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Minion Type Swash

swash letter
swash initial letters in
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swastika



Swaziland

turf. 2. A lawn or meadow. [Middle English < Old English *sweard*, skin.]

sware (swâr) *v.* Archaic A past tense of *swear*.

swarf (swôrf) *n.* Fine metallic filings or shavings removed by a cutting tool. [Of Scandinavian origin; akin to Old Norse *swarf*.]

swarm¹ (swôrm) *n.* 1. A large number of insects or other small organisms, especially when in motion. 2. A group of bees, social wasps, or ants, when migrating with a queen to establish a new colony. 3. An aggregation of persons or animals, especially when in turmoil or moving in mass: A swarm of friends congratulated him. 4. A number of similar geologic phenomena or features occurring closely within a given period or place: a swarm of earthquakes. ♦ *v.* swarmed, **swarming**, **swarms** —*intr.* 1a. To move or emerge in a swarm. b. To leave a hive as a swarm. Used of bees. 2. To move or gather in large numbers: Shoppers have swarmed into the mall. 3. To be overrun; teem: a riverbank swarming with insects. See Synonyms at **teem**¹. —*tr.* 1. To fill with a crowd: sailors swarming the ship's deck. [Middle English, group of bees < Old English *swarm*.] —**swarm'er** *n.*

swarm² (swôrm) *v.* swarmed, **swarming**, **swarms** —*intr.* To climb by gripping with the arms and legs. —*tr.* To climb (something) in this manner. [Origin unknown.]

swarm spore *n.* A zoospore.

swart (swôrt) *adj.* Archaic Swarthy. [Middle English *swarte* < Old English *swart*.]

swarth (swôth) *n.* Variant of *sward*.

swarth-y (swôth'ê) *adj.* -i-er, -i-est Having a dark complexion or color. [Alteration of *swarty* < *swart*.] —**swarth'i-ly** *adv.* —**swarth'i-ness** *n.*

swash (swôsh, swôsh) *n.* 1a. A splash of water or other liquid hitting a solid surface. b. The sound of such a splash. 2a. A narrow channel through which tides flow. b. A bar over which waves wash freely. 3. See **uprush**. 4a. Swagger or bluster. b. A swaggering or blustering person. ♦ *v.* swashed, **swash-ing**, **swash-es** —*intr.* 1. To strike, move, or wash with a splashing sound. 2. To swagger. —*tr.* 1. To splash (a liquid). 2. To splash a liquid against. [Probably imitative.]

swash-buck-le (swôsh/'bûk'ul, swôsh'-) *intr. v.* -led, -ling, -les To act as a swashbuckler, as in a movie or play. [Back-formation < *SWASH-BUCKLER*.]

swash-buck-ler (swôsh/'bûk'lôr, swôsh'-) *n.* 1. A flamboyant swordsman or adventurer. 2. A sword-wielding ruffian or bully. 3. A dramatic or literary work dealing with a swashbuckler. [Probably from the striking of bucklers in fighting.]

swash letter *n.* An ornamental italic letter with elaborate, flowing flourishes and tails. [Origin unknown.]

swas-ti-ka (swôs/'tî-kâ) *n.* 1. An ancient cosmic or religious symbol formed by a Greek cross with the ends of the arms bent at right angles in either a clockwise or a counterclockwise direction. 2. Such a symbol with a clockwise bend to the arms, used as the emblem of the Nazi party and of the German state under Adolf Hitler, officially adopted in 1935. [Sanskrit *svastikâh*, sign of good luck, *swastika* < *svasti*, well-being; see (e)su- in App. I.]

swat (swôt) *v.* swat-ted, **swat-ting**, **swats** —*tr.* To strike or hit with a sharp blow: swatted a ball into the outfield. —*intr.* To strike or try to strike something with a sharp blow: swatted at the mosquito. ♦ *n.* A sharp blow or hit. [Alteration of *squat*, to squash (obsolete and dialectal).]

swatch (swôch) *n.* 1. A sample strip cut from a piece of material. 2. A representative portion; a sample: quoted swatches of the speech in his article. 3. A strip or swath of land: "I...drove through this hilly swatch of field and forest that wraps around the east and north of town" (Jean Anderson). [Origin unknown.]

