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ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

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defended boundary of a military position; the boundary of an airfield or civil airport. **M20.**

b attrib. Punch Families of the astronauts living outside the perimeter fence of the Manned Spacecraft Centre.

- 2 An instrument for measuring the extent and characteristics of a person's field of vision. **U19.**
- **COMB.** **perimeter track** a taxiway round an airfield; a track round the edge of a sports ground etc.

perimetral /pəˈmɪtr(ə)l/ *adjective*. **rare**. **U17.**
[ORIGIN formed as PERIMETER + -AL; cf. DIAMETRAL.]
= PERIMETRIC 1.

perimetric /pəˈmɪtrɪk/ *adjective*. **U19.**

[ORIGIN from PERIMETER + -IC, after meter, metric.]

- 1 Of or pertaining to a perimeter. **U19.**
- 2 Pertaining to or obtained by perimetry. **U19.**
- **perimetrical adjective** perimetric **M19.** **perimetrical adverb** by means of a perimeter or perimetry **U19.**

perimetry /pəˈmɪtrɪ/ *noun*. **U16.**
[ORIGIN formed as PERIMETER + -Y.]

- 1 = PERIMETER 1. Only in **U6.**
- 2 Measurement of a perimeter or circumference. **rare**. **U19.**
- 3 Measurement of a person's field of vision by means of a perimeter. **U19.**

† **perinaeum** *noun* var. of PERINEUM.

perinatal /pəˈrɪn(ə)t(ə)l/ *adjective*. **M20.**

[ORIGIN from PERI- + NATAL adjective.]

MEDICINE. Of or pertaining to the period comprising the latter part of fetal life and the early postnatal period (commonly taken as ending either one week or four weeks after birth).

- **perinatally adverb** in the perinatal period **M20.**
- **perinatologist** *noun* an expert or specialist in perinatology **M20.**
- **perinatology** *noun* the branch of obstetrics that deals with the perinatal period **M20.**

perineum /pəˈrɪniəm/ *noun*. Also †-naeum. **LME.**

[ORIGIN Late Latin perin(a)eum from Greek perinaion, -neus.]

The part of the body between the anus and the scrotum or vulva.

- **perineal adjective** of, pertaining to, or situated in the perineum **M18.** **perineo-** combining form [-o-] of the perineum and — **M19.**

period /ˈpɪəriəd/ *noun & adjective*. **LME.**

[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French période from Latin periodus cycle, sentence from Greek periodos circuit, revolution, recurrence, course, orbit, rounded sentence, formed as PERI- + hodos way, course.]

- ▶ **A noun.** 1 A course or extent of time.

1 The time during which a disease runs its course; the time occupied by each attack of intermittent fever from its accession to its remission; each of the successive stages in the progress of a disease. **LME.** ▶ **gen.** The time during which anything runs its course; time of duration. **LME—U17.**

latent period: see **LATENT adjective**.

2 A length of time marked by the recurrence of the times of astronomical events (e.g. the changes of the moon falling on the same days of the year), used as a unit in chronology; any length of time occupied by a recurring process or marked by the regular recurrence of a phenomenon. **E17.** ▶ **b ASTRONOMY.** The time in which a planet or satellite performs one revolution about its primary or rotates once on its axis. **E18.** ▶ **c SCIENCE.** The interval of time between successive occurrences of the same state in an oscillatory or cyclic phenomenon (e.g. a mechanical vibration, an alternating current, a variable star, or an electromagnetic wave); the time taken by one complete cycle; **MATH.** the interval between successive equal values of a periodic function. **M19.**

b Aeroplanes. Lunar gravity should draw the probe into an orbit which has a period of about 10 hr. **C. SAGAN** A planet with... the same period of rotation... as Earth.

