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bi·fur·ca·tion \ˌbī-(ˌ)fər-ˈkā-shən\ *n* (1615) **1 a :** the point at which bifurcating occurs **b :** BRANCH **2 :** the act of bifurcating : the state of being bifurcated

[1]**big** \ˈbig\ *adj* **big·ger; big·gest** [ME, perh. of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *bugge* important man] (14c) **1 a** *obs* : of great strength **b :** of great force ⟨a ~ storm⟩ **2 a :** large or great in dimensions, bulk, or extent ⟨a ~ house⟩; *also* : large or great in quantity, number, or amount ⟨a ~ fleet⟩ **b :** operating on a large scale ⟨~ government⟩ **c :** CAPITAL 1 **3 a :** PREGNANT; *esp* : nearly ready to give birth **b :** full to bursting : SWELLING ⟨~ with rage⟩ **c** *of the voice* : full and resonant **4 a :** CHIEF, PREEMINENT ⟨the ~ issue of the campaign⟩ **b :** outstandingly worthy or able ⟨a truly ~ man⟩ **c :** of great importance or significance ⟨the ~ moment⟩ **d :** IMPOSING, PRETENTIOUS; *also* : marked by or given to boasting ⟨~ talk⟩ **e :** MAGNANIMOUS, GENEROUS ⟨was ~ about it⟩ **5 :** POPULAR ⟨soft drinks are very ~ in Mexico —Russ Leadabrand⟩ **6 :** full-bodied and flavorful — used of wine — **big·ly** *adv* — **big·ness** *n* — **big on :** strongly favoring or liking; *also* : noted for ⟨she is *big on* blushing —Arnold Hano⟩

[2]**big** *adv* (1556) **1 :** in a loud or declamatory manner; *also* : in a boasting manner ⟨talk ~⟩ **2 a :** to a large amount or extent ⟨won ~⟩ **b :** on a large scale ⟨think ~⟩ **3 :** HARD ⟨hits her forehand ~⟩

[3]**big** *n* (1833) : an individual or organization of outstanding importance or power; *esp* : MAJOR LEAGUE — usu. used in pl. ⟨playing in the ~*s*⟩

big·a·mous \ˈbi-gə-məs\ *adj* (1671) **1 :** guilty of bigamy ⟨a ~ man⟩ **2 :** involving bigamy ⟨a ~ marriage⟩ — **big·a·mous·ly** *adv*

big·a·my \ˈbi-gə-mē\ *n* [ME *bigamie,* fr. ML *bigamia,* fr. L *bi-* + LL *-gamia* -gamy] (14c) : the act of entering into a marriage with one person while still legally married to another — **big·a·mist** \-mist\ *n*

bi·ga·rade \ˌbē-gä-ˈräd\ *n* [F, fr. Occitan *bigarrado,* fr. *bigarra* to variegate] (1658) **1 :** SOUR ORANGE **2 :** a brown sauce flavored with the juice and grated rind of oranges

big band *n* (1917) : a band that is larger than a combo and that usu. features a mixture of ensemble playing and solo improvisation typical of jazz or swing

big bang *n* (1950) : the cosmic explosion that marked the beginning of the universe according to the big bang theory — compare BIG CRUNCH

big bang theory *n* (1955) : a theory in astronomy: the universe originated billions of years ago in an explosion from a single point of nearly infinite energy density — compare STEADY STATE THEORY

big beat *n, often cap both Bs* (1957) : music (as rock) characterized by a heavy persistent beat

Big Ben \-ˈben\ *n* [Sir *Benjamin* Hall †1867 Eng. Chief Commissioner of Works] (1859) **1 :** a large bell in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament in London **2 :** the tower that houses Big Ben; *also* : the clock in the tower

big bluestem *n* (1887) : BLUESTEM 1

big–box \ˈbig-ˌbäks\ *adj* (1990) : of, relating to, or being a large chain store having a boxlike structure — **big box** *n*

big boy *n* (1916) : BIG GUN — usu. used in pl.

big brother *n* (1809) **1 :** an older brother **2 :** a man who serves as a companion, father figure, and role model for a boy **3** *cap both Bs* [*Big Brother,* personification of the power of the state in *1984* (1949) by George Orwell] **a :** the leader of an authoritarian state or movement **b :** an all-powerful government or organization monitoring and directing people's actions

