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navigable ► adj. **1** (of a waterway or sea) able to be sailed on by ships or boats. **2** (of a website) easy to move around in.

– DERIVATIVES **navigability** n.

navigate ► v. **1** plan and direct the route or course of a ship, aircraft, etc., especially by using instruments or maps. **2** sail or travel over (a stretch of water or terrain). ■ guide (a vessel or vehicle) over a specified route or terrain. **3** move around a website, the Internet, etc. – ORIGIN C16: from L. *navigat-*, *navigare* 'to sail'.

navigation ► n. **1** the process or activity of navigating. **2** the passage of ships. **3** chiefly dialect a navigable inland waterway, especially a canal.

– DERIVATIVES **navigational** adj. **navigationally** adv.

navigation lights ► pl. n. a set of lights shown by a ship or aircraft at night to indicate its position and orientation.

navigator ► n. **1** a person who navigates a ship, aircraft, etc. **2** historical a person who explores by sea. **3** a browser program for accessing data on the Internet or another information system.

navvy ► n. (pl. **navvies**) Brit. dated a labourer employed in the excavation and construction of a road, railway, or canal.

– ORIGIN C19: abbrev. of **NAVIGATOR**.

navy ► n. (pl. **navies**) **1** [treated as sing. or pl.] the branch of a state's armed services which conducts military operations at sea. ■ literary a fleet of ships. **2** (also **navy blue**) a dark blue colour.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *navie* 'ship, fleet', from pop. L. *navia* 'ship', from L. *navis* 'ship'.

navy bean ► n. N. Amer. another term for **HARICOT**.

navy yard ► n. US a shipyard for the construction, repair, and equipping of naval vessels.

nawab /nə'wɑ:b/ ► n. Indian **1** a native governor during the time of the Mogul empire. **2** a Muslim nobleman or person of high status.

– ORIGIN from Urdu *nawwāb*, var. of Arab. *nuwwāb*, pl. (used as sing.) of *nā'ib* 'deputy'; cf. **NABOB**.

Naxalite /nəksəlaɪt/ ► n. (in South Asia) a member of an armed revolutionary group advocating Maoist communism.

– ORIGIN 1960s: from *Naxal(bari)*, a place name in West Bengal + *-ite*.

nay ► adv. **1** or rather; and more than that. **2** archaic or dialect no. ► n. a negative answer.

– ORIGIN ME: from ON *nei*, from *ne* 'not' + *ei* 'ever' (cf. **AYE**).

naysay ► v. (past and past part. **naysaid**) chiefly US say no to; deny or oppose.

– DERIVATIVES **naysayer** n.

Nazarene /nəzə'reɪn, nəzə'rɪn/ ► n. **1** a native or inhabitant of Nazareth. ■ (the **Nazarene**) Jesus Christ. ■ (chiefly in Jewish or Muslim use) a Christian.

■ a member of an early sect or faction of Jewish Christians. **2** a member of a group of 19th-century German painters who sought to revive the art and techniques of medieval Germany and early Renaissance Italy. ► adj. relating to Nazareth or Nazarenes.

Nazi /nɑ:tsi/ ► n. (pl. **Nazis**) **1** historical a member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party. **2** derogatory a person with extreme racist or authoritarian views.

– DERIVATIVES **Nazidom** n. **Nazify** v. (**Nazifies**, **Nazifying**, **Nazified**). **Nazism** n. **Nazism** n.

– ORIGIN Ger., abbrev. representing the pronunc. of *Nati-* in *Nationalsozialist* 'national socialist', prob. by analogy with *Sozi* from *Sozialist* 'socialist'.

Nazirite /nəzə'raɪt/ (also **Nazarite**) ► n. an ancient Israelite who had taken certain vows of abstinence.

– ORIGIN from Heb. *nāzīr* 'consecrated one' + *-ite*.

NB ► abbr. **1** New Brunswick (in official postal use).

2 nota bene; take special note. [L.]

Nb ► symb. the chemical element niobium.

nb ► abbr. Cricket no-ball.

NBA ► abbr. **1** (in North America) National Basketball Association. **2** (in the US) National Boxing Association. **3** net book agreement.

NBC ► abbr. **1** (in the US) National Broadcasting Company. **2** (of weapons or warfare) nuclear, biological, and chemical.

NBG ► abbr. informal no bloody good.

NC ► abbr. **1** network computer. **2** North Carolina (in official postal use). **3** numerical control.

NC-17 ► symb. (in the US) films classified as suitable for adults only.

– ORIGIN representing *no children* (*under*) **17**.

NCO ► abbr. non-commissioned officer.

ND ► abbr. North Dakota (in official postal use).

Nd ► symb. the chemical element neodymium.

n.d. ► abbr. no date.

nd ► suffix variant spelling of **-AND**, **-END**.

N. Dak. ► abbr. North Dakota.

Ndebele /nɔ:ndə'bɛli, -'bɛli/ ► n. (pl. same or **Ndebeles**)

1 a member of a people of Zimbabwe and NE South Africa. **2** the Bantu language of the Ndebele.

– ORIGIN the name in the Nguni languages.

NDP ► abbr. (in Canada) New Democratic Party.

NE ► abbr. **1** Nebraska (in official postal use).