swath (swôth, swôth) also **swathe** (swôth, swôth, swâth) *n.* 1a. The width of a scythe stroke or a mowing-machine blade. b. A path of this width made in mowing. c. The mown grass or grain lying on such a path. 2. Something likened to a swath, especially a strip, path, or extension: "the motor humming as a girl on skis cut a swath back and forth across the water" (Sarah Dessen). 3. A great stir, impression, or display: "a man who rose from humble beginnings to cut a wide swath in the world" (Garrison Keillor). [Middle English *swathe* < Old English *swæth*, track.]

swathe¹ (swôth, swôth, swâth) *tr. v.* swathed, **swath-ing**, **swathes** 1a. To wrap, as in layers of cloth: swathed herself in towels. b. To wrap or bind in bandages. 2. To enfold or envelop: Clouds swathed the mountain. ♦ *n.* A wrapping, binding, or bandage. [Middle English *swathen* < Old English *swathian*.] —**swath'er** *n.*

swathe² (swôth, swôth, swâth) *n.* Variant of *swath*.

Swa-tow (swâ'tou) See *Shantou*.

SWAT team (swôt) *n.* A unit within a police force that is trained to deal with situations of unusual danger, especially when requiring aggressive tactics or enhanced firepower, as in rescuing hostages, thwarting terrorist attacks or assassinations, and subduing heavily armed suspects. [s(pécial) w(eapons) a(n)d t(actics).]

swat-ter (swôt'ôr) *n.* 1. A fly swatter. 2. Baseball A hard-hitting batter.

S-wave (ēs'wâv') *n.* A seismic wave that travels relatively quickly through the earth, causing the rocks it passes through to change shape, and the particles of the rocks to vibrate at right angles to the direction of wave propagation. S-waves can travel through solids but not through liquids or gases. Also called *shear wave*. [S(econdary) wave, since it is the second type of wave, after the faster P-waves, to be detected by a seismograph after a seismic event.]

sway (swâ) *v.* swayed, **sway-ing**, **sways** —*intr.* 1. To swing back and forth or to and fro. See Synonyms at **swing**. 2. To incline or bend to one side; veer: She swayed and put out a hand to steady herself. 3a. To

incline toward change, as in opinion or feeling: He swayed toward trying out for the chorus. b. To fluctuate, as in outlook. —*tr.* 1. To cause to swing back and forth or to and fro: The breeze swayed the wheat. 2. To cause to incline or bend: The wind swayed the trees toward the house. 3. To exert influence or control over: His speech swayed the voters. 4. Nautical To hoist (a mast or yard) into position. 5. Archaic a. To rule or govern. b. To wield, as a weapon or scepter. ♦ *n.* 1. The act of moving from side to side with a swinging motion. 2. Influence or control: The mayor has a lot of sway in our town. [Middle English *sweien*, probably of Scandinavian origin.] —**sway'er** *n.* —**sway'ing-ly** *adv.*

sway-back (swâ'bâk') *n.* Excessive inward or downward curvature of the spine, especially in a horse. —**sway/backed'** *adj.*

sway bar *n.* A metal bar connecting the left and right suspension systems at the front or rear of an automobile or a truck, used to stabilize the chassis against sway. Also called *anti-roll bar*, *anti-sway bar*, *stabilizer bar*.

Swa-zi (swâ'zî) *n., pl.* Swazi or -zis 1. A member of a southeast African people of Swaziland and adjacent parts of South Africa. 2. The Nguni language of this people, closely related to Xhosa and Zulu.

Swa-zi-land (swâ'zî-lând') A country of southeast Africa between South Africa and Mozambique. Settled in the early 1800s by Swazi groups fleeing Zulu attacks, the region became a South African protectorate (1894–1899) and was subsequently transferred to British administration in 1903. Swaziland was granted limited autonomy in 1963 and achieved full independence in 1968. The country's first democratic elections were held in 1993. Mbabane is the capital and the largest city.

swear (swâr) *v.* swore (swôr), **sworn** (swôrn), **swear-ing**, **swears** —*intr.* 1. To make a solemn declaration, invoking a deity or a sacred person or thing, in confirmation of and witness to the honesty or truth of such a declaration. 2. To make a solemn promise; vow. 3. To use obscene or blasphemous language; curse. 4. Law To commit oneself by oath to giving evidence or testimony that is truthful. —*tr.* 1a. To declare or affirm solemnly by invoking a deity or a sacred person or thing: *swore on the Bible that he would tell the truth*. b. To say or affirm earnestly and with great conviction: *I swear that I will pay you back*. 2. To promise or pledge with a solemn oath; vow: *He swore to do his duty*. See Synonyms at **promise**. 3. To utter or bind oneself to (an oath). 4. Law To administer a legal oath to: *All the witnesses have been sworn*. ♦ *n.* A swearword.

