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mat-in \ˈma-tən\ *adj* [ME, fr. AF] (14c): of or relating to matins or to early morning

mat-in-al \ˈma-tə-nəl\ *adj* (1803) 1: of or relating to matins 2: EARLY

mat-i-nee or **mat-i-née** \ma-tə-ˈnē\ *n* [F *matinée*, lit., morning, fr. OF, fr. *matin* morning, fr. L *matutinum*, fr. neut. of *matutinus* of the morning, fr. *Matuta*, goddess of morning; akin to L *maturus* ripe — more at MATURE] (1856): a musical or dramatic performance or social or public event held in the daytime and esp. the afternoon

matinee idol *n* (1902): a handsome male performer

mat-ins \ˈma-tɪnz\ *n pl* but sing or *pl* in constr. often cap [ME *matines*, fr. AF, fr. LL *matutinae*, fr. L, fem. pl. of *matutinus*] (14c) 1: the night office forming with lauds the first of the canonical hours 2: MORNING PRAYER

matr- or **matr-i-** or **matro-** *comb form* [L *matr-*, *matr-i-*, fr. *matr-*, *mater*] : mother <matrarchy> <matronymic>

ma-tri-arch \ˈmā-trē-ˈärk\ *n* (1606): a woman who rules or dominates a family, group, or state; *specif*: a mother who is head and ruler of her family and descendants — **ma-tri-ar-cha** \ˈmā-trē-ˈär-kə\ *adj*

ma-tri-ar-chate \ˈmā-trē-ˈär-kət-, -kāt\ *n* (1884): MATRIARCHY 1

ma-tri-ar-chy \ˈmā-trē-ˈär-kē\ *n, pl -chies* (1885) 1: a family, group, or state governed by a matriarch 2: a system of social organization in which descent and inheritance are traced through the female line

ma-tri-cide \ˈmā-trə-ˈsɪd-, -mā-\ *n* (1594) 1 [L *matricidium*, fr. *matr-* + *-cidium* -cide]: murder of a mother by her son or daughter 2 [L *matricida*, fr. *matr-* + *-cida* -cide]: one that murders his or her mother — **ma-tri-cid-al** \ˈmā-trə-ˈsɪ-dəl-, -mā-\ *adj*

ma-tric-u-late \ˈmā-ˈtri-kyə-ˈlāt\ *vb -lat-ed; -lat-ing* [ML *matriculatus*, pp. of *matriculare*, fr. LL *matricula* public roll, dim. of *matric-*, *matrix* list, fr. L, breeding female] *vt* (1577): to enroll as a member of a body and esp. of a college or university ~ *vi*: to become matriculated — **ma-tric-u-lant** \-lənt\ *n* — **ma-tric-u-la-tion** \-tri-kyə-ˈlā-shən\ *n*

ma-tri-lin-eal \ˈmā-trə-ˈli-nē-əl-, -mā-\ *adj* (1904): relating to, based on, or tracing descent through the maternal line (<~ society> — **ma-tri-lin-eal-ly** \-nē-əl-ē\ *adv*

mat-ri-mo-nial \ˈmā-trə-ˈmō-nē-əl-, -nyəl\ *adj* (15c): of or relating to marriage, the married state, or married persons — **mat-ri-mo-nial-ly** *adv*

mat-ri-mo-ny \ˈmā-trə-ˈmō-nē\ *n* [ME, fr. AF *matrimoine*, fr. L *matrimonium*, fr. *matr-*, *mater* mother, *matron* — more at MOTHER] (14c): the union of man and woman as husband and wife: MARRIAGE

matrimony vine *n* (ca. 1818): a shrub or vine (genus *Lycium*) of the nightshade family with often showy flowers and usu. red berries

ma-trix \ˈmā-triks\ *n, pl ma-tri-ces* \ˈmā-trə-ˈsēs-, -mā-\ or **ma-trix-es** \ˈmā-triks-səz\ [L, female animal used for breeding, parent plant, fr. *matr-*, *mater*] (1555) 1: something within or from which something else originates, develops, or takes form 2 *a*: a mold from which a relief surface (as a piece of type) is made *b*: DIE 3a(1) *c*: an engraved or inscribed die or stamp *d*: an electroformed impression of a phonograph record used for mass-producing duplicates of the original 3 *a*: the natural material (as soil or rock) in which something (as a fossil or crystal) is embedded *b*: material in which something is enclosed or embedded (as for protection or study) 4 *a*: the extracellular substance in which tissue cells (as of connective tissue) are embedded *b*: the thickened epithelium at the base of a fingernail or toenail from which new nail substance develops 5 *a*: a rectangular array of mathematical elements (as the coefficients of simultaneous linear equations) that can be combined to form sums and products with similar arrays having an appropriate number of rows and columns *b*: something resembling a mathematical matrix esp. in rectangular arrangement of elements into rows and columns *c*: an array of circuit elements (as diodes and transistors) for performing a specific function 6: a main clause that contains a subordinate clause