- 3 A portion of time characterized by the same prevalent features or conditions; a distinct portion of history or of an artist's life; the portion of time in question; (with possess. adjective) the particular historical or cultural portion of time with which one is concerned. **E18.**
- ▶ **b GEOLOGY.** A major division of geological time; *spec.* one that is a subdivision of an era and is itself divided into epochs. **M19.** ▶ **c** An occurrence of menstruation. **U19.**
- ▶ **d** A portion of time allocated to a lesson or other activity in a school. **U19.** ▶ **e** Each of the intervals into which the playing time of a sporting event is divided. **U19.**

R. FRV Lady Cunard... wanted a Picasso of the blue period. **M. KELLY** The battle of Agincourt... was outside his period. **N. CHROMSKY** During the period of its industrial dominance Britain advocated economic liberalism. **P. GASKELL** Lithographic cylinder machines... had a productivity comparable with... the letterpress machinery of the period. **M. KUNE** The second great period of Greek history. **A. N. WILSON** Like all aristocratic children of the period, they saw very little of their father. **b N. CALDER** Every geologic period from the Precambrian to the Quaternary. **c I. McEWAN** My period has started and I need to get something. **Daily Mirror** We can stimulate the return of periods with an ovulatory drug.

- ▶ **II** Completion, end of any course.

4 The final stage or point of completion of a process or course of action; an end, a finish, a conclusion; an outcome; a consummation. *Esp. in put a period to, come to a period.* **arch.** **E16.**

15 An acme, a zenith. **U16—E17.**

16 A limit in space, an appointed end (of a journey or course); *fig.* an end to be attained, a goal. **U16—U18.**

SHAKES. Merry W. This is the period of my ambition.

17 A stage in the progress of a thing; a point in time, a moment, an occasion. **E17—U18.**

- ▶ **III 8 a** A grammatically complete sentence, *esp.* one consisting of several clauses. In *pl.*, rhetorical or formal language. **U16.** ▶ **b CLASSICAL PROSODY.** A group of two or more cola; a metrical group of verses each containing two or more cola. **M19.**

a W. S. MAUGHAM The liquid, exquisitely balanced periods fell from his lips like music.

9 **a** A full pause such as is properly made at the end of a sentence. *Long rare or obsolete.* **U16.** ▶ **b = full stop** (a) *s.v.* **FULL adjective.** **U16.** ▶ **c** *As* **interjection.** Added to a statement to emphasize a place where there is or should be a full stop, *freq. (colloq.)* implying finality, absoluteness, etc. Chiefly *N. Amer.* **M20.**

c R. CARVER Gone and never coming back. **Period.**

10 A set of digits in a long number marked off by commas or spaces to assist reading, or by dots placed over the first and last to indicate the repeating digits of a recurring decimal. **U17.**

11 **MUSIC.** = **SENTENCE noun** 7b. **M19.**

12 **CHEMISTRY.** A horizontal row in the periodic table of the elements; the set of elements occupying such a row, *usu.* comprising an alkali metal and those elements of greater atomic number up to and including the next noble gas. **Cf. GROUP noun** 3c (b). **U19.**

— **PHRASES:** **Dionysian period:** see **DIONYSIAN adjective** 3. **free period:** see **FREE adjective.** **LUNISOLAR period.** **METONIC period.** **Middle period:** see **MIDDLE adjective.** **out of period** anachronistic. **PAYBACK period.** **refractory period:** see **REFRACTORY adjective** 5. **safe period:** see **SAFE adjective.** **Sothic period:** see **SOOTHIC 1.** **Victorian period:** see **VICTORIAN adjective** 1.

— **COMB.** **period-luminosity adjective** (ASTRONOMY) relating the period of a variable star, *esp.* a cepheid, to its luminosity.

▶ **B attrib.** or as **adjective.** Belonging to, characteristic of, or representative of a particular period of the past, *esp.* in style or design. **E20.**

K. MOORE It was apparently quite period enough for them and they enthused over its 'art nouveau' alcoves.

period piece a work of art, furniture, literature, etc., considered in relation to its associations with or evocativeness of a past period; *derog.* such a work possessing interest only from such associations or evocativeness.

† **period verb trans. & intrans.** **U16—M18.**

[ORIGIN from the noun.]

