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au·thor·ized /'ôTHə,rīzd/ ▶ **adj.** having official permission or approval: *an authorized dealer* | *authorized access to the computer.*

Au·thor·ized Ver·sion ▶ **n.** chiefly Brit. another name for **KING JAMES BIBLE**.

au·thor·ship /'ôTHər,SHip/ ▶ **n.** the fact or position of someone's having written a book or other written work: *an investigation into the authorship of the Gospels* | *joint authorship.* ■ the occupation of writing: *he took to authorship.*

au·tism /'ô,tizəm/ ▶ **n.** a mental condition, present from early childhood, characterized by difficulty in communicating and forming relationships with other people and in using language and abstract concepts. ■ a mental condition in which fantasy dominates over reality, as a symptom of schizophrenia and other disorders.
– DERIVATIVES **au·tist** **n.**
– ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from Greek *autos* 'self' + **-ISM**.

au·tis·tic /ô'tistik/ ▶ **adj.** of, relating to, or affected by autism.
▶ **n.** an autistic person.

au·tis·tic spec·trum dis·or·der ▶ **n.** any condition in which the subject displays autistic characteristics.

au·to /'ôtō/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autos**) [usu. as modifier] informal an automobile: *the auto industry.*
– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: abbreviation of **AUTOMOBILE**.

auto- (usu. **aut-** before a vowel) ▶ **comb. form**
1 self: *autoanalysis.* ■ one's own: *autograph.* ■ by oneself or spontaneous: *autoxidation.* ■ by itself or automatic: *autofocusing.*
2 relating to cars: *autocross.*
– ORIGIN from Greek *autos* 'self.' Sense 2 is a back-formation from *automobile.*

au·to·an·ti·bod·y /ˌôtō'antiˌbädē/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autoantibodies**) Physiology an antibody produced by an organism in response to a constituent of its own tissues.

au·to·bahn /'ôtəˌbän/ ▶ **n.** a German, Austrian, or Swiss expressway.
– ORIGIN 1930s: from German, from *Auto* 'automobile' + *Bahn* 'path, road.'

au·to·bi·o·graph·i·cal /ˌôtəbīə'grafikəl/ ▶ **adj.** (of a written work) dealing with the writer's own life: *an autobiographical account* | *the book is partly autobiographical.*
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·bi·o·graph·ic** /-fik/ **adj.**

au·to·bi·og·ra·phy /ˌôtəbī'ägrəfē/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autobiographies**) an account of a person's life written by that person: *he gives a vivid description of his childhood in his autobiography.* ■ such writing as a literary genre.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·bi·og·ra·pher** /-fər/ **n.**

au·to·ca·tal·y·sis /ˌôtəkə'taləsis/ ▶ **n.** Chemistry catalysis of a reaction by one of its products.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·cat·a·lyst** /-'katl-ist/ **n.**, **au·to·cat·a·lyt·ic** /-ˌkatl'itik/ **adj.**

au·to·ceph·a·lous /ˌôtə'sefələs/ ▶ **adj.** (of an Eastern Christian Church) appointing its own head, not subject to the authority of an external patriarch or archbishop.
– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Greek *autokephalos* (from *autos* 'self' + *kephalē* 'head') + **-OUS**.

au·to·chrome /'ôtəˌkrōm/ ▶ **n.** [usu. as modifier] an early form of color photography using plates coated with dyed starch grains, patented by the Lumière brothers in 1904: *the autochrome process.* ■ a color photograph made by this process.

au·toch·thon /ô'täkTHən/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autochthons** or **autochthones** /-THəˌnēz/) an original or indigenous inhabitant of a place; an aborigine.
– ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Greek, literally 'sprung from the earth,' from *autos* 'self' + *khthōn* 'earth, soil.'

au·toch·tho·nous /ô'täkTHənəs/ ▶ **adj.** (of an inhabitant of a place) indigenous rather than descended from migrants or colonists. ■ Geology (of a deposit or formation) formed in its present position. Often contrasted with **ALLOCHTHONOUS**.

