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About the type

This dictionary is typeset in CollinsFedra, a special version of the Fedra family of types designed by Peter Bil'ak. CollinsFedra has been customized especially for Collins dictionaries; it includes both sans serif (for headwords) and serif (entries) versions, in several different weights. Its large x-height, its open 'eye', and its basis in the tradition of humanist letterforms make CollinsFedra both familiar and easy to read at small sizes. It has been designed to use the minimum space without sacrificing legibility, as well as including a number of characters and signs that are specific to dictionary typography. Its companion phonetic type is the first of its kind to be drawn according to the same principles as the regular typeface, rather than assembled from rotated and reflected characters from other types. Peter Bil'ak (born 1973, Slovakia) is a graphic and type designer living in the Netherlands. He is the author of two books, *Illegibility* and *Transparency*. As well as the Fedra family, he has designed several other typefaces including *Eureka*. His typotheque.com website has become a focal point for research and debate around contemporary type design.

point of starvation 4 (intr) to extend in influence or operation: the Roman conquest reached throughout England 5 (tr) informal to pass or give (something to a person) with the outstretched hand: to reach someone a book 6 (intr, foll by out, for, or after) to make a movement (towards), as if to grasp or touch: to reach for something on a shelf 7 (intr, foll by for or after) to strive or yearn: to reach for the impossible 8 (tr) to make contact or communication with (someone): we tried to reach him all day 9 (tr) to strike, esp in fencing or boxing 10 (tr) to amount to (a certain sum): to reach the five million mark 11 (intr) nautical to sail on a tack with the wind on or near abeam 12 the act of reaching 13 the extent or distance of reaching: within reach of safety; beyond her reach 14 the range of influence, power, jurisdiction, etc 15 an open stretch of water, esp on a river 16 nautical the direction or distance sailed by a vessel on one tack 17 a bar on the rear axle of a vehicle connecting it with some part at the front end 18 television, radio the percentage of the population selecting a broadcast programme or channel for more than a specified time during a day or week 19 marketing the proportion of a market that an advertiser hopes to reach at least once in a campaign > **reachable** adj > **reacher** n

● **ETymology** Old English *ræcan*; related to Old Frisian *rēka*, Old High German *reihhen*

reach-me-down n informal 1 a (often plural) a garment that is cheaply ready-made or second-hand b (as modifier) reach-me-down finery 2 (plural) trousers 3 (modifier) not original; derivative; stale: a stock of reach-me-down ideas

reacquire (ri:ə'kwaiə) vb (tr) to get or gain (something) again which one has owned

react (ri'ækt) vb 1 (intr, foll by to, upon etc) (of a person or thing) to act in response to another person, a stimulus, etc, or (of two people or things) to act together in a certain way 2 (intr, foll by against) to act in an opposing or contrary manner 3 (intr) physics to exert an equal force in the opposite direction to an acting force 4 chem to undergo or cause to undergo a chemical reaction

● **ETymology** C17: from Late Latin *reagere*, from RE- + Latin *agere* to drive, do

re-act (ri:ækt) vb (tr) to act or perform again

reactance (ri'æktəns) n 1 the opposition to the flow of alternating current by the capacitance or inductance of an electrical circuit; the imaginary part of the impedance Z , $Z = R + iX$, where R is the resistance, $i = \sqrt{-1}$, and X is the reactance. It is expressed in ohms. Compare **resistance** (sense 3) 2 the opposition to the flow of an acoustic or mechanical vibration, usually due to inertia or stiffness. It is the magnitude of the imaginary part of the acoustic or mechanical impedance

reactant (ri'æktənt) n a substance that participates in a chemical reaction, esp a substance that is present at the start of the reaction. Compare **product** (sense 4)

reaction (ri'ækʃən) n 1 a response to some foregoing action or stimulus 2 the reciprocal action of two things acting together 3 opposition to change, esp political change, or a desire to return to a former condition or system 4 a response indicating a person's feelings or emotional attitude 5 med a any effect produced by the action of a drug, esp an adverse effect. Compare **side effect** b any effect produced by a substance (allergen) to which a person is allergic the simultaneous equal and opposite force that acts on a body whenever it exerts a force on another body 6 short for chemical reaction, nuclear reaction 7 stock exchange a sharp fall in price interrupting a general rise > **reactional** adj

