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drip feed ▶ *n.* a device for introducing fluid drop by drop into a system, e.g., lubricating oil into an engine. ■ *Medicine* a device that passes fluid, nutrients, or drugs drop by drop into a patient's body on a continuous basis, usually intravenously: *he had been on a drip feed for several days.*

▶ *v.* (drip-feed) [*trans.*] introduce (fluid) drop by drop: *the oiler drip-feeds oil on to all drive chains.* ■ supply (a patient) with fluid, nutrients, or drugs through a drip feed.

drip-less /'drɪp,ləs/ ▶ *adj.* designed to prevent dripping: *dripless valve.*

drip-pling /'drɪplɪŋ/ ▶ *n.* (drippings) fat that has melted and dripped from roasting meat, used in cooking. ■ wax, fat, or other liquid produced from something by the effect of heat.

▶ *adj.* extremely wet: [*as submodifier*] *dripping wet hair.*

drip-py /'drɪpɪ/ ▶ *adj.* (drip-pier, drip-piest) 1 *Informal* weak, ineffectual, or sloppily sentimental: *a drippy love song.* 2 tending to drip: *drippy food.* —drip-pily /'drɪpɪli/ *adv.* —drip-piness *n.*

drip-stone /'drɪp,stɒn/ ▶ *n.* 1 *Architecture* a molding over a door or window that deflects rain and enhances the opening, typically in medieval architecture. 2 *Geology* rock deposited by precipitation from dripping water, such as that which forms stalactites and stalagmites.

drive /drɪv/ ▶ *v.* (past drove /drɒv/; past part. driven /'drɪvən/) 1 [*intrans.*] operate and control the direction and speed of a motor vehicle: *he got into his car and drove off* | *they drove back into town.* ■ [*trans.*] own or use (a specified type of motor vehicle): *Sue drives an old Chevy.* ■ [*intrans.*] be licensed or competent to drive a motor vehicle: *I take it you can drive?* ■ [*trans.*] convey (someone) in a vehicle, esp. a private car: *Shelley drove him to the supermarket.* 2 [*trans.*] propel or carry along by force in a specified direction: *the wind will drive you onshore.* ■ [*intrans.*] (of wind, water, or snow) move or fall with great force: *the snow drove against him.* ■ [*trans.*] (of a source of power) provide the energy to set and keep (an engine or piece of machinery) in motion: *turbines driven by steam.* ■ *Electronics* (of a device) power or operate (another device): *the interface can be used to drive a printer.* ■ [*trans.*] force (a stake or nail) into place by hitting or pushing it: *nails are driven through the boards.* ■ [*trans.*] bore (a tunnel). ■ [*in ball games*] hit or kick (the ball) hard with a free swing of the bat, racket, or foot. ■ [*trans.*] Golf strike (a ball) from the tee, typically with a driver. 3 [*trans.*] urge or force (animals or people) to move in a specified direction: *they drove a flock of sheep through the center of the city.* ■ [*trans.*] urge forward and direct the course of (an animal drawing a vehicle or plow). ■ [*trans.*] chase or frighten (wild animals) into nets, traps, or into a small area where they can be killed or captured: *they were up on the hill before dawn, ready to drive the deer.* ■ compel to leave: *troops drove out the demonstrators* | *he wanted to drive me away.* 4 [*trans.*] (usu. be driven) (of a fact or feeling) compel (someone) to act in a particular way, esp. one that is considered undesirable or inappropriate: *he was driven by ambition* | [*trans.*] some people are driven to murder their tormentors | [*as adj.*] (driven) *my husband is a driven man.* ■ [*trans.*] bring (someone) forcibly into a specified negative state: *the thought drove him to despair* | [*trans.*] my laziness drives my wife crazy. ■ [*trans.*] force (someone) to work to an excessive extent: *you're driving yourself too hard.*

▶ *n.* 1 a trip or journey in a car: *they went for a drive in the country.* ■ [*in names*] a street or road: *Hammond Drive.* ■ short for DRIVEWAY. 2 *Psychology* an innate, biologically determined urge to attain a goal or satisfy a need: *her emotional and sexual drives.* ■ the determination and ambition of a person to achieve something: *her drive has sustained her through some shattering personal experiences.* 3 an organized effort by a number of people to achieve a particular purpose, often to raise money: *we're planning a massive membership drive.* ■ *Football* a series of offensive plays that advance the ball for the purpose of a score: *an 80-yard scoring drive.* 4 the transmission of power to machinery or to the wheels of a motor vehicle. ■ (in a car with automatic transmission) the position of the gear selector in which the car will move forward, changing gears automatically as required: *he threw the car into drive.* ■ *Computing* short for DISK DRIVE. 5 (in ball games) a forceful stroke made with a free swing of the bat, racket, or foot against the ball. ■ *Golf* a shot from the tee. 6 an act of driving a group of animals to a particular destination. ▶ Old English *driſan* 'urge (a person or animal) to go forward,' of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *drijfven*

and German *treiben*. —drive-a-bill-ty /drɪvə'bɪlɪti/ (also drive-a-bill-ty) *n.* —drive-a-ble (also drive-a-ble) *adj.*

▶ *PHRASES* □ drive something home see HOME. □ what someone is driving at the point that someone is attempting to make: *I don't understand what you're driving at.*

drive bay ▶ *n.* *Computing* a space inside a computer in which a floppy disk, hard disk, or disk drive can be accommodated.

drive belt ▶ *n.* a belt that transmits drive from a motor, engine, or line shaft to a moving part or machine tool.

drive-by ▶ *adj.* [*attrib.*] (of a shooting or other act) carried out from a passing vehicle: *a drive-by shooting.* ■ *Informal* superficial or casual: *they practice drive-by journalism rather than trying to elevate the level of discussion.* ■ *Informal* (of a medical procedure in a hospital or clinic) involving a brief duration of on-site care for the patient: *she had been shaken by tales of drive-by mastectomies.* ■ *Informal* denoting a facility that performs such procedures as a customary practice: *the respondents recommend drive-by clinics.*

▶ *n.* a shooting carried out from a passing vehicle.

drive-by-wire ▶ *n.* [*usu. as adj.*] a semiautomatic and normally computer-regulated system for controlling the engine, handling, suspension, and other functions of a motor vehicle.

drive chain ▶ *n.* an endless chain with links that engage with toothed wheels in order to transmit power from one shaft to another in an engine or machine tool.

drive-in ▶ *adj.* [*attrib.*] denoting a facility such as a restaurant that one can visit without leaving one's car: *it looked like the screen from an old drive-in theater.* ▶ *n.* a facility of this type.

drive-el /'drɪvəl/ ▶ *n.* silly nonsense: *don't talk such drivell* See note at NONSENSE.

▶ *v.* (drive-eled, drive-el-Ing; *Brit.* drive-elled, drive-el-Ing) [*intrans.*] 1 talk nonsense: *he was drivelling on about the glory days.* 2 *archaic* let saliva or mucus flow from the mouth or nose; dribble. ▶ Old English *dreſellan* (sense 2), of uncertain origin; perhaps related to *DRAFF*. —drive-el-er (*Brit.* drive-el-ler) *n.*

drive-line /'drɪv,lɪn/ ▶ *n.* another term for DRIVETRAIN.

drive-n /'drɪvən/ ▶ past participle of DRIVE.

▶ *adj.* 1 [*in combination*] operated, moved, or controlled by a specified person or source of power: *a chauffeur-driven limousine* | *wind-driven sand.* ■ motivated or determined by a specified factor or feeling: *a market-driven response to customer needs.* 2 (of snow) piled into drifts or made smooth by the wind: *figurative* she was as pure as the driven snow.

driver /'drɪvər/ ▶ *n.* 1 a person who drives a vehicle: *a taxi driver* | *student drivers.* ■ a person who drives a specified kind of animal: *mule drivers.* 2 a wheel or other part in a mechanism that receives power directly and transmits motion to other parts. ■ *Electronics* a device or part of a circuit that provides power for output. ■ *Computing* a program that controls the operation of a device such as a printer or scanner. 3 a golf club with a flat face and wooden head, used for driving from the tee. —drive-er-less *adj.*

▶ *PHRASE* □ in the driver's seat in control of or dominating a situation: *the tax issue is back in the driver's seat of American politics.*

driver ant ▶ *n.* another term for ARMY ANT.

driver's license ▶ *n.* a document permitting a person to drive a motor vehicle.

drive-shaft /'drɪv,ʃaft/ ▶ *n.* a rotating shaft that transmits torque in an engine.

drive system ▶ *n.* the part of an engine, computer, or mechanical device that brings about its dynamic movement.

drive-through (also *Informal* drive-thru) ▶ *adj.* [*attrib.*] denoting a facility through or to which one can drive, esp. to be served without leaving one's car: *a drive-through car wash* | *drive-through restaurants* | *the drive-thru window.*

▶ *n.* a place or facility of this type.

drive time ▶ *n.* (esp. in broadcasting) the parts of the day when many people commute by car: [*as adj.*] *drive-time radio.*

drive-train /'drɪv,tri:n/ ▶ *n.* the system in a motor vehicle that connects the transmission to the drive axles.

drive-up ▶ *adj.* & *n.* another term for DRIVE-THROUGH.

drive-way /'drɪv,wə/ ▶ *n.* a short road leading from a public road to a house or garage.

driv-ing /'drɪvɪŋ/ ▶ *adj.* [*attrib.*] (of rain or snow) falling

and being blown by the wind with great force: *driving rain.* ■ having a strong and controlling influence: *Macmillan was the driving force behind the plan* | *a driving ambition.* ■ energetic; dynamic: *driving dance rhythms.*

▶ *n.* the control and operation of a motor vehicle: *he was convicted of reckless driving* | [*as adj.*] *a driving course.* **driving licence** ▶ *n.* British term for DRIVER'S LICENSE.

driving range ▶ *n.* an area where golfers can practice drives.

driving wheel ▶ *n.* 1 any of the large wheels of a locomotive, to which power is applied either directly or via coupling rods. 2 a wheel transmitting motive power in machinery.

drizzle /'drɪzəl/ ▶ *n.* light rain falling in very fine drops: *Boston will be cloudy with patchy drizzle* | [*in sing.*] *a steady drizzle has been falling since 3 a.m.* ■ [*in sing.*] *Cooking* a thin stream of a liquid ingredient trickled over something.

