



RANDOM HOUSE
WEBSTER'S
unabridged
dictionary

SECOND EDITION

RANDOM HOUSE
REFERENCE

NEW YORK TORONTO LONDON SYDNEY AUCKLAND

Valve Exhibit 1062
Valve v. Immersion
IPR2024-00477

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Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition, is a revised and updated edition of
The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition, Unabridged.

International Phonetic Alphabet courtesy of International Phonetic Association

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

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Visit the Random House Reference Web site at www.randomwords.com
Printed in China.

10 9 8 7 6

ISBN: 978-0-375-42599-8
ISBN: 978-0-375-42605-6 (Deluxe Edition)
ISBN: 978-0-375-42609-4 (CD-ROM Edition)

word for happiness of an especially fortunate or intense kind: to wish a young couple felicity in life. —**Ant.** 1. misery.

happy (hap/ē), *adj.* **-pi-er, -pi-est.** 1. delighted, pleased, or glad, as over a particular thing: to be happy to see a person. 2. characterized by or indicative of pleasure, contentment, or joy: a happy mood; a happy frame of mind. 3. favored by fortune; fortunate or lucky: a happy, fruitful land. 4. apt or felicitous, as actions, utterances, or ideas. 5. obsessed by or quick to use the item indicated (usually used in combination): a trigger-happy gangster. *Everybody is gadget-happy these days.* [1300-50; ME; see **HAP** + **-y**]

—**Syn.** 1. joyous, joyful, blithe, cheerful, merry, contented, gay, blissful, satisfied. 3. favorable, propitious; successful, prosperous. See **fortunate**. 4. appropriate, fitting, opportune, pertinent. —**Ant.** 1. sad.

hap/py dust, *Slang.* cocaine. [1920-25]

hap/py-go-lucky-y (hap/ē gō luk/ē), *adj.* trusting cheerfully to luck; happily unworried or unconcerned. [1665-75]

—**Syn.** carefree, heedless, light-hearted, insouciant.

hap/py hour, a cocktail hour or longer period at a bar, during which drinks are served at reduced prices or with free snacks: happy hour from 5 to 7 P.M. [1965-70]

hap/py hunt/ing ground, 1. the North American Indian heaven, conceived of as a paradise of hunting and feasting for warriors and hunters. 2. a place where one finds in abundance that which one needs or desires, or where one may pursue an activity without restriction: New England attics are happy hunting grounds for antique collectors. [1830-40, Amer.]

Hap/py Val/ley-Goose Bay, a twin town in SE Labrador in Newfoundland, E Canada, consisting of an air base, Goose Bay, and its adjacent residential town of Happy Valley; used as a fuel stop by some transatlantic airplanes. 8075.

hap/py war/rior, 1. a person who is undiscouraged by difficulties or opposition. 2. (cap.) a nickname of Alfred E. Smith. [1800-10]

Haps-burg (haps/bürg; Ger. häps/böörk/), *n.* a German princely family, prominent since the 13th century, that has furnished sovereigns to the Holy Roman Empire, Austria, Spain, etc. Also, **Habsburg**.

hap-ten (hap/ten), *n.* **Immunol.** a substance having a single antigenic determinant that can react with a previously existing antibody but cannot stimulate more antibody production unless combined with other molecules; a partial antigen. Also, **hap-tene** (hap/ten). [1920-25; < Gk *haptēin* to grasp + *G-en-ENE*]

hap-ter-on (hap/ta rōn/), *n.* **pl. -ter-a** (-tēr ə). **Biol.** a structure by which a fungus, aquatic plant, or algae colony attaches to an object; a holdfast. [1890-95; appar. a pseudo-Gk deriv. of Gk *haptēin* to grasp and *-ter* agentive suffix]

hap-tics (hap/tiks), *n.* (used with a singular *v.*) the branch of psychology that investigates cutaneous sense data. [1890-95; *haptic* < Gk *haptikos* able to grasp or perceive, equiv. to *haptēin* to grasp, sense, perceive + *-tikos* -tic; see **-ics**] —**hap/tic**, *hap/ti-cal*, *adj.*

hap-tom-eter (hap/tōm/i tēr/), *n.* a mechanical device for measuring the sense of touch. [< Gk *haptēin* to sense, touch, grasp + *-o-* + *-meter*]

hap-u-u (hā pōō/ōō), *n.* a Hawaiian tree fern, *Cibotium splendens*, the cut trunks of which are used in horticulture as pots and planters. [< Hawaiian *hāpu'u*]

Har-a-han (har/ə han/), *n.* a town in SE Louisiana. 11,384.

hara-kiri (hār/ə kēr/ē, har/ə-, har/ē-), *n.* 1. Also called **sōppuku**, ceremonial suicide by ripping open the abdomen with a dagger or knife: formerly practiced in Japan by members of the warrior class when disgraced or sentenced to death. 2. suicide or any suicidal action; a self-destructive act: political *hara-kiri*. Also, **hari-kari**. [1855-60; < Japn, equiv. to *hara* belly (earlier *fara* < **para*) + *kiri* cut]

Har-ald V (har/ald; Norw. hār/äl/), born 1937, king of Norway since 1991.

har-ram (hār/əm, har/-), *n.* harem.

har-rangue (hə rang/), *n.* **v.** **-rangued, -ranguing.** —**n.** 1. a scolding or a long or intense verbal attack; diatribe. 2. a long, passionate, and vehement speech, esp. one delivered before a public gathering. 3. any long, pompous speech or writing of a tediously hortatory or didactic nature; sermonizing lecture or discourse. —**v.** 4. to address in a harangue. —**v.** 5. to deliver a harangue. [1530-40; (n.) < MF *harangue* < It *ar(r)inga* speech, oration, *n.* deriv. of *ar(r)ingare* to speak in public, *v.* deriv. of *aringo* public square < Goth **hriggs ringa*; (*v.*) < MF *haranguer* < It *ar(r)ingare*]

Har-rap-pa (hə rap/ə), *n.* 1. a village in Pakistan: site of successive cities of the Indus valley civilization. 2. a Bronze Age culture that flourished in the Indus valley.

Har-rap-pan (hə rap/ən), *adj.* of or pertaining to Harappa, esp. the Bronze Age culture of the Indus valley civilization. [HARAPP(A) + **-AN**]

Har-rar (hār/ər), *n.* a city in E Ethiopia. 58,000. Also, **Har-rar**.

Har-ra-re (hə rār/ə), *n.* a city in the capital of Zimbabwe, in the NE part. 675,000. Formerly, **Salisbury**.

har-rass (hə ras/, har/əs), *v.* 1. to disturb persistently; torment, as with troubles or cares; bother continually; pester; persecute. 2. to trouble by repeated attacks; incursions, etc., as in war or hostilities; harry; raid. [1610-20; < F, MF *harasser* to harry, harass, *v.*

deriv. of *harace*, *harache* (in phrase *courre a la harace* pursue), equiv. to *hare* interjection used to urge hunting dogs on (< Frankish **hara* here, from this side; cf. OHG *hera*, G *her*, MD *hare*) + *-asse* aug. or pejorative suffix < L *-acea*] —**har-rass-a-ble**, *adj.* —**har-rass/er**, *n.* —**har-rass/ing-ly**, *adv.* —**har-rass/ment**, *n.*

—**Syn.** 1. badger, vex, plague, hector; torture. See **worry**. 2. molest.

—**Pronunciation.** HARASS, a 17th century French borrowing, has traditionally been pronounced (har/əs), with stress on the first syllable. A newer pronunciation, (hə ras/), has developed in North American (but not British) English. While this newer pronunciation is sometimes criticized by older educated speakers, it has become the more common one in the U.S., especially among younger educated speakers, some of whom have only minimal familiarity with the older form.

Har-bin (hār/bin/), *n.* Pinyin. a city in and the capital of Heilongjiang province, in NE China. 2,000,000. Formerly, **Pinkiang**.

har-binger (hār/bin jər/), *n.* 1. a person who goes ahead and makes known the approach of another; herald. 2. anything that foreshadows a future event; omen; sign: Frost is a harbinger of winter. 3. a person sent in advance of troops, a royal train, etc., to provide or secure lodgings and other accommodations. —**v.** 4. to act as harbinger to; herald the coming of. [1125-75; late ME *herbenger*, nasalized *v.* of ME *herbergere*, dissimilated *v.* of OF *herberg* (here host, equiv. to *herberg* (ier) to shelter (< Gmc; see **HARBOR**) + *-iere* -ER)]

—**Syn.** 2. herald, forerunner, precursor, portent, indication.

har-binger-of-spring (hār/bin jər əv spring/), *n.*, *pl.* **har-bin-gers-of-spring**, a North American umbelliferous herb, *Eriogonum bulbosum*, having white flowers that bloom early in the spring. [1865-70]

Har-bo-na (hār bō/na), *n.* one of the seven eunuchs who served in the court of King Ahasuerus. Esther 1:10.

har-bor (hār/bər/), *n.* 1. a part of a body of water along the shore deep enough for anchoring a ship and so situated with respect to coastal features, whether natural or artificial, as to provide protection from winds, waves, and currents. 2. such a body of water having docks or port facilities. 3. any place of shelter or refuge: The old inn was a harbor for tired travelers. —**v.** 4. to give shelter to; offer refuge to: They harbored the refugees who streamed across the borders. 5. to conceal; hide: to harbor fugitives. 6. to keep or hold in the mind; maintain; entertain: to harbor suspicion. 7. to house or contain. 8. to shelter (a vessel), as in a harbor. —**v.** 9. (of a vessel) to take shelter in a harbor. Also, *esp.* **Brit.**, **har-bour**. [bef. 1150; ME *herber*(we), *herberge*, OE *here-beorg* lodgings, quarters (here army + (*ge*)beorg refuge); c. G *Herberge*] —**har/bor-er**, *n.* —**har/bor-less**, *adj.*

