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Eleventh Edition

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place in doubt, perplexity, or difficulties **b** : to involve in financial difficulties **c** : to cause to experience a state of self-conscious distress (bawdy stories ~ed him) **2 a** : to hamper the movement of **b** : HINDER, IMPEDE **3** : to make intricate : COMPLICATE **4** : to impair the activity of (a bodily function) or the function of (a bodily part) (digestion ~ed by overeating) ~ *vt* : to become anxiously self-conscious (he ~es easily) — **em-bar-rass-able** \ə-sə-bəl/ *adj*

syn EMBARRASS, DISCOMFIT, ABASH, DISCONCERT, RATTLE mean to distress by confusing or confounding. EMBARRASS implies some influence that impedes thought, speech, or action (embarrassed to admit that she liked the movie). DISCOMFIT implies a hampering or frustrating accompanied by confusion (hecklers discomfited the speaker). ABASH presupposes some initial self-confidence that receives a sudden check, producing shyness, shame, or a feeling of inferiority (abashed by her swift and cutting retort). DISCONCERT implies an upsetting of equanimity or assurance producing uncertainty or hesitancy (disconcerted by finding so many in attendance). RATTLE implies an agitation that impairs thought and judgment (rattled by all the television cameras).

em-bar-rased-ly \ə-st-lē, ə-səd-lē/ *adv* (1883) : with embarrassment
em-bar-rass-ing-ly \ə-siŋ-lē/ *adv* (ca. 1864) : to an embarrassing degree : so as to cause embarrassment (an ~ messy house)

em-bar-rass-ment \im-ber-ə-smənt, -bə-rəs-/ *n* (1729) **1 a** : something that embarrasses (the scandal was a major ~) **b** : an excessive quantity from which to select — used esp. in the phrase *embarrassment of riches* **2** : the state of being embarrassed : as **a** : confusion or disturbance of mind (couldn't hide her ~) **b** : difficulty arising from the want of money to pay debts **c** : difficulty in functioning as a result of disease (cardiac ~)

em-bas-sage \em-ba-sij/ *n* (1526) **1** : the message or commission entrusted to an ambassador **2** *archaic* : EMBASSY

em-bas-sy \em-ba-sē/ *n*, *pl* -sies [MF *ambassee*, ultim. of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *ambah* service] (1534) **1** : a body of diplomatic representatives; *specif* : one headed by an ambassador **2 a** : the function or position of an ambassador **b** : a mission abroad undertaken officially esp. by an ambassador **3** : EMBASSAGE **4** : the official residence and offices of an ambassador

em-bat-tle \im-ba-tl/ *vt* **em-bat-tled**; **em-bat-tling** \-bat-ling, -tliŋ/ [ME *embataillen*, fr. AF *embatailler*, fr. *en- + batailler* to battle] (14c) **1** : to arrange in order of battle : prepare for battle **2** : FORTIFY

embattled *adj* (15c) **1 a** : ready to fight : prepared to give battle (here once the ~ farmers stood — R. W. Emerson) **b** : engaged in battle, conflict, or controversy (an ~ official accused of extortion) **2 a** : being a site of battle, conflict, or controversy (the ~ capital) **b** : characterized by conflict or controversy (an ~ presidency)

em-bat-tle-ment \-ba-tl-mənt/ *n* (15c) **1** : BATTLEMENT **2** : the state of being embattled

em-bay \im-bā/ *vt* (1582) : to trap or catch in or as if in a bay (an ~ed sailing ship)

em-bay-ment \-bā-mənt/ *n* (1815) **1** : formation of a bay **2** : a bay or a conformation resembling a bay

