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Eleventh Edition

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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

ELEVENTH EDITION



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

big \big/ *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 < ~ as about it > **5**: POPULAR < soft drinks are very ~ in Mexico — Russ Leadabrand > **6**: bulky-bodied and flavorful — used of wine — **big-ly** *adv* **big-ness** *n* **big-on**: strongly favoring or liking *big*; *also*: noted for < she is *big on* blushing — Arnold Hano >

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 forehead ~ >

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 \bi-gə-'mə-s/ *adj* (1671) **1**: guilty of bigamy < a ~ man > **2**: involving bigamy < a ~ marriage > — **big-a-mous-ly** *adv*

big-a-my \bi-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** \-'mɪst/ *n*

bi-ga-rade \bē-gā-'rād/ *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 \-'ben/ *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 \big-'bɒks/ *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 Brother-ism \-'brə-'thər-'i-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 \bi-'je-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 \big-'ī/ *n* (1861): any of several small widely distributed reddish to silvery bony fishes (genus *Pracanthus* of the family Pracanthidae) 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 \big-'fʊt/ *n*, pl **big-feet** \-'fē/ 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** \bi-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 \bi-'ge/ *n* (ca. 1926) one that is big and often important

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

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

big-gish \bi-'gɪʃ/ *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 \bi-'hed/ *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** \-'he-'dəd/ *adj*

big-heart-ed \bi-'hɑrt-'əd/ *adj* (1846): GENEROUS, CHARITABLE — **big-heart-ed-ly** *adv* — **big-heart-ed-ness** *n*

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

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

bight \bi't/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *bight* bend, bay; akin to OE *bigan* 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 \bi-'maʊthd, 'bi-'maʊtht, 'bi-'g-/ *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 \bi-'nō-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 \bi-'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 \bi-'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 \bi-'ʃɒt/ *n* (1929): a person of consequence or prominence

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

big-tick-et \bi-'ti-kət/ *adj* (1945): having a high price (the car was a ~ item)

big-time \bi-'tīm/ *adj* (1910): relating to or involved in the big time < ~ sports >; *also*: MAJOR 4 < ~ operators >

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 \-'tīm/ *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** \-'ti-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 \bi-'wig/ *n* (1703): an important person

Bi-ha-ri \bi-'hār-'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 \bi-'jek-'ʃən/ *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** \-'jek-'tɪv/ *adj*

bi-jou \bi-'zhu/ *n*, pl **bijoux** or **bi-joux** \-'zhu(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-er-rie \bi-'zhu-tə-(r)ē/ *n* [F, fr. *bijou*] (1735): a collection of trinkets or ornaments: JEWELS; *also*: DECORATION

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

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

bike *v* biked; **bik-ing** (1885): to ride a bike

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

bike-way \bi-'kē-'wā/ *n* (1895): a thoroughfare for bicycles

bik-ie \bi-'kē/ *n* [bikie + -ie] (1967): BIKER **2**

bi-ki-ni \bi-'kē-'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

bi *abbr* billion

bi-la-bi-al \bi-'bi-'bē-'əl/ *adj* [ISV] (1878) of a consonant: produced with both lips

bilabial *n* (1829): a bilabial consonant

bi-la-bi-ate \bi-'bē-'ət/ *adj* (1720): having two lips < a ~ corolla >

bi-lat-er-al \bi-'lā-'(tə-)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-



