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New College Dictionary



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au·to·net·ics (ô′tō-nĕt′ĭks) *n.* [AUTO- + (CYBER)NETICS.] (*sing. in number*). The study of automatic guidance and control systems.
au·to·nom·ic (ô′tə-nŏm′ĭk) *adj.* 1. Autonomous : independent. 2. *Physiol.* Of or relating to the autonomic nervous system. 3. Resulting from internal causes : SPONTANEOUS. **—au′to·nom′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
autonomic nervous system *n.* The division of the vertebrate nervous system that regulates involuntary action, as of the intestines, heart, and glands, and comprises the sympathetic nervous system and the parasympathetic nervous system.
au·ton·o·mous (ô-tŏn′ə-məs) *adj.* [Gk. *autonomos*, self-ruling : *autos*, self + *nomos*, law.] 1. a. Independent. b. Self-contained. 2. a. Independent of the laws of another state or government : SELF-GOVERNING. b. Of or relating to an autonomy. 3. Autonomic. **—au·ton′o·mous·ly** *adv.*
au·ton·o·my (ô-tŏn′ə-mē) *n., pl.* **-mies.** [Gk. *autonomia* < *autonomos*, autonomous.] 1. The quality or condition of being self-governing. 2. The right of self-government : INDEPENDENCE. 3. A self-governing state, community, or group. **—au·ton′o·mist** *n.*
au·to·phyte (ô′tə-fīt′) *n.* An autotrophic plant. **—au′to·phyt′·ic** (-fĭt′ĭk) *adj.*
au·to·pil·er (ô′tō-pī′lər) *n.* [AUTO- + (COM)PILER.] *Computer Sci.* A specific automatic compiler.
au·to·pi·lot (ô′tō-pī′lət) *n.* An automatic pilot.
au·to·plas·ty (ô′tō-plăs′tē) *n.* Surgical replacement or repair with tissue taken from the patient's own body. **—au′to·plas′tic** *adj.* **—au′to·plas′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*
au·top·sy (ô′tŏp′sē, ô′təp-) *n., pl.* **-sies.** [Gk. *autopsia*, a seeing for oneself : *auto-*, self + *opsis*, sight.] 1. The examination of a corpse to determine the cause of death. 2. A critical examination or assessment. **—au·top′sic, au·top′si·cal** *adj.* **—au·top′sist** *n.*
au·to·route (ô′tō-rōōt′) *n.* [Fr. : *auto*, automobile + *route*, road.] An expressway in France and French-speaking countries.
au·to·some (ô′tə-sōm′) *n.* A chromosome that is not a sex chromosome. **—au′to·so′mal** (-sō′məl) *adj.*
au·to·stra·da (ou′tō-strä′də, ô′tō-) *n.* [Ital. : *auto*, automobile + *strada*, street < LLat. *strata*, paved road.] An expressway in Italy.
au·to·sug·ges·tion (ô′tō-səg-jĕs′chən) *n. Psychol.* The process by which a person promotes self-acceptance of an opinion, belief, or plan of action : SELF-HYPNOSIS. **—au′to·sug·gest′i·bil′i·ty** *n.* **—au′to·sug·gest′i·ble** *adj.* **—au′to·sug·ges′tive** *adj.*
au·tot·o·mize (ô-tŏt′ə-mīz′) *vt. & vi.* **-mized, -miz·ing, -miz·es.** To cause the autotomy of or to undergo autotomy.
au·tot·o·my (ô-tŏt′ə-mē) *n. Zool.* The spontaneous separation of a body part, as the tail of certain lizards, for self-protection. **—au′to·tom′ic** (ô′tə-tŏm′ĭk) *adj.*
au·to·tox·e·mi·a *also* **au·to·tox·ae·mi·a** (ô′tō-tŏk-sē′·mē-ə) *n. Pathol.* Autointoxication.
au·to·tox·in (ô′tō-tŏk′sĭn) *n.* A poison that acts on the organism in which it is generated. **—au′to·tox′ic** *adj.*
au·to·trans·form·er (ô′tō-trănz-fôr′mər) *n.* An electrical transformer in which the primary and secondary coils have some or all windings in common.
au·to·troph (ô′tə-trŏf′) *n.* [Back-formation < AUTOTROPHIC.] An autotrophic organism, as a green plant.
au·to·troph·ic (ô′tə-trŏf′ĭk, -trō′fĭk) *adj.* Designating or typical of plants or plantlike organisms capable of manufacturing their own food by synthesis of inorganic materials, as in photosynthesis. **—au′·to·troph′i·cal·ly** *adv.* **—au·tot′ro·phy** (ô-tŏt′rə-fē) *n.*
au·to·work·er (ô′tō-wûr′kər) *n.* One who works in the automobile industry.
au·tumn (ô′təm) *n.* [ME *autumpne* < OFr. < Lat. *autumnus*.] 1. The season of the year between summer and winter. 2. A period of maturity verging on decline. **—au·tum′nal** (-tŭm′nəl) *adj.* **—au·tum′nal·ly** *adv.*
autumn crocus *n.* A plant, indigenous to Europe and northern Africa, *Colchicum autumnale* with pink or purplish flowers that bloom in the autumn.
au·tun·ite (ô-tŭn′īt′, ô′tə-nīt′) *n.* [After *Autun*, France.] A yellowish fluorescent minor ore of uranium, $Ca(UO_2)_2(PO_4)_2·10H_2O$.
aux·e·sis (ôg-zē′sĭs, ôk-sē′-) *n.* [Gk. *auxēsis*, growth < *auxanein*, to grow.] An increase in the size of a cell without cell division. **—aux·et′ic** (-zĕt′ĭk) *adj.* **—aux·et′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
aux·il·ia·ry (ôg-zĭl′yə-rē, -zĭl′ə-rē) *adj.* [Lat. *auxiliarius* < *auxilium*, help.] 1. Giving or capable of giving assistance or support. 2. Acting as a subsidiary : SUPPLEMENTARY. 3. Held in or used as a reserve <*auxiliary* militia> 4. *Naut.* Equipped with a motor as well as sails. —*n., pl.* **-ries.** 1. An individual or group that assists or functions in an auxiliary capacity. 2. A member of a foreign body of troops serving a country in war. 3. An auxiliary verb. 4. *Naut.* A sailing vessel equipped with a motor. 5. A vessel, as a tug or supply ship, designed for and used in other than combat services.
auxiliary verb *n.* A verb, as *have, can,* or *will,* that accompanies particular forms of another verb of a clause to form a phrasal unit expressing person, number, tense, mood, voice, or aspect.
aux·in (ôk′sĭn) *n.* [< Gk. *auxein*, to grow.] Any of several plant hormones or similar substances produced synthetically that affect growth by causing the development of larger, elongated cells. **—aux·in′ic** *adj.* **—aux·in′i·cal·ly** *adv.*
