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per-i-car-di-tis (per'ə kār dīt'is) *n.* [see -ITIS] inflammation of the pericardium
per-i-car-di-um (per'ə kār'dē əm) *n.*, *pl.* **-di-a** (-ə) [ModL < Gr *perikardion*, neut. of *perikardios*, around the heart < *peri-*, around + *kardia*, HEART] in vertebrates, the thin, closed, membranous sac surrounding the heart and the roots of the great blood vessels and containing a clear serous liquid
per-i-car-di-al *adj.*, **per'i-car'di-ac'**
per-i-carp (per'ə kār'p) *n.* [ModL *pericarpium* < Gr *perikarpion*: see PERI- & -CARP] Bot. the wall of a ripened ovary, sometimes consisting of three distinct layers, the endocarp, mesocarp, and exocarp — **per'i-car'pi-al** *adj.*
per-i-chon-dri-um (per'ə kăn'drē əm) *n.*, *pl.* **-dri-a** (-ə) [ModL < PERI- + Gr *chondros*, cartilage, grain: see CHONDRO-] the membrane of white, fibrous connective tissue covering cartilage, except at the joints — **per'i-chon'dri-al** *adj.*, **per'i-chon'dral** (-drəl)
Pericle-an (per'ə klē'ən) *adj.* 1 of Pericles 2 of the period of great commercial, intellectual, and artistic achievement in Athens during the Age of Pericles
Pericles (per'ə klēz') 495?-429 B.C.; Athenian statesman & general
per-i-cop-e (pə rik'ə pē) *n.* [LL (Ec) < Gr *perikopē*, orig., a cutting all around < *peri-*, around (see PERI-) + *kopē*, a cutting < base of *koptein*, to cut: see SHAVE] a passage, usually short, from a written work; esp., LECTURE (sense 2)
per-i-cra-ni-um (per'ə krā'nē əm) *n.*, *pl.* **-ni-a** (-ə) [ModL < Gr *perikranion*, orig. neut. *adj.*, around the skull < *peri-*, around + *kranion*, skull: see CRANIUM] the periosteum of the external surface of the skull — **per'i-cra'nial** *adj.*
per-i-cycle (per'ə sī'kəl) *n.* [Fr *péricycle* < Gr *perikykos*, spherical < *peri-*, around + *kyklos*, ring, circle: see WHEEL] the outer layer of the stele in the root and stem of most plants — **per'i-cy'clic** (-sī'klik, -sī'lik) *adj.*
per-i-cyn-thi-on (per'ə sīn'thē ən) *n.* [< PERI- + Gr *Kynthion*, neut. of *Kynthos*: see CYNTHIA] the point nearest to the moon in the orbit of a lunar satellite
per-i-derm (per'ə dər'm) *n.* [ModL *peridermis*: see PERI- & DERMIS] the outer bark and the layer of soft, growing tissue between the bark and the wood in plants — **per'i-der'mal** *adj.*, **per'i-der'mic**
per-i-dium (pə rid'ē əm) *n.*, *pl.* **-i-a** (-ə) [ModL < Gr *pēridion*, dim. of *pēra*, leather sack, wallet] the outer coat of the spore-bearing organ in certain fungi — **perid'i-al** *adj.*
peridot (per'ə dāt', -dō) *n.* [Fr *péridot* < MFr *peridot* < ?] a variety of yellowish-green olivine, used as a gem — **per'i-dot'ic** *adj.*
peridotite (per'ə dō'tīt', pə rid'ə tīt') *n.* [Fr *péridotite* < *péridot*, prec.] any of several coarsegrained, dark igneous rocks consisting mainly of olivine and other ferromagnesian minerals — **per-i-do-tit'ic** (per'i dō tīt'ik, pə rid'ō-) *adj.*
perigee (per'ə jē') *n.* [Fr *périgée* < Late ML *perigaeum* < LGr *perigeion* < Gr *perigeios*, around the earth < *peri-*, near + *gē*, the earth] 1 the point nearest to the earth in the orbit of the moon or of a man-made satellite 2 the lowest or nearest point — **per'i-ge'an** *adj.*, **per'i-ge'al**
perigynous (pə rij'ə nəs) *adj.* [ModL *perigynus*: see PERI- & -GYNOUS] designating sepals, petals, and stamens attached to the rim of a cup or tube which surrounds the ovary but is not attached to it, as in the rose: see EPIGYNOUS, HYPOGYNOUS — **pe-rig'y-ny** (-nē) *n.*
perihelion (per'ə hē'lē ən, -hēl'yən) *n.*, *pl.* **-li-ons** or **-li-a** (-ə) [ModL < Gr *peri-*, around + *hēlios*, the SUN¹] the point nearest the sun in the orbit of a planet, comet, or man-made satellite
