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1773-1833, U.S. statesman and author. 4. a town in E Massachusetts, S of Boston. 28.218. 5. a male given name.

ran-dom (ran'dom), *adj.* 1. proceeding, made, or occurring without definite aim, reason, or pattern: the random selection of numbers. 2. Statistics, of or characterizing a process of selection in which each item of a set has an equal probability of being chosen. 3. *Building Trades*, a. (of building materials) lacking uniformity of dimensions: random shingles. b. (of ashlar) laid without continuous courses. c. constructed or applied without regularity: random bond. —*n.* 4. Chiefly Brit. bank (def. 7b). 5. at random, without definite aim, purpose, method, or adherence to a prior arrangement; in a haphazard way: Contestants were chosen at random from the studio audience. —*adv.* 6. *Building Trades*, without uniformity: random-sized slates. [1275-1325; ME *raundom*, *random* < OF *randon*, deriv. of *randir* to gallop < Gmc.] —*ran-dom-ly*, *adv.* —*ran-dom-ness*, *n.*

—*Syn.* 1. haphazard, chance, fortuitous.

ran-dom-ac-cess, 1. the capacity of a videodisc or compact disc player that allows the user to select and re-play any portion without starting at the beginning. 2. availability, as of a service or facility, whenever needed or desired: an executive's need for random access to legal experts. [1950-55]

ran-dom-ac-cess (ran'dom ak'ses), *adj.* Computers. 1. of or pertaining to a storage medium in which records can be read or written at the same time from or to any main storage address. 2. See *direct-access*.

ran-dom-access mem'ory, Computers. See *RAM*.

ran-dom-er/ror, Statistics, an error that has a random distribution and can be attributed to chance. Cf. *systematic error*. [1935-40]

ran-dom-ize (ran'da-mīz), *v.t.*, -ized, -izing, to order or select in a random manner, as in a sample or experiment, esp. in order to reduce bias and interference caused by irrelevant variables; make random. Also, *esp. Brit.*, **ran-dom-ise**. [1925-30; *RANDOM* + *-ize*] —*ran-dom-i-za-tion*, *n.* —*ran-dom-i-ze-er*, *n.*

ran-dom line, Survey, a trial survey line run from a station toward a predetermined point that cannot be seen from the station.

ran-dom num'ber, Statistics, a number chosen by a random sampling, as from a table (*ran-dom num'ber table*) or generated by a computer. [1925-30]

ran-dom sam'pling, Statistics, a method of selecting a sample (*ran-dom sam'ple*) from a statistical population in such a way that every possible sample that could be selected has a predetermined probability of being selected. [1895-1900]

ran-dom var'iable, Statistics, a quantity that takes any of a set of values with specified probabilities. Also called *variate*. [1935-40]

ran-dom walk, 1. Statistics, the path taken by a point or quantity that moves in steps, where the direction of each step is determined randomly. 2. Physics, the tendency of particles in random motion to achieve a net displacement or to drift in a particular direction. [1900-05]

R and R, 1. rest and recreation. 2. rest and recuperation. 3. rock-'n'-roll. Also, *R&R*

rand-y (ran'de), *adj.*, *rand-i-er*, *rand-i-est*, *n.*, *pl.* *rand-ies*. —*adj.* 1. sexually aroused; lustful; lecherous. 2. Chiefly Scot. rude and aggressive. —*n.* 3. Chiefly Scot. a rude or coarse beggar. [1690-1700; *rand* (obs. var. of *RANT*) + *-y*] —*rand-iness*, *n.*

Ran-dy (ran'de), *n.* 1. a male given name, form of *Randall* or *Randolph*. 2. a female given name.

ra-neē (rā'nē, rā'nē'), *n.* (in India) 1. the wife of a rajah. 2. a reigning queen or princess. Also, *rani*. [1690-1700; < Hindi *rani* < Skt *ṛājā* queen (fem. deriv. of *ṛājan* king)]

rang¹ (rang), *v.* pt. of *ring*².

