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abil-ity \ˈvɛr-ē-ə-bil-ə-tē/ *n* — **vari-able-ness** \ˈvɛr-ē-ə-bəl-nəs/ *n* — **vari-ably** \-bəl-ē/ *adv*

variable *n* (1816) 1 *a*: a quantity that may assume any one of a set of values 2 *b*: a symbol representing a variable 3: something that is variable 3: VARIABLE STAR

variable rate mortgage *n* (1975): ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGE

variable star *n* (1788): a star whose brightness changes usu. in more or less regular periods

var-i-ance \ˈvɛr-ē-ən(t)s/ *n* (14c) 1: the fact, quality, or state of being variable or variant 2: DIFFERENCE, VARIATION (yearly ~ in crops) 3: the fact or state of being in disagreement: DISSENSION, DISPUTE 4: a disagreement between two parts of the same legal proceeding that must be consonant 5: a license to do some act contrary to the usual rule (a zoning ~) 6: the square of the standard deviation *syn* see DISCORD — **at variance**: not in harmony or agreement

var-i-ant \ˈvɛr-ē-ənt/ *adj* (14c) 1 *obs*: VARIABLE 2: manifesting variety, deviation, or disagreement 3: varying usu. slightly from the standard form (~ readings) (~ spellings)

variant *n* (ca. 1848): one of two or more persons or things exhibiting usu. slight differences: as *a*: one that exhibits variation from a type or norm *b*: one of two or more different spellings (as *labor* and *labour*) or pronunciations (as of *economics* \ˈek-, ˈek-ə/ of the same word) *c*: one of two or more words (as *geographic* and *geographical*) or word elements (as *mon-* and *mono-*) of essentially the same meaning differing only in the presence or absence of an affix

variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease *n* (1996): a fatal prion disease that is held to be a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease caused by the prion associated with bovine spongiform encephalopathy and contracted by consuming infected beef or beef products — *abbr.* vCJD; called also *variant CJD*

var-i-ate \ˈvɛr-ē-āt-, -ət/ *n* (1909): RANDOM VARIABLE

var-i-a-tion \ˈvɛr-ē-ā-shən/ *n* (14c) 1 *a*: the act or process of varying: the state or fact of being varied 2: an instance of varying 3: the extent to which or the range in which a thing varies 4: DECLINATION 5: *a*: a change of algebraic sign between successive terms of a sequence 6: *a*: a measure of the change in data, a variable, or a function 7: the repetition of a musical theme with modifications in such elements as rhythm, melody, harmony, key, tempo, and accompaniment 8: divergence in the structural or functional characteristics of an organism from the species or population norm or average 9: something (as an individual or group) that exhibits variation 6 *a*: a solo dance in classic ballet 7 *b*: a repetition in modern ballet of a movement sequence with changes — **var-i-a-tion-al** \-shənəl-, -shə-nəl/ *adj* — **var-i-a-tion-al-ly** *adv*

var-i-cel-la \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈsɛ-lə/ *n* [NL, irreg. dim. of *variola*] (1771): CHICKEN POX

var-i-co-cele \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈkō-sēl/ *n* [NL, fr. L *varic-*, *varix* + NL *-o-* + *-cele*] (1736): a varicose enlargement of the veins of the spermatic cord

var-i-co-ored \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈkō-ɔrd/ *adj* (1665): having various colors: VARIEGATED (a ~ butterfly); *also*: of various colors

var-i-co-sa \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈkō-sə/ *also* **var-i-co-sed** \-kōst/ *adj* [L *varicosus* full of dilated veins; fr. *varic-*, *varix* dilated vein] (ca. 1730) 1: abnormally swollen or dilated (~ veins) 2: affected with varicose veins (~ legs)

var-i-co-si-ty \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈkō-si-tē/ *n*, *pl* -ties (ca. 1842) 1: VARIX 2: the quality or state of being abnormally or markedly swollen or dilated

