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goods (as cakes and crackers), and pastas (as macaroni or spaghetti), and is important in animal feeds. 2: any of various Old World annual grasses (genus *Triticum*, esp. *T. aestivum* and *T. turgidum*) of wide climatic adaptability that are cultivated in most temperate areas for the wheat they yield. 3: a light yellow

wheat berry *n* (1848): an unprocessed whole kernel of wheat

wheat bread *n* (14c): a bread made of a combination of white and whole wheat flours as distinguished from bread made entirely of white or whole wheat flour

wheat cake *n* (1703): a pancake made of wheat flour

wheat-ear *n* *hwët-ir*, *wët-ir* *n* [back-formation fr. earlier *wheatears* wheatear, prob. by folk etymology or euphemism fr. *white + arse*] (1591): any of various small thrushes (genus *Oenanthe*); esp: a white-rumped one (*O. oenanthe*) of northern No. America and the Old World

wheat-en *n* *hwë-t'n*, *wë-adj* (bef. 12c): of, relating to, or made of wheat

wheaten *n* (ca. 1931): a pale yellowish to ruddy-fawn color characteristic of the coat of some dogs

wheat germ *n* (1881): the embryo of the wheat kernel separated in milling and used esp. as a source of vitamins and protein

wheat-grass *n* *hwët-gras*, *wët-n* (1668): any of a genus (*Agropyron*) of perennial grasses including some which are important pasture, hay, or turf grasses

wheat-land *n* *hwët-land*, *wët-n* (bef. 12c): land used or suitable for growing wheat

wheat rust *n* (1870): a destructive disease of wheat caused by rust fungi; also: a fungus (as *Puccinia graminis*) causing a wheat rust

Wheat-stone bridge *n* *hwët-stön*, *wët-*, chiefly Brit *-stän-n* [Sir Charles Wheatstone] (1872): an electrical bridge consisting of two branches of a parallel circuit joined by a galvanometer and used for determining the value of an unknown resistance in one of the branches

wee *n* *hwë*, *wë* *interj* (1898) — used to express delight or exuberance

wee-dle *n* *hwë-dl*, *wë-adj* *wee-dled*; *wee-dling* *n* *(h)wëd-lin*, *(h)wëd-lin* [origin unknown] *vi* (ca. 1661) 1: to influence or entice by soft words or flattery 2: to gain or get by wheedling (~ one's way into favor) ~ *vi*: to use soft words or flattery **syn** see CAJOLE

wheel *n* *hwël*, *wël* *n*, often attrib [ME, fr. OE *hweogol*, *hwēol*; akin to ON *hvel* wheel, Gk *kuklos* circle, wheel, Skt *cakra*, L *colere* to cultivate, inhabit, Skt *carati* he moves, wanders] (bef. 12c)

1: a circular frame of hard material that may be solid, partly solid, or spoked and that is capable of turning on an axle 2: a contrivance or apparatus having as its principal part a wheel: as a: a chiefly medieval instrument of torture designed for mutilating a victim (as by stretching or disjuncting) b: BICYCLE c: any of many revolving disks or drums used as gambling paraphernalia d: POTTER'S WHEEL e: STEERING WHEEL 3 a: an imaginary turning wheel symbolizing the inconstancy of fortune b: a recurring course, development, or action: CYCLE 4: something (as a round flat cheese) resembling a wheel in shape 5 a: a curving or circular movement b: a rotation or turn usu. about an axis or center; *specif*: a turning movement of troops or ships in line in which the units preserve alignment and relative positions as they change direction 6 a: a moving or essential part of something compared to a machine (the ~s of government) b: a directing or controlling force c: a person of importance esp. in an organization (a big ~) 7: the refrain or burden of a song 8 a: a circuit of theaters or places of entertainment b: a sports league 9 *pl*, *slang*: a wheeled vehicle; esp: AUTOMOBILE

10 *pl*, *slang*: LEGS — **wheel-less** *n* *hwël-ləs*, *wël-adj*

wheel *vi* (13c) 1: to turn on or as if on an axis: REVOLVE 2: to change direction as if revolving on a pivot (the battalion would have ~ed to the flank —Walter Bernstein) (her mind will ~ around to the other extreme —Liam O'Flaherty) (~ed to face her opponent) 3: to move or extend in a circle or curve (birds in ~ing flight) (valleys where young cotton ~ed slowly in fanlike rows —William Faulkner) 4: to travel on or as if on wheels or in a wheeled vehicle ~ *vt* 1: to cause to turn on or as if on an axis: ROTATE 2: to convey or move on or as if on wheels or in a wheeled vehicle (~ed the patient back to his room) (~ed the car into the driveway) (~ in the experts) 3: to cause to change direction as if revolving on a pivot 4: to make or perform in a circle or curve — **wheel and deal**: to make deals or do business esp. shrewdly or briskly

