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²**scram** *n* (1953): a rapid emergency shutdown of a nuclear reactor

¹**scram-ble** \ˈskram-bəl\ *vb* **scram-bled**; **scram-bling** \-b(ə-)lɪŋ\ [perh. alter. of *scrabble*] *vi* (1568) **1 a**: to move with urgency or panic **b**: to move or climb hastily on all fours **2 a**: to struggle eagerly or unceremoniously for possession of something (<~ for front seats>) **b**: to get or gather something with difficulty or in irregular ways (<~ for a living>) **3**: to spread or grow irregularly: SPRAWL, STRAGGLE **4**: to take off quickly in response to an alert **5 of a football quarterback**: to run with the ball after the pass protection breaks down ~ *vt* **1**: to collect by scrambling **2 a**: to toss or mix together: JUMBLE **b**: to prepare (eggs) by stirring during frying **3**: to cause or order (a fighter-interceptor group) to scramble **4**: to disarrange the elements of a transmission (as a telephone or television signal) in order to make unintelligible to interception — **scram-bler** \-b(ə-)lər\ *n*

²**scramble** *n* (1648) **1**: the act or an instance of scrambling **2**: a disordered mass: JUMBLE (<a...~ of patterns and textures> — *Vogue*) **3**: a rapid emergency takeoff of fighter-interceptor planes

scran-nel \ˈskra-nəl\ *adj* [origin unknown] (1637): HARSH, UNMELODIOUS

¹**scrap** \ˈskrap\ *n*, often attrib [ME, fr. ON *skrap* scraps; akin to ON *skrapa* to scrape] (14c) **1 pl**: fragments of discarded or leftover food **2 a**: a small detached piece (<a ~ of paper>) **b**: a fragment of something written, printed, or spoken (<~s of conversation>) **c**: the least bit (<not a ~ of evidence>) **3 pl**: CRACKLINGS **4 a**: fragments of stock removed in manufacturing **b**: manufactured articles or parts rejected or discarded and useful only as material for reprocessing; *esp*: waste and discarded metal

²**scrap** *vt* **scrapped**; **scrap-ping** (ca. 1891) **1**: to convert into scrap **2**: to abandon or get rid of as no longer of enough worth or effectiveness to retain (<~ outworn methods>) *syn* see DISCARD

³**scrap** *n* [origin unknown] (1846): FIGHT

⁴**scrap** *vi* **scrapped**; **scrap-ping** (ca. 1874): QUARREL, FIGHT

scrap-book \ˈskrap-bʊk\ *n* (1825): a blank book in which various items (as newspaper clippings or pictures) are collected and preserved

¹**scrape** \ˈskræp\ *vb* **scrapped**; **scrap-ing** [ME, fr. ON *skrapa*; akin to OE *scrapian* to scrape, L *scrobis* ditch, Russ *skrestī* to scrape] *vt* (14c) **1 a**: to remove from a surface by usu. repeated strokes of an edged instrument **b**: to make (a surface) smooth or clean with strokes of an edged instrument or an abrasive **2 a**: to grate harshly over or against **b**: to damage or injure the surface of by contact with a rough surface **c**: to draw roughly or noisily over a surface **3**: to collect by or as if by scraping — often used with *up* or *together* (<~ up the price of a ticket>) ~ *vi* **1**: to move in sliding contact with a rough surface **2**: to accumulate money by small economies **3**: to draw back the foot along the ground in making a bow **4**: to make one's way with difficulty: barely manage or succeed (<just scraped through at school>) (<working two jobs and barely scraping by>) — **scrap-er** *n*

²**scrape** *n* (15c) **1 a**: the act or process of scraping **b**: a sound made by scraping **c**: a mark or injury caused by scraping: ABRASION (<bumps and ~s>) **2 a**: the nest of a bird consisting of a usu. shallow depression in the ground **b**: a cleared area on the forest floor made by a male deer during breeding season to attract a doe **3**: a bow made with a drawing back of the foot along the ground **4 a**: a distressing encounter (<a ~ with death>) **b**: ALTERCATION, FIGHT

scrap heap *n* (1838) **1**: a pile of discarded metal **2**: the place where useless things are discarded

scra-pie \ˈskrā-pē\ *n* [*scrape*] (1910): a usu. fatal spongiform encephalopathy esp. of sheep that is caused by a prion and is characterized by twitching, intense itching, excessive thirst, emaciation, weakness, and finally paralysis

scrap-page \ˈskra-pij\ *n* (ca. 1909) **1**: the scrapping of discarded objects (as automobiles) **2**: the rate at which objects are scrapped

scrap-per \ˈskra-pər\ *n* (1874): FIGHTER, QUARRELER; also: a fierce competitor

scrap-pi-ly \ˈskra-pə-lē\ *adv* (1886): in a scrappy manner

scrap-pi-ness \ˈskra-pē-nəs\ *n* (1867): the quality or state of being scrappy

scrap-ple \ˈskra-pəl\ *n* [dim. of *scrap*] (1852): a seasoned mixture of ground meat (as pork) and cornmeal set in a mold and served sliced and fried

