

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™

COLLEGE DICTIONARY

FOURTH EDITION

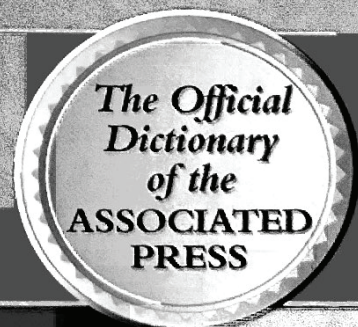
*Defining the English Language
for the 21st Century*

CLEAREST
DEFINITIONS

for Instant Understanding

MOST
UP-TO-DATE

—Over 7,000 New Entries



THE NAME YOU TRUST

Webster's New World™ College Dictionary, Fourth Edition
Copyright © 2001, 2000, 1999 by IDG Books Worldwide, Inc.

This edition is a major revision of Webster's New World™ College Dictionary,
Third Edition, copyright © 1997, 1996, 1994, 1991, 1988 by IDG Books Worldwide, Inc.

All rights reserved
including the right of reproduction
in whole or in part in any form

IDG Books Worldwide, Inc.
An International Data Group Company
919 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Suite 400
Foster City, CA 94404

A Webster's New World™ Book

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD is a trademark of IDG Books Worldwide, Inc

Dictionary Editorial Offices:
New World Dictionaries
850 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Webster's New World college dictionary / Michael Agnes, editor in chief. — 4th ed.
p. cm.

ISBN 0-02-863118-8 (thumb-indexed). — ISBN 0-02-863119-6 (plain).
— ISBN 0-02-863120-X (leatherkraft). — ISBN 0-02-863471-3 (deluxe).
1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Agnes, Michael.

PE1628.W5629 2000
423—dc21

99-045223

Manufactured in the United States of America
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 00 01 02 03 04

compound sentence / con-

300

compound sentence *Gram.* a sentence consisting of two or more independent, coordinate clauses (Ex.: She drinks coffee, but he prefers tea)

compound time [Brit.] **COMPOUND METER**

com-pra-dor or **com-pra-dore** (kām'prā dōr') *n.* [Port. buyer < LL *comparator* < L *comparare*, to procure, buy < *com-*, with + *parare*, to make ready, PREPARE] [Historical] in China, a native agent for a foreign business, who had charge over the native workers

com-pre-hend (kām'prē hend', -pri-) *vt.* [ME *comprehenden* < L *comprehendere* < *com-*, with + *prehendere*, to catch hold of, seize; see PREHENSILE] 1 to grasp mentally; understand 2 to include; take in; comprise —**SYN.** INCLUDE, UNDERSTAND —**com-pre-hend'** *adj.* —**com-pre-hend'** *adv.*

com-pre-hen-sible (-hen'sə bəl) *adj.* [L *comprehensibilis*] that can be comprehended; intelligible —**com-pre-hen'-si-bil'-ity** *n.* —**com-pre-hen'-sibly** *adv.*

com-pre-hen-sion (-hen'shen) *n.* [ME *comprehensio* < L *comprehensio* < *comprehensum*, pp. of *comprehendere*; see COMPREHEND] 1 the act of including or comprising; inclusiveness 2 a) the act of grasping with the mind b) understanding or knowledge that results from this 3 the capacity for understanding ideas, facts, etc.

com-pre-hen-sive (-hen'siv) *adj.* [LL *comprehensivus*] 1 dealing with all or many of the relevant details; including much; inclusive [a comprehensive survey] 2 able to comprehend fully [a comprehensive mind] 3 of or designating property insurance that covers a number of risks in the same policy —*n.* [usually pl.] an examination in a major field of study that a graduate, or sometimes undergraduate, student must pass to receive a degree; in full comprehensive examination —**com-pre-hen'-sively** *adv.* —**com-pre-hen'-sive-ness** *n.*

com-press (kām pres', for *n.* kām'pres') *vt.* [ME *compressen* < OFr *compresser* < LL *compressare* < L *compressus*, pp. of *comprimere*, to squeeze < *com-*, together + *primere*, to PRESS] 1 to press together; make more compact by or as by pressure —*n.* 1 a pad of folded cloth, sometimes medicated or moistened, for applying pressure, heat, cold, etc. to some part of the body 2 a machine for compressing cotton bales —**SYN.** CONTRACT —**com-press'-ibil'-ity** *n.* —**com-press'-ible** *adj.*

com-pressed (kām prest') *adj.* 1 pressed together; made more compact by pressure 2 Bot. flattened lengthwise, as the stalk of an aspen leaf 3 Zool. flattened into a thin, convex, streamlined shape, as the body of the flounder or other flatfish

compressed air air reduced in volume by pressure and held in a container: work done by its expansion may be used to operate machines, tools, etc.

com-pres-sion (kām presh'ən) *n.* [ME < OFr < L *compressio*] 1 a compressing or being compressed 2 Mech. the compressing of the air-fuel mixture in an internal-combustion engine just before ignition

compression ratio in an internal-combustion engine, the ratio of the largest volume to the smallest volume of a cylinder, measured before and after the compressing action of the piston

com-pres-sive (-pres'iv) *adj.* compressing or tending to compress —**com-pres'-sively** *adv.*

com-pres-sor (-pres'ər) *n.* 1 a person or thing that compresses 2 a machine that compresses a part 3 a machine, esp. a pump, for compressing air, gas, etc.

com-pri-ma-rio (kām'prē mār'ē ō) *n., pl. -mār'ē (-rē)* [It < *com-*, with (see COM-) + *primario*, first (< L *primarius*, PRIMARY)] a singer of a secondary role in an opera: also Eng. **com-pri-ma-rio** (kām'prē mār'ē ō), *pl. -rios*

com-prise (kām priz') *vt.* —**prised'**, —**pris'-ing** [ME *comprisen* < OFr *compris*, pp. of *comprendre* < L *comprehendere*, COMPREHEND] 1 to include; contain 2 to consist of; be composed of [a nation comprising thirteen states] 3 to make up; form; constitute: in this sense still regarded by a few as a loose usage [a nation comprised of thirteen states] —**SYN.** INCLUDE —**com-pris'-able** *adj.* —**com-pris'al** *n.*

com-pro-mise (kām'prə miz') *n.* [ME & OFr *compromis* < LL *compromissum*, a compromise, mutual promise < L *compromissus*, pp. of *compromittere*, to make a mutual promise to abide by an arbiter's decision < *com-*, together + *promittere*, to PROMISE] 1 a settlement in which each side gives up some demands or makes concessions 2 a) an adjustment of opposing principles, systems, etc. by modifying some aspects of each b) the result of such an adjustment 3 something midway between two other things in quality, effect, etc. 4 a) exposure, as of one's reputation, to danger, suspicion, or disrepute b) a weakening, as of one's principles —**vt.** —**mised'**, —**mis'-ing** 1 to settle or adjust by concessions on both sides 2 to lay open to danger, suspicion, or disrepute 3 to weaken or give up (one's principles, ideals, etc.) as for reasons of expediency 4 Med. to weaken or otherwise impair [drugs that compromised his immune system] —**vi.** to make a compromise or compromises —**com-pro-mis'er** *n.*

comp time (kāmp) [*<* *compensatory*] time paid time off from work, given to an employee in lieu of overtime pay

Comp-ton' (kāmp'tən) 1 Arthur Holly (hāl'ē) 1892-1962; U.S. physicist 2 Karl Taylor 1887-1954; U.S. physicist; brother of Arthur

