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elas·mo·the·ri·um \,=,==ˈ===\ *n, cap* [NL, fr. *elasm-* + *-therium;* fr. the enamel plates of the molars] **:** a genus of rhinoceroses of the Pleistocene of Russia

elast- *or* **elasto-** *comb form* [NL *elast-*, fr. LGk *elastos* ductile] **1 :** elasticity ⟨*elast*in⟩ **2 :** elastic and ⟨*elasto*viscous⟩

elas·tase \əˈla,stās, ēˈ-, -āz\ *n* -s [*elastin* + *-ase*] **:** an enzyme that decomposes elastin and collagen and has been obtained in crystalline form from the pancreas

1elas·tic \əˈlastik, ēˈ-, -laas-, -tēk *sometimes chiefly Brit* -lȧs-\ *adj* [NL *elasticus* expansive, impulsive, fr. LGk *elastos* ductile, beaten (fr. Gk *elaunein* to drive, beat out) + L *-icus* -ic; akin to Gk *elan* to drive, OIr *luid* went, and perh. to Arm *elanim* I become] **1 a** *of a solid* **:** capable of recovering size and shape after deformation **b** *of a liquid* **:** capable of resisting compression **c** *of a gas* **:** capable of indefinite expansion **2 :** capable of recovering quickly from low spirits, disappointment, or misfortune ⟨a very cheerful and ~ gentleman —T.L. Peacock⟩ **:** marked by buoyancy **:** RESILIENT ⟨one called the young Indians "boys", perhaps because there was something youthful and ~ in their bodies —Willa Cather⟩ **3 :** capable of being easily stretched or expanded and of snapping back or resuming former shape **:** FLEXIBLE ⟨a brave old Panama hat . . . so ~ that upon rolling it up it sprang into perfect shape again —Herman Melville⟩ **4 a :** capable of ready change or easy expansion ⟨left as ~ as possible the constitution of the new institutions —P.J.Noel-Baker⟩ **:** not rigid or constricted ⟨the word *democratic* is doubtless one of the most ~ in the language —D.D.McKean⟩ **b :** receptive to new ideas and willing to modify previous judgments **:** ADAPTABLE ⟨the French mind is ~ and French public opinion tolerant to a degree which shames the prejudice of other peoples —W.C. Brownell⟩ **5 :** enlarging or decreasing readily in demand in response to changes in price ⟨the market is a fixed one in certain ways and quite ~ in other ways —Charles Yerkow⟩
syn EXPANSIVE, RESILIENT, BUOYANT, VOLATILE, EFFERVESCENT: ELASTIC may indicate an ability to recover quickly from discouragement or dejection and enjoy optimism or elation again ⟨the buoyant and *elastic* temper of the French trouveur —J.R. Green⟩ ⟨an *elastic* faculty of throwing off such recollections as would be too painful for endurance —Nathaniel Hawthorne⟩ ⟨to him whose *elastic* and vigorous thought keeps pace with the sun, the day is a perpetual morning —H.D. Thoreau⟩ EXPANSIVE may imply high spirits, optimism, benevolence, geniality, and communicativeness ⟨an *expansive* mood is one of the most familiar and sometimes costly first responses to a Florida winter sun. The person noted for taciturnity in his home community often becomes loquacious —*Amer. Guide Series: Fla.*⟩ RESILIENT may stress speed of return to accustomed good or high spirits after stress, tribulation, or depression ⟨already the shock and horror of it was fading from her *resilient* mind —Ruth Park⟩ ⟨good fighters, outspoken and tenacious of opinion, unsparing in attack, refusing to be browbeaten, *resilient* and tough as seasoned hickory —V.L. Parrington⟩ BUOYANT may indicate a temperamental lightness of spirit incapable of lasting dejection or depression ⟨in the dark days of the Revolution there was a *buoyant* American spirit —*Encyc. Americana*⟩ ⟨no such immaterial burden could depress that *buoyant*-hearted young gentleman for many hours together —George Eliot⟩ VOLATILE suggests lightness, levity, gaiety, or flightiness overcoming the sedate, serious, sober, or downcast ⟨how different from the *volatile* Polynesian in this, as in all other respects, is our grave and decorous North American Indian —Herman Melville⟩ ⟨was suspected of levity, irreverence, disregard, and affectation. He was too *volatile;* he talked too much —*John o' London's Weekly*⟩ EFFERVESCENT suggests a bubbling liveliness and boisterousness over which restraint or suppression is unlikely or impossible ⟨an *effervescent* sort of chap with an enthusiasm that takes off like a rocket —Richard Joseph⟩ **syn** see in addition FLEXIBLE

