surowiecki). **2.** To relocate or transfer (jobs) to another labor market: *"Although the absolute number of jobs outsourced from developed countries to China remains small, the threat that firms could produce offshore helps to keep a lid on wages"* (The Economist).

out·spend (out-spĕnd′) *tr.v.* **-spent** (-spĕnt), **-spend·ing, -spends** **1.** To spend beyond the limits of: *outspends his earnings.* **2.** To outdo in spending: *outspends all her relatives at Christmas.*

out·spo·ken (out-spō′kən) *adj.* **1.** Spoken without reserve; candid. **2.** Frank and unreserved in speech. See Synonyms at **frank**[1]. —**out·spo′ken·ly** *adv.* —**out·spo′ken·ness** *n.*

out·spread (out-sprĕd′) *tr. & intr.v.* **-spread, -spread·ing, -spreads** To stretch or extend or to be stretched or extended. ❖ *n.* (out′sprĕd′) **1.** The act of spreading out. **2.** Something spread out; an expanse. ❖ *adj.* Spread out; extended.

out·stand (out-stănd′) *intr.v.* **-stood** (-stŏŏd′), **-stand·ing, -stands** To stand out plainly.

out·stand·ing (out-stăn′dĭng, out′stăn′-) *adj.* **1.** Excellent or exceptionally good: *an outstanding essay that received an A+.* **2.** Noticeable or conspicuous: *"Thiamine deficiency alone generally produces peripheral neuritis and numbness as its most outstanding features"* (Vernon H. Mark). **3.** Still in existence; not settled or resolved: *outstanding debts; a long outstanding problem.* **4.** Publicly issued and sold: *outstanding shares of stock.* —**out·stand′ing·ly** *adv.*

out·stare (out-stâr′) *tr.v.* **-stared, -star·ing, -stares** **1.** To stare at (someone or an animal) until the person or animal blinks or turns away. **2.** To defy or confront boldly: *outstared the authorities.*

out·sta·tion (out′stā′shən) *n.* A remote station or post.

out·stay (out-stā′) *tr.v.* **-stayed, -stay·ing, -stays** **1.** To stay longer than (another or others); overstay: *guests who outstayed their welcome.* **2.** To show greater endurance than: *She outstayed her opponents and won the race.*

out·stood (out-stŏŏd′) *v.* Past tense and past participle of **outstand.**

out·stretch (out-strĕch′) *tr.v.* **-stretched, -stretch·ing, -stretch·es** To stretch out; extend.

out·strip (out-strĭp′) *tr.v.* **-stripped, -strip·ping, -strips** **1.** To move past or ahead of: *outstripped the other runners on the last lap.* **2.** To be greater than or superior to; exceed or surpass: *Her new book outstripped the sales of all her previous ones combined.* See Synonyms at **excel.**

out·stroke (out′strōk′) *n.* An outward stroke, especially the stroke of an engine piston moving toward the crankshaft.



ovate
ovate leaf

out·take (out′tāk′) *n.* **1a.** A section or scene, as of a movie, that is filmed but not used in the final version. **b.** A complete version, as of a recording, that is dropped in favor of another version. **2.** An opening for outward discharge; a vent.

out·talk (out-tôk′) *tr.v.* **-talked, -talk·ing, -talks** **1.** To outdo (another) in talking. **2.** To outwit by talking.

out·think (out-thĭngk′) *tr.v.* **-thought** (-thôt), **-think·ing, -thinks** **1.** To outdo (another) in thinking. **2.** To outwit by thinking.

out·thrust (out-thrŭst′) *intr. & tr.v.* **-thrust·ed, -thrust·ing, -thrusts** To extend or cause to extend outward. ❖ *n.* (out′thrŭst′) Something, such as an outcropping of rocks, that extends outward.

out·turn (out′tûrn′) *n.* A total amount produced during a given period; output.

out·vote (out-vōt′) *tr.v.* **-vot·ed, -vot·ing, -votes** **1.** To outdo in voting: *The county seat outvoted the smaller towns.* **2.** To defeat (an opponent or proposal, for example) in voting.

