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**Juul v. NJOY**

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**proximal** /'prɒksɪməl/ ▷ *adj.* *biol* at the near, inner or attached end. Compare *DISTAL*. [19c: from Latin *proximus* nearest]

• **proximally** *adv.*

**proximate** /'prɒksɪmət/ ▷ *adj.* **1** nearest. **2** immediately before or after in time, place or chronology. [16c: from Latin *proximare*, *proximatum* to approach, from *proximus* nearest]

• **proximately** *adv.*

**proximity** /'prɒksɪmɪti/ ▷ *n* (*proximities*) nearness; closeness in space or time. [15c: from Latin *proximitas*, from *proximus* next]

**proximo** /'prɒksɪmoʊ/ ▷ *adv.* (abbreviation *prox*) used mainly in formal correspondence: in or during the next month. [19c: from Latin *proximo mense* during the next month]

**proxy** /'prɒksi/ ▷ *n* (*proxies*) **1** a a person authorized to act or vote on another's behalf; **b** the agency of such a person. **2** a the authority to act or vote for someone else; **b** a document granting this. ▷ *as adj.* • *a proxy vote*. [15c: a contraction of *PROCURACY* (see under *PROCURATOR*)]

**Prozac** /'prɒʊzək/ ▷ *n*, *trademark* a proprietary name for the antidepressant drug fluoxetine.

**PRS** ▷ *abbrev* **1** Performing Rights Society. **2** President of the Royal Society.

**prude** /'pruːd/ ▷ *n* someone who is, or affects to be, shocked by improper behaviour, mention of sexual matters, etc; a prim or priggish person. [18c: French, from *prude femme* respectable woman]

• **prudery** *n.* • **prudish** *adj.* • **prudishly** *adv.* • **prudishness** *n.*

**prudent** /'prʊdənt/ ▷ *adj.* **1** wise or careful in conduct. **2** shrewd or thrifty in planning ahead. **3** wary; discreet. [14c: from Latin *prudens*, *prudētis*, from *providens* seeing ahead]

• **prudence** *n.* • **prudently** *adv.*

**prudential** /'pruːdɪnʃəl/ ▷ *adj.* *old use* characterized by or exercising careful forethought. [17c]

• **prudentially** *adv.*

**prune**<sup>1</sup> ▷ *v* (*pruned*, *pruning*) **1** to cut off (branches, etc) from (a tree or shrub) in order to stimulate its growth, improve the production of fruit or flowers, etc. **2** to cut out (superfluous matter) from (a piece of writing, etc); to trim or edit. **3** to cut back on (expenses, etc) ▷ *n* an act of pruning. [15c: from French *prœgnier*, from *provisner* to prune vines]

• **pruner** *n.*

**prune**<sup>2</sup> ▷ *n* **1** a PLUM that has been preserved by drying, which gives it a black wrinkled appearance. **2** *colloq* a silly foolish person. [14c: French, from Latin *prunum* plum]

**prunella** /'pruːnɛlə/ ▷ *n* a strong silk or woollen material, formerly used for academic and clerical gowns and women's shoes. [17c]

**pruning hook** ▷ *n* a garden tool with a curved blade, used for pruning, etc.

**prurient** /'prʊəriənt/ ▷ *adj.* **1** unhealthily or excessively interested in sexual matters. **2** tending to arouse such unhealthy interest. [18c: from Latin *pruriens*, *prurientis* itching or lusting after]

• **prurience** *n.* • **pruriently** *adv.*

**prurigo** /'prʊːrɪɡəʊ/ ▷ *n* a skin disease characterized by red, slightly raised, intensely itchy patches. [17c: Latin, meaning 'an itching']

**pruritus** /'prʊːrɪtəs/ ▷ *n*, *med* itching. [17c: Latin, from *prurire* to itch]

• **pruritic** /-'trɪtɪk/ *adj.*

**Prussian** /'prʊʃjən/ *hist* ▷ *adj.* **1** belonging or relating to Prussia, a former N European state now part of Germany, or its inhabitants. **2** belonging or relating to this state's militaristic tradition. ▷ *n* a citizen or inhabitant of, or person born in, Prussia. [16c]

**Prussian blue** ▷ *n* **1** *chem* a dark blue crystalline compound, used as a pigment. **2** the colour of this. ▷ *adj.* (*Prussian-blue*) Prussian-blue coloured.

