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- pluck** *n* (15c) 1: an act or instance of plucking or pulling 2: the heart, liver, lungs, and trachea of a slaughtered animal esp. as an item of food 3: courageous readiness to fight or continue against odds : dogged resolution
- plucky** 'plʌ-ki/ *adj* **plucky-ier**; -est (1840) : SPIRITED, BRAVE — **plucky-ly** 'plʌ-ki-lē *adv* — **plucky-ness** 'plʌ-ki-nəs *n*
- plug** 'plʌg *n* [D, fr. MD *pluge*; akin to MHG *pfloc* *plug*] (1606) 1 a: a piece used to fill a hole : STOPPER b: an obtruding or obstructing mass of material resembling a stopper 2: a flat compressed cake of tobacco 3: a small core or segment removed from a larger object 4: something inferior; esp: an inferior often aged or unsound horse 5 a: HYDRANT, FIREPLUG b: SPARK PLUG 6: an artificial fishing lure used primarily for casting and made with one or more sets of gang hooks 7: any of various devices resembling or functioning like a plug; as a: a male fitting for making an electrical connection to a live circuit by insertion in a receptacle (as an outlet) b: a device for connecting electric wires to a jack 8: a piece of favorable publicity or a favorable mention usu. incorporated in general matter
- plug** *vb* **plugged**; **plug-ging** *vi* (1630) 1 a: to stop, make tight, or secure by inserting a plug b: to remedy (a deficiency) as if by inserting a plug (trying to ~ the gaps in their understanding) 2: to hit with a bullet : SHOOT 3: to advertise or publicize insistently ~ *vi* 1: to become plugged — usu. used with *up* 2: to work doggedly and persistently *plugged* away at her homework 3: to fire shots — **plug-ger** *n* — **plug into** 1: to connect or become connected to by or as if by means of a plug (the city was *plugged* into the new highway system) 2: to load into as if by means of a plug *plugged* the data into a computer
- plug and play** *n* (1993) : a feature of a computer system by which peripherals are automatically detected and configured by the operating system — **plug-and-play** *adj*
- plugged** *adj* (1694) 1 of a coin : altered by the insertion of a plug of base metal 2: closed by or as if by a plug : OBSTRUCTED
- plugged-in** 'plʌgd-ɪn/ *adj* (1968) : technologically or socially informed and connected (~ teenagers)
- plug hat** *n* (1863) : a man's stiff hat (as a bowler or top hat)
- plug-in** 'plʌg-ɪn/ *adj* (1922) : designed to be connected to an electric circuit by plugging in (~ toy) (~ circuit board)
- plug-in** *n* (1946) 1: something that plugs in 2: a small piece of software that supplements a larger program (as a browser)
- plug in** *vi* (1893) : to establish an electric circuit by inserting a plug ~ *vt* : to attach or connect to an electric receptacle (as an outlet)
- plug-o-la** 'plʌ-ɡo-lə/ *n* **plug-o-la** (as in *payola*) (1959) : incidental advertising on radio or television that is not purchased like regular advertising
- plug-ugly** 'plʌg-ʊɡ-lē *n* (1856) : THUG, TOUGH; esp: one hired to intimidate
- plum** 'plʌm *n*, often attrib [ME, fr. OE *plūme*, modif. of L *prunum* plum, fr. Gk *prōmounē*] (bef. 12c) 1: any of various trees and shrubs (genus *Prunus*) of the rose family with globular to oval smooth-skinned edible fruits that are drupes with oblong seeds; also: the fruit 2: any of various trees with edible fruits resembling plums; also: the fruit 3 a: a raisin when used in desserts b: SUGARPLUM 4: something superior or very desirable; esp: something desirable given in return for a favor 5: a dark reddish purple — **plum-like** 'plʌm-līk *adj*
- plum-age** 'plʌm-ɪdʒ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. OF, fr. *plume* feather] — more at PLUME (14c) : the feathers of a bird — **plum-aged** 'plʌm-ɪdʒ *adj*
- plumb** 'plʌm *n* [ME, fr. AF *plumb*, *plomb*, fr. L *plumbum* lead] (14c) : a lead weight attached to a line and used to indicate a vertical direction — **out of plumb** or **off plumb** : out of vertical or true
- plumb** *adv* (15c) 1: straight down or up : VERTICALLY 2 chiefly dial : to a complete degree : ABSOLUTELY (~ you're ~ crazy, she remarked, with easy candor — *Harper's Weekly*) 3: in a direct manner : EXACTLY; also: without interval of time : IMMEDIATELY
- plumb** *vb* (15c) 1: to weight with lead 2 a: to measure the depth of with a plumb b: to examine minutely and critically (~ing the book's complexities) 3: to adjust or test by a plumb line 4: to seal with lead 5 [back-formation fr. *plumber*] : to supply with or install as plumbing ~ *vi* : to work as a plumber
- plumb** *adj* (15c) 1: exactly vertical or true 2: THOROUGH, COMPLETE *syn* see VERTICAL
- plumb-ba-go** 'plʌm-'bɑ-(ɡ)gə/ *n*, pl -gos [L *plumbagin*, *plumbago* galeana, fr. *plumbum*] (1747) 1 [NL, fr. L] : any of a genus (*Plumbago*) of the family Plumbaginaceae, the plumbago family) of chiefly tropical herbs and shrubs with alternate leaves and spikes of showy flowers 2 : GRAPHITE 1
- plumb bob** *n* (ca. 1840) : the metal bob of a plumb line
- plumber** 'plʌ-mər/ *n* [ME, fr. AF *plumier*, *plomier*, fr. L *plumbarius*, fr. *plumbum*] (15c) 1: a dealer or worker in lead 2: one who installs, repairs, and maintains piping, fittings, and fixtures involved in the distribution and use of water in a building 3: a person whose job is to prevent or put an end to leaks of sensitive information
- plumber's helper** *n* (1952) : PLUMBER d — called also *plumber's friend*
- plumber's snake** *n* (1938) : a long flexible rod or cable usu. of steel that is used to free clogged pipes
- plumbing** 'plʌm-ɪŋ *n* (1696) 1: the act of using a plumb 2: a plumber's occupation or trade 3 a: the apparatus (as pipes and fixtures) concerned in the distribution and use of water in a building b: an internal system that resembles plumbing; esp: one consisting of conduits or channels for conveying fluids
- plum-bism** 'plʌm-'bi-zəm/ *n* [L *plumbum* lead] (1876) : lead poisoning esp. when chronic
- plumb line** *n* (15c) 1: a line (as of cord) that has at one end a weight (as a plumb bob) and is used esp. to determine vertically 2: a line directed to the center of gravity of the earth : vertical line
- plume** 'plʌm *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *pluma* small soft feather — more at FLEECE] (14c) 1: a feather of a bird; also: a large conspicuous or showy feather b: CONTOUR FEATHER c: PLUMAGE d: a cluster of distinctive feathers 2 a: material (as a feather, cluster of feathers, or a tuft of hair)