out·wait (out-wāt′) *tr.v.* **-wait·ed, -wait·ing, -waits** **1.** To delay until the end of; wait out: *had to outwait the traffic jam.* **2.** To get the better of or overcome by refraining from action: *sat back and decided to outwait my opponent.*

out·ward (out′wərd) *adj.* **1.** Of, located on, or moving toward the outside or exterior; outer. **2.** Relating to the physical self: *a concern with outward beauty rather than with inward reflections.* **3.** Purely external; superficial: *outward composure.* ❖ *adv.* also **out·wards** (-wərdz) Toward the outside; away from a central point. [Middle English < Old English *ūtweard* : *ūt*, out; see OUT + *-weard*, -ward.] —**out′ward·ness** *n.*

out·ward-bound (out′wərd-bound′) *adj.* Headed out, as toward the open sea: *an outward-bound tanker.*

out·ward·ly (out′wərd-lē) *adv.* **1.** On the outside or exterior; externally. **2.** Toward the outside. **3.** In regard to outward condition, conduct, or manifestation: *outwardly a perfect gentleman.*

out·wash (out′wŏsh′, -wôsh′) *n.* Sediment deposited by streams flowing away from a melting glacier.

out·wear (out-wâr′) *tr.v.* **-wore** (-wôr′), **-worn** (-wôrn′), **-wear·ing, -wears** **1.** To last longer than; outlast: *durable clothing that outwears other brands.* **2.** To use up or exhaust: *an umbrella that had outworn its usefulness; guests who had outworn their welcome.*

out·weigh (out-wā′) *tr.v.* **-weighed, -weigh·ing, -weighs** **1.** To weigh more than. **2.** To be more significant than; exceed in value or importance: *The benefits outweigh the risks.*

out·went (out-wĕnt′) *v.* Past tense of **outgo.**

out·wit (out-wĭt′) *tr.v.* **-wit·ted, -wit·ting, -wits** To surpass in cleverness or cunning; outsmart: *To win at chess, you must outwit your opponent.*

out·wore (out-wôr′) *v.* Past tense of **outwear.**

out·work (out-wûrk′) *tr.v.* **-worked** or **-wrought** (-rôt′), **-work·ing, -works** **1.** To work better or faster than. **2.** To complete (something); work (something) out. ❖ *n.* (out′wûrk′) A minor fortification constructed beyond a main defensive position or fortification.

out·worn (out-wôrn′) *v.* Past participle of **outwear.** ❖ *adj.* No longer acceptable, usable, or practical: *an outworn penal code; outworn clothes.*

out·year (out′yîr′) *n.* A fiscal year after the year covered in a budget: *The state budget assumes reduced expenditures on welfare in outyears.*

ou·zel also **ou·sel** (ōō′zəl) *n.* **1.** See **blackbird** (sense 2). **2.** See **dipper** (sense 2). **3.** See **ring ouzel.** [Middle English *osel* < Old English *ōsle.*]

ou·zo (ōō′zō) *n., pl.* **-zos** A colorless, unsweetened Greek liqueur flavored with anise. [Modern Greek.]

ov– *pref.* Variant of **ovi–.**

o·va (ō′və) *n.* Plural of **ovum.**

o·val (ō′vəl) *adj.* **1.** Resembling an egg in shape. **2.** Resembling an ellipse in shape; elliptical. ❖ *n.* **1.** An egg-shaped or elliptical form or figure. **2.** An elliptical track, as for racing or athletic events. [Medieval Latin *ōvālis* < Latin *ōvum*, egg; see **awi-** in App. I.] —**o′val·ly** *adv.* —**o′val·ness** *n.*

ov·al·bu·min (ŏv′əl-byōō′mĭn, ō′vəl-) *n.* The albumin of egg white. [Alteration of Late Latin *ōvī albūmen* : Latin *ōvī*, genitive sing. of *ōvum*, egg; see OVUM + Latin *albūmen*, white of an egg; see ALBUMEN.]