▶ *v.* [*intrans.*] (it drizzles, it is drizzling, etc.) rain lightly: *it's started to drizzle* | [*as adj.*] (drizzling) *the drizzling rain.* ■ [*trans.*] *Cooking* cause a thin stream of (a liquid ingredient) to trickle over food: *drizzle the clarified butter over the top.* ■ [*trans.*] cause a liquid ingredient to trickle over (food) in this way: *raspberries drizzled with melted chocolate.* ▶ mid 16th cent.; probably based on Old English *drēosan* 'to fall,' of Germanic origin; probably related to DREARY. —drizzly /-z(ə)li/ *adj.*

drogue /drɒɡ/ ▶ *n.* a device, typically conical or funnel-shaped with open ends, towed behind a boat, aircraft, or other moving object to reduce speed or improve stability. ■ a similar object used as an aerial target for gunnery practice or as a windsock. ■ (in tanker aircraft) a funnel-shaped part on the end of the hose into which a probe is inserted by an aircraft being refueled in flight. ■ short for DROGUE PARACHUTE. ▶ early 18th cent. (originally a whaling term denoting a piece of stout board attached to a harpoon line, used to slow down or mark the position of a harpooned whale); perhaps related to DRAG.

drogue par-a-chute ▶ *n.* a small parachute used as a brake or to pull out a larger parachute or other object from an aircraft in flight or a fast-moving vehicle.

droid /drɔɪd/ ▶ *n.* (in science fiction) a robot. ■ *figurative* a person regarded as lifeless or mechanical: *she will probably leave you for a sales droid.* ■ *Computing* a program that automatically collects information from remote systems. ▶ 1970s: shortening of ANDROID.

droit /drɔɪt/ ▶ *n.* *historical* Law a right or due. ▶ late Middle English: from Old French, based on Latin *directus* 'straight, right, direct.'

droit de seigneur /drɔɪ də sən'jeɪ/ ▶ *n.* the alleged right of a medieval feudal lord to have sexual intercourse with a vassal's bride on her wedding night. ▶ French, literally 'lord's right.'

droll /drɒl/ ▶ *adj.* curious or unusual in a way that provokes dry amusement: *his unique brand of droll self-mockery.*

▶ *n.* *archaic* a jester or entertainer; a buffoon. ▶ early 17th cent. (as an adjective): from French *drôle*, perhaps from Middle Dutch *drolle* 'imp, goblin.' —droll-ery /'drɒləri/ *n.* —droll-ness *n.* —drolly *adv.*

dro-mae-o-sau-rid /drɒməʊ'sɔːrɪd/ (also dro-mae-o-saur /'drɒməʊ'sɔːr/) ▶ *n.* a carnivorous bipedal dinosaur of a late Cretaceous family that included deinonychus and the velociraptors. They had a large slashing claw on each hind foot. • Family Dromaeosauridae, suborder Theropoda, order Saurischia. ▶ 1970s: from modern Latin *Dromaeosauridae*, based on Greek *dromaios* 'swift-running' + *sauros* 'lizard.'

-drome ▶ *comb. form* 1 denoting a place for running or racing: *velodrome.* 2 denoting something that runs or proceeds in a certain way: *palindrome.* ▶ from Greek *dromos* 'course, running'.

drome-dary /'dræmə,dərɪ/ ▶ *n.* (pl. -dar-ies) an Arabian camel, esp. one of a light and swift breed trained for riding or racing. ▶ Middle English: from Old French *dromedaire* or late Latin *dromedarius* (camelus) 'swift camel,' based on Greek *dromas*, *dromad-* 'runner.'

drone /drɒn/ ▶ *v.* [*intrans.*] make a continuous low humming sound: *in the far distance a machine droned.* ■ speak tediously in a dull monotonous tone: *he reached for another beer while Jim droned on.* ■ [*with adverbial of direction*] move with a continuous humming sound: *traffic droned up and down the street.*

▶ *n.* 1 a low continuous humming sound: *he nodded off to the drone of the car engine.* ■ *Informal* a monotonous

18th cent.: from Pennsylvania Dutch, from *dunke* (see DUNK).

Dun-kirk /'dʌn,kɜːk/; den'kɜːk/ a port in northern France; pop. 71,070. It was the scene of the evacuation of 335,000 Allied troops in 1940 by warships, requisitioned civilian ships, and a host of small boats while under constant German attack from the air. French name DUNKERQUE.

dun-lin /'dʌnlɪn/ ▶ *n.* (pl. same or **dun-lins**) a migratory sandpiper with a down-curved bill and (in the breeding season) a reddish-brown back and black belly. It is the commonest small wader of the northern hemisphere. • *Calidris alpina*, family Scolopacidae. ▶ mid 16th cent.: probably from DUN¹ + -LING, from the grayish-brown winter coloring of its upper parts.

Dun-lop /'dʌnlɒp/, John Boyd (1840–1921), Scottish inventor. He developed the first successful pneumatic bicycle tire in 1888.

dun-nage /'dʌnɪʃ/ ▶ *n.* pieces of wood, matting, or similar material used to keep a cargo in position in a ship's hold. ▶ informal a person's belongings, esp. those brought on board ship. ▶ Middle English: of unknown origin.

dun-no /dʌ'no/ ▶ contraction of (I) do not know. ▶ mid 19th cent.: representing an informal pronunciation.

Duns Scotus /dʌnz 'skɒtəs/, John (c.1265–1308), Scottish theologian and scholar. He was the first major theologian to defend the theory of the immaculate conception and to oppose St. Thomas Aquinas by arguing that faith is a matter of will rather than something dependent on logical proofs. **Dun-stan**, St. /'dʌnstən/ (c.909–88), Anglo-Saxon prelate. As archbishop of Canterbury, he introduced the strict Benedictine rule in England and succeeded in restoring monastic life. Feast day, May 19.

dunt /dʌnt/ chiefly Scottish ▶ *v.* [trans.] hit or knock firmly with a dull sound: she dunted my father in the side with her elbow.

▶ *n.* a firm dull-sounding blow. ▶ late Middle English: perhaps a variant of DINT.

du-o /'dʌ(y)ʊə-ə/ ▶ *n.* (pl. **du-os**) 1 a pair of people or things, esp. in music or entertainment: the comedy duo Laurel and Hardy. 2 Music a duet: he wrote two duos for violin and viola. ▶ late 16th cent. (sense 2): via Italian from Latin *duo* 'two.'

duo- ▶ *comb. form* two; having two: *duopoly* / *duotone*. ▶ from Latin.

du-o-dec-i-mal /,d(y)ʊə'desəməɪl/; ,d(y)ʊə-ə/ ▶ *adj.* relating to or denoting a system of counting or numerical notation that has twelve as a base.

▶ *n.* the system of duodecimal notation. ▶ late 17th cent.: from Latin *duodecim* 'twelfth' (from *duodecim* 'twelve') + -AL. — **du-o-dec-i-mal-ly** *adv.*

du-o-dec-i-mo /,d(y)ʊə'dese,mō/; ,d(y)ʊə-ə/ (abbr.: 12mo) ▶ *n.* (pl. -mos) a size of book page that results from the folding of each printed sheet into 12 leaves (24 pages). Also called **twelvemo**. ▶ a book of this size. ▶ mid 17th cent.: from Latin (in) *duodecimo* 'in a twelfth', from *duodecim* 'twelfth'.

du-o-den-a-ry /,d(y)ʊə'denəri/; ,d(y)ʊə-ə/ ▶ *adj.* rare relating to or based on the number twelve. ▶ mid 19th cent.: from Latin *duodenarius* 'containing twelve', based on *duodecim* 'twelve.'

du-o-de-ni-tis /,d(y)ʊə'deni'tɪs/; ,d(y)ʊə-ə/ ▶ *n.* Medicine inflammation of the duodenum.

duodeno- (also **duoden-** before a vowel) ▶ *comb. form* Anatomy & Medicine relating to the duodenum: *duodenitis*.

du-o-de-num /,d(y)ʊə'dēnəm/; ,d(y)ʊə'dn-əm/ ▶ *n.* (pl. -nums or -na /-nə/) Anatomy the first part of the small intestine immediately beyond the stomach, leading to the jejunum. ▶ late Middle English: from medieval Latin, from *duodeni* 'in twelves', its length being equivalent to the breadth of approximately twelve fingers. — **du-o-de-nal** /-dəni/; -dənei/ *adj.*

du-o-logue /'dʌ(y)ʊə,ləg/; -ləg/ ▶ *n.* a play or part of a play with speaking roles for only two actors. ▶ mid 18th cent.: from *duo-*, on the pattern of *monologue*. **duo-mo** /'dwɒmə/ ▶ *n.* (pl. -mos) an Italian cathedral. ▶ Italian, literally 'dome.'

du-op-o-ly /d(y)ʊə'əpələ/ ▶ *n.* (pl. -lies) a situation in which two suppliers dominate the market for a commodity or service. ▶ 1920s: from *duo-*, on the pattern of *monopoly*. — **du-op-o-ly-ist** /-əpəlɪstɪk/ *adj.*

du-o-tone /'dʌ(y)ʊə,tɒn/ ▶ *n.* a halftone illustration made from a single original with two different colors at different screen angles. ▶ the technique or

process of making such illustrations: the best images that *duotone* can produce.

du-pat-ta /dʌ'pætə/ ▶ *n.* a length of material worn as a scarf or head covering, typically with a salwar, by women from the Indian subcontinent. ▶ from Hindi *dupatā*.

dupe /'dʌ(y)ʊəp/ ▶ *v.* [trans.] deceive; trick: the newspaper was duped into publishing an untrue story.

▶ *n.* a victim of deception: knowing accomplices or unknowing dupes. ▶ late 17th cent.: from dialect French *dupe* 'hoopoe,' from the bird's supposedly stupid appearance. — **dup-able** *adj.* — **dup-er** *n.* — **dup-ery** /-pəri/ *n.*

dupe² ▶ *v.* & *n.* short for **DUPLICATE**, esp. in photography.

du-pl-on /'dʌpə,ʌn/ (also **du-pl-on-l** /'dʌpə'ʌnəl/ or **du-pl-on-l**) ▶ *n.* a rough slubbed silk fabric woven from the threads of double cocoons. ▶ an imitation of this with other fibers. ▶ early 19th cent. (in the sense 'double cocoon'): from French *doupin*, from Italian *doppione*, from *doppio* 'double.'

du-ple /'dʌ(y)ʊəplə/ ▶ *adj.* Music (of rhythm) based on two main beats to the bar: *duple time*. ▶ mid 16th cent.: from Latin *duplus*, from *duo* 'two.'

du-plet /'dʌ(y)ʊəplɪt/ ▶ *n.* a set of two things. ▶ Music a pair of equal notes to be performed in the time of three. ▶ mid 17th cent. (as a dicing term in the sense of *doublets* (see **DOUBLET**)): from Latin *duplex* 'double,' on the pattern of *doublet*. Current senses date from the 1920s.

du-plex /'dʌ(y)ʊəpleks/ ▶ *n.* something having two parts, in particular: ▶ a house divided into two apartments, with a separate entrance for each. ▶ an apartment on two floors. ▶ Blochemistry a double-stranded polynucleotide molecule.

