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▶ v. [no obj.] try to deceive someone as to one's abilities or intentions: *he's been bluffing all along* | *he bluffed his way onto an Antarctic supply vessel* | [with obj.] *the object is to bluff your opponent into submission.* ■ (in a card game) bet heavily on a weak hand in order to deceive opponents.
– PHRASES **call someone's bluff** challenge someone thought to be bluffing: *she was tempted to call his bluff, hardly believing he'd carry out his threat.*
– DERIVATIVES **bluff·er** n.
– ORIGIN late 17th cent. (originally in the sense 'blindfold, hoodwink'): from Dutch *bluffen* 'brag,' or *bluf* 'bragging.' The current sense (originally US, mid 19th cent.) originally referred to bluffing in the game of poker.

bluff[2] ▶ adj. direct in speech or behavior but in a good-natured way: *a big, bluff, hearty man.*
– DERIVATIVES **bluff·ly** adv., **bluff·ness** n.
– ORIGIN early 18th cent. (in the sense 'surly, abrupt in manner'): figurative use of **BLUFF**[3]. The current positive connotation dates from the early 19th cent.

bluff[3] ▶ n. **1** a steep cliff, bank, or promontory. **2** Canadian a grove or clump of trees.
▶ adj. (of a cliff or a ship's bow) having a vertical or steep broad front.
– ORIGIN early 17th cent. (as an adjective, originally in nautical use): of unknown origin. The Canadian sense dates from the mid 18th cent.

blu·ing /'blo͞oiNG/ (also **blueing**) ▶ n. **1** chiefly historical blue powder used to preserve the whiteness of laundry. **2** a grayish-blue finish on metal produced by heating.

blu·ish /'blo͞oiSH/ (also **blueish**) ▶ adj. having a blue tinge; somewhat blue.

Blum /'blo͞om/, Léon (1872–1950), French statesman; prime minister 1936–37, 1938, and 1946–47. As France's first socialist and Jewish prime minister, Blum introduced significant labor reforms.

Blume /blo͞om/, Judy Sussman (1938–), US author, mostly of fiction for young adults. Her works include *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret* (1970), *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (1972), *Forever...* (1975), and, for adults, *Wifey* (1977) and *Summer Sisters* (1998).

Blu·men·bach /'blo͞omənˌbäKH/, Johann Friedrich (1752–1840), German physiologist and anatomist. He is regarded as the founder of physical anthropology, although his approach has since been much modified. He classified modern human beings into five broad categories (Caucasian, Mongoloid, Malayan, Ethiopian, and American), based mainly on cranial measurements.

blun·der /'blən dər/ ▶ n. a stupid or careless mistake.
▶ v. [no obj.] make such a mistake; act or speak clumsily: *the mayor and the City Council have blundered in an ill-advised campaign* | *I blundered on in my explanation* | (as adj. **blundering**) *blundering actors.* ■ move clumsily or as if unable to see: *we were blundering around in the darkness.*
– DERIVATIVES **blun·der·er** n., **blun·der·ing·ly** adv.
– ORIGIN Middle English: probably of Scandinavian origin and related to **BLIND**.

blun·der·buss /'blən dərˌbəs/ ▶ n. **1** historical a short-barreled large-bored gun with a flared muzzle, used at short range. **2** an action or way of doing something regarded as lacking in subtlety and precision: *economists resort too quickly to the blunderbuss of regulation.*
– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: alteration (by association with **BLUNDER**) of Dutch *donderbus*, literally 'thunder gun.'

blunderbuss

blunge /blənj/ ▶ v. [with obj.] mix (clay or other materials) with water in a revolving apparatus for use in ceramics.
– DERIVATIVES **blung·er** n.
– ORIGIN early 19th cent.: blend of **BLEND** and **PLUNGE**.

blunt /blənt/ ▶ adj. **1** (of a knife, pencil, etc.) having a worn-down edge or point; not sharp: *a blunt knife.* ■ having a flat or rounded end: *the blunt tip of the leaf.* **2** (of a person or remark) uncompromisingly forthright: *he is as blunt as a kick in the shins* | *a blunt statement of fact.*
▶ n. informal a hollowed-out cigar filled with marijuana.
▶ v. make or become less sharp: [with obj.] *wood can blunt your ax* | [no obj.] *the edge may blunt very rapidly.* ■ [with obj.] weaken or reduce (something): *their determination had been blunted.*
– DERIVATIVES **blunt·ly** adv., **blunt·ness** n.
– ORIGIN Middle English (in the sense 'dull, insensitive'): perhaps of Scandinavian origin and related to Old Norse *blunda* 'shut the eyes.'

blunt in·stru·ment ▶ n. a heavy object without a sharp edge or point, used as a weapon. ■ an imprecise or heavy-handed way of doing something: *as a promotional method, direct mail has been a blunt instrument.*

blur /blər/ ▶ v. (**blurs, blurring, blurred**) make or become unclear or less distinct: [with obj.] *tears blurred her vision* | *his novels blur the boundaries between criticism and fiction* | [no obj.] *as daylight waned, the pages blurred.*
▶ n. a thing that cannot be seen or heard clearly: *the pale blur of her face* | *the words were a blur.* ■ an indistinct memory or impression of events, typically because they happened very fast: *the day before was a blur.*
– DERIVATIVES **blur·ry** adj. (**blurrier, blurriest**).
– ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (in the sense 'smear that partially obscures something'): perhaps related to **BLEAR**.

Blu-ray /'blo͞oˌrā/ ▶ n. a format of DVD designed for the storage of high-definition video and data.
– ORIGIN early 21st cent.: from *blu*, a respelling of **BLUE** (from the color of the laser used to read and write this type of DVD), + **RAY**[1].

blurb /blərb/ ▶ n. a short description of a book, movie, or other product written for promotional purposes and appearing on the cover of a book or in an advertisement.
▶ v. [with obj.] informal write or contribute such a passage for (a book, movie, or other product).
– ORIGIN early 20th cent.: coined by Gelett Burgess (died 1951), American humorist.

blurred /blərd/ ▶ adj. unable to see or be seen clearly: *blurred vision* | *the camera caught only two blurred images.* ■ not clear or distinct; hazy: *the blurred distinctions between childhood and adulthood.*

blurt /blərt/ ▶ v. [with obj.] say (something) suddenly and without careful consideration: *she wouldn't blurt out words she did not mean* | [with direct speech] *"It wasn't my idea," Gordon blurted.*
– ORIGIN late 16th cent.: probably imitative.

