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acclimate /ˈɑːklɪmət, əˈklaɪmət/ ■ v. chiefly N. Amer. acclimatize.

– DERIVATIVES **acclimation** n.

– ORIGIN C18: from Fr. *acclimater*, from *a-* (from L. *ad* 'to, at') + *climat* 'climate'.

acclimatize or **acclimatise** ■ v. 1 (often **acclimatize** to or **be/become acclimatized** to) become accustomed to a new climate or new conditions. 2 Biology respond to changes in environmental factors. 3 Botany & Horticulture harden off (a plant).

– DERIVATIVES **acclimatization** n.

– ORIGIN C19: from Fr. *acclimater* 'acclimatize' + *-ize*.

acclivity /əˈklɪvɪti/ ■ n. (pl. **acclivities**) an upward slope.

– DERIVATIVES **acclivitous** adj.

– ORIGIN C17: from L. *acclivitas*, from *acclivis*, from *ad-* 'towards' + *clivus* 'a slope'.

accolade /əˈkɔːləd, əkəˈlərd/ ■ n. 1 something granted as a special honour or in recognition of merit. 2 a ceremonial touch on a person's shoulders with a sword at the bestowing of a knighthood.

HISTORY

When it entered English in the 17th century the word **accolade** referred to a gesture performed by a monarch when knighting someone: an embrace around the neck, a kiss, or a touch on the shoulders with a sword. The word comes via French from Provençal *acolada*, literally 'an embrace around the neck', ultimately from Latin *ad-* 'to' and *collum* 'neck'; through *collum* it is linked to words such as **collar** and **décolletage**.

accommodate ■ v. 1 provide lodging or sufficient space for. 2 fit in with the wishes or needs of. ► [as adj. **accommodating**] fitting in helpfully with another's wishes or demands.

– DERIVATIVES **accommodatingly** adv. **accommodative** adj.

– ORIGIN C16: from L. *accommodat-*, *accommodare* 'make fitting', from *ad-* 'to' + *commodus* 'fitting'.

accommodation ■ n. 1 a room, building, or space in which someone may live or stay. ► (**accommodations**) chiefly N. Amer. lodgings. 2 a settlement or compromise. 3 adjustment to or reconciliation of changing circumstances. 4 the automatic adjustment of the focus of the eye by the lens.

– ORIGIN C17: from L. *accommodatio(n)-*, from *accommodare* (see **ACCOMMODATE**).

accommodation address ■ n. Brit. an address for correspondence used by a person unable or unwilling to give a permanent address.

accommodationist ■ n. US a person who seeks compromise.

accommodation ladder ■ n. a ladder up the side of a ship allowing access from a small boat or a quayside.

accompaniment ■ n. 1 a musical part which supports or partners an instrument, voice, or group. 2 something that supplements or complements something else.

– ORIGIN C18: from Fr. *accompagnement*, from *accompagner* 'accompany'.

accompanist ■ n. a person who provides a musical accompaniment.

accompany ■ v. (**accompanies**, **accompanying**, **accompanied**) 1 go somewhere with. 2 be present or occur at the same time as. ► provide or serve as a complement to. 3 play a musical accompaniment for.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *accompagner*, from *a-* (from L. *ad* 'to, at') + *compagne*, from OFr. *compaignon* 'companion'.

accomplice /əˈkæmplɪs, əˈkɒm-/ ■ n. a person who helps another commit a crime.

– ORIGIN C16: alt. of ME *complice* 'an associate', via OFr. from late L. *complex*, *complic-* 'allied'.

accomplish ■ v. achieve or complete successfully.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *accompliss-*, *accomplir*, based on L. *ad-* 'to' + *compleo* 'to complete'.

accomplished ■ adj. highly trained or skilled.

accomplishment ■ n. 1 something that has been achieved successfully. ► the successful achievement of a task. 2 an activity that one can do well.

accord ■ v. 1 give or grant someone (power or recognition). 2 (**accord with**) be harmonious or consistent with. ■ n. 1 an official agreement or treaty. 2 agreement or harmony.