▶ *adj.* 1 having two parts, in particular: ▶ (of a house) having two apartments. ▶ (of an apartment) on two floors. ▶ (of paper or board) having two differently colored layers or sides. ▶ Blochemistry consisting of two polynucleotide strands linked side by side. ▶ (of a printer or its software) capable of printing on both sides of the paper. 2 (of a communications system, computer circuit, etc.) allowing the transmission of two signals simultaneously in opposite directions. Compare with **MULTIPLEX**, **SIMPLEX**. ▶ mid 16th cent. (as an adjective): from Latin *duplex*, *duplic-*, from *duo* 'two' + *plicare* 'to fold.' The noun dates from the 1920s.

du-pli-cate ▶ *adj.* /'dʌ(y)ʊəplekɪt/ [attrib.] 1 exactly like something else, esp. through having been copied: a duplicate license is issued to replace a valid license which has been lost. 2 having two corresponding or identical parts: a duplicate application form. ▶ twice as large or many; doubled: duplicate taxes on oil and gas.

▶ *n.* /'dʌ(y)ʊəplekɪt/ 1 one of two or more identical things: books may be disposed of if they are duplicates. ▶ a copy of an original: locksmiths can make duplicates of most keys. 2 short for **DUPLICATE BRIDGE**. 3 archaic a pawnbroker's ticket.

▶ *v.* /'dʌ(y)ʊəple,kæt/ [trans.] make or be an exact copy of: a unique scent, impossible to duplicate or forget / figurative they have not been able to duplicate his successes. ▶ (often be duplicated) make or supply copies of (a document): information sheets had to be typed and duplicated [as *adj.*] (duplicating) a duplicating machine. ▶ multiply by two; double: the normal amount of DNA has been duplicated thousands of times. ▶ do (something) again unnecessarily: most of these proposals duplicated work already done. ▶ late Middle English (in the sense 'having two corresponding parts'): from Latin *duplicat-* 'doubled,' from the verb *duplicare*, from *duplic-* 'twofold' (see **DUPLICATE**). — **du-pli-ca-ble** /-plɪkəbəl/ *adj.* — **du-pli-ca-tive** /-kətɪv/ *adj.*

▶ **PHRASE** □ in *duplicate* consisting of two exact copies: forms to complete in duplicate.

du-pli-cate bridge ▶ *n.* a competitive form of bridge in which the same hands are played successively by different partnerships.

du-pli-ca-tion /,dʌ(y)ʊəplɪ'kæʃən/ ▶ *n.* the action or process of duplicating something. ▶ a copy. ▶ Genetics a DNA segment in a chromosome which is a copy of another segment. ▶ late Middle English (used in the mathematical sense 'multiplication by two'): from Old French, or from Latin *duplicatio* (n-), from *duplicare* 'to double' (see **DUPLICATE**).

du-pli-ca-tor /'dʌ(y)ʊəplɪ,kætər/ ▶ *n.* a machine or device for making copies of something, in particular a machine that makes copies of documents by means of fluid ink and a stencil.

du-pli-citous /dʌ(y)ʊə'plɪstəs/ ▶ *adj.* deceitful: treacherous, duplicitous behavior. ▶ Law (of a charge or plea) containing more than one allegation.

du-pli-city /dʌ(y)ʊə'plɪsɪtɪ/ ▶ *n.* 1 deceitfulness; double-dealing. 2 archaic doubleness. ▶ late Middle English: from Old French *duplícite* or late Latin *duplicitas*, from Latin *duplic-* 'twofold' (see **DUPLICATE**).

du Pont /dʌ(y)ʊə'pɑnt/; 'dʌ(y)ʊə,pɑnt/, E. I. (1771–1834), U.S. industrialist; born in France; full name *Élieuthère Irénée du Pont*. His gunpowder manufacturing plant near Wilmington, Delaware, established in 1802, grew into a corporate giant, due largely to the government contracts that ensured its early success, esp. during the War of 1812.

dup-py /'depə/ ▶ *n.* (pl. -pies) *W. Indian* a malevolent spirit or ghost. ▶ late 18th cent.: probably of West African origin.

du Pré /dʌ(y)ʊə'prə/, Jacqueline (1945–87), English cellist. She made her solo debut at 16 and was known for her interpretations of cello concertos. She married Daniel Barenboim in 1967 and was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1973.

Du-puy-tren's contrac-ture /dʌ'pʊwɛtrɛnz/ (also **Dupuytren's disease**) ▶ *n.* Medicine a condition in which there is fixed forward curvature of one or more fingers, caused by the development of a fibrous connection between the finger tendons and the skin of the palm. ▶ late 19th cent.: named after Baron Guillaume Dupuytren (1777–1835), the French surgeon who first described the condition.

Du-que de Ca-xi-as /'dʌkə dā kə'shæəs/ a city in southeastern Brazil, a suburb of Rio de Janeiro; pop. 594,380.

du-ra¹ /'dʌ(y)ʊərə/ (in full *dura mater*) ▶ *n.* Anatomy the tough outermost membrane enveloping the brain and spinal cord. ▶ late 19th cent.: from medieval Latin, literally 'hard mother,' translation of Arabic *al-'umm al-jāfiya* 'coarse mother.' — **du-ral** *adj.*

du-ra² ▶ *n.* variant spelling of **DURRA**.

du-ra-ble /'dʌ(y)ʊərəbəl/ ▶ *adj.* able to withstand wear, pressure, or damage; hard-wearing: porcelain enamel is strong and durable / figurative a durable peace can be achieved. ▶ informal (of a person) having endurance: the durable Smith lasted the full eight rounds.

▶ *n.* (durables) short for **DURABLE GOODS**. ▶ Middle English (in the sense 'steadfast'): via Old French from Latin *durabilis*, from *durare* 'to last' (see **DURATION**). — **du-ra-bil-i-ty** /,dʌ(y)ʊə'rə'bɪlɪtɪ/ *n.* — **du-ra-ble-ness** *n.* — **du-ra-bly** *adv.*

du-ra-ble goods ▶ *plural n.* goods not for immediate consumption and able to be kept for a period of time.

du-ral-u-min /dʌ(y)ʊə'rəlyəmɪn/ ▶ *n.* a hard, light alloy of aluminum with copper and other elements. ▶ early 20th cent.: perhaps from Latin *durus* 'hard' + **ALUMINUM**, but probably influenced by *Düren*, the name of the Rhineland town where such alloys were first produced.

du-ra-ma-ter /dʌ(y)ʊə'rə'mætər/; 'mā-/ ▶ *n.* see **DURA¹**.

du-ra-men /dʌ(y)ʊə'rə'mɪn/ ▶ *n.* Botany the heartwood of a tree. ▶ mid 19th cent.: from Latin, literally 'hardness,' from *durare* 'harden.'

du-rance /'dʌ(y)ʊərans/ ▶ *n.* archaic imprisonment or confinement. ▶ late Middle English (in the sense 'continuance'): from Old French, from *durer* 'to last,' from Latin *durare*. The sense 'imprisonment' is first recorded in the early 16th cent.

Du-rand /dʌ'rænd/, Asher Brown (1796–1886), U.S. artist. He was one of the earliest landscape painters of the Hudson River School.

Du-ran-go /dʌ(y)ʊə'rəngə/ a state in northern central Mexico. ▶ its capital city; pop. 1,352,160. Full name **VICTORIA DE DURANGO**.

Du-ran-te /dʌ'rəntə/, Jimmy (1893–1980), U.S. entertainer; born James Francis Durante. The gravelly-voiced star of Broadway, movies, radio, and television began his career in vaudeville and became known for his trademark song, "Inka Dinka Doo." His movies include *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (1942).

Du-ras /dʌ(y)ʊə'rā/, Marguerite (1914–96), French novelist, movie director, and playwright; pseudonym of Marguerite Donnadiou. Her works include the screenplay for *Hiroshima mon amour* (1959), as well as a semiautobiographical novel *L'Amant* (1984).

du-ra-tion /dʌ(y)ʊə'rəʃən/ ▶ *n.* the time during which something continues: the subway stop has been closed for the duration of the convention / a flight of over eight hours' duration. ▶ late Middle English: via Old French

Pronunciation Key ə ago; ɔ over; 'ə or 'ə up; 'ər or 'ər fur; a hat; ā rate; ɛ car; ɔ chew; e let; ē see; e(ə) air; i fit; i by; i(ə) ear; NG sing; ō go; ō for; o(ɪ) boy; ō good; ō go; ou out; SH she; TH thin; TH then; (h)w why; ZH vision

from medieval Latin *duratio*(n-), from *durare* 'to last,' from *durus* 'hard.' —*du-ra-tion-al* *adj.*

► **PHRASE** □ for the duration until the end of something, esp. a war: he was in the navy for the duration plus six. ■ *Informal* for a very long time: some stains may be there for the duration.

dur-a-tive /d(y)ʊ'retɪv/ *adj.* Grammar of or denoting continuing action. Contrasted with **PUNCTUAL**.

Dur-ban /'dərbən/ a seaport and resort in South Africa, on the coast of KwaZulu-Natal; pop. 1,137,380. Former name (until 1835) **PORT NATAL**.

dur-bar /'dər,bār/ *n.* historical the court of an Indian ruler. ■ a public reception held by an Indian prince or by a British governor or viceroy in India. ► Urdu, from Persian *dārbār* 'court.'

durch-kom-po-niert /dʊ'kɒm,pə'ni(ə)rt/ *adj.* another term for **THROUGH-COMPOSED**. ► from German, from *durch* 'through' + *komponiert* 'composed' (because the music is different throughout).

Dürer /d(y)ʊ'rer/, Albrecht (1471–1528), German engraver and painter. A leading artist of the Renaissance, he was important for his technically advanced woodcuts and copper engravings and was also noted for his watercolors and drawings.

du-ress /d(y)ʊ'res/ *n.* threats, violence, constraints, or other action brought to bear on someone to do something against their will or better judgment: confessions extracted under duress. ■ Law constraint illegally exercised to force someone to perform an act. ■ *archaic* forcible restraint or imprisonment. ► Middle English (in the sense 'harshness, severity, cruel treatment'); via Old French from Latin *duritia*, from *durus* 'hard.'

Du-rey /d(y)ʊ'rej/, Louis (1888–1979), French composer. A member of the Les Six group until 1921, he later wrote music that had mass appeal, in accordance with communist doctrines on art.

Dur-ga /'dɔ:gə/ *Hinduism* a fierce goddess, wife of Shiva, often identified with Kali. She is usually depicted riding a tiger or lion and slaying the buffalo demon, and with eight or ten arms.

Dur-ga-pur /'dɔ:gə,pʊr/ a city in northeastern India, in the state of West Bengal; pop. 415,990.

Dur-ham /'dɜ:m/, 'dɔ:ər/ an industrial and academic city in north central North Carolina, noted for its tobacco industry and as the home of Duke University; pop. 187,035.

Dur-ham a city on the River Wear; pop. 85,800 (1991). It is famous for its 11th-century cathedral, which contains the tomb of the Venerable Bede, and its university.