—**Syn.** 1. HARBOR, HAVEN, PORT indicate a shelter for ships. A HARBOR may be natural or artificially constructed or improved: a fine harbor on the eastern coast. A HAVEN is usually a natural harbor that can be utilized by ships as a place of safety; the word is common in literary use: a haven in time of storm; a haven of refuge. A PORT is a HARBOR viewed esp. in its commercial relations, though it is frequently applied in the meaning of HARBOR or HAVEN also: a thriving port; any old port in a storm. 3. asylum, sanctuary, retreat. 4. protect, lodge. 6. See **cherish**.

har-bor-age (hār/bər ij/), *n.* 1. shelter for vessels, as that provided by a harbor. 2. any shelter or lodging. 3. a place of shelter. [1560-70; HARBOR + **-AGE**]

har/bor mas/ter, an official who supervises operations in a harbor area and administers its rules. [1760-70]

har/bor seal, a small, spotted seal, *Phoca vitulina*, of the Atlantic coasts of North America and Europe and the Pacific coast of northern North America. [1760-70]

har-bor-side (hār/bər sid/), *adj.* 1. bordering a harbor. —**adv.** 2. in, to, or near the area bordering a harbor. [1945-50; HARBOR + **SIDE**]

har-bour (hār/bər/), *n.*, *v.*, *v.i.* Chiefly **Brit.** harbor. —**Usage.** See **-or**.

hard (hɑrd/), *adj.* **-er, -est, adv.** **-er, -est, n.** —**adj.** 1. not soft; solid and firm to the touch; yielding to pressure and impenetrable or almost impenetrable. 2. firmly formed; tight: a hard knot. 3. difficult to do or accomplish; fatiguing; troublesome: a hard task. 4. difficult or troublesome with respect to an action, situation, person, etc.: hard to please; a hard time. 5. difficult to deal with; manage, control, overcome, or understand: a hard problem. 6. involving a great deal of effort, energy, or persistence: hard labor; hard study. 7. performing or carrying on work with great effort, energy, or persistence: a hard worker. 8. vigorous or violent in force; severe: a hard rain; a hard fall. 9. bad; unendurable; unbearable: hard luck. 10. oppressive; harsh; rough: hard treatment. 11. austere; severe: a hard winter; the hard times of the Great Depression. 12. harsh or severe in dealing with others: a hard master. 13. difficult to explain away; undeniable: hard facts. 14. that can be verified; factual, as distinguished from speculation or hearsay: hard information. 15. harsh or unfriendly; resentful; severe; bitter: hard feelings; hard words. 16. of stern judgment or close examination; searching: a hard look. 17. lacking delicacy or softness; not blurred or diffused; clear and distinct; sharp; harsh: a hard line; a hard, bright light; hard features; a hard face. 18. (of a photograph) contrasty. 19. severe or rigorous in terms: a hard bargain. 20. sternly realistic; dispassionate; unsentimental: a hard, practical man; a hard view of life. 21. incorrigible; disreputable; tough: a hard character. 22. **Scot.** and **North Eng.** niggardly; stingy. 23. in coins or paper money as distinguished from checks, securities, promissory notes, or other negotiable instruments. 24. (of paper money or a monetary system) supported by sufficient gold reserves and easily convertible into the currency of a foreign nation. 25. (of money) scarce or available at high interest rates: a hard loan. 26. denoting assets with intrinsic

value, as gold, silver, or diamonds. 27. (of alcoholic beverages) a. containing more than 22.5 percent alcohol by volume, as whiskey and brandy as opposed to beer and wine. b. strong because of fermentation; intoxicating: hard cider. 28. (of wine) tasting excessively of tannin. 29. (of an illicit narcotic or drug) known to be physically addictive, as opium, morphine, or cocaine. 30. (of water) containing mineral salts that interfere with the action of soap. 31. (of bread and baked goods) a. having a firm, crisp crust or texture: hard rolls. b. stale or tough. 32. (of a fabric) having relatively little nap; smooth: Silk is a harder fabric than wool or cotton. 33. (of the landing of a rocket or space vehicle) executed without decelerating: a hard landing on the moon. Cf. **soft** (def. 28). 34. (of a missile base) equipped to launch missiles from underground silos. 35. (of a missile) capable of being launched from an underground silo. 36. **Mil.** being underground and strongly protected from nuclear bombardment. 37. **Agric.** noting wheats with high gluten content, milled for a bread flour as contrasted with pastry flour. 38. **Phonet.** a. fortis. b. (of c and g) pronounced as (k) in come and (g) in go, rather than as in cent, cello, suspicion, gem, or beige. c. (of consonants in Slavic languages) not palatalized. Cf. **soft** (def. 26). 39. (in the making of rope) noting a lay having a considerable angle to the axis of the rope; short. 40. **Physics.** (of a beam of particles or photons) having relatively high energy: hard x-rays. Cf. **soft** (def. 29). 41. (of the penis) erect. 42. **Hard of hearing.** See **hearing-impaired**. 43. **hard up.** **Informal.** a. urgently in need of money. b. feeling a lack or need: The country is hard up for technicians and doctors.

—**adv.** 44. with great exertion; with vigor or violence; strenuously: to work hard; to try hard. 45. earnestly, intently, or critically: to look hard at a thing. 46. harshly or severely. 47. so as to be solid, tight, or firm: frozen hard. 48. with strong force or impact: She tripped and came down hard on her back. 49. in a deeply affected manner; with genuine sorrow or remorse: She took it very hard when they told her of his death. 50. closely; immediately: Failure and defeat seemed hard at hand. The decision to ban students from the concerts followed hard on the heels of the riot. 51. to an unreasonable or extreme degree; excessively; immoderately: He's hitting the bottle pretty hard. 52. **Naut.** closely, fully, or to the extreme limit: hard aport; hard alee. 53. be hard on, to deal harshly with; be stern: You are being too hard on him. 54. hard by, in close proximity to; near: The house is hard by the river. 55. hard put, in great perplexity or difficulty; at a loss: We were hard put to finish the examination in one hour. —**n.** 56. **Naut.** a firm or paved beach or slope convenient for hauling vessels out of the water. 57. **Brit.** a. a firm or solid beach or foreshore. b. a firm landing, jetty, or road across or adjoining the foreshore. 58. **Brit. Slang.** See **hard labor**. [bef. 900; ME; OE *heard*; c. D *hard*, G *hart*, ON *harthr*, Goth *hardus*; akin to Gk *kratys* strong, Ionic dial. *kartos* strength (cf. **-CRACY**)]

—**Syn.** 1. inflexible, rigid, compressed, compact, dense, resisting, adamant, flinty. See **firm**. 3. toilsome, burdensome, wearisome, exhausting. **HARD, DIFFICULT** both describe something resistant to one's efforts or one's endurance. **HARD** is the general word: hard times; It was hard to endure the severe weather. **DIFFICULT** means not easy, and particularly denotes that which requires special effort or skill: a difficult task. 5. complex, complicated, perplexing, puzzling, intricate, knotty, tough. 6. arduous, onerous, laborious. 8. stormy, tempestuous. 10. severe, rigorous, grinding, cruel, merciless, unsparring. 12. stern, austere, strict, exacting, relentless, obdurate, adamant; unyielding, unyielding. **HARD, CALLOUS, UNFEELING, UNSYMPATHETIC** imply a lack of interest in, feeling for, or sympathy with others. **HARD** implies insensibility, either natural or acquired, so that the plight of others makes no impression on one: a hard taskmaster. **CALLOUS** may mean the same or that one is himself or herself insensitive to hurt as the result of continued repression and indifference: a callous answer; callous to criticism. **UNFEELING** implies natural inability to feel with and for others: an unfeeling and thoughtless remark. **UNSYMPATHETIC** implies an indifference that precludes pity, compassion, or the like: unsympathetic toward distress. 13. incontrovertible. —**Ant.** 1. soft. 3-6. easy.

hard-and-fast (hɑrd/ən fɑst/), *adj.* strongly binding; not to be set aside or violated: hard-and-fast rules. [1865-70] —**hard-and-fast/ness**, *n.* —**Syn.** fixed, precise, inflexible, inviolable, rigorous, unambiguous.

har-dang-er (hār dāŋ/ər), *n.* embroidery openwork having elaborate symmetrical designs created by blocks of satin stitches within which threads of the embroidery fabric are removed. [1880-85; after *Hardanger*, an area in SW Norway where such embroidery was orig. produced]

hard-ass (hɑrd/əs/), *n.* **Slang** (vulgar). a person who follows rules and regulations meticulously and enforces them without exceptions. Also, **hard/ass**.

hard-as-set (hɑrd/əs/et), *adj.* denoting an asset with intrinsic value: diamonds and other hard-asset commodities.