rang² (rang), *n.* Informal, a boomerang. [by shortening]

range (rang), *n.*, *adj.*, *v.*, *ranged*, *rang-ing*. —*n.* 1. the extent to which or the limits between which variation is possible: the range of steel prices; a wide range of styles. 2. the extent or scope of the operation or action of something: within range of vision. 3. the distance to which a projectile or may be sent by a weapon. 4. the distance of the target from the weapon. 5. an area equipped with targets for practice in shooting weapons: a rifle range. 6. an area used for flight-testing missiles. 7. the distance of something to be located from some point of operation, as in sound ranging. 8. the distance that can be covered by an aircraft, ship, or other vehicle, carrying a normal load without refueling. 9. Statistics, the difference between the largest and smallest values in a statistical distribution. 10. a continuous course of masonry of the same height from end to end. 11. Music, compass (def. 4). 12. Survey, a. the horizontal direction or extension of a survey line established by two or more marked points. b. (in U.S. public-land surveys) one of a series of divisions numbered east or west from the principal meridian of the survey and consisting of a row of townships, each six miles square, that are numbered north or south from a base line. 13. Navig., a line established by markers or lights on shore for the location of soundings. 14. a rank, class, or order; in the higher ranges of society. 15. a row, line, or series, as of persons or things. 16. an act of ranging or moving around, as over an area or region. 17. Also called *rangeland*, an area or tract that is or may be ranged over, esp. an open region for the grazing of livestock. 18. the region over which a population or species is distributed: the range of the Baltimore oriole. 19. Math, the set of all values attained by a given function throughout its domain. 20. a chain of mountains forming a single system: the Catskill Range. 21. a large portable or stationary cooking stove having burners built into the top surface and containing one or more ovens. 22. Physics, the maximum distance that a charged particle, as a proton, can penetrate a given medium and still maintain sufficient kinetic en-

ergy to produce ionization in the medium. 23. Naut., a. a large cleat for securing various lines, esp. the tacks and sheets of courses. b. a length of anchor cable laid on deck. 24. In range, (of two or more objects observed from a vessel) located one directly behind the other.

—*adj.* 25. working or grazing on a range: range horses; range animals like deer and sheep.

—*v.t.* 26. to draw up or arrange (persons or things) in rows or lines or in a specific position, company, or group: The sergeant ranged the troops in columns of six across. 27. to place or arrange systematically; set in order; dispose: The members of the cast were ranged in their proper places on stage. 28. to place in a particular class; classify: They ranged themselves with the liberals. 29. to make straight, level, or even, as lines of type. 30. to pass over or through (an area or region) in all directions, as in exploring or searching: They ranged the entire countryside. 31. to pasture (cattle) on a range. 32. to direct or train, as a telescope, upon an object. 33. to obtain the range of (something aimed at or to be located). 34. Naut. to lay out (an anchor cable) so that the anchor may descend smoothly.

—*v.i.* 35. to vary within certain limits: prices ranging from \$5 to \$10. 36. to have a certain variety of things somehow related: emotions ranging from smugness to despair. 37. to move around or through a region in all directions, as people or animals. 38. to rove, roam, or wander: The talk ranged over a variety of subjects. 39. to stretch out or extend in a line, as things: shabby houses ranged along the road. 40. to extend, run, or go in a certain direction: a boundary ranging from east and west. 41. to lie or extend in the same line or plane, as one thing with another or others. 42. to take up a position in a line or in order. 43. to extend, be found, or occur over an area or throughout a period, as an animal or plant. 44. to have a specified range, as a gun, missile, etc. 45. to find the range, as of something aimed at or to be located. 46. Naut. (of an anchored vessel) to swerve or sheer (often fol. by *about*). [1350-1400; (*n.*) ME < OF *range* row, deriv. of *reng* line; see *rank*; (*v.*) ME *rengen* < MF *reng*, OF *rengier*, deriv. of *reng*] —*Syn.* 1. sweep, reach. RANGE, COMPASS, LATITUDE, SCOPE refer to extent or breadth. RANGE emphasizes extent and diversity; the range of one's interests. COMPASS suggests definite limits; within the compass of one's mind. LATITUDE emphasizes the idea of freedom from narrow confines, thus breadth or extent; granted latitude of action. SCOPE suggests great freedom but a proper limit; the scope of one's activities; the scope of one's obligations. 14. kind, sort. 15. tier, file. 26. align, range. 27. array. 37. See *roam*. 39. lie.

ranged (rangd), *adj.* *Building Trades*, coursed. [1520-30; *RANGE* + *-ED*]

range/ find'er, any of various instruments for determining the distance from the observer to a particular object, as for sighting a gun or adjusting the focus of a camera. Also, *range/ find'er*. [1870-75]

range-land (rang'land'), *n.* range (def. 17). [1930-35; *RANGE* + *-LAND*]

Range/ley Lakes' (rang'le), a group of lakes in W Maine.

range/ line, (in U.S. public-land surveys) one of two parallel lines running north and south that define the east and west borders of a township. Cf. *township* (def. 2), *township line*. [1810-20, Amer.]