peril (per'əl) *n.* [OFR < L *periculum*, danger < base **per-* (as in *experiri*, to try) < IE base **per-*, to try, risk, come over > FEAR, FARE] 1 exposure to harm or injury; danger; jeopardy 2 something that may cause harm or injury — *vt.* **-iled** or **-illed**, **-il-ing** or **-il-ling** [Archaic] to expose to danger; jeopardize; imperil — **SYN.** DANGER — **at one's peril** at one's own risk [ignore safety regulations at your peril]
perilous (per'ə ləs) *adj.* [OFR *perilleus* < L *periculosus*] involving peril or risk; dangerous — **per'il-ous-ly** *adv.* — **per'il-ous-ness** *n.*
perilune (per'ə lōn') *n.* [PERI- + LUNE¹] the orbital point nearest to the moon of an artificial satellite launched from, and in orbit around, the moon
perilymph (per'ə limf') *n.* the fluid that surrounds the membranous labyrinth of the inner ear: cf. ENDOLYMPH
perimenopausal (per'ə men'ə pōz') *n.* [see PERI-] the period of time preceding menopause, characterized variously by decreased hormone levels, irregular menstrual periods, hot flashes, mood swings, etc.; climacteric; change of life — **per'i-men'o-paus'al** *adj.*
perimeter (pə rim'ə tər) *n.* [L *perimetros* < Gr < *peri-*, around + *metron*, MEASURE] 1 the outer boundary of a figure or area 2 the total length of this 3 an optical instrument for testing the scope of vision and the visual powers of various parts of the retina 4 Mil. a boundary strip where defenses are set up — **SYN.** CIRCUMFERENCE
perimetric (per'ə me'trik) *adj.* 1 of or by a perimeter, or boundary 2 of perimetry Also **per'i-met'ri-cal** — **per'i-met'ri-cal-ly** *adv.*
perimetry (pə rim'ə trē) *n.* the testing of the scope of vision by means of a perimeter
perimorph (per'ə mōrf') *n.* [PERI- + -MORPH] a mineral of one kind enclosing one of another kind
perimysium (per'ə miz'ē əm) *n.*, *pl.* **-si-a** (-ə) [ModL < *peri-*, PERI- + Gr *mys*, muscle (see MYO-) + -IUM] connective tissue covering and binding together bundles of muscle fibers
perinata (per'ə nāt'l) *adj.* [PERI- + NATAL] of, involving, or occurring during the period closely surrounding the time of birth

per-i-neph-ri-um (per'ə nef'rē əm) *n.* [ModL < Gr *perinephros*, fat about the kidneys < *peri-*, around + *nephros*, kidney: see NEPHRO-] the envelope of connective and fatty tissue surrounding the kidney
per-i-ne-um (per'ə nē'əm) *n.*, *pl.* **-ne'a** (-ə) [ModL < LL *perinaeum* < Gr *perineon* < *peri-*, around + *inein*, to discharge, defecate] the region of the body between the thighs, at the outlet of the pelvis; specif., the small area between the anus and the vulva in the female or between the anus and the scrotum in the male — **per'i-ne'al** *adj.*
per-i-neu-ri-um (per'ə nōor'ē əm, -nyōor'-) *n.*, *pl.* **-ri-a** (-ə) [ModL < PERI- + Gr *neuron*, NERVE] the sheath of dense connective tissue that envelops a bundle of nerve fibers composing a peripheral nerve — **per'i-neu'ri-al** *adj.*
pe-ri-od (pir'ē əd) *n.* [ME *paryode* < MFr *periode* < L *periodus* < Gr *periodos*, a going around, cycle < *peri-*, around + *hodos*, way < IE base **sed-*, to go > Sans *ā-sad-*, go toward] 1 the interval between recurrent astronomical events, as between two full moons 2 the interval between certain happenings [a ten-year *period* of peace] 3 a portion of time, often indefinite, characterized by certain events, processes, conditions, etc.; stage [a *period* of change, the present *period*] 4 any of the portions of time into which an event of fixed duration, as a game or a school day, is divided 5 the full course, or one of the stages, of a disease 6 an occurrence of menstruation; menses: in full **menstrual period** 7 an end, completion, or conclusion, or a point of time marking this [death put a *period* to his plans] 8 Geol. a subdivision of an era in geologic time corresponding to the rock strata of a SYSTEM (sense 10): see the geologic time chart in the Reference Supplement 9 Gram., Rhetoric a) a sentence, esp. a balanced, well-constructed, complex sentence b) the natural pause in speaking used to indicate the end of a declarative sentence c) the mark of punctuation (.) used to indicate the end of a declarative sentence d) the dot (.) following many abbreviations 10 Math. the interval from one repetition to the next of a recurrent or self-duplicating function 11 Music a group of two or more related phrases ending with a cadence 12 Physics the interval of time necessary for a regularly recurring motion to make a complete cycle 13 Prosody a rhythm group of two or more cola in the Greek system — *adj.