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above a tubular resonator containing a motor-driven rotating vane, giving a vibrato effect.

DERIVATIVES **vibratophonist** |-,fənɪst| n.

ORIGIN 1920s: from **VIBRATO** + **-PHONE**.

vibrate |'vɪbrət| v. move or cause to move continuously and rapidly to and fro: [intrans.] the cabin started to vibrate | [trans.] the bumblebee vibrated its wings for a few seconds.

■ [intrans.] (vibrate with) quiver with (a quality or emotion): his voice vibrated with terror. ■ [intrans.] (of a sound) resonate; continue to be heard: a low rumbling sound that began to vibrate through the car. ■ [intrans.] (of a pendulum) swing to and fro.

ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'give out (light or sound) as if by vibration'): from Latin *vibrat-* 'moved to and fro', from the verb *vibrare*.

vibratile |'vɪbrətl; -,tɪl| adj. Biology (of cilia, flagella, or other small appendages) capable of or characterized by oscillatory motion.

ORIGIN early 19th cent.: alteration of **VIBRATORY**, on the pattern of words such as *pulsatile*.

vibration |vɪ'breɪʃən| n. an instance of vibrating: powerful vibrations from an earthquake | the big-capacity engine generated less vibration.

■ Physics an oscillation of the parts of a fluid or an elastic solid whose equilibrium has been disturbed or of an electromagnetic wave. ■ (vibrations) informal a person's emotional state, the atmosphere of a place, or the associations of an object, as communicated to and felt by others.

DERIVATIVES **vibrational** |-ʃənəl| adj.

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *vibratio* (n-), from the verb *vibrare* (see **VIBRATE**).

vibrato |və'bræto; vɪ-| n. Music a rapid, slight variation in pitch in singing or playing some musical instruments, producing a stronger or richer tone. Compare with **TREMOLO**.

ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: Italian, past participle of *vibrare* 'vibrate.'

vibrator |'vɪbrəʃər| n. a device that vibrates or causes vibration, in particular:

■ a device used for massage or sexual stimulation. ■ Music a reed in a reed organ.

vibratory |'vɪbrə,tɔəri| adj. of, relating to, or causing vibration.

vibri-o |'vɪbrɪ,ɔ| n. (pl. -oes) Medicine a waterborne bacterium of a group that includes some pathogenic kinds that cause cholera, gastroenteritis, and septicemia.

■ *Vibrio* and related genera; motile Gram-negative bacteria occurring as curved flagellated rods.

ORIGIN modern Latin, from Latin *vibrare* 'vibrate.'

vibrissa |'vɪbrɪsə| n. (pl. **vibrissae** |-'brɪsɪ; -'brɪsɪz|) Zoology any of the long stiff hairs growing around the mouth or elsewhere on the face of many mammals, used as organs of touch; whiskers.

■ Ornithology each of the coarse bristlelike feathers growing around the gape of certain insectivorous birds that catch insects in flight.

ORIGIN late 17th cent.: from Latin, literally 'nostril hair.'

vibro-tactile |'vɪbrə,tæktl; -,tɪl| adj. relating to or involving the perception of vibration through touch.

viburnum |'vɪbərənəm| n. a shrub or small tree of temperate and warm regions, typically bearing flat or rounded clusters of small white flowers.

■ Genus *Viburnum*, family Caprifoliaceae: many species and ornamental hybrids, including the guelder rose and wayfaring tree.

ORIGIN modern Latin, from Latin, 'wayfaring tree,' **Vic.** abbr. *Victoria*.

vicar |'vɪkər| n. (in the Roman Catholic Church) a representative or deputy of a bishop.

■ (in the Episcopal Church) a clergyman in charge of a chapel. ■ (in the Church of England) an incumbent of a parish where tithes formerly passed to a chapter or religious house or layman. ■ (in other Anglican Churches) a member of the clergy deputizing for another. ■ a cleric or choir member appointed to sing certain parts of a cathedral service.

DERIVATIVES **vicarship** |-,ʃɪp| n.

ORIGIN Middle English: via Anglo-Norman French from Old French *vicair*, from Latin *vicarius* 'substitute,' from *vic-* 'change, turn, place' (compare with **VICE**).

vicarage |'vɪkəriːj| n. the residence of a vicar.

■ historical the benefice or living of a vicar.

vicar apostolic n. a Roman Catholic missionary.

■ a titular bishop.

vicar-general n. (pl. **vicars-general**) an Anglican official serving as a deputy or assistant to a bishop or archbishop.