blush /bləSH/ ▶ v. [no obj.] develop a pink tinge in the face from embarrassment or shame: *she blushed at the unexpected compliment* | [with complement] *Kate felt herself blushing scarlet.* ■ feel embarrassed or ashamed: [with infinitive] *he blushed to think of how he'd paraded himself.* ■ (often as adj. **blushing**) (of a flower or other thing) be or become pink or pale red: *the trees are loaded with blushing blossoms.*
▶ n. **1** a reddening of the face as a sign of embarrassment or shame: *he had brought a faint blush to her cheeks.* ■ a pink or pale red tinge: *the roses were white with a lovely pink blush.* ■ another term for **BLUSHER** (sense 1). **2** (also **blush wine**) a wine with a slight pink tint made in the manner of white wine but from red grape varieties.
– PHRASES **at first blush** at the first glimpse or impression.
– ORIGIN Old English *blyscan*; related to modern Dutch *blozen*.

blush·er /'bləSHər/ ▶ n. **1** a cosmetic of a powder or cream consistency used to give a warm color to the cheeks. Also called **BLUSH**. **2** (**the blusher**) a woodland toadstool that has a buff cap bearing fluffy white spots and white flesh that turns pink when bruised or cut. It is native to both Eurasia and North America. ● *Amanita rubescens*, family Amanitaceae, class Basidiomycetes.

blus·ter /'bləstər/ ▶ v. [no obj.] talk in a loud, aggressive, or indignant way with little effect: *you threaten and bluster, but won't carry it through* | [with direct speech] *"I don't care what he says," I blustered* | (as adj. **blustering**) *a blustering bully.* ■ (of a storm, wind, or rain) blow or beat fiercely and noisily: *a winter gale blustered against the sides of the house* | (as adj. **blustering**) *the blustering wind.*
▶ n. loud, aggressive, or indignant talk with little effect: *their threats contained a measure of bluster.*
– DERIVATIVES **blus·ter·er** n.
– ORIGIN late Middle English: ultimately imitative.

blus·ter·y /'bləstərē/ ▶ adj. (of weather or a period of time) characterized by strong winds: *a gusty, blustery day.* ■ (of a wind) blowing in strong gusts.

blvd. ▶ abbr. boulevard.

Bly /blī/, Nellie (1867–1922), US journalist and social reformer; pseudonym of *Elizabeth Jane Cochrane*. As a reporter for the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, she wrote about child labor and unsafe working conditions in factories .

B lym·pho·cyte ▶ n. Physiology another term for **B CELL**.

BM ▶ abbr. ■ Bachelor of Medicine. ■ Bachelor of Music. ■ bowel movement. ■ basal metabolism. ■ board measure. ■ black male. ■ British Museum.

BMI ▶ abbr. body mass index.

BMOC ▶ abbr. big man on campus.

B-mov·ie ▶ n. a low-budget movie, esp. (formerly) one made for use as a companion to the main attraction in a double feature: [as modifier] *a B-movie actress.*

BMR ▶ abbr. basal metabolic rate.

BMus ▶ abbr. Bachelor of Music.

BMX ▶ n. organized bicycle racing on a dirt track, esp. for youngsters: [as modifier] *a BMX track.* ■ a kind of bicycle designed to be used for such racing.
– ORIGIN 1970s: from the initial letters of *bicycle motocross*, with *X* standing for *cross*.

bn ▶ abbr. billion.

Bn. ▶ abbr. ■ Baron. ■ Battalion.

B'nai B'rith /bəˈnā ˈbriTH/ a Jewish organization founded in New York in 1843. It pursues educational, humanitarian, and cultural activities and attempts to safeguard the rights and interests of Jews around the world.
– ORIGIN Hebrew, literally 'sons of the covenant.'

BO ▶ abbr. ■ informal body odor. ■ best offer. ■ box office. ■ back order. ■ (also **B/O** or **b/o**) (in bookkeeping) brought over.

bo ▶ abbr. best offer.

bo·a /'bōə/ ▶ n. **1** a constrictor snake that bears live young and may reach great size, native to America, Africa, Asia, and some Pacific islands. ● Family Boidae, several genera and numerous species. See also **BOA CONSTRICTOR**. ■ any snake that is a constrictor. **2** a long thin stole of feathers or fur worn around a woman's neck, typically as part of evening dress.
– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin (mentioned in the writings of Pliny), of unknown ultimate origin.

bo·a con·stric·tor ▶ n. a large and typically boldly marked snake that kills by coiling around its prey and asphyxiating it, native to tropical America. ● *Boa constrictor*, family Boidae.

boar /bôr/ ▶ n. (pl. **same** or **boars**) **1** (also **wild boar**) a tusked Eurasian wild pig from which domestic pigs are descended. ● *Sus scrofa*, family Suidae. ■ the flesh of the wild boar as food. **2** an uncastrated domestic male pig. ■ the full-grown male of certain other animals, esp. a badger, guinea pig, or hedgehog.
– ORIGIN Old English *bār*; related to Dutch *beer* and German *Bär*.

board /bôrd/ ▶ n. **1** a long, thin, flat piece of wood or other hard material, used for floors or other building purposes: *loose boards creaked as I walked on them* | *sections of board.* ■ (**the boards**) informal the stage of a theater. **2** a thin, flat, rectangular piece of wood or other stiff material used for various purposes, in particular: ■ a vertical surface on which to write or pin notices. ■ a horizontal surface on which to cut things, play games, or perform other activities. ■ a flat insulating sheet used as a mounting for an electronic circuit: *a graphics board.* ■ the piece of equipment on which a person stands in surfing, skateboarding, snowboarding, and certain other sports. ■ (**boards**) the wooden structure surrounding an ice-hockey rink. ■ (usu. **boards**) Basketball informal term for **BACKBOARD**, referring specifically to rebounding: *the absence of center David Robinson to dominate on the boards.* ■ (**boards**) pieces of thick stiff cardboard or, originally, wood used for book covers. **3** [treated as sing. or pl.] a group of people constituted as the decision-making body of an organization: *he sits on the board of directors* | [in names] *the Federal Reserve Board* | [as modifier] *a board meeting.* **4** the provision of regular meals when one stays somewhere, in return for payment or services: *your room and board will be free.* ■ archaic a table set for a meal. **5** Sailing a distance covered by a vessel in a single tack.
▶ v. **1** [with obj.] get on or into (a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle): *we boarded the plane for Oslo* | [no obj.] *they would not be able to board without a ticket.* ■ (**be boarding**) (of an aircraft) be ready for passengers to embark: *flight 172 to Istanbul is now boarding at gate 37.* **2** [no obj.] live and receive regular meals in a house in return for payment or services: *the cousins boarded for a while with Ruby.* ■ (of a student) live at school during the semester in return for payment. ■ [with obj.] provide (a person or animal) with regular meals and somewhere to live in return for payment: *dogs may have to be boarded at kennels.*

gran·o·phyre /'granəˌfī(ə)r/ ▶ n. Geology a granitic rock consisting of intergrown feldspar and quartz crystals in a medium- to fine-grained groundmass.
– DERIVATIVES **gran·o·phy·ric** /ˌgranə'firik/ adj.
– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from German *Granophyr*, from *Granit* 'granite' + *Porphyr* (see PORPHYRY).

