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La Niña, ecotour, jargonistic,
thermographer, and warp speed*

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TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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Preface

In 1898 an abridged dictionary titled Webster's Collegiate Dictionary took the place, in the Merriam-Webster line, of an earlier book titled Webster's National Pictorial Dictionary. The new book was based upon the 1890 edition of the Merriam-Webster Unabridged, and it aimed, its editors said, "to present the most essential parts of Webster's International Dictionary, in a compact and convenient form, suited to the general reader and especially to the college student." The change cannot have seemed momentous to the people involved; nonetheless, it inaugurated a series of editions that has continued for nearly a hundred years. The book you hold, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, is the very latest in that series. Its title is new, and its contents have undergone the most searching and extensive sort of review and modification over the two-year course of work, but it remains rooted as firmly as ever in the Merriam-Webster tradition of excellence in the making of dictionaries.

A word must be said about the new title, which breaks with tradition in beginning not with Webster's but with Merriam-Webster's. During the time that our Collegiate Dictionary has been in existence, we have seen the proliferation of dictionaries from other publishers bearing the designation Webster's in their titles. In 1982 we changed the name of our company from the G. & C. Merriam Company that it had borne since its inception in 1831 to Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. Events of the succeeding decade have brought us to believe that we must now place even greater emphasis on the Merriam-Webster combination, which is uniquely ours. The new title of a very prominent dictionary in our line reflects this belief.

Although Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, may lack a familiar ring, this dictionary like all earlier editions is meant to serve the general public as its chief source of information about the words of our language. Its title may suggest a special appropriateness for the student, but those who work in offices and those who read, think, and write at home will equally find it a trustworthy guide to the English of our day.

The ever-expanding vocabulary of our language exerts inexorable pressure on the contents of any dictionary. Words and senses are born at a far greater rate than that at which they die out. The 1600 pages of this Collegiate make it the most comprehensive ever published. And its treatment of words is as nearly exhaustive as the compass of an abridged work permits. As in all Merriam-Webster dictionaries, the information given is based on the collection of 14,500,000 citations maintained in the offices of this company. These citations show words used in a wide range of printed sources, and the collection is constantly being augmented through the efforts of the editorial staff. Thus, the user of the dictionary may be confident that entries in the Collegiate are based on current as well as older material. The citation files hold 4,500,000 more examples than were available to the editors of Webster's Third New International Dictionary, published in 1961, and 1,500,000 more than the editors of the Ninth Edition had at their disposal. The editors of this edition also had available to them for the first time a machine-readable corpus of over 20,000,000 words of text drawn from the wide and constantly changing range of publications that supply the paper slips in the citation files.

Those entries known to be trademarks or service marks are so labeled and are treated in accordance with a formula approved by the United States Trademark Association. No entry in this dictionary, however, should be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark or service mark.

The best features of the vocabulary section in the last edition have been retained, reviewed, and improved for

this one. Over a hundred additional pictorial illustrations are present, and many of them were drawn especially for this book in order to supplement and clarify definitions. To the synonym paragraphs brief verbal illustrations have consistently been added to assist with the understanding of the discrimination offered. Usage paragraphs, which appeared for the first time in the Ninth Edition, are here again, augmented in number and extensively revised in the light of the research and thought that produced Webster's Dictionary of English Usage about halfway between these editions. The dates of first use provided at most main entries, also new to the last edition, have proved to be very popular with users of the Collegiate. For the Tenth Edition, thousands of these dates have been pushed back in time, anywhere from a single year to several centuries from published materials not available ten years ago, from the continuing investigations of our own editors, and from the contributions of hundreds of interested readers.

The front matter of this book establishes a context for understanding what this dictionary is and how it came to be, as well as how it may be used most effectively. The Explanatory Notes address themselves to the latter topic. They answer the user's questions about the conventions, devices, and techniques by which the editors have been able to compress mountains of information about English words into little more than 1400 pages. All users of the dictionary are urged to read this section through and then consult it for special information as they need to. The brief essay on our language as it is recorded in Merriam-Webster dictionaries, and this Collegiate in particular, is meant to satisfy an interest in lexicography often expressed in the correspondence which our editors receive. The Guide to Pronunciation serves both to show how the pronunciations in this book are arrived at and to explain the mechanics of the respelling system in which they are set down.