au·to·clave /'ôtəˌklāv/ ▶ **n.** a strong, heated container used for chemical reactions and other processes using high pressures and temperatures, e.g., steam sterilization.
▶ **v.** [with obj.] heat (something) in an autoclave.
– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from French, from *auto-* 'self' + Latin *clavus* 'nail' or *clavis* 'key' (so called because it is self-fastening).

au·to·com·plete /ˌôtōkəm'plēt/ Computing ▶ **n.** a software function that gives users the option of completing words or forms by a shorthand method on the basis of what has been typed before.
▶ **v.** [with obj.] complete (a word or form) in this way.

au·to·cor·re·la·tion /ˌôtōˌkôrə'lāSHən/ ▶ **n.** Statistics correlation between the elements of a series and others from the same series separated from them by a given interval. ■ a calculation of such correlation.

au·toc·ra·cy /ô'täkrəsē/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autocracies**) a system of government by one person with absolute power. ■ a regime based on such a principle of government. ■ a country, state, or society governed in such a way. ■ domineering rule or control: *a boss who shifts between autocracy, persuasion, and consultation.*
– ORIGIN mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'autonomy'): from Greek *autokrateia*, from *autokratēs* (see **AUTOCRAT**).

au·to·crat /'ôtəˌkrat/ ▶ **n.** a ruler who has absolute power. ■ someone who insists on complete obedience from others; an imperious or domineering person.
– ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from French *autocrate*, from Greek *autokratēs*, from *autos* 'self' + *kratos* 'power.'

au·to·crat·ic /ˌôtə'kratik/ ▶ **adj.** of or relating to a ruler who has absolute power: *the constitutional reforms threatened his autocratic power.* ■ taking no account of other people's wishes or opinions; domineering: *an autocratic management style.*
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·crat·i·cal·ly** /-ik(ə)lē/ **adv.**

au·to·cross /'ôtōˌkrôs, -ˌkräs/ ▶ **n.** a form of competition in which cars are driven around an obstacle course, typically marked out by cones.
– ORIGIN 1960s: blend of **AUTOMOBILE** and **CROSS-COUNTRY**.

au·to·da·fé /ˌôtō də 'fā/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autos-da-fé**) the burning of a heretic by the Spanish Inquisition. ■ a sentence of such a kind.
– ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from Portuguese, literally 'act of the faith.'

au·to·di·al /'ôtōˌdī(ə)l/ ▶ **n.** a function of telephonic equipment that allows for automatic dialing of preprogrammed or of randomly selected numbers: *have a telephone with autodial by your bed.*
▶ **v.** (**autodials**, **autodialing**, **autodialed**; Brit. **autodials**, **autodialling**, **autodialled**) automatically dial a telephone number, with or without human prompting: [no obj.] *it had autodialed and been online for over 2hours* | [with obj.] *if the first number is busy the modem autodials the backup number.*

au·to·dial·er /'ôtōˌdī(ə)lər/ ▶ **n.** an electronic device that dials telephone numbers randomly or from a list and may also leave messages and request information.

au·to·di·dact /ˌôtō'dīˌdakt/ ▶ **n.** a self-taught person.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·di·dac·tic** /-ˌdī'daktik/ **adj.**
– ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: from Greek *autodidaktos* 'self-taught,' from *autos* 'self' + *didaskein* 'teach.'

au·to·e·col·o·gy /ˌôtō-i'käləjē/ ▶ **n.** variant spelling of **AUTECOLOGY**.

au·to·e·rot·ic /ˌôtō-i'rätik/ ▶ **adj.** of or relating to sexual excitement generated by stimulating or fantasizing about one's own body.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·e·rot·i·ci·sm** /-ˌsizəm/ **n.**

au·to·e·rot·ic as·phyx·i·a ▶ **n.** asphyxia that results from intentionally strangling oneself while masturbating, in an attempt to heighten sexual pleasure by limiting the oxygen supply to the brain.

au·to·ex·po·sure /'ôtō-ik'spōZHər/ ▶ **n.** a device that sets the exposure automatically on a camera or other piece of equipment. ■ the facility to set exposure automatically.