Grant[1] /grant/, Cary (1904–86), US actor; born in Britain; born *Alexander Archibald Leach*. He made his mark as a debonair leading man, starring in such movies as *Holiday* (1938), *The Philadelphia Story* (1940), *North by Northwest* (1959), and *Charade* (1963).

Grant[2], Duncan (James Corrow) (1885–1978), Scottish painter and designer; a member of the Bloomsbury Group.

Grant[3], Ulysses Simpson (1822–85), 18th president of the US 1869–77; born *Hiram Ulysses Grant*. As supreme commander of the Union army, he defeated the Confederate army in 1865 with a policy of attrition. As a popular general elected to the presidency, he lacked political experience and was unable to check widespread political corruption and inefficiency. During his first administration, the 15th Amendment was ratified (giving all qualified male citizens the right to vote) and the national park system was established.

Ulysses S. Grant

grant /grant/ ▶ v. [with two objs.] **1** agree to give or allow (something requested) to: *a letter granting them permission to smoke*. ■ give (a right, power, property, etc.) formally or legally to: *the amendment that granted women the right to vote*.
2 agree or admit to (someone) that (something) is true: *he hasn't made much progress, I'll grant you that*.
▶ n. **1** a sum of money given by an organization, esp. a government, for a particular purpose. ■ formal the action of granting something: *we had to recommend the grant or refusal of broadcasting licenses*. ■ Law a legal conveyance or formal conferment: *a grant of land | a grant of probate*.
2 a geographical subdivision in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.
– PHRASES **take someone/something for granted** fail to appreciate someone or something that is very familiar or obvious: *the comforts that people take for granted | she took him for granted*. **take something for granted** ■ assume that something is true without questioning it: *those companies challenged beliefs that everyone else took for granted*.
– DERIVATIVES **grant-a·ble** adj., **grant·er** n.
– ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *granter* 'consent to support,' variant of *creanter* 'to guarantee,' based on Latin *credere* 'entrust.'

grant·ed /'grantid/ ▶ adv. [sentence adverb] admittedly; it is true (used to introduce a factor that is opposed to the main line of argument but is not regarded as so strong as to invalidate it): *granted, sitting around the house may not be your idea of the perfect retirement, but what's your choice when inflation is eroding the value of your nest egg?*
▶ conj. (**granted that**) even assuming that: *granted that officers were used to making decisions, they still couldn't be expected to understand*.

gran·tee /gran'tē/ ▶ n. chiefly Law a person to whom a grant or conveyance is made.

Gran·tha /'grəntə/ ▶ n. a southern Indian alphabet dating from the 5th century AD, used by Tamil Brahmans when writing Sanskrit transcriptions of their sacred books.
– ORIGIN from Sanskrit *grantha* (see ADI GRANTH).

Granth Sa·hib /'grənt 'sä(h)ib/ (or **Granth**) short for GURU GRANTH SAHIB.

grant-in-aid ▶ n. (pl. **grants-in-aid**) an amount of money given to a local government, an institution, or a particular scholar.

gran·tor /gran'tôr, 'grantər/ ▶ n. chiefly Law a person or institution that makes a grant or conveyance.

grants·man·ship /'grantsmənˌSHip/ ▶ n. the skill or practice of obtaining grants-in-aid, esp. for research.
– DERIVATIVES **grants·man** n.

gran tu·ris·mo /ˌgran tōō'rizmō/ (abbr.: GT) ▶ n. (pl. **gran turismos**) a high-performance model of automobile.
– ORIGIN mid 20th cent.: Italian, literally 'great touring.'

gran·u·lar /'granyələr/ ▶ adj. **1** resembling or consisting of small grains or particles. ■ having a roughened surface or structure.
2 technical characterized by a high level of granularity: *a granular database*.
– ORIGIN late 18th cent.: from late Latin *granulum* (see GRANULE) + -AR[1].

gran·u·lar·i·ty /ˌgranyə'laritē/ ▶ n. **1** the quality or condition of being granular.
2 technical the scale or level of detail present in a set of data or other phenomenon: *the granularity of this war is not the sand that covers most of the country, but these details that have proved so elusive*.

gran·u·late /'granyəˌlāt/ ▶ v. **1** [with obj.] (usu. as adj. **granulated**) form (something) into grains or particles: *granulated sugar*. ■ [no obj.] (of a substance) take the form of grains or particles: *the syrup would not granulate properly*.
2 [no obj.] (often as adj. **granulating**) Medicine (of a wound or lesion) form a grainy surface as part of the healing process. ■ (as adj. **granulated**) chiefly Biology having a roughened surface: *the skin is densely granulated*.
– DERIVATIVES **gran·u·la·tion** /ˌgranyə'lāSHən/ n., **gran·u·la·tor** /-ˌlātər/ n.

gran·u·la·tion tis·sue ▶ n. new vascular tissue in granular form on an ulcer or the healing surface of a wound.

gran·ule /'granyōōl/ ▶ n. a small compact particle of a substance: *coffee granules*.
– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from late Latin *granulum*, diminutive of Latin *granum* 'grain.'

gran·u·lite /'granyəˌlit/ ▶ n. Geology a fine-grained, granular metamorphic rock in which the main component minerals are typically feldspars and quartz.
– DERIVATIVES **gran·u·lit·ic** /ˌgranyəˌlitik/ adj.
– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from GRANULE + -ITE[1].

gran·u·lo·cyte /'granyələˌsīt/ ▶ n. Physiology a white blood cell with secretory granules in its cytoplasm, e.g., an eosinophil or a basophil.
– DERIVATIVES **gran·u·lo·cyt·ic** /ˌgranyələ'sitik/ adj.
– ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from late Latin *granulum* 'granule' + -CYTE.

gran·u·lo·ma /ˌgranyə'lōmə/ ▶ n. (pl. **granulomas** or **granulomata** /-mətə/) Medicine a mass of granulation tissue, typically produced in response to infection, inflammation, or the presence of a foreign substance.
– DERIVATIVES **gran·u·lom·a·tous** /-'lämətəs/ adj.

