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and is given to children by women rather than men
 ☞ Compare **patriarchy**.

matricide /ˈmæt.rɪ.said/ /ˈmeɪ.trɪ-/ *noun* [U] a crime in which a person kills their mother ☞ Compare **parricide**; **patricide**.

matriculate /məˈtrɪk.ju.leɪt/ *verb* [I] **FORMAL** to be formally admitted to study at a university or college
matriculation /məˈtrɪk.ju.leɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [C or U]

matrimony /ˈmæt.rɪ.mə.ni/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** the state of being married

matrimonial /ˈmæt.rɪ.məʊ.ni.əl/ ☞ /-ˈmou-/ *adj* **FORMAL** related to marriage or people who are married

matrix **[DEVELOPMENT]** /ˈmeɪ.trɪks/ *noun* [C] *plural* **matrices** or **matrixes** **FORMAL** the set of conditions which provides a background in which something grows or develops: *Europe is remaking itself politically within the matrix of the European Community.*

matrix **[MATHEMATICS]** /ˈmeɪ.trɪks/ *noun* [C] *plural* **matrices** or **matrixes** **SPECIALIZED** a group of numbers or other symbols arranged in a rectangle which can be used together as a single unit to solve particular mathematical problems

matrix **[SUBSTANCE]** /ˈmeɪ.trɪks/ *noun* [C or U] *plural* **matrices** or **matrixes** **SPECIALIZED** a substance in which other things are fixed, buried, etc: *The fossils lie embedded in a matrix of shale and sandstone.*

matron **[SCHOOL]** /ˈmeɪ.trɒn/ *noun* [C] **UK OLD-FASHIONED** a female nurse in a school

matron **[HOSPITAL]** /ˈmeɪ.trɒn/ *noun* [C] **UK OLD-FASHIONED FOR** senior nursing officer

matron **[PRISON]** /ˈmeɪ.trɒn/ *noun* [C] **US** a woman who is in charge of female prisoners

matron **[MARRIED WOMAN]** /ˈmeɪ.trɒn/ *noun* [C] **US** a married woman, especially one who is old or a widow (= a woman whose husband has died)

matronly /ˈmeɪ.trɒn.li/ *adj* **OFTEN DISAPPROVING** describes a woman, usually one who is not young, who is fat and does not dress in a fashionable way

matte **UK, US** /ˈmæ.tə/ *adj* describes a surface or colour or paint that is not shiny: *The paint is available in matte or gloss finish.* ☞ Compare **emulsion**; **gloss** **APPEARANCE**.

matted /ˈmæ.tɪd/ ☞ /ˈmæ.t-/ *adj* ☞ See at **mat** **LAYER**.

matter **[SITUATION]** /ˈmæt.ə/ ☞ /ˈmæt.ɜ:/ *noun* [C] a situation or subject which is being dealt with or considered: *Could I talk to you about a personal matter?* ☞ *Alois denied any knowledge of the matter.* ☞ *Will you phone me back – it's a matter of some importance.* ☞ *Talking about the world's problems is one thing, but solving them is another matter altogether* (= is completely different).

• be a matter of confidence/luck/waiting, etc. If something is a matter of confidence/luck/waiting, etc. that is all you need for it to happen: *Baking a cake isn't difficult – it's just a matter of following the recipe.*

• for that matter used to show that a statement is true in another situation: *Ming's never been to Spain, or to any European country for that matter.*

• the matter in hand **UK (US the matter at hand)** the subject or situation being considered: *Do these figures have any bearing on the matter in hand?*

• as a matter of course If something is done as a matter of course, it is a usual part of the way in which things are done and is not special: *Safety precautions are observed as a matter of course.*

• be a matter of life and/or death to be very serious: *And if you miss the bus, well, it's not a matter of life and death.*

• be a matter of opinion If something is a matter of opinion, different people have different opinions about it: *Both performances were excellent, it's simply a matter of opinion as to whose was better.*

• That's a matter of opinion. said to show that you do not agree with something that has just been said: *"Anyway, she's a wonderful mother." "That's a matter of opinion."*

• be a matter of record If a fact is a matter of record, it is generally known to be true.

• be (only) a matter of time If it is (only) a matter of time until something happens, it is certain to happen but you do not know when it will happen: *It's only a matter of*

time before he's forced to resign.

