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Eleventh Edition

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compare REM SLEEP, SLOW-WAVE SLEEP **2** : a state resembling sleep: as **a** : a state of torpid inactivity **b** : DEATH ⟨put a pet cat to ~⟩; *also* : TRANCE, COMA **c** : the closing of leaves or petals esp. at night **d** : a state marked by a diminution of feeling followed by tingling ⟨my foot's gone to ~⟩ **e** : the state of an animal during hibernation **3 a** : a period spent sleeping **b** : NIGHT **c** : a day's journey **4** : crusty matter present in the corner of an eye upon awakening — **sleep·like** \-ˌlīk\ *adj*

²sleep *vb* **slept** \'slept\; **sleep·ing** *vi* (bef. 12c) **1** : to rest in a state of sleep **2** : to be in a state (as of quiescence or death) resembling sleep **3** : to have sexual relations — usu. used with *with* ~ *vt* **1** : to be slumbering in ⟨*slept* the sleep of the dead⟩ **2** : to get rid of or spend in or by sleep ⟨~ away the hours⟩ ⟨~ off a headache⟩ **3** : to provide sleeping accommodations for ⟨the boat ~*s* six⟩

sleep apnea *n* (1975) : apnea that recurs during sleep and is caused esp. by obstruction of the airway or a disturbance in the brain's respiratory center

sleep around *vi* (1928) : to engage in sex promiscuously

sleep·away \'slēp-ə-ˌwā\ *adj* (1971) : providing accommodations for overnight sleep and extended stay away from home ⟨~ camps⟩

sleep·er \'slē-pər\ *n* (12c) **1** : one that sleeps **2** : a piece of timber, stone, or steel on or near the ground to support a superstructure, keep railroad rails in place, or receive floor joists : STRINGPIECE **3** : SLEEPING CAR **4** : someone or something unpromising or unnoticed that suddenly attains prominence or value ⟨the low-budget film became the summer's ~⟩ **5** : children's pajamas usu. with feet — usu. used in pl. **6** *chiefly Brit* : a small earring or stud worn to keep the hole of a pierced ear from closing **7** : ²MOLE 4

sleeper cell *n* (1968) : a terrorist cell whose members work under cover in an area until sent into action

sleep–in \'slēp-ˈin\ *adj* (1951) : that lives at the place of employment ⟨a ~ maid⟩

sleep in *vi* (1827) **1** : to sleep where one is employed **2 a** : OVERSLEEP **b** : to sleep late intentionally

sleeping bag *n* (1850) : a bag that is warmly lined or padded for sleeping outdoors or in a camp or tent

Sleeping Beauty *n* (1729) : a princess of a fairy tale who is wakened from an enchanted sleep by the kiss of a prince

sleeping car *n* (1839) : a railroad passenger car having berths for sleeping

sleeping giant *n* (1970) : one that has great but unrealized or newly emerging power

sleeping partner *n* (ca. 1785) *chiefly Brit* : SILENT PARTNER

sleeping pill *n* (1664) : a drug and esp. a barbiturate that is taken as a tablet or capsule to induce sleep

sleeping porch *n* (1915) : a porch or room having open sides or many windows arranged to permit sleeping in the open air

sleeping sickness *n* (1875) **1** : a serious disease that is prevalent in much of tropical Africa, is marked by fever, headache, lethargy, confusion, and sleep disturbances, and is caused by either of two trypanosomes (*Trypanosoma brucei gambiense* and *T. b. rhodesiense*) transmitted by tsetse flies **2** : any of various viral encephalitides or encephalomyelitides of which lethargy or somnolence is a prominent feature

sleep·less \'slēp-ləs\ *adj* (15c) **1** : not able to sleep ⟨lay ~ with fever⟩ **2** : affording no sleep ⟨~ nights⟩ **3** : unceasingly active or operative ⟨~ casinos⟩ — **sleep·less·ly** *adv* — **sleep·less·ness** *n*

