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acceptant accompany

reception; approval. **4.** Belief in something; agreement. **5.a.** A formal indication by a debtor of willingness to pay a time draft or bill of exchange. **b.** A written instrument so accepted. **6. Law.** Compliance by one party with the terms and conditions of another's offer so that a contract becomes legally binding between them.

ac·cep·tant (äk-sép'tánt) *adj.* Accepting willingly.

ac·cep·ta·tion (äk-sép-tá'shən) *n.* **1.** The usual or accepted meaning, as of a word or expression. See Syns at **meaning**. **2.** Favorable reception; approval.

ac·cept·ed (äk-sép'tid) *adj.* Widely encountered, used, or recognized.

ac·cept·er (äk-sép'tər) *n.* One that accepts.

ac·cep·tor (äk-sép'tər) *n.* **1.** Also **ac·cept·er**. One who signs a time draft or bill of exchange. **2. Chem. a.** The reactant in an induced reaction that has an increased rate of reaction in the presence of the inductor. **b.** The atom that contributes no electrons to a covalent bond.

ac·cess (äk'sēs) *n.* **1.** A means of approaching, entering, exiting, or making use of; a passage. **2.** The act of approaching. **3.** The right to approach, enter, exit, or make use of. **4.** Increase by addition. **5.** An outburst or onset; an access of rage. — *tr.v.* **ac·cessed**, **ac·cess·ing**, **ac·cess·es**. **1. Comp. Sci.** To obtain access to (data or processes). **2. Usage Problem.** To obtain access to (goods or information), usu. by technological means. [ME *acces*, a coming to < OFr. < Lat. *accessus*, p.part. of *accēdere*, to arrive; *ad-*, *ad-* + *cēdere*, to come; see **ked-**.]

Usage Note: The verb *access* is well established in its computational sense "to obtain access to (data or processes)." In recent years it has come to be used in nontechnical contexts with the more general sense "to obtain access to (goods or information), usually by technological means," as in *You can access your cash at any of 300 automatic tellers throughout the area*. This example was judged unacceptable by 82 percent of the Usage Panel.

ac·ces·si·ble (äk-sēs'i-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Easily approached or entered. **2.** Easily obtained; *accessible money*. **3.** Easy to talk to or get along with. **4.** Easily swayed or influenced. — **ac·ces·si·bil'i·ty**, **ac·ces·si·ble·ness** *n.* — **ac·ces·si·bly** *adv.*

ac·ces·sion (äk-sesh'ən) *n.* **1.** The attainment of a dignity or rank: *the queen's accession to the throne*. **2.a.** Something that has been acquired or added; an acquisition. **b.** An increase by means of something added. **3. Law. a.** The addition to or increase in value of property by means of improvements or natural growth. **b.** The right of a proprietor to ownership of such addition or increase. **4.** Agreement or assent. **5.** Access; admittance. **6.** A sudden outburst. — *tr.v.* **ac·cessioned**, **ac·cession·ing**, **ac·cessions**. To record (paintings, for example) in the order of acquisition. — **ac·ces·sion·al** *adj.*

ac·ces·sor·ize (äk-sēs'tə-riz') *tr.v.* **ac·cessorized**, **ac·cessorizing**, **ac·cessorizes**. *Usage Problem.* To furnish with accessories. See **Usage Note** at **-ize**.

ac·ces·so·ry (äk-sēs'tə-ri) *n., pl. -ries*. **1.a.** A subordinate or supplementary item; an adjunct. **b.** Something nonessential but desirable that contributes to an effect or result. **2. Law. a.** One who incites, aids, or abets a lawbreaker in the commission of a crime but is not present at the time of the crime. **b.** One who aids a criminal after the commission of a crime but was not present at the time of the crime. — *adj.* **1.** Having a secondary, supplementary, or subordinate function. **2. Law.** Serving to aid or abet a lawbreaker, either before or after the commission of the crime, without being present at the time the crime was committed. [ME *accessorie* < Med.Lat. *accessorius* < *accessor*, helper < Lat. *accessus*, approach. See **ac·cess**.] — **ac·ces·so·ri·al** (sä-sör'ē-əl, -sör-) *adj.* — **ac·ces·so·ri·ly** *adv.* — **ac·ces·so·ri·ness** *n.*

accessory after the fact *n., pl. accessories after the fact.* *Law.* See **accessory** 2b.