Dur-ham quilt /'dɜ:m/ *n.* a quilt made by sewing together a piece of fabric, an inner batting, and a lining, the stitches making decorative patterns.

du-ri-an /dʊ'reiən; -rē,ən/ *n.* 1 an oval spiny tropical fruit containing a creamy pulp. Despite its fetid smell, it is highly esteemed for its flavor. 2 (also **durian tree**) the large tree that bears this fruit, native to Malaysia. • *Durio zibethinus*, family Bombacaceae. ► late 16th cent.: from Malay *durian*, from *duri* 'thorn.'

duri-crust /d(y)ʊ'kri,krɛst/ *n.* Geology a hard mineral crust formed at or near the surface of soil in semi-arid regions by the evaporation of groundwater. ► 1920s: from Latin *durus* 'hard' + *CRUST*.

dur-ing /d(y)ʊ'rɪŋ/ *prep.* throughout the course or duration of (a period of time): the restaurant is open during the day. ■ used to indicate constant development throughout a period: the period during which he grew to adulthood. ■ at a particular point in the course of: the stabbing took place during an argument at a party. ► late Middle English: present participle of the obsolete verb *dure* 'last, endure, extend,' via Old French from Latin *durare* 'to last' (see **DURATION**).

Durk-helm /dɜ:k,hɪm/, Émile (1858–1917), French sociologist; one of the founders of modern sociology. In 1913, he became the first professor of sociology at the Sorbonne. Notable works: *The Division of Labor in Society* (1893) and *Suicide* (1897).

dur-mast oak /'dɜ:m,mast/ *n.* a Eurasian oak tree with stalkless, egg-shaped acorns. Also called **SESILE OAK**. • *Quercus petraea*, family Fagaceae. ► late 18th cent.: *durmast* perhaps originally an error for *dunmast*, from **DUN** + **MAST**².

durn /dɜ:n/ *v.*, exclam., *adj.*, & *adv.* dialect form of **DARN**².

durned /dɜ:nd/ *adj.* & *adv.* dialect form of **DARNED**.

Du-roc /d(y)ʊ'rɔ:k/ *n.* a pig of a reddish breed developed in North America. ► early 19th cent.: from the name of a stallion that is said to have been bought

by the breeder Isaac Frink on the same day as the pigs from which he developed the breed.

Du-ro-cher /dɜ'rɔ:ʃər/, Leo (Ernest) (1905–91), U.S. baseball player and manager. After playing the position of shortstop in the major leagues from 1925 to 1945, he managed the Brooklyn Dodgers 1939–46, 1948, New York Giants 1948–55, Chicago Cubs 1966–72, and Houston Astros 1972–73 and was noted for his cantankerous, insolent manner. Baseball Hall of Fame (1994).

dur-ra /'dɔ:rə/ (also *du-ra*) *n.* grain sorghum of the principal variety grown from northeastern Africa to India. • *Sorghum bicolor* var. *durra*, family Gramineae; white *durra* is var. *cernuum*. ► late 18th cent.: from Arabic *dura*, *ḡurra*.

Dur-rell /dɜ'rel/, Lawrence (George) (1912–90), English novelist and poet; brother of Gerald Durrell (1925–95). He spent much of his life abroad, particularly in the Mediterranean. Notable works: *Alexandria Quartet* (1957–60) and *Prospero's Cell* (1945).

dur-rie /dɜ'rej/ *n.* (pl. -ries) variant spelling of **DURRIE**.

durst /dɜ:st/ *archaic* or regional past of **DARE**.

du-rum /d(y)ʊ'rəm/ (also *durum wheat*) *n.* a kind of hard wheat grown in arid regions, having bearded ears and yielding flour that is used to make pasta. • *Triticum durum*, family Gramineae. ► early 20th cent.: from Latin, neuter of *durus* 'hard,' used in the species name since 1798.

Du-se /'dɔ:zə/, Eleonora (1858–1924), Italian actress. She was known for her tragic roles.

Du-shan-be /d(y)ʊ'shəmbə; -bə/ the capital of Tajikistan; pop. 602,000. Former name (1929–61) **STALIN-ABAD**.

dusk /dʌsk/ *n.* the darker stage of twilight: dusk was falling rapidly | working the land from dawn to dusk. ■ semidarkness: in the dusk of an Istanbul nightclub.

► *v.* [*intrans.*] poetic/literary grow dark: [as *adj.*] (dusking) he saw the lights blaze in the dusking sky.

► *adj.* poetic/literary shadowy, dim, or dark. ► Old English *dox* 'dark, swarthy' and *doxian* 'darken in color,' of Germanic origin; related to Old High German *tusin* 'darkish'; compare with **DUN**¹. The noun dates from the early 17th cent. The change in form from -x to -sk occurred in Middle English.

dusky /'dʌskj/ *adj.* (duski-er, duski-est) darkish in color: dusky red | a dusky complexion. ■ dated used in euphemistic or poetic reference to black or other dark-skinned people: a dusky Moorish maiden. ■ poetic/literary dim: dusky light came from a small window. ■ [*attrib.*] used in names of animals with dark coloration, e.g., dusky dolphin, dusky warbler. —*duski-ly* /-kəlj/ *adv.* —*duski-ness* *n.*

dusky wing *n.* a small, dark-winged butterfly of the skipper family, found in North America. • Genus *Erynnis*, family Hesperidae; the species are very difficult to tell apart.

Düs-sel-dorf /'d(y)ʊ'səl,dɔ:rf/ an industrial city in northwestern Germany, on the Rhine River, capital of North Rhine-Westphalia; pop. 577,560.

dust /dʌst/ *n.* 1 fine, dry powder consisting of tiny particles of earth or waste matter lying on the ground or on surfaces or carried in the air: the car sent up clouds of dust | they rolled and fought in the dust. ■ [*with* *adj.*] any material in the form of tiny particles: coal dust. ■ [*in sing.*] a fine powder: he ground it into a fine dust. ■ [*in sing.*] a cloud of dust. ■ poetic/literary a dead person's remains: scatter my dust and ashes. ■ poetic/literary the mortal human body: the soul, that dwells within your dust. 2 [*in sing.*] an act of dusting: a quick dust, to get rid of the cobwebs.

► *v.* [*trans.*] 1 remove the dust from the surface of (something) by wiping or brushing it: I broke the vase I had been dusting | pick yourself up and dust yourself off | [*intrans.*] she washed and dusted and tidied. ■ (dust something off) bring something out for use again after a long period of neglect: a number of aircraft will be dusted off and returned to flight. ■ Baseball (dust someone off) deliver a pitch very near a batter so they must fall to the dirt to avoid being hit by it. 2 (usu. be dusted) cover lightly with a powdered substance: roll out on a surface dusted with flour. ■ sprinkle (a powdered substance) onto something: orange powder was dusted over the upper body. 3 *Informal* beat up or kill someone: the officers dusted him up a little bit. ► Old English *dūst*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *dūst* 'chaff.' —*dust-less* *adj.*

► **PHRASES** □ dust and ashes used to convey a feeling of great disappointment or disillusion about something: the party would be dust and ashes if he couldn't come. □ the dust settles things quiet down: she hoped that the dust would settle quickly and the episode be

forgotten. □ eat someone's dust *Informal* fall far behind someone in a competitive situation. □ gather (or collect) dust remain unused: some professors let their computers gather dust. □ leave someone/something in the dust surpass someone or something easily: today's modems leave their predecessors in the dust.

dust-ball /'dɜ:st,bɔ:l/ *n.* a ball of dust and fluff.

dust-bath /'dɜ:st,bæθ/ *n.* a bird's rolling in dust to clean its feathers.

dust-bin /'dɜ:st,bɪn/ *n.* Brit. a garbage can.

dust bowl *n.* an area of land where vegetation has been lost and soil reduced to dust and eroded, esp. as a consequence of drought or unsuitable farming practice. ■ (the Dust Bowl) an area of Oklahoma, Kansas, and northern Texas affected by severe soil erosion (caused by windstorms) in the early 1930s, which obliged many people to move.

dust bunny *n.* *Informal* a ball of dust and fluff.

Dust-buster /'dɜ:st,bɛstər/ *n.* trademark a hand-held vacuum cleaner.

dust cover *n.* 1 a dust jacket. 2 a drop cloth.

dust devil *n.* a small whirlwind or air vortex over land, visible as a column of dust and debris.

dust-er /'dʌstər/ *n.* 1 a cloth or brush for dusting furniture. 2 (also **duster coat**) a woman's loose, lightweight, full-length coat without buttons, of a style originally worn in the 1920s when traveling in an open car. ■ a short, light housecoat. 3 *Informal* a dust storm.

dust-heap /'dɜ:st,hēp/ *n.* a heap of household refuse.

dust-ing pow-der *n.* powder for dusting over something, in particular talcum powder.

dust jacket *n.* a removable paper cover, generally with a decorative design, used to protect a book from dirt or damage.

dust-man /'dʌstmən/ *n.* (pl. -men) Brit. a garbage collector.

dust mop *n.* a long-handled mop with a soft, fluffy head, used to collect dust from floors and walls.

dust-pan /'dɜ:st,pæn/ *n.* a flat hand-held receptacle into which dust and waste can be swept from the floor.

dust ruffle *n.* a sheet with a deep pleated or gathered border that is designed to hang down over the mattress and sides of a bed.

dust sheet *n.* British term for **DROP CLOTH**.

dust storm *n.* a strong, turbulent wind that carries clouds of fine dust, soil, and sand over a large area.

dust trap *n.* something on, in, or under which dust readily gathers.

dust-up *n.* *Informal* a fight; a quarrel: you and Larry had a dust-up over Val?

dust-y /'dʌstj/ *adj.* (dusti-er, dusti-est) covered with, full of, or resembling dust: dusty old records | a hot, dusty road. ■ (of a color) dull or muted: patches of pale gold and dusty pink. ■ figurative staid and uninteresting: a dusty old bore. —*dusti-ly* /-dɜ:stlj/ *adv.* —*dusti-ness* *n.*

dust-y mill-er *n.* a plant of the daisy family with whitish or grayish foliage. • Several species in the family Compositae, in particular the cultivated *Artemisia stellerana* of North America and *Senecio cineraria* of the Mediterranean. ► early 19th cent.: named from the fine powder on the flowers and leaves.

Dutch /dɜ:tʃ/ *adj.* of or relating to the Netherlands or its people or their language.

► *n.* 1 the West Germanic language of the Netherlands. 2 [as plural *n.*] (the Dutch) the people of the Netherlands collectively.

Dutch is most closely related to German and English. It is also the official language of Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles and is spoken in northern Belgium, where it is called Flemish.

► from Middle Dutch *dutch* 'Dutch, (Netherlandish, German): the English word originally denoted speakers of both High and Low German, but became more specific after the United Provinces adopted the Low German of Holland as the national language on independence in 1579.