bighorn sheep

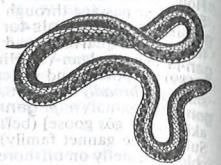
cultivated tree (*F. carica*) that produces edible figs 2: a worthless trifling: the least bit (doesn't care a ~)
fig *n* (*fig*, vb., to adorn) (1835): DRESS, ARRAY (a young woman in dazzling royal full ~ —Mollie Panter-Downes)
fig *abbr* figurative; figuratively; figure
fight *v* (*fit* vb *fight* *fit*; *fight* *ing* [ME, fr. OE *feohtan*; akin to OHG *fihtan* to fight and perh. to *L. pectere* to comb — more at PECTINATE] *vi* (bef. 12c) 1 a: to contend in battle or physical combat; *esp*: to strive to overcome a person by blows or weapons **b**: to engage in boxing 2: to put forth a determined effort ~ *vi* 1 a (1): to contend against in or as if in battle or physical combat (2): to box against in the ring **b** (1): to attempt to prevent the success or effectiveness of (the company *fight* the takeover attempt) (2): to oppose the passage or development of (~ a bill in Congress) 2 a: WAGE, CARRY ON (~ a battle) *b*: to take part in (as a boxing match) 3: to struggle to endure or surmount (~ a cold) 4 a: to gain by struggle (~ his way through) **b** mount (~ a court) 5 a: to resolve by struggle *fight* out their differences in court) 5 a: to manage (a ship) in a battle or storm **b**: to cause to struggle or contend **c**: to manage in an unnecessarily rough or awkward manner — *fight* shy of: to avoid facing or meeting
fight *n* (bef. 12c) 1 a: a hostile encounter: BATTLE, COMBAT **b**: a boxing match **c**: a verbal disagreement: ARGUMENT 2: a struggle for a goal or an objective (~ a ~ for justice) 3: strength or disposition for fighting: PUGNACITY (still full of ~)
fighter *v* (*fi*-tər) *n* (13c): one that fights as a **a** (1): WARRIOR, SOLDIER (2): a pugnacious or game individual (3): "BOXER" **b**: an airplane of high speed and maneuverability with armament designed to destroy enemy aircraft
fighter-bomber *v* (*fi*-bər) *n* (1936): a fighter aircraft fitted to carry bombs and rockets in addition to its normal armament
fighting chair *n* (1950): a chair from which a salt-water angler plays a hooked fish
fighting chance *n* (1889): a chance that may be realized by a struggle (the patient had a fighting chance to live)
**fighting word *n* (1917): a word likely to provoke a fight
fight-or-flight *adj* (1973): relating to, being, or causing physiological changes in the body (as an increase in heart rate or dilation of bronchi) in response to stress (epinephrine is a ~ hormone) (~ a reaction)
fight song *n* (1954): a song used to inspire enthusiasm usu. during an athletic competition
fig leaf *n* (14c) 1: the leaf of a fig tree 2 [fr. the use by Adam and Eve of fig leaves to cover their nakedness after eating the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:7)]: something that conceals or camouflages usu. inadequately or dishonestly
fig-ment (*fig*-mənt) *n* [ME, fr. *L. figmentum*, fr. *figere* to shape — more at DOUGH] (15c): something made up or contrived
fig-ural (*fig*-yū-rəl) *adj* (15c) 1: FIGURATIVE 2a: 2: of, relating to, or consisting of human or animal figures (~ composition)
fig-ura-tion (*fig*-yū-rā-shən) *n* (14c) 1: FORM, OUTLINE 2: the act or process of creating or providing a figure 3: an act or instance of representation in figures and shapes (cubism was explained as a synthesis of colored ~s of objects —Janet Flanner) 4: ornamentation of a musical passage by using decorative and usu. repetitive figures
fig-ura-tive (*fig*-yū-rā-tiv) *adj* (14c) 1 a: representing by a figure or resemblance: EMBLEMATIC **b**: of or relating to representation of form or figure in art (~ sculpture) 2 a: expressing one thing in terms normally denoting another with which it may be regarded as analogous: METAPHORICAL (~ language) **b**: characterized by figures of speech (~ a ~ description) — **fig-ura-tive-ly** *adv* — **fig-ura-tive-ness** *n*
fig-ure (*fig*-yūr, *Brit* & often *US* *fig*-gər) *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. *L. figura*, fr. *figere*] (13c) 1 a: a number symbol: NUMERAL, DIGIT **b** *pl*: arithmetical calculations (good at ~s) **c**: a written or printed character **d**: value esp. as expressed in numbers: SUM, PRICE (sold at a low ~) **e** *pl*: digits representing an amount (as of money earned or points scored) (made six ~s last year) (a score in double ~s) 2 a: a geometric form (as a line, triangle, or sphere) esp. when considered as a set of geometric elements (as points) in space of a given number of dimensions (a square is a plane ~) **b**: bodily shape or form esp. of a person (a slender ~) **c**: an object noticeable only as a shape or form (~s moving in the dusk) 3 a: the graphic representation of a form esp. of a person or geometric entity **b**: a diagram or pictorial illustration of textual matter 4: a person, thing, or action representative of another 5 a: FIGURE OF SPEECH **b**: an intentional deviation from the ordinary form or syntactical relation of words 6: the form of a syllogism with respect to the relative position of the middle term 7: an often repetitive pattern or design in a manufactured article (as cloth) or natural product (as wood) (a polka-dot ~) 8: appearance made: impression produced (the couple cut quite a ~) 9 a: a series of movements in a dance **b**: an outline representation of a form traced by a series of evolutions (as with skates on an ice surface or by an airplane in the air) 10: a prominent personality: PERSONAGE (great ~s of history) 11: a short coherent group of notes or chords that may constitute part of a phrase, theme, or composition
figure vb *fig-ured*; *fig-ur-ing* (*fig*-yū-rin, *fig*-gə-rin) *vi* (14c) 1: to represent by or as if by a figure or outline 2: to decorate with a pattern; *also*: to write figures over or under (the bass) in order to indicate the accompanying chords 3: to indicate or represent by numerals 4 a: CALCULATE **b**: CONCLUDE, DECIDE (*figured* there was no use in further effort); *also*: ASSUME (~ it will rain) **c**: REGARD, CONSIDER **d**: to appear likely (~ to win) ~ *vi* 1 a: to be or appear important or conspicuous **b**: to be involved or implicated (*figured* in a robbery) 2: to perform a figure in dancing 3: COMPUTE, CALCULATE 4: to seem rational, normal, or expected (that ~s) 5: to make sense of something — *used* interjectionally in the phrase *go figure* to suggest that something is surprising or perplexing (why do they think women will buy this lie? Go ~ —Ellen Bravo) — **fig-ur-er** (*fig*-yūr-ər) *n* — **figure on** 1: to take into consideration (*figuring* on the extra income) 2: to rely on 3: PLAN (*figure* on going into town)
figured *adj* (15c) 1: adorned with, formed into, or marked with a figure (~ muslin) (~ wood) 2: being represented: PORTRAYED 3: indicated by figures
figured bass *n* (1801): CONTINUO**