2 New England. **3** north-east or north-eastern.

Ne ► symb. the chemical element neon.

né /nei/ masc. of **NÉE**.

Neanderthal /nɪ'ændətəl/ ► n. **1** (also **Neanderthal man**) an extinct human that was widely distributed in ice age Europe between c.120,000 and 35,000 years ago, with a receding forehead and prominent brow ridges.

2 informal an uncivilized or uncouth man.

– ORIGIN C19: from *Neanderthal*, a region in Germany (now *Neandertal*) where remains of Neanderthal man were found.

neap /ni:p/ ► n. (also **neap tide**) a tide just after the first or third quarters of the moon when there is least difference between high and low water.

► v. (**be neaped**) (of a boat) be kept aground or in harbour by a neap tide.

– ORIGIN ME, from OE *nēp* in *nēpflōd* 'neap flood', of unknown origin.

Neapolitan /nə'pɒlɪt(ə)n/ ► n. a native or citizen of Naples in Italy. ► adj. **1** relating to Naples. **2** (of ice cream) made in layers of different colours.

near ► adv. **1** at or to a short distance away. **2** a short time away in the future. **3** almost. ► prep. (also **near to**) **1** at or to a short distance away from (a place). **2** a short period of time from. **3** almost. **4** similar to. ► adj. **1** located a short distance away. **2** only a short time ahead. **3** similar. ■ close to being (the thing mentioned). ■ having a close family connection. **4** located on the nearside of a vehicle. Compare with **off** (sense 3 of the adjective). **5** archaic mean; miserly.

► v. approach.

– DERIVATIVES **nearish** adj. **nearness** n.

– ORIGIN ME: from ON *nær* 'nearer', compar. of *nā*, corresp. to OE *nēah* 'nigh'.

nearby ► adj. not far away. ► adv. (also **near by**) close by.

Nearctic /nɪ'ɑ:ktɪk/ ► adj. Zoology relating to or denoting a zoogeographical region comprising North America as far south as northern Mexico, together with Greenland.

– ORIGIN C19: from **NEO-** + **ARCTIC**.

near-death experience ► n. an unusual experience taking place on the brink of death and recounted by a person on recovery, typically an out-of-body experience or a vision of a tunnel of light.

Near East ► n. the countries of SW Asia between the Mediterranean and India (including the Middle East).

– DERIVATIVES **Near Eastern** adj.

near go ► n. Brit. informal, dated a narrow avoidance of something unpleasant.

nearly ► adv. **1** very close to; almost. **2** closely.

– PHRASES **not nearly** nothing like; far from.

nearly man ► n. Brit. informal someone who narrowly fails to achieve the success expected of them.

near miss ► n. **1** a narrowly avoided collision. **2** a bomb or shot that just misses its target.

near money ► n. Finance assets which can readily be converted into cash, such as bills of exchange.

nearside ► n. (usu. **the nearside**) Brit. the side of a vehicle nearest the kerb. Compare with **OFFSIDE**. ■ the left side of a horse.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr., from L. *provincia* 'charge, province', of uncertain ultimate origin.

provincial ▶ *adj.* **1** of or concerning a province of a country or empire. **2** of or concerning the regions outside the capital city of a country, especially when regarded as unsophisticated or narrow-minded. ▶ *n.* **1** an inhabitant of a province of a country or empire. **2** an inhabitant of the regions outside the capital city of a country. **3** Christian Church the head or chief of a province or of a religious order in a province.

– DERIVATIVES **provincially** *n.* **provincially** *adv.*

provincialism ▶ *n.* **1** the way of life or mode of thought characteristic of the regions outside the capital city of a country, especially when regarded as unsophisticated or narrow-minded. **2** concern for one's own area or region at the expense of national or international unity. **3** a word or phrase peculiar to a local area. **4** the degree to which plant or animal communities are restricted to particular areas.

– DERIVATIVES **provincialist** *n.* & *adj.*

proving ground ▶ *n.* an area or situation in which a person or thing is tested or proved.

provirus /prəʊˈvaɪrəs/ ▶ *n.* Microbiology the genetic material of a virus as incorporated into, and able to replicate with, the genome of a host cell.

– DERIVATIVES **proviral** *adj.*

provision ▶ *n.* **1** the action of providing or supplying. ■ something supplied or provided. ■ (provision for/against) arrangements for future eventualities or requirements. **2** (provisions) supplies of food, drink, or equipment, especially for a journey. **3** a condition or requirement in a legal document. **4** an amount set aside out of profits in the accounts of an organization for a known liability. **5** Christian Church, historical an appointment to a benefice. ▶ *v.* **1** supply with provisions. **2** set aside a provision for a known liability.

– DERIVATIVES **provisioner** *n.*

provisional ▶ *adj.* **1** arranged or existing for the present, possibly to be changed later. **2** (Provisional) denoting or relating to the unofficial wings of the IRA and Sinn Féin. ▶ *n.* (Provisional) a member of the Provisional wings of the IRA or Sinn Féin.

– DERIVATIVES **provisionality** *n.* **provisionally** *adv.*

proviso /prəˈvaɪzəʊ/ ▶ *n.* (pl. **provisos**) a condition or qualification attached to an agreement or statement.

– ORIGIN ME: from the med. L. phr. *proviso* (*quod*) 'it being provided (that)'.

provisor ▶ *n.* **1** (in the Roman Catholic Church) a deputy of a bishop or archbishop. **2** Christian Church, historical the holder of a provision.