• be no laughing matter to be very serious and not a situation that people should joke about: *Being arrested by the police is no laughing matter.*

• no matter **MAINLY UK** it is not a problem: *"I haven't got that form with me." "No matter – here's another."*

• no matter what/when/why, etc. used to emphasize that something cannot be changed: *I never seem to lose any weight, no matter how hard I try.* ☞ *Anyway, we've got to get to the airport on time, no matter what.*

matters /ˈmæt.əz/ ☞ /ˈmæt.ɜ:/ *plural noun* the situation being dealt with or being discussed: *Her resignation is not going to help matters.*

• to make matters worse used to say that something has made a bad or difficult situation worse: *Three of our players were ill, and to make matters worse, our main scorer had broken his ankle.*

• take matters into your own hands to deal with a problem yourself because the people who should have dealt with it have failed to do so: *When the police failed to catch her son's murderer, she decided to take matters into her own hands.*

matter **[BE IMPORTANT]** /ˈmæt.ə/ ☞ /ˈmæt.ɜ:/ *verb* [I] to be important, or to affect what happens: *We were late but it didn't seem to matter.* ☞ *"What did you say?" "Oh, it doesn't matter."* ☞ [+ question word] *It doesn't matter what you wear – just as long as you come.* ☞ [+ that] *It didn't matter that our best player was injured after 10 minutes – we still won.* ☞ *I know Charles doesn't think this project is important, but it matters to me.*

the matter **[PROBLEM]** *noun* [S] the reason for pain, worry or a problem: *What's the matter? Why are you crying?* ☞ *What's the matter with your hand? It's bleeding.* ☞ *Is anything the matter?* ☞ *I don't know what the matter is with the car, but it won't start.*

matter **[SUBSTANCE]** /ˈmæt.ə/ ☞ /ˈmæt.ɜ:/ *noun* [U] physical substance in the universe: *Some scientists believe that there is about ten times as much matter in the universe as astronomers have observed.*

matter **[TYPE]** /ˈmæt.ə/ ☞ /ˈmæt.ɜ:/ *noun* [U] a substance or things of a particular type: *advertising/printed matter* ☞ *Do you find the subject matter of the book (= the subject that the book deals with) interesting?*

matter **[SMALL AMOUNT]** /ˈmæt.ə/ ☞ /ˈmæt.ɜ:/ *noun* [S] used in expressions describing how small an amount or period of time is: *The interview was over in a matter of minutes.* ☞ *She complained he had short-changed her, but it was only a matter of a few pence.*

matter-of-fact /ˌmæt.ə.rəvˈfækt/ ☞ /ˌmæt.ɜ.əv-/ *adj* not showing feelings or emotion, especially in a situation when emotion would be expected: *He spoke in a very matter-of-fact way about the accident.* ☞ See also as a **matter of fact** at **fact**. **matter-of-factly** /ˌmæt.ə.rəvˈfækt.li/ ☞ /ˌmæt.ɜ.əv-/ *adv* **matter-of-factness** /ˌmæt.ə.rəvˈfækt.nəs/ ☞ /ˌmæt.ɜ.əv-/ *noun* [U]

matting /ˈmæt.ɪŋ/ ☞ /ˈmæt-/ *noun* [U] strong rough material, often woven, which is used to cover floors: *straw/coconut matting*

mattress /ˈmæt.rəs/ *noun* [C] the part of a bed, made of a strong cloth cover filled with firm material, which makes the bed comfortable to lie on

mature **[GROW PHYSICALLY]** /məˈtʃʊə/ ☞ /-ˈtʃʊə/ *verb* [I] to become completely grown physically: *Humans take longer to mature than most other animals.*

mature /məˈtʃʊə/ ☞ /-ˈtʃʊə/ *adj* completely grown physically: *a mature adult* ☞ *sexually mature* ☞ *Mature male gorillas have silver-grey hairs on their backs.* ☞ *mature oak trees*

maturity /məˈtʃʊə.rɪ.ti/ ☞ /-ˈtʃʊə.ti/ *noun* [U] the state of being completely grown physically: *How long does it take for the chicks to grow to maturity?*

maturation /ˌmæt.juˈreɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U] the process of becoming completely grown physically

mature **[DEVELOP MENTALLY]** /məˈtʃʊə/ ☞ /-ˈtʃʊə/ *verb* **MAINLY APPROVING** 1 [I or T] to become more developed mentally and emotionally and behave in a responsible way: *Girls are said to mature faster than boys.* ☞ *He matured a lot while he was at college.* 2 [I] If ideas, opinions, etc. mature, they reach an advanced or developed state: *It*