ma-tron \ˈmā-trən\ *n* [ME *matrone*, fr. AF, fr. L *matrona*, fr. *matr-*, *mater*] (14c) 1 *a*: a married woman usu. marked by dignified maturity or social distinction *b*: a woman who supervises women or children (as in a school or police station) *c*: the chief officer in a women's organization 2: a female animal kept for breeding

ma-tron-ly \ˈmā-trən-lē\ *adj* (1656): having the character of or suitable to a matron

matron of honor (1903): a bride's principal married wedding attendant — compare MAID OF HONOR

mat-ro-ny-m-ic \ˈmā-trə-ˈni-mik\ *n* [*matr-* + *-onymic* (as in *patronymic*)] (1794): a name derived from that of the mother or a maternal ancestor

mat-su-ta-ke \ˈmāt-sū-ˈtā-kē-, -kā\ *n, pl matsutake* also **matsutakes** [Jp *matsu-take*, *matsudake*, fr. *matsu* pine tree + *take* mushroom] (1883): a large brownish edible Japanese mushroom (*Tricholoma matsutake*) having firm flesh and a spicy aroma; also: a large whitish mushroom (*Tricholoma magnivelere* syn. *Armillaria ponderosa*) of northern No. America that is similar to the Japanese matsutake

Matt *abbr* Matthew

matte or **mat** *var of* MAT 1

matte also mat or **mat** \ˈmāt\ *adj* [F *mat*, fr. OF, faded, defeated] (ca. 1648): lacking or deprived of luster or gloss: as *a*: having a usu. smooth even surface free from shine or highlights (<~ metals>) (<~ finish>) *b*: having a rough or granular surface

matte \ˈmāt\ *n* [F, fr. MF, crude metal, curdled milk, fr. fem. of *mat* thick, dull, matte] (1839) 1: a crude mixture of sulfides formed in smelting sulfide ores of metals (as copper, lead, or nickel) 2: a motion-picture effect in which part of a scene is blocked out and later replaced by footage containing other material (as a background painting)

mat-ter \ˈma-tər\ *n* [ME *matere*, fr. AF, fr. L *materia* matter, physical substance, fr. *mater*] (13c) 1 *a*: a subject under consideration *b*: a subject of disagreement or litigation *c pl*: the events or circumstances of a particular situation *d*: the subject or substance of a discourse or writing *e*: something of an indicated kind or having to do with an indicated field or situation (this is a serious ~) (<~ as ~ of policy>) (<~ of faith>) *f*: something to be proved in law *g obs*: sensible or serious material as distinguished from nonsense or drollery *h* (1) *obs*: REASON, CAUSE (2) *a*: a source esp. of feeling or emotion *i*: PROBLEM, DIFFICULTY 2 *a*: the substance of which a physical object is composed *b*: material substance that occupies space, has mass, and is composed predominantly of atoms consisting of protons, neutrons, and

electrons, that constitutes the observable universe, and that is interconvertible with energy *c*: a material substance of a particular kind or for a particular purpose <vegetable ~> *d* (1): material (as feces or urine) discharged from the living body (2): material discharged by suppuration: PUS 3 *a*: the indeterminate subject of reality; esp: the element in the universe that undergoes formation and alteration *b*: the formless substratum of all things which exists only potentially and upon which form acts to produce realities 4: a more or less definite amount or quantity <cooks in a ~ of minutes> 5: something written or printed 6: MAIL 7 *Christian Science*: the illusion that the objects perceived by the physical senses have the reality of substance — as a **matter of fact**: in fact: ACTUALLY — **for that matter**: so far as that is concerned — **no matter**: without regard to: irrespective of <points in the same direction no matter how it is tilted> — **no matter what**: regardless of the costs, consequences, or results <wants to win, no matter what> — **the matter**: WRONG <nothing's the matter with me>

matter vi (1530) 1: to form or discharge pus: SUPPURATE (<~ing wound>) 2: to be of importance: SIGNIFY

matter of course (1739): something that is to be expected as a natural or logical consequence

mat-ter-of-fact \ˈma-tər-ə(v)-ˈfakt\ *adj* (1712): adhering to the unembellished facts; also: being plain, straightforward, or unemotional — **mat-ter-of-fact-ly** \-ˈfak(t)-lē\ *adv* — **mat-ter-of-fact-ness** \-ˈfak(t)-nəs\ *n*

mat-tery \ˈma-tə-rē\ *adj* (14c): producing or containing pus or material resembling pus <eyes all ~>

Mat-the-an or **Mat-thae-an** \ˈma-ˈthē-ən-, mæ-\ *adj* [LL *Matthaeus*] (1897): of, relating to, or characteristic of the evangelist Matthew or the gospel ascribed to him