The back matter retains six sections from the last edition of the Collegiate. These are Abbreviations and Symbols for Chemical Elements, Foreign Words and Phrases that occur frequently in English texts but have not become part of the English vocabulary; thousands of proper names brought together under the separate headings Biographical Names and Geographical Names; a gathering of important Signs and Symbols that cannot readily be alphabetized; and a Handbook of Style in which various stylistic conventions (as of punctuation and capitalization) are summarized and exemplified. All the sections are expanded in this edition.

Looking at a copy of that long-ago first Collegiate Dictionary, one is struck by how different it is, as a physical book and as a work of reference, from the present edition. The board covers are heavy, the margins of the page are wide, and the type is relatively large; at the same time it holds only about 1100 pages and only about half the number of vocabulary entries of this Tenth Edition. At that time the Merriam-Webster citation file was no more than in its infancy. Yet the editors of that book created it with the same careful, serious attention that the present editors have brought to their work.

The publishers said of their original Collegiate Dictionary, "For the book as a whole we venture to claim that in its class and for its purpose it has no superior and no equal." The trained, experienced, permanent staff of Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, who worked on this Tenth Edition and whose names are given on the facing page, have no less confidence in what they have created. They offer it to people everywhere who need information about the vocabulary of English, in the assurance that it will prove a reliable companion.

Frederick C. Mish
Editor in Chief

: DELIBERATE, INTENDED — **cal-cu-lat-ed-ly** *adv* — **cal-cu-lat-ed-ness** *n*

cal-cu-lat-ing \-lā-tīŋ\ *adj* (1710) 1 : making calculations (< machine> 2 : marked by prudent analysis or by shrewd consideration of self-interest : **SCHEMING** — **cal-cu-lat-ing-ly** \-tīŋ-lē\ *adv*

cal-cu-la-tion \kāl-kyə-'lā-shən\ *n* (14c) 1 **a** : the process or an act of calculating **b** : the result of an act of calculating 2 **a** : studied care in analyzing or planning **b** : cold heartless planning to promote self-interest — **cal-cu-la-tion-al** \-'lāsh-nəl, -'lā-shə-n'əl\ *adj*

cal-cu-la-tor \kāl-kyə-'lā-tər\ *n* (14c) : one that calculates: as **a** : a usu. electronic device for performing mathematical calculations **b** : a person who operates a calculator

cal-cu-lous \kāl-kyə-ləs\ *adj* (1605) : caused or characterized by a calculus or calculi

cal-cu-lus \-ləs\ *n*, *pl* -li \-lī, -lē\ *also* -lus-es [L, stone (used in reckoning)] (1666) 1 **a** : a method of computation or calculation in a special notation (as of logic or symbolic logic) **b** : the mathematical methods comprising differential and integral calculus 2 : CALCULATION 3 **a** : a concretion usu. of mineral salts around organic material found esp. in hollow organs or ducts **b** : TARTAR 2 4 : a system or arrangement of intricate or interrelated parts

calculus of variations (1837) : a branch of mathematics concerned with applying the methods of calculus to finding the maxima and minima of a function which depends for its values on another function or a curve

cal-de-ra \kāl-'der-ə, kōl-, -dir-\ *n* [Sp, lit., caldron, fr. LL *caldaria* — more at CAULDRON] (1691) : a volcanic crater that has a diameter many times that of the vent and is formed by collapse of the central part of a volcano or by explosions of extraordinary violence

cal-dron *var* of CAULDRON

ca-lê-che or **ca-le-che** \kə-'lesh, -'lash\ *n* [F *calèche* — more at CALASH] (1666) 1 **a** : CALASH **la** **b** : a wheeled horse-drawn vehicle with a driver's seat on the splashboard used in Quebec 2 : CALASH 2

cal-e-fac-to-ry \kə-lə-'fak-t(ə)-rē\ *n*, *pl* -ries [ML *calefactorium*, fr. L *calefacere* to warm — more at CHAFE] (ca. 1681) : a monastery room warmed and used as a sitting room