Bring or come to an end, conclude.

periodic /pəˈrɪədɪk/ *adjective* 1. **M17.**

[ORIGIN French périodique or Latin periódicus from Greek periódikos coming round at certain intervals, from periodos: see **PERIOD noun & adjective**, -IC.]

- 1 Of or pertaining to the revolution of a celestial object in its orbit. **M17.**
- 2 Characterized by periods; recurring or reappearing at regular or any intervals (of time or space); intermittent; **MEDICINE** having regularly recurring symptoms. **M17.**

E. BOWEN Her periodic sallies to the shops became more frequent.

periodic classification **CHEMISTRY** the classification of the elements in accordance with the periodic law. **periodic function** **MATHS.** whose dependent variable returns to the same value at constant intervals of the independent variable. **periodic law** **CHEMISTRY:** that the elements, when listed in order of their atomic numbers (orig. atomic weights), fall into recurring groups, so that elements with similar properties occur at regular intervals.

periodic system **CHEMISTRY** = **periodic classification** above. **periodic table** **CHEMISTRY** a table of the elements arranged according to the periodic law; *spec.* one in which they are arranged in order of atomic number, *usu.* in rows, such that groups of elements with analogous electronic structures and similar properties form vertical columns of the table.

3 Of or pertaining to a rhetorical or grammatical period; characterized by or expressed in periods. **E18.**

4 = **PERIODICAL adjective** 4. **rare**. **M19.**

periodic /pəˈrɪədɪk/ *adjective* 2. **M19.**

[ORIGIN from PER- + -IODIC.]

CHEMISTRY. **periodic acid**, any of several oxyacids of iodine that contain a higher proportion of oxygen than iodic acid and differ from one another in their degree of hydration; *spec.* the acid H_5IO_6 .

periodic acid-Schiff adjective & noun (designating) a procedure for detecting carbohydrates by oxidizing them with periodic acid and then staining them with Schiff's reagent.

■ **periodate** /pəˈrɪədeɪt/ *noun* a salt of periodic acid **M19.**

periodical /pəˈrɪədɪk(ə)l/ *adjective & noun*. **U16.**

[ORIGIN from Latin periódicus: see **PERIODIC adjective** 1, -ICAL.]

▶ **A adjective.** 1 = **PERIODIC adjective** 2. **U16.**

periodical cicada the seventeen-year cicada.

2 = **PERIODICAL adjective** 1. **E17.**

3 = **PERIODIC adjective** 3. **U17.**

4 (Of literary publications, magazines, etc.) published at regular intervals longer than a day but shorter than a year, as weekly, monthly, etc.; written in, characteristic of, or pertaining to such publications. **E18.**

▶ **B noun.** A magazine etc. whose successive issues are published at regular intervals longer than a day but shorter than a year. Also, a newspaper. **U18.**

periodically /pəˈrɪədɪk(ə)li/ *adverb*. **M17.**

[ORIGIN from **PERIODIC adjective** 1 or **PERIODICAL**: see -ICALLY.]

At regularly recurring intervals; from time to time, every now and then.

N. SEDAQA Periodically, we had to give concerts... in front of our parents. **N. SYMINGTON** Freud read Latin and quotes in it periodically through his writings.

periodicity /pəˈrɪədɪsɪti/ *noun*. **E19.**

[ORIGIN French périodicité, from Latin periódicus: see **PERIODIC adjective** 1, -ITY.]

- 1 **a** *Esp. SCIENCE.* The quality or character of being periodic; tendency to recur at (*esp.* regular) intervals. **E19.**
- ▶ **b CHEMISTRY.** The complex periodic variation of the properties of the chemical elements with increasing atomic number. **U19.** ▶ **c** The frequency of a periodic phenomenon, *esp.* an alternating current. **E20.**
- 2 Recurrence of a woman's periods; menstruation. **M19.**

periodize /ˈpɪəriədaɪz/ *verb trans.* Also -ise. **M17.**

[ORIGIN from **PERIOD noun** + -IZE.]

