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barrel cactus *n* (1881) : any of a genus (*Ferocactus*) of nearly globular deeply ribbed spiny cacti of Mexico and the adjacent U.S.

bar-rel-chest-ed \ˈbär-əl-ches-təd/ *adj* (1926) : having a large rounded chest

barrel cuff *n* (1926) : an unfolded cuff (as on a shirt) usu. fastened by a button

bar-rel-ful \ˈbär-əl-fül/ *n, pl* **barrelfuls** \-fūlz/ or **bar-rels-ful** \-əl-z-fül/ (14c) **1** : as much or as many as a barrel will hold **2** : a large number or amount

bar-rel-head \-hed/ *n* (1840) : the flat end of a barrel — **on the barrelhead** : asking for or granting no credit (paid cash *on the barrelhead*)

bar-rel-house \-hauz/ *n* (1883) **1** : a cheap drinking and usu. dancing establishment **2** : a strident, uninhibited, and forcefully rhythmic style of jazz or blues

barrel organ *n* (1772) : an instrument for producing music by the action of a revolving cylinder studded with pegs on a series of valves that admit air from a bellows to a set of pipes

barrel racing *n* (1967) : a rodeo event for women in which a mounted rider makes a series of sharp turns around three barrels in a cloverleaf pattern — **barrel race** *n* — **barrel racer** *n*

barrel roll *n* (ca. 1920) : an airplane maneuver in which a complete revolution about the longitudinal axis is made

barrel vault *n* (1849) : a semicylindrical vault — **bar-rel-vault-ed** \-vōl-təd/ *adj*

bar-ren \ˈbär-ən/ *adj* [ME *bareine*, fr. OF *baraine*] (13c) **1** : not reproducing; as **a** : incapable of producing offspring — used esp. of females or matings **b** : not yet or not recently pregnant **c** : habitually failing to fruit **2** : not productive; as **a** : producing little or no vegetation to **DESOLATE** (< deserts) **b** : producing inferior crops (< soil) **c** : unproductive of results or gain : **FRUITLESS** (< a scheme) **3** : **DEVOID**, **LACKING** — used with of (< of excitement) **4** : lacking interest, information, or charm **5** : **DULL**, **UNRESPONSIVE** *syn* see **BARE** — **bar-ren-ly** *adv* — **bar-ren-ness** \-ən-əs/ *n*

barren *n* (1651) **1 pl** : an extent of usu. level land having an inferior growth of trees or little vegetation **2** : a tract of barren land

bar-rette \bä-ˈret, bə-ˈn/ [F, dim. of *barre* bar] (1901) : a clip or bar for holding hair in place

bar-ri-cade \ˈbär-ə-ˌkād, -bär-ə-ˈ/ *vt* **-cad-ed**; **-cad-ing** (1592) **1** : to block off or stop up with a barricade **2** : to prevent access to by means of a barricade

barricade *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *barriquer* to barricade, fr. *barrique* barrel] (1642) **1** : an obstruction or rampart thrown up across a way or passage to check the advance of the enemy **2** : **BARRIER** **3**, **OBSTACLE** **3 pl** : a field of combat or dispute

bar-ri-ca-do \ˈbär-ə-ˌkɑ-ˌdō/ *n, pl* **-does** [modif. of MF *barricade*] (1590) *archaic* : **BARRICADE** — **barricado** *vt, archaic*

bar-ri-er \ˈbär-ē-ər/ *n* [ME *barriere*, fr. MF *barriere*, fr. *barre*] (14c) **1 a** : something material that blocks or is intended to block passage (highway < a ~ contraceptive) **b** : a natural formation or structure that prevents or hinders movement or action (geographic ~s to species dissemination) (< beaches) (< drugs that cross the placental ~) **2 pl, often cap** : a medieval war game in which combatants fight on foot with a fence or railing between them **3** : something immaterial that impedes or separates : **OBSTACLE** (< behavioral ~s) (< trade ~s) (< a ~ to honest communication)

barrier island *n* (1943) : a long broad sandy island lying parallel to a shore that is built up by the action of waves, currents, and winds and that protects the shore from the effects of the ocean

barrier reef *n* (1805) : a coral reef roughly parallel to a shore and separated from it by a lagoon

bar-ring \ˈbär-ɪŋ/ *prep* (15c) : excluding by exception : **EXCEPTING**

bar-rio \ˈbär-ē-ō, -bär-ə/ *n, pl* **-ri-os** [Sp, fr. Ar *barri* of the open country, fr. *barra* outside, open country] (1841) **1** : a ward, quarter, or district of a city or town in Spanish-speaking countries **2** : a Spanish-speaking quarter or neighborhood in a city or town in the U.S. esp. in the Southwest