– ORIGIN ME: from Anglo-Norman Fr. *provisour*, from L. *provisor*, from *provis* (see **PROVISION**).

provisory ▶ *adj.* **1** subject to a proviso; conditional. **2** provisional.

provitamin ▶ *n.* Biochemistry a substance which is converted into a vitamin within an organism.

Provo /prəʊvəʊ/ ▶ *n.* (pl. **Provos**) informal a member of the Provisional IRA or Sinn Féin.

provocation ▶ *n.* **1** the action of provoking. ■ action or speech that provokes. ■ Law action or speech held to be likely to prompt physical retaliation. **2** Medicine testing to elicit a particular response or reflex.

provocative ▶ *adj.* **1** causing annoyance, anger, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately. **2** arousing sexual desire or interest, especially deliberately.

– DERIVATIVES **provocatively** *adv.* **provocativeness** *n.*

provoke ▶ *v.* **1** stimulate (a reaction or emotion, typically a strong or unwelcome one) in someone. **2** deliberately annoy or anger. ■ incite to do or feel something, especially by arousing anger.

– DERIVATIVES **provokable** *adj.* **provoker** *n.* **provoking** *adj.* **provokingly** *adv.*

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *provoquer*, from L. *provocare* 'challenge', from *pro-* 'forth' + *vocare* 'to call'.

provolone /prəvəˈləʊneɪ, -ˈləʊni/ ▶ *n.* an Italian soft smoked cheese made from cow's milk.

– ORIGIN Ital., from *provola* 'buffalo's milk cheese'.

provost /prəˈvɒst/ ▶ *n.* **1** Brit. the position of head in certain university colleges and public schools. ■ N. Amer.

a senior administrative officer in certain universities.

2 Scottish term for **MAYOR**. **3** the head of a chapter in a cathedral. ■ the Protestant minister of the principal church of a town or district, especially in Germany.

■ historical the head of a Christian community. **4** /prəˈvɒst/ short for **PROVOST MARSHAL**. **5** historical the chief magistrate of a European town.

– DERIVATIVES **provostship** *n.*

– ORIGIN OE *profost* 'head of a chapter, prior', reinforced in ME by Anglo-Norman Fr. *provost*, from med. L. *propositus*, synonym of L. *praepositus* (see **PRAEPOSTOR**).

provost marshal /prəˈvɒst/ ▶ *n.* the head of military police in camp or on active service.

prow /prəʊ/ ▶ *n.* the pointed front part of a ship; the bow.

– ORIGIN C16: from OFr. *proue*, from Provençal *proa*, prob. via L. from Gk *prōra*, from a base represented by L. *pro* 'in front'.

prowess ▶ *n.* **1** skill or expertise in a particular activity or field. **2** bravery in battle.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *proesce*, from *prou* 'valiant'.

prowl ▶ *v.* move about stealthily or restlessly in search of or as if in search of prey. ▶ *n.* an act of prowling.

– DERIVATIVES **prowler** *n.*

– ORIGIN ME: of unknown origin.

prowl car ▶ *n.* US a police squad car.

prox. ▶ *abbr.* proximo.

prox. acc. ▶ *abbr.* proxime accessit.

proxemics /prɒkˈsiːmiks/ ▶ *pl. n.* [treated as *sing.*] the branch of study concerned with the amount of space that people set between themselves and others.

– ORIGIN 1960s: from **PROXIMITY**, on the pattern of words such as **phonemics**.

proximal ▶ *adj.* chiefly Anatomy situated nearer to the centre of the body or an area or the point of attachment. The opposite of **DISTAL**.

– DERIVATIVES **proximally** *adv.*

proximate ▶ *adj.* **1** closest in space, time, or relationship: *the proximate cause of the symptoms*. **2** nearly accurate; approximate.

– DERIVATIVES **proximately** *adv.* **proximation** *n.*

– ORIGIN C16: from L. *proximat-*, *proximare* 'draw near', from *proximus* 'nearest'.

proxime accessit /prɒksɪmɪəˈkʌsɪt, -mɪ/ ▶ *n.* the person who comes second in an examination or is runner-up for an award.

– ORIGIN L., lit. 'came very near'.

proximity ▶ *n.* nearness in space, time, or relationship.

– ORIGIN C15: from Fr. *proximité*, from L. *proximitas*, from *proximus* 'nearest'.

proximity fuse ▶ *n.* an electronic detonator that causes a projectile to explode when it comes within a preset distance of its target.

proximo /prɒksɪməʊ/ ▶ *adj.* [postpos.] dated of next month.

– ORIGIN from L. *proximo mense* 'in the next month'.

proxy ▶ *n.* (pl. **proxies**) **1** the authority to represent someone else, especially in voting. ■ a person authorized to act on behalf of another. **2** a figure used to represent the value of something in a calculation.

– ORIGIN ME: contr. of **PROCURACY**.

Prozac /prəʊzæk/ ▶ *n.* trademark for **FLUOXETINE**.

– ORIGIN 1980s: an invented name.

prude ▶ *n.* a person who is easily shocked by matters relating to sex or nudity.