au·to·fo·cus /'ôtō,fōkəs/ ▶ **n.** a device that focuses a camera or other piece of equipment automatically. ■ automatic focusing.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·fo·cus·ing** /-siNG/ **n.**

au·tog·a·my /ô'tägəmē/ ▶ **n.** Biology self-fertilization, esp. the self-pollination of a flower.
– DERIVATIVES **au·tog·a·mous** /-məs/ **adj.**
– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from **AUTO-** 'self' + Greek *-gamia* (from *gamos* 'marriage').

au·to·ge·net·ic /ˌôtōjə'netik/ ▶ **adj.** technical self-generated: *autogenetic succession.*

au·to·gen·ic train·ing /ôtə'jenik/ ▶ **n.** a form of relaxation therapy involving autosuggestion.

au·tog·e·nous /ô'täjənəs/ ▶ **adj.** arising from within or from a thing itself. ■ (of welding) done either without solder or with a filler of the same metal as the pieces being welded.

au·to·gi·ro /ˌôtō'jīrō/ (also **autogyro**) ▶ **n.** (pl. **autogiros**) a form of aircraft with freely rotating horizontal vanes and a propeller. It differs from a helicopter in that the vanes are not powered but rotate in the slipstream, propulsion being by a conventional mounted engine.
– ORIGIN 1920s: from Spanish, from *auto-* 'self' + *giro* 'gyration.'

au·to·graft /'ôtəˌgraft/ ▶ **n.** a graft of tissue from one point to another of the same individual's body.

au·to·graph /'ôtəˌgraf/ ▶ **n.** **1** a signature, esp. that of a celebrity written as a memento for an admirer: *fans surged around the car asking for autographs.*
2 a manuscript or musical score in the author's or musician's own handwriting. ■ a person's handwriting: *a songbook in Purcell's autograph.*
▶ **v.** [with obj.] (of a celebrity) write one's signature on (something); sign: *the whole team autographed a shirt for him* | (as adj. **autographed**) *an autographed photo.*
▶ **adj.** written in the author's own handwriting: *an autograph manuscript.* ■ (of a painting or sculpture) done by the artist, not by a copier.
– ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from French *autographe* or late Latin *autographum*, from Greek *autographon*, neuter of *autographos* 'written with one's own hand,' from *autos* 'self' + *graphos* 'written.'

au·tog·ra·phy /ô'tägrafē/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autographies**) an autobiography: *Arthur Miller's splendid autography, Timebends.*

au·to·harp /'ôtōˌhärp/ ▶ **n.** trademark a kind of zither with a mechanical device that allows the playing of a chord by damping all the other strings.

au·to·hyp·no·sis /ˌôtōhip'nōsis/ ▶ **n.** induction of a hypnotic state in oneself; self-hypnosis.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·hyp·not·ic** /-'nätik/ **adj.**

au·to·im·mune /ˌôtōə'myo͞on/ ▶ **adj.** Medicine of or relating to disease caused by antibodies or lymphocytes produced against substances naturally present in the body: *the infection triggers an autoimmune response.*
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·im·mu·ni·ty** /-nitē/ **n.**

au·to·in·tox·i·ca·tion /ˌôtō-inˌtäksi'kāSHən/ ▶ **n.** Medicine poisoning by a toxin formed within the body itself.

au·to·load /'ôtōˌlōd/ ▶ **adj.** self-loading; semiautomatic: *24mm film in autoload cartridges.*
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·load·er** **n.**, **au·to·load·ing** **n.**

au·tol·o·gous /ô'täləgəs/ ▶ **adj.** (of cells or tissues) obtained from the same individual: *autologous bone marrow transplants.*

au·tol·y·sis /ô'täləsis/ ▶ **n.** Biology the destruction of cells or tissues by their own enzymes, esp. those released by lysosomes.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·lyt·ic** /ˌôtl'itik/ **adj.**

au·to·mag·ic·al·ly /ˌôtə'majik(ə)lē/ ▶ **adv.** informal (esp. in relation to the operation of a computer process) automatically and in a way that seems ingenious, inexplicable, or magical: *just type in the name of what you want to listen to, and it automagically appears on your computer.*
– ORIGIN 1940s: blend of **AUTOMATICALLY** and **MAGICALLY**.