bar-ris-ter \ˈbär-ə-ˌstər/ *n* [ME *barrester*, fr. *barre* bar + *-ster* (as in *legis-ter* lawyer)] (15c) : a counsel admitted to plead at the bar and undertake the public trial of causes in an English superior court — compare **SOLICITOR**

bar-room \ˈbär-rüm, -rüm/ *n* (1797) : a room or establishment whose main feature is a bar for the sale of liquor

bar-row \ˈbär-(j)ō/ *n* [ME *bergh*, fr. OE *beorg*; akin to OHG *berg* mountain, Skt *bṛhat* high] (bef. 12c) **1** : **MOUNTAIN**, **MOUND** — used only in the names of hills in England **2** : a large mound of earth or stones over the remains of the dead : **TUMULUS**

barrow *n* [ME *barow*, fr. OE *bearg*; akin to OHG *barug* barrow] (bef. 12c) : a male hog castrated before sexual maturity

barrow *n* [ME *barrow*, fr. OE *bearewe*; akin to OE *beran* to carry — more at **BEAR**] (bef. 12c) **1 a** : **HANDBARROW** **b** : **WHEELBARROW** **2** : a cart with a shallow box body, two wheels, and shafts for pushing it

barrow boy *n* (1939) *Brit* : **COSTERMONGER**

bar sinister *n* (1823) **1** : a heraldic charge held to be a mark of bastardy **2** : the fact or condition of being of illegitimate birth

bar-tend-er \ˈbär-ten-dər/ *n* (1836) : one that serves liquor at a bar

bar-ter \ˈbär-tər/ *vb* [ME *barteren*, fr. MF *barater* to deceive, exchange] *vt* (15c) : to trade by exchanging one commodity for another ~ *vi* : to trade or exchange by or as if by bartering — **bar-ter-er** \-tər-ər/ *n*

bar-ter *n* (15c) **1** : the act or practice of carrying on trade by bartering **2** : the thing given in exchange in bartering

Bar-tho-lin's gland \ˈbär-thə-lɪnz-, -bär-ˈtɪl-ɪnz-/ *n* [Kaspar Bartholin †1738 Dan. physician] (1901) : either of two oval racemose glands lying one to each side of the lower part of the vagina and secreting a lubricating mucus — compare **COWPER'S GLAND**

bar-tis-zan \ˈbär-tɪz-ən, -bär-tɪz-ˈzən/ *n* [alter. of ME *bretasinge*, fr. *bretais* parapet — more at **BRATTICE**] (1808) : a small structure (as a turret) projecting from a building and serving esp. for lookout or defense



barrel cactus

Ba-ruch \bə-ˈrūk, ˈbär-ük/ *n* [LL, fr. Gk *Barouch*, fr. Heb *Bārūkh*] : a homiletic book included in the Roman Catholic canon of the Old Testament and in the Protestant Apocrypha — see **BIBLE** table

bar-ware \ˈbär-war, -wer/ *n* (1941) : glassware or utensils used in preparing and serving alcoholic beverages

bary-on \ˈbär-ē-ən/ *n* [ISV *bary-* (fr. Gk *barys* heavy) + *-on* — more at **GRIEVE**] (1953) : any of a group of elementary particles (as nucleons) that are subject to the strong force and are held to be a combination of three quarks — **bary-on-ic** \ˈbär-ē-ˈnɪk/ *adj*

bary-te \ˈbär-jit, -ber-/ or **ba-ry-tes** \bə-ˈrɪ-tēz/ *var* of **BARITE**

bary-tone \ˈbär-ə-ˌtōn/ *var* of **BARITONE**

bas-al \ˈbā-səl, -zəl/ *adj* (1645) **1 a** : relating to, situated at, or forming the base **b** : arising from the base of a stem (< ~ leaves) **2 a** : of or relating to the foundation, base, or essence : **FUNDAMENTAL** **b** : of, relating to, or being essential for maintaining the fundamental vital activities of an organism : **MINIMAL** **c** : used for teaching beginners (< ~ readers) — **ba-sal-ly** *adv*

basal body *n* (1902) : a minute distinctively staining cell organelle found at the base of a flagellum or cilium and identical to a centriole in structure — called also *basal granule*, *kinetosome*

basal cell *n* (ca. 1903) : one of the innermost cells of the deeper epidermis of the skin

basal ganglion *n* (ca. 1889) : any of four deeply placed masses of gray matter (as the amygdala) in each cerebral hemisphere — called also *basal nucleus*

basal metabolic rate *n* (1922) : the rate at which heat is given off by an organism at complete rest

basal metabolism *n* (1913) : the turnover of energy in a fasting and resting organism using energy solely to maintain vital cellular activity, respiration, and circulation as measured by the basal metabolic rate