* of or like that of a particular or appropriate period or age [a Victorian house decorated with *period* furniture, baroque music played on *period* instruments] — *interj.* [Informal] used to indicate that the preceding statement is the speaker's last, conclusive, word on the subject [be home by midnight or you're grounded, *period!*]
SYN. — **period** is the general term for any portion of time; **epoch** and **era** are often used interchangeably, but in strict discrimination **epoch** applies to the beginning of a new period marked by radical changes, new developments, etc. and **era**, to the entire period [the steam engine marked an *epoch* in transportation, an *era* of revolution]; **age** is applied to a period identified with some dominant personality or distinctive characteristic [the Stone Age]; **eon** refers to an indefinitely long period [it all happened *eons* ago]
pe-ri-o-date (pə ri'ə dāt') *n.* a salt of periodic acid containing the monovalent, negative radical IO₄
pe-ri-od-ic (pir'ē əd'ik) *adj.* [MFr *periodique* < L *periodicus* < Gr *periodikos*] 1 occurring, appearing, or recurring at regular intervals [a *periodic* fever] 2 occurring from time to time; intermittent 3 of or characterized by periods [the *periodic* motion of a planet] 4 of, characterized by, or expressed in periodic sentences — **SYN.** INTERMITTENT
per-i-od-ic acid (pər'i əd'ik) [PER- + IODIC] a white crystalline solid, HIO₄, formed by careful oxidation of iodine or iodic acid: it is a strong oxidizing agent
pe-ri-od-i-cal (pir'ē əd'ikəl) *adj.* 1 PERIODIC 2 published at regular intervals, as weekly, monthly, etc. 3 of a periodical — *n.* a periodical publication
pe-ri-od-i-cal-ly (pir'ē əd'ikəl, -i kəl) *adv.* 1 at regular intervals 2 from time to time; recurrently
pe-ri-o-dic-i-ty (pir'ē ə dis'ə tē) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties** [Fr *périodicité* < *période*: see PERIOD] 1 the tendency, quality, or fact of recurring at regular intervals 2 Chem. the occurrence of similar properties in elements occupying similar positions in the periodic table
periodic law the principle that the properties of the chemical elements recur periodically when the elements are arranged in increasing order of their atomic numbers
periodic sentence a sentence in which the essential elements, in the main clause, are withheld until the end or separated as by modifiers or subordinate clauses (Ex.: stock prices, as he had warned, had collapsed): cf. LOOSE SENTENCE
periodic system the system governing the classification of the elements: see PERIODIC LAW
periodic table an arrangement of the chemical elements according to their atomic numbers, to exhibit the periodic law: see the periodic table of elements in the Reference Supplement
pe-ri-od-i-za-tion (pir'ē ə di zā'shən) *n.* the dividing, as of history or the development of a culture, into distinctive chronological periods
per-i-o-don-tal (per'ē ə dān'təl) *adj.* [PERI- + -ODONT + -AL] Anat. 1 situated or occurring around a tooth 2 affecting the gums, connective tissues, etc. surrounding the teeth
per-i-o-don-tics (per'ē ə dān'tiks) *n.* [see prec. & -ICS] the branch of dentistry concerned with diseases of the bone and tissue supporting the teeth: also **per'i-o-don'ti-a** (-dān'shə, -shē ə) — **per'i-o-don'tic** *adj.* — **per'i-o-don'tist** *n.*
per-i-o-don-ti-tis (-dān tīt'is) *n.* any inflammation of the periodontal tissue