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adapted or arranged for people confined to wheelchairs, as *wheelchair housing*, *wheelchair Olympics*, etc. **wheel clamp** *n* a device used by traffic authorities, etc to immobilize an illegally parked vehicle until it is removed after payment of a fine. **wheel-clamp** *vt*. **wheel-cut** *adj* (of glass) cut, or ground and polished, on a wheel. **wheel-cutter** *n* a machine for cutting teeth on wheels. **wheel'er-deal'er** *n*. **wheel'er-deal'ing** *n* (*inf*; *orig* US) shrewd dealing or bargaining to one's maximum advantage in business, politics, etc, esp without regard for others' interests. **wheel'horse** *n* one of the horses next to the wheels in a team. **wheel'house** *n* a shelter in which a ship's steering-wheel is placed; a paddle box; a prehistoric wheel-shaped dwelling. **wheelie bin** *n* a large dustbin on wheels. **wheel lock** *n* (*hist*) (a gun having) a lock in which sparks are struck off a flint by a small steel wheel. **wheel'man** *n* a steersman (also **wheels'man**); a cyclist. **wheel of fortune** *n* Fortune's wheel (see *n* above); a gambling device. **wheel of life** *n* an optical toy giving an illusion of animation, a zoetrope. **wheel plough** *n* a plough running on wheels, or one the depth of whose furrow is regulated by a wheel. **wheel race** *n* the part of a channel in which the water wheel is fixed. **wheel spin** *n* rotation of the wheels of a vehicle without the purchase required for forward or backward movement. **wheel window** *n* a circular window with radiating tracery, a rose window. **wheel'work** *n* a combination of wheels and their connection in machinery. **wheel'wright** *n* a maker of wheels and wheeled carriages. ■ **at the wheel** driving a vehicle or steering a boat. **big wheel** a Ferris wheel; a person of importance or self-importance. **break a butterfly** (or **fly**, etc) **on the wheel** to inflict a punishment out of all proportion to the offence; to employ great exertions for insignificant ends. **go on wheels** to move swiftly, smoothly, and hence pleasantly. **left** (or **right**) **wheel** (a command to perform) a swing to the left (or right). **put a spoke in someone's wheel** see under **spoke**². **put one's shoulder to the wheel** see under **shoulder**. **take the wheel** to take charge or control. **wheel and deal** (*inf*; *orig* US) to engage in wheeler-dealing. **wheeling and dealing** (*inf*; *orig* US) same as **wheeler-dealing** above. **wheels within wheels** said of a situation in which a complication of influences is at work.

when /hwēn or wēn/ (*Scot*) *n* a few. ♦ *adj* (*obs*) few. [OE hwæne, from hwoōn, adv, a little]

■ **a when** a few; a good many; (used adverbially) a little.

whenge see **whinge**.

wheep /hwēpl or wēpl/ (*Scot*) *vi* to make a long-drawn-out cry such as that of the curlew; to whistle feebly (also *vt*). ♦ *n* a whistling noise. [Imit]

wheesh see **whish**².

wheesh see **whisht**.

Wheson /wē'sun or hwē/ (*Shakesp*, 2 Henry IV II.1.85) *n* Whitsun.

wheeze /wēz or hwēz/ *vi* to breathe with a hissing sound; to breathe audibly or with difficulty. ♦ *vt* to utter with such a sound. ♦ *n* the act or sound of wheezing; a gag (*theatre* *sl*); a catchphrase (*sl*); a standard joke (*sl*); a cunning plan (*inf*). [Prob ON hvæsa to hiss]

■ **wheez'er** *n*. **wheez'ily** *adv*. **wheez'iness** *n*. **wheez'ing** *n*. **wheez'ingly** *adv*. **wheez'le** *vi* (*Scot*) to make wheezy sounds. **wheez'y** *adj*.

whaft see **waft**.

whelk¹ /welk or hwelk/ *n* a popular name for a number of marine gastropods, esp applied to species of the genus *Buccinum* common on the coasts of northern seas. [Wrong form of older *welk*, from OE *wiloc*, *weoluc*; origin obscure]

■ **whelked** *adj* ridged like a whelk. **whelk'y** *adj* knobby, rounded; formed in a shell (*Spenser*, *Virgil's* *Gnat*, 105).

whelk² /welk or hwelk/ *n* a pimple; by confusion with **wale**¹, the mark of a stripe on the body, a wrinkle, an inequality or protuberance. [Late OE (WSax) *hwylca*, from *hwelian* to suppurate]

whelk'd see **welk**.

whelm /welm or hwelm/ (*archaic*) *vt* to turn (eg a hollow vessel) upside down, esp so as to cover something else (now *dialect*); to cover completely in such a way (*obs*), or with eg water, etc; to overturn, overthrow; to plunge deep; to submerge; to overpower; to overburden; to ruin, destroy; to pass over in such a way as to submerge. ♦ *n* the overwhelming surge of waves (*poetic*); a watercourse constructed from hollowed, inverted tree trunks. [ME *whelmen* to turn over]

whelp /welp or hwelp/ *n* a young dog, a puppy; the cub of a bear, wolf, lion or tiger (*archaic*); (contemptuously) a young man; a ridge running longitudinally on the barrel or drum of a capstan or windlass to control the cable; a sprocket on a wheel. ♦ *vi* and *vt* to bring forth (young). [OE *hwelp*; ON *hwelp*]

whemmle /weml or hweml/, **whomble**, **whommle** /woml or hwoml/ or **whummle** /wuml or hwuml/ (*dialect*) *n* an overthrow,

overturn; confusion. ♦ *vt* to overturn; to turn upside down; to throw into a state of disorder or agitation; to move from side to side; to cover eg with an inverted dish. ♦ *vi* to capsize. [By metathesis from **whelm**]

when /wen or hwen/ *adv* (*interrog* and *relative*) and *conj* at what time?; at which time; at or after the time that; upon or after which; while; although; at which (or *relative pronoun*). ♦ *n* (the question of) the time at which something happened or is to happen. ♦ *interj* (*Shakesp*) an exclamation of impatience, like *what!* [OE *hwanne*, *hwonne* (Ger *wann*, *wenn*); from the stem of interrog pronoun *hwā* who]