au·to·mat /'ôtəˌmat/ ▶ **n.** historical a cafeteria in which food and drink were obtained from vending machines.
– ORIGIN late 17th cent. (denoting an automaton): from German, from French *automate*, from Latin *automaton* (see **AUTOMATON**). The current sense dates from the early 20th cent.

au·to·mate /'ôtəˌmāt/ ▶ **v.** [with obj.] convert (a process or facility) to largely automatic operation: *industry is investing in automating production* | (as adj. **automated**) *a fully automated process.*
– ORIGIN 1950s: back-formation from **AUTOMATION**.

Au·to·mat·ed Clear·ing·house /'ôtəˌmātid 'kli(ə)riNGˌhous/ ▶ **n.** the clearing and settlement system used by US commercial banks and other institutions.

au·to·mat·ed tell·er ma·chine (also **automatic teller machine**) (abbr.: **ATM**) ▶ **n.** a machine that automatically provides cash and performs other banking services on insertion of a special card by the account holder.

au·to·mat·ic /ˌôtə'matik/ ▶ **adj.** **1** (of a device or process) working by itself with little or no direct human control: *an automatic kettle that switches itself off when it boils* | *calibration is fully automatic.* ■ (of a firearm) self-loading and able to fire continuously until the ammunition is exhausted or the pressure on the trigger is released: *automatic weapons.* ■ (of a motor vehicle or its transmission) using gears that shift by themselves according to speed and acceleration: *a four-speed automatic gearbox.*
2 done or occurring spontaneously, without conscious thought or intention: *automatic physical functions such as breathing* | *"Nice to meet you," he said, with automatic politeness.* ■ occurring as a matter of course and without debate: *he is the automatic choice for the senior team.* ■ (esp. of a legal sanction) given or imposed as a necessary and

inevitable result of a fixed rule or particular set of circumstances: *for missing the team workout, he received an automatic one-game suspension.*
▶ **n. 1** an automatic machine or device, in particular: ■ a gun that continues firing until the ammunition is exhausted or the pressure on the trigger is released. ■ a vehicle with automatic transmission. **2** Football another term for **AUDIBLE**.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·mat·i·cal·ly** /-ik(ə)lē/ **adv.**, **au·to·ma·tic·i·ty** /-ma'tisitē/ **n.**
– ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: from Greek *automatos* 'acting of itself' (see **AUTOMATON**) + **-IC**.

au·to·mat·ic gain con·trol (abbr.: **AGC**) ▶ **n.** Electronics a feature of certain amplifier circuits that gives a constant output over a wide range of input levels.

au·to·mat·ic pi·lot ▶ **n.** a device for keeping an aircraft on a set course without the intervention of the pilot: figurative *cruising through life on automatic pilot.*

au·to·mat·ic writ·ing ▶ **n.** writing said to be produced by a spiritual, occult, or subconscious agency rather than by the conscious intention of the writer.

au·to·ma·tion /ˌôtə'māSHən/ ▶ **n.** the use of largely automatic equipment in a system of manufacturing or other production process: *unemployment due to the spread of automation | the automation of office tasks.*
– ORIGIN 1940s (originally US): irregular formation from **AUTOMATIC** + **-ATION**.

au·tom·a·tism /ô'tämə,tizəm/ ▶ **n.** the performance of actions without conscious thought or intention. ■ Art the avoidance of conscious intention in producing works of art, esp. by using mechanical techniques or subconscious associations. ■ an action performed unconsciously or involuntarily.
– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from French *automatisme*, from *automate* 'automaton,' from Greek *automatos* 'acting of itself' (see **AUTOMATON**).