Av (ôv, äb) *also* **Ab** (äb, äv, ôv) *n.* [Heb. *ābh* < Akkadian *abu.*] The 11th month of the year in the Jewish calendar. —See table at CALENDAR.
a·vail (ə-vāl′) *v.* **a·vailed, a·vail·ing, a·vails.** [ME *availen* : *a-* (intensive) + OFr. *valoir, vail-*, to be worth < Lat. *valēre.*] —*vt.* To be of use or advantage to : HELP <Can anything *avail* us now?> —*vi.* To be of use, value, or advantage : SERVE. —*n.* Use, benefit, or advantage <struggled to no *avail*> **—avail (oneself) of.** To make use of <Please *avail* yourself *of* our services.> **—a·vail′ing·ly** *adv.*
a·vail·a·ble (ə-vā′lə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Accessible for use : at hand. 2. Having the qualities and the willingness to take on a responsibility <a list of *available* baby-sitters> 3. *Archaic.* a. Capable of bringing about a desired end. b. Beneficial. **—a·vail′a·bil′i·ty, a·vail′a·ble·ness** *n.* **—a·vail′a·bly** *adv.*
av·a·lanche (ăv′ə-länch′) *n.* [Fr. < dial. Fr. *avalantse.*] 1. A fall or slide of a large mass of material, as snow, rock, or earth, down a mountainside. 2. Something resembling an avalanche <an *avalanche* of protests> —*v.* **-lanched, -lanch·ing, -lanch·es.** —*vi.* To fall, as an avalanche. —*vt.* To overwhelm.
avalanche lily *n.* [So called because it grows near the snow line and blooms when the snow begins to melt.] A plant, *Erythronium montanum* of western North America, with white flowers.
Av·a·lon (ăv′ə-lŏn′) *n.* A legendary island paradise to which King Arthur went at his death.
a·vant-garde (ä′vänt-gärd′) *n.* [Fr., vanguard.] A group active in the invention and application of new techniques in a given field, esp. in the arts. **—a′vant-garde′** *adj.*
av·a·rice (ăv′ə-rĭs) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *avaritia* < *avarus*, greedy < *avēre*, to desire.] Excessive desire for wealth : CUPIDITY.
av·a·ri·cious (ăv′ə-rĭsh′əs) *adj.* Excessively greedy, esp. for wealth. **—av′a·ri′cious·ly** *adv.* **—av′a·ri′cious·ness** *n.*
a·vast (ə-văst′) *interj. Naut.* —Used as a command to stop or desist.
av·a·tar (ăv′ə-tär′) *n.* [Skt. *avatāraḥ* : *ava*, down + *tarati*, he crosses.] 1. a. An incarnation or embodiment, as of a quality or concept. b. A varying manifestation or aspect of a particular entity. 2. The incarnation of esp. a Hindu deity in human form.
a·vaunt (ə-vônt′, ə-vänt′) *interj.* [ME < OFr. *avant.* —see VANGUARD.] *Archaic.* —Used as a command to be gone.
a·ve (ä′vā) *n.* [Lat., hail!] 1. An expression of greeting or farewell. 2. **Ave.** The Ave Maria.
A·ve Ma·ri·a (ä′vā mə-rē′ə) *n.* [ME < Med. Lat., hail, Mary.] The Hail Mary.
a·venge (ə-vĕnj′) *vt.* **a·venged, a·veng·ing, a·veng·es.** [ME *avengen* < OFr. *avengier* : *a-*, to (< Lat. *ad-*) + *vengier*, to vindicate < Lat. *vindicare.*] 1. To exact revenge or satisfaction for. 2. To take vengeance on behalf of. **—a·veng′er** *n.* **—a·veng′ing·ly** *adv.*
★ ***syns:*** AVENGE, REDRESS, REPAY, REQUITE, VINDICATE *v. core meaning* : to exact revenge for <*avenged* their child's murder>
av·ens (ăv′ənz) *n., pl.* **avens.** [ME *avence* < OFr.] 1. A plant of the genus *Geum*, with irregularly shaped leaves, white, yellow, or reddish flowers, and plumed seed clusters. 2. A plant of the genus *Dryas* of mountainous and arctic regions, related to the avens.
a·ven·tu·rine (ə-vĕn′chə-rēn′, -rĭn) *also* **a·ven·tu·rin** (-rĭn) *n.* [Fr. < *aventure*, accident (so called because of its accidental discovery). —see ADVENTURE.] 1. An opaque or semitranslucent brown glass flecked with small metallic particles, often of copper or chromic oxide. 2. A variety of quartz or feldspar flecked with particles of mica, hematite, or other materials. **—a·ven′tu·rine′** *adj.*
av·e·nue (ăv′ə-nōō′, -nyōō′) *n.* [Fr. < OFr., p.part. of *avenir*, to approach < Lat. *advenire*, to come to. —see ADVENT.] 1. A wide street or thorough fare. 2. a. A broad roadway lined with trees. b. *Chiefly Brit.* The drive leading from the main road up to a country house. 3. A means of approach or access <new *avenues* of negotiation>
a·ver (ə-vûr′) *vt.* **a·verred, a·ver·ring, a·vers.** [ME *averren* < OFr. *averer* < VLat. **adverare* : Lat. *ad-*, to + Lat. *verus*, true.] 1. To declare positively : AFFIRM. 2. *Law.* a. To assert formally as a fact. b. To prove or justify. **—a·ver′ment** *n.* **—a·ver′ra·ble** *adj.*
av·er·age (ăv′ər-ĭj, ăv′rĭj) *n.* [Obs. *averie*, shipping charges < OFr. *avarie*, damage to shipping < OItal. *avaria* < Ar. *'awārīyah*, damaged goods < *'awar*, blemish.] 1. *Math.* a. A number that typifies a set of numbers of which it is a function. b. The arithmetic mean. 2. A typical or usual level, degree, or kind. 3. *Law.* a. The incurrence of and loss due to damage at sea to a ship or cargo. b. The equitable distribution of such a loss among concerned parties. c. Charges incurred through such a loss. 4. Small expenses or charges that are usu. paid by the master of a ship. —*adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or being a mathematical average. 2. Typical : usual <of *average* height> 3. Assessed in compliance with the laws of average. —*v.* **-aged, -ag·ing, -ag·es.** —*vt.* 1. To calculate the average of. 2. To accomplish or obtain an average of <*average* $20 a night in tips> 3. To distribute proportionately. —*vi.* 1. To be or amount to an average. 2. To buy or sell more goods or shares to obtain more than an average price.
▲ ***word history*** The word *average* appears in English around 1500 as a maritime term referring to a customary contribution to cover damage or loss from

