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Respighi /reˈspɪɡi/, Ottorino (1879–1936), Italian composer. He is best known for his suites *The Fountains of Rome* (1917) and *The Pines of Rome* (1924), based on the poems of Gabriele d'Annunzio.

respirable /ˈresp(ə)rəb(ə)l, ɪˈspɑː-/ ▶ adjective (of the air or a gas) able or fit to be breathed. ■ (of particles in the air) able to be breathed in: *woodworking can create quantities of fine respirable dust.*

– ORIGIN late 18th cent.: from French *respirable* or late Latin *respirabilis*, from *respirare* 'breathe out' (see **RESPIRE**).

respirate /ˈrespɪreɪt/ ▶ verb [with obj.] Medicine & Biology assist (a person or animal) to breathe by means of artificial respiration.

– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: back-formation from **RESPIRATION**.

respiration ▶ noun [mass noun] the action of breathing: *opiates affect respiration.* ■ [count noun] chiefly Medicine a single breath. ■ Biology a process in living organisms involving the production of energy, typically with the intake of oxygen and the release of carbon dioxide from the oxidation of complex organic substances.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *respiratio(n)-*, from *respirare* 'breathe out' (see **RESPIRE**).

respirator ▶ noun an apparatus worn over the mouth and nose or the entire face to prevent the inhalation of dust, smoke, or other noxious substances. ■ an apparatus used to induce artificial respiration.

respiratory /ɪˈspɪrət(ə)ri, ˈresp(ə)rət(ə)ri, ɪˈspɑː-/ ▶ adjective relating to or affecting respiration or the organs of respiration: *respiratory disease.*

respiratory distress syndrome ▶ noun another term for **HYALINE MEMBRANE DISEASE**.

respiratory pigment ▶ noun Biochemistry a substance (such as haemoglobin or haemocyanin) with a molecule consisting of protein with a pigmented prosthetic group, involved in the physiological transport of oxygen or electrons.

respiratory quotient ▶ noun Physiology the ratio of the volume of carbon dioxide evolved to that of oxygen consumed by an organism, tissue, or cell in a given time.

respiratory syncytial virus ▶ noun Medicine a paramyxovirus which causes disease of the respiratory tract. It is a major cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in young children, and may be a contributing factor in cot death.

respiratory tract ▶ noun the passage formed by the mouth, nose, throat, and lungs, through which air passes during breathing.

respire ▶ verb [no obj.] 1 breathe: *he lay back, respiring deeply* | [with obj.] *a country where fresh air seems impossible to respire.* ■ (of a plant) carry out respiration, especially at night when photosynthesis has ceased.

2 archaic recover hope, courage, or strength after a time of difficulty: *the archduke, newly respiring from so long a war.*

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *respirer* or Latin *respirare* 'breathe out', from *re-* 'again' + *spirare* 'breathe'.

respirometer ▶ noun Biology a device which measures the rate of consumption of oxygen by a living organism. ■ Medicine an instrument for measuring the air capacity of the lungs.

respite /ˈrespɪt, -spɪt/ ▶ noun [mass noun] a short period of rest or relief from something difficult or unpleasant: *the refugee encampments will provide some respite from the suffering* | [in sing.] *a brief respite from the heat.* ■ a short delay permitted before an unpleasant obligation is met or a punishment is carried out.

▶ verb [with obj.] rare postpone (a sentence, obligation, etc.): *the execution was only respited a few months.* ■ archaic grant a respite to (someone, especially a person condemned to death).

– ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *respit*, from Latin *respectus* 'refuge, consideration'.

respite care ▶ noun [mass noun] temporary institutional care of a sick, elderly, or disabled person, providing relief for their usual carer.

resplendent /ɪˈsplend(ə)nt/ ▶ adjective attractive and impressive through being richly colourful or sumptuous: *she was resplendent in a sea-green dress.* – DERIVATIVES **resplendence** noun, **resplendency** noun, **resplendently** adverb.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *resplendent* 'shining out', from the verb *resplendere*, from *re-* (expressing intensive force) + *splendere* 'to glitter'.

respond ▶ verb 1 [reporting verb] say something in reply: [no obj.] *she could not get Robert to respond to her words* | [with clause] *he responded that it would not be feasible* | [with direct speech] *'It's not part of my job,' Belinda responded.* ■ (of a congregation) say or sing the response in reply to a priest.

