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communication or contact between persons: *a person-to-person interview.* **2.** Of or relating to a long-distance telephone call placed through an operator in which charges start when the appropriate party answers. **—per′son-to-per′son** *adv.*

per·spec·tive (pər-spĕk′tĭv) *n.* **1a.** A view or vista. **b.** A mental view or outlook: *"It is useful occasionally to look at the past to gain a perspective on the present"* (Fabian Linden). **2.** The appearance of objects in depth as perceived by normal binocular vision. **3a.** An understanding of how aspects of a subject relate to each other and to the whole: *a perspective of history; a need to view the problem in the proper perspective.* **b.** Subjective evaluation of relative significance; a point of view: *the perspective of the displaced homemaker.* **c.** The ability to perceive things in their actual interrelations or comparative importance: *tried to keep my perspective throughout the crisis.* **4.** The technique of representing three-dimensional objects and depth relationships on a two-dimensional surface. ❖ *adj.* Of, relating to, seen, or represented in perspective. [Middle English, science of optics (influenced by French *perspective*, perspective) < Medieval Latin *perspectīva (ars)*, feminine of *perspectīvus*, optical < *perspectus*, past participle of *perspicere*, to inspect : *per-*, per- + *specere*, to look; see **spek-** in App. I.] **—per·spec′tive·al** *adj.* **—per·spec′tive·ly** *adv.*

per·spi·ca·cious (pûr′spĭ-kā′shəs) *adj.* Having or showing penetrating mental discernment; clear-sighted. See Synonyms at **shrewd.** [< Latin *perspicāx, perspicāc-* < *perspicere*, to look through; see PERSPECTIVE.] **—per′spi·ca′cious·ly** *adv.* **—per′spi·ca′cious·ness** *n.*

per·spi·cac·i·ty (pûr′spĭ-kăs′ĭ-tē) *n.* Acuteness of perception, discernment, or understanding.

per·spi·cu·i·ty (pûr′spĭ-kyōō′ĭ-tē) *n.* **1.** The quality of being perspicuous; clearness and lucidity: *"He was at pains to insist on the perspicuity of what he wrote"* (Lionel Trilling). **2.** Perspicacity.

per·spic·u·ous (pər-spĭk′yōō-əs) *adj.* **1.** Clearly expressed or presented; easy to understand: *perspicuous prose.* **2.** Expressing oneself clearly and effectively: *a perspicuous lecturer.* **3.** Discerning; perspicacious. [< Latin *perspicuus* < *perspicere*, to see through; see PERSPICACIOUS.] **—per·spic′u·ous·ly** *adv.* **—per·spic′u·ous·ness** *n.*

per·spi·ra·tion (pûr′spə-rā′shən) *n.* **1.** The fluid, consisting of water with small amounts of urea and salts, that is excreted through the pores of the skin by the sweat glands; sweat. **2.** The act or process of perspiring. **—per·spir′a·to′ry** (pər-spīr′ə-tôr′ē, pûr′spər-ə-) *adj.*

per·spire (pər-spīr′) *v.* **-spired, -spir·ing, -spires** *—intr.* To excrete perspiration through the pores of the skin. *—tr.* To expel through external pores; exude. [Latin *perspīrāre*, to blow steadily : *per-*, through; see PER– + *spīrāre*, to breathe.]

per·suade (pər-swād′) *tr.v.* **-suad·ed, -suad·ing, -suades** To cause (someone) to accept a point of view or to undertake a course of action by means of argument, reasoning, or entreaty: *"to make children fit to live in a society by persuading them to learn and accept its codes"* (Alan W. Watts). See Usage Note at **convince.** [Latin *persuādēre* : *per-*, per- + *suādēre*, to urge; see **swād-** in App. I.] **—per·suad′a·ble** *adj.* **—per·suad′er** *n.*

✦**SYNONYMS** *persuade, induce, prevail, convince* These verbs mean to succeed in causing a person to do or consent to something. *Persuade* means to win someone over, as by reasoning or force of personality: *Nothing could persuade her to change her mind.* To *induce* is to lead, as to a course of action, by means of influence or persuasion: *"Pray what could induce him to commit so rash an action?"* (Oliver Goldsmith). One *prevails* on somebody who resists: *"He had prevailed upon the king to spare them"* (Daniel Defoe). To *convince* is to persuade by the use of argument or evidence: *The salesman convinced me that the car was worth the price.*

