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ELEVENTH
EDITION



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Gk anthos
ture com-
e fused —

ton, fr. pe-
en] (1584)

r affecting

ion of the

AL, fr. Gk
- + kardia
membrane
ls of verte-
vertebrate

ion pod, fr.
dified walls

NL, fr. peri-
fibrous con-
chondral

peri- + kopē
: a selection

ericanum,
he skull, fr.
rinal perios-

spherical, fr.
layer of par-
the stele in
adj
rmis] (1849)
l many roots
l pheloderm
Gk peridion,
of the sporo-

ca. 1706) : a
as a gem —

'8) : any of a
sian minerals

zion, fr. neut.
point in the
nearest to the
telescope (as the
GEE — peri-

ri- + gynus
: surrounding
ad petals (<

fr. peri- + Gk
1 of a celestial
APHELION —

fr. peri- + Gk
ODY — peri-

more at FEAR]
royed, or lost
mperils : RISK

pose to danger
rilla) of Asian
lets
ing peril (< a ~
— peri-ilous-

ore at LUNAR]
n that is near-
ween the mem-

) : the period
various physi-
— peri-men-o-

etras, fr. Gk, fr.
a : the bound-
er 2 : a line or

strip bounding or protecting an area 3 : outer limits — often used in
pl. 4 : the part of a basketball court outside the three-point line

peri-my-si-um \per-ə-mī-zhē-əm, -zē-əm/ *n*, *pl* -sia \zhē-ə, -zē-ə/ [NL, ir-
reg. fr. *peri-* + Gk *mys* mouse, muscle — more at **MOUSE**] (ca. 1842)
: the connective-tissue sheath that surrounds a muscle and forms
sheaths for the bundles of muscle fibers

peri-na-tal \-nā-təl/ *adj* (1952) : occurring in, concerned with, or being
in the period around the time of birth (< mortality) (< care) —
peri-na-tal-ly \-təl-(l)ē/ *adv*

peri-na-tol-o-gy \per-ə-nā-tā-lə-jē/ *n* (1969) : a branch of medicine
concerned with perinatal care — **peri-na-tol-o-gist** \-jist/ *n*

peri-i-ne-um \per-ə-nē-əm/ *n*, *pl* -nea \-nē-ə/ [ME, fr. LL *perinaion*,
fr. Gk, fr. *peri-* + *inan* to empty out; perh. akin to Skt *ispāti* he sets in
motion] (15c) : an area of tissue that marks externally the approximate
boundary of the outlet of the pelvis and gives passage to the urinogen-
ital ducts and rectum; also : the area between the anus and the poster-
ior part of the external genitalia — **peri-i-ne-al** \-nē-əl/ *adj*

peri-neu-ri-um \per-ə-nūr-ē-əm, -nyūr-ē-əm/ *n*, *pl* -ria \-rē-ə/ [NL, fr. *peri-*
+ Gk *neuron* nerve — more at **NERVE**] (ca. 1842) : the connective-
tissue sheath that surrounds a bundle of nerve fibers

peri-od \-pī-əd/ *n* [ME *periode*, fr. MF, fr. ML, L, & Gk; ML *perio-*
dius period of time, punctuation mark, fr. L & Gk; L, rhetorical period,
fr. Gk *periodos* circuit, period of time, rhetorical period, fr. *peri-* + *hō-*
dos way] (ca. 1530) 1 : the completion of a cycle, a series of events, or
a single action : **CONCLUSION** 2 a (1) : an utterance from one full stop
to another : **SENTENCE** (2) : a well-proportioned sentence of several
clauses (3) : **PERIODIC SENTENCE** b : a musical structure or melodic
section usu. composed of two or more contrasting or complementary
phrases and ending with a cadence 3 a : the full pause with which the
utterance of a sentence closes b : **END, STOP** 4 *obs* : **GOAL, PURPOSE**

5 a (1) : a point used to mark the end (as of a declarative sentence or
an abbreviation) (2) — used interjectionally to emphasize the finality
of the preceding statement <I don't remember —> b : a rhythmic
unit in Greek verse composed of a series of two or more cola 6 a :
a portion of time determined by some recurring phenomenon b (1)
: the interval of time required for a cyclic motion or phenomenon to
complete a cycle and begin to repeat itself (2) : a number *k* that does
not change the value of a periodic function *f* when added to the inde-
pendent variable; esp : the smallest such number c : a single cyclic oc-
currence of menstruation 7 a : a chronological division : **STAGE** b
: a division of geologic time longer than an epoch and included in an
era c : a stage of culture having a definable place in time and space

8 a : one of the divisions of the academic day b : one of the divisions
of the playing time of a game

syn PERIOD, EPOCH, ERA, AGE mean a division of time. PERIOD may
designate an extent of time of any length (<periods of economic pros-
perity>). EPOCH applies to a period begun or set off by some significant
or striking quality, change, or series of events (<the steam engine
marked a new epoch in industry>). ERA suggests a period of history
marked by a new or distinct order of things (<the era of global com-
munications>). AGE is used frequently of a fairly definite period domi-
nated by a prominent figure or feature (<the age of Samuel Johnson>).