● **USAGE** Reaction is used to refer both to an instant response (her reaction was one of amazement) and to a considered response in the form of a statement (the Minister gave his reaction to the court's decision). Some people think this second use is incorrect

reactionary (ri'ækʃənəri, -jənəri) or **reactionist** adj 1 of, relating to, or characterized by reaction, esp against radical political or social change 2 n, pl -aries or -ists 2 a person opposed to radical change > **reactionism** n

reaction chamber n engineering the chamber in a rocket engine in which the reaction or combustion of fuel occurs

reaction engine or **reaction motor** n an engine, such as a jet or rocket engine, that ejects gas at high velocity and develops its thrust from the ensuing reaction

reaction formation n psychoanal a defence mechanism by which a person at a conscious level condemns a repressed wish: thus, a latent homosexual may denounce homosexuality

reaction time n physiol another name for **latent time**

reaction turbine n a turbine in which the working fluid is accelerated by expansion in both the static nozzles and the rotor blades. Torque is produced by the momentum changes in the rotor and by reaction from fluid accelerating out of the rotor. Compare **impulse turbine**

reactivate (ri'æktiveit) vb (tr) to make (something) active or functional again > **reactivation** n

reactive (ri'æktiv) adj 1 readily partaking in chemical reactions: sodium is a reactive metal; free radicals are very reactive 2 of, concerned with, or having a reactance 3 responsive to stimulus 4 (of mental illnesses) precipitated by an external cause: reactive depression > **reactively** adv > **reactivity** (ri'æktiviti) or **reactiveness** n

reactor (ri'ækte) n 1 chem a substance, such as a reagent, that undergoes a reaction 2 short for nuclear reactor 3 a vessel, esp one in industrial use, in which a chemical reaction takes place 4 a coil of low resistance and high inductance that introduces reactance into a circuit 5 med a person sensitive to a particular drug or agent

read (ri:d) vb reads, reading, read (red) 1 to comprehend the meaning of (something written or printed) by looking at and interpreting the written or printed characters 2 to be occupied in such an activity: he was reading all day 3 (when tr, often foll by out) to look at; interpret, and speak aloud (something written or printed): he read to us from the Bible 4 (tr) to interpret the significance or meaning of through scrutiny and recognition: he read the sky and predicted rain; to read a map 5 (tr) to interpret or understand the meaning of (signs, characters, etc) other than by visual means: to read Braille 6 (tr) to have sufficient knowledge of (a language) to understand the written or printed word: do you read German? 7 (tr) to discover or make out the true nature or mood of: to read someone's mind 8 to interpret or understand (something read) in a specified way, or (of something read) to convey a particular meaning or impression: I read this speech as satire; this book reads well 9 (tr) to adopt as a reading in a particular passage: for "boon" read "bone" 10 (intr) to have or contain a certain form or wording: the sentence reads as follows 11 to undertake a course of study in (a subject): to read history; read for the bar 12 to gain knowledge by reading: he read about the war 13 (tr) to register, indicate, or show: the meter reads 100 14 (tr) to bring or put into a specified condition by reading: to read a child to sleep 15 (tr) to hear and understand, esp when using a two-way radio: we are reading you loud and clear 16 computing to obtain (data) from a storage device, such as magnetic tape. Compare **write** (sense 16) 17 (tr) to understand (written or printed music) by interpretation of the notes on the staff and to be able to reproduce the musical sounds represented by these notes 18 read a lesson or read a lecture informal to censure or reprimand, esp in a long-winded manner 19 read between the lines to perceive or deduce a meaning that is hidden or implied rather than being openly stated 20 you wouldn't read about it Austral informal an expression of dismay, disgust, or disbelief 21 matter suitable for reading: this new book is a very good read 22 the act of reading > See also read in, read into, read out, read up