accessory before the fact *n., pl. accessories before the fact.* *Law.* See **accessory** 2a.

accessory fruit *n.* A fruit, such as the pear or strawberry, that develops from a ripened ovary or ovaries but includes a significant portion derived from nonovarian tissue.

accessory nerve *n.* Either of the 11th pair of cranial nerves, which convey motor impulses to the pharynx and muscles of the upper thorax, back, and shoulders.

access time *n. Comp. Sci.* The time lag between a request for information stored in a computer and its delivery.

ac·ci·ac·tu·ra (ä-chä'ka-tōr'ä) *n. Mus.* A short grace note one half step below a principal note, sounded immediately before or at the same time as the principal note to add sustained dissonance. [Ital. < *acciacciare*, to crush.]

ac·ci·dence (äk'si-dəns, -dəns') *n. Gram.* The section of morphology that deals with the inflections of words. [ME < L.Lat. *accidentia* < Lat. *accidēs*, *accident*, *accident*. See **accident**.]

ac·ci·dent (äk'si-dənt, -dənt') *n.* **1.a.** An unexpected, undesirable event. **b.** An unforeseen incident. **2.** Lack of intention; chance: *met by accident*. **3. Logic.** A circumstance or an attribute that is not essential to the nature of something. [ME, chance event < OFr. < Lat. *accidēs*, *accident*, p.part. of *accidere*, to happen; *ad-*, *ad-* + *cedere*, to fall; see **kad-**.]

ac·ci·den·tal (äk'si-dēnt'l) *adj.* **1.** Occurring unexpectedly,

unintentionally, or by chance. **2. Mus.** Of or relating to a sharp, flat, or natural not indicated in the key signature. — *n.*

1. A property, a factor, or an attribute that is not essential. **2. Mus.** A chromatically altered note not belonging to the key signature. — **ac·ci·den·tal·ly** *adv.*

accident insurance *n.* Insurance against injury or death because of accident.

ac·ci·dent·prone (äk'si-dənt-prōn') *adj.* Having or susceptible to having a greater than average number of accidents or mishaps.

ac·cipi·ter (äk-sip'i-tər) *n.* A hawk of the genus *Accipiter*, characterized by short wings and a long tail. [Lat., hawk. See **oku-**.] — **ac·cipi·trine** (-trīn', -trīn) *adj.*

ac·claim (ä-kläm') *v.* **ac·claimed**, **ac·claim·ing**, **ac·claims**. — *tr.* To praise enthusiastically and often publicly; applaud. See Syns at **praise**. — *intr.* To shout approval. — *n.* Enthusiastic applause; acclamation. [*<* Lat. *acclamāre*; *ad-*, *ad-* + *clāmāre*, to shout; see **kela-**.] — **ac·claim·er** *n.*

ac·cla·ma·tion (äk'lā-mā'shən) *n.* **1.** A shout or salute of enthusiastic approval. **2.** An oral vote, esp. an enthusiastic vote of approval without formal ballot. [Lat. *acclamatio*, *acclamatio* < *acclamāre*, p.part. of *acclamāre*, to shout at. See **acclaim**.] — **ac·clam·a·to·ry** (ä-kläm'ä-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.*

ac·cli·mate (ä-kli'mīt, äk'lā-māt') *tr. & intr.v.* **ac·climated**, **ac·climating**, **ac·climates**. To accustom or become accustomed to a new environment or situation; adapt. [Fr. *acclimater*; *ac-*, to (< Lat. *ad-*; see **ad-**) + *climat*, climate (< OFr.; see **climate**).]

ac·cli·ma·tion (äk'lā-mā'shən) *n.* **1.** The process of acclimating or of becoming acclimated. **2.** Acclimatization.

ac·cli·ma·ti·za·tion (ä-kli'mā-ti-zā'shən) *n.* The physiological adaptation of an animal or a plant to changes in climate or environment, such as light, temperature, or altitude.