Big Broth·er·ism \ˈbrə-thər-ˌi-zəm\ *n* (1950) : authoritarian attempts at complete control (as of a person or a nation)

big brown bat *n* (1898) : an insectivorous medium-sized bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) having brownish fur that is found from southern Canada to northern South America and that often roosts in buildings

big buck *n* (1941) : a large sum of money — usu. used in pl. ⟨signed a contract for *big bucks*⟩

big business *n* (1905) **1 :** an economic group consisting of large profit-making corporations esp. with regard to their influence on social or political policy **2 :** a very profitable enterprise

big C *n, often cap B* (1964) : CANCER 2

big cheese *n* (1912) : BOSS, BIG GUN

big crunch *n, often cap B&C* (1977) : a hypothetical cosmological event in which all matter in the universe collapses to a singularity and which is posited to be a possible fate of the universe if the density of matter in it is sufficiently high — compare BIG BANG

big daddy *n, often cap B&D* (1881) : one preeminent esp. by reason of power, size, or seniority : one representing paternalistic authority

big data *n* (1980) : an accumulation of data that is too large and complex for processing by traditional database management tools

big deal *n* (1915) : something of special importance ⟨what's the *big deal*?⟩ — sometimes used ironically as an interjection

Big Dipper *n* (1853) : the seven principal stars in the constellation of Ursa Major

bi·gem·i·ny \bī-ˈje-mə-nē\ *n* [*bigeminal* (double, paired), fr. LL *bigeminus,* fr. *bi-* + *geminus* twin] (ca. 1923) : the state of having a pulse characterized by two beats close together with a pause following each pair of beats — **bi·gem·i·nal** \-mə-nᵊl\ *adj*

big·eye \ˈbig-ˌī\ *n* (1861) : any of several small widely distributed reddish to silvery bony fishes (genus *Priacanthus* of the family Priacanthidae) of tropical seas

bigeye tuna *n* (1944) : a large-eyed tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) that has long pectoral fins and often a bluish stripe on the side and is found in warm ocean waters worldwide

big·foot \ˈbig-ˌfu̇t\ *n, pl* **big·feet** \-ˌfēt\ *or* **big·foots** *often cap* (1958) **1** [fr. the size of the footprints ascribed to it] : SASQUATCH **2 :** BIG SHOT

big game *n* (1773) **1 :** relatively large animals sought or taken by hunting or fishing esp. for sport **2 :** an important objective esp. when involving risk

big·ge·ty *or* **big·gi·ty** \ˈbi-gə-tē\ *adj* [*big* + *-ety* (as in *persnickety*)] (1880) **1** *Southern & Midland* : CONCEITED, VAIN **2** *Southern & Midland* : rudely self-important : IMPUDENT ⟨never acted ~ in court, but she would bow her head only so low —Claude Brown⟩

big·gie \ˈbi-gē\ *n* (ca. 1926) : one that is big and often important

[1]**big·gin** *or* **big·ging** \ˈbi-gən\ *n* [ME *bigging,* fr. *biggen* to dwell, fr. ON *byggja;* akin to OE *bēon* to be] (14c) *archaic* : BUILDING

[2]**biggin** *n* [MF *beguin*] (1511) *archaic* : CAP: **a :** a child's cap **b :** NIGHTCAP

big·gish \ˈbi-gish\ *adj* (1611) : somewhat big

big gun *n* (1830) : one having preeminent status or power in a field

big hair *n* (1966) : hair that is styled and teased to occupy an unusually large amount of space above and around the head

big·head \ˈbig-ˌhed\ *n* (1784) **1 :** any of several diseases of animals marked by swelling about the head **2 :** an exaggerated opinion of one's importance — usu. used with *the* — **big·head·ed** \-ˈhe-dəd\ *adj*

big·heart·ed \-ˈhär-təd\ *adj* (1846) : GENEROUS, CHARITABLE — **big·heart·ed·ly** *adv* — **big·heart·ed·ness** *n*

big·horn sheep \ˈbig-ˌhȯrn-\ *n* (1817) : a usu. grayish-brown wild sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) of mountainous and desert regions of western No. America — called also *bighorn*