Peru

per·sua·si·ble (pər-swā′zə-bəl, -sə-bəl) *adj.* Capable of being persuaded; persuadable. **—per·sua′si·bil′i·ty, per·sua′si·ble·ness** *n.*

per·sua·sion (pər-swā′zhən) *n.* **1.** The act of persuading or the state of being persuaded: *"The persuasion of a democracy to big changes is at best a slow process"* (Harold J. Laski). **2.** The ability or power to persuade: *"Three foremost aids to persuasion which occur to me are humility, concentration, and gusto"* (Marianne Moore). **3.** A strongly held opinion; a conviction: *"He had a strong persuasion that Likeman was wrong"* (H.G. Wells). **4a.** A body of religious beliefs; a religion: *worshipers of various persuasions.* **b.** A party, faction, or group holding to a particular set of ideas or beliefs. **5.** *Informal* Kind; sort: *"the place where . . . rockers of any gender or persuasion can become megastars"* (Christopher John Farley). [Middle English < Old French < Latin *persuāsiō, persuāsiōn-* < *persuāsus*, past participle of *persuādēre*, to persuade; see PERSUADE.]

per·sua·sive (pər-swā′sĭv, -zĭv) *adj.* Tending or having the power to persuade: *a persuasive argument.* **—per·sua′sive·ly** *adv.* **—per·sua′sive·ness** *n.*

peruke
1758 portrait of Hugh Hall by John Singleton Copley

pert (pûrt) *adj.* **pert·er, pert·est 1a.** High-spirited, lively, or cheerful: *A pert receptionist greets each client.* **b.** Impudently bold; saucy: *He was pert to his teacher. She gave a pert answer.* **2a.** Attractive or stylish in appearance: *a pert hat.* **b.** Small or firm and well-formed: *a pert nose.* [Middle English, unconcealed, bold, short for *apert*, obvious, frank (probably influenced by Old French *aspert, espert*, clever) < Old French < Latin *apertus*, open, past participle of *aperīre*, to open; see **wer-**[4] in App. I.] **—pert′ly** *adv.* **—pert′ness** *n.*

Pert (pûrt), **Candace Beebe** Born 1946. American pharmacologist noted for her discovery, with Solomon Snyder, of the brain's opiate receptors, and for her later work on the mind-body connection.

per·tain (pər-tān′) *intr.v.* **-tained, -tain·ing, -tains 1.** To have reference or relevance; relate: *evidence that pertains to the accident.* **2.** To belong as an adjunct, part, holding, or quality: *skills that pertain to engineering.* **3.** To be fitting or suitable: *conduct that pertains to an officer.* [Middle English *pertenen, pertainen* < Old French *partenir* < Latin *pertinēre* : *per-*, per- + *tenēre*, to hold; see **ten-** in App. I.]

Perth (pûrth) **1.** A city of southwest Australia near the Indian Ocean. Founded in 1829, it grew rapidly after the discovery of gold in the region in the 1890s. **2.** A town of central Scotland on the Tay River north of Edinburgh. It was the capital of Scotland from the 11th to the mid-15th century.

per·ti·na·cious (pûr′tn-ā′shəs) *adj.* **1.** Holding tenaciously or stubbornly to a purpose, opinion, or course of action: *a pertinacious heretic; pertinacious defiance.* **2.** Extremely persistent or unyielding: *pertinacious researchers.* [< Latin *pertināx, pertināc-* : *per-*, per- + *tenāx*, tenacious (< *tenēre*, to hold; see **ten-** in App. I).] **—per′ti·na′cious·ly** *adv.*

per·ti·nac·i·ty (pûr′tn-ăs′ĭ-tē) *n.* The quality or state of being pertinacious: *"Again and again . . . with the inexorable pertinacity of a child . . . did he renew his efforts"* (Nathaniel Hawthorne).

per·ti·nent (pûr′tn-ənt) *adj.* Clearly related to a matter at hand. See Synonyms at **relevant.** [Middle English < Old French *partenant, pertinent* < Latin *pertinēns, pertinent-*, present participle of *pertinēre*, to pertain; see PERTAIN.] **—per′ti·nence, per′ti·nen·cy** *n.* **—per′ti·nent·ly** *adv.*

per·turb (pər-tûrb′) *tr.v.* **-turbed, -turb·ing, -turbs 1.** To disturb or confuse; make uneasy or anxious: *I was perturbed by his off-color remarks.* **2a.** To cause (a system) to become altered or imbalanced from a normal state: *volcanic eruptions that perturbed the climate.* **b.** *Physics & Astronomy* To cause perturbation in (the orbit of a celestial body, for example) by gravitational interaction. [Middle English *perturben* < Old French *perturber* < Latin *perturbāre* : *per-*, per- + *turbāre*, to throw into disorder (< *turba*, confusion, perhaps < Greek *turbē*).] **—per·turb′a·ble** *adj.*

per·tur·ba·tion (pûr′tər-bā′shən) *n.* **1a.** The act of perturbing. **b.** The state of being perturbed; agitation. **2.** A small change in a physical system, such as a variation in a planet's orbit resulting from the gravitational influence of other celestial bodies. **—per′tur·ba′tion·al** *adj.*

perturbation theory *n.* A set of mathematical methods often used to obtain approximate solutions to equations for which no exact solution is possible, feasible, or known.