ac·cli·ma·tize (ä-kli'mā-tiz') *v.* **ac·climated**, **ac·climating**, **ac·climates**. — *tr.* **1.** To acclimate. **2.** To adapt (oneself), esp. to environmental or climatic changes. — *intr.* To become acclimated or adapted. — **ac·cli·ma·tizer** *n.*

ac·cli·v·ity (ä-kli-vi-tē) *n., pl. -ties*. An upward slope. [Lat. *acclivitas* < *acclivus*, uphill; *ad-*, *ad-* + *clivus*, slope; see **klei-**.]

ac·co·lade (äk'kō-lād', -lād') *n.* **1.a.** An expression of approval; praise. **b.** A special acknowledgment; an award. **2.** A ceremonial embrace, as of greeting. **3.** Ceremonial bestowal of knighthood. — *tr.v.* **ac·claded**, **ac·clading**, **ac·clades**. To praise or honor. [Fr., an embrace, *accolade* < *accoler*, to embrace < OFr. *acoler* < VLat. *accollāre*; Lat. *ad-*, *ad-* + Lat. *collum*, neck; see **kwel-**.]

ac·com·mo·date (ä-kōm'ä-dāt') *v.* **ac·commodated**, **ac·commodating**, **ac·commodates**. — *tr.* **1.** To do a favor or service for; oblige. **2.** To provide for; supply with. **3.** To hold comfortably without crowding. See Syns at **contain**. **4.** To make suitable; adapt. See Syns at **adapt**. **5.** To allow for; consider. **6.** To settle; reconcile. — *intr.* *Physiol.* To become adjusted, as the eye to focusing on objects at a distance. [Lat. *accommodare*, *accommodat*, to fit; *ad-*, *ad-* + *commodus*, suitable; see **commodus**.] — **ac·com·mo·da·tive** *adj.* — **ac·com·mo·da·tive·ness** *n.* — **ac·com·mo·da·tor** *n.*

ac·com·mo·dat·ing (ä-kōm'ä-dā'ting) *adj.* Helpful and obliging. — **ac·com·mo·dat·ing·ly** *adv.*

ac·com·mo·da·tion (ä-kōm'ä-dā'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of accommodating or the state of being accommodated; adjustment. **2.** Something that meets a need; a convenience. **3. accommodations.** **a.** Room and board; lodgings. **b.** A seat, compartment, or room on a public vehicle. **4.** Reconciliation or settlement of opposing views. **5. Physiol.** The automatic adjustment in the focal length of the lens of the eye to permit retinal focus of images of objects at varying distances. **6.** A financial favor.

ac·com·mo·da·tion·ist (ä-kōm'ä-dā'shā-nist) *n.* One that compromises with or adapts to the viewpoint of the opposition. — **ac·com·mo·da·tion·ist** *adj.*

accommodation ladder *n. Naut.* A portable ladder hung from the side of a ship.

ac·com·pa·ni·ment (ä-kūm'pā-nē-mənt, ä-kūmp'nē-) *n.* **1. Mus.** A vocal or instrumental part that supports another, often solo, part. **2.** Something that accompanies something else; a concomitant. **3.** Something added for embellishment; completeness, or symmetry; a complement.

ac·com·pa·nist (ä-kūm'pā-nist, ä-kūmp'nist) *n. Mus.* A performer, such as a pianist, who plays an accompaniment.

ac·com·pa·ny (ä-kūm'pā-nē, ä-kūmp'nē) *v.* **ac·companied**, **ac·companied**, **ac·companied**. — *tr.* **1.** To be or go with as a companion. **2.** To add to; supplement. **3.** To coexist or occur with. **4. Mus.** To perform an accompaniment to. — *intr.* *Mus.* To play an accompaniment. [ME *acompanien* < OFr. *acompanier*; *a-*, to (< Lat. *ad-*; see **ad-**) + *compagnon*, companion; see **companion**.]

Syns: *accompany, conduct, escort, chaperon*. These verbs mean to be with or to go with another or others. *Accompany* suggests going on an equal basis: *She went accompanied by her colleague*. *Conduct* implies guidance of others: *The usher conducted us to our seats*. *Escort* stresses protective guidance:



acciaccatura
A. Grace note
B. Principal note