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This dictionary is typeset in CollinsFedra, a special version of the Fedra family of types designed by Peter Bil'ak. CollinsFedra has been customized especially for Collins dictionaries; it includes both sans serif (for headwords) and serif (entries) versions, in several different weights. Its large x-height, its open 'eye', and its basis in the tradition of humanist letterforms make CollinsFedra both familiar and easy to read at small sizes. It has been designed to use the minimum space without sacrificing legibility, as well as including a number of characters and signs that are specific to dictionary typography. Its companion phonetic type is the first of its kind to be drawn according to the same principles as the regular typeface, rather than assembled from rotated and reflected characters from other types. Peter Bil'ak (born 1973, Slovakia) is a graphic and type designer living in the Netherlands. He is the author of two books, Illegibility and Transparency. As well as the Fedra family, he has designed several other typefaces including Eureka. His typotheque.com website has become a focal point for research and debate around contemporary type design.

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proverbial (prəˈvɜːbɪəl) *adj* **1** (*prenominal*) commonly or traditionally referred to, esp as being an example of some peculiarity, characteristic, etc **2** of, connected with, embodied in, or resembling a proverb > **proˈverbially** *adv*

Proverbs (ˈprɒvɜːbz) *n* (*functioning as singular*) a book of the Old Testament consisting of the proverbs of various Israelite sages including Solomon

provide (prəˈvaɪd) *vb* (*mainly tr*) **1** to put at the disposal of; furnish or supply **2** to afford; yield: *this meeting provides an opportunity to talk* **3** (*intr*; often foll by *for* or *against*) to take careful precautions (over): *he provided against financial ruin by wise investment* **4** (*intr*; foll by *for*) to supply means of support (to), esp financially: *he provides for his family* **5** (in statutes, documents, etc) to determine (what is to happen in certain contingencies), esp by including a proviso condition **6** to confer and induct into ecclesiastical offices **7** *rare* to have or get in store: *in summer many animals provide their winter food* > **proˈvider** *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C15: from Latin *prōvidēre* to provide for, from *prō-* beforehand + *vidēre* to see

providence (ˈprɒvɪdəns) *n* **1** a *Christianity* God's foreseeing protection and care of his creatures **b** such protection and care as manifest by some other force **2** a supposed manifestation of such care and guidance **3** the foresight or care exercised by a person in the management of his affairs or resources

Providence[1] (ˈprɒvɪdəns) *n Christianity* God, esp as showing foreseeing care and protection of his creatures

● **ETYMOLOGY** C14: via French from Latin *prōvidentia*, from *prōvidēre* to provide; see PROVIDE, -ENCE

Providence[2] (ˈprɒvɪdəns) *n* a port in NE Rhode Island, capital of the state, at the head of Narragansett Bay: founded by Roger Williams in 1636. Pop: 176 365 (2003 est)

provident (ˈprɒvɪdənt) *adj* **1** providing for future needs **2** exercising foresight in the management of one's affairs or resources **3** characterized by or proceeding from foresight > **ˈprovidently** *adv*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C15: from Latin *prōvidens* foreseeing, from *prōvidēre* to PROVIDE

provident club *n Brit* a hire-purchase system offered by some large retail organizations

providential (ˌprɒvɪˈdenʃəl) *adj* relating to, characteristic of, or presumed to proceed from or as if from divine providence > **ˌproviˈdentially** *adv*

provident society *n* another name for **friendly society**

providing (prəˈvaɪdɪŋ) or **provided** *conj* (*subordinating*; sometimes foll by *that*) on the condition or understanding (that): *I'll play, providing you pay me*

province (ˈprɒvɪns) *n* **1** a territory governed as a unit of a country or empire **2** a district, territory, or region **3** the provinces (*plural*) those parts of a country lying outside the capital and other large cities and regarded as outside the mainstream of sophisticated culture **4** *ecology* a subdivision of a region, characterized by a particular fauna and flora **5** an area or branch of learning, activity, etc **6** the field or extent of a person's activities or office **7** *RC Church*, *Church of England* an ecclesiastical territory, usually consisting of several dioceses, and having an archbishop or metropolitan at its head **8** a major administrative and territorial subdivision of a religious order **9** *history* a region of the Roman Empire outside Italy ruled by a governor from Rome