– PHRASES **of one's own accord** without being asked or forced. **with one accord** in a united way.

– ORIGIN OE, from OFr. *acorder* 'reconcile', from L. *ad-* 'to' + *cor*, *cord-* 'heart'; influenced by **CONCORD**.

accordance ■ n. (in phr. **in accordance with**) in a manner conforming with.

accordant ■ adj. archaic agreeing or compatible.

according ■ adv. 1 (**according to**) as stated by or in.

► in a manner corresponding or in proportion to.

2 (**according as**) formal depending on whether.

accordingly ■ adv. 1 appropriately. 2 consequently.

accordion /əˈkɔːrdɪən/ ■ n. a musical instrument played by stretching and squeezing with the hands to work a bellows that blows air over reeds, the melody and chords being sounded by buttons or keys.

– DERIVATIVES **accordionist** n.

– ORIGIN C19: from Ger. *Akkordion*, from Ital. *accordare* 'to tune'.

accost ■ v. approach and address boldly or aggressively.

– ORIGIN C16 (orig. in the sense 'lie or go alongside'): from Fr. *accoster*, from Ital. *accostare*, from L. *ad-* 'to' + *costa* 'rib, side'.

accouchement /əˈkuːʃmənt/ ■ n. archaic the action of giving birth.

– ORIGIN C18: Fr., from *accoucher* 'act as midwife', from *a-* (from L. *ad* 'to, at') + *coucher* (see **COUCH**).

accoucheur /ˈakuːʃə/ ■ n. a male midwife.

– ORIGIN C18: Fr., from *accoucher* (see **ACCOUCHEMENT**).

account ■ n. 1 a description of an event or experience. 2 a record of financial expenditure and receipts. ► chiefly Brit. a bill for goods or services. 3 a service through a bank or similar organization by which funds are held on behalf of a client or goods or services are supplied on credit. 4 a contract to do work for a client. 5 importance: *money was of no account to her*. ■ v.

1 consider or regard in a specified way. 2 (**account for**) supply or make up (a specified amount).

3 (**account for**) give a satisfactory record or explanation of. 4 (**account for**) succeed in killing or defeating.

– PHRASES **call (or bring) to account** require (someone) to explain a mistake or poor performance. **money of account** denominations of money used in reckoning but not current as coins. **on someone's account** for someone's benefit. **on account of** because of. **on no account** under no circumstances. **on one's own account** for oneself. **take account of** consider with other factors before reaching a decision. **turn to (good) account** turn to one's advantage.

– ORIGIN ME (in the sense 'counting', 'to count'): from OFr. *aconter* (n.), *aconter* (v.), based on *conter* 'to count'.

accountable ■ adj. 1 required or expected to justify actions or decisions. 2 explicable; understandable.

– DERIVATIVES **accountability** n. **accountably** adv.

accountancy ■ n. the profession or duties of an accountant.

accountant ■ n. a person who keeps or inspects financial accounts.

– ORIGIN ME: from legal Fr., pres. part. of OFr. *aconter* (see **ACCOUNT**).

accounting ■ n. the action of keeping financial accounts.

accounts payable ■ pl. n. money owed by a company to its creditors.

accounts receivable ■ pl. n. money owed to a company by its debtors.

accoutre /əˈkuːtə/ (US **accouter**) ■ v. (**accoutres**, **accoutring**, **accoutred**; US **accouters**, **accoutring**, **accoutered**) clothe or equip in something noticeable or impressive.

– ORIGIN C16: from Fr. *accouter*, from OFr. *acoustrer*, from *a-* (from L. *ad* 'to, at') + *cousture* 'sewing'.

accoutrement /əˈkuːtəmənt(ə)nt, -trə-/ (US **accouterment**)

■ n. an item of dress or equipment required for a particular activity.

accra /ˈækra, əˈkra:/ (also **akara**) ■ n. (in West Africa