● **ETymology** Old English *rædan* to advise, explain; related to Old Frisian *rēda*, Old High German *rātān*, Gothic *garēdan*

read¹ (red) vb 1 the past tense and past participle of **read²** 2 having knowledge gained from books

(esp in the phrases widely read, well-read) 3 take something as read to take something for granted as a fact; understand or presume

readable ('ri:dəbl) adj 1 (of handwriting, etc) able to be read or deciphered; legible 2 (of style of writing) interesting, easy, or pleasant to read > **readability** or **readableness** n > **readably** adv

read-across n a correlation or relationship between two separate things

readdress (ri:ə'dres) vb (tr) 1 to look at or discuss (an issue, situation, etc) from a new or different point of view 2 to put a forwarding address onto (a letter received)

reader ('ri:də) n 1 a person who reads 2 a person who is fond of reading 3 a chiefly Brit at a university, a member of staff having a position between that of a senior lecturer and a professor b US a teaching assistant in a faculty who grades papers, examinations, etc, on behalf of a professor

4 a a book that is part of a planned series for those learning to read b a standard textbook, esp for foreign-language learning 5 a person who reads aloud in public 6 a person who reads and assesses the merit of manuscripts submitted to a publisher 7 a person employed to read proofs and indicate errors by comparison with the original copy; proofreader 8 short for lay reader 9 Judaism, chiefly Brit another word for cantor (sense 1)

readership ('ri:dəʃip) n 1 all the readers collectively of a particular publication or author: a readership of five million; Dickens's readership 2 chiefly Brit the office, position, or rank of university reader

readies ('rediz) pl n informal the readies a variant of **ready** (sense 8)

● **ETymology** from **READY** + **MONEY**

readily ('redili) adv 1 promptly; eagerly; willingly 2 without difficulty or delay; easily or quickly

read in (ri:d) vb (adverb) 1 to read (data) into a computer memory or storage device 2 read oneself in Church of England to assume possession of a benefice by publicly reading the Thirty-nine Articles **readiness** ('redinis) n 1 the state of being ready or prepared, as for use or action 2 in readiness a prepared and waiting: all was in readiness for the guests' arrival b in preparation for: he tidied the house in readiness for the guests' arrival 3 willingness or eagerness to do something 4 ease or promptness

reading ('ri:diŋ) n 1 a the act of a person who reads b (as modifier) a reading room; a reading lamp 2 a ability to read b (as modifier) the reading public; a child of reading age 3 any matter that can be read; written or printed text 4 a public recital or rendering of a literary work 5 the form of a particular word or passage in a given text, esp where more than one version exists 6 an interpretation, as of a piece of music, a situation, or something said or written 7 knowledge gained from books: a person of little reading 8 a measurement indicated by a gauge, dial, scientific instrument, etc 9 parliamentary procedure a the formal recital of the body or title of a bill in a legislative assembly in order to begin one of the stages of its passage b one of the three stages in the passage of a bill through a legislative assembly. See first reading, second reading, third reading 10 the formal recital of something written, esp a will

Reading ('redɪŋ) n 1 a town in S England, in Reading unitary authority, Berkshire, on the River Thames: university (1892). Pop: 232 662 (2001) 2 a unitary authority in S England, in Berkshire. Pop: 144 100 (2003 est). Area: 37 sq km (14 sq miles)

reading group n a group of people who meet regularly to discuss a book that they have all read

reading week n a week, usu midway through a university term, during which there are no classes or lectures, intended for students to concentrate on reading or research

read into (ri:d) vb (tr, preposition) to discern in or infer from a statement (meanings not intended by the speaker or writer)

readjust (ri:ə'dʒʌst) vb to adjust or adapt (oneself or something) again, esp after an initial failure > **readjustable** adj > **readjuster** n > **readjustment** n