Comp-ton' (kāmp'tən) [after G. D. Compton, a founder of the Univ. of S. Calif.] city in SW Calif.: suburb of Los Angeles: pop. 90,000

comp-trol-ler (kən trō'lar) *n.* [altered (infl. by Fr *compte*, an account) < CONTROLLER] CONTROLLER (sense 1, esp. in government usage) —**comp-trol'-ler-ship** *n.*

com-pul-sion (kām pul'shən) *n.* [ME & LL *compulsio* < L *compulsus*, pp. of *compellere*; see COMPEL] 1 a compelling or being compelled; coercion; constraint 2 that which compels; driving force 3 Psychol. an irresistible, repeated, irrational impulse to perform some act

com-pul-sive (-siv) *adj.* [ML *compulsivus*] of, having to do with, or resulting from compulsion —**com-pul'-sively** *adv.*

com-pul-sory (-sə rē) *adj.* [ML *compulsorius* < L *compulsor*, one who compels] 1 that must be done, undergone, etc.; obligatory, required 2 compelling; coercive —**com-pul'-so-ri-ly** *adv.* —**com-pul'-so-ri-ness** *n.*

com-punc-tion (kām punk'shən) *n.* [ME *compunctio* < OFr *compunctio* < LL *compunctio*, a pricking (in LL, Ec.) the pricking of conscience] < L *compunctus*, pp. of *compungere*, to prick, sting < *com-*, intens. + *pungere*, to prick; see POINT] 1 a sharp feeling of uneasiness brought on by a sense of guilt; remorse 2 a feeling of slight regret for something done —**SYN.** PENITENCE, QUALM —**com-punc'-tious** *adj.* —**com-punc'-tiously** *adv.*

com-pur-ga-tion (kām'pər gā'shən) *n.* [LL *compurgatio*, a purifying < L *compurgatus*, pp. of *compurgare*, to purge, purify < *com-*, intens. + *purgare*, to PURGE] the former practice of clearing an accused person by the oaths of others testifying to that person's innocence

com-pur-ga-tor (kām'pər gāt'ər) *n.* [ML: see prec.] one who testified in a compurgation

com-pu-ta-tion (kām'pyū tā'shən) *n.* [ME *computacioun* < L *computatio*] 1 the act of computing; calculation 2 a method of computing 3 a result obtained in computing; computed amount —**com-pu-ta'-tional** *adj.*

com-pute (kām pyūt'ər) *vt.* —**put'ed**, —**put'-ing** [L *computare* < *com-*, with + *putare*, to reckon, orig. to prune; see PURE] 1 to determine (a number, amount, etc.) by arithmetic; calculate 2 to determine or calculate by using a computer —**vi.** 1 to determine a number, amount, etc. 2 to use a computer 3 [Informal] to make sense; seem reasonable; add up [an explanation that does not compute] —*n.* computation: chiefly in the phrase beyond compute —**SYN.** CALCULATE —**com-put'-abil'-ity** *n.* —**com-put'-able** *adj.*

com-puter (kām pyūt'ər) *n.* 1 a person who computes 2 a device used for computing; specif., an electronic machine which, by means of stored instructions and information, performs rapid, often complex calculations or compares, correlates, and selects data; now, esp., DIGITAL COMPUTER: see also ANALOG COMPUTER

com-put-er-ese (kām pyūt'ər ēz') *n.* the jargon used in computer technology: see -ESE

computer graphics the technology dealing with the generation of pictures, designs, etc. on a computer: see also GRAPHIC (*n.*)

com-put-er-ize (kām pyūt'ər iz') *vt.* —**ized'**, —**iz'-ing** 1 to equip with electronic computers so as to facilitate or automate procedures 2 to operate, produce, etc. by means of an electronic computer —**com-put'-er-i-za'-tion** *n.*

Comr *abbrev.* Commissioner

com-rade (kām'rad', -rəd) *n.* [Fr *camarade* < Sp *camarada*, chamber mate < L *camera*: see CAMERA] 1 a friend; close companion 2 a person who shares interests and activities in common with others; partner; associate: used as a form of address, as in a Communist party 3 [C-] [Informal] a Communist; esp., a fellow Communist —**SYN.** ASSOCIATE —**com'-rade-ly** (-rəd lē) *adj.* —**com'-rade-ship** *n.*

comrade in arms a fellow soldier

com-rad-ery (kām'rad'ərē) *n.* [altered (after COMRADE) < CAMARADERIE] *var.* of CAMARADERIE

Com-sat (kām'sat') [*<* COM(MUNICATION) + SAT(ELLITE)] trademark for any of various communications satellites for relaying microwave transmissions, as of telephone and television signals

Com-stock-ery (kām'stāk'ər ē, kum'-) *n.* [after A. Comstock (1844-1915), U.S. self-appointed censor: prob. coined by George Bernard SHAW] [often c-] ruthless suppression of plays, books, etc. alleged to be offensive or dangerous to public morals

Com-stock Lode (kām'stāk', kum'-) [after H. T. Comstock (1820-70), who held first claim to it] a rich deposit of silver & gold discovered in 1859 in W. Nev.: virtually depleted by 1890

com-te (kōnt) *n.* [Fr] COUNT²

Com-te (kōnt; E kōnt), (Isidore) **Au-guste** (Marie François Xavier) (ō gūst') 1798-1857; Fr. philosopher: founder of positivism —**Com-ti-an** *adj.* or **Com-te-an** (kām'tē an, kōm'-)

com-tesse (kōn tes') *n.* [Fr] COUNTESS

Co-mus (kō'mas) *n.* [L < Gr *kōmos*, festival] Gr. & Rom. Myth. a young god of festivity and revelry

con' (kän) *adv.* [contr. < L *contra*, against] against; in opposition [to argue a matter pro and con] —*n.* a reason, vote, position, etc. in opposition

con' (kän) *vt.* **conned**, **con'-ning** [ME *connen*, to be able < OE *cunnan*: see CAN¹] to peruse carefully; study; fix in the memory

con' (kän) *vt., n.* **conned**, **con'-ning** **CONN**

con' (kän) *adj.* [Slang] **CONFIDENCE** [a con man] —**vt.** **conned**, **con'-ning** [Slang] 1 to swindle (a victim) by first gaining the person's confidence 2 to trick or fool, esp. by glib persuasion —*n.* [Slang] the act or an instance of conning; swindle; trick

con' (kän) *n.* [Slang] **short** for **CONVICT**

con' *abbrev.* 1 consolidated 2 consul 3 continued

con- (kän, kan) *prefix* COM-: used before c, d, g, j, n, q, s, t, v, and sometimes f [condominium, confreer]

recovery stroke accidentally, thereby unbalancing the boat or impeding its movement —the Crab Cancer, the constellation and fourth sign of the zodiac —**crab'ber** *n.*

crab² (krab) *n.* [ME *crabbe*, akin ? to Scot *scrabbe*, Swed dial. *scrabba*, wild apple] 1 CRAB APPLE 2 a person who has a sour temper or is always complaining —**adj.** of a crab apple or the tree that it grows on —**vt.** **crabbed**, **crab'bing** 1 [Obs.] *a*) to irritate; to sour; embitter 2 [Rare] to find fault with; criticize —**vi.** *b*) to complain peevishly, grumble —**crab one's act** (the [Informal] to ruin or frustrate one's scheme (the deal, etc.) —**crab'** *ber* *n.*

crab apple 1 any of several species of small, very sour apples (genus *Malus*), growing wild or cultivated and used for making jellies and preserves 2 a tree bearing crab apples; also **crab tree**

Crabbe (krab) *George* 1754-1832; Eng. poet

crab-bed (krab'id) *adj.* [*<* CRAB¹, infl. by CRAB²] 1 peevish; morose; cross 2 hard to understand because intricate or complicated 3 hard to read or make out because cramped or irregular handwriting/ —**crab'bedly** *adv.* —**crab'bed-ness** *n.*

crabby (krab'e) *adj.* —**bier**, —**bi-est** [see prec.] cross and complaining; peevish; ill-tempered —**crab'bily** *adv.* —**crab'bi-ness** *n.*

crab cactus CHRISTMAS CACTUS

crab grass [CRAB¹ + GRASS; so named from a fancied resemblance] any of several weedy annual grasses (genus *Digitaria*) which spread rapidly because of their freely rooting stems, becoming a pest in lawns and gardens

crab louse a crab-shaped human louse (*Phthirus pubis*) that infests the pubic regions, armpits, etc.