Oval Office *n.* **1.** The office of the President of the United States, situated in the White House. **2.** The office, authority, or executive power of the President of the United States; the presidency.

oval window *n.* The oval opening in the middle ear to which the base of the stapes is connected and through which the ossicles of the ear transmit sound vibrations to the cochlea.

o·var·i·an (ō-vâr′ē-ən) also **o·var·i·al** (-əl) *adj.* Of or relating to an ovary.

ovarian follicle *n.* A cavity in the ovary containing a maturing ovum surrounded by its encasing cells.

o·var·i·ec·to·my (ō-vâr′ē-ĕk′tə-mē) *n., pl.* **-mies** See **oophorectomy.**

o·var·i·ot·o·my (ō-vâr′ē-ŏt′ə-mē) *n., pl.* **-mies** **1.** Surgical incision into an ovary, as to perform a biopsy or remove a tumor. **2.** An oophorectomy.

o·va·ri·tis (ō′və-rī′tĭs) *n.* See **oophoritis.**

o·va·ry (ō′və-rē) *n., pl.* **-ries** **1a.** One of the paired female reproductive organs that produce eggs and female sex hormones in humans and other vertebrates. **b.** An analogous gland in an invertebrate animal, such as a flatworm or a mollusk. **2.** *Botany* The ovule-bearing lower part of a pistil that ripens into a fruit. [New Latin *ōvārium* < Latin *ōvum*, egg; see **awi-** in App. I.]

o·vate (ō′vāt′) *adj.* **1.** Shaped like an egg. **2.** *Botany* Shaped like an egg and flat, with the broad end toward the base: *an ovate leaf.* [Latin *ōvātus* < *ōvum*, egg; see **awi-** in App. I.] —**o′vate′ly** *adv.*

o·va·tion (ō-vā′shən) *n.* **1.** Enthusiastic, prolonged applause. **2.** A show of public homage or welcome. **3.** An ancient Roman victory ceremony of somewhat less importance than a triumph. [Latin *ovātiō, ovātiōn-*, a Roman victory ceremony < *ovātus*, past participle of *ovāre*, to rejoice.] —**o·va′tion·al** *adj.*

ov·en (ŭv′ən) *n.* A chamber or enclosed compartment for heating, baking, or roasting food, as in a stove, or for firing, baking, hardening, or drying objects, as in a kiln. [Middle English < Old English *ofen.*]

ov·en·bird (ŭv′ən-bûrd′) *n.* **1.** A thrushlike warbler *(Seiurus aurocapilla)* of the Americas, having a loud call and characteristically building a domed, oven-shaped nest on the ground. Also called *teacher bird.* **2.** Any of various South American birds of the family Furnariidae, especially of the genus *Furnarius.* [From its oven-shaped nest.]

ov·en·proof (ŭv′ən-prōōf′) *adj.* Ovensafe.

ov·en·safe (ŭv′ən-sāf′) *adj.* Capable of resisting the heat produced in a kitchen oven: *an ovensafe casserole dish.*

ov·en·ware (ŭv′ən-wâr′) *n.* Heat-resistant dishes, as of glass or pottery, used for baking and serving food.

o·ver (ō′vər) *prep.* **1.** In or at a position above or higher than: *a sign over the door; a hawk gliding over the hills.* **2a.** Above and across from one end or side to the other: *a jump over the fence.* **b.** To the other side of; across: *strolled over the bridge.* **c.** Across the edge of and down: *fell over the cliff.* **3.** On the other side of: *a village over the border.* **4a.** Upon the surface of: *put a coat of varnish over the woodwork.* **b.** On top of or down upon: *clubbed him over the head; tripped over the toys.* **5a.** Through the extent of; all through: *walked over the grounds; looked over the report.* **b.** Through the medium of; via: *addressed us over the loudspeaker; can't tell you over the phone.* **6.** So as to cover: *put rocks over a cave entrance; threw a shawl over her shoulders.* **7.** Up to or higher than the level or height of: *The water was over my shoulders.* **8a.** Through the period or duration of: *records maintained over two years.* **b.** Until or beyond the end of: *stayed over the holidays.* **9.** More than in degree, quantity, or extent: *over ten miles; over a thousand dollars.* **10a.** In superiority to: *won a narrow victory over her rival; a distinct advantage over our competitors.* **b.** In preference to: *selected him over all the others.* **11.** In a position to rule or control: *The director presides over the meeting. There is no one over him in the department.* **12.** So as to have an effect or influence on: *the change that came over you.* **13.** While occupied with or engaged in: *a chat over coffee.* **14.** With reference to; concerning: *an argument over methods.* ❖ *adv.* **1.** Above the top or surface: *climbed the ladder and peered over.* **2a.** Across to another or opposite side: *stopped at the curb, then crossed over.* **b.** Across the edge, brink, or brim: *The coffee spilled over.* **c.** Across an intervening space: *Throw the ball over.* **3a.** Across a distance in a particular direction or at a location: *lives over in England.* **b.** To another often specified place or position: *Move your chair over toward the fire.* **c.** To one's place of residence or business: *invited us over for cocktails.* **4.** Throughout an entire area or region: *wandered all over.* **5a.** To a different opinion or allegiance: *win someone over.* **b.** So as to be