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continēre, to restrain. —see CONTAIN.] Exercising continence. **—con′ti·nent·ly** *adv.*

▲ ***word history:*** Although the noun *continent* and the adjective *continent* are derived from the same Latin word, they are treated as separate English words because they were borrowed at different times with different meanings. Both words are derived from Latin *continens,* the present participle of *continēre,* which has the basic meaning "to hold together." *Continēre,* which is also the ancestor of *contain,* was an important Latin word and had a wide range of meanings. From the sense "to restrain, hold back, subdue" the adjective *continent* is derived. The adjective appeared in the 14th century and from its introduction had the meaning "characterized by self-restraint." The Latin participle *continens* meant "continuous," and in the 16th century, during the great age of exploration and discovery, the noun *continent* came into use for land masses of various kinds. The word at first denoted any continuous tract of land but was also applied to a mainland as distinguished from islands or peninsulas, especially to the European continent in contrast to the British Isles. By the 17th century *continent* was used to refer to the large land masses called "continents" today.

con·ti·nen·tal (kŏn′tə-nĕn′tl) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or like a continent. **2.** *often* **Continental.** Of or relating to the mainland of Europe : EUROPEAN. **3. Continental.** Of or relating to the American colonies during and immediately after the Revolutionary War. —*n.* **1.** *often* **Continental.** An inhabitant of the mainland of Europe : EUROPEAN. **2. Continental.** A soldier in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. **3.** A piece of paper money issued by the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War. **—con′ti·nen′tal·ism** *n.* **—con′ti·nen′tal·ist** *n.* **—con′ti·nen·tal′i·ty** (-nĕn-tăl′ĭ-tē) *n.* **—con′ti·nen′tal·ly** *adv.*

continental breakfast *n.* Breakfast consisting usu. of coffee or tea and a roll.

continental code *n.* The international Morse code.

continental divide *n.* A divide that separates continental river systems flowing in opposite directions.

continental drift *n.* The theoretical slow shifting of continents due to weakness in the suboceanic crust.

continental shelf *n.* A generally shallow, flat submerged portion of a continent, extending to a point of steep descent to the ocean floor.

continental slope *n.* The steep descent from the continental shelf to the ocean bottom.

con·tin·gen·cy (kən-tĭn′jən-sē) *n., pl.* **-cies. 1. a.** An event that may occur but is not probable : POSSIBILITY. **b.** A possibility that must be prepared against. **2.** Dependency on chance : UNCERTAINTY. **3.** Something incidental to something else.

contingency fee *n.* A fee, as for an attorney, payable only in the event of a successful or satisfactory outcome.

contingency table *n.* A statistical table that shows the observed frequencies of a sample, with the rows indicating one variable and the columns another variable.

con·tin·gent (kən-tĭn′jənt) *adj.* [ME < Lat. *contingens,* pr.part. of *contingere,* to touch. —see CONTACT.] **1.** Likely but not certain to occur : POSSIBLE. **2.** Dependent on conditions or events not yet established : CONDITIONAL. **3.** Happening by accident or chance : FORTUITOUS. **4.** *Logic.* Possessing a truth value derived from facts apart from the proposition itself : not necessarily true or false. —*n.* **1.** A contingent event : CONTINGENCY. **2.** A share or quota, as of troops, contributed to a general effort. **3.** A representative group forming part of an assemblage. **—con·tin′gent·ly** *adv.*

con·tin·u·a (kən-tĭn′yōō-ə) *n. var. pl. of* CONTINUUM.

con·tin·u·al (kən-tĭn′yōō-əl) *adj.* **1.** Recurring regularly and frequently. **2. a.** Uninterrupted : steady. **b.** Continuous in time : INCESSANT <*continual* worry> **—con·tin′u·al·ly** *adv.*

con·tin·u·ance (kən-tĭn′yōō-əns) *n.* **1.** The act or fact of continuing. **2.** The time during which something exists or lasts : DURATION. **3.** A continuation : sequel. **4.** *Law.* Postponement of judicial proceedings to a future date.

con·tin·u·ant (kən-tĭn′yōō-ənt) *n.* A consonant, as *s, z,* or *f,* that can be prolonged while breath lasts without a change in quality.

con·tin·u·a·tion (kən-tĭn′yōō-ā′shən) *n.* **1. a.** The act or fact of continuing. **b.** The state of being continued. **2.** An extension by which something is carried to a further point. **3.** Resumption after an interruption.

con·tin·u·a·tive (kən-tĭn′yōō-ā′tĭv, -ə-tĭv) *adj.* Of, relating to, or serving to cause continuation. —*n.* Something that expresses or causes continuation. **—con·tin′u·a′tive·ly** *adv.*

con·tin·u·a·tor (kən-tĭn′yōō-ā′tər) *n.* One that continues, esp. one who resumes the work of another.