range-mas-ter (rang'mas'tar, -mī'star), *n.* a person in charge of a firing range. [*RANGE* + *MASTER*]

range/ of accommoda-tion, *Ophthalm.* the range of distance over which an object can be accurately focused on the retina by accommodation of the eye.

range/ of stabil-ity, *Naval Arch.* the angle to the perpendicular through which a vessel may be heeled without losing the ability to right itself.

range/ oil, oil suitable for burning as the fuel of a kitchen stove.

range/ paral-ysis, *Vet. Pathol.* See *Marek's disease*. [1930-35]

range/ pole, Survey, a conspicuously painted pole held upright to show the position of a survey mark.

range-er (rang'jər), *n.* 1. See *forest ranger*. 2. one of a body of armed guards who patrol a region. 3. (*cap.*) a U.S. soldier in World War II specially trained for making surprise raids and attacks in small groups. Cf. *mando* (def. 1). 4. a soldier specially trained in the techniques of guerrilla warfare, esp. in jungle terrain. 5. a person who ranges or roves. 6. (esp. in Texas) a member of the state police. 7. Brit. a keeper of a royal forest or park. 8. *Building Trades*, wale (def. 5). 9. (*cap.*) one of a series of instrumented U.S. space probes launched in the 1960's that transmitted closeup pictures of the moon before impacting the lunar surface. [1350-1400; ME; see *RANGE*, *-ER*]

range/ table, one of a number of identical small tables that can be used together to form a single table. [1870-75]

range/ wool. See *territory wool*.

Ran-goön (rang gōōn'), *n.* former name of Yangon.

rang-pur (rang'pūr, rang pōōr'), *n.* a variety of mandarin orange, bearing a tart fruit. [named after Rangpur, region of Bangladesh]

rang-y (rang'jē), *adj.*, *rang-i-er*, *rang-i-est*. 1. (of animals or people) slender and long-limbed. 2. given to or fitted for ranging or moving about, as animals. 3. mountainous. [1865-70; *RANGE* + *-y*] —*rang-i-ness*, *n.*

ra-ni (rā'nā, rā'nē'), *n.*, *pl.* -nis. *raanee*.

ran-id (ran'id, rā'nid), —*adj.* 1. belonging or pertaining to the frog family Ranidae, characterized by smooth, moist skin and semiaquatic habits. —*n.* 2. frog (def. 2). [1885-90; < NL *Ranidae*, equiv. to *Rana* (a genus (L. *rana* frog) + *-idae* -in²)

Ra-ni-khet disease' (rā'ni ket'), *Vet. Pathol.* See *Newcastle disease*. [named after Ranikhet, town in northern India]

Ran-jit Singh (ran'jit sing'), ("Lion of the Punjab") 1780-1839, Indian maharaja; founder of the Sikh kingdom of Punjab.

rank¹ (rangk), *n.* 1. a number of persons forming a separate class in a social hierarchy or in any graded body. 2. a social or official position or standing, as in the armed forces: the rank of captain. 3. high position or station in the social or some similar scale: a woman of rank. 4. a class in any scale of comparison. 5. relative position or standing: a writer of the first rank. 6. a row, line, or series of things or persons: orchestra players arranged in ranks. 7. ranks, a. the members of an armed service apart from its officers: enlisted personnel. b. military enlisted personnel as a group. See *table* on next page. 8. Usually, ranks, the general body of any party, society, or organization apart from the officers or leaders. 9. orderly arrangement; array. 10. a line of persons, esp. soldiers, standing abreast in close-order formation (distinguished from *file*). 11. Brit. a place or station occupied by vehicles available for hire; stand: a taxi rank. 12. Chess, one of the horizontal lines of squares on a chessboard. 13. a set of organ pipes of the same kind and tonal color. 14. Also called *determinant rank*, Math, the order of the nonzero determinant of greatest order that can be selected from a given matrix by the elimination of rows and columns. 15. Mining, the classification of coal according to hardness, from lignite to anthracite. 16. break ranks, a. to leave an assigned position in a military formation. b. to disagree with, defect from, or refuse to support one's colleagues, party, or the like. 17. pull rank (on), to make use of one's superior rank to gain an advantage over (someone). Also, pull one's rank (on). —*v.t.* 18. to arrange in ranks or in regular formation: The men were ranked according to height. He ranked the chess pieces on the board. 19. to assign to a particular position, station, class, etc.: She was ranked among the most admired citizens. 20. to outrank: The colonel ranks all other officers in the squadron. 21. Slang, to insult; criticize. —*vi.* 22. to form a rank or ranks. 23. to take up or occupy a place in a particular rank, class, etc.: to rank well ahead of the other students. 24. to have rank or standing. 25. to be the senior in rank: The colonel ranks at this camp. 26. Slang, to complain. [1560-70; < F *rauc* (n., obs.), OF *renc*, *renc*, *rang* row, line < Gmc. akin to *ring*)] —*rank-less*, *adj.*