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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.

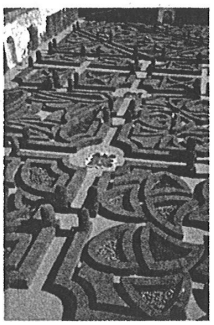
par·ti·cle·board or **particle board** (pär′tĭ-kəl-bôrd′) *n.* A structural material made of wood fragments, such as chips or shavings, that are mechanically pressed into sheet form and bonded together with resin.

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	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,
ô	paw		item
ôr	core		

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

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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 **platix*, 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′, -sŏng′) *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.

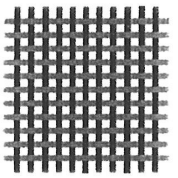
pla·ner tree (plā′nər) *n.* See **water elm.** [After Johann Jacob *Planer* (1743–1789), German botanist.]

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

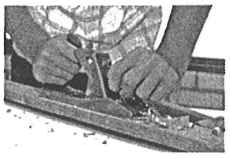
plan·et (plăn′ĭt) *n.* **1a.** In the traditional model of solar systems, a celestial body larger than an asteroid or comet, illuminated by light from a star, such as the sun, around which it revolves. **b.** A celestial body that orbits the sun, has sufficient mass to assume nearly a round shape, clears 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

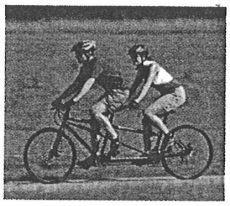


plane[2]
carpentry plane

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); ˌ (secondary), as in **dictionary** (dĭk′shə-nĕrˌē)

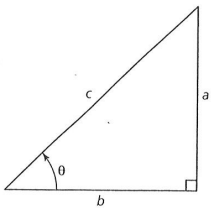
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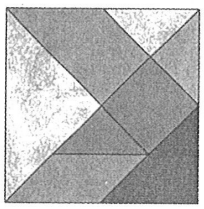
tandem bicycle



Kenzo Tange



tangent
$\tan\theta = \frac{a}{b}$



tangram



tankini

tam-o'-shan·ter (tăm'ə-shăn'tər) *n.* A Scottish cap with a snug headband and a loose crown, sometimes having a pompon, tassel, or feather in the center. [After the hero of *"Tam o' Shanter,"* a poem by Robert Burns.]

ta·mox·i·fen (tə-mŏk'sə-fĕn) *n.* A drug that is a selective estrogen receptor modulator, $C_{26}H_{29}NOS$, used in the form of its citrate primarily to treat breast cancer in women whose tumors are estrogen-dependent and to prevent breast cancer in high-risk women. [T(RANS)– + AM(INO)– + alteration of OXY– + alteration of PHEN(OL).]

tamp (tămp) *tr.v.* **tamped, tamp·ing, tamps 1.** To pack down tightly by a succession of blows or taps. **2.** To pack clay, sand, or dirt into (a drill hole) above an explosive. [Perhaps back-formation < *tampin*, variant of TAMPION.]