● **ETYMOLOGY** C14: from Old French, from Latin *prōvincia* conquered territory

Provincetown (ˈprɒvɪnsˌtaʊn) *n* a village in SE Massachusetts, at the tip of Cape Cod: scene of the first landing place of the Pilgrims (1620) and of the signing of the Mayflower Compact (1620). Pop: 3472 (2003 est)

provincewide (ˈprɒvɪnsˌwaɪd) *Canadian* > *adj* **1** covering or available to the whole of a province: *a provincewide referendum* > *adv* **2** throughout a province: *an advertising campaign to go provincewide*

provincial (prəˈvɪnʃəl) *adj* **1** of or connected with a province **2** characteristic of or connected with the provinces; local **3** having attitudes and opinions supposedly common to people living in the provinces; rustic or unsophisticated; limited **4** *NZ* denoting a football team representing a province, one of the historical administrative areas of New Zealand > *n* **5** a person lacking the sophistications of city life; rustic or narrow-minded individual **6** a person coming from or resident in a province or the provinces **7** the head of an ecclesiastical province **8** the head of a major territorial subdivision of a religious order > **proˈvincially** *adv*

Provincial Council *n* (formerly) a council administering any of the New Zealand provinces

provincialism (prəˈvɪnʃəˌlɪzəm) *n* **1** narrowness of mind or outlook; lack of sophistication **2** a word or attitude characteristic of a provincial **3** attention to the affairs of one's province rather than the whole nation **4** the state or quality of being provincial > Also: **localism**

provincial police *n* (in Canada) the police force of a province, esp Ontario or Quebec

provincialism (prəˈvɪnʃəˌlɪzəm) *n* **1** narrowness of mind or outlook; lack of sophistication **2** a word or attitude characteristic of a provincial **3** attention to the affairs of one's province rather than the whole nation **4** the state or quality of being provincial > Also: **localism**

proving ground *n* a place or situation in which something new, such as equipment or a theory, can be tested

provirus (ˈprəʊˌvaɪrəs) *n* the inactive form of a virus in a host cell

provision (prəˈvɪʒən) *n* **1** the act of supplying or providing food, etc **2** something that is supplied or provided **3** preparations made beforehand (esp in the phrase **make provision for**) **4** (*plural*) food and other necessities, esp for an expedition **5** (*plural*) food obtained for a household **6** a demand, condition, or stipulation formally incorporated in a document; proviso **7** the conferring of and induction into ecclesiastical offices > *vb* **8** (*tr*) to supply with provisions > **proˈvisioner** *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C14: from Latin *prōvīsiō* a providing; see PROVIDE

provisional (prəˈvɪʒənᵊl) *or* (*less commonly*) **provisionary** (prəˈvɪʒənərɪ) *adj* **1** subject to later alteration; temporary or conditional: *a provisional decision* > *n* **2** a postage stamp surcharged during an emergency to alter the stamp's denomination or significance until a new or regular issue is printed > **proˈvisionally** *adv*

Provisional (prəˈvɪʒənᵊl) *adj* **1** of, designating, or relating to the unofficial factions of the IRA and Sinn Féin that became increasingly dominant following a split in 1969. The Provisional movement remained committed to a policy of terrorism until its ceasefires of the mid-1990s > *n* **2** Also called: **Provo** a member of the Provisional IRA or Sinn Féin > Compare **Official**

proviso (prəˈvaɪzəʊ) *n*, *pl* **-sos** or **-soes** **1** a clause in a document or contract that embodies a condition or stipulation **2** a condition or stipulation

● **ETYMOLOGY** C15: from Medieval Latin phrase *prōvīsō quod* it being provided that, from Latin *prōvīsus* provided

provisory (prəˈvaɪzərɪ) *adj* **1** containing a proviso; conditional **2** another word for **provisional**

provitamin (prəʊˈvɪtəmɪn) *n* a substance, such as carotene, that is converted into a vitamin in animal tissues

Provo (ˈprəʊvəʊ) *n*, *pl* **-vos** another name for a Provisional (sense 2)

provocateur (prəˌvɒkəˈtɜː) *n* a person who deliberately behaves controversially in order to provoke argument or other strong reactions

provocation (ˌprɒvəˈkeɪʃən) *n* **1** the act of provoking or inciting **2** something that causes indignation, anger, etc **3** *English criminal law* words or conduct that incite a person to attack another

provocative (prəˈvɒkətɪv) *adj* acting as a stimulus or incitement, esp to anger or sexual desire; provoking: *a provocative look*; *a provocative remark* > **proˈvocatively** *adv* > **proˈvocativeness** *n*

provoke (prəˈvəʊk) *vb* (*tr*) **1** to anger or infuriate **2** to cause to act or behave in a certain manner; incite or stimulate **3** to promote (certain feelings, esp anger, indignation, etc) in a person **4** *obsolete* to summon > **proˈvoking** *adj* > **proˈvokingly** *adv*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C15: from Latin *prōvocāre* to call forth, from *vocāre* to call

provolone (ˌprəʊvəˈləʊnɪ) *n* a mellow, pale yellow, soft, and sometimes smoked cheese, made of cows' milk: usually moulded in the shape of a pear

