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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
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ANT — **peri-pa-tet-i-cal-ly** \t-i-k(ə)-lē\ *adv* — **Peri-pa-tet-i-cism** \t-i-k(ə)-si-zəm\ *n*

peri-pa-tus \pə-'ri-pə-təs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *peripatos* act of walking about, fr. *peri-* + *patein* to tread] (ca. 1931): any of a class or phylum (Onychophora) of primitive tropical wormlike invertebrates that appear intermediate between annelid worms and arthropods

peri-pe-teia \pə-'pə-tē-ə\, \t-i-\ *n* [Gk, fr. *peripetein* to fall around, change suddenly, fr. *peri-* + *piptein* to fall — more at **FEATHER**] (1591): a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation esp. in a literary work

peri-pe-tye \pə-'ri-pə-tē\ *n*, *pl* -**ties** (1753): PERIPETEA

periph-er-al \pə-'ri-fə-rəl\ *adj* (1808) 1: of, relating to, involving, or forming a periphery or surface part 2: of, relating to, or being part of the peripheral nervous system (~ nerves) 3: of, relating to, or being the outer part of the field of vision (good ~ vision) 4: AUXILIARY, SUPPLEMENTARY (~ equipment); also: of or relating to computer peripherals — **periph-er-al-ly** *adv*

peripheral *n* (1966): a device connected to a computer to provide communication (as input and output) or auxiliary functions (as additional storage)

peripheral nervous system *n* (1935): the part of the nervous system that is outside the central nervous system and comprises the cranial nerves excepting the optic nerve, the spinal nerves, and the autonomic nervous system

periph-ery \pə-'ri-fə-rē\ *n*, *pl* -**eries** [MF *peripherie*, fr. LL *periphēria*, fr. Gk *periphēria*, fr. *periphērein* to carry around, fr. *peri-* + *phērein* to carry — more at **BE**] (ca. 1574) 1: the perimeter of a circle or other closed curve; also: the perimeter of a polygon 2: the external boundary or surface of a body 3 a: the outward bounds of something as distinguished from its internal regions or center: CONFINES b: an area lying beyond the strict limits of a thing

periph-ra-sis \pə-'ri-fə-rəs\ *n*, *pl* -**rases** \-sēz\ [L, fr. Gk, fr. *periphrazein* to express periphrastically, fr. *peri-* + *phrazein* to point out] (1533) 1: use of a longer phrasing in place of a possible shorter form of expression 2: an instance of periphrasis

periph-ras-tic \pə-'fə-ras-tik\ *adj* (1805) 1: of, relating to, or characterized by periphrasis 2: formed by use of function words or auxiliaries instead of by inflection (more fair is a ~ comparative) — **periph-ras-ti-cal-ly** \t-i-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

periph-y-ton \pə-'ri-fə-tən\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *periphyton* (verbal of *periphēin* to grow around, fr. *peri-* + *phēin* to bring forth, grow) + *-on* (as in *plankton*) — more at **BE**] (1945): organisms (as some algae) that live attached to underwater surfaces — **periph-ytic** \pə-'fi-tik\ *adj*

peri-plast \pə-'pə-plast\ *n* (1853): PLASMA MEMBRANE; also: a proteinaceous subcellular layer below the plasma membrane esp. of a euglena

per-ique \pə-'rē\ *n* [LaF *perique*] (1882): an aromatic fermented Louisiana tobacco used in smoking mixtures

peri-sarc \pə-'sārk\ *n* [ISV *peri-* + Gk *sark-*, *sarx* flesh — more at **SARCASM**] (ca. 1871): the outer usu. chitinous integument of a hydroid

periscope \pə-'skōp\ *n* [ISV] (1879): a tubular optical instrument containing lenses and mirrors by which an observer obtains an otherwise obstructed field of view

periscope-ic \pə-'s-kōp-ik\ *adj* (1804) 1: providing a view all around or on all sides (~ lens) 2: of or relating to a periscope

per-ish \pə-'ish\ *vb* [ME *perissen*, fr. OF *periss-*, stem of *perir*, fr. L *perire*, fr. per-detrimentally + *ire* to go — more at **PER-**] (13c) 1: to become destroyed or ruined: DIE (recollection of a past already long since ~ed — Philip Sherrard) (guard against your mistakes or your attempts (~ the thought) to cheat — C. B. Davis) 2 chiefly Brit: DETERIORATE, SPOIL ~ *vt* 1 chiefly Brit: to cause to die 2: WEAKEN, WEARB

per-ish-able \pə-'ish-ə-bəl\ *adj* (ca. 1611): liable to perish: liable to spoil or decay (such ~ products as fruit, vegetables, butter, and eggs) — **per-ish-abil-ity** \pə-'ish-ə-bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **per-ish-able** *n*