cal-en-dar \kə-lən-dər\ *n* [ME *calender*, fr. AF or ML; AF *calender*, fr. ML *kalendarius*, fr. L, moneylender's account book, fr. *kalendae* *calends*] (13c) 1 : a system for fixing the beginning, length, and divisions of the civil year and arranging days and longer divisions of time (as weeks and months) in a definite order — see MONTH table 2 : a tabular register of days according to a system usu. covering one year and referring the days of each month to the days of the week 3 : an orderly list: as **a** : a list of cases to be tried in court **b** : a list of bills or other items reported out of committee for consideration by a legislative assembly **c** : a list or schedule of planned events or activities giving dates and details 4 *Brit* : a university catalog

calendar vt -dared; -dar-ing \-d(ə)-rīŋ\ (15c) : to enter in a calendar **calendar year** *n* (ca. 1909) 1 : a period of a year beginning and ending with the dates that are conventionally accepted as marking the beginning and end of a numbered year 2 : a period of time equal in length to that of the year in the calendar conventionally in use

cal-en-der \kə-lən-dər\ *vt* -dered; -der-ing \-d(ə)-rīŋ\ [MF *calandr*, fr. *calandre* machine for calendering, fr. (assumed) VL *colendra* cylinder, modif. of Gk *kylindros* — more at CYLINDER] (1513) : to press (as cloth, rubber, or paper) between rollers or plates in order to smooth and glaze or to thin into sheets — **cal-en-der-er** \-dər-ər\ *n*

calendar *n* (1688) : a machine for calendering something

calendar *n* [Per *qalendar*, fr. Ar, fr. Per *kalandar* uncouth man] (1621) : a member of a Sufic order of wandering mendicant dervishes

cal-len-dri-cal \kə-'len-dri-kəl, kə-*also* **cal-len-dric** \-dri-k\ *adj* (ca. 1843) : of, relating to, characteristic of, or used in a calendar **cal-ends** \kə-lən(d)-z, -kə-*n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* [ME *kalendes*, fr. L *kalendae*, *calendae*] (14c) : the first day of the ancient Roman month from which days were counted backward to the ides

cal-len-du-la \kə-'len-jə-lə, -dyū-lə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. ML, fr. L *calendulae* *calendula*] (1789) : any of a small genus (*Calendula*) of yellow-rayed composite herbs of temperate regions

cal-en-ture \kə-lən-'chūr\ *n* [Sp *calentura*, fr. *calentar* to heat, fr. L *calent-*, *calens*, prp. of *calere* to be warm — more at LEE] (ca. 1583) : a fever formerly supposed to affect sailors in the tropics

call \kaf, 'kaf, *dial* *also* 'kāl\ *n*, *pl* *calves* \kavz, 'kāvz, 'kāvz\ *also* *calfs* *often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *cealf*; akin to OHG *kalb* *call*] (bef. 12c) 1 **a** : the young of the domestic cow; *also* : that of a closely related mammal (as a bison) **b** : the young of various large animals (as the elephant or whale) 2 *pl* *calfs* : the hide of the domestic calf; *esp* : CALFSKIN 3 : an awkward or silly youth — **call-like** \kaf-, 'lik, 'kaf-, *dial* *also* 'kāl\ *adj* — **in call** : PREGNANT — used of a cow

call *n*, *pl* *calves* \kavz, 'kāvz\ [ME, fr. ON *kálfi*] (14c) : the fleshy back part of the leg below the knee

call-love \-ləv\ *n* (1823) : PUPPY LOVE

calfs-foot jelly \kavz-, 'fūt-, 'kafs-, 'kāvz-, 'kafs- *also* 'kāvz-\ *n* (1775) : jelly made from gelatin obtained by boiling calves' feet

call-skin \kaf-, 'skin, 'kaf- *also* 'käf-\ *n* (15c) : leather made of the skin of a calf