bighorn sheep

big house *n, often cap B&H* (1913) *slang* : PENITENTIARY

bight \ˈbīt\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *byht* bend, bay; akin to OE *būgan* to bend — more at BOW] (15c) **1 :** a bend in a coast forming an open bay; *also* : a bay formed by such a bend **2 :** a slack part or loop in a rope

big league *n* (1882) **1 :** MAJOR LEAGUE **2 :** BIG TIME 2 — often used in pl. — **big–league** *adj* — **big leaguer** *n*

big lie *n, sometimes cap B&L* (1824) : a deliberate gross distortion of the truth used esp. as a propaganda tactic

big·mouthed \ˈbig-ˌmau̇thd, ˈbig-ˌmau̇tht, ˈbig-ˈ\ *adj* (1602) **1 :** having a large mouth **2 :** LOUDMOUTHED

big name *n* (1881) : a performer or personage of top rank in popular recognition ⟨a *big name* in the business world⟩ — **big–name** *adj*

big·no·nia \big-ˈnō-nē-ə\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. J. P. *Bignon* †1743 Fr. royal librarian] (1785) : a woody evergreen vine (*Bignonia capreolata* of the family Bignoniaceae, the bignonia family) of the southern and central U.S. that has compound leaves and tubular flowers

big·ot \ˈbi-gət\ *n* [F, hypocrite, bigot] (1660) : a person obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices; *esp* : one who regards or treats the members of a group (as a racial or ethnic group) with hatred and intolerance — **big·ot·ed** \-gə-təd\ *adj* — **big·ot·ed·ly** *adv*

big·ot·ry \ˈbi-gə-trē\ *n, pl* **-ries** (1632) **1 :** the state of mind of a bigot **2 :** acts or beliefs characteristic of a bigot

big picture *n, often cap B&P* (1904) : the entire perspective on a situation or issue — used with *the*

big science *n, often cap B&S* (1914) : large-scale scientific research consisting of projects funded usu. by a national government or group of governments

big screen *n* (1914) : the motion-picture medium often as contrasted to television ⟨a story adapted for the *big screen*⟩ — **big–screen** *adj*

big shot \ˈbig-ˌshät\ *n* (1929) : a person of consequence or prominence

big stick *n* (1893) : threat esp. of military or political intervention

big–tick·et \ˈbig-ˈti-kət\ *adj* (1945) : having a high price ⟨the car was a ~ item⟩

[1]**big–time** \ˈbig-ˌtīm\ *adj* (1910) : relating to or involved in the big time ⟨~ sports⟩; *also* : MAJOR 4 ⟨~ operators⟩

[2]**big–time** *adv* (1957) : in a major or large-scale way ⟨the new show bombed ~⟩; *also* : to a great extent or degree ⟨owes me ~⟩

big time \-ˌtīm\ *n* (1910) **1 :** a high-paying vaudeville circuit requiring only two performances a day **2 :** the top rank of an activity or enterprise — **big–tim·er** \-ˌtī-mər\ *n*

big toe *n* (1699) : the innermost and largest toe of the foot

big top *n* (1763) **1 :** the main tent of a circus **2 :** CIRCUS 2a, b, c

big tree *n* (1853) : GIANT SEQUOIA

big wheel *n* (1942) : BIGWIG, BIG SHOT

big·wig \ˈbig-ˌwig\ *n* (1703) : an important person

Bi·ha·ri \bi-ˈhär-ē\ *n* (1878) **1 a :** a native or inhabitant of Bihar **b :** a Muslim born in Bihar who emigrated after the partition of India in 1947; *also* : a descendant of such a person **2 :** a group of Indo-Aryan languages (as Bhojpuri) spoken in Bihar, India, and adjacent areas

bi·jec·tion \(ˌ)bī-ˈjek-shən\ *n* [*bi-* + *-jection* (as in *injection*)] (1956) : a mathematical function that is a one-to-one and onto mapping — compare INJECTION, SURJECTION — **bi·jec·tive** \-ˈjek-tiv\ *adj*

bi·jou \ˈbē-ˌzhü\ *n, pl* **bijous** *or* **bi·joux** \-ˌzhü(z)\ [F, fr. Bret *bizou* ring, fr. *biz* finger] (1668) **1 :** a small dainty usu. ornamental piece of delicate workmanship : JEWEL **2 :** something delicate, elegant, or highly prized — **bijou** *adj*

bi·jou·te·rie \bi-ˈzhü-tə-(ˌ)rē\ *n* [F, fr. *bijou*] (1735) : a collection of trinkets or ornaments : JEWELS; *also* : DECORATION

