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ore *n.* a naturally occurring material from which a metal or valuable mineral can be extracted.

– ORIGIN Old English, 'unwrought metal'.

oregano /o-ri-gah-noh/ *n.* a plant whose leaves are used as a herb in cookery.

– ORIGIN Spanish.

organ *n.* **1** a part of an animal or plant that has a particular function, for example the heart. **2** a large musical keyboard instrument with rows of pipes supplied with air from bellows. **3** a smaller keyboard instrument producing sounds electronically. **4** a newspaper or journal which puts forward the views of a political party or movement.

■ **organist** *n.*

– ORIGIN Greek *organon* 'tool, organ'.

organdie /or-guhn-di/ (US also **organdy**) *n.* a fine, semi-transparent, stiff cotton muslin.

– ORIGIN French *organdi*.

organelle /or-guh-nel/ *n.* a specialized structure within a cell.

– ORIGIN Latin *organella* 'little tool'.

organic *adj.* **1** relating to living matter. **2** produced without artificial chemicals such as fertilizers. **3** (of a chemical compound) containing carbon and chiefly or ultimately of biological origin. **4** relating to a bodily organ or organs. **5** (of the parts of a whole) fitting together harmoniously. **6** (of development or change) continuous or natural.

■ **organically** *adv.*

organism *n.* **1** an individual animal, plant, or other life form. **2** a whole made up of parts which are dependent on each other.

organization (or **organisation**)

n. **1** the action of organizing. **2** a systematic arrangement or approach. **3** an organized group of people with a particular purpose, e.g. a business.

■ **organizational** *adj.* **organizationally** *adv.*

organize (or **organise**) *v.* (**organizes, organizing, organized**) **1** arrange in an orderly way: *the book is organized into nine thematic chapters*. **2** make arrangements for an event or activity.

■ **organizer** *n.*

– ORIGIN Latin *organizare*.

organza /or-gan-zuh/ *n.* a thin, stiff, transparent fabric.

orgasm *n.* the climax of sexual excitement, when feelings of sexual pleasure are most intense. *v.* have an orgasm.

■ **orgasmic** *adj.*

– ORIGIN Greek *orgasmos*.

orgiastic /or-ji-ass-tik/ *adj.* relating to or like an orgy.

orgy *n.* (pl. **orgies**) **1** a wild party with much drinking and sexual activity. **2** an excessive amount of a specified activity: *an orgy of killing*.

– ORIGIN Greek *orgia* 'secret rites'.

oriel window /or-i-uhl/ *n.* a window in a large bay built in the upper storey of a building.

– ORIGIN Old French *oriol* 'gallery'.

orient *n.* /or-i-uhnt/ (**the Orient**) literary the countries of the East. *v.* /or-i-ent/ **1** position something in relation to the points of a compass or other specified positions. **2** (**orient yourself**) find your position in relation to unfamiliar surroundings. **3** tailor to meet particular needs: *magazines oriented to students*.

– ORIGIN Latin *oriens* 'rising or east'.

oriental *adj.* relating to the Far East.

• *n.* dated or offens. a person of Far Eastern descent.

orientate *v.* (**orientates, orientating, orientated**) = **orient**.

orientation *n.* **1** the action of orienting or positioning someone or something. **2** a position in relation to something else. **3** a person's attitude or natural tendency: *her sexual orientation*.

orienteering *n.* a competitive sport in which runners have to find their way across rough country with the aid of a map and compass.

orifice /o-ri-fiss/ *n.* an opening in the body.

– ORIGIN French.

origami /o-ri-gah-mi/ *n.* the Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes.

– ORIGIN Japanese.

origin *n.* **1** the point where something begins. **2** a person's social background or ancestry. **3** Math. a fixed point from which coordinates are measured.

– ORIGIN Latin *origo*.

original *adj.* **1** existing from the beginning. **2** produced by an artist, author, etc. rather than copied. **3** new and different from what has been done before; inventive. *n.* the earliest form of something, from which copies can be made.

■ **originally** *adv.*

originality *n.* **1** the ability to think independently or creatively. **2** the quality of being new or inventive.

original sin *n.* (in Christian belief) the tendency to be sinful that is thought to be present in all people.