Cal-gon \kāl-'gān\ *trademark* — used for a water softener

Cal-i-ban \kə-lə-'ban\ *n* : a savage and deformed slave in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

cal-i-ber or **cal-i-bre** \kə-lə-'bər, *Brit* *also* kə-'lē-\ *n* [MF *calibre*, fr. Olt *calibro*, fr. Ar *qālīb* shoemaker's last] (1567) 1 **a** : degree of mental capacity or moral quality **b** : degree of excellence or importance 2 **a** : the diameter of a bullet or other projectile **b** : the diameter of a bore of a gun usu. expressed in hundredths or thousandths of an inch and typically written as a decimal fraction (<.32>) 3 : the diameter of a round body; *esp* : the internal diameter of a hollow cylinder

cal-i-brate \kə-lə-'brāt\ *vt* -brat-ed; -brat-ing (ca. 1864) 1 : to ascertain the caliber of (as a thermometer tube) 2 : to determine, rectify, or mark the graduations of (as a thermometer tube) 3 : to standardize (as a measuring instrument) by determining the deviation from a standard so as to ascertain the proper correction factors 4 : to adjust precisely for a particular function — **cal-i-bra-tor** \-brā-tər\ *n*

cal-i-bra-tion \kə-lə-'brā-shən\ *n* (ca. 1859) 1 : the act or process of calibrating : the state of being calibrated 2 : a set of graduations to indicate values or positions — usu. used in *pl*. (<s on a gauge)

cal-i-che \kə-'lē-chē\ *n* [AmerSp, fr. Sp, flake of lime, fr. *cal* lime, fr. L *calx* — more at CHALK] (ca. 1858) 1 : the nitrate-bearing gravel or rock of the sodium nitrate deposits of Chile and Peru 2 : a crust of calcium carbonate that forms on the stony soil of arid regions

cal-i-co \kə-'li-kō\ *n*, *pl* -coes or -cos [Calicut, India] (1578) 1 **a** : cotton cloth imported from India **b *Brit* : a plain white cotton fabric that is heavier than muslin **c** : any of various cheap cotton fabrics with figured patterns 2 : a blotched or spotted animal; *esp* : one that is predominantly white with red and black patches — **calico** *adj***

calico bass *n* (ca. 1882) : BLACK CRAPPIE

calico bush *n* (1814) : MOUNTAIN LAUREL

Cal-i-for-nia condor \kə-lə-'fōr-nya-\ *n* [California, state of U.S.] (ca. 1889) : a large nearly extinct vulture (*Gymnogyps californianus*) found most recently in the mountains of southern California that is related to the condor of So. America

California laurel *n* (1871) : an evergreen Pacific coast tree (*Umbellularia californica*) of the laurel family with small umbellate flowers

California poppy *n* (1891) : any of a genus (*Eschscholzia*) of herbs of the poppy family; *esp* : one (*E. californica*) widely cultivated for its usu. yellow or orange flowers

Cal-i-for-nio \kə-lə-'fōr-nē-ō\ *n*, *pl* -nios [Sp, fr. California] (1923) : one of the original Spanish colonists of California or their descendants

cal-i-for-ni-um \kə-lə-'fōr-nē-əm\ *n* [NL, fr. California, U.S.] (1950) : a radioactive element discovered by bombarding curium 242 with alpha particles — see ELEMENT table

cal-ig-i-ous \kə-'li-jə-nəs\ *adj* [MF or L; MF *caligineux*, fr. L *caliginosus*, fr. *caligin-*, *caligo* darkness] (1548) : MISTY, DARK

cal-i-per \kə-lə-'pər\ *n* [alter. of *caliber*] (1588) 1 **a** : any of various measuring instruments having two usu. adjustable arms, legs, or jaws used esp. to measure diameter or thickness — usu. used in *pl*. (<a pair of>) **b** : a device consisting of two plates lined with a frictional material that press against the sides of a rotating wheel or disc in certain brake systems 2 : thickness esp. of paper, paperboard, or a tree

caliper vt -pered; -per-ing \-p(ə)-rīŋ\ (1876) : to measure by or as if by calipers

cal-iph *also* **cal-if** \kə-'ləf, 'kə-ləf\ *n* [ME *caliphe*, fr. MF *calife*, fr. Ar *khalifah* successor] (14c) : a successor of Muhammad as temporal and spiritual head of Islam — used as a title — **cal-iph-al** \-lə-fəl\ *adj*