varied *adj* (1588) 1: VARIOUS, DIVERSE (many and ~ comments) 2: VARIEGATED 1 — **var-i-ed-ly** *adv*

var-i-e-gate \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈgāt-, -vɛr-ē-ˈgāt/ *vt* -**gat-ed**; -**gat-ing** [L *variatus*, pp. of *variare*, fr. *varius* various + *-egere* (akin to L *agere* to drive)] *more* at AGENT 1: to diversify in external appearance esp. with different colors: DAPPLE 2: to enliven or give interest to by means of variety — **var-i-e-ga-tor** \-gāt-ər/ *n*

variegated *adj* (1661) 1: having discrete markings of different colors (~ leaves) 2: VARIED 1

variegated cutworm *n* (1922): a widespread noctuid moth (*Peridroma saucia*) whose larva is destructive to crops

var-i-e-ga-tion \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈgā-shən-, -vɛr-ē-ˈgā-/ *n* (1646): the act of variegating: the state of being variegated; *esp.* diversity of colors

var-i-er \ˈvɛr-ē-ər/ *n* (1860): one that varies

var-i-e-tal \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈtəl/ *adj* (1866) 1: of, relating to, or characterizing a variety (~ names); *also*: being a variety in distinction from an individual or species 2: of, relating to, or producing a varietal

varietal *n* (1950): a wine bearing the name of the principal grape from which it is made

var-i-e-ty \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈtē-/ *n*, *pl* -ties [MF or L; MF *varieté*, fr. L *varietas*, *varietas*, fr. *varius* various] (15c) 1: the quality or state of having different forms or types: MULTIPARTISANNESS 2: a number or collection of different things esp. of a particular class: ASSORTMENT 3 *a*: something differing from others of the same general kind: SORT 4: any of various groups of plants or animals ranking below a species: SUBSPECIES 4: VARIETY SHOW

variety meat *n* (ca. 1946): an edible part (as the liver or tongue) of a slaughter animal other than skeletal muscle

variety show *n* (1882): a theatrical entertainment of successive separate performances (as of songs, dances, skits, and acrobatic feats)

variety store *n* (1768): a retail store that carries a wide variety of merchandise esp. of low unit value

vario- — *see* VARI-

var-i-o-la \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈlā-, -vɛr-ē-ˈlō-/ *n* [NL, fr. ML, pustule, pox, fr. LL, pustule, prob. fr. *varius* various] (1543): SMALLPOX; *also*: its causative poxvirus (species *Variola virus* of the genus *Orthopoxvirus*)

var-i-om-e-ter \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈi-mō-tər/ *n* (ca. 1889) 1: an instrument for measuring magnetic declination 2: an aeronautical instrument for indicating rate of climb

var-i-o-rum \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈlōr-əm/ *n* [L *variorum* of various persons (gen. pl. masc. of *varius*), in the phrase *cum notis variorum* with the notes of various persons] (1728) 1: an edition or text with notes by different persons 2: an edition containing variant readings of the text

variorum *adj* (ca. 1763): relating to or being a variorum (a ~ edition); *also*: VARIANT (~ readings)

var-i-ous \ˈvɛr-ē-əs/ *adj* [ME, prob. fr. ML **variosus*, fr. L *varius*] (15c) 1 *archaic*: VARIABLE, INCONSTANT 2: VARICOLORED (birds of ~ plumage) 3 *a*: of differing kinds: MULTIFARIOUS 4: dissimilar in nature or form: UNLIKE 4: having a number of different aspects or

characteristics (a ~ place) 5: of an indefinite number greater than one (stop at ~ towns) 6: INDIVIDUAL, SEPARATE (rate increases granted in the ~ states) *syn* see DIFFERENT — **var-i-ous-ness** *n*

various *pron*, *pl* in *constr* (1877): an indefinite number of separate individuals greater than one (have read ~ of her essays)

var-i-ous-ly *adv* (1627) 1: in various ways: at various times (was ~ occupied teaching, farming, and clerking) 2: by various designations (known ~ as principal, headmaster, and rector)

