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**Elizabeth J. Jewell
Frank Abate**

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Erin McKean

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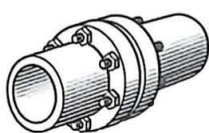
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railroad vehicle for connecting it to another. **2** the pairing of two items: the coupling of Christian ideals with Marxist principles. **3** sexual intercourse. **4** the arrangement of items on a musical recording: this coupling of two of the greatest works of Haydn. **5** each such item: one of the more interesting couplings for the B minor Sonata. **6** an interaction between two electrical components by electromagnetic induction, electrostatic charge, or optical link.



coupling 1

cou-pling con-stant *n.* *Physics* a measure of the strength of interaction between two particles, or between a particle and a field.

cou-pon /'k(y)ōō,pān/ *n.* **1** a voucher entitling the holder to a discount for a particular product. **2** a detachable portion of a bond that is given up in return for a payment of interest. **3** a form in a newspaper or magazine that may be filled in and sent as an application for a purchase or information. **4** early 19th cent. (denoting a detachable portion of a bond to be given up in return for payment of interest): from French, literally 'piece cut off,' from *couper* 'cut,' from Old French *colper* (see *COPE*).

cou-pon bond *n.* an investment bond on which interest is paid by presenting coupons.

cou-pon clip-per *n.* *informal* a person with a large number of coupon bonds.

cou-p stick /kōō/ *n.* (among North American Indians) a decorated stick recording coups attained by the warrior.

courage /'kerij/; 'kə-rif/ *n.* the ability to do something that frightens one: she called on all her courage to face the ordeal. **2** strength in the face of pain or grief: he fought his illness with great courage. **3** Middle English (denoting the heart, as the seat of feelings): from Old French *corage*, from Latin *cor* 'heart.'

PHRASES **□** have the courage of one's convictions **act** on one's beliefs despite danger or disapproval. **□** pluck up (or screw up or take) courage **make** an effort to do something that frightens one. **□** take one's courage in both hands **nerve** oneself to do something that frightens one.

THE RIGHT WORD courage, fortitude, guts, nerve, pluck, resolution, tenacity

Courage is what makes someone capable of facing extreme danger and difficulty without retreating (the courage to confront the enemy head-on). It implies not only bravery and a dauntless spirit but the ability to endure in times of adversity (a mother's courage in the face of her loss).

Someone who has guts, a slang word indicating an admirable display of courage when it really counts (having the guts to stand up to one's boss), might also be described as having "intestinal fortitude," a cliché that is more formal and means the same thing.

Fortitude is the most formal of any of these words; it suggests firmness or strength of mind rather than physical bravery (the fortitude to stand up for his beliefs).

Resolution also implies firmness of mind rather than fearlessness, but the emphasis is on the determination to achieve a goal in spite of opposition or interference (a woman of strong resolution, not easily held back by her male superiors).

Tenacity goes one step beyond resolution, adding stubborn persistence and unwillingness to acknowledge defeat (the tenacity of a bulldog).

Nerve and pluck are informal words. Pluck connotes high spirits, conviction, and eagerness (the pluck to volunteer her time even after she'd been laid off), while nerve is the cool, unflappable daring with which someone takes a calculated risk (the nerve to take over the controls and land the plane safely).

Nerve can also refer to brashness or even rudeness in social situations (She had the nerve to go to his house without calling first).

cou-ra-geous /kə'rājəs/ *adj.* not deterred by danger or pain; brave: her courageous human rights work. **3** Middle English: from Old French *corageus*, from *corage* (see *COURAGE*). —*cou-ra-geous-ly* *adv.* —*cou-ra-geous-ness* *n.*

cou-rant /'kōōrənt; kōō'rānt; kōō'rānt/ *adj.* [*usu. post-positive*] *Heraldry* represented as running: white horse courant. **2** early 17th cent.: French, 'running,' present participle of *courir*.

cou-rante /kōō'rānt; -rānt/ *n.* a 16th-century court

dance consisting of short advances and retreats. **3** a piece of music written for or in the style of such a dance, typically one forming a movement of a suite. **4** late 16th cent.: French, literally 'running,' feminine present participle of *courir*.