hard-back (hɑrd/bak/), *n.*, *adj.* hardcover. [1740-50; **HARD** + **BACK**]

hard-ball (hɑrd/bɔl/), *n.* 1. baseball, as distinguished from softball. 2. play hardball, to act or work aggressively, competitively, or ruthlessly, as in business or politics. —**adj.** 3. tough or ruthless: He wasn't ready for the hardball politics of Washington. 4. outspoken, challenging, or difficult: Reporters asked the president some hardball questions. [1825-35; **HARD** + **BALL**]

hard-bill (hɑrd/bil/), *n.* **Ornith.** a seed-eating bird.

hard-bit-ten (hɑrd/bit/ən), *adj.* 1. tough; stubborn. 2. conditioned by battle or struggle: a hard-bitten army. 3. grim or severe in judgment or attitude: a hard-bitten old teacher. 4. hard-boiled (def. 2, 3). [1775-85]

hard-board (hɑrd/bɔrd/, -bɔrd/), *n.* a material made from wood fibers compressed into sheets, having many household and industrial uses. [1925-30; **HARD** + **BOARD**]

CONCRETE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence, b., blend of, blended; c., cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; * , unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

ment for professional services: *a doctor's fee*. 2. a sum paid or charged for a privilege: *an admission fee*. 3. a charge allowed by law for the service of a public officer. 4. *Law*. a. an estate of inheritance in land, either absolute and without limitation to any particular class of heirs (*fee simple*) or limited to a particular class of heirs (*fee tail*). b. an inheritable estate in land held of a feudal lord on condition of the performing of certain services. c. a territory held in fee. 5. a gratuity; tip. —*v.t.* 6. to give a fee to. 7. *Chiefly Scot.* to hire; employ. [1250-1300; ME < AF; OF *fee* var. of *fief* FIEF. See FEUDAL] —*fee/less*, *adj.*

—*Syn.* 1. stipend, salary, emolument; honorarium.

feeb (fēb), *n.* *Slang* (disparaging and offensive). a feeble-minded person. [1910-15; by shortening]

fee-ble (fē/bəl), *adj.* —*bler*, *blest*. 1. physically weak, as from age or sickness; frail. 2. weak intellectually or morally: *a feeble mind*. 3. lacking in volume, loudness, brightness, distinctness, etc.: *a feeble voice; feeble light*. 4. lacking in force, strength, or effectiveness: *feeble resistance; feeble arguments*. [1125-75; ME *feble* < OF, var. of *feible* (by dissimilation) < L *febilis* lamentable, equiv. to *flēre* to weep + *-bilis* -BLE] —*fee/ble-ness*, *n.* —*fee/blish*, *adj.* —*fee/bly*, *adv.*

—*Syn.* 1. See weak.

fee-ble-mind-ed (fē/bəl min/'did), *adj.* 1. lacking the normal mental powers. 2. *Med.* (formerly) mentally retarded. Cf. *idiot*, *imbecile*, *moron*. 3. stupid; unintelligent: *feeble-minded remarks*. 4. *Archaic*. lacking firmness of mind; indecisive. [1525-35] —*fee/ble-mind-ed-ly*, *adv.* —*fee/ble-mind-ed-ness*, *n.*

feed (fēd), *v.* *fed*, *feeding*. *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to give food to; supply with nourishment: *to feed a child*. 2. to yield or serve as food for: *This land has fed 10 generations*. 3. to provide as food. 4. to furnish for consumption. 5. to satisfy; minister to; gratify: *Poetry feeds the imagination*. 6. to supply for maintenance or operation, as to a machine: *to feed paper into a photocopier*. 7. to provide with the necessary materials for development, maintenance, or operation: *to feed a printing press with paper*. 8. to use (land) as pasture. 9. *Theat.* *Informal*. a. to supply (an actor, esp. a comedian) with lines or action, the responses to which are expected to elicit laughter. b. to provide cues to (an actor). c. *Chiefly Brit.* to prompt: *Stand in the wings and feed them their lines*. 10. *Radio and Television*. to distribute (a local broadcast) via satellite or network. —*v.i.* 11. (esp. of animals) to take food; eat: *cows feeding in a meadow; to feed well*. 12. to be nourished or gratified; subsist: *to feed on grass; to feed on thoughts of revenge*. 13. *chain feed*, to pass (work) successively into a machine in such a manner that each new piece is held in place by or connected to the one before. —*n.* 14. food, esp. for farm animals, as cattle, horses or chickens. 15. an allowance, portion, or supply of such food. 16. *Informal*. a meal, esp. a lavish one. 17. the act of feeding. 18. the act or process of feeding a furnace, machine, etc. 19. the material, or the amount of it, so fed or supplied. 20. a feeding mechanism. 21. *Elect.* feeder (def. 10). 22. *Theat.* *Informal*. a. a line spoken by one actor, the response to which by another actor is expected to cause laughter. b. an actor, esp. a straight man, who provides such lines. 23. a local television broadcast distributed by satellite or network to a much wider audience. *esp.* nationwide or international. 24. *off one's feed*, *Slang*. a. reluctant to eat, without appetite. b. dejected; sad. c. not well; ill. [bef. 950; ME *fedan*, OE *fēdan*, c. Goth *fōdjan*, OS *fōdian*. See FOOD] —*feed-a-ble*, *adj.*

—*Syn.* 1. 2. nourish, sustain. 5. nurture, support, encourage, bolster. 14. FEED, FODDER, FORAGE, PROVENDER mean food for animals. FEED is the general word: *pig feed; chicken feed*. FODDER is esp. applied to dry or green feed, as opposed to pasturage, fed to horses, cattle, etc.: *fodder for winter feeding; Cornstalks are good fodder*. FORAGE is food that an animal obtains (usually grass, leaves, etc.) by searching about for it: *Lost cattle can usually live on forage*. PROVENDER denotes dry feed, such as hay, oats, or corn: *a supply of provender in the hay-mow and corn cribs*. —*Ant.* 1. 2. starve.

feed-back (fēd/'bak'), *n.* 1. *Electronics*. a. the process of returning part of the output of a circuit, system, or device to the input, either to oppose the input (*negative feedback*) or to aid the input (*positive feedback*). b. See *acoustic feedback*. 2. the furnishing of data concerning the operation or output of a machine to an automatic control device or to the machine itself, so that subsequent or ongoing operations of the machine can be altered or corrected. 3. a reaction or response to a particular process or activity: *He got very little feedback from his speech*. 4. evaluative information derived from such a reaction or response: *to study the feedback from an audience survey*. 5. *Psychol.* knowledge of the results of any behavior, considered as influencing or modifying further performance. Cf. *biofeedback*. 6. *Biol.* a self-regulatory biological system, as in the synthesis of some hormones, in which the output or response affects the input, either positively or negatively. [1915-20; *n.* use of *v.* phrase *feed back*]

feed/back loop. *Computers, Electronics*. the path by which some of the output of a circuit, system, or device is returned to the input. Cf. *closed loop*. [1980-85]

feed' bag', 1. Also called *nose bag*. a bag for feeding horses, placed before the mouth and fastened around the head with straps. 2. *put on the feed bag*, *Slang*. to have a meal; eat. Also, *feed/bag'*. [1830-40, *Amer.*]

feed-box (fēd/'boks'), *n.* 1. a box for animal feed. 2. a casing for the feeding mechanism of a machine. [1830-40, *Amer.*; FEED + BOX']

feed-er (fē/'der), *n.* 1. a person or thing that supplies food or feeds something. 2. a bin or boxlike device from

which farm animals may eat, esp. such a device designed to allow a number of chickens to feed simultaneously or to release a specific amount of feed at regular intervals. 3. a person or thing that takes food or nourishment. 4. a livestock animal that is fed an enriched diet to fatten it for market. Cf. *stocker* (def. 2). 5. a person or device that feeds a machine, printing press, etc. 6. a tributary stream. 7. bird feeder. 8. See *feeder line*. 9. See *feeder road*. 10. Also, *feed*. *Elect.* a conductor, or group of conductors, connecting primary equipment in an electric power system. 11. *Brit.* a baby's bib. 12. *Theat.* *Slang*. See *straight man*. —*adj.* 13. being, functioning as, or serving as a feeder. 14. pertaining to livestock to be fattened for market. [1350-1400; ME; see FEED, -ER']

feed'er line', a branch of a main transportation line, as of an airline or railroad. [1890-95]

feed'er road', a secondary road used to bring traffic to a major road. [1955-60]

feed-grain (fēd/'grān'), *n.* 1. any cereal grain used as a feed for livestock, poultry, or other animals. 2. a preparation of feed composed of grain or containing grain, esp. any commercially processed feed used principally for finishing cattle or poultry for market. Also, *feed/ grain'*. [FEED + GRAIN]

feeding (fēd/'ing), *n.* 1. the act of a person or thing that feeds. 2. an instance of eating or of taking or being given nourishment. 3. grazing land. [bef. 900; ME *feeding*, OE *fēding*. See FEED, -ING']

feeding cup'. See *spout cup*. [1880-85]

feeding fren'zy, *Slang*. a ruthless attack on or exploitation of someone esp. by the media. [1985-90]

feed-lot (fēd/'lot'), *n.* 1. a plot of ground, often near a stockyard, where livestock are gathered to be fattened for market. 2. a commercial establishment that operates a feedlot. Also, *feed/ lot'*. Also called *feed-yard* (fēd/'yārd'). [1885-90; FEED + LOT]

feed-stock (fēd/'stok'), *n.* raw material for processing or manufacturing industry. Also, *feed/ stock'*. [1930-35; FEED + STOCK]

feed-stuff (fēd/'stuf'), *n.* feed (def. 14). [1855-60, *Amer.*; FEED + STUFF]

feed-through (fēd/'throō'), *n.* *Electronics*. a connector used to pass a conductor through a circuit board or enclosure. [*n.* use of *v.* phrase *feed through*]

feed-water (fēd/'wō-tēr, -wot/ēr), *n.* water to be supplied to a boiler from a tank or condenser for conversion into steam. Also, *feed/ wā'ter*. [1860-65; FEED + WATER]

fee-for-service (fē/'fər sūr/'vis), *adj.* pertaining to the charging of fees for specific services rendered in health care, as distinguished from participating in a prepaid medical practice: *fee-for-service medicine*.