P plume 2a

worn as an ornament b: a token of honor or prowess : PRIZE 3: something resembling a feather (as in shape, appearance, or lightness); as a: a plumose appendage of a plant b: an elongated and usu. open and mobile column or band (as of smoke, exhaust gases, or blowing snow) c: an animal structure having a main shaft bearing many hairs or filamentous parts; esp: a full bushy tail d: any of several columns of molten rock rising from the earth's lower mantle that are theorized to drive tectonic plate movement and to underlie hot spots

plume *vb* **plumed**; **plum-ing** (15c) 1 a: to provide or deck with feathers b: to array showily 2: to indulge (oneself) in pride with an obvious or vain display of self-satisfaction 3 of a bird a: to preen and arrange the feathers of (itself) b: to preen and arrange (feathers)

plumed *adj* (15c) : provided with or adorned with or as if with a plume — often used in combination (a white-plumed egret)

plume-let 'plʌm-lət/ *n* (ca. 1847) : a small tuft or plume

plu-me-ria 'plʌ-mir-ē-ə/ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Charles Plumier †1704 Fr. botanist] (1753) : FRANGIPANI

plum-met 'plʌ-mət/ *n* [ME *plomet*, fr. AF *plumet*, *plomet*, fr. *plum* lead, lead weight — more at PLUMBER] (14c) : PLUMB; also : PLUMB LINE

plummet 'plʌm-ɪt/ *n* (1937) 1: to fall perpendicularly (birds ~ed down) 2: to drop sharply and abruptly (~ prices ~ed)

plum-my 'plʌ-mi/ *adj* **plum-mer**; -est (1759) 1 a: full of plums (a rich ~ cake) b: CHOICE, DESIRABLE (got a ~ role in the movie) 2 a: having a plum color b: rich and mellow often to the point of affectation (~ singing voice)

plu-mose 'plʌ-mōs/ *adj* (ca. 1727) 1: having feathers or plumes : FEATHERED 2: FEATHERY (~ setae)

plump 'plʌmp/ *vb* [ME *plʌm* *vi* (14c) 1: to drop, sink, or come in contact suddenly or heavily (~ed down in the chair) 2: to favor or decide in favor of someone or something strongly or emphatically — used with *for* ~ *vi* 1: to drop, cast, or place suddenly or heavily 2: to give support and favorable publicity to

plump *n* (15c) : a sudden plunge, fall, or blow; also: the sound made by a plump

plump *adv* (1594) 1: with a sudden or heavy drop 2 a: straight down b: straight ahead 3: without qualification : DIRECTLY (~ out of luck)

plump *n* [ME *plumpe*] (15c) chiefly dial : GROUP, FLOCK (a ~ of ducks rose at the same time — H. D. Thoreau)

plump *vb* [plump] *vi* (1533) : to make plump ~ *vt* : to become plump

plump *adj* [ME, dull, blunt, fr. MD *plump*] (1569) 1: having a full rounded usu. pleasing form (~ woman) 2: AMPLE, ABUNDANT — **plump-ish** 'plʌmp-ɪʃ/ *adj*

plump-en 'plʌm-pən/ *vb* (1687) : *PLUMP

plump-er 'plʌm-pər/ *n* [plump] (1690) : an object carried in the mouth to fill out the cheeks

plumper *n* [plump] (ca. 1785) chiefly Brit : a vote for only one candidate when two or more are to be elected to the same office

plumpy 'plʌm-pi/ *adv* (1611) : in a plump way (~ pretty girl)

plum-py 'plʌm-pi/ *adj* (1786) : in a wheeled manner and without hesitation or circumlocution : FORTHRIGHTLY

plump-ness 'plʌm-nəs/ *n* (1545) : the quality or state of being plump

plumpness *n* (1780) : freedom from hesitation or circumlocution

plum pudding *n* (1711) : a rich boiled or steamed pudding containing fruits and spices