crab meat (krab'met') *n.* CRAB¹ (*n.* 3); also **crab meat**

Crab nebula a crab-shaped, rapidly expanding cloud of gas in the constellation Taurus, containing a neutron-star pulsar: believed to be the remnants of the supernova of A.D. 1054

crab spider any of a family (Thomisidae) of spiders that move sideways like crabs

crab-stick (krab'stik') *n.* 1 a stick, cane, or club made of the wood of the crab apple tree or some other wood 2 [Archaic] an ill-tempered person

crab-wise (krab'wiz') *adv.* toward one side; sideways; laterally

crack¹ (krak) *vi.* [ME *craken* < OE *cracian*, to resound, akin to Ger *krachen* < IE base **ger-*: see CROW] 1 to make a sudden, sharp noise, as of something breaking 2 to break or split, usually without complete separation of parts 3 *a*) to become harsh or rasping, as the voice when hoarse *b*) to change suddenly from one register to another, as the voice of a boy in adolescence 4 [Informal] to move with speed: now chiefly in phrase **get cracking**, to start moving with dispatch 5 [Informal] to break down /to crack under a strain/ —**vt.** 1 to cause to make a sharp, sudden noise 2 to cause to break or split, as by a sharp blow or by heavy pressure, intense heat, etc. 3 to destroy or impair /to crack all opposition/ 4 to cause (the voice) to crack 5 to subject (as petroleum) to the process of cracking: see CRACKING² 6 to hit or strike with a sudden, sharp blow or impact 7 to break through the difficulties of; manage to solve /to crack a secret code/ 8 [Informal] to manage to gain entrance or acceptance in 9 [Informal] *a*) to break open or into; force open /to crack a safe/ *b*) to open and consume the contents /to crack a bottle/ *c*) to open and read or study /to crack a book/ *d*) to open slightly (a door, window, etc.) 10 [Slang] to make (a joke) —*n.* 1 a sudden, sharp noise, as of something breaking (the crack of a whip) 2 *a*) a break, usually without complete separation of parts; fracture *b*) a slight defect; flaw [cracks in his composure] 3 a narrow opening, as between boards; chink; fissure; crevice 4 an abrupt, erratic shift of vocal tone, as from emotion or in adolescence 5 a moment; instant /at the crack of dawn/ 6 a sudden, sharp blow or impact 7 [Informal] an attempt or try /to take a crack at working a puzzle/ 8 [Slang] a joke, gibe, or sharp remark 9 [Old Slang] a burglar or burglarly —**adj.** [Informal] excelling in skill or performance; first-rate /a crack shot, crack troops/ —**SYN.** BREAK —**crack a smile** [Slang] to smile, esp. when not inclined to do so —**crack down** (on) to become strict or stricter (with) —**cracked up** to be [Informal] alleged or believed to be —**crack up** 1 to crash, as (in) an airplane 2 [Informal] *a*) to break down physically or mentally *b*) to break into a fit of laughter or tears —**crack wise** [Old Slang] to joke or gibe —**fall between** (or through) the cracks [Informal] to fail to fit into a given agenda or program

crack² (krak) *n.* [*<* ?] 1 [Slang] hard, pebblelike pieces of highly purified cocaine prepared for smoking: a highly potent and addictive form of cocaine —**adj.** 2 designating or of cocaine in this form

cracka-jack (krak'a jak') *adj.*, *n.* [Slang] CRACKERJACK

crack baby [Slang] an infant, typically born prematurely, with a condition caused by the excessive consumption of crack cocaine by the mother during pregnancy and characterized by malformations and learning disabilities

crack-back (block) (krak'bak') *Football* a block in which a player, usually a wide receiver, angles back sharply towards the middle of the field and blocks a defensive player from the side

crack-brain (krak'bran') *n.* a crackbrained person

crack-brained (-brand') *adj.* so senseless or unreasonable as to seem insane; crazy

crack-down (krak'doun') *n.* a resorting to strict or stricter measures of discipline or punishment

cracked (krakt) *adj.* 1 broken or fractured, usually without complete separation of parts; having a crack or cracks 2 harsh or strident [a cracked voice] 3 [Informal] mentally unbalanced

cracked wheat coarsely milled wheat particles

cracker (krak'ar) *n.* [*<* CRACK¹, *vi.*; sense 5 < earlier sense "brag-gart, boaster"] 1 a person or device that cracks 2 a firecracker 3

a little paper roll used as a favor at parties: it contains a trinket or candy, and bursts with a popping noise when the ends are pulled 4 a thin, crisp wafer or biscuit 5 POOR WHITE: contemptuous term 6 [usually C-] [Informal] a person born or living in Florida or Georgia: a humorous usage

cracker-barrel (-bar'el) *adj.* [*<* the large barrel of soda crackers formerly found in general stores] [Informal] designating or typical of the informal discussions on all subjects by persons gathered at a country store /a cracker-barrel philosopher/

cracker-jack (krak'ar jak') *adj.* [late 19th-c. slang; extension of CRACK¹, *adj.* + JACK (nickname)] [Slang] outstanding, as in skill or ability; excellent —*n.* 1 [Slang] a person or thing of recognized excellence 2 [also C-] [occas. pl.] CRACKER JACK

Cracker Jack trademark for a confection of sweet, glazed popcorn and peanuts

crack-ers (krak'arz) *adj.* [altered (infl. by CRACKER) < CRACKED] [Slang, Chiefly Brit.] crazy; insane

crack-head (krak'hed') *n.* [Slang] a habitual user of crack cocaine

crack-ing¹ (krak'in) *adj.* excellent; fine —**adv.** [Informal] very

crack-ing² (krak'in) *n.* 1 the process of breaking down heavier hydrocarbons by heat and pressure or by catalysts into lighter hydrocarbons of lower molecular weight, as in producing gasoline from petroleum

crackle (krak'al) *vi.* —**led**, —**ling** [ME *crakelen*, freq. of *craken*, CRACK¹] 1 to make a succession of slight, sharp, popping sounds, as of dry wood burning 2 to be bursting with energy and vivacity 3 to develop a finely cracked surface —**vt.** 1 to crush or break with 2 to produce a finely cracked surface on —*n.* 1 a succession of cracking sounds 2 vivacity; animation 3 *a*) the fine, irregular surface cracks on some pottery, porcelain, etc. *b*) CRAQUELURE (sense 1) 4 CRACKLEWARE

crackle-ware (-wer') *n.* pottery, porcelain, etc. with a finely cracked surface

crack-ling (krak'lin; for 2, usually, -lin) *n.* 1 the producing of a succession of slight, sharp popping sounds 2 *a*) the browned, crisp rind of roast pork *b*) [pl.] the crisp part remaining after hog fat or poultry fat has been rendered

crackly (-le) *adj.* crackling or tending to crackle

crack-nel (krak'nol) *n.* [ME *crakenelle*, altered < OFr *cracuelin* < MDu *krakeling* < *kraken*; akin to CRACK¹] 1 a variety of hard, crisp biscuit 2 [pl.] small pieces of crisply fried fat pork 3 [pl.] cracklings

crack of doom [phr. in *Macbeth*, IV, i] the signal for the beginning of Judgment Day

crack-pot (krak'pat') *n.* [Informal] a mentally unbalanced or eccentric person —**adj.** [Informal] crazy or eccentric

cracks-man (kraks'man) *n.*, *pl.* —**men** (-man) [*<* CRACK¹, *vt.* 8 + MAN] [Old Slang] a burglar or safecracker

crack-up (krak'up') *n.* a cracking up; specif. *a*) a crash, as of an airplane *b*) [Informal] a mental or physical breakdown; collapse

cracky (krak'e) *interj.* [Archaic] used to express surprise or provide emphasis: now only in the interjectional phrase **by cracky**