[1]**bike** \ˈbīk\ *n* [ME] (14c) 1 *chiefly Scot* : a nest of wild bees, wasps, or hornets 2 *chiefly Scot* : a crowd or swarm of people

[2]**bike** *n* [by shortening & alter.] (1880) **1 :** BICYCLE **2 :** MOTORCYCLE **3 :** MOTORBIKE **4 :** STATIONARY BICYCLE

[3]**bike** *vi* **biked; bik·ing** (1885) : to ride a bike

bik·er \ˈbī-kər\ *n* (1883) **1 :** BICYCLIST **2 :** MOTORCYCLIST; *esp* : one who is a member of an organized club or gang

bike·way \ˈbīk-ˌwā\ *n* (1895) : a thoroughfare for bicycles

bik·ie \ˈbī-kē\ *n* [²*bike* + *-ie*] (1967) : BIKER 2

bi·ki·ni \bə-ˈkē-nē\ *n* [F, fr. *Bikini,* atoll of the Marshall Islands] (1947) **1 a :** a woman's scanty two-piece bathing suit **b :** a man's brief swimsuit **2 :** a man's or woman's low-cut briefs — **bi·ki·nied** *also* **bi·ki·ni'd** \-nēd\ *adj*

bikini wax *n* (1973) : a procedure for removing pubic hair from the skin near the edge of the bottom half of a bikini by applying hot wax, covering the wax with a cloth to which the wax and hair adhere, and then peeling it off quickly

bil *abbr* billion

[1]**bi·la·bi·al** \(ˌ)bī-ˈlā-bē-əl\ *adj* [ISV] (1878) *of a consonant* : produced with both lips

[2]**bilabial** *n* (1829) : a bilabial consonant

bi·la·bi·ate \-bē-ət\ *adj* (1720) : having two lips ⟨a ~ corolla⟩

bi·lat·er·al \(ˌ)bī-ˈla-t(ə-)rəl\ *adj* (1751) **1 :** affecting reciprocally two nations or parties ⟨a ~ treaty⟩ ⟨a ~ trade agreement⟩ **2 :** having two sides **3 a :** of, relating to, or affecting the right and left sides of the body or the right and left members of paired organs ⟨~ nephrecto-

the policy ~〉 — **for a loop** : into a state of amazement, confusion, or distress 〈the news threw us *for a loop*〉

[3]**loop** *vi* (1832) **1** : to make or form a loop **2** : to execute a loop in an airplane **3** : to move in loops or in an arc ~ *vt* **1 a** : to make a loop in, on, or about **b** : to fasten with a loop **2** : to join (two courses of loops) in knitting **3** : to connect (electric conductors) so as to complete a loop **4** : to cause to move in an arc

looped \ˈlüpt\ *adj* (1513) **1** : having, formed in, or characterized by loops 〈~ fabrics〉 **2** : DRUNK 1a

loop·er \ˈlü-pər\ *n* (1731) **1** : any of the usu. rather small hairless caterpillars that are mostly larvae of moths (families Geometridae and Noctuidae) and move with a looping motion in which the hind prolegs draw the posterior body toward the front followed by forward extension by the anterior legs — called also *inchworm* **2** : one that loops

[1]**loop·hole** \ˈlüp-ˌhōl\ *n* [*loop*] (1591) **1 a** : a small opening through which small arms may be fired **b** : a similar opening to admit light and air or to permit observation **2** : a means of escape; *esp* : an ambiguity or omission in the text through which the intent of a statute, contract, or obligation may be evaded

[2]**loophole** *vt* (1664) : to make loopholes in

loop of Hen·le \-ˈhen-lē\ [F. G. J. *Henle* †1885 Ger. pathologist] (1890) : a U-shaped part of the nephron of birds and mammals that lies between and is continuous with the proximal and distal convoluted tubules and that functions in water resorption

loopy \ˈlü-pē\ *adj* **loop·i·er; -est** (1856) **1** : having or characterized by loops **2** : CRAZY, BIZARRE — **loop·i·ly** \-pə-lē\ *adv* — **loop·i·ness** \-pē-nəs\ *n*