plum tomato *n* (ca. 1900) : a small oblong tomato

plum-mule 'plʌm-mi/ *n* [NL *plumula*, fr. L, dim. of *pluma* small soft feather — more at FLEECE] (ca. 1741) 1: the primary bud of a plant embryo usu. situated at the apex of the hypocotyl and consisting of leaves and an epicotyl 2: a down feather

plum-y 'plʌm-i/ *adj* **plum-i-er**; -est (1582) 1: DOWNY 2: having or resembling plumes

plun-der 'plʌn-dər/ *vb* **plun-dered**; **plun-der-ing** 'dʌ-(r)ɪŋ/ [G *plündern*] *vi* (1632) 1 a: to take the goods of by force (as in war) : PILLAGE, SACK (~ invaders ~ed the town) b: to take by force or wrongfully : STEAL, LOOT (~ed artifacts from the tomb) 2: to make extensive use of as if by plundering : use or use up wrongfully (~ the land) ~ *vt* : to commit robbery or looting — **plun-der-er** 'dər-ər/ *n*

plunder (1643) 1: an act of plundering : PILLAGING 2: something taken by force, theft, or fraud : LOOT 3 chiefly dial : personal or household effects *syn* see SPOIL

plun-der-ous 'dʌ-(r)əs/ *adj* (1845) : given to plundering

plunge 'plʌŋ/ *vb* **plunged**; **plung-ing** [ME, fr. AF *plunger*, fr. VL *plumbicare*, fr. L *plumbum* lead] *vi* (14c) 1: to cause to penetrate or enter quickly and forcibly into something (*plunged* the dagger) 2: to cause to enter a state or course of action usu. suddenly, unexpectedly, or violently (*plunged* the nation into economic depression) ~ *vi* 1: to thrust or cast oneself into or as if into water 2 a: to become pitched or thrown headlong or violently forward and downward; also: to move oneself in such a manner (*plunged* off the embankment) b: to act with reckless haste : enter suddenly or unexpectedly (*plunged* into project after project) c: to bet or gamble heavily and recklessly

3: to descend or dip suddenly (~ the stock's value *plunged*)

plunk *n* (15c) : an act or instance of plunging : DIVE; also : SWIM

plunger 'plʌn-ʒər/ *n* (1611) : one that plunges; as a: DIVER b: a reckless gambler or speculator c (1) : a sliding reciprocating piece driven by or against fluid pressure; esp : PISTON (2) : a piece with a motion like that of a ram or piston d: a rubber suction cup on a handle used to free plumbing traps and waste outlets of obstructions

plunk 'plʌŋk/ *vb* **plonk** 'plɒŋk, 'plɒŋk/ *vi* [imit.] *vt* (1805) 1: to pluck or hit so as to produce a quick, hollow, metallic, or harsh sound 2: to set down suddenly : PLUMP ~ *vi* 1: to make a plunking sound 2: to drop abruptly : DIVE 3: to come out in favor of someone or something : PLUMP — used with *for* — **plunk** *n* — **plunk-er** *n*

plunk down *vb* (1891) : to drop abruptly : settle into position ~ *vi* 1 a: to put down usu. firmly or abruptly (*plunked* the items down on the counter) b: to settle (oneself) into position (*plunked* himself down on the bench) 2: to pay out (~ reluctant to *plunk* down the money for a new car)

plu-per-fect 'plʌ-'pər-fɪkt/ *adj* [ME *pluperfith*, modif. of LL *pluperfectus*, lit., more than perfect] (15c) 1: PAST PERFECT 2: utterly perfect or complete — **pluperfect** *n*

slip sheet *n* ['slɪp] (1903) : a sheet of paper placed between newly printed sheets to prevent offsetting

slip-shod \slip-'shād/ *adj* ['slɪp] (1580) 1 a : wearing loose shoes or slippers b : down at the heel : SHABBY 2 : CARELESS, SLOVENLY

slip-slop \slip-'slop/ *n* [redupl. of 'slop] (1675) 1 *archaic* : watery food 2 *archaic* : shallow talk or writing — **slip-slop** *adj*

slip-sole \slip-'sōl/ *n* (ca. 1908) 1 : a thin insole 2 : a half sole inserted between the insole or welt and the outsole of a shoe to give additional height — called also *slip tap*

slip stitch *n* (ca. 1882) 1 : a concealed stitch for sewing folded edges (as hems) made by alternately running the needle inside the fold and picking up a thread or two from the body of the article 2 : an unworked stitch; *esp.* : a knitting stitch that is shifted from one needle to another without knitting it

slip-stream \slip-'strēm/ *n* (1913) 1 : a stream of fluid (as air or water) driven aft by a propeller 2 : an area of reduced air pressure and forward suction immediately behind a rapidly moving vehicle

slipstream *vi* (1957) : to drive in the slipstream of a vehicle

slip-up \slip-'əp/ *n* (1854) 1 : MISTAKE 2 : MISCHANCE

slip up *vi* (1909) : to make a mistake : BLUNDER

slip-ware \slip-'wēr/ *n* (1883) : pottery coated with slip to improve or decorate the surface

slip-way \slip-'wā/ *n* (1840) : an inclined usu. concrete surface for a ship being built or repaired

slit \slɪt/ *n* [ME, fr. *slitten*] (12c) : a long narrow cut or opening — **slit** *adj* — **slit-less** \slɪt-'ləs/ *adj*