Cour-bet /kōōr'bā/, Gustave (1819–77), French painter. A leader of the 19th-century realist school of painting, his works include *Burial at Ornans* (1850) and *Painter in His Studio* (1855).

cou-reur de bols /kōō,rər də 'bwā/ *n.* (*pl. cou-reurs de bols* *pronunc. same*) *historical* (in Canada and the northern U.S.) a woodsman or trader of French origin. **2** early 18th cent.: French, literally 'wood runner.'

cou-rette /kōōr'zhet/ *n.* *Brit.* a zucchini. **2** 1930s: from French, diminutive of *courge* 'gourd,' from Latin *cucurbita*.

cour-ler /'kōōrē; 'kərē/ *n.* **1** a messenger who transports goods or documents, in particular: **2** a company or employee of a company that transports commercial packages and documents: the check was dispatched by courier | [*as adj.*] a courier service. **3** a messenger for an underground or espionage organization. **4** a person employed to guide and assist a group of tourists.

PHRASES **□** (often be courlered) send or transport (goods or documents) by courier. **2** late Middle English (denoting a person sent to run with a message): originally from Old French *coreor*; later from French *courier* (now *courrier*), from Italian *corriere*; based on Latin *currere* 'to run.'

Cour-règes /kōōr'ez/, André (1923–), French fashion designer. He is noted for his futuristic and youth-oriented styles, in particular, the use of plastic and metal, and for unisex fashion such as trouser suits for women.

course /kōrs/ *n.* **1** [*in sing.*] the route or direction followed by a ship, aircraft, road, or river: the road adopts a tortuous course along the coast | the new fleet changed course to join the other ships. **2** the way in which something progresses or develops: the course of history. **3** a procedure adopted to deal with a situation: the wisest course of action is to tackle the problem at its source. **4** the route of a race or similar sporting event. **5** an area of land set aside and prepared for racing, golf, or another sport. **6** a dish, or a set of dishes served together, forming one of the successive parts of a meal: guests are offered a choice of main course | [*in combination*] a four-course meal. **7** a series, in particular: **8** a series of lectures or lessons in a particular subject, typically leading to a qualification: a business studies course. **9** Medicine a series of repeated treatments or doses of medication: the doctor prescribed a course of antibiotics. **10** Architecture a continuous horizontal layer of brick, stone, or other material in a building. **11** a pursuit of game (esp. hares) with greyhounds by sight rather than scent. **12** the lowest sail on a square-rigged mast. **13** a set of adjacent strings on a guitar, lute, etc., tuned to the same note.

PHRASES **□** (of liquid) move without obstruction; flow: tears were coursing down her cheeks | figurative exultation coursed through him. **2** [*trans.*] pursue (game, esp. hares) with greyhounds using sight rather than scent: many of the hares coursed escaped unharmed | [*intrans.*] she would course for hares with her greyhounds. **3** Middle English: from Old French *cours*, from Latin *cursus*, from *curs-* 'run,' from the verb *currere*.

PHRASES **□** a matter of course see *MATTER*. **□** the course of nature events or processes that are normal and to be expected: each man would, in the course of nature, have his private opinions. **□** In the course of — **1** undergoing the specified process: a new text book was in the course of preparation. **2** during the specified period: he was a friend to many people in the course of his life. **3** during and as a part of the specified activity: they became friends in the course of their long walks. **□** In the course of time as time goes by. **□** In due course see *DUE*. **□** of course used to introduce an idea or turn of events as being obvious or to be expected: the point is, of course, that the puzzle itself is misleading. **3** used to give or emphasize agreement or permission: "Can I see you for a minute?" "Of course." **4** introducing a qualification or admission: of course we've been in touch by phone, but I wanted to see things for myself. **□** off course not following the intended route: the car went careering off course. **□** on course following the intended route: he battled to keep the ship on course | figurative to get back on course, I relied on one of my stock questions. **□** run (or take) its course complete its natural development without interference: his illness had to run its course.

cours-er /'kōrs/ *n.* dated or poetic/literary a swift

horse. **2** Middle English: from Old French *corsier*, based on Latin *cursus* (see *COURSE*).

cours-er *n.* a fast-running ploverlike bird related to the pratincoles, typically found in open country in Africa and Asia. **2** Genera *Cursorius* and *Rhinoptilus*, family Glareolidae: several species, in particular the desert-dwelling cream-colored courser (*C. cursor*). **3** mid 18th cent.: from modern Latin *Cursorius* 'adapted for running,' from *cursor* 'runner,' from the verb *currere* (see *COURSE*).