● **ETYMOLOGY** Italian, from *provola*, apparently from Medieval Latin *probula* cheese made from buffalo milk

provost (ˈprɒvəst) *n* **1** an appointed person who superintends or presides **2** the head of certain university colleges or schools **3** (in Scotland) the chairman and civic head of certain district councils or (formerly) of a burgh council. Compare **convener** (sense 2) **4** *Church of England* the senior dignitary of one of the more recent cathedral foundations **5** *RC Church* **a** the head of a cathedral chapter in England and some other countries **b** (formerly) the member of a monastic community second in authority under the abbot **6** (in medieval times) an overseer, steward, or bailiff in a manor **7** *obsolete* a prison warder **8** (prəʊˈvəʊ) *Brit and Canadian military* a military policeman

● **ETYMOLOGY** Old English *profost*, from Medieval Latin *prāpositus* placed at the head (of), from Latin *praepōnere* to place first, from *prae-* before + *pōnere* to put

provost court (prəˈvəʊ) *n* a military court for trying people charged with minor offences in an occupied area

provost guard (prəˈvəʊ) *n* (esp in the US) a detachment under command of the provost marshal

provost marshal (prəˈvəʊ) *n* the officer in charge of military police and thus responsible for military discipline in a large camp, area, or city

prow (praʊ) *n* the bow of a vessel

● **ETYMOLOGY** C16: from Old French *proue*, from Latin *prora*, from Greek *prōra*; related to Latin *prō* in front

prowar (ˈpraʊˈwɔː) *adj* in favour of or supporting war

prowess (ˈpraʊɪs) *n* **1** outstanding or superior skill or ability **2** bravery or fearlessness, esp in battle

● **ETYMOLOGY** C13: from Old French *proesce*, from *prou* good; see PROUD

prowl (praʊl) *vb* **1** (when *intr*, often foll by *around* or *about*) to move stealthily around (a place) as if in search of prey or plunder > *n* **2** the act of prowling **3** on the prowl **a** moving around stealthily **b** zealously pursuing members of the opposite sex > **ˈprowler** *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C14: *prollen*, of unknown origin

prox. *abbreviation* proximo (next month)

proxemics (prɒkˈsiːmɪks) *n* (*functioning as singular*) the study of spatial interrelationships in humans or in populations of animals of the same species

Proxima (ˈprɒksɪmə) *n* a flare star in the constellation Centaurus that is the nearest star to the sun. It is a red dwarf of very low magnitude. Distance: 4.3 light years. Also called: **Proxima Centauri**. See also **Rigil Kent**

proximal (ˈprɒksɪməl) *adj* **1** *anatomy* situated close to the centre, median line, or point of attachment or origin. Compare **distal** **2** another word for **proximate** > **ˈproximally** *adv*

proximate (ˈprɒksɪmɪt) or **proximal** *adj* **1** next or nearest in space or time **2** very near; close **3** immediately preceding or following in a series **4** a less common word for **approximate** > **ˈproximately** *adv* > **ˌproximateness** *n* > **ˌproxiˈmation** *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C16: from Late Latin *proximāre* to draw near, from Latin *proximus* next, from *prope* near

proxime accessit (ˈprɒksɪmɪ ækˈsesɪt) *n* the person coming next after the winner in a competitive examination or an academic prize giving; runner-up

● **ETYMOLOGY** Latin; he came next

proximity (prɒkˈsɪmɪtɪ) *n* **1** nearness in space or time **2** nearness or closeness in a series

● **ETYMOLOGY** C15: from Latin *proximitās* closeness; see PROXIMATE

proximity fuse *n* an electronically triggered device designed to detonate an explosive charge in a

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missile, etc, at a predetermined distance from the target

proximity talks *pl n* a diplomatic process whereby an impartial representative acts as go-between for two opposing parties who are willing to attend the same conference but unwilling to meet face to face

proximo ('prɒksɪməʊ) *adv* (esp abbreviated in formal correspondence) in or during the next or coming month: *a letter of the seventh proximo* Abbreviation: prox. Compare: instant, ultimo

•ETYMOLOGY C19: from Latin: in or on the next, from *proximus* next

proxy ('prɒksɪ) *n, pl* **proxies** **1** a person authorized to act on behalf of someone else; agent: *to vote by proxy* **2** the authority, esp in the form of a document, given to a person to act on behalf of someone else **3** *computing* short for **proxy server**

•ETYMOLOGY C15: *prokesye*, contraction of *procuracy*, from Latin *prōcūrātiō* procuration; see PROCURE

proxy server *n computing* a computer that acts as an intermediary between a client machine and a server, caching information to save access time

Prozac ('prəʊzæk) *n trademark* fluoxetine; a drug that prolongs the action of serotonin in the brain; used as an antidepressant