2 [no obj.] (of a person) do something as a reaction to someone or something: *she responded to his grin with a smile.* ■ react quickly or positively to a stimulus or treatment: *his back injury has failed to respond to treatment.* ■ [with obj.] Bridge make (a bid) in answer to one's partner's preceding bid.

▶ noun 1 Architecture a half-pillar or half-pier attached to a wall to support an arch, especially at the end of an arcade.

2 (in church use) a response to a versicle; a responsory.

– DERIVATIVES **respondence** noun (archaic) **responder** noun.

– ORIGIN late Middle English (as a noun): from Old French, from *respondere* 'to answer', from Latin *respondere*, from *re-* 'again' + *spondere* 'to pledge'. The verb dates from the mid 16th cent.

respondent ▶ noun 1 Law a party against whom a petition is filed, especially one in an appeal or a divorce case.

2 a person who replies to something, especially one supplying information for a questionnaire or responding to an advertisement.

▶ adjective [attrib.] 1 Law in the position of a party defending against a petition: *the respondent defendant.*

2 replying to something: *the respondent firms in the survey.*

3 Psychology involving or denoting a response, especially a conditioned reflex, to a specific stimulus.

– ORIGIN early 16th cent. (in sense 2 of the noun): from Latin *respondent-* 'answering, offering in return', from the verb *respondere* (see **RESPOND**).

responsa plural form of **RESPONSUM**.

response ▶ noun 1 a verbal or written answer: *there was laughter at his response to the question* | [mass noun] *we received 400 applications in response to one job ad.* ■ an answer to a question in a test, questionnaire, etc. ■ (usu. responses) a part of a religious liturgy said or sung by a congregation in answer to a minister or cantor.

2 a reaction to something: *an extended, jazzy piano solo drew the biggest response from the crowd* | [mass noun] *an Honours degree course in Japanese has been established in response to an increasing demand.*

■ Psychology & Physiology an excitation of a nerve impulse caused by a change or event; a physical reaction to a specific stimulus or situation. ■ the way in which a mechanical or electrical device responds to a stimulus or stimuli. ■ Bridge a bid made in answer to one's partner's preceding bid.

– ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *respons* or Latin *responsum* 'something offered in return', neuter past participle of *respondere* (see **RESPOND**).

response time ▶ noun the length of time taken for a person or system to react to a given stimulus or event. ■ Electronics the time taken for a circuit or measuring device, when subjected to a change in input signal, to change its state by a specified fraction of its total response to that change.

response variable ▶ noun another term for **DEPENDENT VARIABLE**.

responsibility ▶ noun (pl. responsibilities) [mass noun]

1 the state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone: *women bear children and take responsibility for childcare.*

2 the state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something: *the group has claimed responsibility for a string of murders.* | [in sing.] (responsibility to/towards) a moral obligation to behave correctly towards or in respect of: *individuals have a responsibility to control their behaviour.*

3 the opportunity or ability to act independently and take decisions without authorization: *we expect individuals to take on more responsibility.* ■ [count noun] (often responsibilities) a thing which one is required to do as part of a job, role, or legal obligation: *he will take over the responsibilities of Overseas Director.*

– PHRASES **on one's own responsibility** without authorization.

responsable ▶ adjective 1 [predic.] having an obligation to do something, or having control over or care for someone, as part of one's job or role: *the cabinet*

minister responsible for Education. ■ (responsible to) having to report to (a superior) and be answerable to them for one's actions: *the Prime Minister and cabinet are responsible to Parliament.*

2 being the primary cause of something and so able to be blamed or credited for it: *Gooch was responsible for 198 of his side's 542 runs.* ■ morally accountable for one's behaviour: *the progressive emergence of the child as a responsible being.*

3 (of a job or position) involving important duties, independent decision-making, or control over others. ■ capable of being trusted: *a responsible adult.*

– DERIVATIVES **responsibleness** noun, **responsibly** adverb.