gran·u·lo·met·ric /ˌgranyələ'metrik/ ▶ adj. relating to the size, distribution, or measurement of grain sizes in sand, rock, or other deposits.

gran·u·lose /'granyəˌlōs/ ▶ adj. consisting of or covered with small grains or granules.

gra·num /'grānəm/ singular form of GRANA.

grape /grāp/ ▶ n. **1** a berry, typically green (classified as white), purple, red, or black, growing in clusters on a grapevine, eaten as fruit, and used in making wine. ■ (**the grape**) informal wine: *an exploration of the grape*.
2 short for GRAPESHOT.
– DERIVATIVES **grap·ey** (also **grapy**) adj. (**grapier**, **grapiest**).
– ORIGIN Middle English (also in the Old French sense): from Old French, 'bunch of grapes,' probably from *graper* 'gather grapes,' from *grap* 'hook' (denoting an implement used in harvesting grapes), of Germanic origin.

grape·fruit /'grāpˌfrōōt/ ▶ n. (pl. **same**) **1** a large, round, yellow citrus fruit with an acid, juicy pulp.
2 the tree bearing this fruit. ● *Citrus paradisi*, family Rutaceae.
– ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from GRAPE + FRUIT (probably because the fruits grow in clusters).

grape hy·a·cinth ▶ n. a small Eurasian plant of the lily family, with clusters of small, globular blue flowers, cultivated as an ornamental or for use in perfume. ● Genus *Muscari*, family Liliaceae.

grape i·vy ▶ n. an evergreen climbing plant of the grape family that is grown as a houseplant. ● Genus *Cissus*, family Vitaceae: several species, in particular *C. rhombifolia*.

grape-seed oil /'grāpˌsēd/ ▶ n. oil extracted from the residue of grapes that have been juiced.

grape-shot /'grāpˌSHät/ ▶ n. historical ammunition consisting of a number of small iron balls fired together from a cannon.

grape sug·ar ▶ n. dextrose present in or derived from grapes.

grape-vine /'grāpˌvin/ ▶ n. **1** a vine native to both Eurasia and North America, esp. one bearing fruit (grapes) used for eating or winemaking. Numerous cultivars and hybrids have been developed for the winemaking industry. ● Genus *Vitis*, family Vitaceae: many species, in particular *V. vinifera* and the American *V. labrusca*.
2 informal used to refer to the circulation of rumors and unofficial information: *I'd heard through the grapevine that the business was nearly settled*.

graph[1] /graf/ ▶ n. a diagram showing the relation between variable quantities, typically of two variables, each measured along one of a pair of axes at right angles. ■ Mathematics a collection of points whose coordinates satisfy a given relation.
▶ v. [with obj.] plot or trace on a graph.
– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: abbreviation of *graphic formula*.

graph[2] ▶ n. Linguistics a visual symbol representing a unit of sound or other feature of speech. Graphs include not only letters of the alphabet but also punctuation marks.
– ORIGIN 1930s: from Greek *graphē* 'writing.'

-graph ▶ comb. form **1** in nouns denoting something written or drawn in a specified way: *autograph*.
2 in nouns denoting an instrument that records: *seismograph*.
– ORIGIN from French *-graphe*, based on Greek *graphos* 'written, writing.'

graph·eme /'grafēm/ ▶ n. Linguistics the smallest meaningful contrastive unit in a writing system. Compare with PHONEME.
– DERIVATIVES **gra·phe·mic** /gra'fēmik/ adj., **gra·phe·mi·cal·ly** /gra'fēmik(ə)lē/ adv., **gra·phe·mics** /gra'fēmiks/ n.
– ORIGIN 1930s: from GRAPH[2] + -EME.

graph·ene /'grafēn/ ▶ n. a fullerene consisting of bonded carbon atoms in sheet form one atom thick.

-grapher ▶ comb. form indicating a person concerned with a subject denoted by a noun ending in *-graphy* (such as *geographer* corresponding to *geography*).
– ORIGIN from Greek *-graphos* 'writer' + -ER[1].

graph·ic /'grafik/ ▶ adj. **1** of or relating to visual art, esp. involving drawing, engraving, or lettering: *his mature graphic work*. ■ giving a vivid picture with explicit detail: *he gave a graphic description of the torture*. ■ Computing of, relating to, or denoting a visual image: *graphic information such as charts and diagrams*.
2 of or in the form of a graph.
3 [attrib.] Geology of or denoting rocks having a surface texture resembling cuneiform writing.
▶ n. Computing a graphical item displayed on a screen or stored as data.
– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: via Latin from Greek *graphikos*, from *graphē* 'writing, drawing.'

-graphic ▶ comb. form in adjectives corresponding to nouns ending in *-graphy* (such as *demographic* corresponding to *demography*).
– ORIGIN from or suggested by Greek *-graphikos*, from *graphē* 'writing, drawing'; partly from -GRAPHY or -GRAPH + -IC.

graph·i·cal /'grafikəl/ ▶ adj. **1** of, relating to, or in the form of a graph: *flowcharts are graphical presentations*.
2 of or relating to visual art or computer graphics: *a high-resolution graphical display*.
– DERIVATIVES **graph·i·cal·ly** /-ik(ə)lē/ adv.

-graphical ▶ comb. form equivalent to -GRAPHIC.

-graphically ▶ comb. form in adverbs corresponding to nouns ending in *-graphic* (such as *demographically* corresponding to *demographic*).

graph·i·cal us·er in·ter·face (abbr.: GUI) ▶ n. Computing a visual way of interacting with a computer using items such as windows, icons, and menus, used by most modern operating systems.

graph·ic arts ▶ plural n. the visual arts based on the use of line and tone rather than three-dimensional work or the use of color. ■ (**graphic art**) the activity of practicing these arts, esp. as a subject of study.
– DERIVATIVES **graph·ic art·ist** n.

graph·ic de·sign ▶ n. the art or skill of combining text and pictures in advertisements, magazines, or books.
– DERIVATIVES **graph·ic de·sign·er** n.

graph·ic e·qual·iz·er ▶ n. an electronic device or computer program that allows the separate control of the strength and quality of selected frequency bands.

graph·ic nov·el ▶ n. a novel in comic-strip format.

graph·ics /'grafiks/ ▶ plural n. [usu. treated as sing.] **1** the products of the graphic arts, esp. commercial design or illustration.
2 the use of diagrams in calculation and design.
3 (also **computer graphics**) [treated as pl.] visual images produced by computer processing. ■ [treated as sing.] the use of computers linked to display screens to generate and manipulate visual images.