slit *vt* **slit**; **slit-ting** [ME *slitten*; akin to MHG *slitzen* to slit, OHG *slīzan* to tear apart, OE *scell* shell — more at *SHELL*] (14c) 1 a : to make a slit in b : to cut off or away : SEVER c : to form into a slit 2 : to cut into long narrow strips — **slit-ter** *n*

slither \slɪ-'θər/ *vb* [ME *slideren*, fr. OE *slīdrian*, freq. of *slīdan* to slide] *vi* (bef. 12c) 1 : to slide on or as if on a loose gravelly surface 2 : to slip or slide like a snake ~ *vt* : to cause to slide

slither-er \slɪ-'θə-rē/ *adj* (ca. 1825) : having a slippery surface, texture, or quality

slit trench *n* (1942) : a narrow trench *esp.* for shelter in battle from bomb and shell fragments

sliver \slɪ-'vər/ *n* 2 *is usu.* 'slɪ-ən [ME *slivere*, fr. *sliven* to slice off, fr. OE *-slifan*; akin to OE *-slīfan* to cut] (14c) 1 a : a long slender piece cut or torn off : SPLINTER b : a small and narrow portion (a ~ of land) c : PARTICLE, SCRAP (not a ~ of evidence) 2 : an untwisted strand or rope of textile fiber produced by a carding or combing machine and ready for drawing, roving, or spinning

sliver *vb* **sliver**-ed; **sliver**-ing \slɪ-'vər-ɪŋ, 'slɪv-ɪŋ/ *vt* (1605) : to cut into slivers : SPLINTER ~ *vi* : to become split into slivers

sliv-o-vitz \slɪ-'və-'vɪts, 'slē-, '-wɪts/ *n* [Serbian & Croatian *šljivovica*, fr. *šljiva*, *sliva* plum; akin to Russ *sliva* plum — more at *LIVID*] (1837) : a dry usu. colorless plum brandy made *esp.* in the Balkan countries

slub \slʌb/ *n* [fr. *slab* mud, ooze, slovenly person] (1861) 1 : a slovenly or boorish person 2 : an ordinary person (just some poor ~) — **slub-bish** \slə-'bɪʃ/ *adj* — **slub-by** \slə-'bi/ *adj*

slub-ber \slə-'bər/ *vb* **slub-ber**-ed; **slub-ber**-ing \slə-'b(ə)-rɪŋ/ [ME *slubberen* to eat in a slovenly manner; akin to LG *slubberen* to sip] *vi* (1607) 1 : to let saliva dribble from the mouth : DROOL 2 : to indulge the feelings effusively and without restraint ~ *vt* : to smear with or as if with dribbling saliva or food — **slub-ber-er** \slə-'bər-ər/ *n*

slubber *n* (ca. 1755) 1 : saliva drooled from the mouth 2 : drizzling, sloppy, or incoherent utterance — **slub-bery** \slə-'b(ə)-rē/ *adj*

sloe \slō/ *n* [ME *slo*, fr. OE *slāh*; akin to OHG *slēha* sloe and prob. to Russ *sliva* plum — more at *LIVID*] (bef. 12c) : the small dark globose astringent fruit of the blackthorn; *also* : BLACKTHORN

sloe-eyed \slō-'ɪd/ *adj* (1867) 1 : having soft dark bluish- or purplish-black eyes 2 : having slanted eyes

sloe gin *n* (1895) : a sweet reddish liqueur consisting of grain spirits flavored chiefly with sloes

slog \slɒg/ *vb* **slogged**; **slog**-ging [origin unknown] *vt* (1824) 1 : to hit hard : BEAT 2 : to plod (one's way) perseveringly *esp.* against difficulty ~ *vi* 1 : to plod heavily : TRAMP (slogged through the snow) 2 : to work hard and steadily : PLUG — **slog-ger** *n*

slog *n* (1888) 1 a : hard persistent work (the endless enervating ~ of war — Michael Gorra) b : a prolonged arduous task or effort (reform will be a hard political ~ — M. S. Forbes) 2 : a hard dogged march or journey

slo-gan \slō-'gən/ *n* [alter. of earlier *slogorn*, fr. ScGael *sluagh*-ghairm, fr. *sluagh* army, host + *ghairm* cry] (1513) 1 a : a war cry *esp.* of a Scottish clan b : a word or phrase used to express a characteristic position or stand or a goal to be achieved 2 : a brief attention-getting phrase used in advertising or promotion

slo-gan-er \slō-'gə-'nɪr/ *n* (1922) : a maker or user of slogans — **slo-gan-er** *vi*

slo-gan-ize \slō-'gə-'nɪz/ *vt* -ized; -iz-ing (1926) : to express as a slogan

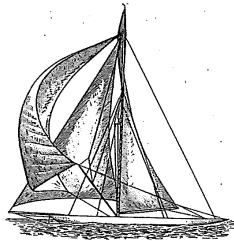
slo-mo \slō-'mō/ *adj* (1972) : SLOW-MOTION — **slo-mo** *n*

sloop \slup/ *n* [D *sloop*] (1629) : a fore-and-aft rigged boat with one mast and a single jib

sloop of war (1704) : a small warship with guns on only one deck

slop \slɒp/ *n* [ME *sloppe*, prob. fr. MD *slop*; akin to OE *oferstlop* surplice] (14c) 1 : a loose smock or overall 2 *pl* : short full breeches worn by men in the 16th century 3 *pl* : articles (as clothing) sold to sailors

slop *n* [ME *sloppes*, prob. fr. OE *-sloppe* (in *cū-sloppe* cowslip, lit., cow dung); akin to OE *slȳpa* slime — more at *SLIP*] (15c) 1 : soft mud : SLUSH 2 : thin tasteless drink or liquid food — *usu.* used in *pl.* 3 : liquid spilled or splashed 4 a : food waste (as garbage) fed to animals : SWILL 2a b : excreted body waste — *usu.* used in *pl.* c : a



sloop

product of little or no value : RUBBISH (watching the usual ~ on TV)