per-is-so-dac-tyl \pə-'ri-sə-dak-tī\ *n* [NL *Perissodactyla*, fr. Gk *perissos* excessive, odd in number + *daktylos* finger, toe] (1849): any of an order (Perissodactyla) of nonruminant ungulate mammals (as a horse, a tapir, or a rhinoceros) that usu. have an odd number of toes, molar teeth with transverse ridges on the grinding surface, and the posterior premolars resembling true molars — **perissodactyl** *adj*

peristaltic \pə-'stol-sas-, \-stäl-, \-stäl-\ *n*, *pl* -**stalses** \-sēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *peristaltikos* peristaltic] (1859): successive waves of involuntary contraction passing along the walls of a hollow muscular structure (as the esophagus or intestine) and forcing the contents onward

peristaltic \pə-'stäl-tik\ *adj* [Gk *peristaltikos*, fr. *peristellein* to wrap around, fr. *peri-* + *stellein* to place] (1655) 1: of, relating to, resulting from, or being peristaltic 2: having an action suggestive of peristalsis

peristaltic pump *n* (1962): a pump in which fluid is forced along by waves of contraction produced mechanically on flexible tubing

peri-stome \pə-'stōm\ *n* [NL *peristoma*, fr. *peri-* + Gk *stoma* mouth — more at **STOMACH**] (ca. 1796) 1: the fringe of teeth surrounding the orifice of a moss capsule 2: the region around the mouth in various invertebrates — **peri-sto-mi-al** \pə-'stō-mē-əl\ *adj*

peri-style \pə-'stīl\ *n* [F *peristyle*, fr. L *peristylum*, fr. Gk *peristylon*, fr. neut. of *peristyllos* surrounded by a colonnade, fr. *peri-* + *stylos* pillar — more at **STEER**] (1612) 1: a colonnade surrounding a building or court 2: an open space enclosed by a colonnade

peri-the-cium \pə-'thē-shē-əm-, \-sē-\ *n*, *pl* -**cia** \-shē-ə-, \-sē-\ [NL, fr. *peri-* + Gk *thēkion*, dim. of *thēkē* case — more at **TICK**] (ca. 1832): a spherical, cylindrical, or flask-shaped hollow fruiting body in various ascomycetous fungi that contains the ascus and us. opens by a terminal pore — **peri-the-cial** \-shē-ē-əl-, \-sē-əl\ *adj*

peri-to-ne-um \pə-'tō-nē-əm\ *n*, *pl* -**nes** \-sē-əm-\ or -**nea** \-tō-nē-\ [ME, fr. LL, fr. Gk *peritonion*, neut. of *peritonaios* stretched around, fr. *peri-* + *teinin* to stretch — more at **THIN**] (15c): the smooth transparent serous membrane that lines the cavity of the abdo-

men of a mammal and is folded inward over the abdominal and pelvic viscera — **peri-to-ne-al** \-tō-nē-əl\ *adj* — **peri-to-ne-al-ly** \-tō-nē-əl-ē\ *adv*

peri-to-ni-tis \pə-'tō-n-i-tīs\ *n* [NL] (1776): inflammation of the peritoneum

perit-ri-chous \pə-'tri-ti-kəs\ *adj* [*peri-* + Gk *trich-*, *thrix* hair] (1877) 1: having filaments uniformly distributed over the body (~ bacteria) 2: having a spiral line of modified cilia around the oral disk (~ protozoa) — **perit-ri-chous-ly** *adv*

peri-wig \pə-'ri-wig\ *n* [modif. of MF *peruque* — more at **PERUKE**] (1529): PERUKE — **peri-wigged** \-wigd\ *adj*

per-i-win-kle \pə-'ri-wīn-kəl\ *n* [ME *perwinke*, fr. OE *perwince*, fr. (assumed) VL *pervinca*, short for L *vincapervinca*] (bef. 12c) 1: any of several trailing or woody evergreen herbs of the dogbane family: as a: a European creeper (*Vinca minor*) widely cultivated as a ground cover and for its blue or white flowers — called also *myrtle* b: a commonly cultivated subshrub (*Catharanthus roseus* syn. *Vinca rosea*) of the Old World tropics that is the source of several antineoplastic drugs — called also *Madagascar periwinkle* 2: a light purplish blue — called also *periwinkle blue*

periwinkle *n* (assumed) ME, alter. of OE *pinewinkle*, fr. L *pina*, a kind of mussel (fr. Gk) + OE *-wincle* (akin to Dan *vinkle* shell)] (ca. 1530): any of various gastropod mollusks: as a: any of a genus (*Littorina*) of edible littoral marine snails; also: any of various similar or related marine snails b: any of several No. American freshwater snails