graph·ics card ▶ n. Computing a printed circuit board that controls the output to a display screen.

graph·ics tab·let ▸ n. Computing an input device consisting of a flat, pressure-sensitive pad that the user draws on or points at with a special stylus, to guide a pointer displayed on the screen.

graph·ite /'graˌfīt/ ▸ n. a gray, crystalline, allotropic form of carbon that occurs as a mineral in some rocks and can be made from coke. It is used as a solid lubricant, in pencils, and as a moderator in nuclear reactors.
– DERIVATIVES **gra·phit·ic** /grə'fitik/ adj.
– ORIGIN late 18th cent.: coined in German (*Graphit*), from Greek *graphein* 'write' (because of its use as pencil "lead").

graph·i·tize /'grafiˌtīz/ ▸ v. technical convert or be converted into graphite.
– DERIVATIVES **graph·i·ti·za·tion** /ˌgrafitiˈzāSHən/ n.

graph·ol·o·gy /graˈfäləjē/ ▸ n. **1** the study of handwriting, for example, as used to infer a person's character.
2 Linguistics the study of written and printed symbols and of writing systems.
– DERIVATIVES **graph·o·log·i·cal** /ˌgrafəˈläjikəl/ adj., **graph·ol·o·gist** /-jist/ n.
– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Greek *graphē* 'writing' + **-LOGY**.

graph pa·per ▸ n. paper printed with a network of small squares to assist the drawing of graphs or other diagrams.

graph the·o·ry ▸ n. the mathematical theory of the properties and applications of graphs.

graphy ▸ comb. form [in nouns denoting:] **1** a descriptive science: *geography*.
2 a technique of producing images: *radiography*.
3 a style or method of writing or drawing: *calligraphy*. ■ writing about (a specified subject): *hagiography*. ■ a written or printed list: *filmography*.
– ORIGIN from or suggested by Greek *-graphia* 'writing.'

grap·nel /'grapnəl/ ▸ n. a grappling hook. ■ a small anchor with several flukes.
– ORIGIN late Middle English: from an Anglo-Norman French diminutive of Old French *grapon*, of Germanic origin.

grapnel (anchor)

grap·pa /'gräpə/ ▸ n. a brandy distilled from the fermented residue of grapes after they have been pressed in winemaking.
– ORIGIN Italian, literally 'grape stalk,' of Germanic origin.

grap·ple /'grapəl/ ▸ v.
1 [no obj.] engage in a close fight or struggle without weapons; wrestle: *passersby grappled with the man after the knife attack*. ■ [with obj.] seize hold of (someone). ■ (**grapple with**) struggle with or work hard to deal with or overcome (a difficulty or challenge): *other towns are still grappling with the problem*.
2 [with obj.] archaic seize or hold with a grapnel.
▸ n. an act of grappling. ■ informal a wrestling match. ■ an instrument for catching hold of or seizing something; a grappling hook.
– DERIVATIVES **grap·pler** /'graplər/ n.
– ORIGIN Middle English (as a noun denoting a grapnel): from Old French *grapil*, from Provençal, diminutive of *grapa* 'hook,' of Germanic origin; related to **GRAPE**. The verb dates from the mid 16th cent.

grap·pling /'grapliNG/ ▸ n. **1** a grappling hook or grappling iron.
2 a small anchor; a grapnel.

grap·pling hook /'grapliNG/ (also **grappling iron**) ▸ n. a device with iron claws, attached to a rope and used for dragging or grasping.

grap·to·lite /'graptəˌlīt/ ▸ n. an extinct marine invertebrate animal of the Paleozoic era, forming mainly planktonic colonies and believed to be related to the pterobranchs. ● Class Graptolithina, phylum Hemichordata.
– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Greek *graptos* 'marked with letters' + **-LITE**: so named because of the impressions left on hard shales, resembling markings with a slate pencil.

GRAS ▸ abbr. generally recognized as safe; an FDA label for substances not known to be health hazards.

grasp /grasp/ ▸ v. [with obj.] seize and hold firmly: *she grasped the bottle*. ■ [no obj.] (**grasp at**) try to seize hold of: *they grasped at each other with numbed fingers* | *they had grasped at any means to overthrow him*. ■ get mental hold of; comprehend fully: *the way in which children could grasp complex ideas*. ■ act decisively to the advantage of (something): *we must grasp the opportunities offered*.
▸ n. [in sing.] a firm hold or grip: *the child slipped from her grasp*. ■ a person's power or capacity to attain something: *he knew success was within his grasp*. ■ a person's understanding: *meanings that are beyond my grasp* | *his grasp of detail*.
– PHRASES **grasp at straws** (or **a straw**) see **STRAW**. **grasp the nettle** Brit. tackle a difficulty boldly. [because a nettle stings when touched lightly, but not when grasped firmly.]
– DERIVATIVES **grasp-a-ble** adj., **grasp-er** n.
– ORIGIN late Middle English: perhaps related to **GROPE**.

grasp·ing /'graspiNG/ ▸ adj. greedy; avaricious: *grasping, power-hungry individuals*.
– DERIVATIVES **grasp-ing-ly** adv., **grasp-ing-ness** n.

Grass /gräs/, Günter (Wilhelm) (1927–), German novelist, poet, and playwright. His works are intellectual and experimental and often reflect his socialist views. Notable works: *The Tin Drum* (1959), *The Plebeians Rehearse the Uprising* (1966), and *The Flounder* (1977). Nobel Prize for Literature (1999).

grass /gras/ ▸ n. **1** vegetation consisting of typically short plants with long narrow leaves, growing wild or cultivated on lawns and pasture, and as a fodder crop. ■ ground covered with grass: *he sat down on the grass*. ■ pastureland: *the farms were mostly given over to grass*.
2 the mainly herbaceous plant that constitutes such vegetation, which has jointed stems and spikes of small, wind-pollinated flowers.

> Grasses belong to the large family Gramineae (or Poaceae; the **grass family**), and form the dominant vegetation of many areas of the world. The possession of a growing point that is mainly at ground level makes grasses suitable as the food of many grazing animals, and for use in lawns and playing fields.

