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bo-throd-e-sy (bə-thrōd'ē-sē) *n.* Measurement of the gravitational field, and therefore the geometry of space-time, in the vicinity of a black hole. [Greek *bothros*, pit + (GEO)DESY.]

Bothwell (bōth'wēl', -wəl, bōth'-), Fourth Earl of. Title of James Hepburn, 1536?-1578. Scottish Protestant nobleman and third husband of Mary Queen of Scots who was suspected of plotting the murder of her second husband, Lord Darnley (1567). Soon after wedding Mary he fled Scotland, was captured, and died in a Danish prison.

both-y (bōth'ē) *n., pl. -ies* Scots A hut or small cottage. [Ultimately < Old Irish *both*, hut; see *bheua-* in App. I.]

bot-net (bōt'nēt') *n.* A network of maliciously installed bots running on multiple computers.

Bo-tox (bō'tōks') A trademark for a preparation of botulinum toxin, used to treat blepharospasms, strabismus, and muscle dystonias and to smooth facial wrinkles.

bo tree (bō) *n.* See *pipal*. [Partial translation of Sinhalese *bo-gaha*, tree of wisdom (because it was the tree under which the Buddha was enlightened): *bo*, wisdom (< Pali *bodhi* < Sanskrit *bodhih*, enlightenment; see *bheudh-* in App. I) + *gaha*, tree.]

bot-ry-oi-dal (bōt'rē-oid'l) also **bot-ry-oid** (bōt'rē-oid') *adj.* Shaped like a bunch of grapes. Used especially of mineral formations: *botryoidal hematite*. [*<* Greek *botryoēides* : *botrus*, bunch of grapes + *-oidēs*, -oid.] —**bot-ry-oi-dal-ly** *adv.*

bot-ry-tis (bō-tri'tis) *n.* 1. Any of various fungi of the genus *Botrytis* responsible for numerous diseases of fruits and vegetables. 2. Noble rot. [New Latin, genus name < Greek *botrus*, bunch of grapes.]

Botswana (bōt-swā'nə) A country of south-central Africa. Originally inhabited by the San and later (after the 18th century) by the Tswana, the region became a British protectorate as Bechuanaland (1885) and gained full independence in 1966. Gaborone is the capital and the largest city. —**Botswana** *adj. & n.*

bot (bōt) *n.* Variant of *bot'*.

bot-tar-ga (bōt-tār'gə) *n.* The roe of mullet or tuna that is salted, dried, pressed, and usually served sliced or grated as a garnish. Also called *botargo*. [Italian < Arabic *baṭāriḡ*, pl. of *baṭraḡ*, ultimately < Greek *tarikhos*, *tarikhon*, dried salted fish, pickled fish (perhaps via Late Greek *botarikhon* : *bo-*, perhaps akin to Modern Greek *avgō*, egg : < Greek *ōion*; see *awi-* in App. I + Greek *tarikhon*, or alternatively via Coptic **pitari-khon*, *bottarga* : *pt-*, masculine sing. definite article + **tarikhon*, *bottarga* < Greek *tarikhon*.)]

Bot-ti-cel-li (bōt'ti-chē'lē), **Sandro** Originally Alessandro di Mariano dei Filipei. 1444?-1510. Italian painter of the Florentine school whose flowing draftsmanship is evident in his masterpieces, *Primavera* (c. 1477) and *Birth of Venus* (c. 1485).

bot-tle (bōt'l) *n.* 1. A receptacle having a narrow neck, usually no handles, and a mouth that can be plugged, corked, or capped. 2. The quantity that a bottle holds. 3. A receptacle filled with milk or formula that is fed, as to babies, in place of breast milk. 4. *Informal* a. Intoxicating liquor: *Don't take to the bottle.* b. The practice of drinking large quantities of intoxicating liquor: *Her problem is the bottle.* *tr.v.* -tled, -tling, -tles 1. To place in a bottle. 2. To hold in; restrain: *bottled up my emotions.* [Middle English *botel* < Old French *botele* < Medieval Latin *buticula*, diminutive of Late Latin *buttis*, cask.] —**bot'tler** *n.*

bot-tle-brush (bōt'l-brūsh') *n.* Any of various Australian shrubs or trees of the genus *Callistemon*, having dense cylindrical spikes of flowers with long stamens that resemble a brush used to clean bottles.