2elastic \"\ *n* -s **1 a :** ELASTIC WEB **b :** a fabric that is woven usu. of yarns containing rubber and that is used esp. for girdles and elastic hose **c :** something made from such fabric; *esp* **:** GARTER 1 — usu. used in pl. **2 :** easily stretched rubber usu. prepared in cords, strings, or bands: as **a :** RUBBER BAND **b :** a band of elastic placed around a tooth at the gum line in effecting its nonsurgical extraction

elas·ti·ca \-tәkә\ *n* -s [NL, fr. fem. of *elasticus*] **1 :** either of two layers of elastic tissue present in the walls of most arteries: **a :** an inner layer between the intima and media **b :** an outer layer between the media and adventitia **2 :** ELASTIC CURVE

elastic afterwork *or* **elastic afterworking** *n* **:** the plastic yielding or creep of certain crystals of a metal on recovery after the release of a stress that has previously caused plastic deformation

elastical *obs var of* 1ELASTIC

elas·ti·cal·ly \-tәk(ә)lē, -tēk-, -li\ *adv* **:** in an elastic manner **:** utilizing an elastic quality ⟨could be bent ~ —E.F.Riebling & W.W.Webb⟩

elastic bitumen *n* **:** ELATERITE

elastic cartilage *n* **:** a yellowish flexible cartilage having the matrix infiltrated in all directions by a network of elastic fibers and occurring chiefly in the external ear, eustachian tube, and certain cartilages of the larynx and epiglottis

elastic collision *n* **:** a collision in which the total kinetic energy of the colliding pair remains unchanged and the total momentum is conserved although usu. reapportioned between them

elastic constant *n* **:** one of the constants that express the elastic behavior of a given material — compare BULK MODULUS, ELASTIC LIMIT, POISSON'S RATIO, SHEAR MODULUS, YIELD POINT, YOUNG'S MODULUS

elastic currency *n* **:** a currency that automatically increases and decreases in volume with the demands of business

elastic curve *n* **:** the curve assumed by the longitudinal axis of an originally straight elastic strip or bar bent within its elastic limits by any system of forces

elastic deformation *n* **:** deformation that disappears upon removal of the external forces causing the alteration and the stress associated with it

elastic fiber *n* **:** a thick very elastic smooth yellowish connective tissue fiber that contains elastin and that branches and anastomoses with other similar fibers — see ELASTIC CARTILAGE, ELASTIC TISSUE

elastic glue *n* **:** FLEXIBLE GLUE

elastic hysteresis *n* **:** HYSTERESIS 1b

elas·tic·i·ty \ә,laˈstisәd·ē, (,)ē,l-, -laa'-, -әtē, -i *sometimes chiefly Brit* -,lә'- *or* ,e(,)l- *or* -,lȧ'-\ *n* -ES **1 :** the quality or state of being elastic: as **a :** the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation in any way **:** SPRINGINESS **b :** RESILIENCE ⟨with the ~ of youth she quickly recovered⟩ **c :** ADAPTABILITY ⟨they do not always perceive that the ~ of democracy is its strength —*New Yorker*⟩ **2 :** the property in paint or varnish that enables the film to follow without breaking changes in the surface to which it is applied **3 :** the responsiveness of a dependent variable to changes in a causal factor ⟨the price ~ of exports and imports may not be adequate to bring about equilibrium —A.H.Hansen⟩ ⟨~ of demand⟩