3 informal marijuana.
4 Brit. informal a police informer. [perhaps related to the 19th-cent. rhyming slang *grasshopper* 'copper.']
▸ v. [with obj.] **1** (usu. **be grassed**) cover (an area of ground) with grass: *hillsides so closely grassed over, they seem to be painted green*. ■ feed (livestock) with grass.
2 [no obj.] Brit. informal inform the police of criminal activity or plans: *someone had grassed on the thieves*.
– PHRASES **the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence** proverb other people's lives or situations always seem better than one's own. **not let the grass grow under one's feet** not delay in acting or taking an opportunity.
– DERIVATIVES **grass-less** adj., **grass-like** /-ˌlīk/ adj.
– ORIGIN Old English *græs*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *gras*, German *Gras*, also ultimately to **GREEN** and **GROW**.

grass carp ▸ n. a large Chinese freshwater fish, farmed for food in Southeast Asia and introduced elsewhere to control the growth of vegetation in waterways. ● *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, family Cyprinidae.

grass-cloth /'gras,klôTH/ ▸ n. a fine, light cloth resembling linen, woven from the fibers of the inner bark of the ramie plant.

grass-cy·cling /'gras,sīkliNG/ ▸ n. the leaving of chopped grass clippings on a mowed lawn as a fertilizer.

grass-hop·per /'grasˌhäpər/ ▸ n. a plant-eating insect with long hind legs that are used for jumping and for producing a chirping sound. It frequents grassy places and low vegetation. ● Family Acrididae, order Orthoptera: many genera.

American grasshopper

grass-hop·per mouse ▸ n. a mainly carnivorous North American mouse with a stout body, gray or brownish fur, and a short white-tipped tail. ● Genus *Onychomys*, family Muridae: three species.

grass-land /'gras,land/ ▸ n. (also **grasslands**) a large open area of country covered with grass, esp. one used for grazing: *rough grassland*.

grass of Par·nas·sus ▸ n. a herbaceous plant of north temperate regions that bears a solitary white flower. ● Genus *Parnassia*, family Saxifragaceae: several species, including *P. glauca* and *P. palustris*.

grass par·rot (also **grass parakeet**) ▸ n. Austral. a small parrot frequenting grassy country. ● Family Psittacidae: several genera, in particular *Psephotus* and *Neophema*.

grass pea ▸ n. a plant of the pea family which is cultivated as food for animals and humans, though excessive consumption can lead to lathyrism. Also called **CHICKLING PEA**. ● *Lathyrus sativus*, family Leguminosae.

grass-quit /'gras,kwit/ ▸ n. a small Caribbean and tropical American songbird related to the buntings, the male being partly or mainly black. ● Family Emberizidae (subfamily Emberizinae): three genera, in particular *Tiaris*, and several species.

grass roots (also **grassroots** /'gras,rōōts/) ▸ plural n. the most basic level of an activity or organization: *the whole campaign would be conducted at the grass roots* | [as modifier] *trying to improve the sport's image at the grass-roots level*. ■ ordinary people regarded as the main body of an organization's membership: *you have lost touch with the grass roots of the party*.

grass ski ▸ n. each of a pair of short skis with rollers on the bottom, for going down grass-covered slopes.
– DERIVATIVES **grass ski-ing** n.

grass skirt ▸ n. a skirt made of long grass and leaves fastened to a waistband, associated esp. with female dancers from some Pacific islands.

grass snake ▸ n. a common harmless Eurasian snake that typically has a yellowish band around the neck and is often found in or near water. ● *Natrix natrix*, family Colubridae. ■ another term for **GREEN SNAKE**.

grass tet·a·ny ▸ n. a disease of livestock caused by magnesium deficiency, occurring esp. when there is a change from indoor feeding to outdoor grazing.

grass wid·ow ▸ n. a woman whose husband is away often or for a prolonged period.
– ORIGIN early 16th cent. (denoting an unmarried woman with a child): from **GRASS** + **WIDOW**, perhaps from the idea of the couple having lain on the grass instead of in bed. The current sense dates from the mid 19th cent.; compare with Dutch *grasweduwe* and German *Strohwitwe* 'straw widow.'

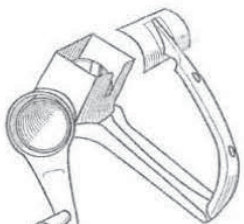
grass·y /'grasē/ ▸ adj. (**grassier**, **grassiest**) of or covered with grass: *grassy slopes*. ■ characteristic of grass: *an intense grassy green*.
– DERIVATIVES **grass-i-ness** n.

grate¹ /grāt/ ▸ v. **1** [with obj.] reduce (something, esp. food) to small shreds by rubbing it on a grater: *peel and roughly grate the carrots* | (as adj. **grated**) *grated cheese*.
2 [no obj.] make an unpleasant rasping sound: *the hinges of the door grated*. ■ (**grate against**) rub against something with such a sound: *his helmet grated against the top of the door*. ■ have an irritating effect: *he had a juvenile streak that grated on her nerves*.
– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *grater*, of Germanic origin; related to German *kratzen* 'to scratch.'

grate² ▸ n. **1** the recess of a fireplace or furnace. ■ a metal frame confining fuel in a fireplace or furnace.
2 a grating.
– ORIGIN Middle English (meaning 'a grating'): from Old French, based on Latin *cratis* 'hurdle.'

grate·ful /'grātfəl/ ▸ adj. feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness; thankful: *I'm very grateful to you for all your help*. ■ archaic received or experienced with gratitude; welcome: *enjoying the grateful shade*.
– DERIVATIVES **grate·ful·ly** adv., **grate·ful·ness** n.
– ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from obsolete *grate* 'pleasing, agreeable, thankful' (from Latin *gratus*) + **-FUL**.

grat·er /'grātər/ ▸ n. a device having a surface covered with holes edged by slightly raised cutting edges, used for grating cheese and other foods.


cheese grater

grat·i·cule /'gratəˌkyōōl/ ▸ n. technical a network of lines representing meridians and parallels, on which a map or plan can be represented.
– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from French, from medieval Latin *graticula* 'a little grating,' from Latin *craticula* 'gridiron,' diminutive of *cratis* 'hurdle.'

through or across a place: *the first west-to-east transit of the Northwest Passage* | [as modifier] *a transit airline passenger.* ■ the conveyance of passengers on public transportation. ■ Astronomy the passage of an inferior planet across the face of the sun, or of a moon or its shadow across the face of a planet. ■ Astronomy the apparent passage of a celestial body across the meridian of a place. ■ Astrology the passage of a celestial body through a specified sign, house, or area of a chart.
2 informal (in full **transit theodolite**) a tool used by surveyors to measure horizontal angles.
▶ v. (**transits, transiting, transited**) [with obj.] pass across or through (an area): *the new large ships will be too big to transit the Panama Canal.* ■ Astronomy (of a planet or other celestial body) pass across (a meridian or the face of another body). ■ Astrology (of a celestial body) pass across (a specified sign, house, or area of a chart).
– ORIGIN late Middle English (denoting passage from one place to another): from Latin *transitus*, from *transire* 'go across.'