cours-er *n.* a person who hunts animals such as hares with greyhounds using sight rather than scent. **2** early 17th cent.: from *COURSE* **1**.

course-ware /'kōrs,wə(ə)r/ *n.* computer programs or other material designed for use in an educational or training course.

course-work /'kōrs,wɜ:k/ (also *course work*) *n.* written or practical work done by a student during a course of study, usually assessed in order to count toward a final mark or grade: the graduate program combines coursework and internship.

cours-ing /'kōrsɪŋ/ *n.* the sport of hunting game animals such as hares with greyhounds using sight rather than scent.

Court /kōrt/, Margaret Smith (1942–), Australian tennis player. She won more Grand Slam events (66) than any other player.

court /kōrt/ *n.* **1** (also *court of law*) a tribunal presided over by a judge, judges, or a magistrate in civil and criminal cases: a settlement was reached during the first sitting of the court | she will take the matter to court | [*as adj.*] a court case. **2** any of various other tribunals, such as military courts. **3** the place where such a tribunal meets. **4** (the court) the judge or judges presiding at such a tribunal. **5** a quadrangular area, either open or covered, marked out for ball games such as tennis or basketball: an indoor tennis court. **6** a quadrangular area surrounded by a building or group of buildings. **7** a subdivision of a building, usually a large hall extending to the ceiling with galleries and staircases. **8** the establishment, retinue, and courtiers of a sovereign: the emperor is shown with his court. **9** a sovereign and his or her councilors, constituting a ruling power: relations between the king and the imperial court. **10** a sovereign's residence.

PHRASES **□** dated be involved with romantically, typically with the intention of marrying: he was courting a girl from the neighboring farm | [*intrans.*] we went to the movies when we were courting. **2** (of a male bird or other animal) try to attract (a mate). **3** pay special attention to (someone) in an attempt to win their support or favor: Western politicians courted the leaders of the newly independent states. **4** go to great lengths to win (favorable attention): he never had to court the approval of the political elite. **5** risk incurring (misfortune) because of the way one behaves: he has often courted controversy. **6** Middle English: from Old French *cort*, from Latin *cohors*, *cohort-* 'yard or retinue.' The verb is influenced by Old Italian *cortare*, Old French *courtayer*. Compare with *COHORT*.

PHRASES **□** go to court take legal action. **□** hold court see *HOLD*. **□** in court appearing as a party or an attorney in a court of law. **□** out of court **1** before a legal hearing can take place: they are trying to settle the squabble out of court | [*as adj.*] an out-of-court settlement. **2** treated as impossible or not worthy of consideration: the price would put it out of court for most private buyers. **□** pay court to pay flattering attention to someone in order to win favor.

court bouil-lon /kōōr 'bōō(l),yān; kōōr bā'ōn/ *n.* a stock made from wine and vegetables, typically used in fish dishes. **2** French, from *court* 'short' and *BOUILLON*.

court card *n.* British term for *FACE CARD*. **2** mid 17th cent.: alteration of 16th-cent. *coat card*, so named because of the decorative dress of the figures depicted.

court dress *n.* *historical* formal clothing worn at a royal court.

cour-te-ous /'kōrtēəs/ *adj.* polite, respectful, or considerate in manner. **2** Middle English (meaning 'having manners fit for a royal court'): from Old French *cortēs*, based on Latin *cohors* 'yard, retinue' (see *COURT*). The change in the ending in the 16th cent. was due to association with words ending in *-eous*. —*cour-te-ous-ly* *adv.* —*cour-te-ous-ness* *n.*

cour-te-san /'kōrtēzən; 'kər-/ *n.* a prostitute, esp. one

Pronunciation Key *ə* ago; *or* over; *ə* or *o* up; *ə* or *or*, *or* fur; *a* hat; *ā* rate; *ā* car; *ch* chew; *e* let; *ē* see; *e* (ə) air; *i* fit; *i* by; *i* (ə) ear; *ng* sing; *ō* go; *ō* for; *oi* boy; *ōō* good; *ōō* goo; *ou* out; *sh* she; *th* thin; *th* then; *(h)w* why; *zh* vision