PRP *abbreviation* **1** performance-related pay **2** profit-related pay

prs *abbreviation* pairs

PRT *abbreviation* **1** *text messaging* party **2** personal rapid transit **3** petroleum revenue tax

prude (pruːd) *n* a person who affects or shows an excessively modest, prim, or proper attitude, esp regarding sex > **'prudish** *adj* > **'prudishly** *adv* > **'prudishness** or **'prudery** *n*

•ETYMOLOGY C18: from French, from *prudefemme*, from Old French *prode femme* respectable woman; see PROUD

prudence ('pruːdəns) *n* **1** caution in practical affairs; discretion or circumspection **2** care taken in the management of one's resources **3** consideration for one's own interests **4** the condition or quality of being prudent

prudent ('pruːdᵊnt) *adj* **1** discreet or cautious in managing one's activities; circumspect **2** practical and careful in providing for the future **3** exercising good judgment or common sense > **'prudently** *adv*

•ETYMOLOGY C14: from Latin *prūdēns* far-sighted, contraction of *prōvidēns* acting with foresight; see PROVIDENT

prudential (pruːˈdenʃəl) *adj* **1** characterized by or resulting from prudence **2** exercising prudence or sound judgment > **pruˈdentially** *adv*

pruinose ('pruːɪˌnəʊs, -ˌnəʊz) *adj botany* coated with a powdery or waxy bloom

•ETYMOLOGY C19: from Latin *pruīnōsus* frost-covered, from *pruīna* hoarfrost

prune[1] (pruːn) *n* **1** a purplish-black partially dried fruit of any of several varieties of plum tree **2** *slang chiefly Brit* a dull, uninteresting, or foolish person

•ETYMOLOGY C14: from Old French *prune*, from Latin *prūnum* plum, from Greek *prounon*

prune[2] (pruːn) *vb* **1** to remove (dead or superfluous twigs, branches, etc) from (a tree, shrub, etc), esp by cutting off **2** to remove (anything undesirable or superfluous) from (a book, etc) > **'prunable** *adj* > **'pruner** *n*

•ETYMOLOGY C15: from Old French *proignier* to clip, probably from *provigner* to prune vines, from *provain* layer (of a plant), from Latin *propāgo* a cutting

prune[3] (pruːn) *vb* an archaic word for **preen**[1]

prunella[1] (pruːˈnelə), **prunelle** (pruːˈnel), *or* **prunello** (pruːˈnelәʊ) *n* a strong fabric, esp a twill-weave worsted, used for gowns and the uppers of some shoes

•ETYMOLOGY C17: perhaps from PRUNELLE, with reference to the colour of the cloth

prunella[2] (pruːˈnelə) *n* See **selfheal**

•ETYMOLOGY New Latin, altered from *brunella*, from German *Braüne* quinsy, which it was thought to cure

prunelle (pruːˈnel) *n* a green French liqueur made from sloes

•ETYMOLOGY C18: from French: a little plum, from *prune* PRUNE[1]

pruning hook *n* a tool with a curved steel blade terminating in a hook, used for pruning

prurient ('prʊərɪənt) *adj* **1** unusually or morbidly interested in sexual thoughts or practices **2** exciting or encouraging lustfulness; erotic > **'prurience** *n* > **'pruriently** *adv*

•ETYMOLOGY C17: from Latin *prūrīre* to itch, to lust after

prurigo (prʊəˈraɪgəʊ) *n* a chronic inflammatory disease of the skin characterized by the formation of papules and intense itching > **pruriginous** (prʊəˈrɪdʒɪnəs) *adj*

•ETYMOLOGY C19: from Latin: an itch

pruritus (prʊəˈraɪtəs) *n pathol* **1** any intense sensation of itching **2** any of various conditions characterized by intense itching > **pruritic** (prʊəˈrɪtɪk) *adj*

•ETYMOLOGY C17: from Latin: an itching; see PRURIENT

prusik ('prʊsɪk) *n mountaineering* **1** Also: **prusik knot** a sliding knot that locks under pressure and can be used to form a loop (**prusik loop**) in which a climber can place his foot in order to stand or ascend a rope ▷ *vb* **-siks, -siking, -siked** (*intr*) **2** to climb (up a standing rope) using prusik loops

•ETYMOLOGY C20: named after Dr *Prusik*, Austrian climber who devised the knot

Prussia ('prʌʃə) *n* a former German state in N and central Germany, extending from France and the Low Countries to the Baltic Sea and Poland: developed as the chief military power of the Continent, leading the North German Confederation from 1867–71, when the German Empire was established; dissolved in 1947 and divided between East and West Germany, Poland, and the former Soviet Union. Area: (in 1939) 294 081 sq km (113 545 sq miles). German name: **Preussen**

Prussian ('prʌʃən) *adj* **1** of, relating to, or characteristic of Prussia or its people, esp of the Junkers and their formal military tradition ▷ *n* **2** a German native or inhabitant of Prussia **3** a member of a Baltic people formerly inhabiting the coastal area of the SE Baltic **4** See **Old Prussian**