Cracow (kra'kou, kra'-, -ko) *var.* of KRAKÓW

-cracy (kra'se) [Fr *-cracie* < ML *-cratia* < Gr *-kratia*, rule < *kratos*, rule, strength: see HARD] combining form a (specified) type of government; rule by [autocracy, theocracy]

cradle (krad'l) *n.* [ME *cradel* < OE *cradol* < **kradula*, little basket; akin to OHG *kratto*, basket < IE base **ger-*, to twist, turn > CRANK¹, CRAMP¹, CREEK¹] 1 a baby's small bed, usually on rockers 2 the earliest period of one's life; infancy 3 the place of a thing's beginning or early development [the cradle of civilization] 4 [Old Poet.] a place of rest /rocked in the cradle of the deep/ 5 anything resembling a cradle or used somewhat like a cradle, as for holding or rocking; specif., *a*) wooden or metal framework to support or lift a boat, ship, aircraft, etc. that is being built or repaired *b*) CREEPER (sense 7) *c*) the support on which the handset of a telephone (cradle telephone) rests when not in use *d*) Agric. a frame fastened to a scythe (cradle scythe) so that the grain can be laid evenly as it is cut *e*) Med. a frame for keeping bedclothes from touching an injured limb, etc. *f*) Mining a boxlike device on rockers, for washing the gold out of gold-bearing sand —**vt.** —**ded**, —**ding** 1 to place, rock, or hold in or as in a cradle 2 to take care of in infancy; nurture 3 to cut (grain) with a cradle scythe 4 Mining to wash (gold-bearing sand) in a cradle —*vi.* [Obs.] to lie in or as in a cradle —**rob the cradle** to take as one's sweetheart or one's spouse a person much younger than oneself

cradle cap [Informal] a skin condition in infants characterized by a yellowish, greasy crust on the scalp, usually caused by an excessive flow of sebum

cradle-song (-sɔŋ') *n.* a lullaby

craft (kraft, kräft) *n.* [ME < OE *craft*, strength, power; akin to Ger *craft*, strength, force (sense "skill" only in E) < IE **greh-* < base **ger-*, to twist, turn (see CRADLE): basic sense "cramping of muscles during exertion of strength"] 1 a special skill, art, or dexterity 2 an occupation or avocation requiring special skills, especially the manual ones, including carpentry, sewing, pottery, etc. 3 the members of a skilled trade 4 skill in deceiving or underhand planning; guile; slyness 5 *pl.* craft [prob. < phr. vessels of small craft, lit. of small power] a boat, ship, or aircraft —**vt.** to make with skill, artistry, or precision: usually in pp. —**SYN.** ART¹

-craft (kraft, kräft) [*<* prec.] combining form the work, skill, or practice of

See the inside front cover for pronunciation information.

The symbol * is used to mark terms of American origin.

drinking, sometimes filled in and preserved when the beds are changed to rock

mud dauber any of various narrow-waisted wasps (family Sphecidae) that build cells of hard, caked mud for their larvae

mud-dar (mud'ar) *n.* a race horse that performs especially well on a wet, muddy track

mud-die (mud'di) *vt.* **-died, -died** [**< MUD + -LE**] 1 to mix up in a confused manner; jumble; bungle 2 to mix or stir (a drink, etc.) 3 to make (water, etc.) turbid 4 to confuse mentally; befuddle, as with alcoholic liquor 5 to confuse (the brain, mind, etc.); befog — *vi.* to act or think in a confused way — *n.* 1 a confused or disoriented condition; mess, jumble, etc. 2 mental confusion — **SYN.** **muddle through** (Chiefly Brit.) to manage to succeed in spite of apparent blunders or confusion

muddle-headed (-hed'id) *adj.* stupid; blundering; confused — **muddle-headedness** *n.*

mud-dle-head (mud'lar) *n.* a stick for stirring mixed drinks

muddy (mud'i) *adj.* **-dier, -di-est** 1 full of or spattered with mud 2 a) not clear; containing sediment; cloudy [muddy coffee] b) not light or bright; dull [a muddy complexion] 3 confused, obscure, vague, etc. [muddy thinking] — *vt., vi.* **-died, -died** to make or become muddy — **mud'dily** *adv.* — **mud'di-ness** *n.*

mud-eel a slime-coated, eel-like siren salamander (*Siren lacertina*) with no hind legs, two short front legs, internal lungs, and external gills; it lives in swamps, ditches, and ponds, in the SE U.S.

mud-fish (-fish') *n., pl.* **-fish' or -fish'es** (see FISH) any of various unrelated fishes that live in mud or muddy water, as the bowfin and killifish

mud-flap (-flap') *n.* SPLASH GUARD

mud flat nearly level muddy land that is flooded at high tide and left uncovered at low tide

mud-flow (mud'flō) *n.* a massive movement of wet soil, rocks, etc.: see LAHAR, MUDSLIDE

mud-guard (-gārd') *n.* 1 former term for FENDER (sense a) 2 a) SPLASH GUARD b) a device similar in function, as on a bicycle, which blocks splashing mud, water, etc.

mud hen any of various birds that live in marshes, as the coot or gallinule

mud-hole (-hōl') *n.* a hole or low place, as in a field or road, full of mud

mud-lark (-lārk') *n.* [Brit. Informal] STREET ARAB

mud-pack (-pak') *n.* a paste made up of fuller's earth, astringents, etc., used as a facial

mud puppy any of a genus (*Necturus*, family Proteidae) of gilled, aquatic North American salamanders that hide during the day in mud along the bottom of freshwater streams or lakes

mu-dra (moo drā') *n.* [Sansk.] a seal, sign 1 in ancient India, any identifying symbol or seal 2 a stylized, symbolic gesture used in dances, rituals, etc. of India; specif., an intricate movement or positioning of the hands or fingers

mud-room (mud'rōom') *n.* a room in a house used for the removal and storage of wet or muddy footwear and outerwear

mud-sill (mud'sil') *n.* the lowest sill of a structure, placed on the foundation or directly on the ground

mud-skip-per (-skip'ar) *n.* any of various goby fishes that are able to leave the water regularly when living in mud flats or climbing mangrove roots in search of food

mud-slide (-slid') *n.* 1 a slow, viscous mudflow down a gradual slope 2 loosely, any mudflow

mud-sling-ing (-slin'ing) *n.* the practice of making unscrupulous, malicious attacks against an opponent, as in a political campaign — **mud'sling'er** *n.*

mud snake a long, bluish-black colubrid snake (*Farancia abacura*) with a red belly, and a nonpoisonous spine at the tip of the tail, found in the SE U.S.

mud-stone (-stōn') *n.* a fine-grained sedimentary rock that is formed from silt and clay, similar to shale but not distinctly laminated

mud turtle any of a genus (*Kinosternon*) of musk turtles of North and Central America that live in muddy ponds, streams, etc.

Muen-ster (cheese) (mun'stər, min'-) [after Munster, France, where first made] a mild light-yellow semisoft cheese

muesli (myooz'le) *n.* [Chiefly Brit.] a breakfast cereal like granola, with rolled oats, shredded apples, raisins, etc.

mu-ez-zin (myoo ez'zin) *n.* [Ar mu'adh-dhin, prp. of *adh-dhana*, freq. of *adhana*, to proclaim $\rightarrow$ *udhn*, an ear] in Muslim countries, a crier, as in a minaret, who calls the people to prayer five times a day

muff (muf) *n.* [Du *mof* $\leftarrow$ Wal *moufe*, shortened $\leftarrow$ Fr *moufle*, a mitten $\leftarrow$ ML *muffla*, glove] 1 a cylindrical covering of fur or other soft material into which the hands are placed from either end for keeping them warm 2 a tuft of feathers on the sides of the head, or on the legs, of certain fowl 3 a) Sports a failure to hold the ball or any bungling action — *vt., vi.* 1 to do (something) badly or awkwardly 2 Sports to miss (a catch) or bungle (a play)

muf-fin (muf'an) *n.* [**< dial. mouffin, moufin**, ? akin to OFr *mouff-flet*, soft, as in *pain moufflet*, soft bread] a quick bread made with eggs, baked in a small cup-shaped mold and usually eaten hot: see also ENGLISH MUFFIN

muf-fin-er (muf'ar mir') *n.* a shaker for sprinkling sugar, spices, etc.