—**phrasal verbs:** **swear at** To use vulgar language against; curse: *swear at* 1. To have great reliance on or confidence in: *He swears by his personal physician*. 2. To have reliable knowledge of; be sure of: *I think she left early, but I couldn't swear by it*. 3. To take an oath by: *He swore by all the angels and saints of heaven*. **swear in** To administer a legal or official oath to: *swear in a mayor*. **swear off** Informal To pledge to renounce or give up: *She has sworn off cigarettes*. **swear out** Law 1. To attest to (an affidavit or complaint) by oath. 2. To swear to evidence under oath in order to obtain (a warrant for arrest). [Middle English *sweren* < Old English *swerian*; see *swer* in App. I.] —**swear'er** *n.*

swear-word (swâr'wôrd') *n.* An obscene or blasphemous word.

sweat (swêt) *v.* sweat-ed or sweat, **sweat-ing**, **sweats** —*intr.* 1. To excrete perspiration through the pores in the skin; perspire. 2. To exude in droplets, as moisture from certain cheeses or sap from a tree. 3. To collect moisture in small drops from the air, as a cold water pipe. 4a. To release moisture, as hay in the swath. b. To ferment, as tobacco during curing. 5. Informal To work long and hard: *sweated over his term paper*. 6. Informal To fret or worry: *Don't sweat over the bills*. —*tr.* 1a. To excrete (moisture) through a porous surface, such as the skin. b. To excrete (wastes) in perspiration: *sweated out the toxins in the steam room*. 2. To have (moisture) condense in small drops on a surface. 3. To cause to perspire, as by drugs, heat, or strenuous exercise: *Running for the train got me sweating up*. 4. To make damp or wet with perspiration: *His shirt was sweating*. 5a. To cause to work excessively; overwork. b. To overwork and underpay (employees). 6. Slang a. To interrogate (someone) under duress: *sweated the suspected spy for hours*. b. To extract (information) from someone under duress: *The police sweated the information out of the suspect*. 7. Metallurgy To join (metal parts) by interposing cold solder and then heating. 8. To steam (vegetables or other food). 9. Informal To fret or worry about: *Don't sweat the details*. ♦ *n.* 1. The colorless saline moisture excreted by the sweat glands; perspiration. 2. Condensation of moisture in the form of droplets on a surface. 3a. The process of sweating. b. A condition or instance of sweating: *worked up a sweat raking leaves*. 4. Strenuous labor or exertion: *It took a lot of sweat to move the piano*. 5. A run given to a horse as exercise before a race. 6. Informal An anxious, fretful condition: *got myself in a sweat over the deadline*. 7. **sweats** Informal A sweat-suit. —**phrasal verb:** **sweat out** Slang 1. To endure anxiously: *sweat out an exam*. 2. To await (something) anxiously: *sweat out one's final grades*. —**idioms:** **no sweat** Slang 1. Easily done or handled. 2. Used to acknowledge an expression of gratitude. **sweat blood** Informal 1. To work diligently or strenuously. 2. To worry intensely. **sweat bullets** Slang 1. To sweat profusely. 2. To worry intensely. **sweat of (one's) brow** Hard work: *landscaped the yard by the sweat of my brow*. [Middle English *sweten* < Old English *swētan*; see *sweid* in App. I.]

sweat-band (swêt'bând') *n.* 1. A band of fabric or leather sewn inside the crown of a hat as protection against sweat. 2. A band of material worn around the head or wrist to absorb sweat.

sweat bee *n.* Any of various small, ground-nesting bees of the family Halictidae that are attracted to the salt in perspiration.

sweat-box (swêt'bôks') *n.* 1. A box in which something, such as hides or fruit, is fermented by sweating. 2. Slang A confined place where a person sweats, especially: a. An interrogation room. b. A prison cell used for special punishment.

sweat equity *n.* 1. Work, especially manual labor, performed in