Em-b-den \em-dən/ *n* [Emden, Germany] (1903) : any of a breed of large white domestic geese with an orange bill and deep orange shanks and toes

em-bed also im-bed \im-bəd/ *vb* **em-bed-ded also im-bed-ded**; **em-bed-ding also im-bed-ding** *vt* (ca. 1794) **1 a** : to enclose closely in or as if in a matrix (fossils embedded in stone) **b** : to make something an integral part of (the prejudices embedded in our language) **c** : to prepare (a microscopy specimen) for sectioning by infiltrating with and enclosing in a supporting substance **2** : to surround closely (a sweet pulp ~s the plum seed) ~ *vi* : to become embedded — **em-bed-ment** \-bəd-mənt/ *n*

em-bed-ded \im-bəd-dəd/ *adj* (1961) : occurring as a grammatical constituent (as a verb phrase or clause) within a like constituent — **em-bed-ding** \-diŋ/ *n*

em-bel-lish \im-be-lish/ *vt* [ME, fr. AF *embeliss*, stem of *embelir*, fr. *en- + bel* beautiful — more at BEAUTY] (14c) **1** : to make beautiful with ornamentation : DECORATE (a book ~ed with illustrations) **2** : to heighten the attractiveness of by adding decorative or fanciful details : ENHANCE (ed our account of the trip) **syn** see ADORN — **em-bel-lish-er** *n*

em-bel-lish-ment \-lish-mənt/ *n* (1591) **1** : the act or process of embellishing **2** : something serving to embellish **3** : ORNAMENT

em-ber \em-bər/ *n* [ME *eymere*, fr. ON *eymyrja*; akin to OE *æmyrgan* ashes, *l. urere* to burn] (14c) **1** : a glowing fragment (as of coal) from a fire; *esp* : one smoldering in ashes **2 pl** : the smoldering remains of a fire **3 pl** : slowly dying or fading emotions, memories, ideas, or responses still capable of being revived (the ~s of his past)

ember day \em-bər-/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *ymbrendæg*, fr. *ymbrene* circuit, anniversary + *dæg* day] (bef. 12c) : a Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday following the first Sunday in Lent, Whitsunday, September 14, or December 13 set apart for fasting and prayer in Western churches

em-bez-zle \im-be-zəl, em-/ *vt* **em-bez-zled**; **em-bez-zling** \-(ə-)liŋ/ [ME *embesillen*, fr. AF *embesiller* to make away with, fr. *en- + besiller* to steal, plunder] (15c) : to appropriate (as property entrusted to one's care) fraudulently to one's own use (embezzled thousands of dollars) — **em-bez-zle-ment** \-zəl-mənt/ *n* — **em-bez-zler** \-(ə-)lər/ *n*

em-bit-ter \im-bi-tər/ *vt* (15c) **1** : to excite bitter feelings in (ed by divorce) **2** : to make bitter — **em-bit-ter-ment** \-mənt/ *n*

em-blaze \im-blāz/ *vt* **em-blazed**; **em-blaz-ing** \-(ə-)liŋ/ (15c) **1** : to illuminate esp. by a blaze **2** : to set ablaze

2 **em-blaze** *vt* **em-blazed**; **em-blaz-ing** \-(ə-)liŋ/ (1593) **1** *archaic* : EMBLAZON **2** : to adorn sumptuously (with gems and golden luster rich emblazed — John Milton)

em-bla-zon \im-blā-zən/ *vt* **em-bla-zoned**; **em-bla-zon-ing** \-blā-ziŋ, -blā-zən-iŋ/ (1589) **1 a** : to inscribe or adorn with or as if with heraldic bearings or devices **b** : to inscribe (as heraldic bearings) on a surface **2** : CELEBRATE, EXTOL (have his ~ deeds ~ed by a poet — Thomas Nash) — **em-bla-zon-er** \-blā-zən-ər, -zən-ər/ *n* — **em-bla-zon-ment** \-blā-zən-mənt/ *n*

em-bla-zon-ry \-zən-rē/ *n* (1667) **1** : emblazoned figures : brilliant decoration **2** : the act or art of emblazoning

em-blem \em-bləm/ *n* [ME, fr. L *emblemata* inlaid work, fr. Gk *emblēmatē*, *emblēma*, fr. *emballēin* to insert, fr. *en- + ballēin* to throw

— more at DEVEL] (15c) **1** : a picture with a motto or set of verses intended as a moral lesson **2** : an object or the figure of an object symbolizing and suggesting another object or an idea **3 a** : a symbolic object used as a heraldic device **b** : a device, symbol, or figure adopted and used as an identifying mark