respirable (ˈrɛspɪrəbəl) *adj* 1 able to be breathed

2 suitable or fit for breathing > **respirability** *n*

respiration (ˈrɛspəˈreɪʃən) *n* 1 the process in living organisms of taking in oxygen from the surroundings and giving out carbon dioxide (external respiration). In terrestrial animals this is effected by breathing air 2 the chemical breakdown of complex organic substances, such as carbohydrates and fats, that takes place in the cells and tissues of animals and plants, during which energy is released and carbon dioxide produced (internal respiration)

respirator (ˈrɛspəˈreɪtə) *n* 1 an apparatus for providing long-term artificial respiration 2 Also called: **gas mask** a device worn over the mouth and nose to prevent inhalation of noxious fumes or to warm cold air before it is breathed

respiratory (ˈrɛspəˈreɪtəri, -tri) or (rarely)

respirational (ˈrɛspəˈreɪʃənəl) *adj* of, relating to, or affecting respiration or the organs used in respiration

respiratory failure *n* a condition in which the respiratory system is unable to provide an adequate supply of oxygen or to remove carbon dioxide efficiently

respiratory quotient *n* *biology* the ratio of the volume of carbon dioxide expired to the volume of oxygen consumed by an organism, tissue, or cell in a given time

respiratory syncytial virus *n* a myxovirus causing infections of the nose and throat, esp in young children. It is thought to be involved in some cot deaths. Abbreviation: RSV

respiratory system *n* the specialized organs, collectively, concerned with external respiration: in humans and other mammals it includes the trachea, bronchi, bronchioles, lungs, and diaphragm

respire (riˈspɪə) *vb* 1 to inhale and exhale (air); breathe 2 (intr) to undergo the process of respiration 3 literary to breathe again in a relaxed or easy manner, as after stress or exertion

● **ETymology** C14: from Latin *respirāre* to exhale, from *re-* + *spirāre* to breathe; see **SPIRIT**

respite (ˈrɛspɪt, -paɪt) *n* 1 a pause from exertion; interval of rest 2 a temporary delay 3 a temporary stay of execution; reprieve > *vb* 4 (tr) to grant a respite to; reprieve > **respiteless** *adj*

● **ETymology** C13: from Old French *respit*, from Latin *respiectus* a looking back; see **RESPECT**

respite care *n* *social welfare* occasional usually planned residential care for dependent old or handicapped people, to provide relief for their permanent carers

resplendent (riˈsplɛndənt) *adj* having a brilliant or splendid appearance > **resplendence** or **resplendency** *n* > **resplendently** *adv*

● **ETymology** C15: from *resplendere* to shine brightly, from *re-* + *splendere* to shine; see **SPLENDOR**

respond (riˈspɒnd) *vb* 1 to state or utter (something) in reply 2 (intr) to act in reply; react: to respond by issuing an invitation 3 (intr; foll by to) to react favourably: this patient will respond to treatment 4 an archaic word for correspond > *n* 5 architect a pilaster or an engaged column that supports an arch or a lintel 6 Christianity a choral anthem chanted in response to a lesson read at a church service > **respondence** or **respondency** *n* > **responder** *n*

● **ETymology** C14: from Old French *respondre*, from Latin *respondere* to return like for like, from *re-* + *pondere* to pledge; see **SPOUSE**, **SPONSOR**

respondent (riˈspɒndənt) *n* 1 law a person against whom a petition, esp in a divorce suit, or appeal is brought > *adj* 2 a less common word for **responsive**

responsa (riˈspɒnsə) *n* *Judaism* 1 the plural of **responsum** 2 that part of rabbinic literature concerned with written rulings in answer to questions

response (riˈspɒns) *n* 1 the act of responding; reply or reaction 2 bridge a bid replying to a partner's bid or double 3 (usually plural) Christianity a short sentence or phrase recited or sung by the choir or congregation in reply to the officiant at a church

service 4 *electronics* the ratio of the output to the input level, at a particular frequency, of a transmission line or electrical device 5 any pattern of glandular, muscular, or electrical reactions that arises from stimulation of the nervous system > **responseless** *adj*