[1]**loose** \ˈlüs\ *adj* **loos·er; loos·est** [ME *lous,* fr. ON *lauss;* akin to OHG *lōs* loose — more at -LESS] (13c) **1 a** : not rigidly fastened or securely attached **b** (1) : having worked partly free from attachments 〈a ~ tooth〉 (2) : having relative freedom of movement **c** : produced freely and accompanied by raising of mucus 〈a ~ cough〉 **d** : not tightfitting **2 a** : free from a state of confinement, restraint, or obligation 〈a lion ~ in the streets〉 〈spend ~ funds wisely〉 **b** : not brought together in a bundle, container, or binding **c** *archaic* : DISCONNECTED, DETACHED **3 a** : not dense, close, or compact in structure or arrangement **b** : not solid : WATERY 〈~ stools〉 **4 a** : lacking in restraint or power of restraint 〈a ~ tongue〉 **b** : lacking moral restraint : UNCHASTE **c** : OVERACTIVE; *specif* : marked by frequent voiding esp. of watery stools 〈~ bowels〉 **5 a** : not tightly drawn or stretched : SLACK **b** : being flexible or relaxed 〈stay ~〉 **6 a** : lacking in precision, exactness, or care 〈~ brushwork〉 〈~ usage〉 **b** : permitting freedom of interpretation **7** : not in the possession of either of two competing teams 〈a ~ ball〉 〈a ~ puck〉 — **loose·ly** *adv* — **loose·ness** *n*

[2]**loose** *vb* **loosed; loos·ing** *vt* (13c) **1 a** : to let loose : RELEASE **b** : to free from restraint **2** : to make loose : UNTIE 〈~ a knot〉 **3** : to cast loose : DETACH **4** : to let fly : DISCHARGE **5** : to make less rigid, tight, or strict : RELAX ~ *vi* : to let fly a missile (as an arrow) : FIRE

[3]**loose** *adv* (15c) : in a loose manner : LOOSELY

loose box *n* (1849) *Brit* : BOX STALL

loose cannon *n* (1973) : a dangerously uncontrollable person or thing

loose end *n* (1546) **1** : something left hanging loose **2** : a fragment of unfinished business — usu. used in pl. 〈tying up *loose ends*〉

loose–joint·ed \ˈlüs-ˈjȯin-təd\ *adj* (1859) **1** : having joints apparently not closely articulated **2** : characterized by unusually free movements — **loose–joint·ed·ness** *n*

loose–leaf \ˈlüs-ˈlēf\ *adj* (1902) **1** : having leaves secured in book form in a cover whose spine may be opened for adding, arranging, or removing leaves 〈~ notebook〉 **2** : of, relating to, or used with a loose-leaf binding 〈~ paper〉

loos·en \ˈlü-sᵊn\ *vb* **loos·ened; loos·en·ing** \ˈlüs-niŋ, ˈlü-sᵊn-iŋ\ *vt* (14c) **1** : to release from restraint **2** : to make looser 〈~*ed* his tie〉 〈~ a screw〉 **3** : to relieve (the bowels) of constipation **4** : to cause or permit to become less strict — often used with *up* 〈~*ed* the rules〉 ~ *vi* : to become loose or looser

loosen up *vi* (1922) : to become less tense : RELAX

loose sentence *n* (ca. 1890) : a sentence in which the principal clause comes first and subordinate modifiers or trailing elements follow

loose smut *n* (1890) : a smut disease of grains in which the entire head is transformed into a dusty mass of spores

loose·strife \ˈlü(s)-ˌstrīf\ *n* [intended as trans. of Gk *lysimacheios* loosestrife (as if fr. *lysis* act of loosing + *macheesthai* to fight) — more at LYSIS] (1548) **1** : any of a genus (*Lysimachia*) of plants of the primrose family with leafy stems and usu. yellow or white flowers **2** : any of a genus (*Lythrum,* family Lythraceae, the loosestrife family) of herbs having entire leaves and including some with showy spikes of purple flowers; *esp* : PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

loos·ey–goos·ey \ˌlü-sē-ˈgü-sē\ *adj* (1964) : notably loose or relaxed : not tense 〈a ~ attitude〉