– DERIVATIVES **prudery** *n.*

– ORIGIN C18: from Fr., back-form. from *prudefemme*, fem. of *prud'homme* 'good man and true'.

prudent ▶ *adj.* acting with or showing care and thought for the future.

– DERIVATIVES **prudence** *n.* **prudently** *adv.*

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr., or from L. *prudens*, contr. of *providens* (see **PROVIDENT**).

prudential ▶ *adj.* involving or showing care and forethought, typically in business.

– DERIVATIVES **prudentially** *adv.*

– ORIGIN ME: from **PRUDENT**, on the pattern of words such as *evidential*.

prudish ▶ *adj.* easily offended or shocked by matters relating to sex or nudity.

– DERIVATIVES **prudishly** *adv.* **prudishness** *n.*

pruinose /pruːnəʊs, -z/ ► adj. chiefly Botany covered with white powdery granules; frosted in appearance.

– ORIGIN C19: from L. *pruinus*, from *pruina* 'hoar frost'.

prune¹ ► n. 1 a plum preserved by drying and having a black, wrinkled appearance. 2 informal a disagreeable person.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr., via L. from Gk *prou(m)non* 'plum'.

prune² ► v. 1 trim (a tree, shrub, or bush) by cutting away dead or overgrown branches or stems. 2 remove superfluous or unwanted parts from. ► n. an instance of pruning.

– DERIVATIVES **pruner** n.

– ORIGIN C15 (in the sense 'abbreviate'): from OFr. *pro(o)ignier*, possibly based on L. *rotundus* 'round'.

prunella /pruːnelə/ ► n. a strong silk or worsted fabric used formerly for barristers' gowns and the uppers of women's shoes.

– ORIGIN C17: perh. from Fr. *prunelle* 'sloe' (because of its dark colour).

prunus /pruːnəs/ ► n. a tree or shrub of a large genus that includes cherry, almond, plum, peach, and apricot trees. [Genus *Prunus*.]

– ORIGIN mod. L., from L., lit. 'plum tree'.

prurient /pruːriənt/ ► adj. having or encouraging an excessive interest in sexual matters.

– DERIVATIVES **prurience** n. **pruriency** n. **pruriently** adv.

– ORIGIN C16 (in the sense 'having a craving'): from L. *prurient-*, *prurire* 'itch, long, be wanton'.

prurigo /pruːrɪɡəʊ/ ► n. Medicine a chronic skin disease causing severe itching.

– ORIGIN C17: from L., from *prurire* 'to itch'.

pruritus /pruːrɪtəs/ ► n. Medicine severe itching of the skin, as a symptom of various ailments.

– DERIVATIVES **pruritic** adj.

– ORIGIN C17: from L., 'itching' (see **PRURIGO**).

prusik /prɪsɪk/ ► adj. Climbing relating to or denoting a method of ascending or descending a rope by means of two movable loops attached by a special knot which tightens under pressure.

– DERIVATIVES **prusiking** n.

– ORIGIN 1930s: from the name of the Austrian mountaineer Karl Prusik.

Prussian ► n. a native or inhabitant of the former German kingdom of Prussia. ► adj. relating to Prussia.

Prussian blue ► n. a deep blue pigment used in painting and dyeing, made from or in imitation of ferric ferrocyanide.

prussic acid /prɪsɪk/ ► n. old-fashioned term for HYDROCYANIC ACID.

– DERIVATIVES **prussiate** n.

– ORIGIN C18: *prussic* from Fr. *prussique* 'relating to Prussian blue'.

pry¹ ► v. (**pries**, **prying**, **pried**) enquire too intrusively into a person's private affairs.

– DERIVATIVES **prying** adj. **pryingly** adv.

– ORIGIN ME (in the sense 'peer inquisitively'): of unknown origin.

pry² ► v. (**pries**, **prying**, **pried**) chiefly N. Amer. another term for **PRYSE**.

– ORIGIN C19: from **PRYSE**, interpreted as **pries**, third person sing. of the pres. tense.

PS ► abbr. 1 Police Sergeant. 2 postscript. 3 private secretary. 4 (in the theatre) prompt side.

Ps. ► abbr. (pl. **Pss.**) Psalm or Psalms.

psalm /sɑːm/ ► n. a sacred song or hymn, in particular any of those contained in the biblical Book of Psalms. ► (the **Psalms** or the **Book of Psalms**) a book of the Bible comprising a collection of religious verses, sung or recited in both Jewish and Christian worship.

– DERIVATIVES **psalmic** adj. **psalmist** n.

– ORIGIN OE (p) *sealm*, via eccles. L. from Gk *psalmos* 'song sung to harp music'.

psalmody /sɑːmədi, 'salm-/ ► n. the singing of psalms or similar sacred canticles. ► psalms arranged for singing.

– DERIVATIVES **psalmodic** adj.

– ORIGIN ME: via late L. from Gk *psalmōidia* 'singing to a harp'.

psalter /sɔːltə, 'sɒl-/ ► n. a copy of the biblical Psalms, especially for liturgical use. ► (the **psalter**) the Book of Psalms.

– ORIGIN OE (p) *saltere*, via L. *psalterium* from Gk *psaltērion* 'stringed instrument'.

psalterium /sɔːltəriəm, 'sɒl-/ ► n. another term for **OMASUM**.