muf-ple (muf'plē) *vt.* **-fled, -fled** [ME *mufflen*, prob. akin to OFr *enmoufle*, muffled $\leftarrow$ *moufle*, a mitten: see MUFF] 1 to wrap up in a

shawl, blanket, cloak, etc. so as to hide, keep warm, or protect 2 [Now Rare] to keep (a person) from seeing or speaking by wrapping up the head 3 to wrap or cover in order to deaden or prevent sound 4 to deaden (a sound), as by wrapping 5 to prevent the expression of; stifle — *n.* 1 [Now Rare] a wrap, covering, etc. used for muffing 2 an oven in which pottery, etc. can be fired without being exposed directly to the flame 3 the fleshy bare part of the upper lip and nose of certain mammals, as ruminants or rabbits

muf-ler (muf'lar) *n.* 1 a scarf worn around the throat, as for warmth 2 any of various devices for deadening noises; specif., an automotive exhaust device containing two perforated pipes packed in sound-deadening material

muf-fu-letta (moo'fə let'ə) *n.* [It dial.] a sandwich of cold meats, cheese, and olive salad on a large, round roll: it originated in New Orleans

mufti (muf'ti) *n., pl.* **-tis** [Ar, one who gives a decisive response $\leftarrow$ *afṭā*, to judge; sense 2 ? in allusion to the Muslimlike dressing gown and tasseled cap worn by an officer off duty in the early 19th c.] 1 in Muslim countries, an interpreter or expounder of religious law 2 ordinary clothes, esp. when worn by one who normally wears, or has long worn, a military or other uniform

mug (mug) *n.* [prob. $\leftarrow$ Scand., as in Swed *mugg*] 1 a heavy drinking cup of earthenware or metal, having a handle and formerly often ornamented with a human face 2 as much as a mug will hold 3 [Slang] a) the face b) the mouth c) a grimace d) a rough, ugly person; ruffian, thug, etc. **-g** *short for MUG SHOT* — *vt.* **mugged, mug-ging** 1 to assault usually with intent to rob **2** [Slang] to photograph; esp., to photograph (a person under arrest) for police records — *vi.* 1 to assault a person, usually with intent to rob 2 [Slang] a) to make a grimace b) Theater to overact by exaggerated facial expressions

mug (mug) *vi.* **mugged, mug-ging** [Brit. Slang] to study hard and hurriedly, as in preparation for an examination; cram: used with *up*

mug-ger (mug'ar) *n.* one who mugs; esp., a) one who assaults with intent to rob b) Theater one who overacts, esp. by exaggerated facial expressions

mug-ger (mug'ar) *n.* [Hindi *magar* $\leftarrow$ Sans *makara*, sea monster] a large, relatively timid crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*) of India and Malaysia, with a broad, wrinkled snout

mug-gins (mug'inz) *n.* [after pers. name *Muggins*, assoc. with slang *mug*, cardsharp's dupe] [Brit. Slang] a dupe; fool

muggy (mug'ē) *adj.* **-gier, -gi-est** [**< dial. mug**, mist, drizzle, prob. $\leftarrow$ or akin to ON *mugga* $\leftarrow$ IE base **meuk-* $\rightarrow$ MUCK] hot and damp, with little or no stirring of the air [muggy weather] — **mug-gi-ness** *n.*

mu-gho pine (myoo'gō) [prob. via Fr *mugho*, *mugho pine* $\leftarrow$ It *mugo*] a Swiss mountain pine (*Pinus mugo*), esp. a shrubby spreading form often used as an ornamental

mug shot any of the photographs taken for police records of the face of a person under arrest

mug-wump (mug'wump') *n.* [Algonquian *mugquomp*, chief] 1 a Republican who refused to support the party ticket in 1884 2 any independent, esp. in politics

Mu-ham-mad (moo ham'ad) *var. of* MOHAMMED — **Mu-ham'-madan** *adj., n.* — **Mu-ham'-mad-an-ism** *n.*

Muir (myoor), John 1838-1914; U.S. naturalist, explorer, & writer, born in Scotland

mu-ja-hed-in or **mu-ja-hi-deen** (moo'ja hæ dēn') *pl.n.* [also in *italics*] the members of a Muslim guerrilla force that claims divine authority for its activities

Mu-jik (moo zhēk', moo'zhik') *n.* [Russ] *alt. sp. of* MUZHIK

Muk-den (mook'den, mook den') former name for SHENYANG

muk-luk (muk'luk') *n.* [Esk *muklok*, a large seal] 1 an Eskimo boot made of sealskin or reindeer skin 2 a boot like this, made of canvas, rubber, etc.

muk-tuk (muk'tuk') *n.* blubber and skin of a whale eaten as food

mu-latto (mə lāt'ō, -lat'ō; myoo-) *n., pl.* **-toes or -tos** [Sp & Port *mulato*, mulatto, of mixed breed, orig. young mule $\leftarrow$ *mulo*, mule $\leftarrow$ L *mulus*] 1 a person who has one black parent and one white parent 2 technically, any person with mixed black and Caucasoid ancestry — *adj.* 1 of a mulatto 2 of the light-brown color of a mulatto's skin

mul-berry (mul'berē, -bar ē) *n., pl.* **-ries** [ME *mulberie*, dissimilated var. of *murberie* $\leftarrow$ OE *morberie* $\leftarrow$ L *morum*, mulberry, blackberry $\leftarrow$ IE base **moro-*, blackberry ($\rightarrow$ Gr *moron*, mulberry, blackberry) + OE *berie*, BERRY] 1 any of a genus (*Morus*) of shrubs and berry trees of the mulberry family, with milky juice and multiple false fruits which resemble the fruits of the raspberry 2 the edible fruit trees of which resemble the fruits of the raspberry (Moraceae, order Urticales) of dicotyledonous plants of wide horticultural and economic importance, including the fig and breadfruit trees

mulch (mulch) *n.* [ME *molsh*, soft, akin to Ger dial. *molsh*, soft: for prob. IE base see MOLD] leaves, straw, peat moss, etc., spread on the ground around plants to prevent evaporation of water from soil, freezing of roots, etc. — *vt.* to apply mulch to

mulching mower a lawn mower that shreds blades of grass into very small pieces that are left on the lawn to decay and return moisture and nutrients to the soil

mulct (mulkt) *vt.* [L *mulctare* $\leftarrow$ *multa*, multa, a fine] 1 to punish by a fine or by depriving of something 2 to extract (money, etc.) from (someone), as by fraud or deceit — *n.* a fine or similar penalty

See the inside front cover for pronunciation information.
The symbol * is used to mark terms of American origin.