feel (fel), *v.* *felt*, *feeling*. *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to perceive or examine by touch. 2. to have a sensation of (something), other than by sight, hearing, taste, or smell: *to feel a toothache*. 3. to find or pursue (one's way) by touching, groping, or cautious moves. 4. to be or become conscious of. 5. to be emotionally affected by: *to feel one's disgrace keenly*. 6. to experience the effects of: *The whole region felt the storm*. 7. to have a particular sensation or impression of (often used reflexively and usually fol. by an adjunct or complement): *to feel oneself slighted*. 8. to have a general or thorough conviction of; think; believe: *I feel he's guilty*. —*v.i.* 9. to have perception by touch or by any nerves of sensation other than those of sight, hearing, taste, and smell. 10. to make examination by touch; grope. 11. to perceive a state of mind or a condition of body: *to feel happy; to feel well*. 12. to have a sensation of being: *to feel warm*. 13. to make itself perceived or apparent; seem: *How does it feel to be rich?* 14. *feel for*, a. to feel sympathy for or compassion toward; empathize with: *I know you're disappointed and upset, and I feel for you*. b. *Southeastern Pennsylvania and Maryland*. to have a liking or desire for: *If you feel for more pie, just help yourself*. 15. *feel like*, *Informal*. to have a desire for: *be favorably disposed to: I don't feel like going out tonight*. Do you feel like a movie? 16. *feel like oneself*, to be in one's usual frame of mind or state of health: *She hasn't been feeling like herself since the accident*. Also, *feel oneself*. 17. *feel no pain*. See *pain* (def. 5). 18. *feel out*, to attempt to ascertain (the nature of a situation, someone's attitude, etc.) by indirect or subtle means: *Why not feel out the other neighbors' opinions before you make a complaint*. 19. *feel up*, *Slang* (vulgar). to fondle or touch (someone) in a sexual manner. 20. *feel up to*, *Informal*. to feel or be able to; be capable of: *He didn't feel up to going to the theater so soon after his recent illness*. —*n.* 21. a quality of an object that is perceived by feeling or touching: *the soft feel of cotton*. 22. a sensation of something felt; a vague mental impression or feeling: *a feel of winter; a feel of sadness in the air*. 23. the sense of touch: *soft to the feel*. 24. native ability or acquired sensitivity: *to have a feel for what is right*. 25. *Informal*. an act or instance of touching with the hand or fingers. 26. *Slang* (vulgar). an act or instance of feeling up. 27. *cop a feel*, *Slang* (vulgar). to touch another person's body sexually, often in a quick and surreptitious way. [bef. 900; ME *felen*, OE *fēlan*; c. OS *fōlian*, G *fühlen*; akin to ON *falma* to grope. See FUMBLE]

feel-er (fē/'lər), *n.* 1. a person or thing that feels. 2. a proposal, remark, hint, etc., designed to bring out the opinions or purposes of others: *Interested in an accord, both labor and management were putting out feelers*. 3. *Zool.* an organ of touch, as an antenna or a tentacle. 4. Also called *feel'er gauge*. *Engin.* a gauge having several blades of known thickness, used for measuring clearances. 5. *Naut.* a device for indicating that the lead of a mechanical sounding device has come to the bottom. [1520-30; FEEL + -ER']

feel-good (fēl/'gōd'), *adj.* *Informal*. intended to make one happy or satisfied: *a feel-good movie; feel-good politics*. [1975-80; *Amer.*]

feel-ing (fē/'ling), *n.* 1. the function or the power of

perceiving by touch. 2. physical sensation not connected with sight, hearing, taste, or smell. 3. a particular sensation of this kind: *a feeling of warmth; a feeling of pain*. 4. the general state of consciousness considered independently of particular sensations, thoughts, etc. 5. a consciousness or vague awareness: *a feeling of inferiority*. 6. an emotion or emotional perception or attitude: *a feeling of joy; a feeling of sorrow*. 7. capacity for emotion, esp. compassion: *to have great feeling for the sufferings of others*. 8. a sentiment; attitude; opinion: *The general feeling was in favor of the proposal*. 9. *feelings*, sensibilities; susceptibilities: *to hurt one's feelings*. 10. fine emotional endowment. 11. (in music, art, etc.) a. emotion or sympathetic perception revealed by an artist in his or her work: *a poem without feeling*. b. the general impression conveyed by a work: *a landscape painting with a spacious feeling*. c. sympathetic appreciation, as of music: *to play with feeling*. —*adj.* 12. sensitive; sentient. 13. readily affected by emotion; sympathetic: *a feeling heart*. 14. indicating or characterized by emotion: *a feeling reply*. [1125-75; ME; see FEEL, -ING', -ING'] —*feel/ing-ly*, *adv.* —*feel/ing-ness*, *n.*

—*Syn.* 5. FEELING, EMOTION, PASSION, SENTIMENT refer to pleasurable or painful sensations experienced when one is stirred to sympathy, anger, fear, love, grief, etc. FEELING is a general term for a subjective point of view as well as for specific sensations: *to be guided by feeling rather than by facts; a feeling of sadness, of rejoicing*. EMOTION is applied to an intensified feeling: *agitated by emotion*. PASSION is strong or violent emotion, often so overpowering that it masters the mind or judgment: *stirred to a passion of anger*. SENTIMENT is a mixture of thought and feeling, esp. refined or tender feeling: *Recollections are often colored by sentiment*. 6. sympathy, empathy, tenderness, sensitivity, sentiment. 12. emotional, tender. 13. impassioned, passionate.

fee/ sim'ple. See under *fee* (def. 4a). [1425-75; late ME < AF]

fee-split-ting (fē/'split/'ing), *n.* the practice of dividing a fee for professional services between two professional persons, as between a referring doctor and a specialist, without the knowledge of the client. [1940-45] —*fee-split'ter*, *n.*

feet (fēt), *n.* 1. a pl. of foot. 2. *drag one's feet*, to act or proceed slowly or without enthusiasm; to be reluctant to act, comply, etc.: *We can't begin the project until the steering committee stops dragging its feet*. 3. *on one's feet*, a. in a standing position. b. in an independent or secure position: *The loan helped him get on his feet again*. c. in a restored or recovered state; able to continue: *Psychotherapy helped her get back on her feet after her breakdown*. 4. *sit at the feet of*, to attend upon as a disciple or follower: *American writers and painters no longer sit at the feet of Europeans*. 5. *stand on one's own feet*, a. to be financially self-supporting. b. to be independent: *Overprotective parents do not prepare their children to stand on their own feet*. Also, *stand on one's own two feet*. 6. *sweep one off one's feet*, to impress or overwhelm by ability, enthusiasm, or charm: *The gaiety of the occasion swept them off their feet*.

fee/ tail'. See under *fee* (def. 4a). [1250-1300; ME < AF]

feet-first (fēt/'fīrst'), *adv.* 1. with the feet foremost. 2. *Slang*. on a stretcher or in a coffin; dead. [1945-50; FEET + FIRST]

feet/ of clay', 1. a weakness or hidden flaw in the character of a greatly admired or respected person: *He was disillusioned to find that even Lincoln had feet of clay*. 2. any unexpected or critical fault. [1855-60]

feeze (fēz, fāz), *n.* *Dial.* 1. a state of vexation or worry. 2. a violent rush or impact. Also, *feaze*. [1350-1400; ME *feze* blast, rush, fesen to drive, chase, frighten; cf. OE (Anglian) *fēsan*, (West Saxon) *fysan*]

feign (fān), *v.t.* 1. to represent fictitiously; put on an appearance of: *to feign sickness*. 2. to invent fictitiously or deceptively, as a story or an excuse. 3. to imitate deceptively: *to feign another's voice*. —*v.i.* 4. to make believe; pretend: *She's only feigning, she isn't really ill*. [1250-1300; ME *feignen* < OF *feign*, present s. of *feindre* < L *feignere* to shape, invent, feign] —*feign'er*, *n.* —*feign/ing-ly*, *adv.*

—*Syn.* 4. See pretend.

feigned (fānd), *adj.* 1. pretended; sham; counterfeit: *feigned enthusiasm*. 2. assumed; fictitious: *a feigned name*. 3. disguised: *a feigned voice*. [1325-75; ME; see FEIGN, -EN'] —*feign-ed-ly* (fā/'nid lē), *adv.* —*feign/ed-ness*, *n.*

fei-jo-a (fā yō'ā, -hō'ā), *n.* 1. a shrub, *Feijoa sellowiana*, of the myrtle family, native to South America, bearing edible, greenish, plumlike fruit. 2. the fruit of this shrub. Also called *pineapple guava*. [*<* NL (1858), after João da Silva Feijó (1760-1824), Brazilian soldier and naturalist; see -A']

fei-jo-a-da (Port. fā'zhōō ā'dā; Eng. fā jwā'dā), *n.* *Brazilian Cookery*. a dish of rice and black beans baked with various kinds of meat and sausage. [*<* Brazilian Pg. deriv. of Pg *feijão* bean, earlier *feiojas* (pl.) < L *faseolus*, dim. of *faseolus* a legume, perh. the cowpea < Gk *phásēlos*; see -ADE']

Fein-ing-er (fī/'ning'ər), *n.* 1. Andre-as (Bernhard Lyonel) (an drā'as, ān-), born 1906, U.S. photographer, born in France. 2. his father, Lyonel (Charles Adrian), 1871-1956, U.S. painter.

fein-schmeck-er (fīn/'shmēk'ər), *n.*, *pl.* -schmeck-er. *German*. gourmet.

feint (fānt), *n.* 1. a movement made in order to deceive an adversary; an attack aimed at one place or point merely as a distraction from the real place or point of attack: *the feints of a skilled fencer*. 2. a feigned or assumed appearance: *His air of approval was a feint to conceal his real motives*. —*v.i.* 3. to make a feint. —*v.t.* 4. to deceive with a feint. 5. to make a false show of simulate. [1275-1325; ME < OF *feinte*, *n.* use of fem. of *feint* pretended, ptp. of *feindre* to FEIGN]

feints (fānts), *n.pl.* faints.