□ **whenas'** *conj* (*archaic*) when; in as much as; whereas. **whenev'er** (or *literary*) **whene'er** /wen-ār' or hwen-ār' / *conj* at every time when; as soon as (*Scot*). **whensoev'er** (or *literary*) **whensoe'er** /wen-sō-ār' or hwen-sō-ār' / *conj* at whatsoever time.

■ **or whenever** (*inf*) or at any comparable time. **say when** (*inf*) tell me when to stop, *specif* when pouring a drink. **seldom when** (*Shakesp*) seldom that.

whence /wens or hwens/ *adv* and *conj* (also **from whence**) from what place; from which place?; from which things; wherefore. ♦ *n* a place of origin; a source. [ME *whennes*, *whannes*]

□ **whenceforth'** *adv* (*Spenser*) whence. **whencesoev'er** or **whencev'er** *conj* from whatsoever place, cause or source.

whenua /fēn'oo-a/ (NZ) *n* land. [Maori]

wher see **whether**.

where /wār or hwār/ *adv* (*interrog* and *relative*) and *conj* at or to which place; at what place?; to what place?; from what source; to a, or the, place in or from which (*archaic*); in what circumstances or condition; at what point; whereas; wherever; (a or the place) in, at or to which (or *relative pronoun*). ♦ *n* (the question of) the location or destination of something. [OE *hwær*, *hwār*; from stem of *who*; cf *there*] ■ **where'ness** *n* the state of having place or position; position, situation.

□ **whereabout'** or **whereabouts'** *adv* and *conj* near what?; approximately where?; about which, about where; on what business (*Shakesp*). ♦ *n* /wār' or hwār' / (*usu* **whereabouts**; *sing* or *pl*) one's (esp approximate) location. **whereafter** *conj* after which.

whereagainst' *adv* and *conj* (*archaic*) against which. **whereas'** *adv* and *conj* when in fact; but on the contrary; taking into consideration, in view of, the fact that; where (*obs*). **whereat'** *adv* and *conj* at which;

at what? **whereby'** *adv* and *conj* by which. **wherefor'** *adv* and *conj* (*formal*) for which. **wherefore** /-fār/ *adv* and *conj* for which, or what, reason; why? ♦ *n* the cause. **wherefrom'** *adv* and *conj* (*archaic*) whence. **wherein'** *adv* and *conj* (*formal*) in which place or respect; in what? **whereinsoev'er** *adv* and *conj* (*archaic*) in whatsoever place or respect. **wherein'to** (or /-in-too'/) *adv* and *conj* (*archaic*) into which; into what? **whereof** *adv* and *conj* (*formal*) of which; wherewith (*Shakesp*); of what? **whereon'** *adv* and *conj* (*archaic*) on which; on what? **whereout'** *adv* and *conj* (*archaic*) out of which. **wheresoev'er** (or *old*) **where'so** or **wheresoe'er** /wār-sō-ār' or hwar-sō-ār' / *adv* and *conj* (*literary*) in or to whatsoever place; whencesoev'er (*archaic*). **wherethrough'** *adv* and *conj* (*archaic*) through which; through the agency of which. **whereto'** *adv* and *conj* (*formal*) to which; to what? **whereun'der** *adv* and *conj* (*formal*) under which. **whereuntil'** *adv* and *conj* (*Shakesp*) to what. ♦ *adv* and *conj* whereunto. **whereun'to** (or /-un-too'/) *adv* and *conj* (*archaic*) whereto; for what purpose? **whereupon'** *adv* and *conj* upon or in consequence of which; on what grounds (*Shakesp*). **wherev'er** (or *literary*) **where'er** /wār-ār' or hwār-ār' / *adv* and *conj* at whatever place. **wherewith'** *adv* and *conj* with which?; with what. **wherewithal** /wār-wi-dhōl' or hwār-wi-dhōl' / *adv* and *conj* with which?; with what. ♦ *n* /wār' or hwār' / the means.

■ **from where** whence; from the, or a, place where. **or wherever** (*inf*) or in (or towards) any comparable place. **see**, **look**, etc **where** behold. **tell someone where to get off** (*inf*) to tell someone that his or her behaviour will not be tolerated. **where away?** a query as to the direction of an object sighted by the lookout (*naut*); where are you going? (*dialect*). **where it is** (*inf*) the real situation, point or explanation. **where it's at** (*sl*) (the scene of) whatever is considered to be the most important, exciting, trendy, etc. **where you are** (*inf*) what you are saying or getting at.

wherret see **whirret**.

wherry /wer'i or hwer'i/ *n* (*pl* **wherr'ies**) a light shallow boat, sharp at both ends for speed; a kind of barge. [Ety dubious]

□ **wherry'man** *n* a man employed in a wherry, esp one who rows a wherry.

whet /wet or hwet/ (**whett'ing**; **whett'ed**) to sharpen by rubbing; to make keen; to excite; to incite (*obs*); to preen (*obs*; *rare*). ♦ *n* an act of sharpening; sharpness; a time, occasion (*dialect*); an incitement or stimulus; something that sharpens the appetite; an appetizer. [OE *hwettan*, cognate with *hwæt* sharp; Ger *wetzen*]

■ **whett'er** *n*.