cal-iph-ate \-lə-'fāt, -fət\ *n* (1614) : the office or dominion of a caliph **cal-is-then-ic** \kə-ləs-'the-nik\ *adj* (1827) : of or relating to calisthenics **cal-is-then-ics** \-niks\ *n* *pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr* [Gk *kalos* beautiful + *sthenos* strength] (1827) 1 : systematic rhythmic bodily exercises performed usu. without apparatus 2 *usu* *sing* in *constr* : the art or practice of calisthenics

cal-ix \kə-'lik-s, 'kə-\ *n*, *pl* **cal-i-ces** \kə-lə-'sēz, 'kə-\ [L *calic-*, *calix* — more at CHALICE] (1698) : CUP

calk \kōk\, *var* of CAULK

calk \kōk\ *n* [prob. alter. of *calkin*, fr. ME *kakun*, fr. MD or ONF; MD *calcoen* horse's hoof, fr. ONF *calcain* heel, fr. L *calcanium*, fr. *calc-*, *calx* heel] (1587) : a tapered piece projecting downward on the shoe of a horse to prevent slipping; *also* : a similar device worn on the sole of a shoe

calk vt (1624) 1 : to furnish with calks 2 : to wound with a calk

call \kōl\ *vb* [ME, fr. ON *kalla*; akin to OE *hildecalla* battle herald, OHG *kallōn* to talk loudly, OCS *glasŭ* voice] *vi* (bef. 12c) 1 **a** : to speak in a loud distinct voice so as to be heard at a distance : SHOUT (< for help>) **b** : to make a request or demand (< for an investigation>) **c** of an animal : to utter a characteristic note or cry **d** : to get or try to get into communication by telephone — often used with *up* **e** : to make a demand in card games (as for a particular card or for a show of hands) **f** : to give the calls for a square dance 2 : to make a brief visit (<ed to pay his respects>) (<ed on a friend>) *vt* 1 **a** (1) : to utter in a loud distinct voice — often used with *out* (< out a number>) (2) : to announce or read loudly or authoritatively (< the roll>) (< off a row of figures>) **b** (1) : to command or request to come or be present (<ed to testify>) (2) : to cause to come : BRING (<s to mind an old saying>) **c** : to summon to a particular activity, employment, or office (<was ~ed to active duty>) **d** : to invite or command to meet : CONVOKE (< a meeting>) **e** : to rouse from sleep or summon to get up **f** (1) : to give the order for : bring into action (< a strike against the company>) (< a pitchout>) (2) : to manage by giving the signals or orders (<that catcher ~s a good game>) **g** (1) : to make a demand in bridge for (a card or suit) (2) : to require (a player) to show the hand in poker by making an equal bet (3) : to challenge to make good on a statement (4) : to charge with or censure for an offense (<deserves to be ~ed on that>) **h** : to attract (as game) by imitating the characteristic cry 1 : to halt (as a baseball game) because of unsuitable conditions **j** : to rule on the status of (as a pitched ball or a player's action) (< balls and strikes>) (< a base runner safe>) **k** : to give the calls for (a square dance) — often used with *off* 1 (1) : to demand payment of esp. by formal notice (< a loan>) (2) : to demand presentation of (as a bond or option) for redemption **m** (1) : to get or try to get in communication with by telephone (2) : to generate signals for (a telephone number) in order to reach the party to whom the number is assigned (< 911>) (3) : to make a signal to in order to transmit a message (< the flagship>) 2 **a**



California condor

\ə\ abut \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ə\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \ə\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job \ŋ\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \ō\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot \y\ yet \zh\ vision \ā, k, ŋ, œ, œ, ū, ē, ū\ see Guide to Pronunciation

ter often flavored or medicated **b**: the concentrated juice of a fruit or plant **2**: cloying sweetness or sentimentality — **syropy** *adj*

sys-op \ˈsis-(j)əp\ *n* [system operator] (1983): the administrator of a computer bulletin board

sys-tal-tic \ˈsis-tōl-tik, -ˈtal-*adj* [LL *systalticus*, fr. Gk *systaltikos*, fr. *syntalanai* to contract — more at **SYSTOLE**] (1676): marked by regular contraction and dilatation: **PULSING**