figure eight *n* (1748): something resembling the Arabic numeral eight in form or shape; as **a**: a small knot — see KNOT illustration **b**: an embroidery stitch **c**: a dance pattern **d**: a skater's figure — called *also* *figure-of-eight*
figure-head (*fi*-g(y)ər-*hed*) *n* (1765) 1: the figure on a ship's bow 2: a head or chief in name only
figure in *v* (ca. 1934): to include esp. in a reckoning
figure of merit (ca. 1865): a numerical quantity based on one or more characteristics of a system or device that represents a measure of efficiency or effectiveness
figure of speech (1751): a form of expression (as a simile or metaphor) used to convey meaning or heighten effect often by comparing or identifying one thing with another that has a meaning or connotation familiar to the reader or listener
figure out *v* (1600) 1: DISCOVER, DETERMINE (try to figure out a way to do it) 2: SOLVE, FATHOM (*figure* out a problem)
figure skating *n* (1852): skating characterized by the performance of various jumps, spins, and dance movements and formerly by the tracing of prescribed figures — **figure skater** *n*
fig-u-rine (*fi*-g(y)ə-rēn) *n* [F, fr. *It. figurina*, dim. of *figura* figure, fr. *L.* — more at FIGURE] (1854): a small carved or molded figure: STATUETTE
fig wasp *n* (1883): a minute wasp (*Blastophaga psenes* of the family Agaonidae) that breeds in the caprifig and is the agent of caprification; *broadly*: any wasp of the same family
fig-wort (*fig*-wört, -wört) *n* (1548): any of a genus (*Scrophularia*) of chiefly herbaceous often fetid plants of the snapdragon family with terminal cymes of small purple, yellow, or greenish flowers
Fiji-an (*fi*-jē-ən, *fi*-jən) (1809) 1: a member of a Melanesian people of Fiji 2: the Austronesian language of the Fijians — **Fijian** *adj*
fil-a-ment (*fi*-lə-mənt) *n* [MF, fr. *ML filamentum*, fr. *LL filare* to spin — more at FILE] (1594): a single thread or a thin flexible threadlike object, process, or appendage; as **a**: a tenuous conductor (as of carbon or metal) made incandescent by the passage of an electric current; *specif*: a cathode in the form of a metal wire in an electron tube **b** (1): a thin and fine elongated constituent part of a gill (2): an elongated thin series of cells attached one to another or a very long thin cylindrical single cell (as of some algae, fungi, or bacteria) **c**: the anther-bearing stalk of a stamen — see FLOWER illustration — **fil-a-men-tary** (*fi*-lə-men-t(ə)-rē) *adj* — **fil-a-men-tous** (*fi*-lə-men-təs) *adj*
fil-ar (*fi*-lār) *adj* [*LL filum* thread] (ca. 1859): of or relating to a thread or line; *esp*: having threads across the field of view (~ eyepiece)
fil-aria (*fi*-lēr-ē-ə) *n*, *pl* -i-ae (-ē-ē, -ē-ī) [NL, genus name, fr. *L. filum*] (1833): any of numerous slender filamentous nematodes (*Filaria* and related genera) that as adults are parasites in the blood or tissues of mammals and as larvae usu. develop in biting insects — **fil-iar-i-al** (-ē-ə) *adj* — **fil-iar-id** (-ē-əd) *adj* or *n*
fil-a-ri-a-sis (*fi*-lār-i-ā-səs) *n*, *pl* -ases (-ē-sēz) [NL] (1879): infestation with or disease caused by filariae
fil-a-ture (*fi*-lār-*chūr*, -*chūr*, -*chūr*) *n* [F, fr. *LL filatus*, pp. of *filare*] (1759): a factory where silk is reeled
fil-bert (*fi*-bər-t) *n* [ME, fr. AF *philber*, fr. St. Philibert †684 Frankish abbot whose feast day falls in the nutting season] (14c) 1: either of two Eurasian hazels (*Corylus avellana* and *C. maxima*) 2: the sweet thick-shelled nut of the filbert; *broadly*: HAZELNUT
filch (*filch*) *v* [ME] (1561): to appropriate furtively or casually (~ a cookie) *syn* see STEAL
file (*fit*-ə) *n* [ME, fr. OE *fēol*; akin to OHG *fila* file] (bef. 12c) 1: a tool used of hardened steel with cutting ridges for forming or smoothing surfaces esp. of metal 2: a shrewd or crafty person
file vb *filed*; *fil-ing* (13c): to rub, smooth, or cut away with or as if with a file
file vb *filed*; *fil-ing* [ME, fr. OE *fylan*, fr. *ful* foul] (bef. 12c) *chiefly dial*: DEFILE, CORRUPT
file vb *filed*; *fil-ing* [ME, fr. *ML filare* to string documents on a string or wire, fr. *filum* file of documents, lit., thread, fr. *L*; akin to Arm *jil* sinew] *vi* (15c) 1: to arrange in order for preservation and reference (~ letters) 2 a: to place among official records as prescribed by law (~ a mortgage) **b**: to send (copy) to a newspaper (*filed* a story) **c**: to return to the office of the clerk of a court without action on the merits 3: to initiate (as a legal action) through proper formal procedure (~ threatened to ~ charges) ~ *vi* 1: to register as a candidate esp. in a primary election 2: to place items in a file 3: to submit documents necessary to initiate a legal proceeding (~ for bankruptcy) — **fil-er** (*fi*-lār) *n*
file *n* (1525) 1: a device (as a folder, case, or cabinet) by means of which papers are kept in order 2 a *archaic*: ROLL, LIST **b**: a collection of papers or publications usu. arranged or classified **c** (1): a collection of related data records (as for a computer) (2): a complete collection of data (as text or a program) treated by a computer as a unit esp. for purposes of input and output — **on file**: in or as if in a file for ready reference
file *n* [MF, fr. *filer* to spin, draw out, fr. *LL filare*, fr. *L. filum*] (1598) 1: SINGLE FILE 2: any of the rows of squares that extend across a chessboard from one player's side to the other player's side
file vb *filed*; *fil-ing* (1614): to march or proceed in single file
fil-é *also* *fi-le* (*fi*-lā, *fi*-lē-lā, *fi*-lē-lā) *n* [LaF, fr. F, pp. of *filer* to twist, spin] (1806): powdered young leaves of saffrafr used to thicken soups or stews
file clerk *n* (1919): a clerk who works on files
file fish (*fi*-ə) *n* (1681): any of various small-mouthed bony fishes (family Monacanthidae, esp. genera *Aluterus*, *Cantherhines*, and *Monacanthus*) with rough granular leathery skin
fi-let (*fi*-lā) *n* [F, lit., net] (1838): a lace with a square mesh and geometric designs

\ə about \ə kitten, F table \ər further \ə ash \ə ace \ə mop, mar
 \ə out \ch chin \ə bet \ē easy \g go \i hit \i ice \j job
 \j sing \ō go \ō law \ō boy \th thin \th the \ū loot \ū foot
 \y yet \zh vision, beige \k, ʔ, e, u, \ see Guide to Pronunciation

