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Dictionary
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
UNABRIDGED

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play *v* lake *n* → a lake in an arid or semiarid region that evaporates during the drier months to leave a playa
play back *vi* : to use back play in cricket ~ *vi* : to run through (a disc or tape) recently recorded
playback \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a [play back] 1 : an act of reproducing a recording by means of a playback device immediately after the recording process has been completed. 2 also **playback machine** : a tape or disc sound reproducing device; TURNTABLE
playball \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a sponge or inflated ball that will bounce and is suitable for playing catch or other throwing and tossing games
playbill \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a bill advertising a play and usu.; announcing the cast
Playbill trademark — used for a theater guide
playbook \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → one or more plays in book form
playbox \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n*, chiefly Brit. → a box for a child's toys and personal belongings esp. at a boarding school
playboy \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → dial Brit. → a thoroughly unworldly person 2 : a wealthy young man who lives a frivolous idle life devoted chiefly to the pursuit of pleasure (many simply become ~s, occasionally with diverting eccentricities —Christopher Rand)
playbroker \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → an agent who acts as middleman between dramatists and managers or actors
play-by-play \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *adj* → being a running commentary on a sports event [play-by-play descriptions . . . of all games] — *Amer. Guide Series*: Mich. 2 : circumstantially related — *Detailed* (this play-by-play account of the three men — J.W.Rogers)
playclothes \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *pl* → comfortable, utilitarian, or informal clothing worn for leisure activities, sports, or play
playdown \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a form of play or diversion 2 : an informal athletic competition between teams composed of players from several participating schools
play dobt *n*, archaic → a gambling dobt
play doctor or **play fixer** *n* → a person who is called in to stage a play before its production
playoffs \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → one of a series of playoffs (as among the winning teams from different leagues or localities)
played \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *adj* [fr. played out, adj.] : PLAYED OUT
played out *adj* : worn out, finished, spent, or used up (never seen a limper, dirtier, more played-out deck of cards —Hamilton)
play-pile \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → [ME *player*, fr. OE *plegere*, fr. *plegan*] to play + *-ere* -or ← from PLAY 1 : one that plays: as a : a person who occupies himself for diversion 2 : one who engages in recreational activity or amuses himself (a ~ with makes a practice of playing a game specified name) (2) a person who undertakes to play against all others in various games (as skat) 3 : a person who plays on a musical instrument 4 : a person who makes a profession of acting : ACTOR 5 Brit. → a professional cricketer — compare GENTLEMAN 3d 1 : a mechanical device for automatically playing a musical instrument; esp. PIANO PLAYER 6 & RECORDING MACHINE 7 : a ball to be played next in billiards, croquet, and similar games
player piano *n* → a piano that contains a mechanical piano player
playrinfir ophor *n*, usu cap P [after Lyon, Baron Playfair 1898 Brit., scientist & public official ; cipher in K E Y V O alphabet square which begins with the letters R D A B C of a keyword and continues with the remaining letters of the alphabet less J] P O I L
playfield \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → PLAYMATE M N P Q S
playfield \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a playground designed for children's athletics T U V W X Z
play forward *vi* → to use forward play in cricket
play-tilt \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *adj* 1 : full of play : SPORTIVE square for Playfair cipher
 (a nice little, playful ~ tiltup —Bram Stoker)
 2 : indulging a sportive fancy : HUMOROUS, JOGULAR —for discovering the charm of the ~ tiltup —L.Partridge
play-fun-lus ~-lus~ *n* → play-fun-ly \-(o)fē, -li\ *adv* → play-fun-lously ~-lously *ad* → playfully
playgirl \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a typically young woman who lives a frivolous idyllic life devoted chiefly to pleasure (a hard and handsome —Manchester Guardian Weekly)
playgoer \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a person who frequently attends plays
playground \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a piece of ground used for play and having special facilities for recreation esp. by children. 2 : a locality suitable by nature or adaptation for vacation or holiday relaxation (England's mountain ~ —L.D.Stamp) 3 : the scene or arena of a specified activity (the forces of nature was chaotic —a ~ of supernatural powers —R.W.Gibson)
playground ball *n* → SOFTBALL 2 : an inflatable colored rubber ball (as of 5, 6, or 8 inches in diameter) used by children in simple games and for learning ball-handling skills
play gym *n* : GYM
playhouse \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a building used for dramatic exhibitions (as a theater) 2 : a small building, hut, or enclosed area made like one or more rooms of a house for children to play in and often built by children 3 : a toy house
playing pres part of PLAY
playing card *n* [playing fr. ME *playing*, *pleying*, fr. gerund of *playen*, *pley*en → to play — MORE AT PLAY 1] : a gaming implement made usu. pastboard in a standard size (as 2½ × 3½ in.) 009° ± .0005 in. thick of 24 78 cards with identical backs on each side so that to show its rank and suit, and used in playing any of numerous games. 2 : a card of a pack in which the suits are marked with designating symbols (as of a spade, heart, diamond, and club) and ranks (as of the series A, K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2) 3 pl : a pack
playing field *n* → a field for various games (as football, cricket, tennis); esp. the part of a field that is officially marked off for play
playing place *n* : COUNTER lb
playing trick *n* → a card or combination of cards that is expected to win a trick
playland \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → PLAYGROUND (the development of Alaska —as a tourist and vacation —U.S. Code)
play-loan \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *adj* : devoid of play
play-let \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → [play + -let] : a short or slight play (a tiny four-line —F.M.Whiting)
playmaker \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → [play + maker] : a player who leads the scoring attack upon an opponent's goal (as in basketball or hockey)
playmate \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a companion in play
play money *n* → a metal or paper device made in obvious imitation of genuine coins or paper money chiefly for use in play by children
play-off \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → [ME (Sc) *playok*, prob. fr. 'play + -ok (as in ME bullok bullock)] Scot : PLAYTHING
play off *vi* 1 : to complete the playing of (an interrupted or delayed contest). 2 : to break (a tie) by means of a play-off ~ *vi* : to participate in a play-off (had to play off against last winner)
play-off \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → [fr. play off, v.] 1 : a final contest or series of contests to determine the winner among two or more contestants or teams that have tied. 2 : a series of post-season contests to determine a championship
play-off \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *adj* : relating to a play-off
play on *vi* : to play a bowled ball onto one's wicket in cricket (he played on a tried out the new ball he played out —the rule code assigned to them —C.J.Rolo) b : to bring to an end : gully rope (the pie) played out —W.M.Raine (that graft's played out —S.H.Adams) 2 : UNKEL, UNFOLD (played out a length of line —Gordon Webber) ~ *vi* 1 : to become spent or exhausted (the twister rang along for about 400 turns —played out twice —H.L.Davis) 2 : to unreel or unfold to a considerable length (the possibility of a snag when hose is playing out —W.Y.Kimball)
play-party \ˈv-, -ə^{pl} *n* → a social gathering esp. of young people characteristic of the rural U.S. with entertainment consisting of singing and dancing and swinging plays performed to the ringing of ballds and clapping usu. without instrumental accompaniment