wheel and axle *n* (1759): a mechanical device consisting of a grooved wheel turned by a cord or chain with a rigidly attached axle (as for winding up a weight) together with the supporting standards

wheel animal *n* (1788): ROTIFER

wheel-bar-row *n* *hwël-ba-(r)ō*, *wël-n* (14c): a small usu. single-wheeled vehicle that is used for carrying small loads and is fitted with handles at the rear by which it can be pushed and guided

wheelbarrow *vt* (1721): to convey in a wheelbarrow

wheel-base *n* *hwël-bās*, *wël-n* (1863): the distance in inches between the front and rear axles of an automotive vehicle

wheel bug *n* (1815): a large No. American assassin bug (*Arilus cristatus*) that has a high serrated crest on its prothorax and preys on insects

wheel-chair *n* *hwël-cher*, *wël-n* (ca. 1700): a chair mounted on wheels esp. for the use of disabled persons

wheeled *n* *hwëld*, *wëld* *adj* (1572) 1: equipped with wheels (~ vehicles) 2: moving or functioning by means of wheels (~ traffic)

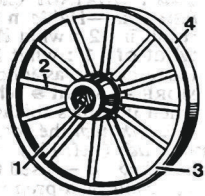
wheeler *n* *hwë-lər*, *wë-l-n* (1683) 1: one that wheels 2: a draft animal (as a horse) pulling in the position nearest the front wheels of a wagon 3: something (as a vehicle or ship) that has wheels — used esp. in combination (a side-wheeler) (18-wheelers)

wheeler and dealer *n*, *pl* wheelers and dealers (1966): WHEELER-DEALER

wheel-er-deal-er *n* *hwël-lər-dē-lər*, *wë-l-n* (1954): a shrewd operator esp. in business or politics

wheel-horse *n* *hwël-hōrs*, *wël-n* (1708) 1: a horse (as in a tandem) in a position nearest the wheels 2: a steady and effective worker esp. in a political body

wheel-house *n*, *pl* wheelhouses (1835): PILOTHOUSE



wheel 1: 1 hub, 2 spoke, 3 felly, 4 tire

wheel-le *n* *hwë-lē*, *wë-l-n* (ca. 1965): a maneuver in which a wheeled vehicle (as a bicycle) is momentarily balanced on its rear wheel or wheels

wheel-ing *n* *hwë-lin*, *wë-l-n* (15c) 1: the act or process of one that wheels 2: the condition of a road relative to passage on wheels

wheel lock *n* (1670): a gun's lock for a muzzle-loading firearm in which sparks are struck from a flint or a piece of pyrite by a revolving wheel

wheel-man *n* *hwël-mən*, *wël-n* (1865) 1 a: HELMSMAN b: the driver of an automobile 2: CYCLIST

wheels-man *n* *hwëlz-mən*, *wëlz-n* (1866): one who steers with a wheel; esp: HELMSMAN

wheel-thrown *n* *hwël-thrōn*, *wël-adj* (1964): made on a potter's wheel (~ pottery)

wheel-work *n* *hwël-wōrk*, *wël-n* (1640): wheels in gear and their connections in a machine or mechanism

wheel-wright *n*, *rit* *n* (13c): a maker and repairer of wheels and wheeled vehicles

when *n* *hwën*, *wën* *adj* [ME (Sc) *quheyne*, fr. OE *hwæne*, *hwēne*, adv., somewhat, fr. instr. of *hwōn* little, few] (14c) *dial Brit*: FEW 2

when *n* (1680) *dial Brit*: a considerable number or amount

wheeze *n* *hwëz*, *wëz* *vi* wheezed; **wheeze-ing** [ME *whesen*, prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *hvæsa* to hiss; akin to OE *hwæst* action of blowing, Skt *śvasiti* he blows, snorts] (15c) 1: to breathe with difficulty usu. with a whistling sound 2: to make a sound resembling that of wheezing (the bellows wheezed)

wheeze *n* (1800) 1: a sound of wheezing 2 a: an often repeated and widely known joke used esp. by entertainers b: a trite saying or proverb

wheezy *n* *hwë-zē*, *wë-adj* wheezier; **-est** (1818) 1: inclined to wheeze 2: having a wheezing sound (a ~ cough) (the ~ call of a phoebe) — **wheezy-ly** *adv* — **wheezy-ness** *n* *-zē-nəs*

whelk *n* *hwelk*, *welk*, *wilk* *n* [ME *welke*, fr. OE *weolc*; akin to MD *willoc* whelk and perh. to L *volvere* to turn — more at VOLUBLE] (bef. 12c): any of numerous large marine snails (as of the genus *Buccinum*); esp: one (*B. undatum*) used as food in Europe

whelk *n* *hwelk*, *welk* *n* [ME *whelke*, fr. OE *hwylca*, fr. *hwelian* to sup-purate] (bef. 12c): PAPULE, PUSTULE