au·tom·a·tize /ô'tämə,tīz/ ▶ **v.** [with obj.] (usu. as adj. **automatized**) make automatic or habitual: *the need to refresh automatized forms of literature.*
– DERIVATIVES **au·tom·a·ti·za·tion** /ô,täməti'zāSHən/ **n.**

au·tom·a·ton /ô'tämətən, -,tän/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **automata** /-tə/ or **automatons**) a moving mechanical device made in imitation of a human being. ■ a machine that performs a function according to a predetermined set of coded instructions, esp. one capable of a range of programmed responses to different circumstances. ■ used in similes and comparisons to refer to a person who seems to act in a mechanical or unemotional way: *she went about her preparations like an automaton.*
– ORIGIN early 17th cent.: via Latin from Greek, neuter of *automatos* 'acting of itself,' from *autos* 'self.'

au·to·mim·ic·ry /ˌôtə'mimikrē/ ▶ **n.** the mimicking or accentuation of some characteristic of one's own species as an adaptive response.

au·to·mize /'ôtəˌmīz/ ▶ **v. 1** another term for **AUTOMATE**. **2** another term for **AUTOMATIZE**.

au·to·mo·bile /ˌôtəmō'bēl/ ▶ **n.** a road vehicle, typically with four wheels, powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor and able to carry a small number of people.
– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from French, from *auto-* 'self' + *mobile* 'mobile.'

au·to·mo·tive /ˌôtə'mōtiv/ ▶ **adj.** [attrib.] of, relating to, or concerned with motor vehicles.

au·to·nom·ic /ˌôtə'nämik/ ▶ **adj.** [attrib.] chiefly Physiology involuntary or unconscious; relating to the autonomic nervous system.
– ORIGIN mid 19th cent. (in the sense 'self-governing'): from **AUTONOMY** + **-IC**.

au·to·nom·ic nerv·ous sys·tem ▶ **n.** the part of the nervous system responsible for control of the bodily functions not consciously directed, such as breathing, the heartbeat, and digestive processes.

au·ton·o·mous /ô'tänəməs/ ▶ **adj.** (of a country or region) having self-government, at least to a significant degree: *the federation included sixteen autonomous republics.* ■ acting independently or having the freedom to do so: *an autonomous committee of the school board | autonomous underwater vehicles.* ■ (in Kantian moral philosophy) acting in accordance with one's moral duty rather than one's desires.
– DERIVATIVES **au·ton·o·mous·ly** **adv.**
– ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from Greek *autonomos* 'having its own laws' + **-OUS**.

au·ton·o·my /ô'tänəmē/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autonomies**) (of a country or region) the right or condition of self-government, esp. in a particular sphere: *Tatarstan demanded greater autonomy within the Russian Federation.* ■ a self-governing country or region. ■ freedom from external control or influence; independence: *economic autonomy is still a long way off for many women.* ■ (in Kantian moral philosophy) the capacity of an agent to act in accordance with objective morality rather than under the influence of desires.
– DERIVATIVES **au·ton·o·mist** /-mist/ **n.** & **adj.**
– ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Greek *autonomia*, from *autonomos* 'having its own laws,' from *autos* 'self' + *nomos* 'law.'

au·to·pa·thog·ra·phy /ˌôtōpə'THägrəfē/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autopathographies**) an autobiography dealing primarily with the influence of a disease, disability, or psychological disorder on the author's life.
– ORIGIN blend of *autobiography* and *pathography*.

au·to·pi·lot /'ôtō,pīlət/ ▶ **n.** short for **AUTOMATIC PILOT**.

au·top·sy /'ô,täpsē/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autopsies**) a postmortem examination to discover the cause of death or the extent of disease: [as modifier] *an autopsy report.*
▶ **v.** (**autopsies**, **autopsying**, **autopsied**) [with obj.] perform a postmortem examination on (a body or organ): (as adj. **autopsied**) *an autopsied brain.*
– ORIGIN mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'personal observation'): from French *autopsie* or modern Latin *autopsia*, from Greek, from *autoptēs* 'eyewitness,' from *autos* 'self' + *optos* 'seen.'

au·to·ra·di·o·gram /ˌôtō'rādēəˌgram/ ▶ **n.** another term for **AUTORADIOGRAPH**.