■ (in the Roman Catholic Church) a bishop's representative in matters of jurisdiction or administration.

vicarial |'vɪkəriəl; vɔ-| adj. archaic of, relating to, or serving as a vicar.

vicariance |vɪ'kəriəns; vɔ-| n. Biology the geographical separation of a population, typically by a physical barrier such as a mountain range or river, resulting in a pair of closely related species.

ORIGIN 1950s: from Latin *vicarius* 'substitute' + **-ANCE**.

vicariate |vɔ'keriət; vɪ-; -,ət| n. the office or authority of a vicar.

■ a church or parish ministered to by a vicar.

vicarious |vɪ'kəriəs; vɔ-| adj. experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another person: I could glean vicarious pleasure from the struggles of my imaginary film friends.

■ acting or done for another: a vicarious atonement.

■ Physiology of or pertaining to the performance by one organ of the functions normally discharged by another.

DERIVATIVES **vicariously** adv; **vicariousness** n.

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *vicarius* 'substitute' (see **VICAR**) + **-OUS**.

Vicar of Christ n. (in the Roman Catholic Church) a title of the pope.

vice |vɪs| n. immoral or wicked behavior.

■ criminal activities involving prostitution, pornography, or drugs. ■ an immoral or wicked personal characteristic. ■ a weakness of character or behavior; a bad habit: cigars happen to be my father's vice.

DERIVATIVES **viceless** adj.

ORIGIN Middle English: via Old French from Latin *vitium*.

vice² n. British spelling of **VISE**.

vice³ |vɪs; 'vɪsɪ; 'vɪsɔ| prep. as a substitute for: the letter was drafted by David Hunt, vice Bevin who was ill.

ORIGIN Latin, ablative of *vic-* 'change.'

vice⁴ (also **vice-**) comb. form acting as deputy or substitute for; next in rank: vice regent | vice-consul.

ORIGIN from Latin *vice* 'in place of' (compare with **VICE**³).

vice admiral |vɪs| n. a naval officer of very high rank, in particular an officer in the US Navy or Coast Guard ranking above rear admiral and below admiral.

vice chancellor |vɪs| n. 1 a deputy chancellor, esp. one of a British university who discharges most of its administrative duties.

2 Law a judge appointed to assist a chancellor, esp. in chancery court or court of equity.

vicegerent |vɪs'jɪrənt| n. formal a person exercising delegated power on behalf of a sovereign or ruler.

■ a person regarded as an earthly representative of God or a god, esp. the pope.

DERIVATIVES **vicegerency** n. (pl. -ies).

ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from medieval Latin *vicegerent-* '(person) holding office,' from Latin *vice-* 'office, place, turn' + *gerere* 'carry on, hold.'

Vicente |ve'sentɪ|, Gil (c.1465-c.1536), Portuguese playwright and poet.

Vicenza |ve'ʃentɪsə| a city in northeastern Italy; pop. 109,000.

vice president |vɪs| n. an official or executive ranking below and deputizing for a president.

DERIVATIVES **vice presidency** n. (pl. -ies); **vice presidential** |,prezə'denʃəl| adj.

vice-regal |vɪs'regəl| adj. of or relating to a viceroy.

vice-reine |'vɪs,ræn| n. the wife of a viceroy.

■ a female viceroy.

ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from French, from *vice-* 'in place of' + *reine* 'queen.'

viceroy |'vɪs,rɔɪ| n. 1 a ruler exercising authority in a colony on behalf of a sovereign.

2 a migratory orange and black butterfly that closely resembles the monarch but is typically somewhat smaller. The caterpillar feeds on willow leaves, and the adult mimics the unpalatable monarch.

■ *Limenitis archippus*, subfamily *Limenitidinae*, family *Nymphalidae*.

DERIVATIVES **vice-royal** |vɪs'roi-əl| adj; **vice-royship** |-,ʃɪp| n.

ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from archaic French, from *vice-* 'in place of' + *roi* 'king.'

vice-royalty |vɪs'roi-əlti; vɪs,rɔɪ-| (also **Viceroyalty**) n. (pl. -ies) the office, position, or authority of a viceroy.

■ a territory governed by a viceroy.

vice squad |vɪs| n. a department or division of a police force that enforces laws against prostitution, drug abuse, illegal gambling, etc.

vice versa |vɪs 'vɔrsə; vɪsɔ| adv. with the main items in the preceding statement the other way round: science must be at the service of man, and not vice versa.

ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin, literally 'in-turned position.'