- and agitate with air from the lungs **b**: to cleanse or disinfect (the oral cavity) in this manner **2**: to utter with a gargling sound ~ *vi* **1**: to use a gargle **2**: to speak or sing as if gargling
- gargle** *n* (1629) **1**: a liquid used in gargling **2**: a sound of or like that of gargling
- gar-goyle** *\gär-'göi(-ə)l\ n* [ME *gargule*, *gargoyl*, fr. OF *gargouille*] (13c) **1** **a**: a spout in the form of a grotesque human or animal figure projecting from a roof gutter to throw rainwater clear of a building **b**: a grotesquely carved figure **2**: a person with an ugly face — **gar-goyle** *\gär-'göi(-ə)ld\ adj*
- gar-i-bal-di** *\gär-'ə-böl-dē\ n* (1862): a woman's blouse copied from the red shirt worn by the Italian patriot Garibaldi
- Gar-i-fu-na** *\gär-'rē-'fū-nā\ n, pl Garifuna or Gar-i-fu-nas* [Garifuna *garifuna*, a self-designation; akin to Taino *caribe*, *caribi* Carib, Island Carib (Arawakan language of the Lesser Antilles) *Callipona*, a self-designation, Guianan Carib *kari'na* Carib, person] (1977): a member of a people of African and American Indian descent that live mainly along the Caribbean coast of northern Central America — called also *Black Carib*; **also**: the Arawakan language containing many Carib elements spoken by the Garifunas
- ga-rigue** *\gä-'rēg\ n* [F] (1896): a low open scrubland with many evergreen shrubs, low trees, aromatic herbs, and bunchgrasses found in poor or dry soil in the Mediterranean region
- gar-ish** *\gär-'ish\ adj* [origin unknown] (1545) **1**: clothed in vivid colors **2** **a**: excessively or disturbingly vivid (~ colors) (~ imagery) **b**: offensively or distressingly bright: GLARING **3**: tastelessly showy: FLASHY *syn* see GAUDY — **gar-ish-ly** *adv* — **gar-ish-ness** *n*
- gar-land** *\gär-'lənd\ n* [ME, fr. AF *garlande*] (14c) **1**: a circular or spiral arrangement of intertwined material (as flowers or leaves) **2**: ANTHOLOGY, COLLECTION
- garland** *vt* (15c) **1**: to form into a garland **2**: to adorn with or as if with a garland
- gar-lic** *\gär-'lik\ n* [ME *garlek*, fr. OE *gārleac*, fr. *gār* spear + *lēac* leek — more at GORE] (bef. 12c) **1**: a European allium (*Allium sativum*) widely cultivated for its pungent compound bulbs much used in cookery; **broadly**: ALLIUM **2**: a bulb of garlic — **gar-licky** *\li-'kē\ adj*
- garlic chive** *n* (1969): a perennial allium (*Allium tuberosum*) native to southeastern Asia but widely cultivated for its garlic-flavored stems, leaves, buds, and flower heads — usu. used in pl.; called also *Chinese chive*
- gar-licked** *\gär-'likt\ adj* (1950): containing or prepared with garlic
- garlic salt** *n* (1927): a seasoning of ground dried garlic and salt
- gar-ment** *\gär-'mənt\ n* [ME, fr. AF *garment*, fr. *garinir* to equip — more at GARNISH] (14c): an article of clothing
- garment** *vt* (ca. 1547): to clothe with or as if with a garment
- garment bag** *n* (1927): a bag used by travelers that folds in half and has a center handle for easy carrying
- gar-ner** *\gär-'nər\ n*; **gar-nered**; **gar-ner-ing** *\gär-'nər-ɪŋ, 'gär-'nə-* [ME (Sc), fr. ME *gerner*, *garner* granary, fr. AF *gerner*, *gerner*, fr. L *granarium*, fr. *granum* grain — more at CORN] (14c) **1** **a**: to gather into storage **b**: to deposit as if in a granary (volumes in which he has ~ed the fruits of his lifetime labors — Reinhold Niebuhr) **2** **a**: to acquire by effort: EARN **b**: ACCUMULATE, COLLECT
- gar-net** *\gär-'nət\ n* [ME *gernet*, fr. AF *gernet*, fr. *gernet* dark red, fr. *pume gernet* pomegranate] (14c) **1**: a brittle and more or less transparent red, silicate mineral that has a vitreous luster, occurs mainly in crystals but also in massive form and in grains, is found commonly in gneiss and mica schist, and is used as a semiprecious stone and as an abrasive **2**: a variable color averaging a dark red — **gar-net-if-er-ous** *\gär-'nə-'ti-f(ə)-rəs\ adj*
- garnet paper** *n* (ca. 1902): an abrasive paper with crushed garnet as the abrasive
- gar-ni-er-ite** *\gär-'nē-'ə-'rit\ n* [Jules Garnier †1904 Fr. geologist] (1875): a soft mineral consisting of hydrous nickel magnesium silicate and constituting an important ore of nickel
- gar-nish** *\gär-'nish\ vt* [ME, fr. AF *gar-nish*, stem of *gar-nir* to warn, equip, garnish, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *warnōn* to take heed — more at WARN] (14c) **1** **a**: DECORATE, EMBELLISH **b**: to add decorative or savory touches to (food or drink) **2**: to equip with accessories: FURNISH **3**: GARNISH *syn* see ADORN
- garnish** *n* (1596) **1**: EMBELLISHMENT, ORNAMENT **2**: something (as lemon wedges or parsley) used to garnish food or drink **3** **a**: an unauthorized fee formerly extorted from a new inmate of an English jail **b**: a similar payment required of a new worker
- gar-nish-ee** *\gär-'nə-'shē\ n* (1627): a person who is served with a legal process of garnishment
- garnish-ee** *vt -eed; -ee-ing* (1846) **1**: to serve with a garnishment **2**: to take (as a debtor's wages) by legal authority
- gar-nish-ment** *\gär-'nish-'mənt\ n* (1550) **1**: ORNAMENT, GARNISH **2**: a legal summons or warning concerning the attachment of property to satisfy a debt **3**: a stoppage of a specified sum from wages to satisfy a creditor or a legal obligation (as child support)
- gar-ni-ture** *\gär-'ni-'tʃər, -nə-'tʃūr\ n* [MF, equipment, alter. of OF *gar-niture*, fr. *gar-nir*] (1558) **1**: EMBELLISHMENT, TRIMMING **2**: a set of decorative objects (as vases, urns, or clocks)
- gar-pike** *\gär-'pik\ n* (1776): **GAR** **b**
- gar-ret** *\gär-'ət, 'gä-'rət\ n* [ME *garite* watchtower, turret, fr. AF, fr. *garir*] (14c): a room or unfinished part of a house just under the roof
- gar-ri-son** *\gär-'sən, 'gä-'rə-\ n* [ME *garisoun* protection, fr. AF *garisun* healing, protection, fr. *garir* to heal, protect, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *werien* to defend — more at WEIR] (15c) **1**: a military post; *esp*: a permanent military installation **2**: the troops stationed at a garrison
- garrison** *vt* **gar-ri-soned; gar-ri-son-ing *\s(ə)-nɪŋ* (1569) **1**: to station troops in **2** **a**: to assign as a garrison **b**: to occupy with troops**
- garrison cap** *n* (1944): a visorless folding cap worn as part of a military uniform — compare SERVICE CAP
- Gar-ri-son finish** *\gä-'rə-'sən-\ n* [Edward H. "Snapper" Garrison, †1930 Am. jockey] (1890): a finish in which the winner comes from behind at the end
- garrison house** *n* (1676) **1**: a house fortified against attack **2**: BLOCKHOUSE **3**: a house having the second story overhanging the first in the front

