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the besieged behind a breach (*fortif*); the deletion of passages in a play, piece of music, etc. [Fr *couper* to cut]

cour and **coure** obsolete forms of **cover** and **cower**.

courage /kʊr'ij/ *n* the quality that enables people to meet danger without giving way to fear; bravery; spirit. ♦ *interj* take courage. [OFr *corage* (Fr *courage*), from L *cor* the heart]

■ **courageful** *adj*. **courageous** /kə-rā'jas/ *adj* full of courage; brave. **courā'geously** *adv*. **courā'geousness** *n*.

■ **Dutch courage** artificial courage induced by drinking alcohol. **pluck up courage** or **take one's courage in both hands** to nerve oneself; to gather boldness. **take courage** to be fearless and optimistic in a difficult situation. **the courage of one's convictions** courage to act up to, or consistently with, one's opinions or principles.

courant /kū-rant'/ *adj* (*heraldry*) in a running position. [Fr, prp of *courir* to run; see **current**]

■ **courante** or **courant** /kū-rānt'/ *n* an old dance with a kind of gliding step, a coranto; music for it; /kū-rant'/ a newspaper (now in titles only).

courb or **curb** /koorb or kūrb/ (*archaic*) *vi* to bend or stoop in order to supplicate. ♦ *adj* bent (also *obs* **corbe**). [Fr *courber*, from L *curvāre* to bend]

courbaril /kūr'ba-ril/ *n* the W Indian locust-tree, *Hymenaea courbaril*; its resin, gum anime. [Fr from Carib]

courbette /kūr-bet'/ *n* the French form of **curvet**.

courd an obsolete form of **covered**.

coureur de bois /kū-ræ'r də bwa/ (*Can hist*) *n* a French-Canadian woodsman who traded furs with the Native Canadian tribes. [Can Fr, literally, woods runner]

courgette /kūr-zhet'/ *n* a type of small marrow (also called **zucchini**). [Fr *courge* gourd, pumpkin]

courier /kūr'i-ər/ *n* a messenger, *esp* one employed to deliver special or urgent messages or items; a state or diplomatic messenger; an official guide and organizer who travels with tourists; a title of certain newspapers. ♦ *vt* to send by courier. [Fr, from L *currere* to run]

courlan /kūr'lan/ *n* any bird of the American genus *Aramus*, related to the rails, the limpkin. [Fr, from a S American name]

course /kōrs or kōrs/ *n* the path in which anyone or anything moves; the ground over which a race is run, golf is played, etc; a channel for water; the direction pursued; a voyage; a race; regular progress from point to point; a habitual method of procedure; a prescribed series, sequence, process or treatment, eg of lectures, training, education, pills, etc; each of the successive divisions of a meal, ie soup, fish, etc; a range of bricks or stones on the same level in building; (in the lute, etc) one of two or more strings tuned in unison or in octaves (*music*); the series of positions of a bell in the changing order in which a set of bells is struck (*bellringing*); one of the sails bent to a ship's lower yards (*main course* mainsail, *fore course* foresail, and *mizzen course* crossjack; *naut*); (in *pl*) the menses. ♦ *vt* to run, chase or hunt after; to use in coursing. ♦ *vi* to run; to move with speed, as in a race or hunt. [Fr *cours*, from L *cursum*, from *currere*, *cursum* to run]

■ **cours'er** *n* a runner; a swift horse; a person who courses or hunts; a swift running bird (genus *Cursorius*). **cours'ing** *n* hunting of *esp* hares with greyhounds or lurchers, by sight rather than by scent.

□ **course'book** *n* a textbook intended for a particular course of study. **course'work** *n* work that goes to make up an educational course. **cours'ing-joint** *n* a joint between two courses of masonry.

■ **in course** in regular order; of course (*archaic*). **in due course** eventually; at a suitable later time. **in the course of** *dur*; in the process of; undergoing (something). **in the course of time** eventually; with the passing of time. **of course** by natural consequence; indisputably; it must be remembered (often used to introduce a comment on a preceding statement). **run (or take) its (or their) course** to proceed or develop freely and naturally, *usu* to a point of completion or cessation. **stay the course** see under **stay**¹. **the course of nature**, or **the normal**, etc **course of events** the usual way in which things happen or proceed.

court /kōrt or kōrt/ *n* an enclosed space, such as one surrounded by houses; a piece of ground or floor on which certain games are played; a division marked off by lines on such a place; the palace of a sovereign; the body of persons who form the sovereign's suite or council; an assembly of courtiers; a hall of justice (*law*); the judges and officials who preside there; any body of persons assembled to decide causes; a sitting of such a body; a court shoe. ♦ *vt* to pay attentions to, to woo; to solicit; to seek. [OFr *cort* (Fr *cour*), from LL *cortis* a courtyard, from L *cors*, *cohors*, *cohors* an enclosure; related to Gr *chortos* an enclosed place, L *hortus* a garden (see **yard**²)]

■ **court'ier** *n* someone in attendance at a court or palace; someone who courts or flatters. **court'ierism** *n* the behaviour or practices of a courtier. **court'ierlike** *adj* and *adv*. **court'ierly** *adv*. **court'ing** *n* wooing; attendance at court (*Spenser*). **court'let** *n* a petty court. **court'like** *adj* courtly; polite. **court'liness** *n*. **court'ling** *n* a hanger-

on at court. **court'ly** *adj* (**court'lier**; **court'liest**) having manners like those of, or befitting, a court; politely stately; fair and flattering. **court'ship** *n* the act or process of wooing a woman in order to persuade her to become one's wife; the period of time over which this is carried out; courtly behaviour.