**prussic acid** see under *HYDROGEN CYANIDE*

**pry**<sup>1</sup> ▷ *v* (*pries*, *pried*, *prying*) *intr* **1** (also *pry into something*) to investigate, especially the personal affairs of others; to nose or snoop. **2** to peer or peep inquisitively. ▷ *n* (*pries*) **1** the act of prying. **2** a nosy or inquisitive person. [14c]

**pry**<sup>2</sup> ▷ *v* (*pries*, *pried*, *prying*) *N Am, esp US* to prise. [19c]

**PS** ▷ *abbrev* postscript.

**psalm** /sɑːm/ ▷ *n* a sacred song, especially one from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament. [10c: from Latin *psalmus*, from Greek *psalmos* a song sung to a harp, from *psallein* to play the harp]

**psalmist** /'sɔːmɪst/ ▷ *n* a composer of psalms.

**psalmody** /'sɔːmədi/, 'sɑː-/ ▷ *n* (*psalmodies*) **1** the art of singing psalms. **2** a collected body of psalms. [14c: from Greek *psalmos psalm* + *oide* song]

**Psalms** ▷ *n* the title of a book in the Old Testament.

**psalter** /'sɔːltə(r)/ ▷ *n* **1** the PSALMS, often applied to a metrical version intended for singing. **2** a book containing the Biblical psalms. [10c: from Latin *psalterium*, from Greek *psalterion* stringed instrument]

**psaltery** /'sɔːltəri/ ▷ *n* (*psalteries*) *hist, music* a stringed instrument similar to a ZITHER, played by plucking. [14c: see *PSALTER*]

**PSBR** ▷ *abbrev, econ* public sector borrowing requirement, the money needed by the public sector to finance services, etc not covered by revenue.

**psephology** /sɪ'fɒlədʒi/ ▷ *n* the statistical study of elections and voting patterns. [1950s: from Greek *psephos* a pebble or vote + *-LOGY*]

• **psephological** /sɪ'fɒlədʒɪkəl, sɛf-/ *adj.* • **psephologically** *adv.* • **psephologist** *n.*

**pseud** /sjuːd, sʊd/ *Brit colloq* ▷ *n* a pretentious person; a bogus intellectual; a phoney. ▷ *adj* bogus, sham or phoney. [1960s: from *PSEUDO*-]

**pseudo** ▷ *adj, colloq* false; sham; phoney.

**pseudo**- ▷ *sjuːdɒu-, sʊdɒu-/* or (before a vowel) **pseud-** ▷ *combining form, forming nouns and adjectives, denoting 1* false; pretending to be something • *pseudo-intellectuals*. **2** deceptively resembling • *pseudo-scientific jargon*. [From Greek *pseudes* false]

**pseudocarp** /'sjuːdɒu kɑːp/ ▷ *n*, *bot* a fruit that is formed from other parts of the flower in addition to the ovary, eg the strawberry, which includes the receptacle. *Non-technical equivalent false fruit*. [19c: from Greek *karpous* fruit]

**pseudocyesis** /sjuːdɒu saɪ'ɪsɪs/ ▷ *n, med* FALSE PREGNANCY. Also called *phantom pregnancy* [19c: from *PSEUDO*- + Greek *cyesis* pregnancy]

**pseudomorph** /'sjuːdɒu mɔːf/ ▷ *n* a crystal, etc that has undergone a chemical or other change so that it takes on a form that is more usual in another. [19c: from Greek *morphe* form]

• **pseudomorphic** /-'mɔːfɪk/ *adj.* • **pseudomorphism** /-'mɔːfɪzəm/ *n.*

**pseudonym** /'sjuːdɒnɪm/ ▷ *n* a false or assumed name, especially one used by an author; a pen name or nom de plume. [19c: from *PSEUDO*- + Greek *onyma* name]

• **pseudonymous** /-'dɒnɪməs/ *adj.*

**pseudopodium** /sjuːdɒu 'pɒdɪəm/ ▷ *n* (*pseudopodia* /-ɪə/) *zool* any of a number of temporary lobe-like protrusions from the cell of a PROTOZOAN, used to aid locomotion and to engulf food particles. [19c: from *PSEUDO*- + Greek *pous, podos* foot]