sys-tem \ˈsis-təm\ *n* [LL *systema*, *systema*, fr. Gk *systema*, *fr. syntalanai* to combine, fr. *syn-* + *histalanai* to cause to stand — more at **STAND**] (1603) **1**: a regularly interacting or interdependent group of items forming a unified whole <a number ~>: as **a** (1): a group of interacting bodies under the influence of related forces <a gravitational ~> (2): an assemblage of substances that is in or tends to equilibrium <a thermodynamic ~> **b** (1): a group of body organs that together perform one or more vital functions <the digestive ~> (2): the body considered as a functional unit **c**: a group of related natural objects or forces <a river ~> **d**: a group of devices or artificial objects or an organization forming a network esp. for distributing something or serving a common purpose <a telephone ~> <a heating ~> <a highway ~> <a data processing ~> **e**: a major division of rocks usu. larger than a series and including all formed during a period or era **f**: a form of social, economic, or political organization or practice <the capitalist ~> **2**: an organized set of doctrines, ideas, or principles usu. intended to explain the arrangement or working of a systematic whole <the Newtonian ~ of mechanics> **3 a**: an organized or established procedure <the touch ~ of typing> **b**: a manner of classifying, symbolizing, or schematizing <a taxonomic ~> <the decimal ~> **4**: harmonious arrangement or pattern: **ORDER** <bring ~ out of confusion> — Ellen Glasgow **5**: an organized society or social situation regarded as multifarious: **ESTABLISHMENT** **2** — usu. used with *the* *syn* see **METHOD** — **sys-tem-less** \-ləs\ *adj*

sys-tem-at-ic \ˈsis-tə-ˈma-tik\ *adj* [LL *systematicus*, fr. Gk *systematikos*, fr. *systema*, *systema*] (ca. 1680) **1**: relating to or consisting of a system **2**: presented or formulated as a coherent body of ideas or principles <~ thought> **3 a**: methodical in procedure or plan <a ~ approach> <a ~ scholar> **b**: marked by thoroughness and regularity <~ efforts> **4**: of, relating to, or concerned with classification; *specif*: **TAXONOMIC** — **sys-tem-at-i-cal-ly** \-tɪ-k(ə)-lē\ *adv* — **sys-tem-at-ic-ness** \-tɪ-k-nəs\ *n*

systematic error *n* (1891): an error that is not determined by chance but is introduced by an inaccuracy (as of observation or measurement) inherent in the system

sys-tem-at-ics \ˈsis-tə-ˈma-tiks\ *n pl* but *sing in constr* (1888) **1**: the science of classification **2 a**: a system of classification **b**: the classification and study of organisms with regard to their natural relationships: **TAXONOMY**

systematic theology *n* (1836): a branch of theology concerned with summarizing the doctrinal traditions of a religion (as Christianity) esp. with a view to relating the traditions convincingly to the religion's present-day setting

sys-tem-a-tize *Brit var of* **SYSTEMATIZE**

sys-tem-a-tism \ˈsis-tə-mə-ti-zəm, sis-ˈte-mə-\ *n* (1846): the practice of forming intellectual systems

sys-tem-a-tist \ˈsis-tə-mə-tist, sis-ˈte-mə-\ *n* (1700) **1**: a maker or follower of a system **2**: a specialist in taxonomy: **TAXONOMIST**

sys-tem-a-tize \ˈsis-tə-mə-ti-z\ *vt* -tized-, -tiz-ing (ca. 1767): to arrange in accord with a definite plan or scheme: order systematically <the need to ~ their work> *syn* see **ORDER** — **sys-tem-a-ti-za-tion** \ˈsis-tə-mə-tə-ˈzā-shən, sis-ˈte-mə-\ *n* — **sys-tem-a-tiz-er** *n*

sys-tem-ic \ˈsis-ˈte-mik\ *adj* (1803): of, relating to, or common to a system: as **a**: affecting the body generally **b**: supplying those parts of the body that receive blood through the aorta rather than through the pulmonary artery **c**: of, relating to, or being a pesticide that as used is harmless to the plant or higher animal but when absorbed into its sap or bloodstream makes the entire organism toxic to pests (as an insect or fungus) — **sys-tem-i-cal-ly** \-mi-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