bot-tled gas (bōt'ld) *n.* Gas, such as butane or propane, stored under pressure in portable tanks.

bot-tle-feed (bōt'l-fēd') *tr.v.* -fed (-fēd'), -feed-ing, -feeds To feed (a baby, for example) with a bottle.

bottle gourd *n.* 1. An annual cucurbit vine (*Lagenaria siceraria*) with white flowers, widely cultivated for its smooth hard-shelled fruits. 2. The dried and hollowed-out shell of one of these fruits, often used as a container, a drinking utensil, a musical instrument, or a decorative object. In both senses also called *calabash*.

bottle green *n.* A dark to moderate or grayish green. —**bot'tle-green** *adj.*

bot-tle-neck (bōt'l-nēk') *n.* 1a. A narrow or obstructed section, as of a highway or a pipeline. b. A point or an area of traffic congestion. 2. A hindrance to progress or production. 3. The narrow part of a bottle near the top. 4. *Music* A style of guitar playing in which an object, such as a piece of glass or metal, is passed across the strings to achieve a gliding sound. 5. *Biology* An abrupt and severe reduction in the number of individuals during the history of a species of a population, often resulting in the loss of diversity from the gene pool. *tr.v.* -necked, -neck-ing, -necks To slow down or impede by creating an obstruction.

bot-tle-nose dolphin (bōt'l-nōz') also **bot-tle-nosed dolphin** (-nōzd') *n.* A marine mammal (*Tursiops truncatus*) of temperate and tropical waters worldwide, having a short protruding beak, a gray or brown stocky body, and a prominent curved dorsal fin.

bottle tree *n.* Any of various Australian trees of the genus *Brachychiton*, especially *B. rupestris*, having a swollen, sometimes bottle-shaped trunk and cultivated in warm regions as an ornamental.

bot-tom (bōt'əm) *n.* 1. The deepest or lowest part: *the bottom of a well; the bottom of the page.* 2. The part closest to a reference point: *was positioned at the bottom of the key for a rebound.* 3. The underside: *scraped the bottom of the car on a rock.* 4. The supporting part; the base. 5. The far end or part: *at the bottom of the bed.* 6a. The last place, as on a list. b. The lowest or least favorable position: *started at the bottom of the corporate hierarchy.* 7. The basic underlying quality; the source: *Let's get to the bottom of the problem.* 8. The solid surface under a body of water. 9. often **bottoms** Low-lying alluvial land adjacent to a river. Also called

bottomland. 10a. *Nautical* The part of a ship's hull below the water line. b. A ship; a boat: "English merchants did much of their overseas trade in foreign bottoms" (G.M. Trevelyan). 11. often **bottoms** The trousers or short pants of pajamas. 12. *Informal* The buttocks. 13. The seat of a chair. 14. *Baseball* The second or last half of an inning. 15. Staying power; stamina. Used of a horse. 16. *Slang* One who is penetrated by another person or is the submissive partner in a sexual encounter or relationship. *tr.v.* 1. Situated at the bottom: *the bottom rung of the ladder.* 2. Of the lowest degree, quality, rank, or amount: *the bottom three teams in the league.* *tr.v.* -tomed, -tom-ing, -toms —*tr.* 1. To provide with an underside. 2. To provide with a foundation; base: *jurisprudence that is bottomed on democratic principles.* —*intr.* To have or strike the underside against something: *The car bottomed on the gravel.* —**phrasal verb:** **bottom out** To reach the lowest point possible, after which only a rise may occur: *Sales of personal computers have bottomed out.* —**idiom:** **at bottom** Basically. [Middle English *botme* < Old English *botm*.] —**bot-tom-er** *n.*

bottom feeder *n.* 1. A fish or other animal that feeds on the bottom of a body of water. 2. One that feeds low on the food chain; a scavenger. 3. *Slang* a. An opportunist who profits from the misfortunes of others: "The frazzled, adrenaline-pumped tabloid newshounds [in the movie] are the bottom feeders of contemporary journalism" (Entertainment Weekly). b. A low or despicable person. —**bottom feeding** *n.* —**bot'tom-feed-ing** (bōt'əm-fē'ding) *adj.*

bottom fish *n.* A fish, such as a catfish, carp, or flounder, that lives on or near the bottom of a body of water.

bottom fishing *n.* 1. The activity of fishing for bottom feeders. 2. Researching or investing in securities at what is believed to be the low point of a market after a decline.