tran·sit camp ▶ n. a camp for the temporary accommodation of groups of people, e.g., refugees or soldiers, who are traveling through a country or region.

tran·sit cir·cle (also **transit instrument**) ▶ n. another term for **MERIDIAN CIRCLE**.

tran·si·tion /tranˈziSHən, -ˈsiSHən/ ▶ n. the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another: *students in transition from one program to another* | *a transition to multiparty democracy.* ■ a passage in a piece of writing that smoothly connects two topics or sections to each other. ■ Music a momentary modulation from one key to another. ■ Physics a change of an atom, nucleus, electron, etc., from one quantum state to another, with emission or absorption of radiation.
▶ v. undergo or cause to undergo a process or period of transition: [with obj.] *the network ought to be built by the federal government and then transitioned into private industry* | [no obj.] *we have transitioned from a high-intensity combat operation to a support role in the community.*
– DERIVATIVES **tran·si·tion·a·ry** /-ˌnerē/ **adj.**
– ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from French, or from Latin *transitio(n-)*, from *transire* 'go across.'

tran·si·tion·al /tranˈziSHənl/ ▶ **adj.** relating to or characteristic of a process or period of transition: *a transitional government was appointed.* ■ (**Transitional**) Architecture of or denoting the last stage of Romanesque style, in which Gothic elements begin to appear.
– DERIVATIVES **tran·si·tion·al·ly** /-SHənlē/ **adv.**

tran·si·tion met·al (also **transition element**) ▶ n. Chemistry any of the set of metallic elements occupying a central block (Groups IVB–VIII, IB, and IIB, or 4–12) in the periodic table, e.g., iron, manganese, chromium, and copper. Chemically they show variable valence and a strong tendency to form coordination compounds, and many of their compounds are colored.

tran·si·tion point ▶ n. Chemistry the set of conditions of temperature and pressure at which different phases of the same substance can be in equilibrium.

tran·si·tion prob·a·bil·i·ty ▶ n. Physics the probability of the occurrence of a transition between two quantum states of an atom, nucleus, electron, etc.

tran·si·tion tem·per·a·ture ▶ n. Physics the temperature at which a substance acquires or loses some distinctive property, in particular superconductivity.

tran·si·tive /ˈtransitiv, ˈtranz / ▶ **adj.** **1** Grammar (of a verb or a sense or use of a verb) able to take a direct object (expressed or implied), e.g., *saw* in *he saw the donkey*. The opposite of **INTRANSITIVE**.
2 Logic & Mathematics (of a relation) such that, if it applies between successive members of a sequence, it must also apply between any two members taken in order. For instance, if A is larger than B, and B is larger than C, then A is larger than C.
▶ n. a transitive verb.
– DERIVATIVES **tran·si·tive·ly** **adv.**, **tran·si·tive·ness** n., **tran·si·tiv·i·ty** /ˌtransəˈtivitē, -zə-/ n.
– ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (in the sense 'transitory'): from late Latin *transitivus*, from *transit-* 'gone across' (see **TRANSIT**).

tran·sit lounge ▶ n. a lounge at an airport for passengers waiting between flights.

tran·si·to·ry /ˈtransiˌtôrē, ˈtranzi-/ ▶ **adj.** not permanent: *transitory periods of medieval greatness.*
– DERIVATIVES **tran·si·to·ri·ly** /-rəlē/ **adv.**, **tran·si·to·ri·ness** n.
– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *transitoire*, from Christian Latin *transitorius*, from *transit-* 'gone across' (see **TRANSIT**).

tran·sit vi·sa ▶ n. a visa allowing its holder to pass through a country but not to stay there.

Trans·jor·dan /transˈjôrdn, tranz-/ former name (until 1949) of the region east of the Jordan River that now forms the main part of Jordan.
– DERIVATIVES **Trans·jor·da·ni·an** /ˌtransjôrˈdānēən, ˌtranz-/ **adj.**

Trans·kei /tranˈskī, -ˈskā/ a former homeland established in South Africa for the Xhosa people, now part of the province of Eastern Cape.

trans·ke·to·lase /tranzˈkētlˌās, -ˌāz/ ▶ n. Biochemistry an enzyme that catalyzes the transfer of an alcohol group between sugar molecules.

trans·late /transˈlāt, tranz-/ ▶ v. [with obj.] **1** express the sense of (words or text) in another language: *the German original has been translated into English.* ■ [no obj.] be expressed or be capable of being expressed in another language: *shiatsu literally translates as "finger pressure."* ■ (**translate something into/translate into**) convert or be converted into (another form or medium): [with obj.] *few of Shakespeare's other works have been translated into ballets.*
2 move from one place or condition to another: *she had been translated from familiar surroundings to a foreign court.* ■ formal move (a bishop) to another see or pastoral charge. ■ formal remove (a saint's relics) to another place. ■ literary convey (someone, typically still alive) to heaven. ■ Biology convert (a sequence of nucleotides in messenger RNA) to an amino-acid sequence in a protein or polypeptide during synthesis.
3 Physics cause (a body) to move so that all its parts travel in the same direction, without rotation or change of shape. ■ Mathematics transform (a geometric figure) in an analogous way.
– DERIVATIVES **trans·lat·a·bil·i·ty** /ˌtransˌlātəˈbilətē, ˌtranz-/ n., **trans·lat·a·ble** **adj.**
– ORIGIN Middle English: from Latin *translatus* 'carried across,' past participle of *transferre* (see **TRANSFER**).

trans·la·tion /transˈlāSHən, tranz-/ ▶ n. **1** the process of translating words or text from one language into another: *Constantine's translation of Arabic texts into Latin.* ■ a written or spoken rendering of the meaning of a word, speech, book, or other text, in another language: *a German translation of Oscar Wilde's play* | *a term for which there is no adequate English translation.* ■ the conversion of something from one form or medium into another: *the translation of research findings into clinical practice.* ■ Biology the process by which a sequence of nucleotide triplets in a messenger RNA molecule gives rise to a specific sequence of amino acids during synthesis of a polypeptide or protein.
2 formal or technical the process of moving something from one place to another: *the translation of the relics of St. Thomas of Canterbury.* ■ Mathematics movement of a body from one point of space to another such that every point of the body moves in the same direction and over the same distance, without any rotation, reflection, or change in size.
– DERIVATIVES **trans·la·tion·al** /-SHənl/ **adj.**, **trans·la·tion·al·ly** /-SHənl-ē/ **adv.**
– ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French, or from Latin *translatio(n-)*, from *translat-* 'carried across' (see **TRANSLATE**).