ba-sal \bə-ˈsɒl, ˈbā-/ *n* [L *basaltis*, MS var. of *basanites* touchstone, fr. Gk *basanites* (lithos), fr. *basanos* touchstone, fr. Egypt *bhnw*] (1601) : a dark gray to black dense to fine-grained igneous rock that consists of basic plagioclase, augite, and usu. magnetite — **ba-sal-tic** \bə-ˈsɒl-tik/ *adj*

bas-cule \ˈbas-(j)kyū(ə)/ *n* [F, seesaw] (1678) : an apparatus or structure (as a drawbridge) in which one end is counterbalanced by the other on the principle of the seesaw or by weights

base \ˈbās/ *n, pl* **bas-es** \ˈbā-sēz/ [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *basis*, fr. Gk, step, base, fr. *bainein* to go — more at **COME**] (13c) **1 a** (1) : the lower part of a wall, pier, or column considered as a separate architectural feature (2) : the lower part of a complete architectural design **b** : the bottom of something considered as its support : **FOUNDATION** **c** (1) : a side or face of a geometrical figure from which an altitude can be constructed; esp. : one on which the figure stands (2) : the length of a base **d** : that part of a bodily organ by which it is attached to another

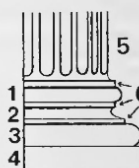
more central structure of the organism **2 a** : a main ingredient (paint having a latex ~) **b** : a supporting or carrying ingredient (as of a medicine) **3 a** : the fundamental part of something : **GROUNDWORK**, **BASIS** **b** : the economic factors on which in Marxist theory all legal, social, and political relations are formed **4** : the lower part of a heraldic field **5 a** : the starting point or line for an action or undertaking **b** : a baseline in surveying **c** : a center or area of operations; as (1) : the place from which a military force draws supplies (2) : a place where military operations begin (3) : a permanent military installation **d** (1) : a number (as 5 in 56.44 or 57) that is raised to a power; esp. : the number that when raised to a power equal to the logarithm of a number yields the number itself (< the logarithm of 100 to the ~ 10 is 2 since 10² = 100) (2) : a number equal to the number of units in a given digit's place that for a given system of writing numbers is required to give the numeral 1 in the next higher place (< the decimal system uses a ~ of 10); also : such a system of writing numbers using an indicated base (< convert from ~ 10 to ~ 2) (3) : a number that is multiplied by a rate or of which a percentage or fraction is calculated (< to find the interest on \$90 at 10% multiply the ~ 90 by .10) **e** : **ROOT** **6 a** : the starting place or goal in various games **b** : any one of the four stations at the corners of a baseball infield **c** : a point to be considered (his opening remarks touched every ~) **7 a** : any of various typically water-soluble and bitter tasting compounds that in solution have a pH greater than 7, are capable of reacting with an acid to form a salt, and are molecules or ions able to take up a proton from an acid or able to give up an unshared pair of electrons to an acid **b** : any of the five purine or pyrimidine bases of DNA and RNA that include cytosine, guanine, adenine, thymine, and uracil **8** : a price level at which a security previously actively declining in price resists further price decline **9** : the part of a transformational grammar that consists of rules and a lexicon and generates the deep structures of a language — **based** \ˈbāst/ *adj* — **base-less** \ˈbā-sləs/ *adj* — **off base** **1** : **WRONG**, **MISTAKEN** **2** : **UNAWARES**

base vt **1** : to make, form, or serve as a base for **2** : to find a base or basis for — usu. used with *on* or *upon*

base adj [ME *bas*, fr. MF, fr. ML *basus* short, low] (14c) **1 archaic** : of little height **2 obs** : low in place or position **3 obs** : **BASS** **4 archaic** : **BASEBORN** **5 a** : resembling a villein : **SERVILE** (< a ~ tenant) **b** : held by villenage (< tenure) **6 a** : being of comparatively low value and having relatively inferior properties (as lack of resistance to corrosion) (< a ~ metal such as iron) — compare **NOBLE** **b** : containing a larger than usual proportion of base metals (< ~ silver denarii) **7 a** : lacking or indicating the lack of higher qualities of mind or spirit : **IGNOBLE** **b** : lacking higher values : **DEGRADING** (< a drab ~ way of life) — **base-ly** *adv* — **base-ness** *n*

syn **BASE**, **LOW**, **VILE** mean deserving of contempt because of the absence of higher values. **BASE** stresses the ignoble and may suggest cruelty, treachery, greed, or grossness (< base motives). **LOW** may connote crafty cunning, vulgarity, or immorality and regularly implies an out-raging of one's sense of decency or propriety (< refused to listen to such low talk). **VILE**, the strongest of these words, tends to suggest disgusting depravity or filth (< a vile remark).

base angle *n* (ca. 1949) : either of the angles of a triangle that have one side in common with the base



base of a column:
1 upper torus, 2
scotia, 3 lower
torus, 4 plinth, 5
shaft, 6 fillets