Tam·pa (tăm'pə) A city of west-central Florida on **Tampa Bay,** an inlet of the Gulf of Mexico. Established as a fort in 1824, the city developed as a cattle center and port of entry.

tam·per[1] (tăm'pər) *v.* **-pered, -per·ing, -pers** *—intr.* **1a.** To interfere in a harmful or disruptive manner; meddle: *was worried the editor would tamper with her text.* **b.** To make alterations or adjustments, especially secretly so as to subvert an intended purpose or function: *tamper with a lock; discovered that the brakes had been tampered with.* **c.** To engage in improper or secret actions, as in an effort to influence an outcome: *tamper with evidence; tamper with a jury.* **2.** To tinker rashly or foolishly: *"The ability of chemists to create new drugs from natural compounds raises an old argument about whether human beings should tamper with nature"* (Andrew Weil). *—tr.* To alter improperly. [Probably alteration of TEMPER.] **—tam'per·er** *n.*

tamp·er[2] (tăm'pər) *n.* A neutron reflector in an atomic bomb that also delays the expansion of the exploding material, making possible a longer-lasting, more energetic, and more efficient explosion.

Tam·pe·re (tăm'pə-rā', tăm'-) A city of southwest Finland northnorthwest of Helsinki.

tam·per-proof (tăm'pər-prōōf') *adj.* Designed to prevent tampering or provide evidence of tampering: *tamperproof aspirin containers.*

Tam·pi·co (tăm-pē'kō, tăm-) A city of east-central Mexico near the Gulf of Mexico north-northeast of Mexico City. Settled by the Spanish in the 1530s, it is a major port, manufacturing center, and tourist resort.

tam·pi·on (tăm'pē-ən) also **tom·pi·on** (tŏm'-) *n.* A plug or cover for the muzzle of a cannon or gun to keep out dust and moisture. [Middle English < Old French *tampon*, variant of *tapon*, rag for stopping a hole, of Germanic origin.]

tam·pon (tăm'pŏn') *n.* A plug of absorbent material inserted into a body cavity or wound to stop a flow of blood or to absorb secretions, especially one designed for insertion into the vagina during menstruation. ❖ *tr.v.* **-poned, -pon·ing, -pons** To plug or stop with a tampon. [French < Old French; see TAMPION.]

tam-tam[1] (tŭm'tŭm', tăm'tăm') *n.* A gong having a metal disk struck with a felt-covered hammer or stick used in a gamelan orchestra. [Ultimately of imitative origin.]

tam-tam[2] (tŭm'tŭm', tăm'tăm') *n.* Variant of **tom-tom.**

tan[1] (tăn) *v.* **tanned, tan·ning, tans** *—tr.* **1.** To convert (an animal hide) into leather by subjecting it to a chemical process that stabilizes the proteins, making it less susceptible to decay. **2.** To make (a person or a person's skin) darker by exposure to the sun. **3.** *Informal* To thrash; beat. *—intr.* To become darker from exposure to the sun. ❖ *n.* **1.** A light or moderate yellowish brown to brownish orange. **2.** A suntan. **3.** Tanbark. **4a.** Tannin. **b.** A solution derived from tannin. ❖ *adj.* **tan·ner, tan·nest 1.** Light or moderate yellowish-brown to brownish-orange. **2.** Having a suntan. **3.** Used in or relating to tanning. [Middle English *tannen* < Old English **tannian* < Medieval Latin *tannāre* < *tannum*, tanbark, probably of Celtic origin.] **—tan'nish** *adj.*

tan[2] *abbr. Mathematics* tangent

Tan (tăn) *n., pl.* **Tan** or **Tans** See **Tanka.**

Ta·na (tä'nə, -nä), **Lake** also **Lake Tsa·na** (tsä'-) A lake of northwest Ethiopia. Ethiopia's largest lake, it is the source of the Blue Nile.

tan·a·ger (tăn'ĭ-jər) *n.* Any of various songbirds of the families Thraupidae and Cardinalidae of the Americas, often having brightly colored plumage in the male. [New Latin *tanagra*, alteration of Portuguese *tangará* < Tupí *tanagorá.*]

Tan·a·gra (tăn'ə-grə, tə-năg'rə) An ancient city of east-central Greece in eastern Boeotia. The Spartans defeated Athenian forces here (457 BC).