per-jure \pə-'jər-\, fr. *per-jured*; **per-juring** \pə-'jər-jɪŋ\, fr. *per-jure*, fr. L *perjurare*, fr. per-detrimentally, for the worse *perjuro* to swear — more at **PER-JURY**] (1535) 1: to make a perjurer of (~ oneself) 2 *obs*: to cause to commit perjury

per-jur-er \pə-'jər-ər\ *n* (15c): a person guilty of perjury

per-ju-ri-ous \pə-'jər-i-əs\ *adj* (1602): marked by perjury (~ testimony) — **per-ju-ri-ous-ly** *adv*

per-jury \pə-'jər-jē-, \-jər-rē\ *n* (14c): the voluntary violation of an oath or vow either by swearing to what is untrue or by omission to do what has been promised under oath: false swearing

perk \pərk\ *vb* [ME *per* (14c) 1 a: to thrust up the head, stretch out the neck, or cause the body in a bold or insolent manner b: to stick up or out jauntily 2: to gain in vigor or cheerfulness esp. after a period of weakness or depression — usu. used with *up* (he's ~ed up noticeably) ~ *vt* 1: to make smart or spruce in appearance: FRESHEN, IMPROVE 2: to thrust up quickly or impudently

perk *n* (1656): PERCOLATE

perk *n* (1824): PERQUISITE — usu. used in pl.

perky \pərk-ē\ *adj* **perki-er**, -**est** (1855) 1: briskly self-assured: COCKY 2: JAUNTY (a ~ waltz — New Yorker) — **perki-ly** \-kē-lē\ *adv* — **perki-ness** \-kē-nəs\ *n*

per-lite \pə-'li-tē\ [F, fr. *perle* pearl] (1833): volcanic glass that has a concentric shelly structure, appears as if composed of concretions, is usu. grayish and sometimes spherulitic, and when expanded by heat forms a lightweight aggregate used esp. in concrete and plaster and as a medium for potting plants — **per-lit-ic** \pə-'li-tik\ *adj*

perm \pərm\ *n* (1927): PERMANENT

perm *vt* (1928): to give (hair) a permanent wave

per-ma-frost \pə-'ma-frōst\ *n* [*permanent* + *frost*] (1943): a permanently frozen layer at variable depth below the surface in frigid regions of a planet (as earth)

per-ma-nence \pə-'ma-nən(t)s-, \pərm-nən(t)s\ *n* (15c): the quality or state of being permanent: DURABILITY

per-ma-nen-cy \pə-'nən(t)-sē\ *n*, *pl* -**cies** (1555) 1: PERMANENCE 2: something permanent

per-ma-nent \pə-'nən(t)-əd\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *permanens*, *permanens*, pp. of *permanere* to endure, fr. *per-* throughout + *manere* to remain — more at **PER-MANSION**] (15c): continuing or enduring without fundamental or marked change: STABLE *syn* see **LASTING** — **per-ma-nent-ly** *adv* — **per-ma-nent-ness** *n*

permanent *n* (1925): a long-lasting hair wave or straightening produced by mechanical and chemical means — called also *permanent wave*

permanent magnet *n* (1828): a magnet that retains its magnetism after removal of the magnetizing force

permanent press *n* (1964): 1: the process of treating a fabric with a chemical (as a resin) and heat for setting the shape and for aiding wrinkle resistance 2: material treated by permanent press 3: the condition of material treated by permanent press — **permanent-press** *adj*

permanent tissue *n* (ca. 1928): plant tissue that has completed its growth and differentiation and is usu. incapable of meristematic activity

permanent tooth *n* (1836): any of the second set of teeth of a mammal that follow the milk teeth, typically persist into old age, and in humans are 32 in number

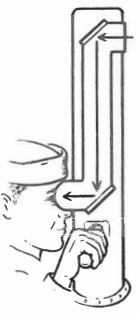
per-man-ga-nate \pə-'māŋ-gə-nāt\ *n* (1841) 1: a salt containing the anion MnO_4^- ; esp.: POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE 2: the anion MnO_4^- of a permanganate

per-me-abil-ity \pə-'mē-ə-bi-lə-tē\ *n* (1759) 1: the quality or state of being permeable 2: the property of a magnetizable substance that determines the degree in which it modifies the magnetic flux in the region occupied by it in a magnetic field

per-me-able \pə-'mē-ə-bəl\ *adj* (15c): capable of being permeated: PENETRABLE; esp.: having pores or openings that permit liquids or gases to pass through (a ~ membrane) (~ limestone)

per-me-ase \pə-'mē-ās-, \-āz\ *n* [ISV *perme-* (fr. *permeate*) + *-ase*] (1957): a substance that catalyzes the transport of another substance across a cell membrane

per-me-ate \pə-'mē-āt-, \-at-ed-, \-at-ing\ [L *permeatus*, pp. of *permeare*, fr. *per-* through + *meare* to go, pass; akin to MW *myet* to go,



periscope