con·tin·ue (kən-tĭn′yōō) *v.* **-ued, -u·ing, -ues.** [ME *continuen* < Lat. *continuare* < *continuus,* continuous < *continēre,* to hold together. —see CONTAIN.] —*vi.* **1.** To go on with a particular action or in a particular condition : PERSIST. **2.** To exist over an extended period : LAST. **3.** To remain in the same state, capacity, or place. **4.** To go on after an interruption : RESUME. —*vt.* **1.** To carry forward : MAINTAIN <The investigators will *continue* their surveillance.> **2.** To carry further in time, space, or development : EXTEND. **3.** To cause to remain or last : RETAIN. **4.** To carry on after an interruption : RESUME. **5.** *Law.* To postpone or adjourn (a judicial proceeding). **—con·tin′u·a·ble** *adj.* **—con·tin′u·er** *n.*

continued fraction *n.* A fraction whose denominator consists of an integer plus a fraction that likewise has a denominator consisting of an integer plus a fraction and so on.

continuing education *n.* **1.** An educational program that brings participants up to date in a particular area of knowledge or skills. **2.** Education courses designed esp. for part-time, adult students.

con·ti·nu·i·ty (kŏn′tə-nōō′ĭ-tē, -nyōō′-) *n., pl.* **-ties. 1.** The quality or state of being continuous. **2.** An uninterrupted succession or unbroken course. **3. a.** A detailed shooting script consulted to avoid errors and discrepancies from shot to shot in a film. **b.** A script for all the spoken parts of a radio or television program.

con·tin·u·o (kən-tĭn′yōō-ō′) *n., pl.* **-os.** [Ital. < Lat. *continuus,* continuous.] *Mus.* A usu. keyboard accompaniment for a solo instrument in which numerals indicate the successive chords, the actual notes played being left to the performer.

con·tin·u·ous (kən-tĭn′yōō-əs) *adj.* [Lat. *continuus.* —see CONTINUE.] **1.** Uninterrupted : unbroken. **2.** *Math.* Designating a function of one or more variables in which the variation of its values can be made arbitrarily small in a sufficiently small neighborhood of every point in a given interval. **—con·tin′u·ous·ly** *adv.* **—con·tin′u·ous·ness** *n.*

★ ***syns:*** CONTINUOUS, CEASELESS, CONSTANT, CONTINUAL, ENDLESS, ETERNAL, EVERLASTING, INCESSANT, INTERMINABLE, NONSTOP, PERPETUAL, RELENTLESS, ROUND-THE-CLOCK, TIMELESS, UNCEASING, UNREMITTING *adj. core meaning* : existing or occurring without interruption or end <irritated by their *continuous* chatter> ***ant:*** DISCONTINUOUS

continuous creation theory *n.* Steady-state theory.

continuous spectrum *n.* A spectrum having no breaks, esp. a spectrum of radiation distributed over an uninterrupted range of wavelengths.

continuous variation *n. Genetics.* Variation within a population in which a graded series of intermediate phenotypes falls between the extremes.

continuous wave *adj.* Emitting or capable of emitting continuously : not pulsed. —Used esp. of lasers.

con·tin·u·um (kən-tĭn′yōō-əm) *n., pl.* **-tin·u·a** (-tĭn′yōō-ə) or **-tin·u·ums.** [Lat., neuter of *continuus,* continuous.] **1.** A continuous extent, succession, or whole no part of which can be distinguished from neighboring parts except by arbitrary division. **2.** *Math.* A set with the same number of points as all the real numbers in an interval.

con·tort (kən-tôrt′) *v.* **-tort·ed, -tort·ing, -torts.** [Lat. *contorquēre, contort-,* to twist : *com-* (intensive) + *torquēre,* to twist.] —*vt.* To twist severely out of shape : WRENCH. —*vi.* To become twisted into a forced expression or shape. **—con·tor′tion** *n.* **—con·tor′tive** *adj.*

con·tort·ed (kən-tôr′tĭd) *adj.* **1.** Twisted or wrenched out of shape. **2.** *Bot.* Twisted or bent upon itself. **—con·tort′ed·ly** *adv.* **—con·tort′ed·ness** *n.*

con·tor·tion·ist (kən-tôr′shə-nĭst) *n.* An acrobat who exhibits extraordinary bodily positions. **—con·tor′tion·is′tic** *adj.*

con·tour (kŏn′tōor′) *n.* [Fr. < Ital. *contorno* < *contornare,* to draw in outline : Lat. *com-* (intensive) + Lat. *tornare,* to round off < *tornus,* lathe.] **1. a.** The outline of a figure, body, or mass. **b.** A line representing such an outline. **2.** *often* **contours.** A surface, esp. of a curving form. **3.** A contour line. —*vt.* **-toured, -tour·ing, -tours. 1.** To make or shape the outline of. **2.** To build (e.g., a road) to follow the contour of the land. —*adj.* **1.** Following the contour lines of uneven terrain to reduce erosion of topsoil <*contour* plowing> **2.** Shaped to fit the outline or form of something <a *contour* seat>

contour feather *n.* One of the outermost feathers of a bird, forming the visible body contour and plumage.

contour line *n.* A line, as on a contour map, joining points of equal elevation.

contour map *n.* A map showing contour lines.

contra– *pref.* [ME < Lat. < *contra,* against.] **1.** Against : opposite : contrasting <*contra*position> **2.** Lower in pitch <*contra*bassoon>

con·tra·band (kŏn′trə-bănd′) *n.* [Ital. *contrabbando* : *contra-,* against (< Lat.) + *bando,* proclamation < LLat. *bannus.*] **1.** Goods barred by law or treaty from being imported or exported. **2. a.** Illegal traffic in contraband : SMUGGLING. **b.** Smuggled goods. **3.** Goods that may be seized and confiscated by a belligerent if shipped to another belligerent by a neutral power. **4.** An escaped slave who fled to or was taken behind Union lines during the Civil War. —*adj.* Barred from being imported or exported. **—con′tra·band′age** *n.* **—con′tra·band′ist** *n.*

con·tra·bass (kŏn′trə-bās′) [Obs. Ital. *contrabasso* : *contra-,* below (< Lat., against) + *basso,* bass.] *Mus.* —*n.* A double bass. —*adj.* Pitched an octave below the normal bass range. **—con′tra·bass′ist** (-bā′sĭst) *n.*

con·tra·bas·soon (kŏn′trə-bə-sōōn′, -bă-) *n.* The largest and lowest-pitched of the double-reed wind musical instruments, sounding an octave below the bassoon.