► **PHRASES** □ go dutch share the cost of something, esp. a meal, equally. □ in dutch *Informal*, dated in trouble: he's been getting in dutch at school.

Dutch auction *n.* a method of selling in which the price is reduced until a buyer is found.

Dutch cap *n.* a woman's lace cap with triangular flaps on each side, worn as part of Dutch traditional dress.

Dutch courage *n.* strength or confidence gained

for serving drinks such as tea or punch. ▶early 18th cent.: perhaps from *Joram* (2 Sam. 8:10), who brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold" to King David.

Jos. ▶abbr. ■ Joseph. ■ Josiah. ■ Bible Joshua.

Jo-seph /'jəzəf; -səf/ (in the Bible) a Hebrew patriarch, son of Jacob and oldest son of Rachel. He was given a coat of many colors by his father, but was then sold by his jealous brothers into captivity in Egypt, where he attained high office (Gen. 30–50).

Jo-seph? Chief (c.1840–1904) American-Indian chief, Indian name *Inmuttooyahlatlat*. As chief of the Nez Percé tribe, he defied the efforts of the U.S. government to move his people from Oregon until he was captured in 1877.



Chief Joseph

Jo-seph, St., husband of the Virgin Mary. A carpenter of Nazareth, he was betrothed to Mary at the time of the Annunciation. Feast day, March 19.

Jo-se-phine /'jəzəf; -səf/ (1763–1814), empress of France 1804–09: full name *Marie Joséphine Rose Tascher de la Pagerie*. She married Napoleon in 1796. Their marriage proved childless, and she was divorced by Napoleon in 1809.

Jo-seph of Ar-ma-the-a /,əmə'tiθə/ a member of the council at Jerusalem who, after the Crucifixion, asked Pilate for Jesus' body, which he buried. He is also known from the medieval story that he came to England with the Holy Grail and built the first church at Glastonbury.

Jo-seph-son junction /'jəzəfsən; -səf/ ▶n. *Physics* an electrical device in which two superconducting metals are separated by a thin layer of insulator, across which an electric current may flow in the absence of a potential difference. The current may be made to oscillate in proportion to an applied potential difference. ▶1960s: named after Brian D. Josephson (born 1940), British physicist.

Jo-se-phus /'jəzəf; -səf/ (c.37–c.100), Jewish historian, general, and Pharisee; born *Joseph ben Matthias*. His *Jewish War* gives an eyewitness account of the events that led up to the Jewish revolt against the Romans in 66, in which he was a leader.

josh /'jəʃ/ ▶n. [*trans.*] tease (someone) in a playful way: he loved to josh people. ■ [*intrans.*] engage in joking or playful talk with others.

▶n. good-natured banter. ▶mid 19th cent. (as a verb): of unknown origin. —Josh-er n.

Josh. ▶abbr. Bible Joshua.

Josh-u-a /'jəʃuə/ (fl. c.13th century BC), Israelite leader who succeeded Moses and led his people into the Promised Land. ■ the sixth book of the Bible, telling of the conquest of Canaan and its division among the twelve tribes of Israel.

Josh-u-a tree ▶n. a yucca that grows as a tree and has clusters of spiky leaves, native to arid regions of southwestern North America. ■ *Yucca brevifolia*, family Agavaceae. ▶mid 19th cent.: apparently from *JOSHUA* (Josh. 8:18), the plant being likened to a man brandishing a spear.



Joshua tree

Josh-u-a Tree National Park /'jəʃuə/ a national preserve in southern California, noted for its desert plant and animal life.

joss /'jɒs/ ▶n. a Chinese religious statue or idol.

▶early 18th cent.: from Javanese *dejos*, from obsolete Portuguese *deos*, from Latin *deus* 'god.'

Jos-ser /'jəser/ ▶n. *Informal* 1 Brit. a man, typically an old man or one regarded with some contempt: an old joss. 2 Austral. a clergyman. ▶late 19th cent.: from *JOSS* + -ER.

joss house ▶n. a Chinese temple.

joss stick ▶n. a thin stick consisting of a substance that burns slowly and with a fragrant smell, used as incense.

jostle /'jɒsl/ ▶v. [*trans.*] push, elbow, or bump against (someone) roughly, typically in a crowd: passengers arriving and departing, jostling one another. ■ [*intrans.*] people jostled against us. ■ [*intrans.*] (jostle for) struggle or compete forcefully for: a jumble of images jostled for attention.

▶n. the action of jostling. ▶late Middle English *justle*, from *just*, an earlier form of *JOUST*. The original sense was 'have sexual intercourse with'; current senses date from the mid 16th cent.

jot /'jɒt/ ▶v. [*intrans.*] write (something) quickly: when you've found the answers, jot them down.

▶n. [*usu. with negative*] a very small amount: you didn't care a jot. I have yet to see one jot of evidence. ▶late 15th cent. (as a noun): via Latin from Greek *iōta*, the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet (see *iota*).

jota /'hɔtə/ ▶n. a folk dance from northern Spain, danced in couples in fast triple time. ▶Spanish.

jotting /'jɒtɪŋ/ ▶n. (*usu. Jottings*) a brief note.

Jo-tun /'jɒtʊn/ ▶n. *Scandinavian Mythology* a member of the race of giants, enemies of the gods. ▶from Old Norse *jötunn*, related to Old English *coten*, of Germanic origin.

jou-al /'ʒuə'l; -'æl/ ▶n. a nonstandard form of popular Canadian French, influenced by English vocabulary and grammar. ▶Canadian French dialect, from French *cheval* 'horse', apparently from the way *cheval* is pronounced in rural areas of Quebec.

jougs /'dʒɒgz/ ▶plural n. a historical a hinged iron collar chained to a wall or post, used in medieval Scotland as an instrument of punishment. ▶late 16th cent.: from French *joug* or Latin *jugum* 'yoke.'

jouis-sance /'ʒuɪs'sɑns/ ▶n. *formal* physical or intellectual pleasure, delight, or ecstasy. ▶French, from *jouir* 'enjoy.'

Joule /'dʒuəl/ James Prescott (1818–89), British physicist. He established that all forms of energy were basically the same and interchangeable—the first law of thermodynamics. The Joule–Thomson effect, discovered with William Thomson (later Lord Kelvin) in 1852, led to the development of the refrigerator and to the science of cryogenics.

joule /'dʒuəl/ ▶n. (abbr.: J) ▶n. the SI unit of work or energy, equal to the work done by a force of one newton when its point of application moves one meter in the direction of action of the force, equivalent to one 3600th of a watt-hour. ▶late 19th cent.: named after J. P. JOULE.

Joule effect ▶n. *Physics* the heating that occurs when an electric current flows through a resistance. **Joule's law** *Physics* a law stating that the heat produced by an electric current *i* flowing through a resistance *R* for a time *t* is proportional to *i*²*Rt*.

Joule–Thomson effect ▶n. *Physics* the change of temperature of a gas when it is allowed to expand without doing any external work. The gas becomes cooler if it was initially below a certain temperature (the inversion temperature), or hotter if initially above it.

jounce /'dʒaʊns/ ▶v. jolt or bounce: [*intrans.*] the car jounced wildly. ■ [*trans.*] the pilot jounced the plane through turbulence. ▶late Middle English: probably symbolic; compare with *BOUNCE*.

jour. ▶abbr. ■ journal. ■ journeyman.

jour-nal /'jɜːnl/ ▶n. 1 a newspaper or magazine that deals with a particular subject or professional activity: medical journals. ■ [*in names*] the Wall Street Journal. 2 a daily record of news and events of a personal nature; a diary. ■ *Nautical* a logbook. ■ (the Journals) a record of the daily proceedings in the British Houses of Parliament. ■ (in bookkeeping) a daily record of business transactions with a statement of the accounts to which each is to be debited and credited. 3 *Mechanics* the part of a shaft or axle that rests on bearings. ▶late Middle English (originally denoting a book containing the appointed times of daily prayers): from Old French *jurnal*, from late Latin *diurnalis* (see *diurnal*).

jour-nal box ▶n. *Mechanics* a box that houses a journal and its bearing.

jour-nal-ese /'jɜːnl'ɛz/ ▶n. *Informal*; often derogatory

a hackneyed style of writing supposedly characteristic of newspapers and magazines.

jour-nal-ism /'jɜːnl'ɪzəm/ ▶n. the activity or profession of writing for newspapers or magazines or of broadcasting news on radio or television. ■ the product of such activity: an art critic whose essays and journalism are never dull.

jour-nal-ist /'jɜːnl'ɪst/ ▶n. a person who writes for newspapers or magazines or prepares news to be broadcast on radio or television. —*jour-nal-ist-ic* /'jɜːnl'ɪstɪk/ adj. —*jour-nal-ist-ically* /'jɜːnl'ɪstɪk(ə)li/ adv.

jour-nal-ize /'jɜːnl'ɪz/ ▶v. [*trans.*] dated enter (notes or information) in a journal or account book: I would gladly journalize some of my proceedings.

jour-ney /'jɜːnɪ/ ▶n. (*pl. -neys*) an act of traveling from one place to another: she went on a long journey. ■ figurative your journey through life.

▶v. (-neys, -neyed) [*intrans.*] travel somewhere: they journeyed south. ▶Middle English: from Old French *journee* 'day, a day's travel, a day's work' (the earliest senses in English), based on Latin *diurnum* 'daily portion,' from *diurnus* (see *diurnal*). —*jour-ney-er* n.

THE RIGHT WORD excursion, expedition, jaunt, journey, pilgrimage, trip, voyage

While all of these nouns refer to a course of travel to a particular place, usually for a specific purpose, there is a big difference between a jaunt to the nearest beach and an expedition to the rain forest.

While a trip may be either long or short, for business or pleasure, and taken at either a rushed or a leisurely pace (a ski trip; a trip to Europe), a journey suggests that a considerable amount of time and distance will be covered and that the travel will take place over land (a journey into the Australian outback).

A long trip by water or through air or space is a voyage (a voyage to the Galapagos Islands; a voyage to Mars), while a short, casual trip for pleasure or recreation is a jaunt (a jaunt to the local shopping mall).

Excursion also applies to a brief pleasure trip, usually no more than a day in length, that returns to the place where it began (an afternoon excursion to the zoo).