● **ETymology** C14: from Latin *respondum* answer, from *respondere* to RESPOND

responder or **responser** (riˈspɒnsə) *n* a radio or radar receiver used in conjunction with an interrogator to receive and display signals from a transponder

response time *n* *computing* the length of time taken by a system to respond to an instruction

response variable *n* *statistics* a more modern term for dependent variable (sense 2)

responsibility (riˈspɒnsəˈbɪlɪtɪ) *n*, pl -ties 1 the state or position of being responsible 2 a person or thing for which one is responsible 3 the ability or authority to act or decide on one's own, without supervision

responsible (riˈspɒnsəbəl) *adj* 1 (postpositive; usually foll by for) having control or authority (over) 2 (postpositive; foll by to) being accountable for one's actions and decisions (to): to be responsible to one's commanding officer 3 (of a position, duty, etc) involving decision and accountability 4 (often foll by for) being the agent or cause (of some action): to be responsible for a mistake 5 able to take rational decisions without supervision; accountable for one's own actions: a responsible adult 6 able to meet financial obligations; of sound credit > **responsibleness** *n* > **responsibly** *adv*

● **ETymology** C16: from Latin *responsus*, from *respondere* to RESPOND

responsive (riˈspɒnsɪv) *adj* 1 reacting or replying quickly or favourably, as to a suggestion, initiative, etc 2 (of an organism) reacting to a stimulus > **responsively** *adv* > **responsiveness** *n*

responsory (riˈspɒnsəri) *n*, pl -ries Christianity an anthem or chant consisting of verses and responses and recited or sung after a lesson in a church service

● **ETymology** C15: from Late Latin *responsorium*, from Latin *respondere* to answer

responsum (riˈspɒnsəm) *n*, pl -sa (-sə) Judaism a written answer from a rabbinic authority to a question submitted

● **ETymology** Latin, literally: reply, RESPONSE

respray *vb* (riˈspreɪ) (tr) 1 to spray (a car, wheels, etc) with a new coat of paint > *n* (riˈspreɪ) 2 the act or an instance of respraying

res publica (ˈreɪs ˈpʌblɪkə) *n* the state, republic, or commonwealth

● **ETymology** Latin, literally: the public thing

rest¹ (rest) *n* 1 a relaxation from exertion or labour *b* (as modifier): a rest period 2 repose; sleep 3 any relief or refreshment, as from worry or something troublesome 4 calm; tranquillity 5 death regarded as repose: eternal rest 6 cessation from motion 7 at rest a not moving; still *b* calm; tranquil *c* dead *d* asleep 8 a pause or interval 9 a mark in a musical score indicating a pause of specific duration 10 prosody a pause in or at the end of a line; caesura 11 a shelter or lodging: a seaman's rest 12 a thing or place on which to put something for support or to steady it; prop 13 billiards, snooker any of various special poles used as supports for the cue in shots that cannot be made using the hand as a support

14 come to rest to slow down and stop 15 lay to rest to bury (a dead person) 16 set someone's mind at rest to reassure someone or settle someone's mind > *vb* 17 to take or give rest, as by sleeping, lying down, etc 18 to place or position (oneself, etc) for rest or relaxation 19 (tr) to place or position for support or steadying: to rest one's elbows on the table 20 (intr) to be at ease; be calm 21 to cease or cause to cease from motion or exertion; halt 22 to lie dead and buried 23 (intr) to remain without further attention or action: let the matter rest 24 to direct (one's eyes) or (of one's eyes) to be directed: her eyes rested on the sleeping child 25 to depend or cause to depend; base; rely: the whole argument rests on one crucial

fact 26 to place or be placed, as blame, censure, etc 27 to put pastry in a cool place to allow the gluten to contract 28 (intr; foll by with, on, upon, etc) to be a responsibility (of): it rests with us to apportion blame 29 law to finish the introduction of evidence in (a case) 30 rest on one's laurels See laurel (sense 9) 31 rest on one's oars a to stop rowing for a time *b* to stop doing anything for a time > **rester** *n*