– ORIGIN late 16th cent. (in the sense 'answering to, corresponding'): from obsolete French *responsable*, from Latin *respons-* 'answered, offered in return', from the verb *respondere* (see **RESPOND**).

responsive ▶ adjective 1 reacting quickly and positively: *a flexible service that is responsive to changing social patterns.* ■ responding readily and with interest: *our most enthusiastic and responsive students.*

2 in response; answering: *I'm distracted by a nibble on my line: I jig it several times, but there is no responsive tug.* ■ (of a section of liturgy) using responses.

– DERIVATIVES **responsively** adverb, **responsiveness** noun.

responsorial /ˌrɪspɒnˈsɔːriəl/ ▶ adjective (of a psalm or liturgical chant) recited in parts with a congregational response between each part.

responsory /rɪˈspɒns(ə)ri/ ▶ noun (pl. responsories) (in the Christian Church) an anthem said or sung by a soloist and choir after a lesson.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin *responsorium*, from Latin *respond-* 'answered' from the verb *respondere* (see **RESPOND**).

responsum /rɪˈspɒnsəm/ ▶ noun (pl. responsa /rɪˈspɒnsə/) a written reply by a rabbi or Talmudic scholar to an inquiry on some matter of Jewish law. – ORIGIN Latin, literally 'reply'.

respray ▶ verb /rɪˈspreɪ/ [with obj.] spray (something, especially a vehicle) with a new coat of paint.

▶ noun /rɪˈspreɪ/ an instance of respraying something.

res publica /reɪz ˈpʊblɪkə, ˈpʌblɪkə/ ▶ noun the state, republic, or commonwealth.

– ORIGIN Latin, literally 'public matter'.

ressentiment /rəˈsɒtmənt/ ▶ noun [mass noun] a psychological state resulting from suppressed feelings of envy and hatred which cannot be satisfied.

– ORIGIN via German (used by Nietzsche in this sense) from French *ressentiment* 'feeling'.

rest ▶ verb [no obj.] 1 cease work or movement in order to relax, sleep, or recover strength: *he needed to rest after the feverish activity* | *I'm going to rest up before travelling to England.* ■ [with obj.] allow to be inactive in order to regain strength or health: *her friend read to her while she rested her eyes.* ■ (be resting) Brit. used euphemistically by actors to indicate that they are out of work. ■ [with obj.] leave (a player) out of a team temporarily: *both men were rested for the cup final.* ■ (of a problem or subject) be left without further investigation or discussion: *the council has urged the planning committee not to allow the matter to rest.* ■ [with obj.] allow (land) to lie fallow.

2 [no obj., with adverbial of place] be placed or supported so as to stay in a specified position: *her elbow was resting on the arm of the sofa.* ■ (of a body) lie buried: *the king's body rested in his tomb.* ■ [with obj. and adverbial of place] place (something) so that it is supported in a specified position: *he rested a hand on her shoulder.*

■ (rest on/upon) (of a look) alight or be steadily directed on: *his eyes rested briefly on the boy.*

3 (rest on/upon) be based on; depend on: *the country's security rested on its alliances.* ■ [with obj.] (rest something in/on) place hope, trust, or confidence on or in: *she rested her hopes in her attorney.* ■ be the responsibility of or belong to a specified person: *the final say rests with the regional assemblies.*

4 Law, N. Amer. conclude presentation of either party's case in a suit or prosecution: *the prosecution rests.*

See also **REST ONE'S CASE** below.

▶ noun 1 an instance or period of resting: *you look as though you need a rest* | [mass noun] *a couple of days of complete rest.* ■ [mass noun] a motionless state: *the car accelerates rapidly from rest.*

2 Music an interval of silence of a specified duration. ■ the sign denoting a musical rest. ■ a pause in speech or verse.

3 [in combination] an object that is used to support something: *a shoulder rest.* ■ a support or hook for a telephone receiver when not in use. ■ a support for a cue in billiards or snooker.

– ORIGIN late 14th cent. (as a verb): from Old French *rester*, from Latin *re-* 'back' + *stare* 'stand'.

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