– ORIGIN C19: from L., lit. 'psalter' (see **PSALTER**), because of its many folds of tissue, resembling pages of a book.

psaltery /sɔːlt(ə)ri, 'sɒl-/ ► n. (pl. **psalteries**) an ancient and medieval musical instrument like a dulcimer but played by plucking the strings with the fingers or a plectrum.

– ORIGIN ME *sautrie*, from OFr. *sauterie*, from L. *psalterium* (see **PSALTER**).

PSBR ► abbr. Brit. public-sector borrowing requirement.

psephology /seˈfɒlədʒi, st-/ ► n. the statistical study of elections and trends in voting.

– DERIVATIVES **psephological** adj. **psephologist** n.

– ORIGIN 1950s: from Gk *psēphos* 'pebble, vote' + *-logy*.

pseud /s(j)uːd/ ► n. Brit. informal a pretentious person; a poseur.

pseud- /s(j)uːd/ ► comb. form variant spelling of **PSEUDO-** reduced before a vowel (as in *pseudepigrapha*).

pseudepigrapha /s(j)uːdɪˈpɪgrəfə/ ► pl. n. spurious or pseudonymous writings, especially Jewish writings ascribed to various biblical patriarchs and prophets but composed c.200 BC–AD 200.

– DERIVATIVES **pseudepigraphal** adj. **pseudepigraphic** adj.

– ORIGIN C17: neut. pl. of Gk *pseudepigraphos* (see **PSEUDO-**, **EPIGRAPH**).

pseudo /s(j)uːdəʊ/ informal ► adj. pretentious or insincere. ► n. (pl. **pseudos**) a pretentious or insincere person.

pseudo- /s(j)uːdəʊ/ (also **pseud-** before a vowel)

► comb. form 1 false; not genuine: *pseudonym*.

2 resembling or imitating: *pseudo-hallucination*.

– ORIGIN from Gk *pseudēs* 'false', *pseudos* 'falsehood'.

pseudocarp ► n. technical term for **FALSE FRUIT**.

– ORIGIN C19: from **PSEUDO-** + Gk *karpos* 'fruit'.

pseudocyesis /s(j)uːdəʊsəˈfɪsɪs/ ► n. technical term for **PHANTOM PREGNANCY**.

– ORIGIN C19: from **PSEUDO-** + Gk *kuēsis* 'conception'.

pseudoephedrine /s(j)uːdəʊˈefadrɪn/ ► n. a drug obtained from plants of the genus *Ephedra* (or prepared synthetically) and used as a nasal decongestant.

pseudomonas /s(j)uːdə(u)ˈmɒnəs, s(j)uːˈdɒmənəs/ ► n. Microbiology a bacterium of a genus occurring typically in soil and detritus. [Genus *Pseudomonas*.]

– ORIGIN mod. L., from **PSEUDO-** + *monas* 'monad'.

pseudomorph /s(j)uːdə(u)ˈmɔːf/ Crystallography ► n. a crystal consisting of one mineral but having the form of another. ► v. replace to form a pseudomorph.

– DERIVATIVES **pseudomorphic** adj. **pseudomorphism** n. **pseudomorphous** adj.

– ORIGIN C19: from **PSEUDO-** + Gk *morphē* 'form'.

pseudonym /s(j)uːdəˈnɪm/ ► n. a fictitious name, especially one used by an author.

– ORIGIN C19: from Fr. *pseudonyme*, from Gk *pseudōnymos*, from *pseudēs* 'false' + *onoma* 'name'.

pseudonymous /s(j)uːdəˈnɪməs/ ► adj. writing or written under a false name.

– DERIVATIVES **pseudonymity** /-ˈnɪmɪti/ n.

pseudonymously adv.

pseudopod /s(j)uːdə(u)ˈpɒd/ ► n. another term for **PSEUDOPodium**.

pseudopodium /s(j)uːdə(u)ˈpɒdɪəm/ ► n. (pl. **pseudopodia** /-ˈdiə/) Biology a temporary protrusion of the surface of an amoeboid cell for movement and feeding.

pseudopregnancy ► n. (pl. **pseudopregnancies**) another term for **PHANTOM PREGNANCY**.

pseudoscience ► n. a collection of beliefs or practices mistakenly regarded as being based on scientific method.

– DERIVATIVES **pseudoscientific** adj. **pseudoscientist** n.

pseudoscorpion ► n. another term for **FALSE SCORPION**.

pshaw /pʃɔː, ʃɔː/ ► exclam. dated or humorous an expression of contempt or impatience.

p

transnational ▶ adj. extending or operating across national boundaries. ▶ n. a multinational company.

– DERIVATIVES **transnationalism** n. **transnationally** adv.

transoceanic ▶ adj. 1 crossing an ocean. 2 coming from or situated beyond an ocean.

transom /tranz(ə)m/ ▶ n. 1 the flat surface forming the stern of a boat. 2 a horizontal beam reinforcing the stern of a boat. 3 a strengthening crossbar, in particular one set above a window or door. Compare with **MULLION**. 3 US term for **TRANSOM WINDOW**.

– PHRASES **over the transom** N. Amer. informal unsolicited.

– DERIVATIVES **transomed** adj.