per·tus·sis (pər-tŭs′ĭs) *n.* See **whooping cough.** [New Latin : Latin *per-*, thorough; see PER– + Latin *tussis*, cough.] **—per·tus′sal** *adj.*

Pe·ru (pə-rōō′) A country of western South America on the Pacific Ocean. Inhabited since at least the 9th millennium BC, it was the center of the Inca Empire after the 12th century AD. Francisco Pizarro's conquest of the Inca in 1533 led to the establishment in 1542 of the Spanish viceroyalty of Peru, which in time included Panama and all of Spanish South America except Venezuela. Peru achieved full independence from Spain in 1824. Lima is the capital and the largest city. **—Pe·ru′vi·an** (-vē-ən) *adj. & n.*

Peru Current *n.* See **Humboldt Current.**

Pe·ru·gia (pə-rōō′jə, -jē-ə, pĕ-rōō′jä) A city of central Italy on a hill overlooking the Tiber River north of Rome. An important Etruscan settlement, it fell to the Romans c. 310 BC and became a Lombard duchy in AD 592 and a free city in the 12th century. Perugia was later the artistic center of Umbria and is today a commercial, industrial, and tourist center. **—Pe·ru′gian** *adj. & n.*

Pe·ru·gi·no (pĕr′ə-jē′nō, pĕ′rōō-) Originally Pietro Vannucci. 1445–1523? Italian painter whose best-known work is a fresco in the Sistine Chapel, *Christ Giving the Keys to Saint Peter* (1481–1482).

pe·ruke (pə-rōōk′) *n.* A wig, especially one worn by men in the 1600s and 1700s; a periwig. [French *perruque* < Old French, head of hair < Old Italian *perrucca*.]

pe·ruse (pə-rōōz′) *tr.v.* **-rused, -rus·ing, -rus·es** To read or examine, typically with great care. [Middle English *perusen*, to use up : Latin *per-*, per- + Middle English *usen*, to use; see USE.] **—pe·rus′a·ble** *adj.* **—pe·rus′al** *n.* **—pe·rus′er** *n.*

✦**USAGE NOTE** *Peruse* has long meant "to read thoroughly" and is often used loosely when one could use the word *read* instead, as in *The librarians checked to see which titles had been perused in the last month and which ones had been left untouched.* Seventy percent of the Usage Panel rejected this example in our 1999 survey. Sometimes people use it to mean "to glance over, skim," as in *I only had a moment to peruse the manual quickly,* but this usage is widely considered an error. In a 1988 survey, 66 percent of the Panel found it unacceptable, and in 1999, 58 percent still rejected it.

Per·utz (pə-rōōts′, pĕr′ʊts), **Max Ferdinand** 1914–2002. Austrian-born British biochemist. He shared a 1962 Nobel Prize for determining the molecular structure of blood proteins, including hemoglobin.

Peruvian bark *n.* See **cinchona** (sense 2).

perv (pûrv) *n. Slang* A pervert. [Short for PERVERT.] **—perv′y** *adj.*

per·vade (pər-vād′) *tr.v.* **-vad·ed, -vad·ing, -vades** To be present throughout; permeate: *The sweet scent of gardenias pervaded the house. A sense of fear and mistrust pervades the novel.* See Synonyms at **imbue.** [Latin *pervādere* : *per-*, through; see PER– + *vādere*, to go.] **—per·vad′er** *n.* **—per·va′sion** (-vā′zhən) *n.*

per·vap·o·ra·tion (pər-văp′ə-rā′shən) *n.* Separation of a mixture in which a component is diffused through a semipermeable membrane and evaporated. [PER– + (E)VAPORATION (on the model of PERMEATION).]

per·va·sive (pər-vā′sĭv, -zĭv) *adj.* Having the quality or tendency to pervade or permeate: *the pervasive odor of garlic.* [< Latin *pervāsus*, past participle of *pervādere*, to pervade; see PERVADE.] **—per·va′sive·ly** *adv.* **—per·va′sive·ness** *n.*

pervasive developmental disorder *n. Abbr.* **PDD** Any of several disorders, such as autism and Asperger's syndrome, characterized by severe deficits in many areas of development, including social interac-