whelm *n* *hwelm*, *welm* *vb* [ME *whelm*, fr. OE *hwylca*, fr. *hwelian* to sup-purate] (bef. 12c): to turn (as a dish or vessel) upside down usu. to cover something: cover or engulf completely with usu. disastrous effect 2: to overcome in thought or feeling: OVERWHELM (~ed with a rush of joy —G. A. Wagner) ~ *vi*: to pass or go over something so as to bury or submerge it

whelp *n* *hwelp*, *welp* *n* [ME, fr. OE *hwelp*; akin to OHG *hwelf* whelp] (bef. 12c) 1: any of the young of various carnivorous mammals and esp. of the dog 2: a young boy or girl

whelp *vt* (13c): to give birth to — used of various carnivores and esp. the dog ~ *vi*: to bring forth young

when *n* *hwën*, *wën*, (h)wən *adv* [ME, fr. OE *hwanne*, *hwenne*; akin to OHG *hwanne* when, OE *hwā* who — more at WHO] (bef. 12c) 1: at what time (~ will you return) 2 a: at or during which time b: and then 3: at a former and usu. less prosperous time (brag fondly of having known him ~ —Vance Packard)

when *conj* [ME, fr. OE *hwanne*, *hwenne*, fr. *hwanne*, *hwenne*, adv.] (bef. 12c) 1 a: at or during the time that: WHILE (went fishing ~ he was a boy) b: just at the moment that (stop writing ~ the bell rings) c: at any or every time that (~ he listens to music, he falls asleep) 2: in the event that: IF (a contestant is disqualified ~ he disobeys the rules) 3 a: considering that (why use water at all ~ you can drown in it —Stuart Chase) b: in spite of the fact that: ALTHOUGH (quit politics ~ I might have had a great career in it) 4: the time or occasion at or in which (tomorrow is ~ we must decide) (humor is ~ you laugh —Earl RoVit)

when *n* *hwën*, *wën*, (h)wən *pron* (14c): what or which time (life-long homes for those ~ who have lived here since —Kim Waller)

when *n* (1616): the time in which something is done or comes about (troubled his head very little about the hows and ~s of life —Laurence Sterne)

when-as *n* *hwë-naz*, *wë-*, (h)wə- *conj* [ME (Sc) *when as*, fr. ME *when + as*] (15c) *archaic*: WHEN

whence *n* *hwën(t)s*, *wën(t)s* *adv* [ME *whennes*, fr. *whenne* whence (fr. OE *hwanon*) + *-s*, adv. suffix, fr. *-s*, gen. sing. ending; akin to OHG *hwanān* whence, OE *hwā* who] (13c): from what place, source, or cause (then ~ comes this paradox —*Changing Times*) — **from whence**: from what place, source, or cause (no one could tell me from whence the gold had come —Graham Greene)

whence *conj* (13c) 1: from what place, source, or cause (inquired ~ the water came —Maria Edgeworth) 2 a: from or out of which place, source, or cause (the lawless society ~ the ballads sprang —DeLancey Ferguson) b: by reason of which fact: WHEREFORE (nothing broke ~ I infer that my bones are not yet chalky —O. W. Holmes 1935)

whence-so-ev-er *n* *hwën(t)s-sə-we-vər*, *wën(t)s-sə-* *conj* (1511): from whatever place or source

when-ev-er *n* *hwë-ne-vər*, *wë-*, (h)wə- *conj* (14c): at any or every time that

whenever *adv* (ca. 1576): at whatever time

when-so-ev-er *n* *hwën(t)s-sə-we-vər*, *wën(t)s-sə-* *conj* (14c): WHENEVER

whenever *adv* (1526) *obs*: at any time whatever

where *n* *hwër*, *wër*, (h)wər *adv* [ME, fr. OE *hwær*; akin to OHG *hwār* where, OE *hwā* who — more at WHO] (bef. 12c) 1 a: at, in, or to what place (~ is the house) (~ are we going) b: at, in, or to what situation, position, direction, circumstances, or respect (~ does this plan lead) (~ am I wrong) 2 *archaic*: HERE, THERE (lo, ~ it comes again —Shak.)

where *conj* (12c) 1 a: at, in, or to what place (knows ~ the house is) b: at, in, or to what situation, position, direction, circumstances, or respect (shows ~ the plan leads) c: the place or point at, in, or to which (couldn't see from ~ he was sitting) (kept that horse and gentled him to ~ I finally rode him —William Faulkner) 2: WHERE-EVER (goes ~ she likes) 3 a: at, in, or to which place (the town ~ she lives) b: at or in which (has reached the size ~ traffic is a problem) (two fireplaces ~ you can bake bread in the ovens —Randall Jarrell) 4 a: at, in, or to the place at, in, or to which (stay ~ you