Prussian blue *n* **1** any of a number of blue pigments containing ferrocyanide or ferricyanide complexes **2** a the blue or deep greenish-blue colour of this pigment **b** (*as adjective*): *a Prussian-blue carpet*

Prussianism ('prʌʃəˌnɪzəm) *n* the ethos of the Prussian state and aristocracy, esp militarism and stern discipline

Prussianize *or* **Prussianise** ('prʌʃəˌnaɪz) *vb* (*tr*) to make Prussian in character, esp with respect to military matters > **ˌPrussianiˈzation** *or* **ˌPrussianˈisation** *n*

prussiate ('prʌʃɪɪt) *n* any cyanide, ferrocyanide, or ferricyanide

prussic acid ('prʌsɪk) *n* the weakly acidic extremely poisonous aqueous solution of hydrogen cyanide

•ETYMOLOGY C18: from French *acide prussique* Prussian acid, so called because obtained from Prussian blue

Prut (*Russian* prut) *n* a river in E Europe, rising in SW Ukraine and flowing generally southeast, forming part of the border between Romania and Moldova, to join the River Danube. Length: 853 km (530 miles)

PRW *text messaging abbreviation* parents are watching

pry[1] (praɪ) *vb* **pries, prying, pried** **1** (*intr*; often foll by *into*) to make an impertinent or uninvited inquiry (about a private matter, topic, etc) ▷ *n, pl* **pries** **2** the act of prying **3** a person who pries

•ETYMOLOGY C14: of unknown origin

pry[2] (praɪ) *vb* **pries, prying, pried** **1** to force open by levering **2** *US and Canadian* to extract or obtain with difficulty: *they had to pry the news out of him*
▸ Equivalent term (in Britain and other countries): **prise**

•ETYMOLOGY C14: of unknown origin

pryer ('praɪə) *n* a variant spelling of **prier**

prytaneum (ˌprɪtəˈniːəm) *n, pl* **-nea** (-ˈniːə) the public hall of a city in ancient Greece

•ETYMOLOGY Latin, from Greek *prutaneion*, from *prutanis*, *prutaneus*

Przemyśl (Polish ˈpʃɛmɨɕl) *n* a city in SE Poland, near the border with Ukraine on the San River: a fortress in the early Middle Ages; belonged to Austria (1722–1918). Pop: 66 968 (2007 est)

Przewalski's horse (pəʒəˈvælskɪz) *n* a wild horse, *Equus przewalskii*, of W Mongolia, having an erect mane and no forelock: extinct in the wild, only a few survive in captivity

•ETYMOLOGY C19: named after the Russian explorer Nikolai Mikhallovich *Przewalski* (1839–88), who discovered it

ps *the internet domain name for* Palestinian Territories

PS *abbreviation* **1** Passenger Steamer **2** phrase structure **3** Police Sergeant **4** Also: **ps** postscript **5** private secretary **6** prompt side

Ps. *or* **Psa.** Bible *abbreviation* Psalm

PSA *abbreviation* **1** prostatic specific antigen: an enzyme secreted by the prostate gland, increased levels of which are found in the blood of patients with cancer of the prostate **2** (in New Zealand) Public Service Association

psalm (sɑːm) *n* **1** (*often capital*) any of the 150 sacred songs, lyric poems, and prayers that together constitute a book (Psalms) of the Old Testament **2** a musical setting of one of these poems **3** any sacred song or hymn > **ˈpsalmic** *adj*

•ETYMOLOGY Old English, from Late Latin *psalmus*, from Greek *psalmos* song accompanied on the harp, from *psallein* to play (the harp)

psalmist ('sɑːmɪst) *n* the composer of a psalm or psalms, esp (when *capital* and preceded by *the*) David, traditionally regarded as the author of The Book of Psalms

psalmody ('sɑːmədɪ, 'sæl-) *n, pl* **-dies** **1** the act of singing psalms or hymns **2** the art or practice of the setting to music or singing of psalms > **ˈpsalmodist** *n* > **psalmodic** (sɑːˈmɒdɪk, sæl-) *adj*

•ETYMOLOGY C14: via Late Latin from Greek *psalmōdia* singing accompanied by a harp, from *psalmos* (see PSALM) + *ōidē* ODE

Psalms (sɑːmz) *n* (*functioning as singular*) the collection of 150 psalms in the Old Testament. Full title: **The Book of Psalms**

Psalter ('sɔːltə) *n* **1** another name for Psalms, esp in the version in the Book of Common Prayer **2** a translation, musical, or metrical version of the Psalms **3** a devotional or liturgical book containing a version of Psalms, often with a musical setting