Ta·nakh or **Ta·nach** (tä-näkh') *n.* See **Hebrew Scriptures.** [Post-Biblical Hebrew *Tanak*, acronym derived < the initial letters of the Hebrew names for the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings, *t(ôrâ), n(əbî'îm), k(ətûbôt)* : *tôrâ*, the Torah; see TORAH + *nəbî'îm*, the Prophets (< plural of *nābî'*, prophet; see **nb'** in App. II) + *kətûbôt*, the Writings (< plural of *kətûbâ*, feminine of *kətûb*, passive participle of *kātab*; see **ktb** in App. II).]

Ta·na·na·rive (tə-năn'ə-rēv', tä-nä-nä-rēv') See **Antananarivo.**

Tan·a·na River (tăn'ə-nô') A river of eastern and southern Alaska flowing about 1,000 km (600 mi) from the Wrangell Mountains northwest to the Yukon River.

Tana River A river, about 805 km (500 mi) long, of central Kenya flowing in an arc northeast and south to the Indian Ocean.

tan·bark (tăn'bärk') *n.* **1.** The bark of various trees used as a source of tannin. **2.** Shredded bark from which the tannin has been extracted, used to cover circus arenas, racetracks, and other surfaces.

tanbark oak *n.* See **tanoak.**

tan·bur (tăn-bōōr') *n.* Variant of **tamboura.**

Tan·cred (tăng'krĭd) 1072?–1112. Norman soldier. A leader in the First Crusade (1096–1099), he served as regent of the principality of Antioch (1101–1112).

T & A *n.* The prominent display of women's minimally clothed breasts and buttocks in a film, television show, or theatrical production. [*t(its) and a(ss).*]

tan·dem (tăn'dəm) *n.* **1.** A two-wheeled carriage drawn by horses harnessed one before the other. **2.** A team of carriage horses harnessed in single file. **3.** A tandem bicycle. **4.** An arrangement of two or more persons or objects placed one behind or adjacent to the other: *driving horses in tandem.* ❖ *adj.* Having two identical components arranged one behind or adjacent to the other: *a tandem axle; a tandem gene.* [Latin, at last, at length; see **to-** in App. I.] **—tan'dem** *adv.*

tandem bicycle *n.* A bicycle built for two or more people sitting one behind the other.

tandem trailer *n.* A trucking rig consisting of a tractor pulling two trailers, one behind the other.

tan·door (tăn-dōōr') *n., pl.* **-doors** or **-door·i** (-dōōr'ē) A cylindrical oven made of clay, heated over charcoal or wood, and used in South Asia and Central Asia for baking bread and roasting meat. [Hindi and Urdu *tandūr* < Persian *tanūr, tundūr*, oven < Middle Persian *tanūr* < Old Iranian *tanūra-*; akin to Aramaic *tannūrā*, Akkadian *tinūru*, and Sumerian *duruna*, all probably < a substrate source in southwest Asia.]

tan·door·i (tăn-dōōr'ē) *adj.* Cooked in a tandoor. [Hindi and Urdu *tandūrī* < *tandūr*, tandoor; see TANDOOR.]

Ta·ney (tô'nē), **Roger Brooke** 1777–1864. American jurist who served as the chief justice of the US Supreme Court (1836–1864). In the Dred Scott decision (1857) he ruled that slaves and their descendants had no rights as citizens.

tang[1] (tăng) *n.* **1.** A distinctively sharp taste, flavor, or odor, as that of orange juice. **2.** A distinctive quality: *"Underneath it all was the tang of genuine adventure"* (Jan Clausen). **3.** A sharp point, tongue, or prong. **4.** A projection by which a tool, such as a chisel or knife, is attached to its handle or stock. Also called *shank.* **5.** See **surgeonfish.** ❖ *tr.v.* **tanged, tang·ing, tangs 1.** To furnish with a tang. **2.** To give a tang to. [Middle English *tange*, of Scandinavian origin; akin to Old Norse *tangi*, point, sting.] **—tang'i·ness** *n.* **—tang'y** *adj.*

tang[2] (tăng) *n.* A loud ringing sound; a clang or twang. ❖ *intr. & tr.v.* **tanged, tang·ing, tangs** To resound with a tang or cause to resound with a tang. [Imitative.]