- garrison state** *n* (1937): a state organized to serve primarily its own need for military security; *also*: a state maintained by military power
- gar-ron** *\gä-'rən, 'gä-'rən\ n* [Ir *gearrán* & ScGael *gearran*, gelding] (1540) *Scot & Irish*: a small sturdy workhorse
- gar-rote** or **gar-rotte** *\gä-'rät, -röt; 'gär-'ət, 'gä-'rət\ n* [Sp *garrote*] (1622) **1** **a**: a method of execution by strangulation **b**: the apparatus used **2**: an implement (as a wire with a handle at each end) for strangulation
- garrote** or **garrotte** *vt* **gar-rot-ed** or **gar-rott-ed**; **gar-rot-ing** or **gar-rot-ting** (1851): to strangle with or as if with a garrote — **gar-rot-er** or **gar-ru-li-ty** *\gä-'rüt-lə-tē, 'gä-'n* (1581): the quality or state of being garroted
- gar-ru-lous** *\gär-'ə-ləs, 'gä-'rə-\ also 'gär-'ə-lə\ adj* [L *garrulus*, fr. *garrire* to chatter — more at CARE] (ca. 1611) **1**: given to prosy, rambling, or tedious loquacity: *carelessly* or annoyingly talkative **2**: WORDY *1* (~ speeches) *syn* see TALKATIVE — **gar-ru-lous-ly** *adv* — **gar-ru-lous-ness** *n*
- gar-ter** *\gär-'tər\ n* [ME, fr. AF *garter*, fr. *garet* thigh, shank, of Celt origin; akin to W *gar shank*] (14c) **1** **a**: a band worn to hold up a stocking or sock **b**: a band worn to hold up a shirt sleeve **c**: a strap hanging from a girdle or corset to support a stocking **2** **cap** **a**: the British Order of the Garter; *also*: the blue velvet garter that is its badge **b**: membership in the order
- gar-ter** *vt* (15c): to support with or as if with a garter
- garter snake** *n* (1743): any of a genus (*Thamnophis*) of harmless viviparous American snakes with longitudinal stripes on the back
- garth** *\gärth\ n* [ME, fr. ON *garth* yard; akin to OHG *gart* enclosure — more at YARD] (14c): a small yard or enclosure
- gar-vey** *\gär-'vē\ n, pl garveys* [prob. fr. the name *Garvey*] (ca. 1896): a small scow esp. of the New Jersey coast
- gas** *\gäs\ n, pl gas-es also gas-ses* [NL, alter. of L *chaos* space, chaos] (1779) **1**: a fluid (as air) that has neither independent shape nor volume but tends to expand indefinitely **2** **a**: a combustible gas or gaseous mixture for fuel or lighting; *esp*: NATURAL GAS **b**: a gaseous product of digestion; *also*: discomfort from this **c**: a gas or gaseous mixture used to produce anesthesia **d**: a substance that can be used to produce a poisonous, asphyxiating, or irritant atmosphere **3**: empty talk: BOMBAST **4**: GASOLINE; *also*: the accelerator pedal of an automotive vehicle **5**: driving force: ENERGY (*I was young, and full of ~* — H. L. Mencken) (*ran out of ~* in the seventh inning) **6** *slang*: something that gives pleasure: DELIGHT (*the party was a ~*)
- gas** *vb* **gassed; gas-sing** *vi* (1852) **1**: to talk idly or garrulously **2**: to give off gas **3**: to fill the tank (as of an automobile) with gasoline — *usu.* used with *up* *vt* **1**: to supply with gas or esp. gasoline (~ up the car) **2** **a**: to treat chemically with gas **b**: to poison or otherwise affect adversely with gas **3** *slang*: to please greatly
- gas-bag** *\gäs-'bag\ n* (1827) **1**: a bag for holding gas **2**: an idle or garrulous talker
- gas chamber** *n* (1933): a chamber in which prisoners are executed by poison gas
- gas chromatograph** *n* (1958): an instrument used to separate a sample into components in gas chromatography
- gas chromatography** *n* (1952): chromatography in which the sample mixture is vaporized and injected into a stream of carrier gas (as nitrogen or helium) moving through a column containing a stationary phase composed of a liquid or particulate solid and is separated into its component compounds according to their affinity for the stationary phase — **gas chromatographic** *adj*
- gas-con** *\gäs-'kən\ n* (14c) **1** **cap** **a**: a native of Gascony **b**: the Romance speech of Gascony **2**: a boastful swaggering person — **Gas-con** *adj*
- gas-co-nade** *\gäs-'ka-'nād\ n* [F *gasconade*, fr. *gasconner* to boast, fr. *gascon* Gascon, boaster] (1709): BRAVADO, BOASTING — **gasconade** *vi* — **gas-con-ad-er** *n*
- gas-eous** *\gäs-'sē-əs, 'gäs-'shəs\ adj* (1799) **1**: having the form of or being gas; *also*: of or relating to gases **2** **a**: lacking substance or solidity **b**: GASSY **3** (trick phrases and ~ circumlocutions — Edwin Newman) — **gas-eous-ness** *n*
- gas fitter** *n* (1849): a worker who installs or repairs gas pipes and appliances
- gas gangrene** *n* (1914): progressive gangrene marked by impregnation of the dead and dying tissue with gas and caused by one or more toxin-producing clostridia
- gas-guz-zler** *\gäs-'guz-'lör, 'gä-'zə-\ n* (1973): a usu. large automobile that gets relatively poor mileage — **gas-guz-zling** *\-lɪŋ\ adj*
- gash** *\gash\ n* (1548) **1**: a deep long cut in flesh **2**: a deep narrow depression or cut (*cut a ~ through the forest*) (*a ~ in the hull*)
- gash** *vb* [alter. of ME *garsen*, fr. AF *garser* to nip, scratch, fr. VL **charissare*, fr. Gk *charassein* to scratch, engrave] *vt* (1566): to make a gash in ~ *vi*: to make a gash: CUT
- gash** *adj* [origin unknown] (1706) **1** *chiefly Scot*: KNOWING, WITTY **2** *chiefly Scot*: well-dressed: TRIM
- gas-hold-er** *\gäs-'höl-dər\ n* (1802): a container for gas; *esp*: a huge cylindrical tank for storing fuel gas under pressure
- gas-house** *\-hauz\ n* (1840): GASWORKS
- gas-i-fi-ca-tion** *\gäs-'fə-'kā-shən\ n* (1812): conversion into gas; *esp*: conversion of coal into natural gas
- gas-i-fy** *\gäs-'fī\ vb -i-fied; -i-fy-ing* (ca. 1828): to convert into gas (~ coal) ~ *vi*: to become gaseous — **gas-i-fi-er** *\gäs-'fī-(ə)r\ n*
- gas-ket** *\gäs-'kət\ n* [perh. modif. of F *garçette*] (ca. 1889): a material (as rubber) or a part (as an O-ring) used to make a joint fluid-tight
- gas-kin** *\gäs-'kən\ n* [prob. short for *galligaskins*] (1573) **1** *pl. obs*: HOSE, BREECHES **2**: a part of the hind leg of a quadruped between the stifle and the hock — see HORSE illustration
- gas-light** *\gäs-'lit, -līt\ n* (1808) **1**: light made by burning illuminating gas **2** **a**: a gas flame **b**: a gas lighting fixture
- gas-liquid chromatography** *n* (1952): gas chromatography in which the stationary phase is a liquid — **gas-liquid chromatographic** *adj*



garter snake

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

loop *v* (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) in knitting **3**: to connect (electric conductors) so as to complete a loop **4**: to cause to move in an arc