residue / resonant

1220

resi-due (rez'ə döo', -dyoo') *n.* [ME < MFr *residu* < L *residuum*, neut. of *residuus*, remaining < *residere*: see RESIDE] 1 that which is left over after part is taken away; remainder; rest 2 *Chem.* the matter remaining at the end of a process, as after evaporation, combustion, filtration, etc.; residual product 3 *Law* that part of a testator's estate which is left after all claims, charges, and bequests have been satisfied —*SYN.* REMAINDER

re-sidu-um (ri zī'öö əm) *n., pl. -sid'ua (-ə)* [L] RESIDUE —*SYN.* REMAINDER

re-sign (ri zīn') *vt.* [ME *resignen* < MFr *resigner* < L *resignare* < *re-*, back + *signare*, to SIGN] 1 to give up possession of; relinquish (a claim, etc.) 2 to give up (an office, position, etc.) —*vi.* to give up an office, position of employment, etc., esp. by formal notice; often with *from* —**re-sign oneself (to)** to submit or become reconciled (to); accept (something) passively

res-ig-na-tion (rez'ig nā'shən) *n.* [ME < MFr *resignation* < ML *resignatio*] 1 a) the act of resigning b) formal notice of this, esp. in writing 2 patient submission; passive acceptance; acquiescence

re-signed (ri zīnd') *adj.* feeling or showing resignation; submissive; yielding and uncomplaining —**re-sign'-edly** (-zīn'id lē) *adv.* —**re-sign'-ed-ness** *n.*

re-sile (ri zil') *vt. -siled', -sil'-ing* [MFr *resiler* < L *resilire* < *re-*, back + *salire*, to JUMP: see SALIENT] [Now Rare] to bounce or spring back; rebound; specif., to come back into shape or position after being pressed or stretched: said of elastic bodies

re-sil-i-ence (ri zil'yəns, -ē əns) *n.* the quality of being resilient; esp., a) the ability to bounce or spring back into shape, position, etc. b) the ability to recover strength, spirits, good humor, etc. quickly; buoyancy Also **re-sil'-i-ency**

re-sil-i-ent (-yənt, -ē ənt) *adj.* [L *resiliens*, prp. of *resilire*: see RESILE] 1 bouncing or springing back into shape, position, etc. after being stretched, bent, or, esp., compressed 2 recovering strength, spirits, good humor, etc. quickly; buoyant —*SYN.* ELASTIC —**re-sil'-i-ently** *adv.*

resin (rez'an) *n.* [ME < MFr *resine* < L *resina* < or akin to Gr *rhētine*] 1 any of various solid or semisolid, viscous, usually clear or translucent, yellowish or brownish, organic substances exuded from various plants and trees: natural resins are soluble in ether, alcohol, etc., and are used in varnishes and lacquers, as modifiers in synthetic plastics, etc. 2 a) SYNTHETIC RESIN b) ROSIN —*vt.* to treat or rub with resin

res-in-ate (rez'ə nāt') *vt. -at'ed, -at'-ing* to impregnate or treat with resin

resin canal *Bot.* a tubular, intercellular opening containing resin, often found in the wood and needles of gymnosperms

res-in-if-er-ous (rez'ə nif'ər əs) *adj.* yielding resin: said of trees, etc.

res-in-oid (rez'ə noid') *adj.* like resin —*n.* 1 a resinoid substance 2 GUM RESIN

res-in-ous (-nəs) *adj.* [L *resinosus*] 1 of or like resin 2 obtained from resin 3 containing resin Also **res'-iny**

res ipsa loquitur (ip'sə lāk'wə tər) [L] the thing speaks for itself

re-sist (ri zist') *vt.* [ME *resisten* < MFr *resister* < L *resistere* < *re-*, back + *sistere*, to set, caus. of *stare*, to STAND] 1 to withstand; oppose; fend off; stand firm against; withstand the action of 2 a) to oppose actively; fight, argue, or work against b) to refuse to cooperate with, submit to, etc. [to resist conscription] 3 to keep from yielding to, being affected by, or enjoying [to resist temptation] —*vi.* to oppose or withstand something; offer resistance —*n.* a substance that resists, esp. something applied as a protective coating —**re-sist'er** *n.*

re-sist-ance (ri zis'təns) *n.* [ME < MFr *resistance* < LL *resistentia*] 1 the act of resisting, opposing, withstanding, etc. 2 power or capacity to resist; specif., the ability of an organism to ward off disease 3 opposition of some force, thing, etc. to another or others 4 a force that retards, hinders, or opposes motion 5 [often R-] the organized underground movement in a country fighting against a foreign occupying power, a dictatorship, etc., as in France during the Nazi occupation 6 *Elec.* a) the property of a component by which it resists the flow of electricity, usually measured in ohms and equal to the ratio of the voltage to the current: it is the reciprocal of conductance (abbrev. *R*) (see IMPEDANCE) b) RESISTOR 7 *Psychoanalysis* the active psychological opposition to the bringing of unconscious, usually repressed, material to consciousness

resistance plasmid any of a group of bacterial plasmids carrying genetic information that provide resistance to antibiotic drugs; some resistance plasmids are able to transfer themselves, and hence resistance, during conjugation

re-sist-ant (-tənt) *adj.* [L *resistens*, prp.] offering resistance; resisting —*n.* a person or thing that resists

Re-sis-ten-cia (rā'sē sten'syā) city in N Argentina, on the Paraná River: pop. 292,000

re-sist-ible (ri zis'tə bəl) *adj.* that can be resisted —**re-sist'-ibil'-ity** *n.*

re-sis-tive (ri zis'tiv) *adj.* resisting, tending to resist, or capable of resistance —**re-sis'-tively** *adv.*

re-sis-tiv-ity (rē'zis tiv'ə tē, ri zis'-) *n.* 1 property of, capacity for, or tendency toward resistance 2 *Elec.* resistance per unit of area or volume, measured in ohms per meter: the reciprocal of conductivity

re-sist-less (ri zist'lis) *adj.* 1 that cannot be resisted; irresistible 2

without power to resist; unresisting —**re-sist'-lessly** *adv.* —**re-sist'-less-ness** *n.*

re-sisto-jet (ri zis'tə jet') *n.* [< fol. + JET'] a jet engine that obtains its thrust from a propellant heated by a resistance device using electrical power

re-sis-tor (ri zis'tər) *n.* *Elec.* a component with a specific resistance, used to control the current in a circuit

res-ju-di-cata (jöö'di kät'ə) [L, thing decided] *Law* a matter already decided by judicial authority

re-sole (rē söl') *vt. -soled', -sol'-ing* to put a new sole on (a shoe, etc.) —*n.* a new sole for a shoe, etc.

re-sol-uble (ri zäl'yə bəl, rez'al yə bəl) *adj.* [L *resolubilis* < L *resolvere*] that can be resolved —**re-sol'-ubil'-ity** *n.* or **re-sol'-u-ble-ness**

reso-lute (rez'ə löüt') *adj.* [L *resolutus*, pp. of *resolvere*: see RE- & SOLVE] having or showing a fixed, firm purpose; determined; resolute; unwavering —*SYN.* FAITHFUL —**res'o-lutely** *adv.* —**res'o-lute-ness** *n.*

reso-lu-tion (rez'ə löü'shən) *n.* [ME *resolucioun*, dissolution < MFr *resolution* < L *resolutio* < *resolutus*: see prec.] 1 a) the act or process of resolving something or breaking it up into its constituent parts or elements b) the result of this 2 a) a resolving, or determining; deciding b) the thing determined upon; decision as to future action; resolve 3 a resolute quality of mind 4 a formal statement of opinion or determination adopted by an assembly or other formal group 5 a solving, as of a puzzle, or answering, as of a question; solution 6 that part of a play, novel, etc. in which the plot is explained or made clear 7 *Med.* the subsidence or disappearance of swelling, fever, or other manifestation of disease 8 *Music* a) the passing of a dissonant chord (or tone in a chord) to a consonant chord (or tone) b) a chord or tone to which such passing occurs 9 *Physics* the capability of an optical system, or other imaging system, of making clear and distinguishable the separate parts or components of an object

re-solv-able (ri zäl'və bəl, -zöl'-) *adj.* that can be resolved —**re-solv'-abil'-ity** *n.*

re-solve (ri zäl'v, -zöl'v) *vt. -solved', -solv'-ing* [ME *resolven* < L *resolvere*: see RE- & SOLVE] 1 to break up into separate, constituent elements or parts; analyze 2 to change or transform: used reflexively [a discussion that resolved itself into an argument] 3 to cause (a person) to decide [the flood that resolved him to sell] 4 to reach as a decision or intention; determine [to resolve to go] 5 a) to find the solution or an answer to (a problem); solve b) to make a decision about [to resolve the points at issue] c) to explain or make clear; show the resolution of (a problem, a fictional plot, etc.) d) to remove or dispel (doubt, etc.) 6 to decide by vote; make a formal decision about; express by resolution: said of a legislative assembly, etc. 7 [Obs.] to cause to dissolve or melt 8 *Chem.* to separate (an optically inactive compound or mixture) into its optically active components 9 *Med.* to cause (a swelling, fever, etc.) to subside or disappear 10 *Music* to cause (a chord or tone) to undergo resolution 11 *Physics* to make distinguishable the individual parts of (an image, radar echo, etc.) —*vi.* 1 to be resolved, as by analysis 2 to come to a decision; make a resolution; determine 3 *Music* to undergo resolution —*n.* 1 fixed purpose or intention; firm determination 2 a formal resolution, as of an assembly —*SYN.* DECIDE —**re-solv'er** *n.*

re-solved (ri zälvd', -zöldvd') *adj.* firm and fixed in purpose; determined; resolute —**re-solv'-edly** (-zäl'vid lē, -zöld'-) *adv.*

re-sol-vent (ri zäl'vant, -zöl'-) *adj.* that resolves; causing solution or resolution; solvent —*n.* 1 something solvent; specif., a medicine that can cause resolution, as of a swelling 2 something that resolves problems, etc.