Unlike the rest of these nouns, *expedition* and *pilgrimage* apply to journeys that are undertaken for a specific purpose. An expedition is usually made by an organized group or company (a scientific expedition; an expedition to locate new sources of oil), while a pilgrimage is a journey to a place that has religious or emotional significance (the Muslims' annual pilgrimage to Mecca; a pilgrimage to the place where her father died).

jour-ney-man /'jɜːnmən/ ▶n. (*pl. -men*) a trained worker who is employed by someone else. ■ a worker or sports player who is reliable but not outstanding: [as adj.] a solid journeyman professional. ▶late Middle English: from *JOURNEY* (in the obsolete sense 'day's work') + *MAN*; so named because the journeyman was no longer bound by indentures but was paid by the day.

jour-no /'jɜːnɒ/ ▶n. (*pl. -nos*) *Informal* a journalist. ▶1960s (originally an Australian usage): abbreviation.

joust /'dʒaʊst/ ▶v. [*intrans.*] [often as *n.*] (jousting) *historical* (of a medieval knight) engage in a sports contest in which two opponents on horseback fight with lances. ■ figurative compete closely for superiority: the guerrillas jousted for supremacy.

▶n. a medieval sports contest in which two opponents on horseback fought with lances. ▶Middle English (originally in the sense 'join battle, engage'): from Old French *jouster* 'bring together,' based on Latin *juxta* 'near.' —*jouster* n.

J'Ou-vert /'ʒuə'ver/ ▶n. (in the Caribbean) the official start of carnival, at dawn on the Monday preceding Lent. ▶French Creole, from French *Jour ouvert* 'day opened.'

Jove /'dʒɒv/ another name for JUPITER. ▶from Latin *Jov-*, stem of Old Latin *Jovis*, replaced later by *Jupiter*. The exclamation by Jove dates from the late 16th cent.

▶**PHRASE** □ by Jove dated an exclamation indicating surprise or used for emphasis: by Jove, that's a cold wind.

jo-vi-al /'dʒəvɪəl/ ▶adj. cheerful and friendly: she was in a jovial mood. ▶late 16th cent.: from French, from

Pronunciation Key *ə* ago; *ɔ* over; *ɒ* or, *ə* up; *ɔ* or, *ɔ* fur; *ɑ* hat; *ā* rate; *ā* car; *ch* chew; *e* let; *ē* see; *ə* (ə) air; *i* fit; *i* by; *i* (ə) ear; *ng* sing; *o* go; *ō* for; *oi* boy; *ōō* good; *ōō* goo; *ou* out; *sh* she; *th* thin; *th* then; *(h)w* why; *zh* vision

peril of very likely to incur or to suffer from: the movement is in *peril* of dying. ■ at risk of losing or injuring: anyone linked with the Republican cause would be in *peril* of their life.

perilla /pəˈrɪlə/ *n.* an Asian plant of the mint family with medicinal and culinary uses. It is regarded as an invasive weed in some areas. • *Perilla frutescens*, family Labiatae.

perilous /pəˈrɪləs/ *adj.* full of danger or risk: a *perilous* journey south. ■ exposed to imminent risk of disaster or ruin: the economy is in a *perilous* state. ▶ Middle English: from Old French *perilleux*, from Latin *periculosus*, from *periculum* 'danger' (see **PERIL**). — **perilously** *adv.* — **perilousness** *n.*

peri-lune /pəˈrɪljʊn/ *n.* the point at which a spacecraft in lunar orbit is closest to the moon. The opposite of **APOLUNE**. ▶ 1960s: from **PERI-** 'around' + Latin *luna* 'moon', on the pattern of *perigee*.

peri-lymph /pəˈrɪljɪm/ *n.* Anatomy the fluid between the membranous labyrinth of the ear and the bone that encloses it. — **peri-lymphatic** /pəˈrɪljɪmˈfætɪk/ *adj.*

perimeter /pəˈrɪmɪtə/ *n.* 1 the continuous line forming the boundary of a closed geometric figure: the *perimeter* of a rectangle. ■ the length of such a line: the rectangle has a *perimeter* of 30 cm. ■ the outermost parts or boundary of an area or object: the *perimeter* of the garden | figurative my presence on the *perimeter* of his life. ■ a defended boundary of a military position or base. ■ Basketball an area away from the basket, beyond the reach of the defensive team: he was very patient in working the ball around the *perimeter*. 2 an instrument for measuring the extent and characteristics of a person's field of vision. ▶ late Middle English: via Latin from Greek *perimetros*, based on *peri-* 'around' + *metron* 'measure'. — **peri-metric** /pəˈrɪmetrɪk/ *adj.*

USAGE See usage at **PARAMETER**.

perimetry /pəˈrɪmɪtri/ *n.* measurement of a person's field of vision.

peri-my-sium /pəˈrɪmɪziəm/ *n.* Anatomy the sheath of connective tissue surrounding a bundle of muscle fibers. ▶ mid 19th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *peri-* 'around' + *mys* 'muscle'. — **peri-my-sial** /pəˈrɪmɪziəl/ *adj.*

peri-natal /pəˈrɪnətl/ *adj.* Medicine of or relating to the time, usually a number of weeks, immediately before and after birth. — **peri-natally** *adv.*

peri-natal-o-gy /pəˈrɪnəˈtələdʒi/ *n.* Medicine the branch of obstetrics dealing with the period of time around childbirth. — **peri-natal-o-gist** /-dʒɪst/ *n.*

peri-neum /pəˈrɪneəm/ *n.* Anatomy the area between the anus and the scrotum or vulva. ▶ late Middle English: from late Latin, from Greek *perinaion*. — **peri-neal** /-neəl/ *adj.*

peri-neu-rium /pəˈrɪne(ɪ)ʊəriəm/ *n.* Anatomy the sheath of connective tissue surrounding a bundle (fascicle) of nerve fibers within a nerve. ▶ mid 19th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *peri-* 'around' + *neuron* 'sinew'. — **peri-neurial** /-neəriəl/ *adj.*

peri-od /pɪ(ə)rɪəd/ *n.* 1 a length or portion of time: he had long periods of depression | the *ale* will be available for a limited period | the period 1977–85. ■ a portion of time in the life of a person, nation, or civilization characterized by the same prevalent features or conditions: the early medieval period. ■ one of the set divisions of the day in a school allocated to a lesson or other activity. ■ [with *adj.*] a set period of time during which a particular activity takes place: the training period is between 16 and 18 months. ■ each of the intervals into which the playing time of a sporting event is divided. ■ a major division of geological time that is a subdivision of an era and is itself subdivided into epochs, corresponding to a system in chronostratigraphy. 2 a punctuation mark (.) used at the end of a sentence or an abbreviation. ■ Informal added to the end of a statement to indicate that no further discussion is possible or desirable: he is the sole owner of the trademark, period. 3 Physics the interval of time between successive occurrences of the same state in an oscillatory or cyclic phenomenon, such as a mechanical vibration, an alternating current, a variable star, or an electromagnetic wave. ■ Astronomy the time taken by a celestial object to rotate around its axis, or to make one circuit of its orbit. ■ Mathematics the interval between successive equal values of a periodic function. 4 (also *menstrual period*) a flow of blood and other material from the lining of the uterus, lasting for several days and occurring in sexually mature women (who are not pregnant) at intervals of about one lunar month until the onset of menopause. 5 Chemistry a

set of elements occupying an entire horizontal row in the periodic table. 6 Rhetoric a complex sentence, esp. one consisting of several clauses, constructed as part of a formal speech or oration. ■ Music a complete idea, typically consisting of two or four phrases.

▶ *adj.* [attrib.] belonging to or characteristic of a past historical time, esp. in style or design: a splendid selection of period furniture. ▶ late Middle English (denoting the time during which something, esp. a disease, runs its course): from Old French *periode*, via Latin from Greek *períodos* 'orbit, recurrence, course', from *peri-* 'around' + *hodos* 'way, course'. The sense 'portion of time' dates from the early 17th cent.

peri-odic /pɪ(ə)rɪˈædɪk/ *adj.* 1 appearing or occurring at intervals: the periodic visits she made to her father. 2 Chemistry relating to the periodic table of the elements or the pattern of chemical properties that underlies it. 3 of or relating to a rhetorical period. See **PERIOD** (sense 6). ▶ mid 17th cent.: from French *périodique*, or via Latin from Greek *períodikos* 'coming around at intervals', from *períodos* (see **PERIOD**).

peri-odic acid /pəˈrɪədɪk/ *n.* Chemistry a hygroscopic solid acid with strong oxidizing properties. ■ Chem. formula: H_2SiO_6 . ▶ mid 19th cent.: from sense 2 of **PERI-** + **IODIC ACID**. — **peri-o-date** /pəˈrɪəˌdæt/ *n.*

peri-odic acid-Schiff /pəˈrɪədɪk ˈæsɪd ˈʃɪf/ *adj.* [attrib.] Biochemistry relating to or denoting a procedure for detecting carbohydrates by oxidizing them with periodic acid and then staining them with Schiff's reagent.

peri-od-ical /pɪ(ə)rɪˈædɪkəl/ *n.* a magazine or newspaper published at regular intervals.

▶ *adj.* [attrib.] occurring or appearing at intervals; occasional: she took periodic gulps of her tea. ■ (of a magazine or newspaper) published at regular intervals: a periodical newsletter. — **peri-od-ical-ly** *adv.*

peri-od-ical ci-ca-da *n.* an American cicada whose nymphs emerge from the soil in large numbers periodically. The mature nymphs of the northern species (seventeen-year locust) emerge every seventeen years; those of the southern species emerge every thirteen years. A cicada brood can be so abundant that the shrill sound emitted by the males can damage the human ear. ■ Genus *Magicicada*, family Cicadidae, suborder Homoptera: six species.

peri-od-ic function /pɪ(ə)rɪˈædɪk/ *n.* Mathematics a function returning to the same value at regular intervals.

peri-od-ic-ity /pɪ(ə)rɪˈædɪsɪti/ *n.* chiefly technical the quality or character of being periodic; the tendency to recur at intervals: the periodicity of the sunspot cycle.

peri-od-ic law /pɪ(ə)rɪˈædɪk/ *n.* Chemistry a law stating that the elements, when listed in order of their atomic numbers (originally, atomic weights), fall into recurring groups, so that elements with similar properties occur at regular intervals.

peri-od-ic table /pɪ(ə)rɪˈædɪk/ *n.* Chemistry a table of the chemical elements arranged in order of atomic number, usually in rows, so that elements with similar atomic structure (and hence similar chemical properties) appear in vertical columns.

peri-od-ize /pɪ(ə)rɪˈædɪz/ *v.* [trans.] formal divide (a portion of time) into periods. — **peri-od-ization** /pɪ(ə)rɪˈædɪzəˈzeɪʃən/ *n.*

peri-o-don-tics /pəˈrɪəˈdɒntɪks/ (also **peri-o-don-tia** /ˈdɒntsɪə/) *n.* [treated as *sing.*] the branch of dentistry concerned with the structures surrounding and supporting the teeth. ▶ 1940s: from **PERI-** 'around' + Greek *odont-* 'tooth' + *-ics*. — **peri-o-don-tal** /-dɒntəl/ *adj.* — **peri-o-don-tist** /-dɒntɪst/ *n.*

peri-o-don-titis /pəˈrɪəˈdɒntaɪtɪs/ *n.* Medicine inflammation of the tissue around the teeth, often causing shrinkage of the gums and loosening of the teeth.

peri-o-don-to-lo-gy /pəˈrɪəˈdɒntələdʒi/ *n.* another term for **PERIODONTICS**.

peri-od place *n.* an object or work that is set in or strongly reminiscent of an earlier historical period.

peri-os-te-um /pəˈrɪəˈstɪəm/ *n.* (pl. *-os-te-a* /-ˈæstɪə/) Anatomy a dense layer of vascular connective tissue enveloping the bones except at the surfaces of the joints. ▶ late 16th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *periosteon*, from *peri-* 'around' + *osteon* 'bone'. — **peri-os-te-al** /-ˈæstɪəl/ *adj.*

peri-os-ti-tis /pəˈrɪəˈstɪtɪs/ *n.* Medicine inflammation of the membrane enveloping a bone.

peri-pa-tet-ic /pəˈrɪpəˈtɛtɪk/ *adj.* 1 traveling from place to place, esp. working or based in various places for relatively short periods: the peripatetic

nature of military life. 2 (Peripatetic) Aristotelian. [with reference to Aristotle's practice of walking to and fro while teaching.]