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

loop-er *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

loop-hole *n* (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

loop-hole *v* (1664): to make loopholes in

loop of Henle *n* (1885) [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

loop-ier *adj* **loop-ier; -est** (1856) **1**: having or characterized by loops **2**: CRAZY, BIZARRE ~ **loop-ily** *adv* ~ **loop-iness** *n*

loop-er *n* (1856) **1 a**: to let loose: RELEASE **b**: to free from restraint **2**: to make loose: UNTIE ~ **loop-er** *n* (1856) **1**: to let loose: RELEASE **2**: to free from restraint **3**: to cast loose: DETACH **4**: to let fly: DISCHARGE **5**: to make less rigid, tight, or strict: RELAX ~ *vi* **1**: to let fly a missile (as an arrow): FIRE

loop-er *n* (1856) **1**: in a loose manner: LOOSELY

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

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

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

loop-joint-ed *adj* (1859) **1**: having joints apparently not closely articulated **2**: characterized by unusually free movements

loop-joint-ed-ness *n*

loop-leaf *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 loop-leaf binding (~ paper)

loop-en *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 loop-leaf binding (~ paper)

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loop-eared *adj* (1687): having ears that droop

loph-o-phore *n* [lō-fə-fōr] *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

lopper *n* (1953): pruning shears with long handles — *usu.* used in pl.

lopped *adj* (1711) **1**: leaning to one side **2**: lacking in balance, symmetry, or proportion; disproportionately heavy on one side (a ~ vote of 99-1) — **lopped-ed-ly** *adv* — **lopped-ed-ness** *n*

loquacious *adj* [lō-kwā-shəs] *adj* [L *loquax*, *loquax*, *fr. loqui* to speak] (1663) **1**: full of excessive talk; WORDY **2**: given to fluent or excessive talk: GARRULOUS *syn* see TALKATIVE — **loquacious-ly** *adv* — **loquacious-ness** *n*

loquacious-ly *adv* [lō-kwā-sē] *adv* (13c): the quality or state of being very talkative

loquat *n* [lō-kwāt] *n* [Chin (Guangdong) *lauh-gwāt*] (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

lo-ran *n* [lō-ran] *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 *n* [lōr-ā-zə-pam] *n* [prob. *fr. chlor- + azepam* (as in *diazepam*)] (1969): benzodiazepine C₁₅H₁₀Cl₂N₂O₂ used esp. to relieve anxiety

lord *n* [lōrd] *n* [ME *lovedr*, *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: **a**: a feudal tenant whose right or title comes directly from the king **b**: a British nobleman: as (1): BARON **2 a** (2): a hereditary peer of the rank of marquis, 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

lord *v* (14c): to act like a lord; *esp*: to put on airs — *usu.* used with *it* (~ *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 *n* [lōrd-ing] *n* (13c) **1** *archaic*: LORD **2 obs**: LORDLING

lord-ly *adj* [lōrd-ly] *adj* (13c) **1**: a little or insignificant lord

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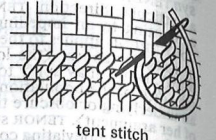


loquat

ə\ abut \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ə\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \ī\ hit \ī\ ice \j\ job \j\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \ō\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ lot \ū\ foot \y\ yet \zh\ vision, beige \k, ɹ, e, u, ʏ see Guide to Pronunciation