au·to·ra·di·o·graph /ˌôtō'rādēəˌgraf/ ▶ **n.** a photograph of an object produced by radiation from radioactive material in the object and revealing the distribution or location of labeled material in the object.
▶ **v.** [with obj.] make an autoradiograph of.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·ra·di·o·graph·ic** /-ˌrādēə'grafik/ **adj.**, **au·to·ra·di·og·ra·phy** /-ˌrādē'ägrəfē/ **n.**

au·to·ro·ta·tion /ˌôtōrō'tāSHən/ ▶ **n.** rotation of an object caused by the flow of moving air or water around the shape of the object (e.g., a winged seed). ■ such rotation in the rotor blades of a helicopter that is descending without engine power.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·ro·tate** /-'rōtāt/ **v.**

au·to·route /'ôtō,rōōt/ ▶ **n.** a highway in a French-speaking country.
– ORIGIN 1960s: from French, from *auto(mobile)* 'car' + *route* 'route.'

au·to·shap·ing /'ôtō,SHāpiNG/ ▶ **n.** Psychology a method of conditioning in which the conditioned response has not been reinforced by reward or punishment, but is a modified instinctive response to certain stimuli.

au·to·some /'ôtəˌsōm/ ▶ **n.** Biology any chromosome that is not a sex chromosome.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·so·mal** /ˌôtō'sōməl/ **adj.**

au·to·stra·da /'ôtōˌsträdə/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **autostradas** or **autostrade** /-ˌsträdē/) an Italian highway.
– ORIGIN 1920s: from Italian, from *auto* 'automobile' + *strada* 'road.'

au·to·sug·ges·tion /ˌôtōsə(g)'jesCHən/ ▶ **n.** the hypnotic or subconscious adoption of an idea that one has originated oneself, e.g. through repetition of verbal statements to oneself in order to change behavior.

au·to·tel·ic /ˌôtə'telik/ ▶ **adj.** formal (of an activity or a creative work) having an end or purpose in itself.
– ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from **AUTO-** 'self' + Greek *telos* 'end' + **-IC**.

au·tot·o·my /ô'tätəmē/ ▶ **n.** Zoology the casting off of a part of the body (e.g., the tail of a lizard) by an animal under threat.

au·to·tox·in /'ôtō,täksin/ ▶ **n.** a substance produced by an organism that is toxic to the organism itself.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·tox·ic** /ˌôtō'täksik/ **adj.**

au·to·trans·form·er /ˌôtōtrans'fôrmər/ ▶ **n.** an electrical transformer that has a single coil winding, part of which is common to both primary and secondary circuits.

au·to·trans·plan·ta·tion /ˌôtō,transplan'tāSHən/ ▶ **n.** transplantation of tissue from one site to another in the same individual.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·trans·plant** /-'trans,plant/ **n.**, **au·to·trans·plant·ed** /-trans'plantid/ **adj.**

au·to·troph /'ôtəˌträf, -ˌtrōf/ ▶ **n.** Biology an organism that is able to form nutritional organic substances from simple inorganic substances such as carbon dioxide. Compare with **HETEROTROPH**.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·troph·ic** **adj.**, **au·tot·ro·phy** **n.**

au·to·wind·er /'ôtō,wīndər/ ▶ **n.** a device that automatically advances the film in a camera after a picture has been taken.
– DERIVATIVES **au·to·wind** **n.** & **v.**

au·to·work·er /'ôtō,wərkər/ ▶ **n.** a worker in the automobile industry.

au·tox·i·da·tion /ˌôtäksi'dāSHən/ ▶ **n.** Chemistry spontaneous oxidation of a substance at ambient temperatures in the presence of oxygen.
– DERIVATIVES **au·tox·i·dize** /ô'täksiˌdīz/ **v.**

Au·try /'ôtrē/, Gene (1907–98), US singer and actor; full name *Orvon Gene Autry*; known as **the Singing Cowboy**. His credits include the first cowboy song recording (1929) and many musical western movies.

au·tumn /'ôtəm/ ▶ **n.** the third season of the year, when crops and fruits are gathered and leaves fall, in the northern hemisphere from September to November and in the southern hemisphere from March to May: *the countryside is ablaze with color in autumn* | [as modifier] *autumn leaves* | figurative *he was in the autumn of his life.* ■ Astronomy the period from the autumnal equinox to the winter solstice.
– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *automne*, or later directly from Latin *autumnus*.