– ORIGIN ME (earlier as *traversayn*): from OFr. *traversin*, from *traverser* (see **TRAVERSE**).

transom window ▶ n. a window set above the transom of a door or larger window.

transonic /tranz'sonik, trɑ:n-/ (also **trans-sonic**) ▶ adj. denoting or relating to speeds close to that of sound.

trans-Pacific ▶ adj. 1 crossing the Pacific. 2 relating to an area beyond the Pacific.

transparence ▶ n. rare term for **TRANSPARENCY** (sense 1).

transparency ▶ n. (pl. **transparencies**) 1 the condition of being transparent. 2 a positive transparent photograph printed on plastic or glass, and viewed using a slide projector.

transparent /tranz'spar(ə)nt, trɑ:n-, 'spe:-/

▶ adj. 1 allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be distinctly seen. 2 obvious or evident. 3 open to public scrutiny. 4 Physics transmitting heat or other radiation without distortion. 5 Computing (of a process) functioning without the user being aware of its presence.

– DERIVATIVES **transparently** adv.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr., from med. L. *transparent-*, *transparere* 'shine through'.

transpersonal ▶ adj. relating to or denoting states of consciousness beyond the limits of personal identity.

transpire ▶ v. 1 (usu. **it transpires**) come to be known; prove to be so. 2 happen. 3 Botany (of a plant or leaf) give off water vapour through the stomata.

– DERIVATIVES **transpiration** n.

– ORIGIN ME: from Fr. *transpirer* or med. L. *transpirare*, from L. *trans-* 'through' + *spirare* 'breathe'.

transplant ▶ v. /tranz'plɑ:nt, trɑ:ns-, -nz-/ 1 transfer to another place or situation. 2 replace (a plant) in another place. 3 take (living tissue or an organ) and implant it in another part of the body or in another body.

▶ n. /tranz'plɑ:nt, trɑ:ns-, -nz-/ 1 an operation in which an organ or tissue is transplanted. 2 a person or thing that has been transplanted.

– DERIVATIVES **transplantable** /-plɑ:ntəb(ə)l/ adj.

transplantation /-tɛɪf(ə)n/ n. **transplanter** /-plɑ:ntə/n. – ORIGIN ME: from late L. *transplantare*, from L. *trans-* 'across' + *plantare* 'to plant'.

transponder /tranz'spɒndə, trɑ:n-/ ▶ n. a device for receiving a radio signal and automatically transmitting a different signal.

– ORIGIN 1940s: blend of **TRANSMIT** and **RESPOND**, + -ER¹.

transpontine /tranz'pɒntaɪn, trɑ:ns-, -nz-/ ▶ adj. dated on or from the other side of an ocean, in particular the Atlantic as viewed from Britain; American.

– ORIGIN C19: from **TRANS-** + L. *pontus* 'sea' + -INE¹.

transport ▶ v. /tranz'spɔ:t, trɑ:n-/ 1 take or carry from one place to another by means of a vehicle, aircraft, or ship. 2 historical send (a convict) to a penal colony.

▶ n. /tranz'spɔ:t, trɑ:n-/ 1 a system or means of transporting. 2 the action of transporting or the state of being transported. 3 a large vehicle, ship, or aircraft for carrying troops or stores. 4 historical a convict who was transported to a penal colony. 2 (**transport**) overwhelming emotions.

– DERIVATIVES **transportability** n. **transportable** adj.

transportation n.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *transporter* or L. *transportare* 'carry across'.

transport cafe ▶ n. Brit. a roadside cafe for drivers of haulage vehicles.

transporter ▶ n. a large vehicle used to carry heavy objects, e.g. cars.

transpose ▶ v. 1 cause to exchange places. 2 transfer to a different place or context. 3 write or play (music) in a different key from the original. ▶ n. Mathematics a matrix obtained from a given matrix by interchanging rows and columns.

– DERIVATIVES **transposable** adj. **transposer** n.

transposition n. **transpositional** adj.

– ORIGIN ME (also in the sense 'transform'): from OFr. *transposer*, from *trans-* 'across' + *poser* 'to place'.

transposon /tranz'pəʊzən, trɑ:ns-, -nz-/ ▶ n. Genetics a segment of DNA that can be translocated as a whole from a site in one genome to another site in the same genome or to a different genome.

– ORIGIN 1970s: from *transposition* + -ON.

transputer /tranz'pjʊtə, trɑ:ns-, -nz-/ ▶ n. a microprocessor with integral memory designed for parallel processing.

– ORIGIN 1970s: blend of **TRANSISTOR** and **COMPUTER**.

transracial ▶ adj. across or crossing racial boundaries.

transsexual (also **transexual**) ▶ n. a person born with the physical characteristics of one sex who emotionally and psychologically feels that they belong to the opposite sex. 2 a person who has undergone treatment in order to acquire the physical characteristics of the opposite sex. ▶ adj. relating to a transsexual person.

– DERIVATIVES **transsexualism** n. **transsexuality** n.

trans-ship (also **tranship**) ▶ v. (**trans-ships**, **trans-shipping**, **trans-shipped**) transfer (cargo) from one ship or other form of transport to another.

– DERIVATIVES **trans-shipment** n.

trans-sonic ▶ adj. variant spelling of **TRANSONIC**.

transubstantiate /tranzəb'stʃeɪnt, trɑ:n-, -st-/

▶ v. 1 Christian Theology convert (the substance of the Eucharistic elements) into the body and blood of Christ at consecration. 2 change the form or substance of (something) into something different.