systemic *n* (1951): a systemic pesticide

systemic lupus er-y-the-ma-to-sus \-er-ə-,thē-mə-ˈtō-səs\ *n* (1951): an inflammatory connective tissue disease of unknown cause that occurs chiefly in women, is characterized esp. by fever, skin rash, and arthritis, often by acute hemolytic anemia, by small hemorrhages in the skin and mucous membranes, by inflammation of the pericardium, and in serious cases by involvement of the kidneys and central nervous system

sys-tem-ize \ˈsis-tə-mi-z\ *vt* -ized-, -iz-ing (1778): **SYSTEMATIZE** — **sys-tem-i-za-tion** \ˈsis-tə-mə-ˈzā-shən\ *n*

systems analysis *n* (1950): the act, process, or profession of studying an activity (as a procedure, a business, or a physiological function) typically by mathematical means in order to define its goals or purposes and to discover operations and procedures for accomplishing them most efficiently — **systems analyst** *n*

sys-to-le \ˈsis-tə-(j)lē\ *n* [Gk *syistolē*, fr. *systellēin* to contract, fr. *syn-* + *stellein* to send] (1578): a rhythmically recurrent contraction; *esp*: the contraction of the heart by which the blood is forced onward and the circulation kept up — **sys-tol-ic** \ˈsis-tə-lik\ *adj*

syzy-gy \ˈsi-zə-jē\ *n, pl -gies* [LL *syzygia* conjunction, fr. Gk, fr. *syzygos* yoked together, fr. *syn-* + *zygon* yoke — more at **YOKE**] (ca. 1847): the nearly straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies (as the sun, moon, and earth during a solar or lunar eclipse) in a gravitational system

Szech-uan or **Szech-wan** \ˈsech-,wän, ˈsesh-\ *adj* [Szechwan or Szechuan (Sichuan), province in China] (1956): of, relating to, or being a style of Chinese cooking that is spicy, oily, and esp. peppery



t \tē\ *n, pl t's or ts* \tēz\ *often cap, often attrib* (bef. 12c) **1 a**: the 20th letter of the English alphabet **b**: a graphic representation of this letter **c**: a speech counterpart of orthographic **t** **2**: a graphic device for reproducing the letter **t** **3**: one designated **t** esp. as the 20th in order or class **4**: something shaped like the letter **T** **5**: **T** **FORMATION** **6**: **TECHNICAL FOUL** — **to a T** [short for *to a tittle*] : to perfection

t \t\ *pron*: IT <my country, 'tis of thee> — S. F. Smith

ta \tā\ *n* [baby talk] (1772) *Brit*: **THANKS**

Taal \tāl\ *n* [Afrik, fr. D, language; akin to OE *talū* talk — more at **TALE**] (1896): **AFRIKAANS** — usu. used with *the*

tab \təb\ *n, often attrib* [origin unknown] (1607) **1 a**: a short projecting device: as (1): a small flap or loop by which something may be grasped or pulled (2): a projection from a card used as an aid in filing **b**: a small insert, addition, or remnant **c**: **APPENDAGE**, **EXTENSION**; *esp*: one of a series of small pendants forming a decorative border or edge of a garment **d**: a small auxiliary airfoil hinged to a control surface (as a trailing edge) to help stabilize an airplane in flight — see **AIR-PLANE** illustration **2** [partly short for *table*; partly fr. sense 1] **a**: close surveillance: **WATCH** <keep ~s on trends> **b**: a creditor's statement: **BILL**, **CHECK** **c**: **COST** <the ~ for the new program> **3** [by shortening] **a**: **TABLOID** **b**: **TABLET** **4** [short for *tabulator*]: a device (as on a typewriter) for arranging data in columns

tab *vt* **tabbed**; **tab-bing** (1872) **1**: to furnish or ornament with tabs **2**: to single out: **DESIGNATE** **3**: **TABULATE**

ta-ba-nid \tə-ˈbā-nəd, -ˈbā-\ *n* [ultim. fr. L *tabanus* horsefly] (ca. 1891): **HORSEFLY**

tab-ard \tə-ˈbārd also -ˈbārd\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *tabart*] (14c): a short loose-fitting sleeveless or short-sleeved coat or cape: as **a**: a tunic worn by a knight over his armor and emblazoned with his arms **b**: a herald's official cape or coat emblazoned with his lord's arms **c**: a woman's sleeveless outer garment often with side slits