¹**scrap-py** \ˈskra-pē\ *adj* **scrap-pi-er**; -**est** [*scrap*] (1837): consisting of scraps (<~ meals>)

²**scrappy** *adj* **scrap-pi-er**; -**est** [*scrap*] (1895) **1**: QUARRELSOME **2**: having an aggressive and determined spirit: FEISTY

¹**scratch** \ˈskræʃ\ *vb* [ME *scrachen*, prob. blend of *scratten* to scratch and *crachen* to scratch] *vt* (15c) **1**: to scrape or dig with the claws or nails **2**: to rub and tear or mark the surface of with something sharp or jagged **3 a**: to scrape or rub lightly (as to relieve itching) **b**: to act on (a desire) — used with *itch* (<~ the itch to travel>) **4**: to scrape together: collect with difficulty or by effort (<~ out a living>) **5**: to write or draw on a surface **6 a**: to cancel or erase by or as if by drawing a line through **b**: to withdraw (an entry) from competition **7**: SCRIBBLE, SCRAWL **8**: to scrape along a rough surface (<~ a match>) ~ *vi* **1**: to use the claws or nails in digging, tearing, or wounding **2**: to scrape or rub oneself lightly (as to relieve itching) **3**: to gather money or make a living by hard work and esp. through irregular means and sacrifice (<had to ~ and save for college>) **4 a**: to make a thin grating sound **b**: to produce a rhythmic scratching sound by moving a phonograph record back and forth under a phonograph needle **5**: to withdraw from a contest or engagement **6**: to make a scratch in billiards or pool — **scratch-er** *n* — **scratch one's back**: to accommodate with a favor esp. in expectation of like return — **scratch one's head**: to be or become confused or perplexed — **scratch the surface**: to make a modest effort or start

²**scratch** *n* (ca. 1586) **1**: a mark or injury produced by scratching; also: a slight wound **2**: SCRAWL, SCRIBBLE **3**: the sound made by scratching **4**: the starting line in a race **5 a**: a test of courage **b**: satisfactory condition, level, or performance (<not up to ~>) **6**: a contestant whose name is withdrawn **7**: poultry feed (as mixed grains) scattered on the litter or ground esp. to induce birds to exercise — called also *scratch feed* **8 a**: a shot in billiards or pool that ends a player's turn; *specif*: a shot in pool in which the cue ball falls into the pocket **b**: a shot that scores by chance: FLUKE **9 slang**: MONEY, FUNDS — **from scratch** **1**: from a point at which nothing has been

done ahead of time (<build a school system from scratch>) **2**: without using a prepared mixture of ingredients (<bake a cake from scratch>)

³**scratch** *adj* (1851) **1**: arranged or put together with little selection: HAPHAZARD (<a ~ team>) **2**: made as or used for a tentative effort **3**: made or done by chance and not as intended (<a ~ shot>) **4**: having no handicap or allowance (<a ~ golfer>) **5**: made from scratch: made with basic ingredients (<a ~ cake>)

scratch-board \ˈskræʃ-bɔrd\ *n* (ca. 1908): a black-surfaced cardboard having an undercoat of white clay on which an effect resembling engraving is achieved by scratching away portions of the surface to produce white lines

scratch hit *n* (1903): a batted ball not solidly hit yet credited to the batter as a base hit

scratch pad *n* (1895): a pad of scratch paper

scratch paper *n* (1899): paper that may be used for casual writing

scratch sheet *n* (1939): a racing publication listing competitors scratched from races and giving odds

scratch test *n* (1937): a test for allergic susceptibility made by rubbing an extract of an allergen into small breaks or scratches in the skin

scratchy \ˈskræ-ʃi\ *adj* **scratch-i-er**; -**est** (1827) **1**: marked or made with scratches (<~ drawing>) (<~ handwriting>) **2**: likely to scratch: PRICKLY (<~ undergrowth>) **3**: making a scratching noise **4**: uneven in quality: RAGGED **5**: causing tingling or itching: IRRITATING (<~ wool>) **6**: somewhat inflamed and sore (<a ~ throat>) — **scratch-i-ly** \-ʃi-lē\ *adv* — **scratch-i-ness** \-ʃi-nəs\ *n*

scrawl \ˈskrɔl\ *vb* [origin unknown] *vt* (1612): to write or draw awkwardly, hastily, or carelessly (<~ed his name>) ~ *vi*: to write awkwardly or carelessly — **scrawl** *n* — **scrawl-er** *n* — **scrawly** \ˈskrɔ-lē\ *adj*

scraw-ny \ˈskrɔ-nē\ *adj* **scraw-ni-er**; -**est** [origin unknown] (1833): exceptionally thin and slight or meager in body or size (<~ scrub cattle>) *syn* see LEAN — **scraw-ni-ness** *n*

scream \ˈskriːk\ *vi* [of Scand origin; akin to ON *skrækja* to screech] (ca. 1500): to make a harsh shrill noise: SCREECH — **scream** *n* — **screaky** \ˈskri-kē\ *adj*