sleep out *vi* (1818) : to sleep outdoors

sleep·over \'slēp-ō-vər\ *n* (1965) **1** : an overnight stay (as at another's home) **2** : an instance of hosting a sleepover in one's home

sleep·walk \'slēp-ˌwȯk\ *vi* (1842) **1** : to walk while or as if while asleep **2** : to proceed in a passive often lethargic manner ⟨~*ed* through the workday⟩ — **sleepwalk** *n* — **sleep·walk·er** \-ˌwȯ-kər\ *n*

sleep·wear \-ˌwer\ *n* (1935) : NIGHTCLOTHES

sleepy \'slē-pē\ *adj* **sleep·i·er; -est** (13c) **1 a** : ready to fall asleep **b** : of, relating to, or characteristic of sleep **2** : sluggish as if from sleep : LETHARGIC; *also* : having little activity ⟨a ~ coastal village⟩ **3** : sleep-inducing — **sleep·i·ly** \-pə-lē\ *adv* — **sleep·i·ness** \-pē-nəs\ *n*

sleepy·head \'slē-pē-ˌhed\ *n* (1577) : a sleepy person

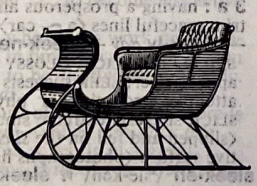
¹sleet \'slēt\ *n* [ME *slete;* akin to MHG *slōz* hailstone] (13c) : frozen or partly frozen rain — **sleety** \'slē-tē\ *adj*

²sleet *vi* (14c) : to shower sleet

sleeve \'slēv\ *n* [ME *sleve,* fr. OE *slīefe;* perh. akin to OE *slēfan* to slip (clothes) on, *slūpan* to slip, OHG *sliofan,* L *lubricus* slippery] (bef. 12c) **1 a** : a part of a garment covering an arm **b** : SLEEVELET **2 a** : a tubular part (as a hollow axle or a bushing) designed to fit over another part **b** : an open-ended flat or tubular packaging or cover; *esp* : JACKET 3c(2) — **sleeved** \'slēvd\ *adj* — **sleeve·less** \'slēv-ləs\ *adj* — **on one's sleeve** : in an honest and open manner — used with *wear* ⟨wears his emotions *on his sleeve*⟩ — **up one's sleeve** : held secretly in reserve ⟨has a few tricks *up her sleeve*⟩

sleeve·let \'slēv-lət\ *n* (1889) : a covering for the forearm to protect clothing from wear or dirt

¹sleigh \'slā\ *n* [D *slee,* alter. of *slede;* akin to MD *sledde* sled] (1703) : an open usu. horse-drawn vehicle with runners for use on snow or ice



sleigh

²sleigh *vi* (ca. 1729) : to drive or travel in a sleigh

sleigh bed *n* (1902) : a bed common esp. in the first half of the 19th century having a solid headboard and footboard that roll outward at the top

sleigh bell *n* (1772) : any of various bells commonly attached to a sleigh or to the harness of a horse drawing a sleigh: as **a** : CASCABEL 2 **b** : a hemispherical bell with an attached clapper

sleight \'slīt\ *n* [ME, fr. ON *slœgth,* fr. *slœgr* sly — more at SLY] (14c) **1** : deceitful craftiness; *also* : STRATAGEM **2** : DEXTERITY, SKILL

sleight of hand (1593) **1 a** : a cleverly executed trick or deception **b** : a conjuring trick requiring manual dexterity **2 a** : skill and dexterity in conjuring tricks **b** : adroitness in deception

slen·der \'slen-dər\ *adj* [ME *sclendre, slendre,* fr. AF *esclendre*] (14c) **1 a** : spare in frame or flesh; *esp* : gracefully slight **b** : small or narrow in circumference or width in proportion to length or height **2** : limited or inadequate in amount or scope : MEAGER ⟨people of ~ means⟩ — **slen·der·ly** *adv* — **slen·der·ness** *n*