- tenor** *adj* (1522): relating to or having the range or part of a tenor
ten-or-ist *n* (1865): a person who sings tenor or plays a tenor instrument
te-no-syn-o-vi-tis *n* (1865): *te-nō-si-nā-vi-tas*, *tē-n* [NL, fr. Gk *tenōn* tendon (akin to Gk *teinein* to stretch) + NL *synovitis* — more at **THIN**] (ca. 1860): inflammation of a tendon sheath
ten-our *n* (1865): chiefly Brit var of **TENOR**
ten-pen-ny *n* (1592): *ten-pe-nē*, Brit *pa-nē* *adj* (1592): amounting to, worth, or costing 10 pennies
tenpenny nail *n* [fr. its original price per hundred] (15c): a nail three inches (7.6 centimeters) long
ten-pin *n* (1807): 1: a bottle-shaped bowling pin 15 inches high 2: *pl* *sing* in constr: a bowling game using 10 tenpins and a large ball 27 inches in circumference and allowing each player to bowl 2 balls in each of 10 frames
ten-pound-er *n* (1699): *LADYFISH* 2
ten-rec *n* [F, fr. Malagasy *tandraka*] (ca. 1785): any of numerous small often spiny mammalian insectivores (family Tenrecidae) chiefly of Madagascar
TENS *n* (1980): 1 [transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation]: electrical stimulation of the skin to relieve pain by interfering with the neural transmission of signals from underlying pain receptors 2 [transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator]: a device used for TENS
tense *n* (15c) [ME *tens* time, tense, fr. AF, fr. L *tempus*] (14c): 1: a distinction of form in a verb to express distinctions of time or duration of the action or state it denotes 2: a set of inflectional forms of a verb that express distinctions of time 3: an inflectional form of a verb expressing a specific time distinction
tense *adj* **tens-er**; **tens-est** [L *tensus*, fr. pp. of *tendere* to stretch — more at **THIN**] (1668): 1: stretched tight; made taut; RIGID (< muscles) 2: a: feeling or showing nervous tension (< a ~ smile) b: marked by strain or suspense (< a ~ thriller) 3: produced with the muscles involved in a relatively tense state (< the vowels *ē* and *ū* in contrast with the vowels *æ* and *ü* are ~) — **tense-ly** *adv* — **tense-ness** *n*
tense *vb* **tensed**; **tens-ing** *v* (1676): to make tense ~ *vi*: to become tense (<ensed up and missed the putt)
ten-sile *n* (1668) *adj* [NL *tensilis*, fr. L *tensus*, pp.] (1626): 1: capable of tension 2: DUCTILE 2: of, relating to, or involving tension (< stress) — **ten-sil-i-ty** *n* (*ten-si-lā-tē*)
tensile strength *n* (1862): the greatest longitudinal stress a substance can bear without tearing apart
ten-si-om-e-ter *n* (*ten-si-ō-mā-tēr*) *n* [tension] (1912): 1: a device for measuring tension (as of structural material) 2: an instrument for determining the moisture content of soil 3: an instrument for measuring the surface tension of liquids — **ten-si-o-m-e-try** *n* (*ten-si-ō-mē-trī*) *adj* — **ten-si-om-e-try** *n* (*ten-si-ō-mē-trī*)
ten-sion *n* (15c) *adj* [MF, fr. L *tension*, *tensio*, fr. *tendere*] (1533): 1: the act or action of stretching or the condition or degree of being stretched to stiffness; TAUTNESS 2: STRESS 1b 2: a: either of two balancing forces causing or tending to cause extension b: the stress resulting from the elongation of an elastic body 3: a: inner striving, unrest, or imbalance often with physiological indication of emotion b: a state of latent hostility or opposition between individuals or groups c: a balance maintained in an artistic work between opposing forces or elements 4: a device to produce a desired tension (as in a loom) — **ten-sion-al** *adj* (*ten-si-ō-nāl*) *adj* — **ten-sion-less** *adj* (*ten-si-ō-nlēs*)
tension *v* **ten-sioned**; **ten-sion-ing** *v* (*ten-ti-ō-nīng*) (1891): to subject to tension; esp: to tighten to a desired or appropriate degree — **ten-sion-er** *n* (*ten-si-ō-nēr*)
tension headache *n* (1953): bilateral headache marked by mild to moderate pain of variable duration that typically is accompanied by contraction of the neck and scalp muscles
ten-si-ty *n* (*ten-si-tē*) *n*, *pl* **-ties** (ca. 1658): the quality or state of being tense; TENSENESS
ten-sive *n* (*ten-siv*) *adj* (1702): of, relating to, or causing tension
ten-sor *n* (*ten-sōr*, *ten-sōr*) *n* [NL, fr. L *tendere*] (ca. 1704): 1: a muscle that stretches a part 2: a generalized vector with more than three components each of which is a function of the coordinates of an arbitrary point in space of an appropriate number of dimensions
ten-speed *n* (1971): a bicycle with 10 gear combinations
tens place *n* (1937): the place two to the left of the decimal point in a number expressed in the Arabic system of writing numbers
ten-strike *n* (1840): 1: a strike in tenpins 2: a highly successful stroke or achievement
tent *n* (15c) [ME *tente*, fr. AF, fr. L *tenta*, fem. of *tentus*, pp. of *tendere* to stretch — more at **THIN**] (14c): 1: a collapsible shelter of fabric (as nylon or canvas) stretched and sustained by poles and used for camping outdoors or as a temporary building 2: DWELLING 3: a: something that resembles a tent or that serves as a shelter; esp: a canopy or enclosure placed over the head and shoulders to retain vapors or oxygen being medically administered b: the web of a tent caterpillar — **tent-less** *adj* (*ten-tlēs*) *adj* — **tent-like** *adj* (*ten-tlīk*)
tent *vi* (ca. 1608): 1: to reside for the time being; LODGE 2: to live in a tent ~ *v*: 1: to cover with or as if with a tent 2: to lodge in tents to attend] (14c) chiefly Scot: to attend to
ten-ta-cle *n* (*ten-tī-kāl*) *n* [NL *tentaculum*, fr. L *tentare* to feel, touch — more at **TEMP**] (ca. 1762): 1: any of various elongate flexible usu. tactile or prehensile processes borne by animals and esp. invertebrates chiefly on the head or about the mouth 2: a: something that resembles a tentacle esp. in or as if in grasping or feeling out (< corruption spreading its ~s) b: a sensitive hair or emergence on a plant (as the sundew) — **ten-ta-cled** *adj* (*ten-tī-kāld*)
ten-tac-u-lar *n* (*ten-tā-kya-lār*) *adj* [NL *tentaculum*] (1828): 1: of, relating to, or resembling tentacles 2: equipped with tentacles
tent-age *n* (*ten-tij*) *n* (1603): a collection of tents; tent equipment
ten-ta-tive *n* (*ten-tā-tiv*) *adj* [ML *tentativus*, fr. L *tentatus*, pp. of *tentare*, temptare to feel, try] (1626): 1: not fully worked out or developed (~ plans) 2: HESITANT, UNCERTAIN (< a ~ smile) — **tentative** *n* — **ten-ta-tive-ly** *adv* — **ten-ta-tive-ness** *n*
tent caterpillar *n* (1854): any of several social caterpillars (genus *Malacosoma* and esp. *M. americanum* of the family Lasiocampidae) that

form large silken webs on trees and may cause serious defoliation
tent-ed *n* (*ten-təd*) *adj* (1598): 1: covered with a tent or tents (< camps) 2: shaped like a tent
ten-ter *n* (*ten-tər*) *n* [ME *teyntur*, prob. fr. ML *tentura*, fr. *tenta* tent frame, tent] (14c): 1: a frame or endless track with hooks or clips along two sides that is used for drying and stretching cloth 2: archaic
TENTERHOOK
tenter *n* (1846): one who lives in or occupies a tent
ten-ter-hook *n* (*ten-tər-hūk*) *n* (15c): a sharp hooked nail used esp. for fastening cloth on a tenter — **on tenterhooks**: in a state of uneasiness, strain, or suspense (< the waiting kept us on tenterhooks)
tenth *n* (*ten-th*) *n*, *pl* **tenths** (*ten-ths*, *ten-ti-ths*) (13c): 1 — see **NUMBER** table 2: a musical interval embracing an octave and a third b: the tone at this interval — **tenth** *adj* or *adv*
tenth-rate *n* (*ten-th-rāt*) *adj* (1834): of the lowest character or quality
tent-pole *n* (*ten-pōl*) *n* (1987): a big-budget movie whose earnings are expected to compensate the studio for its less profitable movies
tent stitch *n* (1619): a short stitch slanting to the right that is used in embroidery to form even lines of solid background
tenty *also* **tent-le** *n* (*ten-tē*) *adj* (*ten-tē*) (15c)
Scot: ATTENTIVE, WATCHFUL