Vichy |'vɛʃe; 'vɪʃe| a town in south central France; pop. 28,000. A noted spa town, it is the source of an effervescent mineral water. During World War II, it

was the headquarters of the regime set up after the German occupation of northern France to administer unoccupied France and the colonies. Never recognized by the Allies, the regime functioned as a puppet government for the Nazis.

vichyssoise |,vɛʃe'swäz; 'vɪʃe-; 'vɛʃe'swäz; 'vɪʃe-| n. a soup made with potatoes, leeks, and cream and typically served chilled.

ORIGIN French (feminine), 'of Vichy' (see **VICHY**).

vicinage |'vɪsənɪj| n. another term for **VICINITY**.

ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *vis(e)-nage*, from an alteration of Latin *vicinus* 'neighbor.'

vicinal |'vɪsənəl| adj. rare neighboring; adjacent.

■ Chemistry relating to or denoting substituents attached to adjacent atoms in a ring or chain.

ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from French, or from Latin *vicinalis*, from *vicinus* 'neighbor.'

vicinity |vɔ'sɪnəti| n. (pl. -ies) the area near or surrounding a particular place: the number of people living in the immediate vicinity was small.

■ archaic proximity in space or relationship: the abundance and vicinity of country seats.

ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (in the sense 'proximity'): from Latin *vicinitas*, from *vicinus* 'neighbor.'

vicious |'vɪʃəs| adj. 1 deliberately cruel or violent: a vicious assault.

■ (of an animal) wild and dangerous to people. ■ figurative serious or dangerous: a vicious flu bug. ■ poetic/literary immoral: every soul on earth, virtuous or vicious, shall perish.

2 archaic (of language or a line of reasoning) imperfect; defective.

DERIVATIVES **viciously** adv; **viciousness** n.

ORIGIN Middle English (in the sense 'characterized by immorality'): from Old French *vicious* or Latin *vitiosus*, from *vitium* 'vice.'

vicious circle (also **vicious cycle**) n. 1 a sequence of reciprocal cause and effect in which two or more elements intensify and aggravate each other, leading inexorably to a worsening of the situation.

2 Logic a definition or statement that begs the question.

vicissitude |vɔ'sɪsɪ'tʃ(ʊ)d| n. (usu. **vicissitudes**) a change of circumstances or fortune, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant: her husband's sharp vicissitudes of fortune.

■ poetic/literary alternation between opposite or contrasting things: the vicissitude of the seasons.

DERIVATIVES **vicissitudinous** |-,sɪsɪ'tʃ(ʊ)dɪnəs; -tʃ(ʊ)dɪnəs| adj.

ORIGIN early 17th cent. (in the sense 'alternation'): from French, or from Latin *vicissitudo*, from *vicissim* 'by turns,' from *vic-* 'turn, change.'

Vicksburg |'vɪks,bɜːɡ| a city on the Mississippi River, in western Mississippi; pop. 26,407. In 1863, during the Civil War, it was successfully besieged by Union forces. The last Confederate outpost on the river, its loss effectively split the secessionist states in half.

vicomte |ve'kɒnt| n. (pl. or pronunc. same) a French nobleman corresponding in rank to a viscount.

ORIGIN French.

vicomtesse |,ve'kɒnt'es| n. (pl. or pronunc. same) a French noblewoman corresponding in rank to a viscountess.

ORIGIN French.

victim |'vɪktəm| n. a person harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime, accident, or other event or action.

■ a person who is tricked or duped: the victim of a hoax.

■ a living creature killed as a religious sacrifice.

PHRASES **fall victim** to be hurt, killed, damaged, or destroyed by: many streams have fallen victim to the recent drought.

ORIGIN late 15th cent. (denoting a creature killed as a religious sacrifice): from Latin *victima*.

victimize |'vɪktə,mɪz| v. [trans.] single (someone) out for cruel or unjust treatment: scam artists who victimize senior citizens.

DERIVATIVES **victimization** |vɪktəmə'zəʃən| n; **victimizer** n.

victimless |'vɪktəmləs| adj. denoting a crime in which there is no injured party.

victimless crime n. a legal offense to which all parties consent and no party is injured: software piracy is far from a victimless crime.

victimology |vɪktə'mɒləʒi| n. (pl. -ies) the study of the victims of crime and the psychological effects on them of their experience.

■ the possession of an outlook, arising from real or imagined victimization, that seems to glorify and indulge the state of being a victim.

victor |'vɪktər| n. 1 a person who defeats an enemy or opponent in a battle, game, or other competition.