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polarise • polychlorinated biphenyl

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po-lar-ise *Brit var of POLARIZE***po-lar-i-ty** \pō-'lēr-ə-tē\ *n*, *pl* -ties : the condition of having poles and esp. magnetic or electrical poles**po-lar-i-za-tion** \pō-lə-rə-'zā-shən\ *n* 1 : the action of polarizing : the state of being polarized 2 : concentration about opposing extremes**po-lar-ize** \pō-lə-'rīz\ *vb* -ized; -iz-ing 1 : to cause (light waves) to vibrate in a definite way 2 : to give physical polarity to 3 : to break up into opposing groups**pol-der** \pōl-dēr, 'pāl-\ *n* [D] : a tract of low land reclaimed from the sea¹**pole** \pōl\ *n* : a long slender piece of wood or metal <telephone ~>²**pole** *vb* **poled**; **pol-ing** : to impel or push with a pole <~ a boat>³**pole** *n* 1 : either end of an axis esp. of the earth 2 : either of the terminals of an electric device (as a battery or generator) 3 : one of two or more regions in a magnetized body at which the magnetism is concentrated — **pole-ward** \pōl-wərd\ *adj* or *adv*¹**pole-ax** \pōl-aks\ *n* : a battle-ax with a short handle²**pole-ax** *vb* : to attack or fell with or as if with a poleax**pole-cat** \pōl-kat\ *n*, *pl* **polecats** or **polecat** 1 : a European carnivorous mammal of which the ferret is considered a domesticated variety 2 : SKUNK