—*Syn.* 3. distinction, eminence, dignity. 6. range, tier. 9. alignment. 18. align, range, array.

rank² (rangk), *adj.*, -er, -est. 1. growing with excessive luxuriance; vigorous and tall of growth: tall rank weeds. 2. producing an excessive and coarse growth, as land. 3. having an offensively strong smell or taste: a rank cigar. 4. offensively strong, as a smell or taste. 5. utter; absolute: a rank amateur; rank treachery. 6. highly offensive; disgusting: a rank sight of carnage. 7. grossly coarse, vulgar, or indecent: rank language. 8. Slang, inferior; contemptible. [bef. 1000; ME; OE *renc* bold, proud; c. ON *rakkr* straight, bold] —*rank-ish*, *adj.* —*rank-ly*, *adv.* —*rank-ness*, *n.*

—*Syn.* 1. abundant, exuberant. 5. complete, sheer, entire. 6. repulsive, repellent. See *flagrant*. 7. foul.

Rank (rāngk), *n.* Ot-to (ōt'ō), 1884-1939, Austrian psychoanalyst.

rank' and file, 1. the members of a group or organization apart from its leaders or officers. 2. rank¹ (def. 7a). [1590-1600] —*rank'-and-file*, *adj.*

rank-and-file-er (rangk'an fī'ler), *n.* a member of the rank and file. [1935-40, Amer.; *rank* and *file* + *-er*]

Ran-ke (rāng'ka), *n.* Le-o-pold von (lā'ō pōlt' fən), 1795-1886, German historian.

rank-er (rang'kar), *n.* 1. a person who ranks. 2. Brit. a soldier in the ranks or a commissioned officer promoted from the ranks. [1825-35; *RANK* + *-ER*]

rank-et (rang'kit), *n.* a double-reed wind instrument of the 16th and 17th centuries. Also, *rank'ett*, *rank'ett*. Also called *sausage bassoon*. [1875-80; < G *Rancket*]

Ran-kin (rang'kin), *n.* Jeannette, 1880-1973. U.S. women's-rights leader and pacifist: first woman elected to Congress; served 1917-19. 1941-43.

Ran-kine (rang'kin), *n.* 1. William John Mac-quorn (mā kwōrn'), 1820-70, Scottish engineer and physicist. —*adj.* 2. *Thermodynam.* pertaining to an absolute temperature scale (*Ran'kine scale*) in which the degree intervals are equal to those of the Fahrenheit scale and in which 0° Rankine equals -459.7° Fahrenheit. Cf. *absolute temperature scale*, *Kelvin* (def. 2, 3).

Ran'kine cy/cle, *Thermodynam.* the hypothetical cycle of a steam engine in which all heat transfers take place at constant pressure and in which expansion and compression occur adiabatically. Also called *Clausius cycle*. [1895-1900; named after W. J. M. RANKINE]

rank-ing (rang'king), *adj.* 1. senior or superior in rank, position, etc.: a ranking diplomat. 2. prominent or highly regarded: a ranking authority on Soviet affairs. 3. occupying a specific rank, position, etc. (often used in combination): a low-ranking executive. —*n.* 4. an act or instance of indicating relative standing. 5. a list showing such standing. [1860-65; *RANK* + *-ING*, *-ING*]

ran-kle (rang'kol), *v.*, -kled, -kling. —*v.i.* 1. (of unpleasant feelings, experiences, etc.) to continue to cause keen irritation or bitter resentment within the mind; fester; be painful. —*vt.* 2. to cause keen irritation or bitter resentment in: His colleague's harsh criticism rankled him for days. [1250-1300; ME *raencen* < MF *raancier*, OF *raancier*, var. of *draancier* to fester, deriv. of *draucle* a sore < L *draconculus* small serpent, dim. of L *draco* serpent; see *DRAGON*, *CARRUNCLE*] —*ran'king-ly*, *adv.*

—*Syn.* 1. 2. irritate, gall, chafe.

CONCISE PHONOLOGICAL KEY: act, cāpe, dāra, pāre; set, equal; if, ice; ox, over, order, oil, book, bōat, out; up, urge, child, ash; shoe; thin; that; zh as in treasure, a as in alone, c as in system, i as in easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus; * as in fire (fī'r), hour (ou'r), l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krād'l), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.