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b, blend of; blended; c, cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling; spelled; resp., respelling; respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; * , unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

for 1. **1.** a member of the largest tribe of the Iroquois Confederacy of North American Indians, formerly inhabiting western New York and being conspicuous in the wars south and west of Lake Erie. **2.** an Iroquoian language of the Seneca, Onondaga, and Cayuga tribes. [*< New York D Senecaas, etc., orig. applied to the Oneida and, more generally, to all the Upper Iroquois (as opposed to the Mohawk), prob. < an unattested Mahican name*] —**Sen-e-can**, adj.

Sen-e-ca (sen/i kə), *n.* **Lucius Annaeus** (a nē/əs), c.4 B.C.–A.D. 65, Roman philosopher and writer of tragedies.

Sen/eca Falls/ Convention, *U.S. Hist.* a women's rights convention held at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. Also called **Sen/eca Falls/ Conference**.

Sen/eca Lake, a lake in W New York: one of the Finger Lakes. 35 mi. (56 km) long.

Sen/eca snake/root. See under **snakeroot** (def. 1). [1755–65, Amer.]

se-nec-ti-tude (si nek/ti tūd/, -tyūd/), *n.* the last stage of life; old age. [1790–1800; *< L senectūs* old age (equiv. to *senec-*, extracted as *s-* from *senex* (gen. *senis*) old man + *-tū* abstract *n.* suffix) + *-i* + *-tude*, on model of *PLENITUDE*, *RECTITUDE*, etc.]

Se-ne-fel-dor (zā/nə fel/dər), *n.* **Alo-is** (ä'lō ys, ä'lōis), 1771–1834, German inventor of lithography.

sen-e-ga (sen/i gə), *n.* 1. the dried root of a milkwort, *Polygala senega*, of the eastern U.S., used as an expectorant and diuretic. 2. the plant itself. [1730–40; var. of *SENECA*, from its use by this tribe]

Sen-e-gal (sen/i gōl/, -gāl/), *n.* 1. a republic in W Africa: independent member of the French Community; formerly part of French West Africa. 5,400,000; 76,084 sq. mi. (197,067 sq. km). Cap.: Dakar. 2. a river in W Africa, flowing NW from E Mali to the Atlantic at St. Louis, ab. 1000 mi. (1600 km) long. French, *Séné-gal* (sā nā gal/).



Sen-e-ga-lese (sen/i gō lēz/, -lēz/, -gə-), *adj.* *n.* *pl.* **-lese**. —*adj.* 1. of or pertaining to the republic of Senegal. —*n.* 2. a native or inhabitant of Senegal. [1915–20; *SENEGAL* + *-ese*]

Sen-e-gam-bi-a (sen/i gam/bē ə), *n.* 1. a region in W Africa between the Senegal and Gambia rivers, now mostly in Senegal. 2. a confederation of Senegal and Gambia, formed in 1982. —**Sen-e-gam-bi-an**, *adj.*

se-nes-cent (si nes/ənt), *adj.* growing old; aging. [1650–60; *< L senescens* (s. of *senescere*) prp. of *senescere* to grow old, equiv. to *sen-* old + *-escens* -*escens*] —**se-nes-cence**, *n.*

sen-e-schal (sen/ə shəl), *n.* an officer having full charge of domestic arrangements, ceremonies, the administration of justice, etc., in the household of a medieval prince or dignitary; steward. [1350–1400; ME *< MF* *< Frankish*; cf. ML *seniscalcus* senior servant, *c.* OHG *senescahl* (*sen-* old, *senior* + *scalh* servant)]

Sen-ghor (Fr. san gōr/), *n.* **Lé-o-pold Sé-dar** (Fr. lä ö-pōld/ sāk/), born 1906, African poet, teacher, and statesman: president of the Republic of Senegal 1960–80.

sen-hor (sin yōr/, -yōr/; *Port.* si nyōr/), *n.* *pl.* **sen-hors**, *Port.* **sen-ho-res** (si nyōr/), a Portuguese term of address equivalent to *sir* or *Mr.*, used alone or capitalized and prefixed to the name of a man. *Abbr.*: Sr. [1785–95; *< Pg* *< VL* *senior* lord; see *SENIOR*]

sen-ho-ra (sin yōr/ə, -yōr/ə; *Port.* si nyōr/ə), *n.* *pl.* **sen-ho-ras** (sin yōr/əz, -yōr/əz; *Port.* si nyōr/əsh), a Portuguese term of address equivalent to *Mrs.*, used alone or capitalized and prefixed to the name of a married or older woman. *Abbr.*: Sra. [1795–1805; *< Pg*, fem. of *SENIOR*]

se-nho-ri-ta (sen/yə rē/tə, sän-/; *Port.* se/nyō rē/tə), *n.* *pl.* **-tas** (-təz; *Port.* -tash), a Portuguese term of address equivalent to *miss*, used alone or capitalized and prefixed to the name of a girl or unmarried woman. *Abbr.*: Srta. [1870–75; *< Pg*, dim. of *SENHORA*]

se-nile (se/nīl, -nīl, sen/īl), *adj.* 1. showing a decline or deterioration of physical strength or mental functioning, esp. short-term memory and alertness, as a result of old age or disease. 2. of or belonging to old age or aged persons; gerontological; geriatric. 3. *Physical Geog.* (of topographical features) having been reduced by erosion to a featureless plain that stands everywhere at base level. Cf. **penoplain**. —*n.* 4. a senile person. [1655–65; *< L senilis* old, equiv. to *sen(ex)* old man (akin to *SENIOR*) + *-ilis* -*ile*]

se/nile demen/tia, *Pathol.* a syndrome of progressive, irreversible impairment of cognitive function, caused by organic factors and having its onset late in life. [1850–55]

se/nile mac/ular degenera/tion, *Pathol.* a type of macular degeneration that is one of the leading causes

of blindness in the elderly and in which tiny blood vessels grow into the macula of the retina, obscuring vision. *Abbr.*: SMD

sen-il-ity (si nil/i tē), *n.* the state of being senile, esp. the weakness or mental infirmity of old age. [1770–80; *SENILE* + *-ity*]

sen-ior (sen/yōr), *adj.* 1. older or elder (usually designating a father whose son is named after him, often written as *Sr.* or *sr.* following the name): *I would like to see the senior Mr. Hansen.* Cf. **junior** (def. 1). 2. of earlier appointment or admission, as to an office, status, or rank: *a senior partner*. 3. of higher or the highest rank or standing. 4. (in American schools, colleges, and universities) of or pertaining to students in their final year or to their class. 5. (in certain American colleges and universities) of or pertaining to the final two years of education, during which a student specializes in a certain field of study. 6. of, for, or pertaining to senior citizens: *senior discounts on local bus fares*. 7. of earlier date; prior to: *His appointment is senior to mine by a year*. 8. Finance, having a claim on payments, assets, dividends, or the like prior to other creditors, mortgages, stockholders, etc. —*n.* 9. a person who is older than another. 10. a person of higher rank or standing than another, esp. by virtue of longer service. 11. (in the U.S.) a student in the final year at a high school, preparatory school, college, or university. 12. a fellow holding senior rank in a college at an English university. 13. a senior citizen. 14. (cap.) a member of the Girl Scouts from 14 through 17 years of age. [1350–1400; ME *< L*, equiv. to *sen(ex)* old, old man + *-ior* comp. *adj.* suffix]

sen/lor cit/izen, an elderly or aged person, esp. one who is retired or whose principal source of support is a pension or Social Security benefits. [1950–55] —**sen/lor cit/izenship**.

sen/lor high/ school, a school attended after junior high school and usually consisting of grades 10 through 12. [1910–15]

sen-ior-i-ty (sen yōr/i tē, -yōr/-), *n.* *pl.* **-ties** for 2. 1. the state of being senior; priority of birth; superior age. 2. priority, precedence, or status obtained as the result of a person's length of service, as in a profession, trade, company, or union: *First choice of vacation time will be given to employees with seniority*. [1400–50; late ME *< ML seniores*, equiv. to *L senior* SENIOR + *-itas* -*ity*]

senior/ity rule, *U.S. Pol.* the custom in Congress providing for the assignment of a committee chairpersonship to that member of the majority party who has served on the committee the longest.

sen-i-ti (sen/i tē), *n.* *pl.* **-tis**, a bronze or brass coin and monetary unit of Tonga, the 100th part of a pa'anga. [1965–70; *< Tongan* *< C* ENT]

Sen-lac (sen/lak), *n.* a hill in SE England: believed by some historians to have been the site of the Battle of Hastings, 1066.

sen-na (sen/ə), *n.* 1. any plant, shrub, or tree belonging to the genus *Cassia*, of the legume family, having pinnate leaves and large clusters of flowers. 2. any of various cathartic drugs consisting of the dried leaflets of certain of these plants, as one drug (*Alexandrian senna*) derived from *C. acutifolia*, or another (*Tinnevely senna*) derived from *C. angustifolia*. 3. See *wild senna*. [1535–45; *< NL* *< Ar* sanā]

Sen-nach-er-ib (sə nak/ər ib), *n.* died 681 B.C., king of Assyria 704–681.