polecat 1

po-lem-ic \pə-'le-mik\ *n* : the art or practice of disputation — usu. used in pl. — **po-lem-i-cal** \-mi-kəl\ *also***po-lem-ic** \-mik\ *adj* — **po-lem-i-cist** \-sist\ *n***pole-star** \pōl-'stār\ *n* 1 : NORTH STAR 2 : a directing principle : GUIDE**pole vault** *n* : a field contest in which each contestant uses a pole to vault for height over a crossbar — **pole-vault** *vb* — **pole-vault-er** *n*¹**po-lice** \pə-'lēz\ *vb* **po-liced**; **po-lic-ing** 1 : to control, regulate, or keep in order esp. by use of police <~ a highway> 2 : to make clean and put in order <policed up the concert site>²**police** *n*, *pl* **police** [F, government, fr. OF, fr. LL *politia*, fr. Gk *politia*, fr. *polītēs* citizen, fr. *polis* city, state] 1 : the department of government that keeps public order and safety and enforces the laws; *also* : the members of this department 2 : a private organization resembling a police force; *also* : its members 3 : military personnel detailed to clean and put in order**po-lice-man** \-mən\ *n* : POLICE OFFICER**police officer** *n* : a member of a police force**police state** *n* : a state characterized by repressive, arbitrary, totalitarian rule by means of secret police**po-lice-wom-an** \pə-'lēz-wū-mən\ *n* : a woman who is a police officer¹**pol-i-cy** \pā-lə-sē\ *n*, *pl* -cies : a definite course or method of action selected to guide and determine present and future decisions²**policy** *n*, *pl* -cies : a writing whereby a contract of insurance is made**pol-i-cy-holder** \pā-lə-sē-'hōl-dər\ *n* : one granted an insurance policy**po-lio** \pō-lē-'ō\ *n* : POLIOMYELITIS — **polio** *adj***po-lio-my-e-li-tis** \-mi-ə-'li-təs\ *n* : an acute virus disease marked by inflammation of the gray matter of the spinal cord leading usu. to paralysis¹**pol-ish** \pā-'lish\ *vb* 1 : to make smooth and glossy usu. by rubbing 2 : to refine or improve in manners, condition, or style²**polish** *n* 1 : a smooth glossy surface : LUSTER 2 : REFINEMENT, CULTURE 3 : the action or process of polishing 4 : a preparation used to produce a gloss**Pol-ish** \pō-'lish\ *n* : the Slavic language of the Poles — **Polish** *adj***polit** *abbr* political; politician**po-lit-bu-ro** \pā-lət-byūr-ō, 'pō-, pə-'lit-\ *n* [Russ *politbyuro*] : the principal policy-making committee of a Communist party**po-lite** \pə-'lit\ *adj* **po-lit-er**; -est 1 : REFINED, CULTIVATED <~ society> 2 : marked by correct social conduct : COURTEOUS; *also* : CONSIDERATE, TACTFUL — **po-lite-ly** *adv* — **po-lite-ness** *n***po-li-tesse** \pā-li-'tes\ *n* [F] : formal politeness**pol-i-tic** \pā-lə-'tik\ *adj* 1 : wise in promoting a policy <a ~ statesman> 2 : shrewdly tactful <a ~ move>**pol-i-ti-cal** \pə-'li-ti-kəl\ *adj* 1 : of or relating to government or politics 2 : involving or charged or concerned with acts against a government or a political system <~ prisoners> — **pol-i-ti-cal-ly** \-k(ə)lē\ *adv***politically correct** *adj* : conforming to a belief that language and practices which could offend sensibilities (as in matters of sex or race) should be eliminated — **political correctness** *n***pol-i-ti-cian** \pā-lə-'ti-shən\ *n* : a person actively engaged in government or politics**pol-i-tick** \pā-lə-'tik\ *vb* : to engage in political discussion or activity**pol-i-ti-co** \pə-'li-ti-kō\ *n*, *pl* -cos *also* -coes : POLITICIAN**pol-i-tics** \pā-lə-'tik-s\ *n* *sing* or *pl* 1 : the art or science of government, of guiding or influencing governmental policy, or of winning and holding control over a government 2 : political affairs or business; *esp* : competition between groups or individuals for power and leadership 3 : political opinions**pol-i-ty** \pā-lə-'tē\ *n*, *pl* -ties : a politically organized unit; *also* : the form or constitution of such a unit**pol-ka** \pōl-kə, 'pō-kə\ *n* [Czech, fr. *Polka* Polish woman, fem. of *Polák* Pole] : a lively couple dance of Bohemian origin; *also* : music for this dance — **polka** *vb***pol-ka dot** \pō-kə-'dāt\ *n* : a dot in a pattern of regularly distributed dots — **polka-dot** or **polka-dot-ted** \-dā-təd\ *adj*¹**poll** \pōl\ *n* 1 : HEAD 2 : the casting and recording of votes; *also* : the total vote cast 3 : the place where votes are cast — usu. used in pl. 4 : a questioning of persons to obtain information or opinions to be analyzed²**poll** *vb* 1 : to cut off or shorten a growth or part of : CLIP, SHEAR 2 : to receive and record the votes of 3 : to receive (as votes) in an election 4 : to question in a poll**pol-lack** or **pol-lock** \pā-lək\ *n*, *pl* **pollack** or **pollock** : an important No. Atlantic food fish that is related to the cods; *also* : a related food fish of the No. Pacific**pol-len** \pā-lən\ *n* [NL, fr. L, fine flour] : a mass of male spores of a seed plant usu. appearing as a yellow dust**pol-li-na-tion** \pā-lə-'nā-shən\ *n* : the carrying of pollen to the female part of a plant to fertilize the seed — **pol-li-nate** \pā-lə-'nāt\ *vb* — **pol-li-na-tor** \-nā-tər\ *n***poll-ster** \pōl-stər\ *n* : one that conducts a poll or compiles data obtained by a poll**poll tax** *n* : a tax of a fixed amount per person levied on adults and often linked to the right to vote**pol-lute** \pə-'lūt\ *vb* **pol-lut-ed**; **pol-lut-ing** : to make impure; *esp* : to contaminate (an environment) *esp.* with man-made waste — **pol-lut-ant** \-'lūt-ənt\ *n* — **pol-lut-er** *n* — **pol-lu-tion** \-'lū-shən\ *n***pol-ly-wog** or **pol-li-wog** \pā-lē-'wäg\ *n* : TADPOLE**po-lo** \pō-lō\ *n* [Balti (Tibetan language of northern Kashmir), ball] : a game played by two teams on horseback using long-handled mallets to drive a wooden ball**po-lo-ni-um** \pə-'lō-nē-əm\ *n* : a radioactive metallic chemical element**pol-ter-geist** \pōl-tər-'gīst\ *n* [G, fr. *poltern* to knock + *Geist* spirit] : a noisy usu. mischievous ghost held to be responsible for unexplained noises**pol-troon** \pāl-'trūn\ *n* : COWARD**poly-** *comb form* [Gk, fr. *polys* many] 1 : many : several <polysyllabic> 2 : polymeric <polyester>**poly-chlo-ri-nat-ed bi-phe-nyl** \pā-li-'klōr-ə-nā-təd-bī-'fēn-ē\, -fēn-\ *n* : any of several industrial compounds that are toxic environmental pollutants