2 **emblem** *vt* (1584) : EMBLEMATIZE

em-blem-at-ic \em-blə-ma-tik/ *also* **em-blem-at-i-cal** \-ti-kəl/ (1645) : of, relating to, or constituting an emblem : SYMBOLIC, REPRESENTATIVE — **em-blem-at-i-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē/ *adv*

em-blem-a-tize \em-blə-mə-tīz/ *vt* -tized; -tiz-ing (1615) : to represent by or as if by an emblem : SYMBOLIZE

em-ble-ments \em-blə-mən(t)s/ *n pl* [ME *emblemment*, fr. AF *emblemment*, fr. *emblaer* to sow with grain, fr. *en- + bleē* grain, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bled* fruit, growth, leaf — more at BLADE] (15c) : crops from annual cultivation legally belonging to the tenant

em-bod-i-ment \im-bā-di-mənt/ *n* (1828) **1** : one that embodies something (the ~ of all our hopes) **2** : the act of embodying : the state of being embodied

em-body \im-bā-dē/ *vt* **em-bod-ied**; **em-body-ing** (ca. 1548) **1** : give a body to (a spirit) : INCARNATE **2 a** : to deprive of spiritual **b** : to make concrete and perceptible **3** : to cause to become a body or part of a body : INCORPORATE **4** : to represent in human or animal form : PERSONIFY (men who greatly embodied the idealism of America) — A. M. Schlesinger (1917) — **em-bod-i-er** *n*

em-bold-en \im-bōl-dən/ *vt* (15c) : to instill with boldness or courage

em-bo-lic-to-my \em-ba-lek-tə-mē/ *n*, *pl* -mies (1923) : surgical removal of an embolus

em-bol-ic \em-bū-lik, im-/ *adj* (1866) : of or relating to an embolism

em-bol-is-sa-tion *Brit var* of EMBOLIZATION

em-bo-lism \em-ba-liz-m/ *n* [ME *emboisme*, fr. ML *emboismus*, Gk *embo-* (fr. *emballēin* to insert, intercalate) — more at EMBLE] (14c) **1** : the insertion of one or more days in a calendar : INTERCALATION **2 a** : the sudden obstruction of a blood vessel by an embolus : EMBOLUS — **em-bo-lis-mic** \em-ba-liz-mik/ *adj*

em-bo-li-za-tion \em-ba-lā-zā-shən/ *n* (1942) : the process or state in which a blood vessel or organ is obstructed by the lodgment of a material mass (as an embolus)

em-bo-lus \em-ba-ləs/ *n*, *pl* -li \-li/ [NL, fr. Gk *emboles* wedge-shaped object, stopper, fr. *emballēin*] (1859) : an abnormal particle (as a bubble) circulating in the blood — compare THROMBUS

em-bon-point \ā-bōn-pwā/ *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *en bon point* in good condition] (1670) : plumpness of person : STOUTNESS

em-bos-om \im-bū-zəm *also* -bū-/ *vt* (ca. 1590) **1** *archaic* : to press into or place in the bosom **2** : to shelter closely : ENCLOSE (his bones ~ed in the grove — Alexander Pope)

1 **em-boss** \im-bās, -bōs/ *vt* [ME *embosen* to become exhausted by being hunted, ultim. fr. AF *bois* woods] (14c) *archaic* : to drive (a hunted animal) to bay or to exhaustion