▶ *n.* 1 a person who travels from place to place. 2 (Peripatetic) an Aristotelian philosopher. ▶ late Middle English (denoting an Aristotelian philosopher): from Old French *peripatetique*, via Latin from Greek *peripatētikos* 'walking up and down', from the verb *peripatein*. — **peri-pa-tet-ic-ly** /-ɪk(ə)li/ *adv.* — **peri-pa-tet-ic-ism** /-ˈɪzəm/ *n.*

peri-pe-tel-a /pəˈrɪpɛˈtɛlə/ *n.* formal a sudden reversal of fortune or change in circumstances, esp. in reference to fictional narrative. ▶ late 16th cent.: from Greek *peripetela* 'sudden change', from *peri-* 'around' + the stem of *piptenai* 'to fall'.

peri-ph-er-al /pəˈrɪfərəl/ *adj.* of, relating to, or situated on the edge or periphery of something: the peripheral areas of Europe. ■ of secondary or minor importance: marginal: she will see their problems as peripheral to her own. ■ [attrib.] (of a device) able to be attached to and used with a computer, although not an integral part of it. ■ Anatomy near the surface of the body, with special reference to the circulation and nervous system: lymphocytes from peripheral blood.

▶ *n.* Computing a peripheral device. — **peri-ph-er-al-ity** /-rɪfərəˈlɪti/ *n.* — **peri-ph-er-al-iza-tion** /pəˈrɪfərəˈlɪzəˈzeɪʃən/ *n.* — **peri-ph-er-al-ize** /-ɪz/ *v.* — **peri-ph-er-al-ly** *adv.*

peri-ph-er-al nerv-ous system *n.* Anatomy the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord.

peri-ph-er-al vi-sion *n.* side vision; what is seen on the side by the eye when looking straight ahead.

peri-ph-er-y /pəˈrɪfərə/ *n.* (pl. *-eries*) the outer limits or edge of an area or object: new buildings on the periphery of the hospital site. ■ a marginal or secondary position in, or part or aspect of, a group, subject, or sphere of activity: a shift in power from the center to the periphery. ▶ late 16th cent. (denoting a line that forms the boundary of something): via late Latin from Greek *periphēra* 'circumference', from *periphērēs* 'revolving around', from *peri-* 'around' + *pherein* 'to bear'.

peri-ph-ra-sis /pəˈrɪfrəsɪs/ *n.* (pl. *-ses* /-sɛz/) the use of indirect and circumlocutory speech or writing. ■ an indirect and circumlocutory phrase. ■ Grammar the use of separate words to express a grammatical relationship that is otherwise expressed by inflection, e.g. *did go* as opposed to *went* and *more intelligent* as opposed to *smarter*. ▶ mid 16th cent.: via Latin from Greek, from *periphrasein*, from *peri-* 'around' + *phrazein* 'declare'.

peri-phras-tic /pəˈrɪfrastɪk/ *adj.* (of speech or writing) indirect and circumlocutory: the periphrastic nature of legal syntax. ■ Grammar (of a case or tense) formed by a combination of words rather than by inflection (such as *did go* and *of the people* rather than *went* and *the people's*). ▶ early 19th cent.: from Greek *periphrastikos*, from *periphrazein* 'declare in a roundabout way'. — **peri-phras-tic-ally** /-əli/ *adv.*

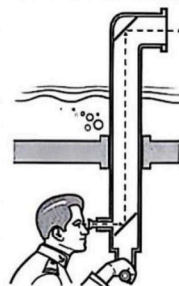
peri-ph-y-ton /pəˈrɪfɪˌtɒn/ *n.* Ecology freshwater organisms attached to or clinging to plants and other objects projecting above the bottom sediments. ▶ 1960s: from Greek *peri-* 'around' + *phuton* 'plant'. — **peri-ph-y-tic** /pəˈrɪfɪtɪk/ *adj.*

peri-pter-al /pəˈrɪptərəl/ *adj.* Architecture (of a building) having a single row of pillars on all sides in the style of the temples of ancient Greece. ▶ early 19th cent.: from Greek *peripteron* (from *peri-* 'around' + *pteron* 'wing') + *-AL*.

peri-que /pəˈrɪk/ *n.* a strong dark tobacco from Louisiana. ▶ late 19th cent.: Louisiana French, apparently from the nickname of Pierre Chenet, who first grew it.

peri-scope /ˈpɛrɪˌskɒp/ *n.* an apparatus consisting of a tube attached to a set of mirrors or prisms, by which an observer (typically in a submerged submarine or behind a high obstacle) can see things that are otherwise out of sight.

peri-scop-ic /pəˈrɪskɒpɪk/ *adj.* of or relating to a periscope. ■ (of a lens or an optical instrument) giving a



periscope

Pronunciation Key *ə* ago; *er* over; *ə* or *er*, *ə* up; *er* or *er* fur; *a* hat; *ā* rate; *ā* car; *ch* chew; *e* let; *ē* see; *e* (ə) air; *i* fit; *i* by; *i* (ə) ear; *na* sing; *ō* go; *ō* for; *oi* boy; *ō* good; *ō* goo; *ou* out; *sh* she; *th* thin; *th* then; *(h)w* why; *zh* vision

See **PERSISTENT VEGETATIVE STATE**. ▶late Middle English (sense 2): from Old French *vegetatif*, -ive or medieval Latin *vegetativus* (see **VEGETATE**). —**veg-e-ta-tive-ly** *adv.* —**veg-e-ta-tive-ness** *n.*

veg-e-ta-tive cell ▶*n.* Botany & Microbiology a cell of a bacterium or unicellular alga that is actively growing rather than forming spores.

veg-gle /'vɛgl/ (also **veg-le**) ▶*n.* & *adj.* informal 1 another term for **VEGETABLE**. 2 another term for **VEGETARIAN**. ▶1970s: abbreviation.

veg-gle burger ▶*n.* a patty resembling a hamburger but made with vegetable protein, soybeans, etc., instead of meat.

ve-he-ment /'vɛmənt/ ▶*adj.* showing strong feeling; forceful, passionate, or intense: her voice was low but vehement | vehement criticism. ▶late Middle English (describing pain or temperature, in the sense 'intense, high in degree'): from French *véhément* or Latin *vehement* 'impetuous, violent,' perhaps from an unrecorded adjective meaning 'deprived of mind,' influenced by *vehere* 'carry.' —**ve-he-mence** *n.* —**ve-he-ment-ly** *adv.*

ve-hi-cle /'vɛkəl/; 'vɛ,hɪkəl/ ▶*n.* 1 a thing used for transporting people or goods, esp. on land, such as a car, truck, or cart. 2 a thing used to express, embody, or fulfill something: I use paint as a vehicle for my ideas. 3 a substance that facilitates the use of a drug, pigment, or other material mixed with it. 4 the figurative language used in a metaphor, as distinct from the metaphor's subject. Often contrasted with **TENOR** (sense 1). 5 a film, television program, song, etc., that is intended to display the leading performer to the best advantage. ▶early 17th cent.: from French *véhicule* or Latin *vehiculum*, from *vehere* 'carry.' —**ve-hic-u-lar** /vɛ'hɪkələr/ *adj.* (in sense 1).

veil /vɛl/ ▶*n.* a piece of fine material worn by women to protect or conceal the face: a white bridal veil. 2 a piece of linen or other fabric forming part of a nun's headdress, resting on the head and shoulders. 3 a thing that conceals, disguises, or obscures something: shrouded in an eerie veil of mist. 4 Botany a membrane that is attached to the immature fruiting body of some toadstools and ruptures in the course of development, either (universal veil) enclosing the whole fruiting body or (partial veil) joining the edges of the cap to the stalk. 5 (in Jewish antiquity) the piece of precious cloth separating the sanctuary from the body of the Temple or the Tabernacle.

▶*v.* [trans.] cover with or as though with a veil: she veiled her face. 6 [usu. as *adj.*] (veiled) partially conceal, disguise, or obscure: a thinly veiled threat. ▶Middle English: from Anglo-Norman French *veil(e)*, from Latin *vela*, plural of *velum* (see **VELUM**). —**veil-less** *adj.* ▶**PHRASES** □ beyond the veil in a mysterious or hidden place or state, esp. the unknown state of life after death. □ draw a veil over avoid discussing or calling attention to (something), esp. because it is embarrassing or unpleasant. □ take the veil become a nun.

veil-ing /'vāɪŋ/ ▶*n.* 1 the action of wearing or covering someone or something with a veil: the fundamentalist campaign for the veiling of women. 2 a light gauzy fabric or fine lace used for veils.

vein /vān/ ▶*n.* 1 any of the tubes forming part of the blood circulation system of the body, carrying in most cases oxygen-depleted blood toward the heart. Compare with **ARTERY**. 2 (in general and figurative use) a blood vessel: he felt the adrenaline course through his veins. 3 (in plants) a slender rib running through a leaf or bract, typically dividing or branching, and containing a vascular bundle. 4 (in insects) a hardened branching rib that forms part of the supporting framework of a wing, consisting of an extension of the tracheal system; a nerve. 5 a streak or stripe of a different color in wood, marble, cheese, etc. 6 a fracture in rock containing a deposit of minerals or ore and typically having an extensive course underground. 7 subsurface water, esp. as considered a source or potential source of water for a well or wells and thought of as flowing in a channel. 8 figurative a source of a specified quality or other abstract resource: he managed to tap into the thick vein of discontent to his own advantage. 9 [in *sing.*] a distinctive quality, style, or tendency: he closes his article in a somewhat humorous vein. ▶Middle English: from Old French *veine*, from Latin *vena*. The earliest senses were 'blood vessel' and 'small natural underground channel of water.' —**vein-less** *adj.* —**vein-let** /-lɪt/ *n.* —**vein-like** /-lɪk/ *adj.* & *adv.* —**vein-y** *adj.* (vein-ier, vein-iest).

veined /vānd/ ▶*adj.* marked with or as if with veins: [in combination] a blue-veined cheese.

vein-ing /'vāɪŋ/ ▶*n.* a pattern of lines, streaks, or veins: the marble's characteristic surface veining.

vein-ous /'vānəs/ ▶*adj.* having prominent or noticeable veins. Compare with **VENOUS**.

vein-stone /'vān,stɒn/ ▶*n.* another term for **GANGUE**. **Ve-la** /'vɛlə/; 'vā-/ ▶*n.* Astronomy a southern constellation (the Sails), lying partly in the Milky Way between Carina and Pyxis and originally considered part of Argo. 2 [as *genitive*] (*Velorum* /vɛ'lɔrəm/) used with a preceding letter or numeral to designate a star in this constellation: the star Gamma Velorum. ▶Latin, plural of *velum* 'sail.'

ve-la /'vɛlə/ ▶ plural form of **VELUM**.

ve-la-men /'vɛləmən/ ▶*n.* (pl. -la-men /-ləmənt/) Botany an outer layer of empty cells in the aerial roots of epiphytic orchids and aroids. ▶late 19th cent.: from Latin, from *velare* 'to cover.'

ve-lar /'vɛlər/ ▶*adj.* 1 of or relating to a veil or velum. 2 Phonetics (of a speech sound) pronounced with the back of the tongue near the soft palate, as in *k* and *g* in English.

