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calc- COMBINING FORM a variant of **calci-** before a vowel.

calcaneus (kæl'keɪniəs) or **calcaneum** NOUN, plural -nei (-ni, ai) or -nea (-ni, a) ① the largest tarsal bone, forming the heel in man. Nontechnical name: **heel bone**. ② the corresponding bone in other vertebrates.

▷ **HISTORY** C19: from Late Latin: heel, from Latin *calx* heel

▷ **cal'caneal** or **cal'canean** ADJECTIVE

calcar (kæl'kɑː) NOUN, plural **calcaria** (kæl'kæriə). a spur or spurlike process, as on the leg of a bird or the corolla of a flower.

▷ **HISTORY** C19: from Latin, from *calx* heel

calcareous (kæl'kæəriəs) ADJECTIVE of, containing, or resembling calcium carbonate; chalky.

▷ **HISTORY** C17: from Latin *calcarius*, from *calx* lime

calcariferous (kæl'kæ'rifərəs) ADJECTIVE *Biology* having a spur or spurs.

calceiform (kæl'siːfɔːm, kæl'siː-) or **calceolate** (kæl'siːleɪt) ADJECTIVE *Botany* shaped like a shoe or slipper.

▷ **HISTORY** C19: from Latin *calceus* shoe

calceolaria (kæl'siːləəriə) NOUN any tropical American scrophulariaceous plant of the genus *Calceolaria*: cultivated for its speckled slipper-shaped flowers. Also called: **slipperwort**.

▷ **HISTORY** C18: from Latin *calceolus* small shoe, from *calceus*

calces (kæl'siːz) NOUN a plural of **calx**.

Calchas ('kælkəs) NOUN *Greek myth* a soothsayer who assisted the Greeks in the Trojan War.

calci- or before a vowel **calc-** COMBINING FORM indicating lime or calcium: *calcity*.

▷ **HISTORY** from Latin *calx*, *calc-* limestone

calcic ('kælsɪk) ADJECTIVE of, containing, or concerned with lime or calcium.

▷ **HISTORY** C19: from Latin *calx* lime

calicole ('kælsɪkəʊl) NOUN any plant that thrives in lime-rich soils.

▷ **HISTORY** C20: from **CALCI-** + *-cole*, from Latin *colere* to dwell

▷ **calicolous** (kæl'sɪkələs) ADJECTIVE

calciferol (kæl'sɪfərəl) NOUN a fat-soluble steroid, found esp in fish-liver oils, produced by the action of ultraviolet radiation on ergosterol. It increases the absorption of calcium from the intestine and is used in the treatment of rickets. Formula: $C_{28}H_{48}O_4$. Also called: **vitamin D₂**.

▷ **HISTORY** C20: from **CALCIF**(EROUS + **ERGOST**)EROL

calciferous (kæl'sɪfərəs) ADJECTIVE forming or producing salts of calcium, esp calcium carbonate.

calcific (kæl'sɪfɪk) ADJECTIVE forming or causing to form lime or chalk.

calcification (kæl'sɪfɪ'keɪʃən) NOUN ① the process of calcifying or becoming calcified. ② *Pathol* a tissue hardened by deposition of lime salts. ③ any calcified object or formation.

calcifuge ('kælsɪfjuːdʒ) NOUN any plant that thrives in acid soils but not in lime-rich soils.

▷ **calcifugal** ('kælsɪ'fjuːgəl) ADJECTIVE ▷ **calcifugous** (kæl'sɪfjʊəs) ADJECTIVE

calcity ('kælsɪfai) VERB -fies, -fying, -fied. ① to convert or be converted into lime. ② to harden or become hardened by impregnation with calcium salts.

calcimine ('kælsɪmɪn, -mɪn) or **kalsomine** NOUN ① a white or pale tinted wash for walls. ♦ VERB ② (tr) to cover with calcimine.

▷ **HISTORY** C19: changed from *Kalsomine*, a trademark

calcine ('kælsɪn, -sɪn) VERB ① (tr) to heat (a substance) so that it is oxidized, reduced, or loses water. ② (intr) to oxidize as a result of heating.

▷ **HISTORY** C14: from Medieval Latin *calcinare* to heat, from Latin *calx* lime

▷ **calcination** (kæl'sɪneɪʃən) NOUN

calcinosis (kæl'sɪnəʊsɪs) NOUN the abnormal deposition of calcium salts in the tissues of the body.

calcite ('kælsɪt) NOUN a colourless or white mineral (occasionally tinged with impurities), found in sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, in veins, in limestone, and in stalagmites and stalactites. It is used in the manufacture of cement, plaster, paint, glass, and fertilizer. Composition:

calcium carbonate. Formula: $CaCO_3$. Crystal structure: hexagonal (rhombohedral).