2 **period** *adj* (1905) : of, relating to, or representing a particular historical
period (<furniture>) (<costumes>)

peri-od-ic \-pī-əd-ik/ *adj* (1642) 1 a : occurring or recurring at
regular intervals b : occurring repeatedly from time to time 2 a

: consisting of or containing a series of repeated stages, processes, or
digits : **CYCLIC** (<decimals>) (<vibration>) b : being a function
any value of which recurs at regular intervals 3 : expressed in or char-
acterized by periodic sentences

peri-od-ic acid \-pī-əd-ik-ə/ *n* [ISV *per-* + *iodic*] (1836) : any of the
strongly oxidizing acids (as H₂IO₆ or HIO₄) that are the most highly ox-
idized acids of iodine

1 **peri-od-i-cal** \-pī-əd-ik-əl/ *adj* (1601) 1 : **PERIODIC** 2 a : pub-
lished with a fixed interval between the issues or numbers b : pub-
lished in, characteristic of, or connected with a periodical

2 **periodical** *n* (1798) : a periodical publication
periodical cicada *n* (1890) : **SEVENTEEN-YEAR LOCUST**

peri-od-i-cal-ly \-pī-əd-ik-əl-(l)ē/ *adv* (1646) 1 : at regular intervals
of time 2 : from time to time : **FREQUENTLY**

peri-od-ic-i-ty \-pī-əd-ik-ē-ə-tē/ *n* (1833) : the quality, state, or fact of
being regularly recurrent or having periods

periodic law *n* (1872) : a law in chemistry: the elements when arranged
in the order of their atomic numbers show a periodic variation of
atomic structure and of most of their properties

periodic sentence *n* (ca. 1928) : a usu. complex sentence that has no
subordinate or trailing elements following its principal clause (as in
"yesterday while I was walking down the street, I saw him")

periodic table *n* (1895) : an arrangement of chemical elements based
on the periodic law

peri-od-i-z-a-tion \-pī-əd-ə-də-'zā-shən/ *n* (1938) : division (as of histo-
ry) into periods

peri-odon-tal \-pī-əd-ən-'tāl/ *adj* (1854) 1 : investing or surround-
ing a tooth 2 : of or affecting periodontal tissues or regions (<dis-
eases>) — **peri-odon-tal-ly** \-tāl-(l)ē/ *adv*

periodontal membrane *n* (1899) : the fibrous connective-tissue layer
covering the cementum of a tooth and holding it in place in the jaw-
bone

peri-odon-tics \-dän-'tiks/ *n* *pl* but sing or *pl* in constr [NL *periodontium*
periodontal tissue, fr. *peri-* + Gk *odont-*, *odont-*, *odon* tooth — more at
TOOTH] (ca. 1944) : a branch of dentistry that deals with diseases of
the supporting and investing structures of the teeth including the gums, ce-
mentum, periodontal membranes, and alveolar bone — **peri-odon-**
tist \-dän-'tist/ *n*

peri-odon-ti-tis \-pī-əd-ən-'tī-təs/ *n* [NL] (1872) : inflammation
of the supporting structures of the teeth and esp. the periodontal mem-
brane

peri-odon-tol-o-gy \-dän-'tā-lə-jē/ *n* (1914) : **PERIODONTICS**

period piece *n* (1940) : a work (as of literature, art, furniture, cinema,
or music) whose special value lies in its evocation of a historical period

peri-onych-i-um \-pī-əd-ə-'nī-kē-əm/ *n*, *pl* -la \-kē-ə/ [NL, fr. *peri-* +
Gk *onyx*, *onyx* nail — more at **NAIL**] (ca. 1879) : the tissue bordering
the root and sides of a fingernail or toenail

peri-op-er-a-tive \-pī-əd-ə-'p(a)-rā-tiv, -pā-rā-/ *adj* (1966) : relating to,
occurring in, or being the period around the time of a surgical opera-
tion (<morbidity>) (<nursing>)

peri-os-te-al \-pī-əd-'ās-tē-əl/ *adj* (1830) 1 : situated around or pro-
duced external to bone 2 : of, relating to, or involving the periosteum

peri-os-te-um \-tē-əm/ *n*, *pl* -tea \-tē-ə/ [NL, fr. LL *periosteum*, fr. Gk,
neut. of *periosteos* around the bone, fr. *peri-* + *osteon* bone — more at
OSSEOUS] (1597) : the membrane of connective tissue that closely in-
vests all bones except at the articular surfaces

PERIODIC TABLE

This is a common long form of the table. Roman numerals and letters heading the vertical columns indicate the groups. (There are differ-
ences of opinion regarding the letter designations, but those given here are probably the most generally used. Also, international standards
favor numbering the groups 1-18 from left to right using Arabic numerals, but the designations shown below remain quite common.) The
horizontal rows represent the periods, with two series removed from the two very long periods and represented below the main table. Atom-
ic numbers are given above the symbols for the elements. Compare **ELEMENT** table.

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