**psi**<sup>1</sup> /'psaɪ/ ▷ *n* the twenty-third letter of the Greek alphabet.

**psi**<sup>2</sup> ▷ *abbrev* pounds per square inch, a unit of pressure measurement.

**psilocybin** /saɪlə'saɪbɪn/ ▷ *n* (formula  $C_{12}H_{17}N_2O_4P$ ) the substance found in certain mushrooms or toadstools which produces hallucinogenic effects similar to those of LSD. [1950s: German, from Latin *psilocybe*, from Greek *psilos* bare + *kybe* head]

**psittacine** /'sɪtəsəm/ ▷ *adj* belonging or relating to or resembling a parrot. [19c: from Latin *psittacus* a parrot]

Common sounds in foreign words: (French) *â* grand; *è* vin; *3* bon; *â* un; *œ* peu; *æ* cœur; *y* sur; *q* huit; *ʀ* rue

**transport** *▷ v* /tranz'pɔ:t, trɑ:ns-/ (*transported, transporting*) 1 to carry (goods, passengers, etc) from one place to another. 2 *hist* to send (a criminal) to a penal colony overseas. 3 (often *be transported with*) to affect strongly or deeply. • *was transported with grief.* *▷ n* /'tranzpɔ:t, 'trɑ:ns-/ 1 a system for or the business of taking people, goods, etc from place to place. • *public transport.* 2 a means of getting or being transported from place to place. • *The car's in for repairs, so I haven't got transport at the moment.* 3 (often *transports*) strong emotion, especially of pleasure or delight; ecstasy. • *transports of joy.* 4 a ship, aircraft, lorry, etc used to carry soldiers or military equipment and stores. 5 *hist* a criminal or convict who has been sentenced to transportation. [15c: from Latin *transportare* to carry across]

• **transportability** *n.* • **transportable** *adj.*

**transportation** *▷ n* 1 the act of transporting or the process of being transported. 2 a means of being transported; transport. 3 *hist* a form of punishment where convicted criminals were sent to overseas penal colonies.

**transport café** *▷ n.* *Brit* an inexpensive restaurant that is usually situated at or near the roadside and which caters especially for long-distance lorry drivers. *US* equivalent *truck stop.*

**transporter** *▷ n* 1 someone or something that transports. 2 a vehicle that carries other vehicles, large pieces of machinery, etc by road.

**transpose** /tranz'pəʊz, trɑ:ns-/ *▷ v* (*transposed, transposing*) 1 to make (two or more things, letters, words, etc) change places. 2 to change the position of (an item) in a sequence or series. 3 *music* to perform or rewrite (notes, a piece of music, etc) in a different key from the original or intended key. 4 *maths* to move (a term) from one side of an algebraic equation to the other and change the accompanying sign. [14c: from French *transposer*, from *poser* to put]

• **transposable** *adj.* • **transposal** *n.* • **transposer** *n.* • **transposing** *adj.* *n.*

**transposing instrument** *▷ n.* *music* 1 an instrument that incorporates a means for transposing notes into a different key. 2 an orchestral instrument which produces sounds that are in a different key from those that are written for it.

**transposition** /tranzpə'ziʃən, trɑ:ns-/ *▷ n* 1 an act or the process of transposing or being transposed. 2 something that is transposed.

• **transpositional** *adj.*

**transputer** /tranz'pjʊtə(r), trɑ:ns-/ *▷ n.* *comput* a chip that is capable of all the functions of a microprocessor, including memory, and which is designed for parallel processing rather than sequential processing. [1970s: from *transistor* + *computer*]

**transsexual** or **transexual** /tranz'sekʃʊəl, trɑ:n-/ *▷ n* 1 someone who is anatomically of one sex but who adopts the characteristics, behaviour, etc usually perceived as typical of a member of the opposite sex, often as a prelude to having some form of medical treatment to alter their physical attributes. 2 someone who has had medical, hormonal and/or surgical treatment to alter their physical features so that they more closely resemble those of the opposite sex. *▷ adj* 1 relating or referring to someone who has the physical characteristics of one gender, but the psychological characteristics, or a desire to be, of the opposite gender. 2 relating or referring to someone who has undergone medical treatment that results in any form of physical change of gender. [1940s]

• **transsexualism** *n.* • **transsexuality** *n.*

**transship** *see* TRANSHIP

**transubstantiate** /tranzəb'stʃəntiə, trɑ:n-/ *▷ v*, *tr* & *intr* to change into another substance. [16c]

**transubstantiation** *▷ n* 1 the act or process of changing, or changing something, into something else. 2 *Christianity* especially in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches: a the conversion of the Eucharistic bread and

wine, after they have been consecrated, into the body and blood of Christ, although there is no outward change in their appearance; b the doctrine which states that this happens. Compare CONSUBSTANTIATION. [14c: from TRANS- (sense 4)]