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flat horizontal band or member between architectural moldings, esp. in a classical entablature. **4.** (fä′shə). *Chiefly Brit.* The dashboard, as of a car. **—fas′ci·al** *adj.*

fas·ci·ate (făsh′ē-āt′) *also* **fas·ci·at·ed** (-ā′tĭd) *adj.* [Lat. *fasciatus*, p.part. of *fasciare*, to swathe < *fascia*, band.] **1.** *Bot.* Abnormally flattened or coalesced, as certain stems. **2.** *Zool.* Marked by broad bands of color, as certain insects.

fas·ci·a·tion (făs′ē-ā′shən, făsh′ē-) *n.* **1.** The act of binding up or fastening, as with bandages. **2.** The way in which something is bound up or fastened. **3.** *Bot.* An abnormal flattening or coalescence of stems or leaf stalks.

fas·ci·cle (făs′ĭ-kəl) *n.* [Lat. *fasciculus*, dim. of *fascis*, bundle.] **1.** A small bundle. **2.** *also* **fas·ci·cule** (-kyōōl′). One of the parts of a book published in separate sections. **3.** *Bot.* A bundlelike cluster, as of stems, flowers, or leaves. **4.** *Anat.* A fasciculus. **—fas′ci·cled** *adj.*

fas·cic·u·lar (fə-sĭk′yə-lər) *adj.* Of, relating to, or made up of fascicles. **—fas·cic′u·lar·ly** *adv.*

fas·cic·u·late (fə-sĭk′yə-lĭt) *also* **fas·cic·u·lat·ed** (-lā′tĭd) *adj.* Relating to or resembling a fascicle. **—fas·cic′u·late·ly** *adv.*

—fas·cic′u·la′tion *n.*

fas·ci·cule (făs′ĭ-kyōōl′) *n. var. of* fascicle 2.

fas·cic·u·lus (fə-sĭk′yə-ləs) *n., pl.* **-li** (-lī′) [Lat., fascicle.] A bundle of anatomical fibers, esp. a bundle of nerve fibers having common functions and connections.

fas·ci·nate (făs′ə-nāt′) *vt.* **-nat·ed, -nat·ing, -nates.** [Lat. *fascinare, fascinat-*, to enchant < *fascinum*, witchcraft.] —*vt.* **1.** To have a strong interest or attraction for. **2.** To hold motionless : SPELLBIND. **3.** *Obs.* To bewitch. —*vi.* To be irresistibly attractive.

fas·ci·nat·ing (făs′ə-nā′tĭng) *adj.* Having the power to charm or allure : CAPTIVATING. **—fas′ci·nat′ing·ly** *adv.*

fas·ci·na·tion (făs′ə-nā′shən) *n.* **1.** The power of fascinating. **2.** The state of being fascinated. **3.** A fascinating quality or trait.

fas·ci·na·tor (făs′ə-nā′tər) *n.* **1.** One that fascinates. **2.** A woman's head scarf.

fas·cine (fă-sēn′, fə-) *n.* [Fr. < Lat. *fascina* < *fascis*, bundle.] A bundle of sticks bound together for use in construction, as of fortresses and earthworks.

fas·ci·o·li·a·sis (fə-sē′ə-lī′ə-sĭs, -sī′-) *n.* [NLat. *Fasciola*, fluke genus + -IASIS.] Infestation with a trematode worm of the genus *Fasciola*.

fas·cism (făsh′ĭz′əm) *n.* [Ital. *fascismo* < *fascio*, group < Lat. *fascis*, bundle.] **1.** A philosophy or governmental system marked by stringent socioeconomic control, a strong central government usu. headed by a dictator, and often a belligerently nationalistic policy. **2.** Oppressive, dictatorial control. **—fas·cis′tic** (fə-shĭs′tĭk) *adj.*

fas·cist *or* **Fas·cist** (făsh′ĭst) *n.* [Ital. *fascista* < *fascio*, group. —see FASCISM.] An advocate or supporter of fascism.

Fa·scis·ti (fä-shē′stē) *pl.n.* [Ital., pl. of *fascista*, fascist.] The members of the Italian political organization led by Benito Mussolini.

fash·ion (făsh′ən) *n.* [ME *facioun* < OFr. *faceon* < Lat. *factio* < *factus*, p.part. of *facere*, to do.] **1.** The manner in which something is formed : CONFIGURATION. **2.** Kind or variety : SORT. **3.** A manner of performing : WAY. **4.** Current style or custom. **5.** A piece of clothing in the current style. **6.** The manners, customs, and mode of life typical of the upper classes. —*vt.* **-ioned, -ion·ing, -ions. 1. a.** To shape or form into. **b.** To train or influence into a specific state or character. **2.** To adapt, as to a purpose or occasion. **3.** *Obs.* To contrive. **—after (*or* in) a fashion.** In some way or other, esp. to a limited extent <They paint, *after a fashion*.> **—fash′ion·er** *n.*

★ *syns:* FASHION, CRAZE, CRY, MODE, RAGE, STYLE, THING, TREND, VOGUE *n. core meaning* : the current custom <jeans—the *fashion* of the day>

fash·ion·a·ble (făsh′ə-nə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Conforming to the current style. **2.** Of or associated with people who conform to the current fashion. —*n.* A stylish person. **—fash′ion·a·bil·i·ty** *n.* **—fash′ion·a·ble·ness** *n.* **—fash′ion·a·bly** *adv.*

★ *syns:* FASHIONABLE, CHIC, IN, MODISH, SHARP, SMART, STYLISH, TONY, TRENDY, WITH-IT *adj. core meaning* : in accordance with the current fashion <a *fashionable* fur> <a *fashionable* little restaurant> *ant:* UNFASHIONABLE

fash·ion·mon·ger (făsh′ən-mŭng′gər, -mŏng′-) *n.* A person concerned with following or setting fashions.

fashion plate *n.* **1.** An illustration of current styles in dress. **2.** One who consistently wears the latest fashions.