Sen/na knot. See **Sehna knot**.

Sen-nar (sə nār/), *n.* a region in the E Sudan between the White and Blue Nile rivers, S of Khartoum: a former kingdom.

sen-net (sen/it), *n.* any of several small barracudas, as *Sphyræna borealis* (*northern sennet*), ranging along the eastern coast of North and Central America. [1665–75; orig. uncert.]

sen-net (sen/it), *n.* (in Elizabethan drama) a set of notes played on the trumpet or cornet to mark the entrance or exit of a group of actors. [1580–90; var. of *signet*]

sen-net (sen/it), *n.* sennit.

Sen-nett (sen/it), *n.* **Mack** (*Michael Sinnott*), 1884–1960, U.S. motion-picture director and producer, born in Canada.

sen-night (sen/it, -it), *n.* Archaic. a week. Also, **se/n/night**. [bef. 1000; ME *sevenyht*, *sevenyht(e)*, *sennynht*, etc., OE *seofon nihta*. See *SEVEN*, *NIGHT*]

sen-nit (sen/it), *n.* 1. a flat, braided cordage, formed by plaiting strands of rope yarn or other fiber, used as small stuff aboard ships. 2. braided straw or grass used in making hats. Also, **sennet**, **sinnnet**. [1760–70; orig. uncert.]

se-nior (sän yōr/, -yōr/, sän-/; *Sp.* se nyōr/), *n.* *pl.* **se-niors**, *Sp.* **se-nio-res** (se nyōr/), a Spanish term of address equivalent to *sir* or *Mr.*, used alone or capitalized and prefixed to the name of a man. *Abbr.*: Sr. [1615–25; *< Sp* *< VL* *senior*. See *SENIOR*]

se-nio-ra (sän yōr/ə, -yōr/ə, sän-/; *Sp.* se nyōr/ə), *n.* *pl.* **se-nio-ras** (sän yōr/əz, -yōr/əz, sän-/; *Sp.* se nyōr/əsh), a Spanish term of address equivalent to *Mrs.*, used alone or capitalized and prefixed to the name of a married or older woman. *Abbr.*: Sra. [1570–80; *< Sp*, fem. of *SENIOR*]

se-nio-ri-ta (sän/yə rē/tə, sän-/; *Sp.* se nyō rē/tā), *n.* *pl.* **-tas** (-təz; *Sp.* -tās), 1. a Spanish term of address equivalent to *miss*, used alone or capitalized and prefixed to the name of a girl or unmarried woman. *Abbr.*: Srta. 2. a cigar-shaped wrasse, *Oxygymnistris californica*, found off the coast of California, olive brown above shading to creamy white below. [1815–25, Amer.; *< Sp*, dim. of *SEÑORA*]

sen-sa (sen/sə), *n.* *pl.* of **sensum**.

sen-sate (sen/sāt), *adj.* perceived by the senses. [1490–1500; *< LL sensātus*. See *SENSE*, *-ATE*] —**sen/sate-ly**, *adv.*

sen-sa-tion (sen sā/shən), *n.* 1. the operation or func-

tion of the senses; perception or awareness of stimuli through the senses. 2. a mental condition or physical feeling resulting from stimulation of a sense organ or from internal bodily change, as cold or pain. 3. *Physiol.* the faculty of perception of stimuli. 4. a general feeling not directly attributable to any given stimulus, as discomfort, anxiety, or doubt. 5. a mental feeling, esp. a state of excited feeling. 6. a state of excited feeling or interest caused among a number of persons or throughout a community, as by some rumor or occurrence. 7. a cause of such feeling or interest: *The new Brazilian movie was the sensation of the film festival*. [1605–15; *< ML sensatio* (s. of *sensatio*), equiv. to *LL sensat(us)* SENSATE + *-io* -*ion*] —**sen-sa-tion-less**, *adj.*

—**Syn.** 2, 4. See **sense**. 6. excitement, stimulation, animation; agitation, commotion, perturbation.

sen-sa-tion-al (sen sā/shə nl), *adj.* 1. producing or designed to produce a startling effect, strong reaction, intense interest, etc., esp. by exaggerated, superficial, or lurid elements: *a sensational novel*. 2. extraordinarily good; conspicuously excellent: *a sensational quarterback*. 3. of or pertaining to the senses or sensation. [1830–40; *SENSATION* + *-al*] —**sen-sa-tion-al-ly**, *adv.*

—**Syn.** 1. exciting, stimulating. —**Ant.** 1. prosaic, dull.

sen-sa-tion-al-ism (sen sā/shə nl iz/əm), *n.* 1. subject matter, language, or style producing or designed to produce startling or thrilling impressions or to excite and please vulgar taste. 2. the use of or interest in this subject matter, language, or style: *The cheap tabloids relied on sensationalism to increase their circulation*. 3. *Philos.* a. the doctrine that the good is to be judged only by the gratification of the senses. b. the doctrine that all ideas are derived from and are essentially reducible to sensations. 4. *Psychol.* sensationism. [1840–50; *SENSATION* + *-ism*] —**sen-sa-tion-al-ist**, *n.* *adj.* —**sen-sa-tion-al-is-tic**, *adj.*

sen-sa-tion-al-ize (sen sā/shə nl iz/), *v.t.*, *-ized*, *-izing*, to make sensational. Also, esp. Brit., **sen-sa-tion-al-ise**. [1850–55; *SENSATION* + *-ize*]

sen-sa-tion-ism (sen sā/shə niz/əm), *n.* *Psychol.* a theory maintaining that experience consists solely of sensations. Also, **sensationism**. [1860–65; *SENSATION* + *-ism*] —**sen-sa-tion-ist**, *n.* *adj.* —**sen-sa-tion-is-tic**, *adj.*

sense (sens), *n.*, *v.*, **sensed**, **sens-ing**. —*n.* 1. any of the faculties, as sight, hearing, smell, taste, or touch, by which humans and animals perceive stimuli originating from outside or inside the body. 2. these faculties collectively. 3. their operation or function; sensation. 4. a feeling or perception produced through the organs of touch, taste, etc., or resulting from a particular condition of some part of the body: *to have a sense of cold*. 5. a faculty or function of the mind analogous to sensation: *the moral sense*. 6. any special capacity for perception, estimation, appreciation, etc.: *a sense of humor*. 7. Usually, **senses**, clear and sound mental faculties; sanity: *Have you taken leave of your senses?* 8. a more or less vague perception or impression: *a sense of security*. 9. a mental discernment, realization, or recognition; acuteness: *a just sense of the worth of a thing*. 10. the recognition of something as incumbent or fitting: *a sense of duty*. 11. sound practical intelligence: *He has no sense*. 12. something that is sensible or reasonable: *to talk sense*. 13. the meaning or gist of something: *You missed the sense of his statement*. 14. the value or worth of something; merit: *There's no sense in worrying about the past*. 15. the meaning of a word or phrase in a specific context, esp. as isolated in a dictionary or glossary; the semantic element in a word or group of words. 16. an opinion or judgment formed or held, esp. by an assemblage or body of persons: *the sense of a meeting*. 17. *Genetics*, a DNA sequence that is capable of coding for an amino acid (distinguished from *nonsense*). 18. *Math.* one of two opposite directions in which a vector may point. 19. *come to one's senses*, to regain one's good judgment or realistic point of view; become reasonable. 20. *In a sense*, according to one explanation or view; to a certain extent: *In a sense it may have been the only possible solution*. 21. *make sense*, to be reasonable or comprehensible: *His attitude doesn't make sense*. —*v.t.* 22. to perceive (something) by the senses; become aware of. 23. to grasp the meaning of; understand. 24. (of certain mechanical devices) to detect physical phenomena, as light, temperature, radioactivity, etc., mechanically, electrically, or photoelectrically. 25. *Computers*, to read (punched holes, tape, data, etc.) mechanically, electrically, or photoelectrically. [1350–1400; (n.) ME *< L sensus* sensation, feeling, understanding, equiv. to *sent(ire)* to feel + *-tus* suffix of *v.* action, with *it* > *s*; (v.) deriv. of the *n.*]

—**Syn.** 4. *SENSE*, *SENSATION* refer to consciousness of stimulus or of a perception as pleasant or unpleasant. A *SENSE* is an awareness or recognition of something; the stimulus may be subjective and the entire process may be mental or intellectual: *a sense of failure*. A *SENSATION* is an impression derived from an objective (external) stimulus through any of the sense organs: *a sensation of heat*. It is also a general, indefinite physical or emotional feeling: *a sensation of weariness*. 5. awareness, apprehension. 7. rationality. 9. estimation, appreciation. 13. signification, import, denotation, connotation, interpretation. See **meaning**. 16. feeling, sentiment. 22. discern, appreciate, recognize.