- ten-u-is** *n* (*ten-yə-wās*) *n*, *pl* **-u-es** (*yə-wēz*, *-wās*) [ML, fr. L, thin, slight] (1650): an unspirated voiceless stop
te-nu-ity *n* (*te-nū-ā-tē*, *-nyū-ā*) *n* [ME *tenu-ite*, fr. L *tenulus*, fr. *tenuis* thin, tenuous] (15c): 1: lack of substance or strength 2: lack of thickness; SLENDERNESS, THINNESS (< the ~ of poplars — Edith Wharton) 3: lack of density; rarefied quality or state
ten-u-ous *n* (*ten-yə-wās*, *-yū-ās*) *adj* [L *tenuis* thin, slight, tenuous — more at **THIN**] (1597): 1: not dense; RARE (< a ~ fluid) 2: not thick; SLENDER (< a ~ rope) 3: a: having little substance or strength; FLIMSY, WEAK (< influences) b: SHAKY 2a (< reasons) *syn* see **THIN** — **ten-u-ous-ly** *adv* — **ten-u-ous-ness** *n*
ten-ure *n* (*ten-yər*) *adj* (*ten-yər*) [ME, fr. AF *tenure*, *tenure*, fr. ML *tenura*, fr. VL *tenitus*, pp. of L *tenere* to hold — more at **THIN**] (15c): 1: the act, right, manner, or term of holding something (as a landed property, a position, or an office); esp: a status granted after a trial period to a teacher that gives protection from summary dismissal 2: GRASP, HOLD — **ten-ur-able** *adj* (*ten-ur-ə-bəl*) *adj* — **te-nur-ial** *adj* (*te-nūr-ē-əl*)
ten-ured *n* (*ten-yəd*) *adj* (1965): having tenure (< faculty members)
ten-ure-track *n* (*ten-yər-trak*) *adj* (*ten-yər-trak*) (1976): relating to or being a teaching position that may lead to a grant of tenure
te-nu-ko *n* (*tā-nū*) *adj* or *adv* [It, fr. pp. of *tenere* to hold, fr. L *tenere*] (1762): held (as a tone or chord) to its full value — used as a direction in music
te-o-cal-li *n* (*tē-ō-kā-lē*, *tā-ō-kā-lē*) *n* [Nahuatl *teōcalli*, fr. *teōtl* god + *calli* house] (ca. 1613): an ancient temple of Mexico or Central America usu. built upon the summit of a truncated pyramidal mound; also: the mound itself
te-o-sin-te *n* (*tē-ō-sin-tē*) *n* [MexSp, fr. Nahuatl *teōcintli*, fr. *teōtl* god + *cintli* dried ears of maize] (ca. 1877): any of several tall annual or perennial grasses (genus *Zea*) of Mexico and Central America that have small dark triangular seeds and include two species (*Z. mays parviglumis* and *Z. m. mexicana* syn. *Z. mexicana*) which are closely related to and often considered ancestral to corn
te-pa-ry *n* (*te-pā-rē*) *n* [MexSp *tepari*, fr. Ópata or Eudeve (Uto-Aztecan languages of Sonora, Mexico)] (1912): an annual twining bean (*Phaseolus acutifolius* var. *latifolius*) that is native to the southwestern U.S. and Mexico and is cultivated for its roundish white, yellow, brown, or bluish-black edible seeds; also: the seed
te-pee or **tee-pee** *n* (*tē-pē*) *n* [Dakota *thipi*, fr. *thi* to dwell] (1743): a conical tent usu. consisting of skins and used esp. by American Indians of the Great Plains
teph-ra *n* (*te-frā*) *n* [NL, fr. Gk, ashes; akin to Skt *dahati* it burns — more at **FOMENT**] (ca. 1944): solid material ejected into the air during a volcanic eruption; esp: ASH 2b
tep-id *n* (*te-pəd*) *adj* [ME *teped*, fr. L *tepidus*, fr. *tepere* to be moderately warm; akin to Skt *tapati* it heats, OIr *less* heat] (14c): 1: moderately warm; LUKEWARM (< a ~ bath) 2: a: lacking in passion, force, or zest (< poetry) b: marked by an absence of enthusiasm or conviction (< interest) (< a ~ response) — **te-pid-i-ty** *n* (*te-pi-dā-tē*, *te-ā*) *n* — **tep-id-ly** *adv* — **tep-id-ness** *n*
TEPP *n* (*tē*) (*jē*) (*jē*) *n* [*tetra-* + ethyl + pyrophosphate] (1948): a hygroscopic corrosive liquid organophosphate $C_8H_{20}O_7P_2$ that is a powerful anticholinesterase and is used esp. as an insecticide
tep-pan-ya-ki *n* (*te-pān-yā-kē*) *n* [Jp, fr. *teppan* griddle + *yaki* broiling] (ca. 1970): a Japanese dish of meat, fish, or vegetables cooked on a large griddle usu. built into the diner's table; also: this style of cooking
te-qui-la *n* (*tē-kē-lā*, *tā-n*) *n* [Sp, fr. *Tequila*, town in Jalisco state, Mexico] (1849): a Mexican liquor distilled from the fermented sap of an agave (*Agave tequilana*)
tequila sunrise *n* (1940): a cocktail consisting of tequila, orange juice, and grenadine
ter *abbr*: 1 terrace 2 territory
ter-comb form [L, fr. *ter*; akin to Gk & Skt *tris* three times, L *tres* three — more at **THREE**]; three times; threefold 3: three (< tercentenary)
tera-comb form [ISV, fr. Gk *teras*, *teras* monster]: trillion (10¹²) (< *teras* watt)
tera-byte *n* (*ter-ā-bīt*) *n* (1984): 1024 gigabytes or 1,099,511,627,776 bytes; also: one trillion bytes
te-ra-ty *n* (*tē-rā-tī*) *n* [Tara, lowland belt of India] (1888): a wide-brimmed double felt sun hat worn esp. in subtropical regions
ter-aph *n* (*ter-ā-fīm*) *n*, *pl* **ter-a-phim** (*ter-ā-fīm*) [Heb *teraphim* (pl. in form but sing. in meaning)] (14c): an image of a Semitic household god
ter-at or **terato-comb form** [Gk, fr. *teras* marvel, portent, monster]: developmental malformation (*teratogenic*)
te-rato-car-ci-no-ma *n* (*ter-ō-tē-kār-sā-nō-mā*) *n* (ca. 1946): a malignant teratoma; esp: one involving germinal cells of the testis
te-rato-gen (*ter-ō-tā-jen*) *n* (1959): a teratogenic agent