e·las·ti·cized \=ˈ=stә,sīzd\ *adj* **1 :** woven or knitted with elastic or rubber thread ⟨~ fabrics⟩ **2 :** stitched with elastic thread or made with inserts of elastic ⟨an ~ belt⟩ ⟨~ shoes⟩

elastic limit *n* **1 :** the greatest stress that an elastic solid can sustain without undergoing permanent deformation **2 :** the greatest stress for which the strain of an elastic body is proportional to the stress

elastic membrane *n* **:** a membrane consisting of or containing elastic tissue

elastic modulus *n* **:** MODULUS OF ELASTICITY

constituent of elastic fibers

elas·tique \,ā,laˈstēk\ *n* -s [F *élastique* elastic (adj. and n.), fr. NL *elasticus* expansive, impulsive — more at ELASTIC] **:** a firm fabric resembling cavalry twill that is usu. made of wool or worsted and is used for uniforms and sportswear

elasto- — see ELAST-

elas·to·mer \әˈlastәmә(r), ēˈ-\ *n* -s [*elast-* + *-mer*] **:** an elastic rubberlike substance (as a synthetic rubber or a plastic having some of the physical properties of natural rubber) ⟨polyvinyl ~*s*⟩ — **elas·to·mer·ic** \=¦==¦merik\ *adj*

elas·tom·e·ter \ә,laˈstämәd·ә(r), (,)ē,l-\ *n* [*elast-* + *-meter*] **:** an instrument for measuring elasticity (as of body tissues or rubber) — **elas·tom·e·try** \-mә·trē\ *n* -ES

Elas·to·plast \әˈlastә,plast, ēˈl-\ *trademark* — used for an elastic adhesive bandage used as a dressing or support (as a cast or a corset)

1elas·to·plas·tic \әˈlastә,plastik, ēˈl-\ *n* [*elast-* + *plastic* (n.)] **:** a substance having both elastic and plastic properties **:** a rubberlike plastic

2elastoplastic \"\ *adj* [*elast-* + *plastic* (adj.)] **:** relating to the state of stress between the elastic limit of a material and its breaking strength in which the material exhibits both elastic and plastic properties — **elas·to·plas·tic·i·ty** \=,==,plaˈstisәd·ē\ *n* -ES

elas·to·sis \ә,laˈstōsәs, (,)ē,l-\ *n, pl* **elasto·ses** \-ō,sēz\ [NL, fr. *elast-* + *-osis*] **:** a condition marked by loss of elasticity of the skin in elderly people due to degeneration of the connective tissue

elas·tra·tion \-ˈstrāshәn\ *n* -s [blend of 2*elastic* and *castration*] **:** bloodless castration (as of a lamb) by fitting a strong rubber band about the scrotum

1elate \әˈlāt, ēˈ-, *usu* -ād·+V\ *adj* [ME *elat*, fr. L *elatus*] **1** *archaic* **:** of high position **:** LOFTY, PROUD **2 :** in high spirits ⟨who can be alone ~ while the world lies forlorn —Matthew Arnold⟩ **:** EXALTED ⟨the poet's eyes . . . careworn, not ~ —Hugh McCrae⟩

2elate \"\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [L *elatus* (suppletive past part. of *efferre* to carry out), fr. *e-* + *latus*, suppletive past part. of *ferre* to bear — more at EFFERENT, BEAR, TOLERATE] **1** *archaic* **:** to raise up **:** LIFT ⟨~ his shady forehead —George Chapman⟩ **2 a :** to raise the spirits of **:** EXCITE, INSPIRE ⟨it was a fine sunny day, the sort of day that ~*s* the heart of young and old —W.S. Maugham⟩ **b :** to flush with triumph or success **:** puff up (as with pride) ⟨*elated* over his great bargain —M.M.Musselman⟩

elated *adj* **:** elevated in spirit **:** excited esp. with pride **:** EXULTANT ⟨I felt at once tranquil and ~ —John Galsworthy⟩ — **elat·ed·ly** *adv* — **elat·ed·ness** *n* -ES

