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amnesty • amusement

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granting a pardon to a group of individuals — **amnesty** *vb*

am-nio-cen-te-sis \,am-nē-ō-sen-'tē-səs\ *n, pl -te-ses* \-,sēz\ : the surgical insertion of a hollow needle through the abdominal wall and uterus of a pregnant female esp. to obtain fluid used to check the fetus for chromosomal abnormality and to determine sex

am-ni-ot-ic fluid \,am-nē-'ä-tik-\ *n* : the watery fluid in which the embryo or fetus is immersed

amoe-ba *also* **ame-ba** \ə-'mē-bə\ *n, pl -bas* or **-bae** \-(,)bē\ : any of various tiny one-celled protozoans that lack permanent cell organs and occur esp. in water and soil — **amoe-bic** \-bik\ *adj*

amoe-boid *also* **ame-boid** \-,bōid\ *adj* : resembling an amoeba esp. in moving or readily changing shape

amok \ə-'mək, -'mäk\ or **amuck** \-'mək\ *adv* : in a violent, frenzied, or uncontrolled manner <run ~>

among \ə-'mən\ *also* **amongst** \-'mənst\ *prep* 1 : in or through the midst of 2 : in the number, class, or company of 3 : in shares to each of 4 : by common action of

amon-til-la-do \ə-,mān-tə-'lä-dō\ *n, pl -dos* [Sp] : a medium dry sherry

amor-al \ä-'mör-əl\ *adj* 1 : neither moral nor immoral; esp : being outside the sphere to which moral judgments apply 2 : lacking moral sensibility — **amor-al-ly** *adv*

am-o-rous \a-mə-rəs\ *adj* 1 : inclined to love 2 : being in love 3 : of or indicative of love — **am-o-rous-ly** *adv* — **am-o-rous-ness** *n*

amor-phous \ə-'mör-fəs\ *adj* 1 : SHAPELESS, FORMLESS 2 : not crystallized

am-or-tize \a-mər-'tiz, ə-'mör-\ *vb -tized; -tiz-ing* : to extinguish (as a mortgage) usu. by payment on the principal at the time of each periodic interest payment — **amor-ti-za-tion** \a-mər-tə-'zā-shən, ə-'mör-\ *n*

Amos \ä-'mäs\ — see BIBLE table

1amount \ə-'maunt\ *vb* 1 : to be equivalent 2 : to reach a total : add up

2amount *n* 1 : the total number or quantity 2 : a principal sum plus the interest on it

amour \ə-'mür, ä-, a-\ *n* 1 : a love affair esp. when illicit 2 : LOVER

amour pro-pre \a-,mür-'prōprə, ä-, -'prōprə\ *n* [F] : SELF-ESTEEM

1amp \amp\ *n* 1 : AMPERE 2 : AMPLIFIER; *also* : a unit consisting of an electronic amplifier and a loudspeaker

2amp *vb* : EXCITE, ENERGIZE <tried to ~ up the crowd>

am-per-age \am-p(ə-)rij\ *n* : the strength of a current of electricity expressed in amperes

am-pere \am-'pir\ *n* : a unit of electric current equivalent to a steady current produced by one volt applied across a resistance of one ohm

am-per-sand \am-pər-'sand\ *n* [alter. of *and per se and*, spoken form of the phrase & *per se and*, lit., (the character) & by it-

self (stands for the word) *and*] : a character & used for the word *and*

am-phet-amine \am-'fe-tə-'mēn, -mən\ *n* : a compound or one of its derivatives that stimulates the central nervous system and is used esp. to treat hyperactive children and to suppress appetite

am-phib-i-an \am-'fi-bē-ən\ *n* 1 : an amphibious organism; *esp* : any of a class of vertebrate animals (as frogs and salamanders) intermediate between fishes and reptiles 2 : an airplane that can land on and take off from either land or water

am-phib-i-ous \am-'fi-bē-əs\ *adj* [Gk *amphibios*, lit., living a double life, fr. *amphi-* + *bios* mode of life] 1 : able to live both on land and in water 2 : adapted for both land and water 3 : made by joint action of land, sea, and air forces invading from the sea; *also* : trained for such action

am-phi-bole \am-fə-'bōl\ *n* : any of a group of rock-forming minerals of similar crystal structure

am-phi-the-ater \am-fə-'thē-ə-tər\ *n* 1 : an oval or circular structure with rising tiers of seats around an arena 2 : a very large auditorium

am-pho-ra \am-fə-'rə\ *n, pl -rae* \-,rē\ or **-ras** : an ancient Greek jar or vase with two handles that rise almost to the level of the mouth

am-ple \am-pəl\ *adj* **am-pler** \-plər\; **am-plest** \-pləst\ 1 : LARGE, CAPACIOUS 2 : enough to satisfy : ABUNDANT — **am-ply** \-plē\ *adv*

am-ply-fy \am-plə-'fi\ *vb -fied; -fy-ing* 1 : to expand by extended treatment 2 : to increase in magnitude or strength; *esp* : to make louder — **am-ply-fi-ca-tion** \am-plə-fə-'kā-shən\ *n* — **am-ply-fi-er** \am-plə-'fi(-ə)r\ *n*

am-ply-tude \-,tyüd, -tyüd\ *n* 1 : ample extent : FULLNESS 2 : the extent of a vibratory movement (as of a pendulum) 3 : the height or depth of an oscillation (as of an alternating current or a radio wave) compared to its average value

amplitude modulation *n* : modulation of the amplitude of a radio carrier wave in accordance with the strength of the signal; *also* : a broadcasting system using such modulation

am-poule or **am-pule** *also* **am-pul** \am-'pyül, -pül\ *n* : a small sealed bulbous glass vessel used to hold a solution for hypodermic injection

am-pu-tate \am-pyə-'tāt\ *vb -tat-ed; -tat-ing* : to cut off <~ a leg> — **am-pu-tation** \am-pyə-'tā-shən\ *n*

am-pu-tee \am-pyə-'tē\ *n* : one who has had a limb amputated

AMSLAN *abbr* American Sign Language

amt *abbr* amount

amuck *var of* AMOK

am-u-let \am-yə-'lət\ *n* : an ornament worn as a charm against evil

amuse \ə-'myüz\ *vb* **amused; amus-ing** : to entertain in a light or playful manner : DIVERT — **amuse-ment** *n* — **amusing** *adj* — **amus-ing-ly** *adv*