□ **court-bar'on** *n* (*hist*) the assembly of freehold tenants of a manor under a lord. **court card** see **coat-card** under **coat**¹. **court circular** *n* a daily report in certain newspapers of the appointments, activities, etc of the sovereign and/or other members of a royal family.

court'craft *n* the courtier's art, intrigue. **court cupboard** *n* (*hist*) a movable cupboard or sideboard on which plate was displayed. **court'-day** *n* a day on which a judicial court sits. **court dress** *n* the special formal costume worn on state or ceremonial occasions.

court'-dresser *n* (*obs*) a flatterer. **court fool** *n* a fool or jester, formerly kept at court for amusement. **court guide** *n* (*hist*) a guide to, or a directory of, the names and residences of the nobility in a town. **court hand** *n* a modification of the Norman handwriting, as distinguished from the modern or Italian handwriting, in use in the English lawcourts from the 16c to the reign of George II. **court house** *n* a building where the lawcourts are held. **court'-leet** *n* (*hist*) a court of record held in a manor before the lord or his steward. **courtly love** *n* a conception and tradition of love, originating in late medieval European literature, in which the knight sublimates his love for his lady in submission, service and devotion. **court martial** *n* (*pl* **courts martial** or (*inf*) **court mar'tials**) a court held by officers of the army, navy or air force for the trial of offences against service laws (one improvised in time of war round an upturned drum for summary judgement was a **drumhead court martial**).

court-mar'tialing; **court-mar'tialled** to try before a court martial. **court order** *n* a direction or command of a judiciary court. **court plaster** *n* sticking-plaster made of silk, originally applied as patches on the face by ladies at court. **court'-roll** *n* the record of land holdings, etc of a manorial court. **court'room** *n* a room in a courthouse in which lawsuits and criminal cases are heard. **court shoe** *n* a low-cut ladies' shoe without straps or laces. **court sword** *n* a light sword worn as part of court dress. **court tennis** *n* the game of real tennis, distinguished from lawn tennis. **court'yard** *n* a court or enclosed ground attached to a building, *usu* a large house.

■ **court holy water** (*obs*) empty compliments; flattery. **Court of Appeal**, **Arches**, **Exchequer**, etc see under **appeal**, **arch**¹, **exchequer**, etc. **court of first instance** a lawcourt in which proceedings are first heard. **go (or take someone) to court** to institute legal proceedings against someone. **hold court** to preside over admiring followers, etc. **laugh someone out of court** see under **laugh**. **out of court** without a trial in a lawcourt; without claim to be considered. **pay court to** to woo or flatter. **put (or rule) out of court** to prevent a case from being heard; to dismiss emphatically (*fig*). **the ball's in your court** see under **ball**¹.

court-bouillon /koor boo-yō'/ *n* (*pl* **courts-bouillons**) a seasoned stock made with water, vegetables and wine or vinegar, in which fish is boiled. [Fr *court* short, from L *curtus*, and **bouillon**]

Courtelle[®] /kūr-tel' or kōr-/ *n* a synthetic acrylic wool-like fibre.

courteous /kūrt'yas or kōrt'yas/ *adj* polite, considerate or respectful in manner and action; obliging. [OFr *cortois*, *cortois*; see **court**]

■ **court'eously** *adv*. **court'eousness** *n*. **courtesy** /kūrt'ə-si or kōrt'/ *n* courteous behaviour; an act of civility or respect; a curtsy (*obs*); (until 1964) the life interest of the surviving husband in his wife's heritable property (*Scots law*). ♦ *vi* (**court'esying**; **court'esied**) to make a curtsy.

□ **courtesy light** *n* a small light in a motor vehicle, *usu* operated by the opening and closing of the doors. **courtesy title** *n* a title really invalid, but allowed by the usage of society, as for children of peers.

■ (*by*) **courtesy of** with the permission of; by the favour of. **remember your courtesy** (*obs*) please put on your hat. **strain courtesy** see under **strain**¹.

courtesan or **courtezan** /kūrt'i-zan, kōrt' or -zan'/ *n* a mistress or prostitute, *esp* of a man of status or wealth. [Fr *courtisane*, from Ital *cortigiana*, orig a woman of the court]

couscous, **kouskous** /kūs'kūs/ or **couscousou** /-oo'/ *n* hard wheat semolina; a N African dish of steamed couscous with meat, vegetables, etc. [Fr, from Ar *kuskus*, from *kaskasa* to pound; see **cuscus**²]

cousin /kuz'n/ *n* the son or daughter of an uncle or aunt; formerly, a kinsman generally; a term used by a sovereign in addressing another, or to one of his own nobles; a person belonging to a group related by common ancestry, interests, etc; something kindred or related to another. [Fr, from L *consobrinus*, from *con-* (signifying connection), and *sobrinus*, applied to the children of sisters, from the root of *soror* a sister]

■ **cous'lnage** *n*. **cous'lnhood** *n*. **cous'inly** *adj* like, or having the relation of, a cousin. **cous'inry** *n* cousins collectively. **cous'lnship** *n*.

□ **cousin-ger'man** *n* (*pl* **cousins-german**) a first cousin; something