fast[1] (făst) *adj.* **-er, -est.** [ME < OE *fæst*, firmly fixed.] **1.** Performing or moving or capable of performing or moving quickly : SWIFT. **2.** Accomplished in relatively little time <a *fast* visit> **3.** Indicating a time somewhat ahead of the actual time <a *fast* watch> **4.** Adapted to or suitable for rapid movement. **5. a.** Disposed to dissipation : WILD <led a *fast* life> **b.** Flouting conventional sexual standards <a *fast* crowd> **6.** Resistant <acid-*fast*> **7.** Firmly fixed or fastened <a *fast* grip> **8.** Fixed firmly in position : SECURE <blinds *fast* against the rain> **9.** Loyal : firm <a *fast* friendship> **10.** Resisting fading <*fast* dyes> **11.** Deep and undisturbed <a *fast* sleep> **12.** Designed for or compatible with a short exposure time <*fast* film> —*adv.* **1.** Securely : tightly. **2.** Deeply : soundly <*fast* asleep> **3.** Quickly : rapidly. **4.** Ahead of the correct or expected time. **5.** In a dissipated, immoderate way <living *fast*> **6.** *Archaic.* Close by : NEAR. **—fast and loose. 1.** Deceitfully <played *fast and loose* with the facts in order to win> **2.** Irresponsibly <played *fast and loose* with their partner's money>

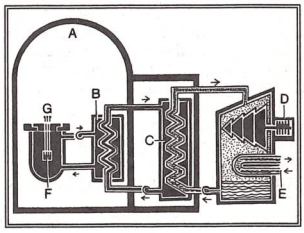
★ *syns:* FAST, BREAKNECK, FLEET, HELL-FOR-LEATHER, QUICK, RAPID, SPEEDY, SWIFT *adj. core meaning* : marked by great celerity <a *fast* freight train> <a *fast* pace> *ant:* SLOW

fast[2] (făst) *vi.* **fast·ed, fast·ing, fasts.** [ME *fasten* < OE *fæstan*.] **1.** To abstain from food. **2.** To eat very little or abstain from certain foods, esp. as a religious discipline. **—fast** *n.*

fast·back (făst′băk′) *n.* A car having a curving downward slope from roof to rear.

fast·ball (făst′bôl′) *n. Baseball.* A pitch thrown at the pitcher's maximum speed.

fast-breed·er reactor (făst′brē′dər) *n.* A breeder reactor that requires high-energy neutrons to produce fissionable material.



fast-breeder reactor
A liquid metal fast-breeder reactor:
A. containment structure,
B. heat exchanger,
C. steam generator,
D. turbine generator,
E. cooling water,
F. core,
G. control rods

fas·ten (făs′ən) *v.* **-tened, -ten·ing, -tens.** [ME *fastnen* < OE *fæstnian*.] —*vt.* **1.** To attach firmly to : JOIN. **2. a.** To make fast or secure. **b.** To close, as by fixing firmly in place. **3.** To fix or direct steadily. **4. a.** To place : attribute. **b.** To impose (oneself) without welcome. —*vi.* **1.** To become attached, fixed, or joined. **2.** To cling fast. **3.** To fix or focus steadily. **—fas′ten·er** *n.*

fas·ten·ing (făs′ə-nĭng) *n.* Something, as a hook, used to fasten.

fast food *n.* Restaurant food prepared and served quickly. **—fast′-food′** (făst′fōōd′) *adj.*

fast-for·ward *or* **fast forward** (făst-fôr′wərd) *n.* **1. a.** A function on a recording device, such as a videocassette player, that permits rapid advancement of the tape. **b.** The mechanism, such as a button, that activates this function. **2.** *Informal.* A rapidly changing situation. **—fast·for′ward** *v.* **(-ward·ed, -ward·ing, -wards).**

fas·tid·i·ous (fă-stĭd′ē-əs, fə-) *adj.* [ME < OFr. *fastidieux* < Lat. *fastidiosus* < *fastidium*, loathing.] **1.** Meticulously attentive to detail. **2.** Difficult to please : EXACTING. **3.** Excessively scrupulous, esp. in matters of taste or propriety. **4.** Having complicated nutritional requirements. **—fas·tid′i·ous·ly** *adv.* **—fas·tid′i·ous·ness** *n.*

fas·tig·i·ate (fă-stĭj′ē-ĭt) *also* **fas·tig·i·at·ed** (-e-ā′tĭd) *adj.* [Med. Lat. *fastigiatus*, high < Lat. *fastigium*, top.] **1.** Tapering to a point. **2.** *Bot.* Erect and almost parallel, as certain branches. **—fas·tig′i·ate·ly** *adv.*

fas·tig·i·um (fă-stĭj′ē-əm) *n.* [NLat. < Lat., extremity.] The period of maximum development of a disease.

fast lane *n. Informal.* A sphere of activity characterized by recklessness, self- indulgence, and dissipation. **—fast′-lane′** (făst′lān′) *adj.*

fast·ness (făst′nĭs) *n.* **1. a.** A fortified place. **b.** A remote and secret place. **2.** The quality or state of being fast, esp.: **a.** Firmness : security. **b.** Rapidity : swiftness. **c.** Colorfastness.

fast one *n. Informal.* A shrewd trick or swindle : a deceitful or treacherous act.

fast-talk (făst′tôk′) *vt.* **-talked, -talk·ing, -talks.** To affect or persuade by esp. deceptive talk or means. **—fast′-talk′er** *n.*

fast track *n. Informal.* The quickest and most direct route to achieve a goal, as in professional advancement. **—fast track′er** *n.*

fast-track (făst′trăk′) *adj.* Very high-powered and aggressive <a *fast-track* career> <a *fast-track* manager>

fat (făt) *n.* [ME < *fat*, plump < OE *fætt*, fattened.] **1. a.** The glyceride ester of a fatty acid. **b.** Any of various soft solid or semisolid organic compounds comprising the glyceride esters of fatty acids and associated phosphatides, sterols, alcohols, hydrocarbons, ketones, and related compounds. **c.** A mixture of such compounds widely occurring in organic tissue, esp. in the subcutaneous connective tissue of animals and in the seeds, nuts, and fruits of plants. **d.** Organic tissue containing such substances. **e.** A solidified animal or vegetable oil. **2.** Obesity. **3.** The most desirable part. —*adj.* **fat·ter, fat·test. 1.** Having much or too much fat or flesh. **2.** Full of fat or oil : GREASY. **3.** Abounding in desirable elements <*Fat* pine yields much resin.> **4.** Fertile or productive : RICH. **5.** Plentiful : ABUNDANT. **6.** Yielding a profit : PROFITABLE. **7.** Comfortable; affluent. **8. a.** Thick : large. **b.** Puffed up : SWOLLEN. —*vt. & vi.* **fat·ted, fat·ting, fats.**