Tang (täng) A Chinese dynasty (618–907) known for its territorial expansion, prosperity, and encouragement of the arts and literature. [Mandarin, T'ang < Middle Chinese *tfiaŋ*, to boast, great, Tang dynasty.]

Tan·gan·yi·ka (tăn'gən-yē'kə, täng'-) A former country of east-central Africa. Awarded to Britain in the breakup of German East Africa after World War I, Tanganyika became independent in 1961 and joined with Zanzibar to form Tanzania in 1964. **—Tan'gan·yi'kan** *adj. & n.*

Tanganyika, Lake A lake of east-central Africa between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Situated on the floor of the Great Rift Valley, Lake Tanganyika is over 645 km (400 mi) long and 1,430 m (4,700 ft) deep.

Tan·ge (tän'gā), **Kenzo** 1913–2005. Japanese architect. He designed the Peace Center and Park (1949–1956) as part of the rebuilding of Hiroshima after World War II. His other designs include the National Gymnasium for the 1964 Olympic Games and St. Mary's Cathedral (1963), both in Tokyo.

tan·gé·lo (tăn'jə-lō') *n., pl.* **-los 1.** A hybrid citrus tree derived from a tangerine and a grapefruit or pomelo, having juicy flavorful fruit with a loose rind. **2.** The fruit of this tree. [Blend of TANGERINE and POMELO.]

tan·gen·cy (tăn'jən-sē) also **tan·gence** (-jəns) *n.* The condition of being tangent.

tan·gent (tăn'jənt) *n.* **1.** *Mathematics* **a.** A line, curve, or surface meeting another line, curve, or surface at a common point and sharing a common tangent line or tangent plane at that point. **b.** *Abbr.* **tan** The trigonometric function of an acute angle in a right triangle that is the ratio of the length of the side opposite the angle to the length of the side adjacent to the angle. **2.** A sudden digression or change of course: *went off on a tangent during his presentation.* **3.** *Music* An upright pin in a keyboard instrument, especially in a clavichord, that rises to sound a string when a key is depressed and stops the string at a preset length to set the pitch. ❖ *adj.* Making contact at a single point or along a line; touching but not intersecting. [Latin *(līnea) tangēns, tangent-*, touching (line), present participle of *tangere*, to touch; see **tag-** in App. I.]

tan·gen·tial (tăn-jĕn'shəl) also **tan·gen·tal** (-jĕn'tl) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or moving along or in the direction of a tangent. **2.** Merely touching or slightly connected. **3.** Only superficially relevant; divergent: *a tangential remark.* **—tan·gen'ti·al'i·ty** (-shē-ăl'ĭ-tē) *n.* **—tan·gen'tial·ly** *adv.*

tangent line *n.* A line sharing a common point with a curve or surface and being the closest linear approximation of the curve or surface at that point.

tangent plane *n.* The plane containing all the lines tangent to a specified point on a surface.

tan·ger·ine (tăn'jə-rēn', tăn'jə-rēn') *n.* **1.** A widely cultivated variety of mandarin orange having deep red-orange fruit with easily separated segments. **2.** A strong reddish orange to strong or vivid orange. [Short for *tangerine orange*, after *Tanger* (Tangier), Morocco (the principal port from which the fruit was once shipped).] **—tan'ger·ine'** *adj.*

tan·gi·ble (tăn'jə-bəl) *adj.* **1a.** Discernible by the touch; palpable: *a tangible roughness of the skin.* **b.** Possible to touch. **c.** Possible to be treated as fact; real or concrete: *tangible evidence.* **2.** Possible to understand or realize: *the tangible benefits of the plan.* **3.** *Law* Relating to or being property of a physical nature, such as land, objects, and goods. ❖ *n.* **1.** Something palpable or concrete. **2. tangibles** Property having a physical form. [Late Latin *tangibilis* < Latin *tangere*, to touch; see **tag-** in App. I.] **—tan'gi·bil'i·ty, tan'gi·ble·ness** *n.* **—tan'gi·bly** *adv.*

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