syn see THIN

slen·der·ize \-də-ˌrīz\ *vt* **-ized; -iz·ing** (1923) : to make slender

slept *past and past part of* SLEEP

¹sleuth \'slüth\ *n* [short for *sleuthhound*] (1872) : DETECTIVE

²sleuth *vi* (1900) : to act as a detective : search for information ~ *vt* : to search for and discover

sleuth·hound \'slüth-ˌhau̇nd\ *n* [ME (Sc) *sleuth hund,* a kind of bloodhound, fr. ME *sleuth, sloith, sloth* track of an animal or person (fr. ON *slōth*) + *hund* hound] (1850) : DETECTIVE

S level *n* (1951) **1** : the highest of three standardized British examinations in a secondary school subject used as a qualification for university entrance; *also* : successful completion of an S-level examination in a particular subject — called also *Scholarship level*; compare A LEVEL, O LEVEL **2 a** : the level of education required to pass an S-level examination **b** : a course leading to an S-level examination

¹slew *past of* SLAY

²slew *var of* ¹SLOUGH 1b

³slew *also* **slue** \'slü\ *vb* [origin unknown] *vt* (ca. 1769) **1** : to turn (as a telescope or a ship's spar) about a fixed point that is usu. the axis **2** : to cause to skid : VEER ⟨~ a car around a turn⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to turn, twist, or swing about : PIVOT **2** : SKID

⁴slew *n* [perh. fr. Ir *slua* army, host, throng, fr. OIr *slúag;* akin to Lith *slaugyti* to tend] (1839) : a large number ⟨a ~ of books⟩

¹slice \'slīs\ *vb* **sliced; slic·ing** [ME *sklicen,* fr. AF *esclicer* to splinter, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *slīzan* to tear apart — more at SLIT] *vt* (1551) **1** : to cut with or as if with a knife **2** : to stir or spread with a slice **3** : to hit (a ball) so that a slice results **4** : INTERPRET, CONSTRUE — used in phrases like *any way you slice it* ~ *vi* **1** : to slice something **2** : to move with a cutting action ⟨the ship *sliced* through the waves⟩ — **slice·able** \'slī-sə-bəl\ *adj* — **slic·er** *n*

²slice *n* [ME *sclise, slise,* fr. AF *esclice* splinter, fr. *esclicer*] (1613) **1 a** : a thin flat piece cut from something **b** : a wedge-shaped piece (as of pie or cake) **2** : a spatula for spreading paint or ink **3** : a serving knife with wedge-shaped blade ⟨a fish ~⟩ **4** : a flight of a ball that deviates from a straight course in the direction of the dominant hand of the player propelling it; *also* : a ball following such a course — compare HOOK **5 a** : PORTION, SHARE **b** : SEGMENT, SAMPLE

slice–of–life *adj* (ca. 1934) : of, relating to, or marked by the accurate transcription (as into drama) of a segment of actual life experience

¹slick \'slik\ *vb* [ME *sliken,* fr. OE **slician*; akin to OHG *slīhhan* to glide] *vt* (14c) : to make sleek or smooth ~ *vi* : SPRUCE — usu. used with *up*

²slick *adj* [ME *slyke;* akin to OE **slician*] (14c) **1 a** : having a smooth surface : SLIPPERY ⟨~ wet leaves⟩ **b** : having surface plausibility or appeal : GLOSSY ⟨~ advertising⟩ **c** : based on stereotype : TRITE ⟨~ stories soon forgotten⟩ **2** *archaic* : SLEEK 1 **3 a** : characterized by subtlety or nimble wit : CLEVER; *esp* : WILY ⟨a ~ swindler⟩ **b** : DEFT, SKILLFUL ⟨a ~ ballplayer⟩ **4** : extremely good : FIRST-RATE *syn* see SLEEK, SLY — **slick** *adv* — **slick·ly** *adv* — **slick·ness** *n*