5 : sentimental effusiveness in speech or writing : GUSH

slop *vb* **slopped**; **slop**-ping *vi* (1557) 1 a : to spill from a container b : to splash or spill liquid on c : to cause (a liquid) to splash 2 : to dish out messily 3 : to eat or drink greedily or noisily 4 : to feed slop to (the hogs) ~ *vi* 1 : to tramp in mud or slush 2 : to become spilled or splashed 3 : to be effusive : GUSH 4 : to pass beyond or exceed a boundary or limit

slop basin *n* (1731) *Brit.* : SLOP BOWL

slop bowl *n* (1810) : a bowl for receiving the leavings of tea or coffee cups at table

slop chest *n* ['slop] (1840) : a store of clothing and personal requisites (as tobacco) carried on merchant ships for issue to the crew *usu.* as a charge against their wages

slope \slɒp/ *adj* [ME *sloope*, prob. fr. *aslope*, *adv.*, at an angle] (15c) : that slants : SLOPING — *often* used in combination (slope-sided)

slope *vb* **sloped**; **slop**-ing *vi* (1591) 1 : to take an oblique course 2 : to lie or fall in a slant : INCLINE 3 : GO, TRAVEL (we off into the night — Wolcott Gibbs) ~ *vt* : to cause to incline or slant — **sloper** *n*

slope *n* (ca. 1568) 1 : ground that forms a natural or artificial incline 2 : upward or downward slant or inclination or degree of slant 3 : the part of a continent draining to a particular ocean (Alaska's North Slope) 4 a : the tangent of the angle made by a straight line with the x-axis b : the slope of the line tangent to a plane curve at a point

slope-intercept form *n* (ca. 1942) : the equation of a straight line in the form $y = mx + b$ where m is the slope of the line and b is its y-intercept

slop-pitch \slɒp-'pɪtʃ, 'pɪtʃ/ *n*, *often attrib* [alter. of *slow pitch*] (1967) : SLOW-PITCH

slop jar *n* (1855) : a large pail used as a chamber pot or to receive waste water from a washbowl or the contents of chamber pots

slop pail *n* (1854) : a pail for toilet or household slops

slop-py \slə-'peɪ/ *adj* **slop**-pi-er; -est (1672) 1 a : wet so as to spatter easily : SLUSHY (a ~ racetrack) b : wet or smeared with or as if with something slopped over 2 : SLOVENLY, CARELESS (a ~ dresser) (did ~ work) 3 : disgustingly effusive (sentimentalism) — **slop-pily** \slə-'peɪ-ly/ *adv* — **slop-pi-ness** *n*

sloppy \slɒ-'pi/ *adj* [prob. fr. the name *Joe*, nickname for Joseph] (1942) 1 *often cap* S&J : a loose-fitting sweater *esp.* for girls 2 : ground beef cooked in a thick spicy sauce and *usu.* served on a bun

slop-work \slɒp-'wɜrk/ *n* (1849) 1 : the manufacture of cheap ready-made clothing 2 : hasty slovenly work

slush \slʌʃ, 'slʌʃ/ *n* [prob. blend of *slop* and *slush*] (1814) 1 : SLUSH 2 : the slap or splash of liquid — **slushy** \slʌ-'ʃhi/ *adj*

slush *vi* (1844) 1 : to flounder or splash through water, mud, or slush 2 : to move with a splashing motion (the water ~ed around him — Bill Alcine) ~ *vt* 1 : to splash about in liquid 2 : to splash (a liquid) about or on something 3 : to splash with liquid

slushed \slʌʃt, 'slʌʃt/ *adj* (ca. 1946) *slang* : DRUNK, INTOXICATED

slot \slɒt/ *n* [ME, the hollow at the base of the throat above the breastbone, fr. AF *esclot* hoofprint, of Gmc origin; akin to MHG *slag* blow, hoofprint; prob. fr. its resemblance to a hoofprint — more at *SCHLOCK*] (1523) 1 a : a narrow opening or groove : SLIT, NOTCH (a mail ~ in a door) b : a narrow passage or enclosure c : a passage through the wing of an airplane or of a missile that is located *usu.* near the leading edge and formed between a main and an auxiliary airfoil for improving flow conditions over the wing so as to increase lift and delay stalling of the wing d : the area on a hockey rink in front of the crease and between the face-off circles 2 : a place or position in an organization, arrangement, or sequence : NICHE, SPOT 3 : SLOT MACHINE 2 — *usu.* used in *pl.* 4 : a gap between an end and a tackle in an offensive football line

slot *vb* **slot**-ted; **slot**-ting *vi* (1747) 1 : to cut a slot in 2 : to place in or assign to a slot ~ *vi* : to fit easily (her ideas ~ neatly into the theory)

slot *n*, *pl* **slot** [MF *esclot* track] (1575) : the track of an animal (as a deer)