bottom lambda baryon *n.* See *lambda-b baryon*.

bot-tom-land (bōt'əm-lānd') *n.* See *bottom* (sense 9).

bot-tom-less (bōt'əm-lis) *adj.* 1. Having no bottom. 2. Too deep to be measured: *a bottomless glacial lake.* 3. Difficult or impossible to understand; unfathomable: *one of the bottomless mysteries of life.* 4. Having no limitations or bounds; limitless: *a bottomless supply of money.* 5a. Nude, especially unclothed below the waist: *bottomless dancers.* b. Featuring such dancers as entertainment: *bottomless bars.* —**bot'tom-less-ly** *adv.*

bottom line *n.* 1. The line in a financial statement that shows net income or loss. 2. Financial matters, especially profit or loss. 3. The final result or statement; upshot: "The bottom line, however, is that he has escaped" (David Wise). 4. The main or essential point: "A lot can happen between now and December, but the bottom line—for now—is that the city is still heading toward default" (New York).

bot-tom-line (bōt'əm-lin') *adj.* 1. Concerned exclusively with costs and profits: *bottom-line issues.* 2. Ruthlessly realistic; pragmatic: *a bottom-line political strategy.* —**bot'tom-line'** *v.*

bot-tom-most (bōt'əm-mōst') *adj.* 1. Situated at the very bottom: *the bottommost rung of a ladder.* 2. Being or coming after all others; last: *Fleeing was the bottommost thought in my mind.* 3. Forming the very basis: *Freedom of speech is one of the bottommost principles of democracy.*

bottom quark *n.* *Abbr.* **b** The flavor of quark that has a charge of $-\frac{1}{3}$, has a mass about 8,220 times that of an electron, and belongs to the third generation of elementary fermions. Also called *beauty quark*.

bottom round *n.* A cut of meat, such as steak, taken from the outer section of a round of beef.

bot-tom-up (bōt'əm-ūp') *adj.* Progressing from small or subordinate units to larger or more important units, as in an organization or process.

bot-u-lin (bōch'ə-lin) *n.* Any of several enzymes that are produced by botulinum bacteria and induce the paralysis of botulism by interfering with the ability of neurons to release acetylcholine at nerve-muscle junctions. Botulin is used as an antispasmodic and a treatment for wrinkles by paralyzing facial muscles. Also called *botulinum toxin*. [Latin *botulus*, sausage (a common source of contamination) + *-in*.]

bot-u-li-num (bōch'ə-lī-nəm) also **bot-u-li-nus** (-nas) *n.* An anaerobic, rod-shaped bacterium (*Clostridium botulinum*) that secretes botulin and inhabits soils. [New Latin *botulinum*, specific epithet < Latin *botulus*, sausage.] —**bot'u-li-nal** *adj.*

bot-u-lism (bōch'ə-liz'm) *n.* A severe, sometimes fatal food poisoning caused by ingestion of food containing botulin and characterized by nausea, vomiting, disturbed vision, muscular weakness, and fatigue. [German *Botulismus* < Latin *botulus*, sausage.]

bou-bou (bōō'bōō') *n.* A long, loose-fitting African garment. [French < Malinke *bubu*.]

bou-clé or **bou-cle** (bōō-klā') *n.* 1. A type of yarn usually consisting of three strands, one of which is less taut, creating a looped or curly texture. 2. Fabric woven or knitted from this yarn. [French < past participle of *boucler*, to curl < Old French < *boucle*, buckle, curl of hair; see *BUCKLE*.]

Bou-dic-ca (bōō-dik'ə) also **Bo-ad-i-ce-a** (bō'ad-i-sē'ə) First century AD. Queen of ancient Britain who led a temporarily successful revolt against the Roman army that had claimed her deceased husband's kingdom.

bou-din also **Bou-dain** (bōō-dān', -dān') *n., pl. -dins* also **-dains** (-dān', -dānz') A highly seasoned link sausage of pork, pork liver, and rice that is a typical element of Louisiana Creole cuisine. [French < Old French *bodine*, intestines.]

boudin noir *n., pl. boudins noirs* (nwār) See *blood sausage*. [French : *boudin*, *boudin* + *noir*, black.]

bou-doir (bōō'dwār', -dwōr') *n.* A private sitting room, dressing room, or bedroom, especially one belonging to a woman. [French < Old French *bouder*, to sulk.]



Botswana



bottlebrush