Sense/ and Sensibil/ity, a novel (1811) by Jane Austen.

sense/ da'tum, 1. Also called **sensum**. *Psychol.* the basic unit of an experience resulting from the stimulation of a sense organ; a stimulus or an object of perception or sensation. 2. *Epistemology*, datum (def. 3). [1920–25]

sense-ful (sens/fəl), *adj.* full of reasonable sense; sound; judicious. [1585–95; *SENSE* + *-ful*]

sen-sel (sen sāl/), *n.* a karate or judo instructor. [*< Japn*: teacher, master, doctor < *MChin*, equiv. to *Chin xiānsheng* (xiān ahead + shēng born)]

sense-less (sens/lis), *adj.* 1. destitute or deprived of sensation; unconscious. 2. lacking mental perception,

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b, blend of; blended; c, cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r, replacing; s, stem; sp., spelling; spelled; resp., respelling; spelled; trans., translation; ? origin unknown; * unattested; † probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

tach-y-lyte (tak'ə lit'), *n.* *Petrog.* a black, glassy form of basalt, readily fusible and of a high luster. Also, **tach-y-lite**. [1865-70; TACHY- + -LYTE] —**tach-y-lit-ic** (tak'ə lit'ik), *adj.*

ta-chym-e-ter (ta kim'i tər, -n), *n.* *Survey.* any of several instruments for rapidly determining distances, directions, and differences of elevation. [1855-60; TACHY- + -METER] —**ta-chym-e-try**, *n.*

tach-y-on (tak'ə on'), *n.* *Physics.* a hypothetical particle that travels faster than the speed of light. [1967; TACHY- + -ON]

tach-y-phy-lax-is (tak'ə fi lak'sis), *n.* 1. *Med.* immediate, temporary inflammation against the effects of injection of a toxic extract owing to previous small injections of the same extract. 2. a decreased response to a medicine given over a period of time so that larger doses are required to produce the same response. Also, **tach-y-phy-lax-i-a** (tak'ə fi lak'se ə). [TACHY- + Gk *phylaxis* a guarding, equiv. to *phylak-* (s. of *phylassein* to guard) + -is -sis] —**tach-y-phy-lac-tic** (tak'ə fi lak'tik), *adj.*

tach-y-p-ne-a (tak'ip nē'ə, tak'i nē'ə), *n.* *Med.* excessively rapid respiration. Also, **tach-y-p-noe'a**. [1895-1900; TACHY- + -PNEA] —**tach-y-p-ne/ic**, *adj.*

tach-y-tel-ic (tak'i tel'ik), *adj.* *Biol.* of or pertaining to evolution at a rate faster than the standard for a given group of plants or animals. Cf. **bradytelic**, **horotelic**. [TACHY- + TELIC] —**tach-y-tel-y** (tak'i tel'ē), *n.*

tac-it (tas'it), *adj.* 1. understood without being openly expressed; implied: *tacit approval*. 2. silent; saying nothing: a *tacit partner*. 3. unvoiced or unspoken: a *tacit prayer*. [1595-1605; < L *tacitus* silent, ptp. of *tacere* to be silent (cf. *Goth thahan*; akin to *ON thegja*)] —**tac-ly**, *adv.* —**tac/it-ness**, *n.*

—**Syn.** 1. unexpressed, unspoken, unsaid, implicit. —**Ant.** 1. expressed.

Tac-it-te-an (tas'i tē'ən), *adj.* of, pertaining to, or characteristic of Publius Cornelius Tacitus. [1885-90; TACIT(US) + -EAN]

tac-i-turn (tas'i tūrn'), *adj.* 1. inclined to silence; reserved in speech; reluctant to join in conversation. 2. dour, stern, and silent in expression and manner. [1765-75; < L *taciturnus*, quiet, maintaining silence, equiv. to *tacit(us)* silent (see TACT) + -urnus *adj.* suffix of time] —**tac/i-turn/ly**, *adv.*

—**Syn.** 1. silent, uncommunicative, reticent, quiet.

tac-i-turn-ity (tas'i tūrn'ni tē), *n.* 1. the state or quality of being reserved or reticent in conversation. 2. *Scots Law.* the relinquishing of a legal right through an unduly long delay, as by the silence of the creditor. [1400-50; late ME < L *taciturnitas*, equiv. to *taciturn(us)* TACITURN + -itas -ity]

Tac-it-us (tas'i tās), *n.* **Pub-li-us Cornelius** (pub'lē-əs), A.D. c55-c120, Roman historian.

tack (tak), *n.* 1. a short, sharp-pointed nail, usually with a flat, broad head. 2. *Naut.* a. a rope for extending the lower forward corner of a course. b. the lower forward corner of a course or fore-and-aft sail. See *diag.* under *sail*. c. the heading of a sailing vessel, when sailing close-hauled, with reference to the wind direction. d. a course run obliquely against the wind. e. one of the series of straight runs that make up the zigzag course of a ship proceeding to windward. 3. a course of action or conduct, esp. one differing from some preceding or other course. 4. one of the movements of a zigzag course on land. 5. a stitch, esp. a long stitch used in fastening seams, preparatory to a more thorough sewing. 6. a fastening, esp. of a temporary kind. 7. stickiness, as of nearly dry paint or glue or of a printing ink or gummed tape; adhesiveness. 8. the gear used in equipping a horse, including saddle, bridle, martingale, etc. 9. on the wrong tack, under a misapprehension; in error; astray: *His line of questioning began on the wrong tack.* —*v.t.* 10. to fasten by a tack or tacks: *to tack a rug to the floor*. 11. to secure by some slight or temporary fastening. 12. to join together; unite; combine. 13. to attach as something supplementary; append; annex (often fol. by *on* or *onto*). 14. *Naut.* a. to change the course of (a sailing vessel) to the opposite tack. b. to navigate (a sailing vessel) by a series of tacks. 15. to equip (a horse) with tack. —*v.i.* 16. *Naut.* a. to change the course of a sailing vessel by bringing the head into the wind and then causing it to fall off on the other side: *He ordered us to tack at once.* b. (of a sailing vessel) to change course in this way. c. to proceed to windward by a series of courses as close to the wind as the vessel will sail. 17. to take or follow a zigzag course or route. 18. to change one's course of action, conduct, ideas, etc. 19. to equip a horse with tack (usually fol. by *up*): *Please tack up quickly.* [1300-50; (n.) ME *tak* buckle, clasp, nail (later, tack); c. G *Zack* prong, D *tak* twig; (v.) ME *tacken* to attach, deriv. of the *n.*; see TACHE, ATTACH] —**tack-er**, *n.* —**tack/less**, *adj.*

—**Syn.** 13. affix, fasten, add.

tack² (tak), *n.* food; fare. [1740-50; orig. uncert.]

tack³ (tak), *n.* *Scot. and North Eng.* 1. a lease, esp. on farmland. 2. a rented pasture. 3. a catch, haul, or take of fish. [1250-1300; ME *tak* < ON *tak* goods, seizure, grasp. See TAKE]

tack-board (tak'bōrd', -bōrd'), *n.* a large board, usually made of cork or soft wood, on which notices can be tacked. Also, **tack' board**. [1905-10; TACK' + BOARD]

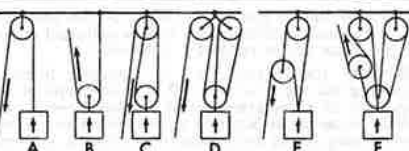
tack' claw, a small hand tool having a handle with a claw at one end for removing tacks. [1875-80]

tack-et (tak'it), *n.* *Brit. Dial.* a nail or tack, esp. a hobnail. [1275-1325; ME *taket*. See TACK', -ET] —**tack'-et-ed**, *adj.*

tack' ham/mer, a light hammer for driving tacks,

often magnetized to hold the tack to the head. See *illus.* under *hammer*. [1885-90]

tack-le (tak'al or, for 2-4, tā'kəl), *n.*, *v.*, *-led*, *-ling*. —*n.* 1. equipment, apparatus, or gear, esp. for fishing: *fishing tackle*. 2. a mechanism or apparatus, as a rope and block or a combination of ropes and blocks, for hoisting, lowering, and shifting objects or materials; purchase. 3. any system of leverage using several pulleys. 4. *Naut.* the gear and running rigging for handling a ship or performing some task on a ship. 5. an act of tackling, as in football; a seizing, grasping, or bringing down. 6. *Football*. a. either of the linemen stationed between a guard and an end. b. the position played by this lineman. 7. (formerly) tack' (def. 8). —*v.t.* 8. to undertake to handle, master, solve, etc.: *to tackle a difficult problem*. 9. to deal with (a person) on some problem, issue, etc. 10. to harness (a horse). 11. *Football*. to seize, stop, or throw down (a ball-carrier). 12. *Soccer, Field Hockey.* to block or impede the movement or progress of (an opponent having the ball) with the result of depriving the opponent of the ball. 13. to seize suddenly, esp. in order to stop. —*v.i.* 14. *Football*. to tackle an opponent having the ball. [1200-50; ME *takel* gear, apparatus < MLG; akin to TAKE] —**tack'ler**, *n.*



tackles (def. 2)
A, single whip; B, runner; C, gun tackle; D, luff tackle; E, single Spanish burton; F, double Spanish burton

tack-ling (tak'ling), *n.* *Archaic.* equipment; tackle. [1375-1425; late ME; see TACKLE, -ING]

tack' room, a room in or near a stable for storing saddles, harnesses, and other tack. [1955-60]

tack-weld (tak'weld'), *v.t.* to join (pieces of metal) with a number of small welds spaced some distance apart.

tack-y¹ (tak'ē), *adj.*, **tack-i-er**, **tack-i-est** sticky to the touch; adhesive. [1780-90; TACK' + -Y] —**tack/i-ness**, *n.*

tack-y² (tak'ē), *adj.*, **tack-i-er**, **tack-i-est** 1. not tasteful or fashionable; dowdy. 2. shabby in appearance; shoddy: a *tacky, jerry-built housing development*. 3. crass; cheaply vulgar; tasteless; crude. 4. gaudy; flashy; showy. [1880-85, *Amer.*; appar. identical with earlier *tack(e)y* small horse, pony, poor farmer; of obscure orig.] —**tack/i-ness**, *n.*

Ta-clo-ban (tā klō'bān), *n.* a seaport on NE Leyte, in the central Philippines. 102,523.

tac-ma-hack (tak'mə hək'), *n.* *tacamahac*.