slot-back \slɒt-'bæk/ *n* (1959) : an offensive football halfback who lines up just behind the slot between an offensive end and tackle

slot car *n* (1966) : an electric toy racing car with a pin underneath that fits into a groove on a track for guidance

slot machine *n* (1891) 1 : a machine whose operation is begun by dropping a coin into a slot 2 : an orig. coin-operated gambling machine that pays off according to the matching of symbols on wheels spun by a handle; *also* : an electronic version of this machine

slot racing *n* (1965) : the racing of slot cars — **slot racer** *n*

slotting fee *n* (1984) : a fee charged by a vendor in exchange for carrying a manufacturer's product — called also *slotting allowance*

slouch \sləʊtʃ/ *n* [origin unknown] (1515) 1 a : an awkward fellow : LOU 2 : one that is unimpressive; *esp.* : a low or incompetent person — *used* in negative constructions (was no ~ at cooking) 2 : a gait or posture characterized by an ungainly stooping of the head and shoulders or excessive relaxation of body muscles

slouch *vi* (1754) 1 : to walk, stand, or sit with a slouch : assume a slouch 2 : DROOP 3 : to go or move slowly or reluctantly ~ *vt* : to cause to droop (we ~ed his shoulders) — **slouch-er** *n*

slouch hat *n* (1837) : a soft usu. felt hat with a wide flexible brim

slouchy \sləʊ-'tʃi/ *adj* **slouch**-i-er; -est (ca. 1693) : lacking erectness or stiffness (as in form or posture) (a ~ sweater) (figures waiting in line) — **slouch-i-ly** \sləʊ-'tʃi-ly/ *adv* — **slouch-i-ness** \sləʊ-'tʃi-nəs/ *n*

gere to bind tight — more at STRAIN¹ (bef. 12c) 1 : having or marked by great physical power 2 : having moral or intellectual power 3 : having great resources (as of wealth or talent) 4 : of a specified number (an army ten thousand ~) 5 a : striking or superior of its kind (a ~ resemblance) b : effective or efficient esp. in a specified direction (~ on watching other people work —A. Alvarez) 6 : FORCEFUL, COGENT (~ evidence) (~ talk) 7 : not mild or weak : EXTREME, INTENSE; as a : rich in some active agent (~ beer) b of a color : high in chroma c : ionizing freely in solution (~ acids and bases) d : magnifying by refracting greatly (a ~ lens) 8 obs : FLAGRANT 9 : moving with rapidity or force (a ~ wind) 10 : ARDENT, ZEALOUS (a ~ supporter) 11 a : not easily injured or disturbed : SOLID b : not easily subdued or taken (a ~ fort) 12 : well established : FIRM (~ beliefs) 13 : not easily upset or nauseated (a ~ stomach) 14 : having an offensive or intense odor or flavor : RANK (~ breath) 15 : tending to steady or higher prices (a ~ market) 16 : of, relating to, or being a verb that is inflected by a change in the root vowel (as *strive*, *strove*, *striven*) rather than by regular affixation
strong *adv* ~ **strong-ish** \ˈstrɒŋ-ɪʃl̩ ədʒ~ **strongly** \ˈstrɒŋ-lē ədʒv~
STRONG, STOUT, STURDY, STALWART, TOUGH, TENACIOUS mean showing power to resist or to endure. STRONG may imply power derived from muscular vigor, large size, structural soundness, intellectual or spiritual resources (*strong arms*) (the defense has a *strong case*). STOUT suggests an ability to endure stress, pain, or hard use without giving way (*stout hiking boots*). STURDY implies strength derived from vigorous growth, determination of spirit, solidity of construction (a *sturdy* table) (people of *sturdy* independence). STALWART suggests an unshakable dependability (*stalwart environmentalists*). TOUGH implies great firmness and resiliency (a *tough political opponent*). TENACIOUS suggests fierce clinging, retaining, clinging to, or holding together (*tenacious farmers clinging to an age-old way of life*).
strong anthropic principle n (1985) : ANTHROPIC PRINCIPLE b
strong-arm \ˈstrɒŋ-ˈɑrm ədʒ~ (1897) : having or using undue force
strong-arm vt (1903) 1 a : to use force on : ASSAULT b : BULLY, INTIMIDATE 2 : to rob by force
strong-box \ˈstrɒŋ-ˈbɔks n (1684) : a strongly made chest or case for money or valuables
strong breeze n (ca. 1867) : wind having a speed of 25 to 31 miles (40 to 50 kilometers) per hour — see BEAUFORT SCALE table
strong drink n (14c) : intoxicating liquor
strong force n (1964) : a fundamental physical force that acts on hadrons and is responsible for the binding together of protons and neutrons in the atomic nucleus and for processes of particle creation in high-energy collisions and that is the strongest known fundamental physical force acting over distances comparable to those between nucleons in an atomic nucleus — called also *strong interaction*, *strong nuclear force*; compare ELECTROMAGNETISM 2a, GRAVITY 3a(2), WEAK FORCE
strong gale n (ca. 1867) : wind having a speed of 47 to 54 miles (75 to 87 kilometers) per hour — see BEAUFORT SCALE table
strong-hold \ˈstrɒŋ-ˈhəld n (15c) 1 : a fortified place 2 a : a place of security or survival (one of the last ~s of the ancient Gaelic language —George Holmes) b : a place dominated by a particular group or marked by a particular characteristic (a Republican ~) (~s of snobbery —Lionel Trilling)
strong-man \ˈstrɒŋ-ˈmæn n (1859) : one who leads or controls by force of will and character or by military methods
strong-minded \ˈstrɒŋ-ˈmɪnd-əd ədʒ~ (1788) : having a vigorous mind; esp. ~ marked by independence of thought and judgment — **strong-mindedly adv** — **strong-minded-ness n**
strong-point \ˈstrɒŋ-ˈpɔɪnt n (1821) : a strongly fortified tactical locality in a defensive position
strong room n (1844) : a room for money or valuables specially constructed to be fireproof and burglarproof
strong safety n (1970) : a safety in football by plays opposite the strong side of an offensive formation
strong side n (ca. 1951) : the side of a football formation having the greater number of players; *specif* : the side on which the tight end plays
strong suit n (1742) 1 : a long suit containing high cards 2 : something in which one excels : FORTE (details of legislation have never been my *strong suit* [T. P. O'Neill])
strong-wy \ˈstrɒŋ-ˈwɪ-, -jəl n [NL *Strongylus*, genus of worms, fr. Gk *strongylus* round — *strōg-*; akin to Gk *strangx* drop squeezed out — more at STRAIN] (1847) : any of various nematode worms (family Strongylidae) related to the hookworms and parasitic esp. in the intestines and tissues of horses — compare BLEEDWORM 2
strong-yoi-loi-di-a-sis \ˈstrɒŋ-jɔɪ-ˈlɔɪ-ˈdi-ə-səs/ also **strong-yoi-loi-dō-sis** \ˈdō-səs/ n [NL, fr. *Strongyloides*, genus name, fr. *Strongylus*] (1905) : infection with or disease caused by any of a genus (*Strongyloides*) of strongyles that parasitize esp. the intestines of vertebrates including humans
stron-tian-ite \ˈstrɒn-(t)-ˌʃha-nɪt n (1794) : a mineral consisting of a carbonate of strontium and occurring in various forms and colors
strom-tium \ˈstrɒn-(t)-ˌʃh(ɛ)-əm, -ˌʃtrɛn-(t)-əm n [NL, fr. *stromtia strom-tiana* (Stroma, Gr. *Strontian*, village in Scotland) (1808) : a soft malleable ductile element of the alkaline-earth group occurring only in combination and used esp. in color TV tubes, in crimson fireworks, and in the production of some ferrites — see ELEMENT table
strontium 90 n (1952) : a heavy radioactive isotope of strontium of mass number 90 that has a half-life of 29 years, that is present in nuclear waste and fallout, and that is hazardous because like calcium it can be assimilated in biological processes and deposited in the bones of human beings and animals
strip \ˈstri:p n [ME — more at STRAP] (bef. 12c) : STRAP : a : short rope with its ends spliced to form a circle b : usu. leather band for attaching things to a razor
strip v \ˈstri:p v~ **strip-ping** (1837) : to sharpen (a razor) on a strip
strophan-thin \ˈstrɒf-an-(t)-ən n [ISV, fr. NL *Strophanthus*, fr. Gk *strophos* twisted band (fr. *strephēin* to twist) + *anthos* flower — more at ANTHOLOGY] (ca. 1873) : any of several glycosides (as ouabain) or mixtures of glycosides from African plants (genera *Strophanthus* and *Acanthera*) of the dogbane family; esp. : a bitter toxic glycoside