•ETYMOLOGY Old English *psaltere*, from Late Latin *psaltērium*, from Greek *psaltērion* stringed instrument, from *psallein* to play a stringed instrument

psalterium (sɔːlˈtɪərɪəm) *n, pl* **-teria** (-ˈtɪərɪə) the third compartment of the stomach of ruminants, between the reticulum and abomasum. Also called: **omasum**

•ETYMOLOGY C19: from Latin *psaltērium* PSALTER; from the similarity of its folds to the pages of a book

psaltery ('sɔːltərɪ) *n, pl* **-teries** *music* an ancient stringed instrument similar to the lyre, but having a trapezoidal sounding board over which the strings are stretched

•ETYMOLOGY Old English: see PSALTER

psammite ('sæmaɪt) *n* a rare name for **sandstone** > **psammitic** (sæˈmɪtɪk) *adj*

•ETYMOLOGY C19: from Greek *psammos* sand

p's and q's *pl n* behaviour within social conventions; manners (esp in the phrase *to mind one's p's and q's*)

•ETYMOLOGY altered from *p(lea)se and (than)k-you's*

PSBR *abbreviation* (in Britain) public sector borrowing requirement: the excess of government expenditure over receipts (mainly from taxation) that has to be financed by borrowing from the banks or the public

psephite ('siːfaɪt) *n* any rock, such as a breccia, that consists of large fragments embedded in a finer matrix > **psephitic** (siːˈfɪtɪk) *adj*

•ETYMOLOGY C19: via French from Greek *psēphos* a pebble

psephology (seˈfɒlədʒɪ) *n* the statistical and sociological study of elections > **psephological** (ˌseɪfəˈlɒdʒɪkᵊl) *adj* > **pseˈphologically** *adv* > **pseˈphologist** *n*

•ETYMOLOGY C20: from Greek *psephos* pebble, vote + -LOGY, from the ancient Greeks' custom of voting with pebbles

P

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transportation (ˌtrænspɔːˈteɪʃən) *n* **1** a means or system of transporting **2** the act of transporting or the state of being transported **3** (esp formerly) deportation to a penal colony **4** *chiefly US* a ticket or fare

transport café *n Brit* an inexpensive eating place on a main route, used mainly by long-distance lorry drivers

transporter bridge *n* a bridge consisting of a movable platform suspended from cables, for transporting vehicles, etc, across a body of water

transpose (trænsˈpəʊz) *vb* **1** (*tr*) to alter the positions of; interchange, as words in a sentence; put into a different order **2** *music* **a** to play (notes, music, etc) in a different key from that originally intended **b** to move (a note or series of notes) upwards or downwards in pitch **3** (*tr*) *maths* to move (a term) from one side of an equation to the other with a corresponding reversal in sign ▷ *n* **4** *maths* the matrix resulting from interchanging the rows and columns of a given matrix > **transˈposable** *adj* > **transˌposaˈbility** *n* > **transˈposal** *n* > **transˈposer** *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C14: from Old French *transposer*, from Latin *transpōnere* to remove, from TRANS- + *pōnere* to place

transposing instrument *n* a musical instrument, esp a horn or clarinet, pitched in a key other than C major, but whose music is written down as if its basic scale were C major. A piece of music in the key of F intended to be played on a horn pitched in F is therefore written down a fourth lower than an ordinary part in that key and has the same key signature as a part written in C

transposition (ˌtrænspəˈzɪʃən) *n* **1** the act of transposing or the state of being transposed **2** something transposed > **transpoˈsitional** or **transpositive** (trænsˈpɒzɪtɪv) *adj*

transposon (trænsˈpəʊzɒn) *n genetics* a genetic element that can move from one site in a chromosome to another site in the same or a different chromosome and thus alter the genetic constitution of the organism

● **ETYMOLOGY** C20: from TRANSPOS(E) + -ON

transputer (trænzˈpjuːtə) *n computing* a type of fast, powerful microchip that is the equivalent of a 32-bit microprocessor with its own RAM facility

● **ETYMOLOGY** C20: from TRANS(ISTOR) + (COM)PUTER

transsexual *or* **transexual** (trænzˈsɛksjʊəl) *n* **1** a person who permanently acts the part of and completely identifies with the opposite sex **2** a person who has undergone medical and surgical procedures to alter external sexual characteristics to those of the opposite sex

transsexualism *or* **transexualism** (trænzˈsɛksjʊəˌlɪzəm) *n* a strong desire to change sex

transship (trænsˈʃɪp) *or* **tranship** *vb* **-ships, -shipping, -shipped** to transfer or be transferred from one vessel or vehicle to another > **transˈshipment** *or* **tranˈshipment** *n*