Ta-bas-co \tə-ˈbas-(j)kō\ *trademark* — used for a pungent condiment sauce made from hot peppers

tab-bou-leh \tə-ˈbū-lə, -lē\ *n* [Ar *tabhūla*] (1955): a salad of Lebanese origin consisting chiefly of cracked wheat, tomatoes, parsley, mint, onions, lemon juice, and olive oil

tab \təbē\ *n, pl tabbies* [F *tabis*, fr. ML *attabi*, fr. Ar *attābī*, fr. Al-ʿAttābiya, quarter in Baghdad] (1638) **1 a** *archaic*: a plain silk taffeta esp. with moiré finish **b**: a plain-woven fabric **2** [*tabby*] **a**: a domestic cat with a striped and mottled coat **b**: a domestic cat; *esp*: a female cat

tabby *adj* (1661) **1**: of, relating to, or made of tabby **2**: striped and mottled with darker color: **BRINDLED** <a ~ cat>

tabby *n* [Gullah *tabi*, ultim. fr. Sp *tapia* adobe wall] (1775): a cement made of lime, sand or gravel, and oyster shells and used chiefly along the coast of Georgia and So. Carolina in the 17th and 18th centuries

tab-er-na-cle \tə-ˈbər-,nə-kəl\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. LL *tabernaculum*, fr. L, tent, fr. *taberna* hut] (13c) **1 a** *often cap*: a tent sanctuary used by the Israelites during the Exodus **b** *archaic*: a dwelling place **c** *archaic*: a temporary shelter: **TENT** **2**: a receptacle for the consecrated elements of the Eucharist; *esp*: an ornamental locked box used for reserving the Communion hosts **3**: a house of worship; *specif*: a large building or tent used for evangelistic services — **tab-er-nac-u-lar** \tə-ˈbər-ˈnə-kyə-lər\ *adj*

tabernacle *vt* **tab-er-na-cled**; **tab-er-na-cling** \-nə-k(ə)-lɪŋ\ (1653): to take up temporary residence; *esp*: to inhabit a physical body

ta-bes \tə-ˈ(j)bēz\ *n, pl tabes* [L, wasting disease, decay, fr. *tabēre* to decay — more at **THAW**] (1651): wasting accompanying a chronic disease — **ta-bet-ic** \tə-ˈbet-ik\ *adj* or *n*

tabes dor-sa-lis \tə-ˈdɔr-ˈsə-ləs, -ˈsā-\ *n* [NL, dorsal tabes] (ca. 1681): a syphilitic disorder of the nervous system marked by wasting, pain, lack of coordination of voluntary movements and reflexes, and disorders of sensation, nutrition, and vision — called also *locomotor ataxia*

ta-bla \tə-ˈblə\ *n* [Hindi *tabla*, fr. Ar *tabla*] (1865): a pair of small different-sized hand drums used esp. in music of India

tab-la-ture \tə-ˈblə-,chūr-, -chər-, -tūr\ *n* [MF, fr. ML *tabulatus* tablet, fr. L *tabula*] (1574): an instrumental notation indicating the string, fret, key, or finger to be used instead of the tone to be sounded

table \tā-bəl\ *n, often attrib* [ME, fr. OE *tabule* & OF *table*; both fr. L *tabula* board, tablet, list] (bef. 12c) **1**: **TABLET** **1 a** **2 a pl**: **BACKGAMMON** **b**: one of the two leaves of a backgammon board or either half of a leaf **3 a**: a piece of furniture consisting of a smooth flat slab fixed on legs **b** (1): a supply or source of food (2): an act or instance of assembling to eat: **MEAL** <sit down to ~> **c** (1): a group of people assembled at or as if at a table (2): a legislative or negotiating session <the bargaining ~> **4**: **STRINGCOURSE** **5 a**: a systematic arrange-

“...superb...”

—WILLIAM SAFIRE, *The New York Times*



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