CaH₃O₁₄ from a woody vine (*Strophanthus kombé*) used similarly to digalis

stro·phe ‹'strɒf-ə(r)ē› *n* [Gk *strophē*, lit., act of turning, fr. *strephein* to turn, twist] (1603) **1 a** : a rhythmic system composed of two or more lines repeated as a unit; esp : such a unit recurring in a series of strophic units **b** : STANZA **2 a** : the movement of the classical Greek chorus while turning from one side to the other of the orchestra **b** : the part of a Greek choral ode sung during the strophe of the dance

stro·phy ‹'strɒf-ik, 'strɒf-ədʒ› *n* (1848) **1** : relating to, containing, or consisting of strophes **2** : a song : using the same music for successive stanzas ~ compare THROUGH COMPOSED

strop·py ‹'strɒp-ēdʒ, 'dʌp› [perh. by shortening & alter. fr. *obstreperous*] (1951) *Brit* : TOUCHY, BELLIGERENT

stroud ‹'strɔʊd› *n* [prob. fr. *Stroud*, town in England] (1683) **1** also **stroud-ing** ‹'strɔʊd-ɪŋ› : a coarse woolen cloth formerly used in trade with No. American Indians **2** : a blanket or garment of stroud

strove *past* & *chiefly dial past part* of STRIVE

strow ‹'strɒʊ› *v* **strowed**; **strawn** ‹'strɔʊn› *v* **strowed**; **straw** [ME *more* & *STREW*] (14c) *archaic* : SCATTER

stroy *vb* [ME *stroyen*, short for *destroyen*] (13c) *obs* : DESTROY

struck *past* and *past part* of STRIKE

'struck *adj* (1894) : closed by or subjected to a labor strike (a ~ factory) (a ~ employer)

struc·tur·al ‹'strʌk-ʃə-rəl, 'strʌk-shrəl› *adj* (ca. 1827) **1** : of or relating to the physical makeup of a plant or animal body (~~ defects of the heart) **2 a** : of, relating to, or affecting structure (~~ stability) **b** : used in building structures (~~ clay) **c** : involved in or caused by structure esp. of the economy (~~ unemployment) **3** : of, relating to, or resulting from the effects of folding or faulting of the earth's crust