▷ **calcitic** (kæl'sɪtɪk) ADJECTIVE

calcitonin (kæl'sɪtəʊnɪn) NOUN a hormone secreted by the thyroid that inhibits the release of calcium from the skeleton and prevents a build-up of calcium in the blood. Also called: **thyrocalcitonin**. Compare **parathyroid hormone**.

▷ **HISTORY** C20: from **CALCI-** + **TONIC** + *-in*

calcium ('kælsɪəm) NOUN a malleable silvery-white metallic element of the alkaline earth group; the fifth most abundant element in the earth's crust (3.6 per cent), occurring esp as forms of calcium carbonate. It is an essential constituent of bones and teeth and is used as a deoxidizer in steel. Symbol: Ca; atomic no.: 20; atomic wt.: 40.078; valency: 2; relative density: 1.55; melting pt.: $842 \pm 2^\circ C$; boiling pt.: $1494^\circ C$.

▷ **HISTORY** C19: from New Latin, from Latin *calx* lime

calcium antagonist NOUN another name for **calcium channel blocker**.

calcium carbide NOUN a grey salt of calcium used in the production of acetylene (by its reaction with water) and calcium cyanamide. Formula: CaC_2 . Sometimes shortened to **carbide**.

calcium carbonate NOUN a white crystalline salt occurring in limestone, chalk, marble, calcite, coral, and pearl: used in the production of lime and cement. Formula: $CaCO_3$.

calcium channel blocker NOUN any drug that prevents the influx of calcium ions into cardiac and smooth muscle: used to treat high blood pressure and angina. Also called: **calcium antagonist**.

calcium chloride NOUN a white deliquescent salt occurring naturally in seawater and used in the de-icing of roads and as a drying agent. Formula: $CaCl_2$.

calcium cyanamide NOUN a white crystalline compound formed by heating calcium carbide with nitrogen. It is important in the fixation of nitrogen and can be hydrolysed to ammonia or used as a fertilizer. Formula: $CaCN_2$.

calcium hydroxide NOUN a white crystalline slightly soluble alkali with many uses, esp in cement, water softening, and the neutralization of acid soils. Formula: $Ca(OH)_2$. Also called: **lime**, **slaked lime**, **hydrated lime**, **calcium hydrate**, **caustic lime**, **lime hydrate**.

calcium light NOUN another name for **limelight**.

calcium oxide NOUN a white crystalline base used in the production of calcium hydroxide and bleaching powder and in the manufacture of glass, paper, and steel. Formula: CaO . Also called: **lime**, **quicklime**, **calx**, **burnt lime**, **calcined lime**, **fluxing lime**.

calcium phosphate NOUN ① the insoluble nonacid calcium salt of orthophosphoric acid (phosphoric(V) acid): it occurs in bones and is the main constituent of bone ash. Formula: $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$. ② any calcium salt of a phosphoric acid. Calcium phosphates are found in many rocks and used esp in fertilizers.

calcrete ('kælkriːt) NOUN another name for **caliche** (sense 1).

calcsinter ('kælk, sɪntə) NOUN another name for **travertine**.

▷ **HISTORY** C19: from German *Kalksinter*, from *Kalk* lime + *sinter* dross; see **CHALK**, **SINTER**

calcspar ('kælk, spɑː) NOUN another name for **calcite**.

▷ **HISTORY** C19: partial translation of Swedish *kalkspat*, from *kalk* lime (ultimately from Latin *calx*) + *spat* SPAR

calc-tufa ('kælk, tuːfə) or **calc-tuff** ('kælk, tʌf) NOUN another name for **tufa**.

calculable ('kælkjʊləbəl) ADJECTIVE ① that may be computed or estimated. ② predictable; dependable.

▷ **calcula'bility** NOUN ▷ **calculably** ADVERB

calculate ('kælkjʊleɪt) VERB ① to solve (one or more problems) by a mathematical procedure; compute. ② (tr; may take a clause as object) to determine beforehand by judgment, reasoning, etc.; estimate. ③ (tr; usually passive) to design specifically; aim: *the car was calculated to appeal to women*. ④ (intr; foll by *on* or *upon*) to depend; rely. ⑤ (tr; may take a clause as object) US dialect a to suppose; think. b to intend (to do something).