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o•mit (ō-mĭt′) *vt.* **o•mit•ted, o•mit•ting, o•mits.** [ME *omitten* < Lat. *omittere* : *ob,* away + *mittere,* to send.] **1.** To leave out. **2. a.** To neglect : overlook. **b.** To leave undone : SKIP <*omitted* my homework>

om•ma•tid•i•um (ŏm′ə-tĭd′ē-əm) *n., pl.* **-i•a** (-ē-ə) [NLat., dim. of Gk. *omma,* eye.] One of the elements, resembling a single simplified eye, that make up the compound eye of arthropods. **—om′ma•tid′i•al** *adj.*

om•mat•o•phore (ō-măt′ə-fôr′, -fōr′) *n.* [Gk. *omma, ommat-* + -PHORE.] A movable eyestalk, as that of a snail. **—om′ma•toph′o•rous** (ŏm′ə-tŏf′ər-əs) *adj.*

omni– *pref.* [Lat. < *omnis,* all.] All <*omni*directional>

om•ni•bus (ŏm′nĭ-bŭs′) *n.* [Fr. < Lat., for all < *omnis,* all.] **1.** BUS 1. **2.** An anthology of the works of one author or of writings on a common theme. —*adj.* Including or providing for many items at the same time <an *omnibus* legislative bill>

om•ni•di•rec•tion•al (ŏm′nē-dĭ-rĕk′shə-nəl, -dī-) *adj.* Capable of receiving or transmitting signals in all directions.

omnidirectional radio range *n.* Omnirange.

om•ni•far•i•ous (ŏm′nĭ-fâr′ē-əs) *adj.* [LLat. *omnifarius* < *omnis,* all.] Of all kinds or varieties. **—om′ni•far′i•ous•ness** *n.*

om•nip•o•tent (ŏm-nĭp′ə-tənt) *adj.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *omnipotens* : *omnis,* all + *potens,* pr.part. of *posse,* to be able.] Having unlimited or absolute power or authority : ALMIGHTY <an *omnipotent* dictator> —*n.* **Omnipotent.** GOD 1a, b. **—om•nip′o•tence, om•nip′o•ten•cy** *n.* **—om•nip′o•tent•ly** *adv.*

om•ni•pres•ence (ŏm′nĭ-prĕz′əns) *n.* [Med. Lat. *omnipraesentia* < *omniprasens,* omnipresent : Lat. *omnis,* all + Lat. *praesens,* pr.part. of *praeese,* to be present. —see PRESENT[1].] The fact of being present or in existence everywhere at once. **—om′ni•pres′ent** *adj.*

om•ni•range (ŏm′nĭ-rānj′, -nē-) *n.* A radio network that broadcasts complete bearing information for aircraft.

om•nis•cient (ŏm-nĭsh′ənt) *adj.* [NLat. *omnisciens, omniscient-* < Med. Lat. *omniscientia* : Lat. *omnis,* all + Lat. *scientia,* knowledge < *scire,* to know.] Knowing everything. —*n.* **Omniscient.** GOD 1a, b. **—om•nis′cience, om•nis′cien•cy** *n.* **—om•nis′cient•ly** *adv.*

om•ni•um-gath•er•um (ŏm′nē-əm-găth′ər-əm) *n.* [Lat. *omnis,* all + GATHER.] A miscellaneous collection : HODGEPODGE.

om•ni•vore (ŏm′nə-vôr′, -vōr′) *n.* [< Lat. *omnivorus,* omnivorous.] An omnivorous animal.

om•niv•o•rous (ŏm-nĭv′ər-əs) *adj.* [Lat. *omnivorus* : *omnis,* all + *vorare,* to swallow up.] **1.** *Zool.* Eating both vegetable and animal substances. **2.** Eagerly absorbing everything available, as with the mind. **—om•niv′o•rous•ly** *adv.* **—om•niv′o•rous•ness** *n.*

om•pha•los (ŏm′fə-lŏs′, -ləs) *n., pl.* **-li** (-lī′) [Gk.] **1.** *Anat.* The navel. **2.** The central part : FOCUS.

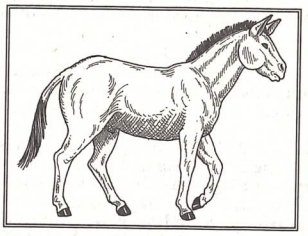
on (ŏn, ôn) *prep.* [ME < OE.] **1.** —Used to indicate: **a.** Position above and in contact with <The vase is *on* the bureau.> **b.** Contact with a surface, regardless of position <a painting *on* the wall> **c.** Location at or along <a cottage *on* the river> **d.** Proximity <a city *on* the Polish border> **e.** Attachment to or suspension from <pearls *on* a string> **2.** —Used to indicate: **a.** Movement or direction toward a position <threw the books *on* the ground> **b.** Movement toward, against, or onto <jump *on* the platform> <a march *on* Washington> **3.** —Used to indicate: **a.** Occurrence at a given time <*on* July first> <*on* George Washington's birthday> **b.** The particular occasion or circumstance <*On* leaving the room, I heard them.> **c.** The exact moment or point of <*on* the hour> **4.** —Used to indicate: **a.** The object affected by actual, perceptible action <The spotlight fell *on* the soloist.> **b.** The agent or agency of a specified action <cut my hand *on* the broken glass> <talked *on* the phone> **c.** The object affected by a figurative action <had pity *on* them> **d.** The object of an action directed, tending, or moving against it <an attack *on* the firebase> **5.** —Used to indicate a source or basis <live *on* bread and water> **6.** —Used to indicate: **a.** The state or process of <*on* leave> <*on* fire> **b.** The purpose of <travel *on* company business> **c.** A means of conveyance <ride *on* a tram> **d.** Availability by means of <beer *on* tap> <a physician *on* call> **e.** Association with <a pathologist *on* the hospital staff> **f.** Addition or repetition <error *on* error> **7. a.** Concerning : about <a book *on* plants> **b.** To the disadvantage of <We have some evidence *on* them.> **8.** In one's possession : WITH <not a cent *on* me> **9.** At the expense of <drinks *on* the house> ***usage:*** *On* and *upon* are often interchangeable when indicating location in space, as in *a bird sitting on* (or *upon*) *a branch.* However, when the relationship is not spatial, *upon* often cannot substitute for *on,* as in *I will arrive on* (not *upon*) *Tuesday.* —*adv.* **1.** In or into a position of being attached to or covering something <Put your shoes *on.*> **2.** In or into a position or condition of being supported by or in contact with something <Put the tea *on.*> **3.** In the direction of <They looked *on* while the spacecraft landed.> **4. a.** Toward or at a point lying ahead in space or time : FORWARD <The troops moved *on* to the next town.> **b.** At or to a more distant point in time or space <I'll do it later *on.*> **5.** In a continuous course <worked *on* quietly> **6. a.** In or into performance or operation <Turn *on* the TV.> **b.** In a state of activity <The show goes *on.*> **7.** In or at the present position <stay *on*> <hang *on*> **8.** In a condition of being scheduled for or decided upon <There is a party *on* tomorrow.> —*adj.* **1.** In operation <The TV is *on.*> **2.** Engaged in a given function or activity, as a vocal or dramatic role. **3. a.** Planned : intended <has nothing *on* for this weekend> **b.** Taking place : HAPPENING <The parade is *on.*> **—and so on.** And like the preceding : and so forth. **—be on to.** *Informal.* To be aware of or have information about. **—on and off.** Intermittently. **—on and on.** Without stopping : CONTINUOUSLY.