Trans-Siberian Railway *n* a railway in S Russia, extending from Moscow to Vladivostok on the Pacific: constructed between 1891 and 1916, making possible the settlement and industrialization of sparsely inhabited regions. Length: 9335 km (5800 miles)

transubstantiate (ˌtrænsəbˈstænʃɪˌeɪt) *vb* **1** (*intr*) RC *theol* (of the Eucharistic bread and wine) to undergo transubstantiation **2** (*tr*) to change (one substance) into another; transmute > ˌ**transubˈstantial** *adj* > ˌ**transubˈstantially** *adv*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C16: from Medieval Latin *transsubstantiāre*, from Latin TRANS- + *substantia* SUBSTANCE

transubstantiation (ˌtrænsəbˌstænʃɪˈeɪʃən) *n* **1** (esp in Roman Catholic theology) **a** the doctrine that the whole substance of the bread and wine changes into the substance of the body and blood of Christ when consecrated in the Eucharist **b** the mystical process by which this is believed to take place during consecration. Compare **consubstantiation** **2** a substantial change; transmutation > ˌ**transubˌstantiˈationalist** *n*

transudate (ˈtrænsjʊˌdeɪt) *n* **1** *physiol* any fluid without a high protein content that passes through a membrane, esp through the wall of a capillary. Compare **exudation** (sense 2) **2** anything that has been transuded

transude (trænˈsjuːd) *vb* (of a fluid) to ooze or pass through interstices, pores, or small holes > **transudation** (ˌtrænsjʊˈdeɪʃən) *n* > **tranˈsudatory** *adj*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C17: from New Latin *transūdāre*, from Latin TRANS- + *sūdāre* to sweat

transuranic (ˌtrænzjʊˈrænɪk), **transuranian** (ˌtrænzjʊˈreɪnɪən), *or* **transuranium** (trænzjʊˈreɪnɪəm) *adj* **1** (of an element) having an atomic number greater than that of uranium **2** of, relating to, or having the behaviour of transuranic elements

● **ETYMOLOGY** C20: from TRANS- + *uranic*, from URANIUM

Transvaal (trænzˈvɑːl) *n* former province of NE South Africa: colonized by the Boers after the Great Trek (1836); became a British colony in 1902; joined South Africa in 1910; replaced in 1994 for administrative purposes by a new system of provinces (Eastern Transvaal (later Mpumalanga), Northern Transvaal (later Limpopo), Gauteng, and North West province). Capital: Pretoria

Transvaaler (ˌtrænzˈvɑːlə) *n* a native or inhabitant of the former South African province of Transvaal

Transvaalian (trænzˈvɑːlɪən) *adj* of or relating to the former South African province of Transvaal or its inhabitants

transvaginal (ˌtrænzvəˈdʒaɪnəl, ˌtrænzˈvædʒɪnəl) *adj* through or via the vagina: *transvaginal ultrasound*

transvalue (trænzˈvæljuː) *vb* **-ues, -uing, -ued** (*tr*) to evaluate by a principle that varies from the accepted standards > **transˌvaluˈation** *n* > **transˈvaluer** *n*

transversal (trænzˈvɜːsᵊl) *n* **1** *geometry* a line intersecting two or more other lines ▷ *adj* **2** a less common word for **transverse** > **transˈversally** *adv*

transverse (trænzˈvɜːs) *adj* **1** crossing from side to side; athwart; crossways **2** *geometry* denoting the axis that passes through the foci of a hyperbola **3** (of a flute, etc) held almost at right angles to the player's mouth, so that the breath passes over a hole in the side to create a vibrating air column within the tube of the instrument **4** *astronomy* another word for **tangential** (sense 2) ▷ *n* **5** a transverse piece or object > **transˈversely** *adv* > **transˈverseness** *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C16: from Latin *transversus*, from *transvertere* to turn across, from TRANS- + *vertere* to turn

transverse colon *n anatomy* the part of the large intestine passing transversely in front of the liver and stomach

transverse flute *n* the normal orchestral flute, as opposed to the recorder (or fipple flute)

transverse process *n anatomy* either of the projections that arise from either side of a vertebra and provide articulation for the ribs

transverse wave *n* a wave, such as an electromagnetic wave, that is propagated in a direction perpendicular to the direction of displacement of the transmitting field or medium. Compare **longitudinal wave**

transverter (trænzˈvɜːtə) *n* a piece of equipment attached to a radio transceiver to enable it to transmit and receive on additional frequencies

transvestite (trænzˈvestaɪt) *n* a person who seeks sexual pleasure from wearing clothes that are normally associated with the opposite sex > **transˈvestism** *or* **transˈvestitism** *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C19: from German *Transvestit*, from TRANS- + Latin *vestītus* clothed, from *vestīre* to clothe

Transylvania (ˌtrænsɪlˈveɪnɪə) *n* a region of central and NW Romania: belonged to Hungary from the 11th century until 1918; restored to Romania in 1947