elate·ment \-ātmәnt\ *n* -s **:** ELATION

el·a·ter \ˈelәd·ә(r)\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *elatēr* driver, fr. *elaunein* to drive, beat out — more at ELASTIC] **1** -s *obs* **:** ELASTICITY **2** [NL, fr. Gk *elatēr*] **a** *cap* **:** the type genus of Elateridae **b** -s **:** any beetle of the family Elateridae **:** CLICK BEETLE **3** -s **:** a filamentous plant structure functioning in the distribution of some product (as spores): as **a :** one of the elongated filaments among the spores in the capsule of a liverwort **b :** a filament of the capillitium of a slime mold **c :** one of the filamentous appendages of the spores in the scouring rushes

1elat·er·id \әˈlad·әrәd\ *adj* [NL *Elateridae*] **:** of or relating to the Elateridae

2elaterid \"\ *n* -s **:** a beetle of the family Elateridae **:** CLICK BEETLE

el·a·ter·i·dae \,elәˈterә,dē\ *n pl, cap* [NL, fr. *Elater*, type genus + *-idae*] **:** a large family of elongated tapering beetles that commonly have the ability when overturned to flip into the air by a sudden movement of the prothorax and so produce a distinct clicking — compare CLICK BEETLE, WIREWORM

elat·er·in \әˈlad·әrәn\ *n* -s [ISV *elaterium* + *-in*] **:** a bitter white crystalline poisonous cathartic substance obtained esp. from elaterium and colocynth

elat·er·ite \-,rīt\ *n* -s [G *elaterit*, fr. Gk *elatēr* driver + G *-it* -ite] **:** a mineral consisting of a dark brown elastic resin occurring in soft flexible masses — called also *elastic bitumen, mineral caoutchouc*

el·a·te·ri·um \,elәˈtirēәm\ *n* -s [L, fr. Gk *elatērion* (also, squirting cucumber), fr. neut. of *elatērios* driving, driving away, purgative, fr. *elatēr* driver] **:** a purgative substance precipitated as a fine powder from the juice of the squirting cucumber on spontaneous evaporation and used in the form of yellowish cakes

elat·i·na·ce·ae \ә,latᵊnˈāsē,ē, ,elәtәˈnā-\ *n pl, cap* [NL, fr. *Elatine*, type genus + *-aceae*] **:** a widely distributed family of aquatic or marsh plants (order Parietales) having opposite leaves and small axillary flowers — **elat·i·na·ceous** \ә¦latᵊnˈāshәs, ¦elәtә¦nā-\ *adj*

elat·i·ne \әˈlatᵊn,ē\ *n, cap* [NL, fr. L, a kind of plant, fr. Gk *elatinē*, fr. fem. of *elatinos* of the silver fir, fr. *elatē* silver fir; perh. akin to Arm *elevin* cedar, Russ *yalovets* juniper] **:** a genus (the type of the family Elatinaceae) of aquatic or amphibious creeping herbs having dimerous to tetramerous flowers

elating *pres part of* ELATE

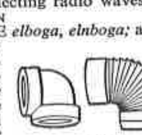
ela·tion \әˈlāshәn, ēˈ-\ *n* -s [ME *elacioun*, fr. MF *elation*, fr. L *elation-*, *elatio*, fr. *elatus* (suppletive past part. of *efferre* to carry out) + *-ion-*, *-io* -ion — more at EFFERENT, ELATE] **1 :** the quality or state of being elated: **a :** SELF-EXALTATION, VAINGLORY ⟨when Lincoln was reelected in 1864 he felt no ~, only humility —Ruth P. Randall⟩ **b :** high spirits **:** BUOYANCY, JOY ⟨and within us, tramping over the valley meadows, was the incredible ~ of those who set out before the sun has risen —John Galsworthy⟩ **2 :** pathological euphoria sometimes accompanied by intense pleasure