³slick *n* (1849) **1 a** : something that is smooth or slippery; *esp* : a smooth patch of water covered with a film of oil **b** : a film of oil **2** : an implement for producing a smooth or slick surface **3** : a shrewd untrustworthy person **4** : a popular magazine printed on coated stock and intended to appeal to sophisticated readers **5** : an automobile tire made without a tread for maximum traction (as in drag racing) **6** *slang* : a military helicopter without armaments that is used to transport troops or light cargo

slick–ear \'slik-ˌir\ *n* (1914) : a range animal lacking an earmark

slick·en·side \'sli-kən-ˌsīd\ *n* [E dial. *slicken* smooth (fr. ²*slick*) + E *side*] (1822) : a smooth often striated surface produced on rock by movement along a fault or a subsidiary fracture — usu. used in pl.

slick·er \'sli-kər\ *n* (1881) **1** [²*slick*] : OILSKIN; *broadly* : RAINCOAT **2** [*slick* to defraud cleverly] **a** (1) : a clever crook : SWINDLER (2) : SLICKSTER **b** : a city dweller esp. of natty appearance or sophisticated mannerisms

slick·rock \'slik-ˌräk\ *n* (1925) : smooth wind-polished rock

slick·ster \'slik-stər\ *n* (1965) : a slick untrustworthy person

¹slide \'slīd\ *vb* **slid** \'slid\; **slid·ing** \'slī-diŋ\ [ME, fr. OE *slīdan;* akin to MHG *slīten* to slide] *vi* (bef. 12c) **1 a** : to move smoothly along a surface : SLIP **b** : to coast over snow or ice **c** *of a base runner in baseball* : to fall or dive feetfirst or headfirst when approaching a base **2 a** : to slip or fall by loss of footing **b** : to change position or become dislocated : SHIFT **3 a** : to slither along the ground : CRAWL **b** : to stream along : FLOW **4 a** : to move or pass smoothly or easily ⟨*slid* into the prepared speech⟩ **b** : to pass unnoticed or unremarked ⟨let the criticism ~⟩ **5 a** : to pass unobtrusively : STEAL **b** : to pass by gradations esp. downward ⟨the economy *slid* from recession to depression⟩ ~ *vt* **1 a** : to cause to glide or slip **b** : to traverse in a sliding manner **2** : to put unobtrusively or stealthily ⟨*slid* the bill into his hand⟩

²slide *n* (1570) **1 a** : an act or instance of sliding **b** (1) : a musical grace of two or more small notes (2) : PORTAMENTO **2** : a sliding part or mechanism: as **a** (1) : a U-shaped section of tube in the trombone that is pushed out and in to produce the tones between the fundamental and its harmonics (2) : a short U-shaped section of tube in a brass instrument that is used to adjust the pitch of the instrument or of individual valves **b** (1) : a moving piece (as the ram of a punch press) that is guided by a part along which it slides (2) : a guiding surface (as a feeding mechanism) along which something slides **c** : SLIDING SEAT **3 a** : the descent of a mass of earth, rock, or snow down a hill or mountainside **b** : a dislocation in which one rock mass in a mining lode has slid on another : FAULT **4 a** (1) : a slippery surface for coasting (2) : a chute with a slippery bed down which children slide in play **b** : a channel or track on which something is slid **c** : a sloping trough down which objects are carried by gravity ⟨a log ~⟩ **5 a** : a flat piece of glass or plastic on which an object is mounted for microscopic examination **b** : a photographic transparency on a small plate or film mounted for projection **6** : BOTTLENECK 3

slide fastener *n* (1934) : ZIPPER

slid·er \'slī-dər\ *n* (1530) **1** : one that slides **2** : a freshwater turtle (*Trachemys scripta* syn. *Pseudemys scripta*) chiefly of the southeastern U.S.; *esp* : one (*T. scripta elegans*) usu. having a red stripe behind each eye and often sold as a pet **3** : a fast baseball pitch that breaks slightly in the same direction as a curve **4** : a very small meat sandwich typically served on a bun; *esp* : a small hamburger

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