var-i-sized \ˈvɛr-ē-ˈsīzd/ *adj* (1936): of various sizes

var-is-tor \ˈvɛr-ˈrɪs-tər-, -vɛ-/ *n* [*vari-* + *resistor*] (1937): an electrical resistor whose resistance depends on the applied voltage

var-ix \ˈvɛr-ˈrɪks/ *n*, *pl* **var-i-ces** \ˈvɛr-ˈrɪ-sēz/ [ME, fr. L *varic-*, *varix*] (14c): an abnormally dilated and lengthened vein, artery, or lymph vessel; *esp.* a varicose vein

var-let \ˈvɛr-lət/ *n* [ME *valet*, *vadlet*, *varlet* servant, boy — *more* at VALET] (15c) 1 *a*: ATTENDANT, MENIAL 2 *b*: a knight's page 2: a base unprincipled person: KNAVE

var-let-ry \ˈvɛr-lə-trē/ *n* (1606) *archaic*: RABBLE

var-mint \ˈvɛr-mənt/ *n* [alter. of *vermin*] (ca. 1539) 1: an animal considered a pest; *specif.* one classed as vermin and unprotected by game law 2: a contemptible person: RASCAL; *broadly*: PERSON, FELLOW

var-nish \ˈvɛr-nɪʃ/ *n* [ME *vernissh*, fr. AF *vernis*, fr. OIt or ML; OIt *vernice*, fr. ML *veronic-*, *veronix* sandarac] (14c) 1 *a*: a liquid preparation that when applied to a surface dries to form a hard lustrous typically transparent coating 2: the covering or glaze given by the application of varnish 3: something that suggests varnish by its gloss (2) a coating (as of deposits in an internal combustion engine) comparable to varnish 2: outside show: GLOSS 3 *chiefly* Brit: a liquid nail polish — **var-nishy** \-nɪ-shē/ *adj*

varnish *vt* (14c) 1: to apply varnish to 2: to cover or conceal (as something unpleasant) with something that gives an attractive appearance: GLOSS 3: ADORN, EMBELLISH — **var-nish-er** \ˈvɛr-nɪ-shər/ *n*

varnish tree *n* (1758): any of various trees yielding a milky sap suitable for use as a varnish or lacquer; *esp.* an Asian tree (*Rhus verniciflua* syn. *Toxicodendron vernicifluum*) of the cashew family

var-roa mite \ˈvɛr-rō-wə-/ *n* [NL *Varroa*, fr. Marcus Terentius Varro] (1983): any of a genus (*Varroa*) of parasitic Asian mites that suck the hemolymph of honeybees and their larvae; *esp.* one (*V. destructor*) of worldwide distribution that is a serious pest of the European honeybee

var-si-ty \ˈvɛr-si-tē-, -stē-/ *n*, *pl* -ties [by shortening & after, fr. *universi-ty*] (1646) 1 *Brit*: UNIVERSITY 2 *a*: the principal squad representing a university, college, school, or club esp. in a sport 3: REGULAR 1d

Var-so-vian \ˈvɛr-sō-vē-ən/ *n* [F *varsovien*, fr. *Varsovie* Warsaw] (1764): a native or resident of Warsaw, Poland

Var-u-na \ˈvɛr-rə-nə-/ *n* [Skt *Varuna*]: a chief Vedic god responsible for natural and moral order in the cosmos

var-us \ˈvɛr-əs/ *adj* [NL, fr. L, bent inward, bow-legged] (1945) 1: of, relating to, or being a deformity in which an anatomical part is turned inward toward the midline of the body to an abnormal degree (a ~ heel) 2: VALGUS 1 — *used* of the knee — **var-us** *n*

varve \ˈvɛr-v/ *n* [Sw *varv* turn, layer; akin to ON *hvarf* ring, OE *hworfan* to turn — *more* at WHARF] (1912): a pair of layers of alternately finer and coarser silt or clay believed to comprise an annual cycle of deposition in a body of still water — **varved** \ˈvɛr-vd/ *adj*