1ela·tive \ˈēlәd·iv, ˈel-\ *adj* [L *elatus* + E *-ive*] *of a grammatical case* **:** denoting motion away from

2elative \"\ *n* -s [L *elatus* + E *-ive*] **1** *linguistics* **:** the absolute superlative **2** [1*elative*] **a :** the elative case of a language **b :** a form in the elative case

e layer *n, cap E* **:** the lowest well-defined layer of the ionosphere regularly occurring during the daytime at about 60 miles above the earth's surface and capable of reflecting radio waves of medium frequency — compare E REGION

1el·bow \ˈel,bō\ *n* -s [ME *elbowe*, fr. OE *elboga, elnboga;* akin to OHG *elinbogo* elbow, ON *olbogi*, *ǫlnbogi*, MD *ellenboge;* all fr. a prehistoric Gmc compound whose constituents are akin to OE *eln* ell and *boga* bow — more at ELL, BOW] **1 a :** the joint between the human forearm and upper arm that supports the outer curve of the arm when bent **b :** a joint in the anterior limb of a vertebrate animal corresponding to the human elbow — see DOG illustration **c :** the portion of the sleeve of a garment that encloses this joint; *esp* **:** the portion that covers the outer bend when the arm is flexed ⟨wearing a tattered coat with holes in the ~*s*⟩ **2 :** something felt to resemble an elbow: as **a :** a sharp bend in a river or coast ⟨north to south through the ~ of the Minnesota river —Meridel Le Sueur⟩ **b** (1) **:** a bend or projection (as in a wall or building) ⟨her starboard quarter . . . hit with a solid thump against the ~ of the brick-faced canal side —C.S. Forester⟩ (2) **:** CROSSETTE 1 **c** *archery* **:** the part of the limb of a reflexed bow that bends sharply away from the string **d :** an angular pipe fitting **:** ELL **3 :** an arm of a chair ⟨he sat leaning backward obliquely in an easy chair with his leg thrown over the ~ of it —*Punch*⟩ — **at one's elbow** *or* **at the elbow :** at one's side **:** close at hand **:** NEARBY, ALONGSIDE ⟨with him *at her elbow*, she became a fine draftsman and a compositional designer of enviable talent —J.T.Soby⟩ — **bend an elbow** *also* **crook an elbow** *or* **lift an elbow :** to drink intoxicating liquor **:** have a drink ⟨don't *bend elbows* with



pipe elbows

. . . one's way **:** push or jostle along ⟨~*ing* through the crowd —Robert Westerby⟩ **2 :** to make an angle **:** TURN ⟨the passage ~*ed* and we were in an enormous cellar —Merle Considine⟩

elbow bending *n* **:** the drinking of beer or liquor

elbowboard \ˈ=(,)=,=\ *n* **:** the inside ledge formed by the projecting board covering the bottom of a window frame

elbow chair *n* **:** ARMCHAIR ⟨he was seated before a large fire in an *elbow chair* —*Encore*⟩

el·bowed \ˈel,bōd\ *adj* [1*elbow* + *-ed*] **:** GENICULATE ⟨~ antennae of certain weevils⟩

elbow grease *n* **:** energy vigorously exerted in the performance esp. of manual labor **:** strenuous application of oneself **:** SWEAT ⟨this was the first such expedition not powered solely by the *elbow grease* of oarsmen —*New Yorker*⟩

elbow in hawse : a foul hawse resulting from a 360 degree turn made by a ship riding at two anchors — compare ROUND TURN

elbow of capture : an abrupt turn in the course of a river attributable to stream piracy

elbowroom \ˈ=(,)=,=\ *n* **1 a :** ample room for moving the elbows freely ⟨stepped back to give them ~ —John Fountain⟩ **b :** adequate space for comfortable existence or development **:** sufficient room for work or operation ⟨this plane needs ~ to fly⟩ **2 :** freedom of movement or opportunity **:** LIBERTY ⟨more ~ for interpreting the party line⟩ **syn** see ROOM

elbow stand *n* **:** an acrobatic position in which the body is balanced on the forearms and the legs are held in the air