[1]**loot** \ˈlüt\ *n* [Hindi & Urdu *lūṭ;* akin to Skt *luṇṭati* he plunders] (ca. 1788) **1** : goods usu. of considerable value taken in war : SPOILS **2** : something held to resemble goods of value seized in war: as **a** : something appropriated illegally often by force or violence **b** : illicit gains by public officials **c** : MONEY **3** : the action of looting *syn* see SPOIL

[2]**loot** *vt* (1845) **1 a** : to plunder or sack in war **b** : to rob esp. on a large scale and usu. by violence or corruption **2** : to seize and carry away by force esp. in war ~ *vi* : to engage in robbing or plundering esp. in war — **loot·er** *n*

[1]**lop** \ˈläp\ *n* [ME *loppe*] (14c) : material cut away from a tree; *esp* : parts discarded in lumbering

[2]**lop** *vt* **lopped; lop·ping** (1519) **1 a** (1) : to cut off branches or twigs from (2) : to sever from a woody plant **b** (1) *archaic* : to cut off the head or limbs of (2) : to cut from a person **2 a** : to remove superfluous parts from **b** : to eliminate as unnecessary or undesirable — usu. used with *off*

[3]**lop** *vi* **lopped; lop·ping** [perh. imit.] (1578) : to hang downward : DROOP

[1]**lope** \ˈlōp\ *n* [ME *loup, lope* leap, prob. fr. ON *hlaup;* akin to OE *hlēapan* to leap — more at LEAP] (1809) **1** : an easy natural gait of a horse resembling a canter **2** : an easy usu. bounding gait capable of being sustained for a long time

[2]**lope** *vi* **loped; lop·ing** (ca. 1825) : to move or ride at a lope — **lop·er** *n*

lop–eared \ˈläp-ˌird\ *adj* (1687) : having ears that droop

loph·o·phore \ˈlä-fə-ˌfȯr\ *n* [Gk *lophos* crest + E *-phore*] (1850) : a circular or horseshoe-shaped organ about the mouth esp. of a brachiopod or bryozoan that bears tentacles and functions esp. in food-getting

lop·per \ˈlä-pər\ *n* (1953) : pruning shears with long handles — usu. used in pl.

lop·sid·ed \ˈläp-ˌsī-dəd\ *adj* (1711) **1** : leaning to one side **2** : lacking in balance, symmetry, or proportion : disproportionately heavy on one side 〈a ~ vote of 99–1〉 — **lop·sid·ed·ly** *adv* — **lop·sid·ed·ness** *n*

loq *abbr* [L *loquitur*] he speaks; she speaks

lo·qua·cious \lō-ˈkwā-shəs\ *adj* [L *loquac-, loquax,* fr. *loqui* to speak] (1663) **1** : full of excessive talk : WORDY **2** : given to fluent or excessive talk : GARRULOUS *syn* see TALKATIVE — **lo·qua·cious·ly** *adv* — **lo·qua·cious·ness** *n*

lo·quac·i·ty \-ˈkwa-sə-tē\ *n* (13c) : the quality or state of being very talkative

lo·quat \ˈlō-ˌkwät\ *n* [Chin (Guangdong) *lòuhˈgwǎ*] (1820) : an Asian evergreen tree (*Eriobotrya japonica*) of the rose family often cultivated for its fruit; *also* : its small yellow edible fruit used esp. for preserves

loquat

lo·ran \ˈlȯr-ˌan\ *n* [*long-range navigation*] (1932) : a system of long-range navigation in which pulsed signals sent out by two pairs of radio stations are used to determine the location of a ship or airplane

lor·az·e·pam \lȯr-ˈa-zə-ˌpam\ *n* [prob. fr. ch*lor-* + *-azepam* (as in *diazepam*)] (1969) : benzodiazepine $C_{15}H_{10}Cl_2N_2O_2$ used esp. to relieve anxiety