▶*n.* a velar sound. ▶early 18th cent.: from Latin *velaris*, from *velum* (see **VELUM**).

ve-lar-i-um /'vɛlə(r)ɪəm/ ▶*n.* (pl. -lar-ia /-lə(r)ɪə/) a large awning of a type used in ancient Rome to cover a theater or amphitheater as a protection against the weather, now more commonly used as an inner ceiling to improve acoustics. ▶Latin.

ve-lar-i-za-tion /'vɛlə(r)ə'zāʃən/ ▶*n.* Phonetics a secondary articulation involving movement of the back of the tongue toward the velum. —**ve-lar-ize** /'vɛlə,rɪz/ *v.*

ve-lar-ize /'vɛlə,rɪz/ ▶*v.* [trans.] make velar; articulate or supplement the articulation of [a sound, esp. a consonant] by raising the tongue to or toward the soft palate: a velarized /l/.

Ve-láz-quez /vɛ'lās,k(w)ez; -kəʃ/, Diego Rodríguez de Silva y (1599–1660), Spanish painter; court painter to Philip IV. His portraits humanized the formal Spanish tradition of idealized figures. Notable works: Pope Innocent X (1650), *The Toilet of Venus* (known as *The Rokeby Venus*, c.1651), and *Las Meninas* (c.1656).

Ve-láz-quez de Cué-lar /vɛ'lās,k(w)ez də 'kwɛjər/, Diego (c.1465–1524), Spanish conquistador. After sailing with Columbus to the New World in 1493, he began the conquest of Cuba in 1511 and later initiated expeditions to conquer Mexico.

Vel-cro /'vɛlkro/ ▶*n.* trademark a fastener for clothes or other items, consisting of two strips of thin plastic sheet, one covered with tiny loops and the other with tiny flexible hooks, which adhere when pressed together and can be separated when pulled apart deliberately.

▶*v.* [trans.] fasten, join, or fix with such a fastener. ▶1960s: from French *velours croché* 'hooked velvet.' —**Vel-croed** *adj.*

veld /vɛlt/ (also **veldt**) ▶*n.* open, uncultivated country or grassland in southern Africa. It is conventionally classified by altitude into highveld, middleveld, and lowveld. 2 Afrikaans, from Dutch, literally 'field.'

Vel-de, van de¹, Henri, see **VAN DE VELDE²**.

Vel-de, van de², Willem and sons, see **VAN DE VELDE¹**.

ve-li-ger /'vɛləjər; 'vɛlə-/ ▶*n.* Zoology the final larval stage of certain mollusks, having two ciliated flaps for swimming and feeding. ▶late 19th cent.: from **VELUM** + Latin *-ger* 'bearing.'

ve-le-i-ty /'vɛləɪtɪ; vɛ-/ ▶*n.* (pl. -ties) formal a wish or inclination not strong enough to lead to action: the notion intrigued me, but remained a velleity. ▶early 17th cent.: from medieval Latin *velleitas*, from Latin *velle* 'to wish.'

vel-lum /'vɛləm/ ▶*n.* 1 fine parchment made originally from the skin of a calf. 2 smooth writing paper imitating vellum. ▶late Middle English: from Old French *velin*, from *veel* (see **VEAL**).

ve-lo-clim-eter /'vɛlə'slɪmɪtər; 'vɛlə-/ ▶*n.* an instrument for measuring velocity. ▶mid 19th cent.: from Latin *velox*, *veloc-* 'swift' + *-meter*. —**ve-lo-clim-e-try** /-ɪtrɪ/ *n.*

ve-loc-i-pe-de /vɛ'lə'sɪpɛd/ ▶*n.* historical an early form of bicycle propelled by working pedals on cranks fitted to the front axle. 2 a child's tricycle. ▶early 19th cent.: from French *vélocipède*, from Latin *velox*, *veloc-* 'swift' + *pes*, *ped-* 'foot.' —**ve-loc-i-ped-ist** /-dɪst/ *n.*

ve-loc-i-rap-tor /vɛ'lə'sɪrəptər/ ▶*n.* a small dromaeosaurid dinosaur of the late Cretaceous period. • Genus *Velociraptor*, family Dromaeosauridae, suborder Theropoda. ▶modern Latin, from Latin *velox*, *veloc-* 'swift' + **RAPTOR**.

ve-loc-i-ty /'vɛləsɪtɪ/ ▶*n.* (pl. -ties) the speed of something in a given direction: the velocities of the emitted particles. 2 (in general use) speed: the tank shot backward at an incredible velocity. 3 [also *ve-loc-i-ty* of cir-cu-la-tion] Economics the rate at which money changes hands within an economy. ▶late Middle English: from French *vélocité* or Latin *velocitas*, from *velox*, *veloc-* 'swift.'

ve-lo-drome /'vɛlə,drɒm; 'vɛlə-/ ▶*n.* a cycle-racing track, typically with steeply banked curves. 2 a stadium containing such a track. ▶late 19th cent.: from French *vélodrome*, from *vélo* 'bicycle' + *-drome* (see **-DROME**).

ve-lour /vɛ'lɔʊr/ (also **ve-lours**) ▶*n.* a plush woven fabric resembling velvet, chiefly used for soft furnishings, clothing, and hats. 2 dated a hat made of such fabric. ▶early 18th cent.: from French *velours* 'velvet,' from Old French *velour*, from Latin *villosus* 'hairy,' from *villus* (see **VELVET**).

ve-lou-té /vɛ'lɔʊ'te/ ▶*n.* a rich white sauce made with chicken, veal, pork, or fish stock, thickened with cream and egg yolks. ▶French, literally 'velvety.'

ve-lum /'vɛləm/ ▶*n.* (pl. *ve-la* /-lə/) a membrane or membranous structure, typically covering another structure or partly obscuring an opening, in particular: 1 Anatomy the soft palate. 2 Zoology a membrane, typically bordering a cavity, esp. in certain mollusks, medusae, and other invertebrates. 3 Botany the veil of a toadstool. ▶mid 18th cent.: from Latin, literally 'sail, curtain, covering, veil.'

ve-lure /vɛ'lɔʊr/ archaic ▶*n.* velvet.

▶*v.* [trans.] dress (a hat) by means of a velvet pad: the hatter then velures the hats in a revolving device.

vel-vet /'vɛlvɛt/ ▶*n.* a closely woven fabric of silk, cotton, or nylon, that has a thick short pile on one side. 2 soft downy skin that covers a deer's antler while it is growing. ▶Middle English: from Old French *veluotte*, from *velu* 'velvety,' from medieval Latin *villus*, from Latin *villus* 'tuft, down.' —**vel-vet-ed** *adj.* —**vel-vety** *adj.*

▶**PHRASE** □ on velvet informal, dated in an advantageous or prosperous position.

vel-vet ant ▶*n.* an antlike velvety-bodied insect related to the wasps. The female is wingless, and the larvae parasitize the young of bees and wasps in the nest. • Family Mutillidae, superfamily Scolioidea: numerous species.

vel-vet-teen /'vɛlvɛ,tɛn; 'vɛlvɛ,tɛn/ ▶*n.* a cotton fabric with a pile resembling velvet. 2 (velveteens) dated trousers made of this fabric.

vel-vet grass ▶*n.* a common pasture grass with soft downy leaves, native to Eurasia and naturalized in North America. • *Holcus lanatus*, family Gramineae.

vel-vet-leaf /'vɛlvɛt,lɛf/ ▶*n.* (pl. same or -leafs) a Eurasian plant of the mallow family, with large heart-shaped velvety leaves and yellow flowers. It is naturalized in North America, where it has become a serious weed of farmland. • *Abutilon theophrasti*, family Malvaceae.

vel-vet rev-o-lu-tion ▶*n.* a nonviolent political revolution, esp. the relatively smooth change from communism to a Western-style democracy in Czechoslovakia at the end of 1989. ▶translating Czech *sametová revoluce*.

vel-vet worm ▶*n.* see **ONYCHOPHORA**.

Ven. ▶*abbr.* Venerable (as the title of an archdeacon): the Ven. William Davies.

ve-na /'vɛnə/ ▶*n.* Anatomy & Zoology a vein.

ve-na ca-va /'vɛnə 'kävə; 'kävə/ ▶*n.* (pl. *ve-nae ca-vae* /'vɛnə 'kävə; 'vɛni 'kävə; 'kävɪ/) a large vein carrying deoxygenated blood into the heart. There are two in humans, the inferior vena cava (carrying blood from the lower body) and the superior vena cava (carrying blood from the head, arms, and upper body). ▶late 16th cent.: from Latin, literally 'hollow vein.'

ve-nal /'vɛnl/ ▶*adj.* showing or motivated by susceptibility to bribery: why should these venal politicians care how they are rated? | their generosity had been at least partly venal. ▶mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'available for purchase,' referring to merchandise or a favor): from Latin *venalis*, from *venum* 'thing for sale.' —**ve-nal-ity** /vɛ'nælɪtɪ; vɛ-/ *n.* —**ve-nal-ly** *adv.*

USAGE Venal and venial are sometimes confused. Venal means 'corrupt, able to be bribed, or involving bribery': local customs officials are notoriously venal, and smuggling thrives. Venial is used to describe a sin or offense that is 'pardonable, excusable, not mortal': in our high school, smoking cigarettes was a venial sin.