▷ **HISTORY** C16: from Late Latin *calculāre*, from *calculus* pebble used as a counter; see **CALCULUS**

▷ **calculative** ('kælkjʊlətɪv) ADJECTIVE

calculated ('kælkjʊleɪtɪd) ADJECTIVE (usually *prepositional*) ① undertaken after considering the likelihood of success or failure: *a calculated risk*. ② deliberately planned; premeditated: *a calculated insult*.

calculating ('kælkjʊleɪtɪŋ) ADJECTIVE ① selfishly scheming. ② shrewd; cautious.

▷ **calcu'latingly** ADVERB

calculation ('kælkjʊleɪʃən) NOUN ① the act, process, or result of calculating. ② an estimation of probability; forecast. ③ careful planning or forethought, esp for selfish motives.

calculator ('kælkjʊleɪtə) NOUN ① a device for performing mathematical calculations, esp an electronic device that can be held in the hand. ② a person or thing that calculates. ③ a set of tables used as an aid to calculations.

calculus ('kælkjʊləs) ADJECTIVE *Pathol* of or suffering from a calculus.

calculus ('kælkjʊləs) NOUN, plural -luses. ① a branch of mathematics, developed independently by Newton and Leibniz. Both **differential calculus** and **integral calculus** are concerned with the effect on a function of an infinitesimal change in the independent variable as it tends to zero. ② any mathematical system of calculation involving the use of symbols. ③ *Logic* an uninterpreted formal system. Compare **formal language** (sense 2). ④ (plural -li (-, lai)) *Pathol* a stonelike concretion of minerals and salts found in ducts or hollow organs of the body.

▷ **HISTORY** C17: from Latin: pebble, stone used in reckoning, from *calx* small stone, counter

calculus of variations NOUN a branch of calculus concerned with maxima and minima of definite integrals.

Calcutta (kæl'kʌtə) NOUN a port in E India, capital of West Bengal state, on the Hooghly River: former capital of the country (1833–1912); major commercial and industrial centre; three universities. Pop.: 4 399 819 (1991). Official name: **Kolkata**.

caldarium (kæl'dæəriəm) NOUN, plural -daria (-'dæəriə). (in ancient Rome) a room for taking hot baths.

▷ **HISTORY** C18: from Latin, from *calidus* warm, from *calere* to be warm

caldera (kæl'deərə, 'kɑːldərə) NOUN a large basin-shaped crater at the top of a volcano, formed by the collapse or explosion of the cone. See **cirque**.

▷ **HISTORY** C19: from Spanish *Caldera* (literally: CAULDRON), name of a crater in the Canary Islands

Calderdale ('kɑːldə, deɪl) NOUN a unitary authority in N England, in West Yorkshire. Pop.: 192 396 (2001). Area: 364 sq. km (140 sq. miles).

caldron ('kɑːldrən) NOUN a variant spelling of **cauldron**.

calèche (French *kalef*) NOUN a variant of **calash**.

Caledonia (kælɪ'dəʊniə) NOUN the Roman name for Scotland: used poetically in later times.

Caledonian (kælɪ'dəʊniən) ADJECTIVE ① of or relating to Scotland. ② of or denoting a period of mountain building in NW Europe in the Palaeozoic era. ♦ NOUN ③ *Literary* a native or inhabitant of Scotland.

Caledonian Canal NOUN a canal in N Scotland, linking the Atlantic with the North Sea through the Great Glen: built 1803–47; now little used.

calefacient ('kælfæɪʃənt) ADJECTIVE ① causing warmth. ♦ NOUN ② *Med*, *obsolete* an agent that warms, such as a mustard plaster.

▷ **HISTORY** C17: from Latin *calefaciēs*, from *calefacere* to heat

▷ **calefaction** (kælɪ'fæɪʃən) NOUN

calefactory (kælɪ'fæktəri, -tri) ADJECTIVE ① giving warmth. ♦ NOUN, plural -ries. ② a heated sitting room in a monastery.

▷ **HISTORY** C16: from Latin *calefactōrius*, from *calefactus* made warm; see **CALEFACIENT**

calendar ('kælɪndə) NOUN ① a system for determining the beginning, length, and order of years and their divisions. See also **Gregorian calendar**, **Jewish calendar**, **Julian calendar**, **Revolutionary calendar**, **Roman calendar**. ② a table showing any such