vary \ˈvɛr-ē/ *vb* **var-ied**; **var-y-ing** [ME *varien*, fr. AF or L; AF *varier*, fr. L *variare*, fr. *varius* various] *vt* (14c) 1: to make a partial change in: make different in some attribute or characteristic 2: to make differences between items in: DIVERSIFY ~ *vt* 1: to exhibit or undergo change (the sky was constantly ~ing) 2: DEVIATE, DEPART 3: to take on successive values (a ~ing series) 4: to exhibit divergence in structural or physiological characters from the typical form *syn* see CHANGE — **var-y-ing-ly** \-ɪŋ-lē/ *adv*

varying hare *n* (1781): SNOWSHOE HARE

vas \ˈvɛs/ *n*, *pl* **va-sa** \ˈvɛ-zə-/ [NL, fr. L, vessel] (1651): an anatomical vessel: DUCT — **va-sal** \-zəl/ *adj*

vas- or **vaso-** *comb form* [NL, fr. L *vas*] 1: vessel: as *a*: blood vessel (*vasomotor*) *b*: vas deferens (*vasectomy*) 2: vascular and (*vaso-* + *gal*) 3: vasomotor (*vasoactive*)

vas-cu-lar \ˈvɛs-kyə-lər/ *adj* [NL *vascularis*, fr. L *vasculum* small vessel, dim. of *vas*] (ca. 1673) 1: of or relating to a channel for the conveyance of a body fluid (as blood of an animal or sap of a plant) or to a system of such channels; *also*: supplied with or made up of such channels and esp. blood vessels (a ~ tumor) (a ~ system) 2: marked by vigor and ardor: PASSIONATE — **vas-cu-lar-i-ty** \ˈvɛs-kyə-lə-rə-tē/ *n*

vascular bundle *n* (1842): a strand of specialized vascular tissue of higher plants consisting mostly of xylem and phloem

vascular cylinder *n* (ca. 1889): STELE

vas-cu-lar-i-za-tion \ˈvɛs-kyə-lə-rə-zā-shən/ *n* (1818): the process of becoming vascular; *also*: abnormal or excessive formation of blood vessels (as in the retina or on the cornea)

vascular plant *n* (1861): a plant having a specialized conducting system that includes xylem and phloem: TRACHEOPHYTE

vascular ray *n* (ca. 1673): a band of usu. parenchymatous cells extending from the cambium into both the xylem and phloem of a plant root or stem that conducts fluids radially and appears in a cross section like a spoke of a wheel

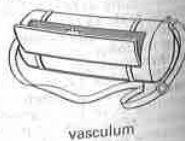
vascular tissue *n* (1842): plant tissue concerned mainly with conduction; *esp.* the specialized tissue of higher plants consisting essentially of phloem and xylem

vas-cu-la-ture \ˈvɛs-kyə-lə-ˈchūr-, -tūr/ *n* [L *vasculum* vessel + E *-ature* (as in *musculature*)] (ca. 1927): the blood vessels or arrangement of blood vessels in an organ or part

vas-cu-li-tis \ˈvɛs-kyə-lī-tɪs/ *n*, *pl* -liti-des \-lī-tə-dēz/ [NL, fr. L *vasculum* vessel] (ca. 1900): inflammation of a blood or lymph vessel

vas-cu-lum \ˈvɛs-kyə-ləm/ *n*, *pl* -la \-lə/ [NL, fr. L, small vessel] (1782): a usu. metal and commonly cylindrical or flattened covered box used in collecting plants

vas def-er-ens \ˈvɛs-de-fə-rənz-, -rənz/ *n*, *pl* **va-sa def-er-en-tia** \ˈvɛ-zə-de-fə-rən(t)-sh(ə)-lə/ [NL, lit., deferent vessel] (1578): a sperm-carrying duct esp. of a higher vertebrate that in the human male is a thick-walled tube about two feet (0.61



vasculum