Mat-thew \ˈma-(θ)hyū also -ˈ(θ)thū\ *n* [F *Mathieu*, fr. LL *Matthaeus*, fr. Gk *Matthaios*, fr. Heb *Matthyah*] (14c) 1: an apostle traditionally identified as the author of the first Gospel in the New Testament 2: the first Gospel in the New Testament — see BIBLE table

matting n (ca. 1847) 1: material for mats 2: MATS

matting n [fr. gerund of *mat*] (1854): a dull lusterless surface (as on gilding, metalwork, or satin)

mat-tins *often cap, chiefly Brit var of MATINS*

mat-tock \ˈma-tək\ *n* [ME *mattoek*, fr. OE *mattuc*] (bef. 12c): a digging and grubbing tool with features of an adze and an ax or pick

mat-tress \ˈma-trəs\ *n* [ME *materas*, fr. AF, fr. ML *materacium*, fr. Ar *matrah* place where something is thrown] (14c) 1 *a*: a fabric case filled with resilient material (as cotton, hair, feathers, foam rubber, or an arrangement of coiled springs) used either alone as a bed or on a bedstead *b*: an inflatable airtight sack for use as a mattress 2: a device (as of interwoven brush and poles) used to protect a shoreline, bank, or streambed from erosion

mat-u-rate \ˈma-cho-ˈrāt\ *vb -rat-ed; -rat-ing* (1622): MATURE

mat-u-ra-tion \ˈma-cho-ˈrā-shən\ *n* (1541) 1 *a*: the process of becoming mature *b*: the emergence of personal and behavioral characteristics through growth processes *c*: the final stages of differentiation of cells, tissues, or organs 2 *a*: the entire process by which diploid gamete-producing cells are transformed into haploid gametes that includes both meiosis and physiological and structural changes *b*: SPERMIOGENESIS — **mat-u-ra-tion-al** \-shənəl-, -shə-nəl\ *adj*

ma-ture \ˈmā-tūr-, -tyūr also -ˈchūr\ *adj* **ma-tur-er; -est** [ME, fr. L *maturus* ripe; akin to L *mane* in the morning, *manus* good] (15c) 1: based on slow careful consideration (<~ judgment>) 2 *a* (1): having completed natural growth and development: RIFE (2): having undergone maturation *b*: having attained a final or desired state (<~ wine>) *c*: having achieved a low but stable growth rate <paper is a ~ industry> *d*: of, relating to, or being an older adult: ELDERLY (airline discounts for ~ travelers) 3 *a*: of or relating to a condition of full development *b*: characteristic of or suitable to a mature individual (<~ outlook>) (<~ show with ~ content>) 4: due for payment (<~ loan>) 5: belonging to the middle portion of a cycle of erosion — **ma-ture-ly** *adv*

ma-ture vb **ma-tured; ma-tur-ing** *vt* (15c): to bring to maturity or completion ~ *vi* 1: to become fully developed or ripe 2: to become due

ma-tu-ri-ty \ˈmā-tūr-ə-tē-, -tyūr- also -ˈchūr-\ *n* (15c) 1: the quality or state of being mature; esp: full development 2: termination of the period that an obligation has to run

ma-tu-ri-tal \ˈma-cho-ˈtē-nəl-, -tyūr-, -tyū-tə-nəl-, -tyū-\ *adj* [LL *matutinalis*, fr. L *matutinus* — more at MATINEE] (ca. 1656): of, relating to, or occurring in the morning: EARLY — **ma-tu-ri-tal-ly** *adv*

MATV *abbr* master antenna television

mat-zo or **mat-zoh** \ˈmāt-sō also -(j)sō\ *n, pl mat-zoth* \-sōt-, -sōth-, -sōs\ or **mat-zos** or **mat-zohs** \-səz-, -səs also -sōz\ [Yiddish *matse*, fr. Heb *maṣṣāh*] (1650) 1: unleavened bread eaten esp. at the Passover 2: a wafer of matzo

matzo ball *n* (1917): a small ball-shaped dumpling made from matzo meal

maud-lln \ˈmōd-lən\ *adj* [alter. of Mary Magdalene; fr. her depiction as a weeping penitent] (1509) 1: drunk enough to be emotionally silly 2: weakly and effusively sentimental

mau-gré \ˈmō-gər\ *prep* [ME, fr. AF *malgré*, fr. *malgré* ill will, fr. *mal*, mau evil + *gré* grace, favor] (13c) *archaic*: in spite of

maul \ˈmōl\ *n* [ME *malle* mace, maul, fr. AF *mail*, fr. L *malleus*; akin to OCS *mlati* hammer, L *molere* to grind — more at MEAL] (13c): a heavy often wooden-headed hammer used esp. for driving wedges; also: a tool like a sledgehammer with one wedge-shaped end that is used to split wood

maul vi (13c) 1: BEAT, BRUISE 2: MANGLE 1 3: to handle roughly — **maul-er** *n*

maul-stick also **mahl-stick** \ˈmōl-stik\ *n* [part trans. of D *maalstok*, fr. obs. D *malen* to paint + D *stok* stick, stock] (ca. 1658): a stick used by painters as a rest for the hand while working

mau-mau \ˈmau-, mau\ *vb* **mau-maued; mau-mau-ing** *often cap* both *Ms* [Mau Mau, anti-European secret society in colonial Kenya] (1970): to intimidate (as an official) by hostile confrontation or threats ~ *vi*: to engage in mau-mauing someone