au·tum·nal /ô'təmnəl/ ▶ **adj.** of, characteristic of, or occurring in autumn: *chilly autumnal weather.*
– ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin *autumnalis*, from *autumnus* 'autumn.'

au·tum·nal e·qui·nox ▶ **n.** the equinox in autumn, on about September 22 in the northern hemisphere and March 20 in the southern hemisphere.

au·tumn cro·cus ▶ **n.** a crocuslike Eurasian plant of the lily family, cultivated for its autumn-blooming flowers. ● Genus *Colchicum*, family Liliaceae: several species, in particular meadow saffron.

au·tun·ite /ô'tənīt, 'ôtn,īt/ ▶ **n.** a yellow or pale green mineral occurring as square crystals that fluoresce in ultraviolet light. It is a hydrated phosphate of calcium and uranium.
– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from *Autun*, the name of a town in eastern France, + **-ITE**¹.

Au·vergne /ō'vern(yə), ō'vərn/ a region in south central France that was a province of the Roman Empire. The region is mountainous and contains extinct volcanic cones known as the Puys.
– ORIGIN from Latin *Arverni*, the name of a Celtic tribe that lived there in Roman times.

aux·il·ia·ry /ôg'zilyərē, -'zil(ə)rē/ ▶ **adj.** providing supplementary or additional help and support: *an auxiliary nurse | auxiliary airport staff.* ■ (of equipment) held in reserve: *the ship has an auxiliary power source.* ■ (of troops) engaged in the service of a nation at war but not part of the regular army, and often of foreign origin. ■ (of a sailing vessel) equipped with a supplementary engine.
▶ **n.** (pl. **auxiliaries**) a person or thing providing supplementary or additional help and support: *a nursing auxiliary | there are two main fuel tanks and two auxiliaries.* ■ a group of volunteers giving supplementary support to an organization or institution: *members of the Volunteer Fire Department's women's auxiliary.* ■ (**auxiliaries**) troops engaged in the service of a nation at war but not part of the regular army, and often of foreign origin. ■ Grammar an auxiliary verb. ■ a naval vessel with a supporting role, not armed for combat.
– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *auxiliarius*, from *auxilium* 'help.'

aux·il·ia·ry verb ▶ **n.** Grammar a verb used in forming the tenses, moods, and voices of other verbs. See also **MODAL VERB**.

> The primary auxiliary verbs in English are *be*, *do*, and *have*; the modal auxiliaries are *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *must*, *shall*, *should*, *will*, and *would*.

aux·in /'ôksin/ ▶ **n.** a plant hormone that causes the elongation of cells in shoots and is involved in regulating plant growth.
– ORIGIN 1930s: coined in German from Greek *auxein* 'to increase' + **-IN**¹.

aux·o·troph /'ôksəˌträf, -ˌtrōf/ ▶ **n.** Biology a mutant organism (typically a bacterium or fungus) that requires a particular additional nutrient that the normal strain does not.
– DERIVATIVES **aux·o·troph·ic** /ˌôksə'träfik, -'trō-/ **adj.**
– ORIGIN 1950s: from Latin *auxilium* 'help' + Greek *trophos* 'feeder.'

AV ▶ **abbr.** ■ audiovisual (teaching aids). ■ Authorized Version.

Av ▶ **n.** variant spelling of **AB**¹.

av·a·da·vat /'avədəˌvat/ (also **amadavat** /'am-/) ▶ **n.** a small southern Asian waxbill that is often kept as a caged bird. The male has red or green plumage and a red bill. ● Genus *Amandava*, family Estrildidae: the **red avadavat** (*A. amandava*) and the **green avadavat** (*A. formosa*).
– ORIGIN late 17th cent.: named after the city of **AHMADABAD** in India, where the birds were sold.

a·vail /ə'vāl/ ▶ **v. 1** (**avail oneself of**) use or take advantage of (an opportunity or available resource): *my daughter did not avail herself of my advice.*