–on[1] *suff.* [< ION.] **1. a.** Subatomic particle <baryon> **b.** Unit : quantum <photon> **2.** Basic hereditary unit <codon>

–on[2] *suff.* [NLat. < ARGON.] Inert gas <radon>

–on[3] *suff.* [Alteration of -ONE.] A chemical compound that is not a ketone or a compound containing oxygen in a carbonyl group <pentathion>

on•a•ger (ŏn′ə-jər) *n.* [ME < Lat. < Gk. *onagros* : *onos,* ass + *agros,* field.] **1.** A wild ass, *Equus hemionus onager* of central Asia. **2.** A large catapult used in ancient and medieval combat.



onager
4—4½ feet high at shoulder

o•nan•ism (ō′nə-nĭz′əm) *n.* [After *Onan,* son of Judah.] **1.** Masturbation. **2.** Coitus interruptus. **3.** Self-gratification. **—o′nan•is′tic** *adj.*

on•board (ŏn-bôrd′, -bōrd′, ôn-) *adj.* Carried aboard a vehicle <*onboard* flight recorders>

once (wŭns) *adv.* [ME *ones* < *on,* one < OE *ān.*] **1.** One time only <*once* a week> **2.** At one time in the past : FORMERLY <a *once* popular fashion> **3.** At any time : EVER <Time, *once* gone, will never return.> **4.** By one degree of relationship <my second cousin *once* removed> —*n.* A single occurrence : one time <I will excuse you this *once.*> —*conj.* As soon as : WHEN <We can make plans *once* we arrive.> —*adj.* Having been at one time : FORMER <the *once* heavyweight champion>

once-o•ver (wŭns′ō′vər) *n. Informal.* A brief but comprehensive inspection or effort <gave the report a *once-over*>

on•co•gene (ŏn′kə-jēn, ŏng′-) *n.* [Gk. *onkos,* mass, tumor + GENE.] A gene that causes the transformation of normal cells into cancerous tumor cells, esp. a viral gene that transforms a host cell into a tumor cell.

on•co•gen•e•sis (ŏn′kō-jĕn′ĭ-sĭs, ŏng′-) *n.* [Gk. *onkos,* mass, tumor + -GENESIS.] Formation and development of tumors.

on•co•gen•ic (ŏn′kō-jĕn′ĭk, ŏng′-) *adj.* Tending to cause the formation of tumors. **—on′co•ge•nic′i•ty** (-jə-nĭs′ĭ-tē) *n.*

on•col•o•gy (ŏn-kŏl′ə-jē) *n.* [Gk. *onkos,* mass + -LOGY.] The branch of medicine that deals with tumors. **—on′co•log′i•cal** (-kə-lŏj′ĭ-kəl), **on′co•log′ic** *adj.* **—on•col′o•gist** *n.*

on•com•ing (ŏn′kŭm′ĭng, ôn′-) *adj.* Coming nearer : APPROACHING <*oncoming* traffic> —*n.* An advance : approach.

one (wŭn) *adj.* [ME *on* < OE *ān* : akin to G. *ein,* Lat. *unus,* Gk. *oinē* (ace on dice), Skt. *eka.*] **1.** Being a single unit, object, or entity <one mile> **2.** Characterized by unity : UNDIVIDED <We acted with *one* accord.> **3.** Occurring or existing as something indefinite, as in time or position <We will meet again *one* day.> **4. a.** Of the same kind or quality <two dogs of *one* breed> **b.** Forming a single entity of two or more components <three metals combined into *one* alloy> **5. a.** Being one in particular <*One* member was absent.> **b.** —Used as an intensifier of the quality specified <This was *one* happy day.> **6.** Being the only person of a specified or implied kind <the *one* friend I could trust> —*n.* **1. a.** A single person or thing : UNIT. **b.** The cardinal number, represented by the symbol 1, designating the first such unit in a series. **2.** A one-dollar bill. —*pron.* **1.** An indefinitely specified person or thing. **2.** An unspecified individual member of a group or class <one of the Victorians> **—at one.** In accord or unity. **—one and all.** Everyone. **—one by one.** Individually and in succession.

–one *suff.* [Alteration of -ENE.] **1.** A ketone or a related oxygen-containing compound <acetone> **2.** A chemical compound containing oxygen, esp. in a carbonyl group <lactone>

one-base hit (wŭn′bās′) *n. Baseball.* A hit that enables the batter to reach first base.

one-di•men•sion•al (wŭn′dĭ-mĕn′shə-nəl) *adj.* Lacking depth or vitality : SUPERFICIAL <a flat, *one-dimensional* performance>

one-hand•ed (wŭn′hăn′dĭd) *adj.* **1.** Having or using only one hand

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