• **transubstantialist** *n.*

**transude** /tranz'sjʊd, trɑ:n-/ *▷ v* (*transuded, transuding*) said of a fluid, especially a bodily fluid such as sweat: to ooze out through pores or some permeable membrane. [17c: from Latin *sudare* to sweat]

• **transudate** /-et/ *n* a fluid of this kind. • **transudation** *n.*

**transuranic** /tranzjʊ'rænɪk, trɑ:nz-/ *▷ adj.* *chem* said of an element: having an atomic number greater than that of uranium, ie 93 or higher. [1930s: from TRANS- (sense 1)]

**Transvaal daisy** /tranz'vɑ:l, trɑ:ns-/ *▷ n* a plant native to S Africa, popular as a cut flower because of its large brightly coloured flowers in shades of orange, yellow, red and pink, which have hundreds of petals radiating from the centre. [Early 20c: named after Transvaal, a province in S Africa]

**transversal** *▷ n.* *geom* a line that cuts a set of other lines.

**transverse** /'tranzvɜ:s, trɑ:nz-/ *▷ adj* placed, lying, built, etc in a crosswise direction. [17c: from Latin *transvertere*, from *vertere* to turn]

• **transversely** *adv.*

**transverse wave** *▷ n.* *physics* a wave, such as an electromagnetic one, where the disturbance of the medium occurs at right angles to the direction of propagation of the wave.

**transvestite** /tranz'vestait, trɑ:nz-/ *▷ n* someone, especially a man, who dresses in clothes that are conventionally thought of as being exclusive to people of the opposite sex and who may derive sexual pleasure from doing this. [Early 20c: from Latin *vestire* to dress]

• **transvestism** or **transvestitism** *n.*

**trap** *▷ n* 1 a device or hole, usually baited, for catching animals, sometimes killing them in the process. 2 a plan or trick for surprising someone into speech or action, or catching them unawares. • *a speed trap.* 3 a trapdoor. 4 a bend in a pipe, especially a drainpipe, which fills with liquid to stop foul gases passing up the pipe. 5 a light, two-wheeled carriage which is usually pulled by a single horse. 6 a device for throwing a ball or clay pigeon into the air. 7 one of the box-like compartments that are set along the starting line of a greyhound race-track where the dogs wait before being released at the beginning of a race. 8 a bunker or other hazard on a golf course. 9 *slang* the mouth. 10 (*traps*) *jazz* *slang* drums or other percussion instruments. *▷ v* (*trapped, trapping*) 1 to catch (an animal) in a trap. 2 to catch someone out or unawares, especially with a trick. 3 to set traps in (a place). 4 to stop and hold in or as if in a trap. 5 *intr* to act as a TRAPPER. [Anglo-Saxon *treppa*]

**trapdoor** *▷ n* a small door or opening in a floor, ceiling, theatre stage, etc that is usually set flush with its surface.

**trapdoor spider** *▷ n* any of several types of spider that build a burrow and cover it with a hinged door that they make from the silk threads they spin.

**trapes** *see* TRAPPESE

**trapeze** /trə'pi:z/ *▷ n* a swing-like apparatus that consists of a short horizontal bar hanging on two ropes and is used by gymnasts and acrobats in their routines. [1860s: French, from Latin *trapezium* trapezium]

**trapezium** /trə'pi:ziəm/ *▷ n* (*trapeziums* or *trapezia* /-ziə/) 1 *Brit* a four-sided geometric figure that has one pair of its opposite sides parallel. 2 *NAm* a four-sided geometric figure that has no parallel sides. 3 any four-sided geometric figure that is not a parallelogram. *See* also TRAPEZOID (sense 1). [16c: Latin, from Greek *trapezion*, from *trapeza* table]

• **trapezoid** or **trapeziform** *adj.*

**trapezius** /trə'pi:ziəs/ or **trapezius muscle** *▷ n* (*trapeziuses* or *-zii* /-zi:ə/) either of a pair of large flat triangular muscles that extend over the back of the neck and the shoulders. [18c: from the trapezium shape they form as a pair]

English sounds: a hat; ɑ: bag; e bet; æ ago; ɜ: fur; i fit; i me; ɔ: lot; ɜ: raw; ʌ cup; ʊ put; u: too; ai by