struc·ture ‹'strʌktʃər› *n* [from *structure* or relating to structure rather than history or comparison (~~ linguistics)] — **struc·tur·al·ly** *adv*

structural formula *n* (ca. 1872) : an expanded molecular formula showing the arrangement within the molecule of atoms and of bonds

structural gene *n* (1959) : a gene that codes for the amino acid sequence of a protein (as an enzyme) or for a ribosomal RNA or transfer RNA

struc·tur·al·ism ‹'strʌk-ʃə-rə-lɪ-zəm, 'strʌk-shrə-l› *n* (1907) **1** : psychology concerned esp. with resolution of the mind into structural elements **2** : structural linguistics **3** : an anthropological movement associated esp. with Claude Lévi-Strauss that seeks to analyze social relationships and thought in highly abstract relational structures often expressed in a logical symbolism **4** : a method of analysis (as of a literary text or a political system) that is related to cultural anthropology and that focuses on recurring patterns of thought and behavior — **struc·tur·al·ist** ‹-lɪst, -n› *n* or *adj*

structural isomer *n* (1926) : one of two or more compounds that contain the same number and kinds of atoms but that differ significantly in their geometric arrangement

struc·tur·al·ize ‹'strʌk-ʃə-rə-lɪz, 'strʌk-shrə-lɪz› *v* -ized; -iz-ing (ca. 1920) : to organize or incorporate into a structure — **struc·tur·al·iza·tion** ‹-lɪz-ə-tʃən, -tʃən› *n*

structural steel *n* (1884) **1** : rolled steel in structural shapes **2** : steel suitable for structural shapes

struc·tur·a·tion ‹'strʌk-ʃə-rə-ʃən, -ʃə-rə-ʃən› (1925) : the interrelation of parts in an organized whole

struc·ture ‹'strʌk-ʃər› *n* [ME, fr. *L. structura*, fr. *structus*, pp. of *struere* to heap up, build — more at *STREW*] (15c) **1** : the action of building : CONSTRUCTION **2 a** : something (as a building) that is constructed **b** : something arranged in a definite pattern of organization (a rigid totalitarianism — J. L. Hess) (leaves and other plant ~s) **3** : manner of construction : ARRANGEMENT (the ~ of a building) **4** : the arrangement of particles or parts in a substance (the ~ of soil) (molecular ~) **b** : organization of parts as dominated by the general character of the whole (economic ~) (personality ~) **c** : coherent form or organization (tried to give some ~ to the children's lives) **5** : the aggregate of elements of an entity in their relationships to each other (the ~ of a language) — **struc·ture·less** ‹-ləs› *adj* — **struc·ture·less·ness** ‹-nəs› *n*

structure *vb* **struc-tured**; **struc-tur-ing** ‹'strʌk-ʃə-rɪn, 'strʌk-shrɪŋ› (ca. 1693) **1** : to form into or according to a structure **2** : CONSTRUCT

structured *adj* (1966) : of, relating to, or being a method of computer programming in which each step of the solution to a problem is contained in a separate subprogram

stru·del ‹'stru-dəl, 'stru-dl› *n* [G, lit., whirlpool] (1881) : a pastry made from a thin sheet of dough rolled up with filling and baked (apple ~)

strug·gle ‹'strʌ-gl̩› *v* **strug-gled**; **strug-gling** ‹-g(ə)-lɪŋ› [ME *struglen*] (14c) **1** : to make strenuous or violent efforts in the face of difficulties or opposition (~~ struggling with the problem) **2** : to proceed with difficulty or with great effort (~~ struggled through the high grass) (~~ struggling to make a living) — **strug-gler** ‹-g(ə)-ləɹ› *n*

struggle *n* (1560) **1** : CONTEST, STRIFE (armed ~) (a power ~) **2** : strenuous effort or exertion (an act of strongly motivated striving) (a ~ to make ends meet) **3** : TUGGLE **4** : during the ~ the gun went off)

struggle for existence (1832) : the automatic competition of members of a natural population for limited vital resources (as food, space, or light) that results in natural selection

strum ‹'strʌm› *n* [imit.] (1764) : an act, instance, or sound of strumming

strum *vb* **strummed**; **strum-ming** *v* (1777) **1 a** : to brush the fingers over the strings of (a musical instrument) in playing (~~ a guitar); also **2** : to play (music) on a stringed instrument (~~ a tune) **3** : to cause to sound vibrantly (winds ~strummed the rigging — H. A. Chippendale) **4** : to strum a stringed instrument **2** : to sound vibrantly — **strum-mer** *n*

stru·ma ‹'stru-mə, *n*, pl *stru-mae* ‹-mə, -mɪ› or *strumas* [L, swelling of the lymph glands] (1565) : GOTTER

strum·pet ‹'strʌm-pət› *n* [ME] (14c) : PROSTITUTE **1 a**

strung *past* and *past part* of STRING

strung out *adj* (ca. 1959) **1** : physically debilitated (as from long-term drug addiction) **2** : addicted to a drug **3** : intoxicated or stupefied from drug use

strunt ‹'strʌnt› *v* [by alter.] (1786) *Scot* : STRUT

strut ‹'strʌt› *v* **strutted**; **strut-ted** [ME *strouten*, fr. OE *strūtian* to stand out stiffly, strutted, skin, n. ME *strut*, fr. OE *swellan* *v* (13c)