Transylvanian Alps (ˌtrænsɪlˈveɪnɪən) *pl n* a mountain range in S Romania; a SW extension of the Carpathian Mountains. Highest peak: Mount Negoiu, 2548 m (8360 ft)

trap[1] (træp) *n* **1** a mechanical device or enclosed place or pit in which something, esp an animal, is caught or penned **2** any device or plan for tricking a person or thing into being caught unawares **3** anything resembling a trap or prison **4** a fitting for a pipe in the form of a U-shaped or S-shaped bend that contains standing water to prevent the passage of gases **5** any similar device **6** a device that hurls clay pigeons into the air to be fired at by trapshooters **7** any one of a line of booklike stalls in which greyhounds are enclosed before the start of a race **8** See **trap door** **9** a light two-wheeled carriage **10** a slang word for **mouth** **11** *golf* an obstacle or hazard, esp a bunker **12** (*plural*) *jazz slang* percussion instruments **13** (*usually plural*) *Austral obsolete, slang* a policeman ▷ *vb* **traps, trapping, trapped** **14** (*tr*) to catch, take, or pen in or as if in a trap; entrap **15** (*tr*) to ensnare by trickery; trick **16** (*tr*) to provide (a pipe) with a trap **17** to set traps in (a place), esp for animals > ˈ**trapˌlike** *adj*

● **ETYMOLOGY** Old English *træppe*; related to Middle Low German *trappe*, Medieval Latin *trappa*

trap[2] (træp) *n* **1** an obsolete word for **trappings** (sense 2) ▷ *vb* **traps, trapping, trapped** **2** (*tr*; often foll by *out*) to dress or adorn ▷ See also **traps**

● **ETYMOLOGY** C11: probably from Old French *drap* cloth

trap[3] (træp) *or* **traprock** *n* **1** any fine-grained often columnar dark igneous rock, esp basalt **2** any rock in which oil or gas has accumulated

● **ETYMOLOGY** C18: from Swedish *trappa* stair (from its steplike formation); see TRAP[2]

trapan (traˈpæn) *vb* **-pans, -panning, -panned,** *n* a variant spelling of **trepan**[1] (sense 2) > traˈpanner *n*

Trapani (*Italian* ˈtrapani) *n* a port in S Italy, in NW Sicily: Carthaginian naval base, ceded to the Romans after the First Punic War. Pop: 68 346 (2001)

trap door *n* **1** a door or flap flush with and covering an opening, esp in a ceiling **2** the opening so covered

trap-door spider *n* any of various spiders of the family *Ctenizidae* that construct a silk-lined hole in the ground closed by a hinged door of earth and silk

trapes (treɪps) *vb, n* a less common spelling of **traipse**

trapeze (traˈpiːz) *n* **1** a free-swinging bar attached to two ropes, used by circus acrobats, etc **2** a sling like a bosun's chair at one end of a line attached to the masthead of a light racing sailing boat, used in sitting out

● **ETYMOLOGY** C19: from French *trapèze*, from New Latin; see TRAPEZIUM

trapeziform (traˈpiːzɪˌfɔːm) *adj rare* shaped like a trapezium: *a trapeziform part*

trapezium (traˈpiːzɪəm) *n, pl* **-ziums** *or* **-zia** (-zɪə) **1** *chiefly Brit* a quadrilateral having two parallel sides of unequal length. Usual US and Canadian name: **trapezoid** **2** *chiefly US and Canadian* a quadrilateral having neither pair of sides parallel **3** a small bone of the wrist near the base of the thumb > traˈpezial *adj*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C16: via Late Latin from Greek *trapezion*, from *trapeza* table

trapezius (traˈpiːzɪəs) *n, pl* **-uses** either of two flat triangular muscles, one covering each side of the back and shoulders, that rotate the shoulder blades

● **ETYMOLOGY** C18: from New Latin *trapezius (musculus)* trapezium-shaped (muscle)

trapezohedron (traˌpiːzəʊˈhiːdrən) *n, pl* **-drons** *or* **-dra** (-drə) *crystallog* a crystal form in which all the crystal's faces are trapeziums > **traˌpezoˈhedral** *adj*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C19: from *trapezo-* combining form of TRAPEZIUM + -HEDRON, on the model of TETRAHEDRON

trapezoid (ˈtræpɪˌzɔɪd) *n* **1** a quadrilateral having neither pair of sides parallel **2** Also called: (Brit, Austral., NZ, and South African) **trapezium** *US and Canadian* a quadrilateral having two parallel sides of unequal length **3** a small bone of the wrist near the base of the index finger

● **ETYMOLOGY** C18: from New Latin *trapezoidēs*, from Late Greek *trapezoeidēs* trapezium-shaped, from *trapeza* table

trapezoid rule *n* a rule for estimating the area of an irregular figure, by dividing it into parallel strips of equal width, each strip being a trapezium. It can also be adapted to obtaining an approximate value of a definite integral

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