● **ETymology** Old English *ræst*, *reste*, of Germanic origin; related to Gothic *rasta* a mile, Old Norse *röst* mile

rest² (rest) *n* the rest 1 something left or remaining; remainder 2 the others: the rest of the world > *vb* 3 (copula) to continue to be (as specified); remain: rest assured

● **ETymology** C15: from Old French *rester* to remain, from Latin *restāre*, from *re-* + *stāre* to STAND

restage (riˈsteɪdʒ) *vb* (tr) 1 to produce or perform a new production of (a play) 2 to organize or carry out (an event) again, esp if it has been cancelled: attempts have been made to restage the race

rest area *n* *Austral and NZ* a motorists' stopping place, usually off a highway, equipped with tables, seats, etc

restart *vb* (riˈstɑ:t) 1 to start again > *n* (riˈstɑ:t) 2 a the act or an instance of starting again: the restart of the lap *b* (as modifier): a restart device

restate (riˈsteɪt) *vb* (tr) to state or affirm again or in a new way > **restatement** *n*

restaurant (ˈrɛstəˌrɒŋ, ˈrɛstrɒŋ) *n* a commercial establishment where meals are prepared and served to customers

● **ETymology** C19: from French, from *restaurer* to RESTORE

restaurant car *n* Brit a railway coach in which meals are served. Also called: **dining car**

restaurateur (rɛstəˈrɔ:tɜː) *n* a person who owns or runs a restaurant

● **USAGE** Although the spelling *restaurateur* occurs frequently, it is a misspelling and should be avoided

rest-cure *n* 1 a rest taken as part of a course of medical treatment, as for stress, anxiety, etc 2 an easy undemanding time or assignment: usually used with a negative: it's no rest-cure, I can assure you **restful** (ˈrɛstfʊl) *adj* 1 giving or conducive to rest 2 being at rest; tranquil; calm > **restfully** *adv* > **restfulness** *n*

restharrow (ˈrɛst.hæəʊ) *n* any of several Eurasian leguminous plants of the genus *Ononis*, such as *O. repens* and *O. spinosa*, with tough stems and roots

● **ETymology** C16: from rest variant of ARREST (to hinder, stop) + HARROW

rest-home *n* an old people's home

restiform (ˈrɛstɪˌfɔ:m) *adj* (esp of bundles of nerve fibres) shaped like a cord or rope; cordlike

● **ETymology** C19: from New Latin *restiformis*, from Latin *restis* a rope + *forma* shape

resting (ˈrɛstɪŋ) *adj* 1 not moving or working; at rest 2 euphemistic (of an actor) out of work 3 (esp of plant spores) undergoing a period of dormancy before germination 4 (of cells) not undergoing mitosis

resting place *n* a place where someone or something rests, esp (last resting place) the grave

restitution (ˈrɛstɪˌtʃʊ:ʃən) *n* 1 the act of giving back something that has been lost or stolen 2 law the act of compensating for loss or injury by reverting as far as possible to the position before such injury occurred 3 the return of an object or system to its original state, esp a restoration of shape after elastic deformation > **restitutive** or **restitutory** *adj*

● **ETymology** C13: from Latin *restitūtiō*, from *restituere* to rebuild, from *re-* + *statuere* to set up

restive (ˈrɛstɪv) *adj* 1 restless, nervous, or uneasy 2 impatient of control or authority > **restively** *adv* > **restiveness** *n*

● **ETymology** C16: from Old French *restif* balky, from *rester* to remain

restless (ˈrɛstlɪs) *adj* 1 unable to stay still or quiet 2 ceaselessly active or moving: the restless wind 3 worried; anxious; uneasy 4 not restful; without repose: a restless night > **restlessly** *adv* > **restlessness** *n*

rest mass *n* the mass of an object that is at rest relative to an observer. It is the mass used in Newtonian mechanics