[1]**lord** \ˈlȯrd\ *n* [ME *loverd, lord,* fr. OE *hlāford,* fr. *hlāf* loaf + *weard* keeper — more at LOAF, WARD] (bef. 12c) **1** : one having power and authority over others: **a** : a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due **b** : one of whom a fee or estate is held in feudal tenure **c** : an owner of land or other real property **d** *obs* : the male head of a household **e** : HUSBAND **f** : one that has achieved mastery or that exercises leadership or great power in some area 〈a drug ~〉 **2** *cap* **a** : GOD 1 **b** : JESUS **3** : a man of rank or high position: as **a** : a feudal tenant whose right or title comes directly from the king **b** : a British nobleman: as (1) : BARON 2a (2) : a hereditary peer of the rank of marquess, earl, or viscount (3) : the son of a duke or a marquess or the eldest son of an earl (4) : a bishop of the Church of England **c** *pl, cap* : HOUSE OF LORDS **4** — used as a British title: as **a** — used as part of an official title 〈*Lord* Advocate〉 〈*Lord* Mayor〉 **b** — used informally in place of the full title for a marquess, earl, or viscount **c** — used for a baron **d** — used by courtesy before the name and surname of a younger son of a duke or a marquess **5** : a person chosen to preside over a festival

[2]**lord** *vi* (14c) : to act like a lord; *esp* : to put on airs — usu. used with *it* 〈~*s* it over his friends〉

lord chancellor *n, pl* **lords chancellor** (15c) : a British officer of state who presides over the House of Lords in both its legislative and judicial capacities, serves as the head of the British judiciary, and is usu. a leading member of the cabinet

lord·ing \ˈlȯr-diŋ\ *n* (13c) **1** *archaic* : LORD **2** *obs* : LORDLING

lord·ling \ˈlȯrd-liŋ\ *n* (13c) : a little or insignificant lord

lord·ly \-lē\ *adj* **lord·li·er; -est** (bef. 12c) **1 a** : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a lord : DIGNIFIED **b** : GRAND, NOBLE **2** : exhibiting the pride and assurance associated with one of the highest birth or rank *syn* see PROUD — **lord·li·ness** *n* — **lordly** *adv*

lord of misrule (15c) : a master of Christmas revels in England esp. in the 15th and 16th centuries

lor·do·sis \lȯr-ˈdō-səs\ *n, pl* **-do·ses** \-ˈdō-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *lordōsis,* fr. *lordos* curving forward; akin to OE *be*lyrtan to deceive] (1704) **1** : abnormally increased inward curvature of the lower region of the spine resulting in a concave back as viewed from the side — compare KYPHOSIS **2** : a mating posture of some sexually receptive female mammals (as rats) in which the head and rump are raised and the back is arched downward — **lor·dot·ic** \-ˈdä-tik\ *adj*

Lord Protector of the Commonwealth (ca. 1653) : PROTECTOR 2b

Lord's day *n, often cap D* (12c) : SUNDAY

lord·ship \ˈlȯrd-ˌship\ *n* (bef. 12c) **1 a** : the rank or dignity of a lord — used as a title **b** : the authority or power of a lord : DOMINION **2** : the territory under the jurisdiction of a lord : SEIGNIORY

Lord's Prayer *n* (ca. 1549) : the prayer with variant versions in Matthew and Luke that according to the Lucan account Christ taught his disciples

Lord's Supper *n* (14c) : COMMUNION 2a

Lord's table *n, often cap T* (1526) : ALTAR 2

Lordy \ˈlȯr-dē\ *interj* [[1]*lord* (God) + [4]*-y*] (1853) — used to express surprise or strength of feeling

[1]**lore** \ˈlȯr\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *lār;* akin to OHG *lēra* doctrine, OE *leornian* to learn] (bef. 12c) **1** *archaic* : something that is taught : LESSON **2** : something that is learned: **a** : knowledge gained through study or experience **b** : traditional knowledge or belief **3** : a particular body of knowledge or tradition

[2]**lore** *n* [NL *lorum,* fr. L, thong, rein; akin to Gk *eulēra* reins] (1828) : the space between the eye and bill in a bird or the corresponding region in a reptile or fish — **lo·re·al** \ˈlȯr-ē-əl\ *adj*

Lo·re·lei \ˈlȯr-ə-ˌlī\ *n* [G] (1865) : a siren of Germanic legend whose singing lures Rhine River boatmen to destruction on a reef

lor·gnette \lȯrn-ˈyet\ *n* [F, fr. *lorgner* to take a sidelong look at, fr. MF, fr. *lorgne* squinting] (1803) : a pair of eyeglasses or opera glasses with a handle

lor·gnon \lȯrn-ˈyō^{n}\ *n* [F, fr. *lorgner*] (1846) : LORGNETTE