– ORIGIN ME: from med. L. *transubstantiāre*, *transubstantiare* 'change in substance'.

transubstantiation ▶ n. Christian Theology the doctrine that the substance of the Eucharistic elements is converted into the body and blood of Christ at consecration, only the appearances of bread and wine still remaining. Compare with **CONSUBSTANTIATION**.

transude /tranz'sjʊd, trɑ:n-/ ▶ v. archaic (of a fluid) discharge gradually through pores in a membrane.

– DERIVATIVES **transudate** n. **transudation** n.

– ORIGIN C17: from Fr. *transsuder*, from L. *trans-* 'across' + L. *sudare* 'to sweat'.

transuranic /tranz'jʊrənɪk, trɑ:ns-, -nz-/ ▶ adj. Chemistry (of an element) having a higher atomic number than uranium (92).

Transvaal daisy ▶ n. a South African gerbera, grown for its large brightly coloured daisy-like flowers. [*Gerbera jamesonii*]

transversal /tranz'vɜ:s(ə)l, trɑ:nz-, -ns-/ Geometry

▶ adj. (of a line) cutting a system of lines. ▶ n. a transversal line.

– DERIVATIVES **transversality** n. **transversally** adv.

– ORIGIN ME, in sense 'transverse': from med. L. *transversalis*.

transverse /tranz'vɜ:s, trɑ:nz-, -ns-/ ▶ adj. situated or extending across something.

– DERIVATIVES **transversely** adv.

– ORIGIN ME: from L. *transversus*, *transvertere* 'turn across'.

transverse flute ▶ n. a flute which is held horizontally when played.

transverse magnet ▶ n. a magnet with poles at the sides and not the ends.

transverse wave ▶ n. Physics a wave vibrating at right angles to the direction of propagation.

transvestite ▶ n. a person, typically a man, who derives pleasure from dressing in clothes considered appropriate to the opposite sex.

– DERIVATIVES **transvestism** n. **transvestitism** n.

– ORIGIN 1920s: from Ger. *Transvestit*, from L. *trans-* 'across' + *vestire* 'clothe'.

Transylvanian /trɒnsɪl'veɪniən/ ► n. a native or inhabitant of Transylvania, a large region of NW Romania. ► adj. relating to Transylvania.

trap¹ ► n. 1 a device or enclosure designed to catch and retain animals. 2 a situation in which someone lies in wait to make a surprise attack. 3 a trick betraying someone into acting contrary to their interests or intentions. 4 an unpleasant situation from which it is hard to escape. 5 a container or device used to collect a specified thing. 6 a curve in the waste pipe from a bath, basin, or toilet that is always full of liquid to prevent the upward passage of gases. 7 a bunker or other hollow on a golf course. 8 the compartment from which a greyhound is released at the start of a race. 9 a device for hurling an object such as a clay pigeon into the air to be shot at. 7 a light, two-wheeled carriage pulled by a horse or pony. 8 informal a person's mouth: *keep your trap shut!* 9 (traps) informal (among jazz musicians) drums or percussion instruments. ► v. (traps, trapping, trapped) 1 catch (an animal) in a trap. 2 prevent from escaping. 3 catch (something) somewhere so that it cannot be freed. 3 trick into doing something.

DERIVATIVES **trap-like** adj.
ORIGIN OE *træppe* (in *coltetræppe* 'Christ's thorn'); rel. to MDu. *trappe* and med. L. *trappa*, of uncertain origin.

trap² ► v. (traps, trapping, trapped) (usu. as *trapped*) archaic put trappings on (a horse).
ORIGIN ME: from the obs. noun *trap* 'trappings', from OFr. *drap* 'drape'.

trap³ (also **traprock**) ► n. N. Amer. basalt or a similar dark, fine-grained igneous rock.

ORIGIN C18: from Swed. *trapp*, from *trappa* 'stair' (because of the often stair-like appearance of its outcroppings).

trapdoor ► n. 1 a hinged or removable panel in a floor, ceiling, or roof. 2 a feature of a computer program which allows surreptitious unauthorized access.

trapdoor spider ► n. a spider which lives in a burrow with a hinged cover like a trapdoor. [Family *Ctenizidae*.]
Austral. a funnel-web spider.

trapes ► v. & n. archaic spelling of **TRAPESE**.

trapeze ► n. 1 (also **flying trapeze**) a horizontal bar hanging by two ropes and free to swing, used by acrobats in a circus. 2 sailing a harness attached by a cable to a dinghy's mast, enabling a sailor to balance the boat by leaning out backwards over the windward side.
ORIGIN C19: from Fr. *trapèze*, from late L. *trapezium* (see **TRAPEZIUM**).

trapezium /trə'pi:ziəm/ ► n. (pl. **trapezia** /-ziə/ or **trapeziums**) Geometry, Brit. a quadrilateral with one pair of sides parallel. N. Amer. a quadrilateral with no sides parallel.
ORIGIN C16: via late L. from Gk *trapezion*, from *trapeza* 'table'.

trapezius /trə'pi:ziəs/ ► n. (pl. **trapezii** /-ziɪ/) Anatomy either of a pair of large triangular muscles extending over the back of the neck and shoulder and moving the head and shoulder blade.