resolving power 1 a measure of the smallest distance between two points in the image of an optical system when the two points can be distinguished as separate 2 the ability of a photographic emulsion to produce a picture containing fine detail

reso-nance (rez'ə nəns) *n.* [LME *resonance* < MFr *resonance* < L *resonantia*, an echo] 1 the quality or state of being resonant 2 reinforcement and prolongation of a sound or musical tone by reflection or by sympathetic vibration of other bodies 3 an underlying or pervasive quality of a particular type, esp. in a work of art or literature [an apocalyptic resonance] 4 *Chem.* the property of certain molecules of having two or more structures in which only the positions of electrons differ: these structures are approximations of the true structure, which cannot be described graphically, but is best represented by a mathematical expression 5 *Elec.* a condition arising in an electric circuit in which a) the current or voltage flow is at maximum amplitude, produced when the frequency of the electrical source is varied, or b) the current or voltage is in phase respectively with the applied current or voltage, or c) the natural frequency of the circuit is the same as that of the incoming signal 6 *Med.* the sound produced in the percussion of some part of the body, esp. of the chest 7 *Physics* a) the effect produced when the amplitude of oscillation of a body is greatly increased by a periodic force at the same or nearly the same frequency b) a vibration caused by this phenomenon 8 *Phonet.* the intensification of, and particular quality given to, a speech sound, resulting from its vibrating in a resonating cavity, as the pharynx, the mouth, or the nose, or a combination of these

reso-nant (-nənt) *adj.* [L *resonans*, prp. of *resonare*, to resound: see RE- & SOUND, vi.] 1 resounding or reechoing [a resonant sound] 2 producing resonance; increasing the intensity of sounds by sympathetic vibration [resonant walls] 3 full of, characterized

re-sign
resilverresituate
resketchresmooth
resolderresolidification
resolidify

re-solve

sole¹ (sôl) *n.* [OFr < VL **sola*, for L *solea*, sandal, sole, kind of fish < *solum*, sole, base, ground, bottom] 1 the bottom surface of the foot 2 the part of a shoe, boot, sock, etc. corresponding to this 3 the bottom surface of any of several objects, as a golf club —*vt.* **soled**, **sol-ing** to furnish (a shoe, etc.) with a sole

sole² (sôl) *adj.* [ME < OE *sol* < L *solus*, alone < ? IE **sôlo-* < base **se-*, **se/wo-*, apart > L *suus*, one's own] 1 *a*) without another or others; single; one and only *b*) acting, working, etc. alone without help 2 of or having to do with only one (specified) person or group 3 given or belonging to no other; not shared or divided; exclusive /the sole rights to a patent/ 4 [Archaic] alone; solitary 5 *Law* unmarried: cf. *FEME SOLE*

sole³ (sôl) *n., pl. sole or soles* [OFr < VL **sola*, for L *solea* (see *SOLE*); so named from its shape] any of various flatfishes (esp. family Soleidae) usually highly valued as food

sol-ecism (sâl'ô siz'əm) *n.* [L *soloecismus* < Gr *soloikismos* < *soloikos*, speaking incorrectly, after *Soloi*, city in Cilicia, whose dialect was a corrupt form of Attic] 1 a violation of the conventional usage, grammar, etc. of a language; ungrammatical use of words (Ex.: "We done it" for "We did it"); see also *BARBARISM*, *IMPROPRIETY* 2 a violation of good manners; breach of etiquette 3 a mistake or impropriety —*sol'-ecist n.* —*sol'-ecis'tic adj.* —*sol'-ecis'ti-cally adv.*

solely (sôl'lē) *adv.* 1 without another or others; alone /to be solely to blame/ 2 only, exclusively, merely, or altogether /to read solely for pleasure/

sol-lemn (sâl'əm) *adj.* [ME *solemn* < OFr < L *sollemnis*, *sollemnis*, yearly, annual, hence religious, solemn (from assoc. with annual religious festivals) < *sollus*, all, entire < Oscan, akin to L *salvus* (see *SAFE*) + ? *annus*, year] 1 *a*) observed or done according to ritual or tradition (said esp. of religious holidays, rites, etc.) *b*) sacred in character 2 according to strict form; formal /a solemn ceremony/ 3 *a*) serious or grave /a solemn face/ *b*) deeply earnest; very sincere /a solemn oath/ 4 very impressive or arousing feelings of awe because of its great importance or seriousness /a solemn occasion/ 5 somber because dark in color —*SYN.* *SERIOUS* —*sol'-em-nly adv.* —*sol'-em-ness n.*

Solemn (High) Mass *former term* for a highly ceremonial Mass with parts of the text sung by the celebrant, with a deacon and subdeacon assisting at the ceremonies, and with choir singing and organ music

sol-lem-nify (sə lem'nə fī) *vt.* —*fied-*, —*fy-ing* to make solemn

sol-lem-nity (sə lem'nə tē) *n., pl. -ties* [ME *solempnēte* < OFr *solempneté* < L *sollemnitas*] 1 solemn ceremony, ritual, observance, etc. 2 solemn feeling, character, or appearance; serious or awesome quality; gravity 3 *Law* the formality needed to validate an act, contract, etc.

sol-lem-nize (sâl'əm niz') *vt.* —*nized-*, —*niz-ing* [ME *solempnisen* < OFr *solempniser* < ML(Ec) *solempnizare* < L *sollemnis*, *SOLEMN*] 1 to celebrate with formal ceremony or according to ritual 2 to perform the ceremony of (marriage, etc.) 3 to make solemn, or serious, grave, etc. —*SYN.* *CELEBRATE* —*sol'-em-ni-za'tion n.* —*sol'-em-nizer n.*

solemn vow *R.C.Ch.* a vow made with canonical effects stricter than those of a SIMPLE VOW: e.g., a solemn vow of chastity, broken by attempting marriage while the vow is still in effect, makes the marriage both illicit and invalid

so-leno-cyte (sə lē'nə sīt) *n.* [Gr *sōlên*, a channel + -*CYTE*] an elongated, tubular flame cell with one or more long flagella, occurring in certain annelids, cephalochordates, etc.

so-leno-glyph (glif') *n.* [ModL *Solenoglyphia* < Gr *sōlên*, a channel (in reference to the tubular fangs) + *glyphein*, to carve: for IE base see *CLEAVE*] any poisonous snake of the viper family with hollow, paired, erectile fangs

so-lenoid (sô'lə noid', sô'-) *n.* [Fr *solénoïde* < Gr *sōlên*, a tube, channel (< IE **tul-* < base **twō-* > Sans *tūna*, a quiver) + *eidōs*, -*OID*] a coil of wire, usually surrounding a movable iron core, that acts as a magnet when carrying a current: used as an electromagnetic switch or relay —*so'-lenoid'al adj.*