¹**scream** \ˈskriːm\ *vb* [ME *scremen*; akin to MD *schreem* scream] *vi* (12c) **1 a** (1): to voice a sudden sharp loud cry (2): to produce harsh high tones **b**: to make a noise resembling a scream (<the siren ~ed>) **c**: to move with great rapidity **2 a**: to speak or write with intense or hysterical emotion **b**: to protest, demand, or complain vehemently **c**: to laugh hysterically **3**: to produce a vivid startling effect ~ *vt*: to utter with or as if with a scream

²**scream** *n* (1605) **1**: a loud sharp penetrating cry or noise **2**: a very funny person or thing

scream-er \ˈskri-mər\ *n* (1712) **1**: one that screams **2**: any of a small family (Anhimidae) of So. American wetland birds having a large body, long legs, and spurred wings **3**: a sensationally startling headline

scream-ing \ˈskri-mɪŋ\ *adj* (1848) **1**: so striking or conspicuous as to attract notice as if by screaming (<~ headlines>) (<a ~ need for reform>) (<dressed in ~ red>) **2**: so funny as to provoke screams of laughter (<a ~ face>) **3**: extremely fast or powerful (<a ~ line drive>) — **scream-ing-ly** *adv*

screaming mee-mies \-ˈmē-mēz\ *n pl* but sing in constr [origin unknown] (1942): nervous hysteria: JITTERS

scree \ˈskriː\ *n* [Sc & northern E dial., of Scand origin; akin to ON *skriða* landslide, fr. *skriða* to creep; akin to OHG *scritan* to go, Lith *skriesti* to turn] (ca. 1781): an accumulation of loose stones or rocky debris lying on a slope or at the base of a hill or cliff: TALUS

¹**screech** \ˈskriːʃ\ *n* (1560) **1**: a high shrill piercing cry usu. expressing pain or terror **2**: a sound resembling a screech

²**screech** *vb* [alter. of earlier *scritch*, fr. ME *scrichen*; akin to ON *skrækja* to screech] *vi* (1577) **1**: to utter a high shrill piercing cry: make an outcry usu. in terror or pain **2**: to make a shrill high-pitched sound resembling a screech; also: to move with such a sound (<the car ~ed to a stop>) ~ *vt*: to utter with or as if with a screech — **screech-er** *n*

screech-ing \ˈskriː-ʃɪŋ\ *adj* (1953): ABRUPT, SUDDEN (<her career came to a ~ halt>)

screech owl *n* (1593) **1**: BARN OWL **2**: any of various New World owls (genus *Otus*); esp: either of two small owls (*O. asio* of eastern No. America and *O. kennicottii* of western No. America) with a pair of tufts of lengthened feathers on the head resembling ears

screechy \ˈskriː-ʃi\ *adj* (ca. 1830): producing a screech

screed \ˈskriːd\ *n* [ME *screde* fragment, alter. of OE *scræde* — more at SHRED] (ca. 1789) **1 a**: a lengthy discourse **b**: an informal piece of writing (as a personal letter) **2**: a strip (as of a plaster of the thickness planned for the coat) laid on as a guide **3**: a leveling device drawn over freshly poured concrete

¹**screen** \ˈskriːn\ *n* [ME *screne*, fr. AF *escren*, fr. MD *scherm*; akin to OHG *skirm* shield; prob. akin to Skt *carman* skin, *kṛnāti* he injures — more at SHEAR] (14c) **1**: a protective or ornamental device (as a movable partition) shielding an area from heat or drafts or from view **2**: something that shelters, protects, or hides: as **a**: a growth or stand of trees, shrubs, or plants **b**: a protective formation of troops, ships, or planes **c**: something that covers or disguises the true nature (as of an activity or feeling) (<his geniality is just a ~>) **d** (1): a maneuver in various sports (as basketball or ice hockey) whereby an opponent is legally impeded or the opponent's view of the play is momentarily blocked (2): SCREEN PASS **3 a**: a perforated plate or cylinder or a meshed wire or cloth fabric usu. mounted and used to separate coarser from finer parts **b**: a system for examining and separating



screech owl 2

\ə\ abut \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar \au\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job \ŋ\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \u\ foot \y\ yet \zh\ vision, beige \k, ŋ, æ, ʊ, ʏ\ see Guide to Pronunciation