2 **emboss** *vt* [ME *embosen*, fr. MF *embocer*, fr. *en- + boce* boss] (15c) : to raise the surface of into bosses; *esp* : to ornament with raised ridges **2** : to raise in relief from a surface **3** : ADORN, EMBELLISH — **boss-able** \-bās-sə-bəl, -bō-/ *adj* — **em-boss-er** \-sər/ *n* — **boss-ment** \-mənt/ *n*

em-bou-chure \ām-bū-shūr, ām-bū-/ *n* [F, fr. (s') *emboucher* to put into, fr. *en- + bouche* mouth — more at DEBOUCH] (1760) **1** : the position and use of the lips, tongue, and teeth in playing a wind instrument **2** : the mouthpiece of a musical instrument

em-bour-geoise-ment \em-būrzh-wāz-mənt, ām-, ān-būrzh-mā/ *n* [F, fr. *embourgeoiser* to make bourgeois, fr. *em- + bourgeois* (1937) : a shift to bourgeois values and practices

em-bowed \im-bōd/ *adj* (15c) : bent like a bow : ARCHED

em-bow-el \im-bau(-ə)/ *vt* -eled or -elled; -el-ing or -el-ling (15c) **1** : DISEMBOWEL **2** *obs* : ENCLOSE

em-bow-er \im-bau(-ər)/ *vt* (1580) : to shelter or enclose in or as if in a bower (like a rose ~ed in its own green leaves — P. B. Shelley)

1 **em-brace** \im-brās/ *vb* **em-braced**; **em-brac-ing** [ME, fr. AF *bracer*, fr. *en- + bracc* pair of arms — more at BRACE] *v* (14c) **1** : to clasp in the arms : HUG **b** : CHERISH, LOVE **2** : ENCIRCLE, ENCLOSE **3 a** : to take up esp. readily or gladly (a cause) **b** : to avail oneself of : WELCOME (embraced the opportunity to study further) **4** : to take in or include as a part, item, or element of more inclusive whole (charity ~s all acts that contribute to human welfare) **b** : to be equivalent to (his assets embraced \$10) ~ *vi* : to participate in

embrace *syn* see ADOPT, INCLUDE — **embrace-able** \-brās-ə-bəl/ *adj* — **em-brace-ment** \-brās-mənt/ *n* — **em-brac-er** *n* — **em-brac-ing-ly** \-brā-siŋ-lē/ *adv*

2 **embrace** *n* (1592) **1** : a close encircling with the arms and pressing the chest esp. as a sign of affection : HUG **2** : GRIP, ENCIRCLEMENT (in the ~ of terror) **3** : ACCEPTANCE (her ~ of new ideas)

em-bra-ce-our \im-brā-sər/ *n* [AF *embraseour*, fr. *embraser* to set fire, fr. *en- + brase*, *brase* live coals, fr. OF *breze* — more at BRACE] (15c) : one guilty of embracery

em-brac-ery \im-brā-sərē/ *n*, *pl* -er-ies [ME, fr. AF *embraceour*] : an attempt to influence a jury corruptly

em-brac-ive \-brā-siv/ *adj* (1855) **1** : disposed to embrace **2** : INCLUSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE

em-bran-gle \im-bray-gəl/ *vb* -gled; -gling \-g(ə-)liŋ/ (en- + *brā* (squabble)] (1664) : EMBROID. — **em-bran-gle-ment** \-gəl-mənt/ *n*

em-bra-sure \im-brā-zhər/ *n* [F, fr. obs. *embraser* to widen an opening] (1702) **1** : an opening with sides flaring outward in a wall or apert of a fortification usu. for allowing the firing of cannon **2** : the opening of a door or window

em-brit-tle \im-bri-tl/ *vb* -brit-tled; -brit-tling \-brit-liŋ, -tliŋ/ (1902) : to make brittle ~ *vi* : to become brittle — **em-brit-tle-ment** \-bri-tl-mənt/ *n*

em-bro-ca-tion \em-brā-kā-shən/ *n* [ME *embrocacion*, fr. MF *brocacion*, fr. ML *embrocation-*, *embrocato*, fr. LL *embrocato* with lotion, fr. Gk *embroche* lotion, fr. *en- + brechein* to wet] : LINIMENT

em-broi-der \im-brōi-dər/ *vb* **em-broi-dered**; **em-broi-der-ing** \-d(ə-)riŋ/ [alter. of ME *embroderen*, fr. AF *embrouder*, fr. *en- + der*, *brouder* to embroider, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *brod* point, bristle] (14c) **1 a** : to ornament with needlework **b** : to form