trans·la·tor /ˈtransˌlātər, ˈtranz-/ ▶ n. a person who translates from one language into another, esp. as a profession. ■ a program that translates from one programming language into another.

trans·lit·er·ate /transˈlitəˌrāt, tranz-/ ▶ v. [with obj.] (usu. **be transliterated**) write or print (a letter or word) using the closest corresponding letters of a different alphabet or language: *names from one language are often transliterated into another.*
– DERIVATIVES **trans·lit·er·a·tion** /transˌlitəˈrāSHən, tranz-/ n., **trans·lit·er·a·tor** /-ˌrātər/ n.
– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from **TRANS-** 'across' + Latin *littera* 'letter' + **-ATE**³.

trans·lo·cate /transˈlōˌkāt, tranz-/ ▶ v. [with obj.] chiefly technical move from one place to another: *translocating rhinos to other reserves* | [no obj.] *the cell bodies translocate into the other side of the brain.* ■ Physiology & Biochemistry transport (a dissolved substance) within an organism, esp. in the phloem of a plant, or actively across a cell membrane. ■ Genetics move (a portion of a chromosome) to a new position on the same or another chromosome.
– DERIVATIVES **trans·lo·ca·tion** /transˌlōˈkāSHən, tranz-/ n.

trans·lu·cent /transˈlōōsnt, tranz-/ ▶ **adj.** (of a substance) allowing light, but not detailed images, to pass through; semitransparent: *fry until the onions become translucent.*
– DERIVATIVES **trans·lu·cence** n., **trans·lu·cen·cy** n., **trans·lu·cent·ly** **adv.**
– ORIGIN late 16th cent. (in the Latin sense): from Latin *translucent-* 'shining through,' from the verb *translucere*, from *trans-* 'through' + *lucere* 'to shine.'

trans·lu·nar /transˈlōōnər, tranz-/ ▶ **adj.** of, relating to, or denoting the trajectory of a spacecraft traveling between the earth and the moon.

trans·man /ˈtranz,man, ˈtrans-/ ▶ n. (pl. **transmen**) a transsexual male.

trans·ma·rine /ˌtransməˈrēn, ˌtranz-/ ▶ **adj.** dated situated or originating on the other side of the sea: *an alien, or a transmarine stranger.* ■ of or involving crossing the sea: *some birds make long transmarine migrations.*
– ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin *transmarinus*, from *trans-* 'across' + *marinus* 'marine, of the sea.'

trans·mem·brane /transˈmemˌbrān, tranz-/ ▶ **adj.** Biology existing or occurring across a cell membrane: *transmembrane conductance.*

trans·mi·grant /transˈmīgrənt, tranz-/ ▶ n. rare a person passing through a country or region in the course of emigrating to another region.
– ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *transmigrant-* 'migrating across,' from the verb *transmigrare* (see **TRANSMIGRATE**).

trans·mi·grate /transˈmīˌgrāt, tranz-/ ▶ v. [no obj.] **1** (of the soul) pass into a different body after death.
2 rare migrate.
– DERIVATIVES **trans·mi·gra·tion** /ˌtransˌmīˈgrāSHən, ˌtranz-/ n., **trans·mi·gra·tor** /-ˌgrātər/ n., **trans·mi·gra·to·ry** /-grəˌtôrē/ **adj.**
– ORIGIN late Middle English (as an adjective in the sense 'transferred'): from Latin *transmigrat-* 'removed from one place to another,' from the verb *transmigrare* (see **TRANS-, MIGRATE**).

trans·mis·sion /transˈmiSHən, tranz-/ ▶ n. **1** the action or process of transmitting something or the state of being transmitted: *the transmission of the HIV virus.* ■ a program or signal that is broadcast or sent out: *television transmissions.*
2 the mechanism by which power is transmitted from an engine to the wheels of a motor vehicle.
– ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *transmissio* (see **TRANS-, MISSION**).

trans·mis·sion e·lec·tron mi·cro·scope ▶ n. a form of electron microscope in which an image is derived from electrons that have passed through the specimen, in particular one in which the whole image is formed at once rather than by scanning.

trans·mis·sion line ▶ n. a conductor or conductors designed to carry electricity or an electrical signal over large distances with minimum losses and distortion.

trans·mis·siv·i·ty /ˌtransmiˈsivitē, ˌtranz-/ ▶ n. (pl. **transmissivities**) the degree to which a medium allows something, in particular electromagnetic radiation, to pass through it.

trans·mit /tranzˈmit, trans-/ ▶ v. (**transmits, transmitting, transmitted**) [with obj.] cause (something) to pass on from one place or person to another: *knowledge is transmitted from teacher to student.* ■ broadcast or send out (an electrical signal or a radio or television program): *the program was transmitted on October 7.* ■ pass on (a disease or trait) to another: (as adj. **transmitted**) *sexually transmitted diseases.* ■ allow (heat, light, sound, electricity, or other energy) to pass through a medium: *the three bones transmit sound waves to the inner ear.* ■ communicate or be a medium for (an idea or emotion): *the theatrical gift of being able to transmit emotion.*
– DERIVATIVES **trans·mis·si·bil·i·ty** /-ˌmisəˈbilitē/ n. (chiefly Medicine), **trans·mis·si·ble** /-ˈmisəbəl/ **adj.** (chiefly Medicine), **trans·mis·sive** /-ˈmisiv/ **adj.**, **trans·mit·ta·ble** **adj.**, **trans·mit·tal** /-ˈmitl/ n.
– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *transmittere*, from *trans-* 'across' + *mittere* 'send.'

trans·mit·tance /transˈmitns, tranz-/ ▶ n. Physics the ratio of the light energy falling on a body to that transmitted through it.

trans·mit·ter /transˈmitər, tranz-/ ▶ n. a set of equipment used to generate and transmit electromagnetic waves carrying messages or signals, esp. those of radio or television. ■ a person or thing that transmits something: *reggae has established itself as the principal transmitter of the Jamaican language.* ■ short for **NEUROTRANSMITTER**.

trans·mog·ri·fy /transˈmägrəˌfī, tranz-/ ▶ v. (**transmogrifies, transmogrifying, transmogrified**) [with obj.] chiefly humorous transform, esp. in a surprising or magical manner: *the cucumbers that were ultimately transmogrified into pickles.*
– DERIVATIVES **trans·mog·ri·fi·ca·tion** /-ˌmägrəfiˈkāSHən/ n.
– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: of unknown origin.