ORIGIN C18: from mod. L., from Gk *trapezion* 'trapezium' (because of the shape formed by the muscles).

trapezoid /trə'pi:zɔɪd, trə'pi:zɔɪd/ ► n. Geometry, Brit. a quadrilateral with no sides parallel. N. Amer. a quadrilateral with one pair of sides parallel.

DERIVATIVES **trapezoidal** adj.
ORIGIN C18: from mod. L. *trapezoides*, from late Gk *trapezoidēs*, from *trapeza* (see **TRAPEZIUM**).

trapper ► n. a person who traps wild animals, especially for their fur.

trappings ► pl. n. 1 the visible signs or objects associated with a particular situation or role: *I had the trappings of success.* 2 a horse's ornamental harness.
ORIGIN ME: derivative of **TRAP**².

Trappist ► n. a member of a branch of the Cistercian order of monks noted for an austere rule that includes remaining silent for much of the time. ► n. relating to the Trappists.

ORIGIN C19: from Fr. *trappiste*, from *La Trappe* in Normandy, where the order was founded.

traprock ► n. see **TRAP**³.

traps ► pl. n. informal personal belongings; baggage.

ORIGIN C19: perh. a contr. of **TRAPPINGS**.

trap shooting ► n. the sport of shooting at clay pigeons released from a spring trap.

DERIVATIVES **trap shooter** n.

trash ► n. 1 N. Amer. waste material; refuse. 2 worthless writing, art, etc. 3 N. Amer. a person or people regarded as being of very low social standing. 4 W. Indian the leaves, tops, and crushed stems of sugar cane, used as fuel.

► v. 1 informal, chiefly N. Amer. wreck or destroy. 2 informal, chiefly N. Amer. criticize severely. 3 (as adj. **trashed**) informal intoxicated with alcohol or drugs. 4 strip (sugar canes) of their outer leaves to ripen them faster.

ORIGIN ME: of unknown origin.

trash can ► n. N. Amer. a dustbin.

trash talk US informal ► n. insulting or boastful speech intended to demoralize, intimidate, or humiliate.

► v. (**trash-talk**) use such speech.

DERIVATIVES **trash talker** n.

trashy ► adj. (**trashier**, **trashiest**) (especially of items of popular culture) of poor quality.

DERIVATIVES **trashily** adv. **trashiness** n.

trattoria /trə'tɔ:riə/ ► n. an Italian restaurant.

ORIGIN from Ital.

trauma /'trɔ:mə, 'traʊmə/ ► n. (pl. **traumas** or **traumata** /-mətə/) 1 a deeply distressing experience. 2 emotional shock following a stressful event. 3 Medicine physical injury.

ORIGIN C17: from Gk, lit. 'wound'.

traumatic /trɔ:'mætɪk, trau-/ ► adj. 1 deeply disturbing or distressing: *a traumatic divorce.* 2 Medicine relating to or denoting physical injury.

DERIVATIVES **traumatically** adv.

traumatism /'trɔ:mætɪz(ə)m, 'trau-/ ► n. chiefly technical a traumatic effect or condition.

traumatize or **traumatise** /'trɔ:mətaɪz/ ► v. 1 subject to lasting shock as a result of a disturbing experience. 2 Medicine cause physical injury to.

DERIVATIVES **traumatization** n.

travail /'træveɪl/ literary ► n. (also **travails**) painful or laborious effort. 2 labour pains. ► v. undergo such effort or pain.

ORIGIN ME: via OFr. from med. L. *trepatium* 'instrument of torture', from L. *tres* 'three' + *palus* 'stake'.

travel ► v. (**travels**, **travelling**, **travelled**; US **travels**, **traveling**, **traveled**) 1 make a journey. 2 journey along (a road) or through (a region). 3 move or go. 4 informal (of a vehicle) move quickly. 5 withstand a journey without impairment: *this wine travels well.* ► n. 1 the action of travelling. 2 (travels) journeys, especially abroad. 3 [as modifier] (of a device) sufficiently compact for use when travelling. 4 the range, rate, or mode of motion of a part of a machine.

ORIGIN ME: var. of **TRAVAIL** and orig. in the same sense.

travel agency (also **travel bureau**) ► n. an agency that makes the necessary arrangements for travellers.

DERIVATIVES **travel agent** n.

travelator /'trævoletə/ (also **travolator**) ► n. a moving walkway, typically at an airport.

ORIGIN 1950s: from **TRAVEL**, suggested by **ESCALATOR**.

travelled /'træv(ə)ld/ ► adj. 1 having travelled to many places. 2 used by people travelling.

traveller (US also **traveler**) ► n. a person who is travelling or who often travels. 2 (usu. **Traveller**) Brit. a Gypsy or other nomadic person. 3 (also **New Age traveller**) Brit. a person who holds New Age values and leads an itinerant and unconventional lifestyle.

traveller's cheque ► n. a cheque for a fixed amount that may be cashed or used in payment abroad after endorsement by the holder's signature.

traveller's joy ► n. a tall scrambling wild clematis with small fragrant flowers and tufts of grey hairs around the seeds. [*Clematis vitalba*.]

traveller's tale ► n. a story about the unusual characteristics or customs of a foreign country, regarded as exaggerated or untrue.

travelling salesman ► n. a representative of a firm who visits businesses to show samples and gain orders.