elbow stone *n* **:** a prehistoric curved stone artifact found in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic

el·buck \ˈel(,)bәk\ *Scot var of* ELBOW

eld \ˈeld\ *n* -s [ME *elde*, fr. OE *yldo, eldo, ældo;* akin to OHG *altī, eltī* old age, eld, ON *elli;* derivative fr. the root of E *old*] **1 a** *dial Brit* **:** period of life **:** AGE **b** *archaic* **:** OLD AGE **2** *archaic* **:** old times **:** ANTIQUITY ⟨a spirit of immemorial ~ pervades this tavern —Norman Douglas⟩ **3** *archaic* **:** an old person

eld *abbr* eldest

el de·bab \elˈde,bab\ *n* [Ar *al-dhubāb* the flies (the source of the disease)] **:** a trypanosomiasis of northern African camels resembling surra but caused by a distinct parasite (*Trypanosoma soudanense*)

1el·der \ˈeldә(r)\ *n* -s [ME *eldre, eller, ellern*, fr. OE *ellærn, ellen;* prob. akin to OE *alor* alder — more at ALDER] **:** a shrub or tree of the genus *Sambucus; esp, Brit* **:** BOURTREE

2el·der \ˈeldә(r)\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *yldra, ieldra, eldra*, compar. of *ald, eald* old — more at OLD] **1 :** of earlier birth ⟨much the ~ of the two —Norman Demuth⟩ **:** of greater age ⟨the ~ service flag was a . . . cobwebby bunting —MacKinlay Kantor⟩ **:** OLDER ⟨great, rich, established ~ nations —Joseph Alsop⟩ **2 :** of or relating to earlier times **:** FORMER ⟨his poems are of the ~ New England tradition —H.V.Gregory⟩ **3** *obs* **:** of or relating to a more advanced time of life **:** LATER ⟨I tender you my service raw and young; which ~ days shall ripen —Shak.⟩ **4 :** of greater experience **:** SENIOR ⟨an ~ educator⟩

3elder \"\ *n* -s [ME *eldre*, fr. OE *yldra, ieldra, eldra*, fr. *yldra, ieldra, eldra*, adj.] **1 :** one who lived at an earlier period — usu. used in pl. ⟨rules and standards passed down from the ~*s* —Paul Woodring⟩ **2 a :** one who is older **:** SENIOR — usu. used in pl. ⟨young people ski and their ~*s* golf —S.H.Holbrook⟩ **b** *archaic* **:** an aged person ⟨the wither'd ~ hath his Poll claw'd like a Parrot —Shak.⟩ **3** [ME, trans. of LL *senior*] **:** a member of a governing body or ruling class made up of those whose age or experience confers a special dignity on them **:** SUPERIOR — usu. used in pl. ⟨hereditary village ~*s* governing by common consent . . . held political authority beyond the courts —J.M. Van der Kroef⟩ **4** [trans. of LL *presbyter* & Gk *presbyteros*] **:** any of certain church officers or leaders: as **a :** PRESBYTER 1 ⟨at first the Christian churches followed the precedent of the synagogues in their organization and the ~*s* were the official leaders —E.H.Sugden⟩ **b :** a permanent officer elected by a Presbyterian congregation and ordained to serve on the session and assist the pastor at communion **c :** a fully ordained Methodist minister ⟨made a deacon in 1790 and ordained ~ in 1793 —H.E.Starr⟩ **d :** one ordained to the Melchizedek priesthood in the Mormon Church