Tac-na-Ar-ica (tak'nə ə rē'kə; Sp. tāk'nā ā rē'kə), *n.* a maritime region in W South America: long in dispute between Chile and Peru; annexed by Chile 1883; divided as a result of arbitration 1929 into a Peruvian department (**Tac'na**) and a Chilean department (**Arica**).

ta-co (tā'kō; Sp. tā'kō), *n.*, *pl.* -cos (-kōz; Sp. -kōs). *Mexican Cookery.* an often crisply fried tortilla folded over and filled, as with seasoned chopped meat, lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese. [1930-35; < MexSp; Sp. wadding, plug, prob. of expressive origin]

Ta-co-ma (tə kō'mə), *n.* 1. a seaport in W Washington, on Puget Sound. 158,501. 2. *Mount.* See *Rainier, Mount.* —**Ta-co/man**, *n.*

tac-o-nite (tak'ə nit'), *n.* a low-grade iron ore, containing about 27 percent iron and 51 percent silica, found as a hard rock formation in the Lake Superior region. [1890-95, *Amer.*; named after the Taconic mountain range (east of the Hudson River); see -ITE]

tact (takt), *n.* 1. a keen sense of what to say or do to avoid giving offense; skill in dealing with difficult or delicate situations. 2. a keen sense of what is appropriate, tasteful, or aesthetically pleasing; taste; discrimination. 3. touch or the sense of touch. [1150-1200; < L *tactus* sense of touch, equiv. to *tag-*, var. s. of *tangere* to touch + -tus suffix of *v.* action]

—**Syn.** 1. perception, sensitivity; diplomacy, poise.

tact-ful (takt'fəl), *adj.* having or manifesting tact: a *tactful person*; a *tactful reply*. [1860-65; TACT + -FUL] —**tact'ful-ly**, *adv.* —**tact'ful-ness**, *n.*

—**Syn.** See *diplomatic*.

tac-tic (tak'tik), *n.* 1. tactics (def. 1). 2. a system or a detail of tactics. 3. a plan, procedure, or expedient for promoting a desired end or result. —*adj.* 4. of or pertaining to arrangement or order; tactical. [1560-70; NL *tacticus* < Gk *taktikos* fit for arranging or ordering, equiv. to *tak-* (base of *tassein* Attic *táttein*) to arrange, put in order) + -tikos -tic]

tac-ti-cal (tak'ti kəl), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to tactics, esp. military or naval tactics. 2. characterized by skillful tactics or adroit maneuvering or procedure: *tactical movements*. 3. of or pertaining to a maneuver or plan of action designed as an expedient toward gaining a desired end or temporary advantage. 4. expedient; calculated. 5. prudent; politic. [1560-70; TACTIC + -AL'] —**tac/ti-cal-ly**, *adv.*

Tactical Air Command, a U.S. Air Force command supplying direct air support to U.S. Army ground combat units.

tac'tical u'nit, *Mil.* a group organized to function in combat as a self-contained unit. [1875-80]

tac'tical wire, *Mil.* wire entanglements used to break up attacking enemy formations or to keep them within the field of defensive fire.

tac-ti-cian (tak tish'ən), *n.* a person who is adept in planning tactics. [1790-1800; TACTIC + -IAN]

tac-tic-i-ty (tak tish'i tē), *n.* *Chem.* stereoregularity. [1955-60; TACTIC + -ITY]

tac-tics (tak'tiks), *n.* 1. (usually used with a singular *v.*) the art or science of disposing military or naval forces for battle and maneuvering them in battle. 2. (used with a plural *v.*) the maneuvers themselves. 3. (used with a singular *v.*) any mode of procedure for gaining advantage or success. 4. (usually used with a singular *v.*) *Ling.* a. the patterns in which the elements of a given level or stratum in a language may combine to form larger constructions. b. the study and description of such patterns. [1620-30; see TACTIC, -ICS] —**Syn.** 1. See *strategy*.

tac-tile (tak'til, -til), *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, endowed with, or affecting the sense of touch. 2. perceptible to the touch; tangible. [1605-15; < L *tactilis* tangible, equiv. to *tact(us)* (ptp. of *tangere* to touch) + -ilis -ile] —**tac/til-i-ty** (tak'til'i tē), *n.*

tac/tile cor/puscle, an oval sense organ made of flattened cells and encapsulated nerve endings, occurring in hairless skin, as the tips of the fingers and toes, and functioning as a touch receptor. Also called **Meissner's corpuscle**. [1870-75]

tac-tion (tak'shən), *n.* touch; contact. [1615-25; < L *tactiōn-* (s. of *tactiō*) a touching, equiv. to *tact(us)* (ptp. of *tangere* to touch) + -iōn -iōn]

tact-less (tak'tlās), *adj.* lacking tact; showing no tact; undiplomatic; offensively blunt: a *tactless remark*. [1840-50; TACT + -LESS] —**tact'less-ly**, *adv.* —**tact'less-ness**, *n.*

—**Syn.** rude, inconsiderate, thoughtless, brash, boorish.

tac-tual (tak'chō əl), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to the sense of touch. 2. communicating or imparting the sensation of contact; arising from or due to touch. [1635-45; < L *tactus* touch (see TACT) + -AL'] —**tac/tu-al-ly**, *adv.*

tac-tus (tāk'tōs), *n.* the basic metrical unit in medieval music. [< L *tactus* touch; see TACT]

Ta-cu-ba-ya (tā'kōō vā'yā), *n.* a former city in the Federal District of Mexico; now a SW district of Mexico City; national observatory.

tad (tad), *n.* *Informal.* 1. a small child, esp. a boy. 2. a very small amount or degree; bit: *Please shift your chair a tad to the right.* *The frosting could use a tad more vanilla.* [1875-80, *Amer.*, for def. 1; 1935-40, *Amer.*, for def. 2; perh. shortening of TADPOLE]

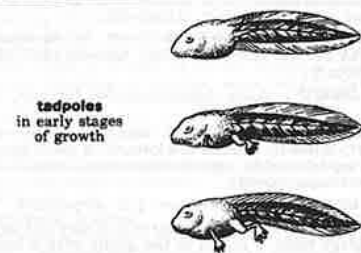
Tad (tad), *n.* a male given name, form of **Thaddeus** or **Theodore**.

ta-da (tə dā'), *interj.* (used as a jovial interjection in making an announcement, taking a bow, etc.). Also, **ta-dah**.

Tad-e-ma (tad'ə mā), *n.* **Sir Lawrence Alma-**. See **Alma-Tadema, Sir Lawrence**.

Tad-jik (tā jik', -jek'; Russ. tu jik'), *n.* Tajik.

Tad-mor (tad'mōr, tād'-), *n.* Biblical name of **Palmyra**.



tadpoles in early stages of growth

tad-pole (tad'pōl), *n.* the aquatic larva or immature form of frogs and toads, esp. after the development of the internal gills and before the appearance of the forelimbs and the resorption of the tail. [1400-50; late ME *tad(de)pol*, equiv. to *tad(de)* TOAD + *pol* POLL' (head)]

Tad-zhik (tā jik', -jek'; Russ. tu jik'), *n.* Tajik.

Tad-zhik-i-stan (tā jik'ə stān', -stān', -jē'kə-, tā-, Russ. tō ji kyi stān'), *n.* a republic in central Asia, N of Afghanistan. 5,112,000; 55,240 sq. mi. (143,100 sq. km). Cap.: Dushanbe. Also, **Tajikistan**. Formerly, **Tadzhik/Soviet Socialist Republic**.



tæ (tā), *prep.* *Scot.* to.

Tæ-gu (ti'gōō'), *n.* a city in SE South Korea: commercial center. 1,311,078.

Tæ-jon (ti'jon'), *n.* a city in W South Korea. 506,703.

tæ kwon do (ti' kwon' dō'), a Korean martial art, a particularly aggressive form of karate, that utilizes punches, jabs, chops, blocking and choking moves, and especially powerful, leaping kicks. Also, **tæ'kwon/dō**.

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b, blend of, blended; c, cognate with; cf, compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r, replacing; s, stem; sp, spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; * , unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.