So-lent (sô'lənt), *The W* portion of the channel separating the Isle of Wight from the mainland of Hampshire, England: c. 15 mi (24 km) long; the E portion of the channel is called *Spithead*

sole-plate (sôl'plāt') *n.* [SOLE¹ + PLATE] the ironing surface of a flatiron

so-les (sô'les) *n. Sp. pl. of SOL¹*

So-leure (sô lē'r) *Fr. name for SOLOTHURN*

sol-fa (sôl'fā) *n.* [It *solfa* < *sol* + *fa*: see *GAMUT*] 1 the syllables *do* (formerly *ut*), *re*, *mi*, *fa*, *sol* (or *so*), *la*, *ti* (or *st*), *do* (or *ut*), used to represent the tones of a scale, regardless of its key 2 the use of these syllables, as in vocal exercises; *solfeggio* —*vt., vi.* —*faed'* (-fād'), —*fa'ing* to sing (a scale, phrase, or song) to the sol-fa syllables —*sol'-fa-ist n.*

sol-fa-tara (sôl'fā tā'rə) *n.* [It < *solfo*, sulfur < L *sulfur*] a volcanic vent or fissure giving off only vapors, esp. sulfurous gases

sol-fège (sâl fezh') *n.* [Fr < It *solfeggio*; see *fol*] 1 *SOLEFEGGIO* 2 the teaching of the essentials of music theory, including tonality, tempo, rhythm, etc.

sol-feg-gio (sâl fej'ō) *n., pl. -feg'-gios or -feg'gi* [It < *solfa*: see *SOL-FA*] 1 voice practice in which scales are sung to the sol-fa syllables; solmization 2 the use of these syllables in singing, esp. in reading a song, etc. at sight

sol-licit (sə lis'it) *vt.* [ME *soliciten* < MFr *solliciter* < L *sollicitare* < *solicitus*: see *SOLICITOUS*] 1 to ask or seek earnestly or pleadingly; appeal to or for /to solicit aid, to solicit members for donations/ 2

to tempt or entice (someone) to do wrong 3 to approach for some immoral purpose, as a prostitute does —*vi.* to solicit someone or something —*SYN.* *BEG* —*sol-lic'i-tant (-i tant) n., adj.* —*sol-lic'i-tation n.*

sol-lici-tor (-ər) *n.* [ME *solycettour* < MFr *solliciteur*] 1 a person who solicits; esp., one who seeks trade, asks for contributions, etc. 2 in England, a member of the legal profession who is not a barrister; solicitors are not members of the bar and may not plead cases in superior courts 3 in the U.S., a lawyer serving as official law officer for a city, department, etc. —*SYN.* *LAWYER*

solicitor general *pl. solicitors general or solicitor generals* 1 the law officer in the U.S. Department of Justice ranking next below the attorney general: the U.S. solicitor general represents the U.S. in cases before the Supreme Court 2 a law officer of similar rank in certain U.S. states and in England

sol-lici-tous (sə lis'ə təs) *adj.* [L *sollicitus* < *sollus*, whole (see *SOLE*) + *citus*, pp. of *cere*, to set in motion: see *CITE*] 1 showing care, attention, or concern /solicitous for her welfare/ 2 showing anxious desire; eager /solicitous to make friends/ 3 full of anxiety or apprehension; troubled —*sol-lic'i-tously adv.* —*sol-lic'i-tousness n.*

sol-lici-tude (-tōd', -tyōd') *n.* [ME < L *sollicitudo*] 1 the state of being solicitous; care, concern, etc.; sometimes, excessive care or concern 2 *pl.* causes of care or concern —*SYN.* *CARE*

solid (sāl'id) *adj.* [ME *solide* < MFr < L *solidus* < *sollus*, whole: see *SOLEMN*] 1 tending to keep its form rather than to flow or spread out like a liquid or gas; relatively firm or compact 2 filled with matter throughout; not hollow 3 *a*) having the three dimensions of length, breadth, and thickness /prisms and other solid figures/ *b*) strong, and dependable /a solid structure/ *c*) substantial, sound, and reliable /solid reasoning/ *d*) sturdy or vigorous /a solid build, solid punch/ 5 serious; not superficial or trivial /solid scholarship/ 6 complete, thoroughgoing, or genuine /solid satisfaction/ 7 *a*) having no breaks or divisions /a solid line of fortifications/ *b*) written or printed without a hyphen /a solid compound/ 8 characterized by no pauses or interruptions /to talk for a solid hour/ 9 *a*) solid walnut table/ *b*) consisting of one unalloyed metal throughout /a solid out; also, containing no more alloy than is necessary to insure hardness (said of gold, etc.) 10 characterized by or showing complete unity; unanimous /a solid vote/ 11 thick or dense in appearance or texture /a solid fog/ 12 firm or dependable /a solid friendship/ 13 [Informal] having a firmly favorable or good relationship /to be in solid with someone/ 14 [Informal] healthful and filling /a solid meal/ 15 [Slang] very good; excellent /a solid dance band/ 16 *Printing* set without spaces between the lines of type —*n.* 1 a substance that is solid, not a liquid or gas 2 an object or figure having or represented as having length, breadth, and thickness —*SYN.* *FIRM* —*sol'-idly adv.* —*sol'-id-ness n.*

sol-i-dago (sāl'ə dā'gō) *n., pl. -gos* [ModL < ML, goldenrod < L *solidare*, to strengthen (see *SOLDER*): in reference to its supposed healing powers] GOLDENROD

solid angle the angle formed by three or more planes meeting in a common point or formed at the vertex of a cone

sol-i-dar-ity (sāl'ə dar'ə tē) *n., pl. -ties* [Fr *solidarité* < *solidaire*: see *SOLID* & -*ARY*] combination or agreement of all elements or individuals, as of a group; complete unity, as of opinion, purpose, interest, or feeling —*SYN.* *UNITY*

solid fuel any of various rocket fuels and oxidizers that are mixed and solidified into a storable mass: also called *solid propellant*

solid geometry the branch of geometry dealing with solid, or three-dimensional, figures

sol-i-di-fy (sə lid'ə fī) *vt., vi.* —*fied-*, —*fy-ing* [Fr *solidifier*: see *SOLID* & -*FY*] 1 to make or become solid, firm, hard, compact, etc. 2 to crystallize 3 to make or become solid, strong, or united —*sol'id-i-fi-ca'tion n.*

sol-id-ity (-tē) *n.* [L *soliditas*] the quality or condition of being solid; firmness, soundness, hardness, etc.

solid rocket any of various rockets using solid fuel

Solid South those Southern States traditionally regarded as solidly supporting the Democratic Party

solid-state (sāl'id stāt') *adj.* 1 designating or of the branch of physics dealing with the fundamental properties of solids, as structure, binding forces, electrical, magnetic, and optical properties etc., and with their effects 2 designating, of, or equipped with electronic devices, as semiconductors, that can control current without heated filaments, moving parts, etc.

sol-i-dus (sāl'i das) *n., pl. sol'i-di' (-di')* [ME < LL < L *solidus* (nummus), lit., SOLID (coin)] 1 a gold coin of the Late Roman Empire 2 a medieval money of account worth twelve denarii: abbreviated *s* in £ s.d. 3 *a*) a slant line (/), orig. the old long *s* (*j*), used to separate shillings from pence (Ex.: 7/6) *b*) VIRGULE

sol-i-fluc-tion (sāl'ə fluk' shən, sō'li-) *n.* a more rapid form of soil creep, often found near a glacier, in which saturated soil slips over hard or frozen layers

so-lilo-quize (sə lil'ə kwiz') *vi.* —*quized-*, —*quized-* to deliver a soliloquy; talk to oneself —*vt.* to utter in or as a soliloquy —*so-lilo-quist (-kwist) n.*

so-lilo-quy (-kwē) *n., pl. -quies* [LL *soliloquium* < L *solus*, alone, *SOLE* + *loqui*, to speak] 1 an act or instance of talking to oneself 2 lines in a drama in which a character reveals his or her thoughts to the audience, but not to the other characters, by speaking as if to himself or herself

Sol-i-mões (sô'li mōins') the upper Amazon, between the Peruvian border & the Negro River