1 Bring to an end, conclude. Only in **U17.**

2 Divide (a portion of time) into periods; assign (historical and cultural events) to specified periods. **M20.**

■ **periodization** *noun* the action or an act of periodizing something; the grouping of historical and cultural events in distinct periods for the purposes of discussion and evaluation. **U19.**

periodogram /pəˈrɪədɒɡrəm/ *noun*. **U19.**

[ORIGIN from **PERIOD noun** + -OGRAM.]

A diagram or method of graphical representation designed to detect or display any periodicity in a set of measurements; *spec.* one in which the results of harmonic analysis of the data, performed on the assumption in turn of different periods of variation, are plotted as a function of the period.

periodograph /pəˈrɪədɒɡrəf/ *noun*. **U19.**

[ORIGIN formed as **PERIODOGRAM** + -GRAPH.]

1 = **PERIODOGRAM**. Now *rare*. **U19.**

2 An instrument for automatically making a periodogram analysis or Fourier analysis of a curve by optical means. **M20.**

periodontal /pəˈrɪədɒnt(ə)l/ *adjective*. **M19.**

[ORIGIN from PERI- + Greek odont-, odous tooth + -AL.]

ANATOMY. Situated or occurring around a tooth; pertaining to the tissues that surround and support the teeth.

■ **periodontally adverb** in the periodontal area **M20.** **periodontia** *noun* periodontics **E20.** **periodontic adjective** = **PERIODONTAL** **E20.** **periodontics** *noun* the branch of dentistry that deals with periodontal tissue, disorders, etc. **M20.** **periodontist** *noun* an expert or specialist in periodontics **E20.** **periodontitis** *noun* inflammation of periodontal tissue **U19.** **periodontium** *noun* (a) the periodontal membrane, which invests the root of a tooth; (b) all the tissues surrounding and supporting the teeth: **U19.** **periodontoclasia** /ˌpɪəriədɒnt(ə)ˈkleɪziə/ *noun* [Greek klasis breaking] destruction or degeneration of periodontal tissue **E20.** **periodontology** *noun* periodontics **E20.** **periodontosis** *noun*, *pl.* -toses /ˌtəʊsɪz/ periodontal disease; *spec.* loss of alveolar bone without inflammation, causing displacement or loosening of the teeth: **M20.**

perioid /pəˈrɪɔɪd/ *noun pl.* In sense 2 *usu.* **perioidoi** /pəˈrɪɔɪk(ə)l/ **U16.**

[ORIGIN (Latinized from) Greek perioidoi *pl.* of perioidos dwelling around or near, neighbouring, formed as PERI- + -oidos dwelling.]

1 People living on the same parallel of latitude but on opposite meridians. **Cf. ANTOECI.** **U16—U18.**

2 **GREEK HISTORY.** People living in the country around Sparta but not subjugated to it. **M19.**

■ **perioidic adjective** (**GREEK HISTORY**) **M19.**

periost /ˈpɪəriəst/ *noun*. **U18.**

[ORIGIN Abbreviation.]

ANATOMY. = **PERIOSTEUM**.

periosteum /pəˈrɪəstɪəm/ *noun*. **PL.** -stea /-stiə/ **U16.**

[ORIGIN mod. Latin from Greek periosteon, formed as PERI- + osteon bone.]

ANATOMY. The thin layer of connective tissue which envelops the bones (except where they are covered by cartilage), and from the inner part of which the bone substance is produced.

■ **periosteal adjective** surrounding or occurring around a bone; of or pertaining to the periosteum: **E19.** **periostitis**, -osteitis *noun* inflammation of the periosteum **E19.**

periostacrum /pəˈrɪəstəkrəm/ *noun*. **PL.** -ca /-kə/ **M19.**

[ORIGIN mod. Latin, formed as PERI- + Greek ostrakon shell of a mussel etc.]

ZOOLOGY. The outer horny covering of the shell of a mollusc or brachiopod.

† **peripatetic** *noun*. **M16—M18.**

[ORIGIN Contr. of French péripatétique, formed as PERIPATETIC: see -ICIAN.]

A philosopher of the Peripatetic school.