4elder \"\ *n* -s [Flem; prob. akin to OE *ūder* udder — more at UDDER] *dial* **:** UDDER

elderberry \ˈ==- — *see* BERRY\ *n* [ME *eldreberye*, fr. *eldre* elder (bush) + *berye* berry] **1 a :** the edible berrylike drupe of an elder, (as the European bourtree or the No. American elder blow) that is eaten raw or processed into preserves or wines **b :** an elder bush or tree **2 :** DERBY BLUE

elder blow *n* [1*elder* + *blow* (blossom)] **:** an elder plant; *esp* **:** the No. American elder (*Sambucus canadensis*)

elder fungus *n* **:** JEW'S-EAR

el·der·li·ness \ˈeldә(r)lēnәs, -lin-\ *n* -ES **:** the quality or state of being elderly

el·der·ly \-lē, -li\ *adj* [2*elder* + *-ly*] **1 :** somewhat old: **a :** rather advanced in years **:** past middle age ⟨we must face the problems of an aging population, i.e., where a much larger proportion of the citizens is ~ —Alan Gregg⟩ **b :** OLD-FASHIONED, OUT-OF-DATE, OUTMODED ⟨an ~ office building on lower Fifth Avenue —Dwight Macdonald⟩ **2 :** of, relating to, or characteristic of one past the prime of life ⟨the Frate carried his doctrine rather too far for ~ ears —George Eliot⟩

el·dern \ˈeldәrn\ *adj* [ME (Scot dial.), fr. 2*elder* + 1*-en*] *chiefly Scot* **:** ELDERLY

elder statesman *n* **:** an eminent senior member of a group or organization ⟨a much honored *elder statesman* of the geographic profession —*Economic Geog.*⟩; *esp* **:** a retired statesman who unofficially advises national leaders ⟨may hand over the premiership to his younger second-in-command after a year or two in office and stay on in the role of *elder statesman* —*New Yorker*⟩

el·dest \ˈeldәst\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *yldest, ieldest, eldest*, superl. of *eald, ald* old — more at OLD] **:** of the greatest age or seniority: **a** *archaic* **:** most ancient **:** EARLIEST ⟨let us pay heed to our ~ scientific brothers and shrewdest symbolists, the mathematicians —Weston La Barre⟩ **b :** FIRSTBORN, OLDEST ⟨when their ~ child was arriving at school age —F.L.Allen⟩

eldest born *n* **:** FIRSTBORN

eldest hand *n* **:** the card player who first receives cards in the deal; *specif* **:** the player to the left of the dealer

el·ding \ˈeldәn, -diŋ\ *n* -s [ME, fr. ON *elding*, fr. *eldr* fire + *-ing* (n. suffix) — more at ANNEAL] *chiefly Scot* **:** FUEL, FIREWOOD

el·do·ra·do \,eldәˈrä¦(,)dō, -rā¦, -ra¦, -rȧ¦, ¦dә\ *n* -s *often cap* [after *El Dorado*, fabulously wealthy city or country that 16th cent. explorers thought existed in So. America, fr. Sp, lit., the gilded one] **:** a place of fabulous wealth, abundance, or opportunity ⟨in the ~ of the New World they quickly amassed wealth and power⟩ ⟨the town is a composer's ~ —Aaron Copland⟩ ⟨orchards which in blossoming time offer an ~ of color —Samuel Van Valkenburg & Ellsworth Huntington⟩

el·dress \ˈeldrәs\ *n* -ES [3*elder* + *-ess*] **:** a female church elder

el·dritch *also* **el·drich** *or* **el·ritch** \ˈel(d)rich\ *adj* [perh. fr. (assumed) OE *ælfrīce* fairyland, fr. OE *ælf* elf + *rīce* kingdom, power; akin to OE *rīce* powerful, rich — more at ELF, RICH] **:** WEIRD, EERIE, UNCANNY ⟨the ~ screech of hunting horns swelled louder —F.V.W.Mason⟩ ⟨its ~ comedy captivated audiences around the world —Lincoln Barnett⟩

elds *pl of* ELD

1el·e·at·ic \¦elē¦ad·ik\ *adj, usu cap* [L *Eleaticus* (also, of Elea), fr. Gk *Eleatikos*, fr. *Eleatēs* of Elea (fr. *Elea* — Velia — ancient town in southern Italy) + *-ikos* -ic] **:** of or relating to a school of Greek philosophers founded by Parmenides and developed by Zeno who principally asserted the unity of being and the unreality of motion or change — compare PARMENIDEAN

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